International Chapters display at MIPIM

The London/UK Chapter of the AIA joined with the Continental Europe Chapter in March to take a stand at MIPIM, the European property trade show in Cannes. The stand was provided by AIA National and members of both Chapters used the opportunity to display practice information and to participate in the conference.

In total there were 30 AIA firms whose portfolios were shown to developers attending the convention. The Chapter prepared a directory of potential clients who visited the booth. This has been distributed to the members who contributed to the success of the event.

Sir Norman Foster, Hon FAIA, was named conference man of the year. Newscaster Alastair Stewart distributed awards for commercial projects, two of which went to Aukett Associates and Jean Nouvel.

London and Continental Chapter members circulated among developers, local authorities and other groups attending the event, also allowing them to meet each other and discuss issues of common interest.

Attending from London were Jonathan Dinnewell, Christopher Smallwood Architects; Michael Lischer, HOK and current Chapter President; Stephan Reinke, Areen Design Group; Jeremiah Sheehan, MCH Architects; David Walker, Swanke Hayden Connell Architects; and Stephen Yakeley, Yakeley Associates Design. Joining them from the Continent were Jocelyn Brainard; Steven Davis and Alan Swartzman, Lewis Koerner, Don O’Neill and Werner Rüegger.

Milena Cvijanovich Assoc AIA and Dennis Muller of MCM Architecture in Neuveville, who designed the stand with assistance from AIA/UK, provided a computer with simulated web pages illustrating the work of several practices.
NEWS

Chapter Liaison Meets RIBA

The AIA London/UK RIBA liaison committee met with RIBA representatives at Portland Place on 2 April 1996.

The meeting was chaired by AIA/London liaison committee chair Noel Hill, who was joined by President Michael Lischer, David Walker, Stephen Yakeley, Jonathan Dinnewell, Ann Kiegher and Lawrence Kim.

In attendance from the RIBA was President Owen Luder, Director General Alex Reid, and Ian Pritchard, RIBA Director for International Relations.

Luder thanked the London Chapter for its efforts during his visit to Grassroots, an experience he found valuable if only to highlight the similarities between the problems facing both organisations.

He went on to discuss legislation currently in Parliament on the reformation of ARCUK. The hope, says Luder, "is that the legislation will be on the statute books towards the end of the year, with the new ARCUK board able to convene in the New Year."

Once the new board is formed, AIA/London UK with the RIBA will press for the reinstatement of the reciprocity agreement between ARCUK and NCARB.

Luder concluded his remarks by expressing his scepticism in a "Brookes Act type" quality based selection procedure. AIA/London has been actually assisting RIBA in progressing their efforts in this regard.

On other matters, Reid was enthusiastic about the idea of cooperating on jointly sponsored events. The possibility of a seminar or conference in London for AIA members from the US and for RIBA colleagues was discussed. Reid also invited the Chapter to guest-host one of RIBA's open-house evenings, possibly the first Monday in October.

NEWS

New Conservation Training Programme for UK

Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House plan to offer conservation training as part of the proposed Benjamin Franklin Centre. The Centre will be located in the former residence of Benjamin Franklin at 36 Craven Street, London. British and American patrons have been working for many years to restore the house and establish a cultural centre.

The new programme will offer accredited seminars for architectural students on the techniques of conservation of 18th century Georgian houses in London. The Centre also expects to provide a continuing education programme for artists, craftsmen and engineers.

The proposed programme would give hands-on site training during three days this fall. The students would attend presentations at the Royal Society of Arts, a co-partner with the Friends of the Centre, on timber conservation, paint analysis and master classes on methods and specifications of conservation today.

"We hope this will also stimulate research in the development of new projects and techniques for the conservation of historic structures in the future," says Ann Kiegher, a Chapter member and spokesman for the organisation. "We have the exciting prospect of using the CD Rom currently being created for us by Swanke Hayden and Connell to put conservation into the internet for cybertours of internationally acclaimed historic structures."

The program has attracted the interest of AIA/UK, RIBA, the University of Maryland, English Heritage and the National Trust USA. Others who may become involved are the architectural programs of Pennsylvania and Syracuse universities. The Centre now awaits full funding before proceeding.

NEWS

Large Firm Roundtable Held in UK

Large firms in London were invited to attend a roundtable discussion on 26 February at the Directors Club on the PallMall. Representatives from 12 firms discussed topics related to practicing in an international environment.

This roundtable is the first of it's kind to be held outside the United States. The purpose of the large firm roundtable is to discuss topics of common concern and interest. This forum is structured such that firms have an opportunity to share experiences and insights in a constructive yet non-threatening, non-competitive manner.

Participants at the first large firm roundtable shared their experiences and insights on a number of topics ranging from Human Resources policies to the marketing of professional services in Europe. Participants discussed how to use contract labour and how to find skilled and multi-lingual personnel. Talks on project delivery outside the UK led to a discussion of the pros and cons of staffing assignments using associate firms versus having 'foreign' capabilities in-house.

Most participants were concerned about a lack of understanding within the construction and building industry of architectural professional services. Most firms felt that the industry lacked a basic understanding of the most common services and skills the profession provides.

Awareness of professional architectural services within the building industry was voted one of the key issues that the large firm roundtable could address. During the next quarter, the AIA London chapter will develop a public relations/communications plan—modeled after the National AIA scheme—to share with our colleagues in the building industry.

Members interested in this campaign should contact John Lowe, tel. 0171-636-2005 or Ken Giannini, tel. 0171-582-6257.
Stephan Reinke: Areen Design Group

Most Chapter members have met Stephan Reinke. He has attended nearly every meeting and event that the Chapter has held since its inception. But what else does he do, one asks, when he is not working as our newly appointed representative on the AIA International Practice Committee and Chair of the Chapter’s programme committee?

Reinke is Head of Project Development with The Areen Design Group, an international architectural and interior design firm based in London with offices in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur. The group is more than a traditional architectural practice, although Reinke says that it began business conventionally. It is owned and managed by architects, but now offers a range of professional services.

Some of its early Middle Eastern clients required a single contact for a full turnkey project. This led the firm to diversify its business in order to respond to their client’s requirements, says Reinke. Rather than offer “full services” within the architectural practice, the group created companies or divisions offering each service area. For example, Areen Purchasing works not only on Areen but also for the Savoy Hotel Group.

Areen Design’s market is the delivery of a whole project, from feasibility studies that include financial modelling and optimum programmes to meet investor objectives to design, interiors, installation and cost analysis.

Today the firm has a professional staff of 155. Ten to 15 percent of its work—such as the Woking Arts and Entertainment Centre—is in the United Kingdom. The rest is in Western Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Far East, the last of which accounts for an increasing number of firm projects in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Above: Proposed Residential Development, West London, Thames Riverside
Right: Surrey Arts and Entertainment Centre

PROGRAMMES

Architecture Tomorrow offers Seminars

Sir Richard Rogers and John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, will open a series of seminars addressing the theme of Architecture Tomorrow.

“Education—All Change?” will focus on the effects that deregulation of education will produce on design and the architect’s workload. Rick Mather, Sam Price, Susan Hay and Andrew Benson-Wilson will be the speakers.

To celebrate the centenary of the Architectural Review, on Saturday, 11 May, the final day of Architecture Tomorrow, Giancario de Cario and Ralph Erskine, both once members of Team X, Juha Leiviskä, and Niels Torp will present their recent work.

The Twentieth Century Society will debate Visions for Paternoster Square, with Sir Phillip Dowson as featured speaker.

Frank Duffy PPRiBA of DEGW, Richard Saxon of BDP and Chairman of British Council for Offices, Andrew Rabeneck, facilities manager of Salomon Brothers, and Max Fordham will consider “Workplaces—making change work or making work change?” Patrick Hannay will moderate.

Tim Macfarlane of Dewhurst Macfarlane and Matthew Wells of Techniker will speak on Buildings for the Millennium at a discussion led by Paul Finch, AJ editor. Other events include the Ted Happold memorial lecture by Michael Dickson of Buro Happold and a luncheon and discussion of the lottery and millennium funding.

Events will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from Thursday 9 May to Saturday, 11 May.

Emap Construct is sponsoring the event. For further information contact Carolyn Larkin at 0181 802 2292 or Jane Taylor at 0171 505 6759.
EVENTS


August: Second Annual AIA London/UK Family Bar B Que. Contact Stephan Reinke, 0181-748-8088/fax 748-3475.

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AIA Meets in Minneapolis 9-12 May

The AIA National Convention and Exposition is less than a month away, and Chapter members need to register as soon as possible. There is a Hotline to call for those who have lost their 42-page registration booklet.

This year's Convention offers a lot. On Thursday, 9 May, there are workshops such as "Financial Management for Firm Principals, "ISO 9000: Tonic or Toxic?, and "Feng Shui: A New Urbanism and its Considerations for Architecture".

During the four days of the Convention, one can have a consultation with a lawyer on "Avoiding the Project from Hell," and also earn 2.5 learning units. Seminars range from "Secure and Livable Communities" (facing terrorism) to "Green Architecture: Performance Goals and Measures."

All of the above also provide continuing education requirements for health, safety and welfare. AIA members must have 24 of their 36 mandatory learning units in these areas by December 1997.

Various tours are planned of Minneapolis and environs. Trips include the Mayo Clinic and the Mystic Lake Casino (Sioux Indian gambling complex). On Monday, one can tour Taliesin or Frank Lloyd Wright's Loveness House, meeting a few of his colleagues at the former and clients at the latter stop.

The AIA has arranged for discounts on hotels, air fares and cars. The Hotline number is 202-626-7395.

RIBA Selects Colbourne

Chris Colbourne, a director of the AIA/UK Chapter, has been appointed Director of Education and Practice Standards of the RIBA. Formerly with Tibbalds Monro, Colbourne took up his position at the RIBA on 11 April 1996.