Chapter Meeting Minutes

4 October 2015, Vienna

1. Call the meeting to order – a quorum of chapter members was present.

2. Previous minutes - Olesya Yefimov on behalf of Rada Doytcheva, Secretary
   The minutes from the chapter meeting held in Milan on May 24, 2015 were read and approved. See Milan Chapter Meeting Minutes.

3. President’s report – Bertrand Coldefy, 2015 President
   a. Induction of two members of the AIA Europe as new 2015 FAIA members: Thomas Bitnar, FAIA and Yael Kinsky, FAIA
   b. A new AIA Europe Chapter Design Awards program, was organized by Yael Kinsky, FAIA, for the first time this year. Jury Chair was Giancarlo Aldaheff, FAIA, RIBA and Jury Members included the President of the Architects Council of Europe, Brussels, Luciano Lazzari:
      - 32 entries (30 mostly from our chapter, 2 from UK Chapter)
      - 8 design award winners
      - A profit of over $6,000 (dollars) from the fees was earned by the chapter after paying the website administrator CADMIUM.
   c. The first Student Scholarship Award program was created and executed this year: The Alan Schwartzman Scholarship at the Fontainebleau School of Arts awarded to Julia Kwolyk, University of Virginia, Masters of Architecture Program.
   d. Important business steps taken in chapter organizational matters:
      Registre
      Although no longer required by French Association law, the Chapter has gathered into one physical and one virtual place a file of all legal documents concerning AIA Continental Europe. This is primarily for use by the President and First Vice-President, as needed, for reference.

      Chapter formal address location change
      The Chapter’s formal address is now the same as its long-standing mailing address, 4, rue Galvani, 75838 Paris Cedex 17.

      French administration filing
      The Chapter is once again formally notifying the French Administration of officer changes. This practice, although required, had not been accomplished in many years.

      Insurance
      Effective May 20, 2015, AIA Europe moved its insurance policy to a new company,
SMACL, after getting estimates from three different providers. This new policy covers the same items as the previous policy: Civil Responsibility, Damages, Officer’s Insurance, for less cost than the previous policy with Gras Savoye.

Audit
Thanks to a recommendation from Treasurer Sandra Zettersten, AIA Europe has engaged the Paris law firm of Rödl & Partners to do an audit of the Chapter. The lawyers will review the bylaws to ensure that they correspond with the Chapter’s practices and that they align with French law. They will also look at the possible need for more formal contracts with our Sponsors and also assess our current practice of receiving our US dues in the States. The firm will analyze our accounting and records keeping to assess if there is any need of filing with the French authorities.

e. Thanks were extended to Richard Anderson for his strong involvement and help to the chapter for many years.


4. AIA National Report – Tom Vonier, President-elect AIA

Thanks were extended to Richard, Nora and Bertrand. The President-elect pointed out three levels of consideration for European Chapter:

1. AIA
2. European Chapter
3. International Region

AIA. What is the purpose of the AIA? In his view it is to improve conditions for practice, and to foster connections and collegiality. The two main tasks of organization in my view is to survive and expand. “If this is going to help us to survive?” is main question that he advises that the Board asks when making decisions. AIACE has proposed two new initiatives: awards and scholarship programs. The question to ask, in his view: Are they going to help the chapter to survive?

AIA Europe. His view of Student Award: we should allow many more students to participate. The AIA Student Chapter is an effective organization, has a great network, and we should patch in.

Regions. Primary reason to have a region is to advance politically into the AIA national organization office. When the International Region was created, the decision was not to have just a meeting, but to bring 6 chapters together to foster common goals and to serve the interests of the 6 chapters.

5. Membership report – Read by Olesya Yefimov on behalf of Rada Doytcheva, AIA, Secretary. See Membership Report

Ms. Zettersten thanked the Board for the vision and the actual accomplishment of so many administrative and awards initiatives, leading the way into a healthy future for the chapter. She emphasized the need for the support of our numerous generous Corporate Sponsors that enable us to provide professional Continuing Education Conferences at a reasonable registration rate and adding to the technical knowledge of our AIA Europe Chapter members. She provided a financial summary. See Treasurer’s Report Financial Summary

7. **Election, New Board of Directors** – Richard Anderson, AIA, 2014 Past President and Head of Nominating Committee

The nominations were as follows:

- First Vice President, (President elect): Tiffany Melancon
- Vice-President: Carsten Hanssen
- Secretary: Olesya Yefimov
- France Section Director: Ray Spano

Officers continuing from 2015 for 2016 include:

- President: Nora Demeter
- Treasurer: Sandra Zettersten
- Italy Section Director: Gregg Broderick
- Germany Section Director: Gabriela Liebert
- Switzerland Section Director: Stefan Bieri
- Northern Section Director: Les Jordan
- Southern Section Director: Yael Kinsky
- Eastern Section Director: Bard Rama

The nominations are approved unanimously.

8. **Election International Region Director** – Vincent Marani, AIA

Renewal of the position (two year post): the election will take place in 2016.

9. **Conference reports**

   a. **Barcelona – April 14-17 2016** – Nora Demeter on behalf of Sophia Gruzdys, AIA, conference organizer.

   In brief, the goal of the conference is to visit and understand Barcelona’s commitment to create the “Compact City”, through new buildings and reinvigorating existing ones by employing innovative and unique design strategies. The conference will include visits to four or five different parts of the city, each offering a unique context:

   - **Zone 1**: Poblenou and District 22@
   - **Zone 2**: Sagrada Familia and Hospital Sant Pau
   - **Zone 3**: Markets of Barcelona: Raval, Born and Eixample
   - **Zone 4**: Barcelona’s seafront
   - **Zone 5**: Montjuic/Granvia Developments after 2008
We are now confirming the architects' availability of the projects described and are meeting with them to discuss the content of the talks and visits. Dominique Tomasov is organizing a meeting with Dean of the COAC (Collegi d’Arquitectes de Catalunya), Lluis Cameron, on October 14 to coordinate their participation in the conference. Dominique is also in contact with our sponsor, Laufen.

Per Bertrand Coldefy’s suggestion, I am in contact with Mario Rubert, Director of the Promotion of the City and Carme Gual Via, International Relations Coordinator for Ecology, Urbanism and Mobility in Barcelona to discuss the city’s role in the projects that will be visited in 2016.

Several groups have contacted me already, to register for the conference as a group. We intend to limit the enrollment to no more than 100 or 110 architects, and will accept individual registrations only.

b. **Girne (Cyprus) – Sept 29-Oct 2 2016** – Nora Demeter, AIA, on behalf of Ali Yapicioglu, AIA

Ali sent a very detailed program, following the one communicated at the Milan chapter meeting. « Communicating across Cultures/Past, Present, Future ». A Brief summary:

**Thurs. Sept 29** – opening reception at the 15th Bellapais Abbey, guests of Local Chamber of Architecture
- Dinner at Bellapais Abbey

**Friday Sept 30** – AM seminar sessions
- 3 PM visit of Old Bazar, Girne
- Dinner: ambiance restaurant Girne

**Saturday Oct 1** – Transfer to Selemiyke Mosque conference center, Nicosia – seminars
- Lunch at Buyuk Han (The Great Inn)
- Afternoon: Guided tour of the city of Nicosia
- Transport back to Girne along a scenic route

**Sunday Oct 2** – AM Chapter meeting at Old Bazar, Girne
- Presentations and lectures.
- Lunch: Old Turkish quarter, Girne
- Afternoon: guided walking tour Turkish quarter and Kyrenia Castle

**Monday Oct 3** – Possible extension:
- Bus tour of island
- Boat tour of the northern coast

Explore Middle East Chapter conference dates for possible coordination with the conference in Cairo: Loay Quota, AIA.

After Sandra Zettersten’s initial discussion with Loay Quota, it was decided to possibly coordinate the Middle East Chapter Cairo conference dates for beginning...
at the end of the Girne conference, as one could fly from one to the next for joint conferencing: Loay Quota, AIA.

c. **Copenhagen – Spring 2017** – Stephanie Miller

Stephanie is starting to organize the conference with her architecture firm 3XN and she will communicate more information later.

d. **Prague – Fall 2017** – Vincent Marani

Vincent, with the help of Thomas Bitnar, will organize the conference, entitled « 2020 » as it will have been about 20 years since the last AIA Europe conference in Prague: what has Prague done in the last 20 years as a city?

The conference could be joint with the International Region conference.
e. **Kosovo – Spring 2018** – Nora Demeter on behalf of Bard Rama, AIA, Organizer

Preparation and planning for 2018 Spring Conference – Prishtina and Tirana: Bard Rama had several meetings to prepare the conference with:

- Director of Urban planning Prishtina Municipality
- President of one of the associations of architects of Kosovo

He planned other meetings with Prishtina city Mayor and with the Tirana municipality city planning office, Albania.

**Draft Conference Program:**

**Thursday** – registration at a hotel in city center in Prishtina (Swiss Diamond Hotel or other)

**Friday**
- Morning: lecture from City Urban Planning and Prishtina Mayor
- Afternoon: local architect firm presentation and site visit
- Evening: sponsored dinner?

**Saturday**
- Morning: travel to historic city of Prizren (site visit, meet with local preservation architects)
- Afternoon: travel to Tirana, Albania. Lecture from City Urban Planning
- Evening: gala dinner

**Sunday**
- Morning: chapter meeting, lecture by local architect
- Afternoon: site visit

**Monday**
- Possible Monday extension
- Visit local winery or other historic sites (such as Berat Castle, Kruja Castle etc.)

**Conference Committee:** There have been discussions with several young architects who are very active in organizing local events. They have been invited to be part of the Conference Committee, if they are willing to assist.

10. **International Region report** – Vincent Marani, AIA

New elections are coming up for International Region. It is a 3 year commitment. We need to put up candidates. There is no international region conference next year.

11. **New business**
a. **Students Program 2016 – Tiffany Melancon, AIA**

Tiffany will be a Committee Chair of the Student Award Program. She stated that she will develop criteria for the award. It will continue to be the €4,000,- stipend. A Jury for candidate selection will be set in place. She stated that with expanding the candidates pool, we should develop language which promotes availability, resources and possibilities of the award. The text that she prepared concerning this was read out loud by Tiffany. She will present at the next board meeting for refinement.

Tom Vonier, AIA: It should be clear from our brand message that this award comes from AIA Europe. With many nominees we need not worry about overcrowding, but be clear in our message about our goals and expectations, and required commitment from a recipient. Award is to make difference in Chapter perception.

Tiffany: This year’s student award winner is Julia Kwolyk, She was requested to take notes from this Vienna conference as an historical record for the AIA Europe Chapter. She made a presentation of her studies at the Fontainebleau school at this conference.

b. **Liaison with ACE**: Again, start sending a chapter representative to Architecture Council of Europe (ACE) each year; someone living close to Brussels – maybe Charles Croigny or Bertrand Coldefy.

c. **AIA Europe webinar** – Gabriela Liebert, AIA

   Gabriela: Wants to broaden the engagement of network of American architects working in Germany and facilitate exchange between German and USA architects. This is utilizing the webinar format which has been in common use for many years. Gabriela will report at the next Board meeting.

d. **Julia Kwolyk**, the recipient of the Alan Schwartzman Scholarship, was awarded with a certificate of appreciation. Also, the 4 students who assisted at the Vienna conference were also given a certificate of appreciation for their assistance.

e. **Helen Giblin**, AIA, proposed to move chapter meeting to earlier days of conference, to make it available to more participants. Motion was declined on a ground of tight schedule of conferences and members being accustomed to have meeting on Sunday morning. This is to be discussed further at the next board meeting. She stated that our new Chapter AIA Awards are for our members and do not therefore compete with other awards programs in her viewpoint.

f. **Special thanks** were given to Les Jordan and Michael Elsner for organizing the very successful Vienna Conference.

12. **End of meeting.** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved.

Recorded by Olesya Yefimov on behalf of Rada Doytcheva, AIA, Secretary.