Chapter Meeting Minutes

17 April 2016, Barcelona

1. **Call the meeting to order** – a quorum of chapter members was present. 8:48 a.m.

2. **Previous minutes** - Elizabeth Heudebourg, AIA on behalf of Secretary Olesya Yefimov, Int'l Assoc. AIA.

   The minutes from the chapter meeting held in Vienna on October 4, 2015 were summarized and approved. See Vienna Chapter Meeting Minutes

3. **President's report** – Norà Demeter, 2016 President

   a. As the AIA has become more global, the Institute needed to formalize its off-shore chapters, which has led to the creation of the International Region in 2014. The IR is becoming stronger and our presence in that organization is critical.

   b. The audit in 2015 served to put AIA Continental Europe’s legal affairs in order. Member Giancarlo Alhadeff, FAIA, has conducted a full review of the bylaws, which will now need to be formally translated into French.

   c. The Chapter Board confirmed that it is committed to continuing the Design Awards program led by member Yael Kinsky, FAIA. The next awards will take place in 2017. In conjunction with the awards is the student scholarship program, which in principle will be funded by the revenue from the Design Awards program.

   d. The Board is actively addressing the transition of Richard Anderson, AIA, away from his role as webmaster and Chair of Publishing and Records. This is a challenge, as Richard was the sole point of contact for much of the Chapter's communication. A new website created by a firm used by other International Region chapters is nearing completion. First Vice-President, Tiffany Melancon, Int'l Assoc. AIA, has been active in that process. The Cyprus conference will pilot registration with a new interface, Eventbrite. The Chapter needs to find members willing to help maintain the website; it is likely that some processes will be discontinued.

   e. Member Marc DiDomenico, AIA, has been the CES point person for the Chapter for a number of years. He is looking to step away from that role and so a new volunteer needs to be found for 2017.

   f. The Chapter needs to seek out new sponsors. We cannot take it for granted that they will remain with us indefinitely.

   g. A new generation of members needs to be brought into the Chapter. Any unassigned AIA members in our geographical region should become de facto members of the Chapter. In addition, growth will come primarily from the International Associate AIA membership category. For those in education, help your student members become interested in the Chapter. In some countries, continuing
education is or will soon be required. This may be an opportunity to market our conferences and gain new members. Treasurer Sandra Zettersten, AIA, noted that Germany accepts AIA CES credits for their continuing education requirement.

4. AIA National Report – Tom Vonier, First Vice-President-AIA National

Thanks were extended to Norà, Sandra and the other board members for guiding the Chapter with assurance. Member Sophia Gruzdys, AIA, was commended for her excellent Barcelona conference and for attracting so many fine, young people into her organization.

Tom noted that AIA National is dictating performance and branding goals in an effort to make the AIA offering more cohesive to its membership globally. The AIA is a highly political entity. As such, he encouraged the Chapter to be proactive in letting National know what we need as opposed to simply accepting its dictates. The continuing education issue demands lobbying from the National level to the various countries' architectural licensing bodies. As an example, RIBA already has an agreement with the AIA.

The state of the AIA is strong with 88,000 members. The profession in the United States is good with many firms actively looking to hire architects.

5. Membership report – Read by Elizabeth Heudebourg, AIA on behalf of Olesya Yefimov, AIA, Secretary.

   a. 2015 Membership - We finished 2015 with 252 (229 EUXX/23 local). As previously mentioned, this is behind 2014, when we closed with 273 (237 EUXX/36 local), yet comparable to 2013 with 258 (217 EUXX/41 local) members renewed/joined.

   b. 2016 Membership - The renewal cycle is well underway with 209 (196 EUXX/13 local) members renewed/joined. This is virtually the same as 2015 at the same point in the year when we had 208 (189 EUXX/19 local) members renewed/joined. It is slightly more positive, since we have more EUXX members this year.

   c. The feminization of the Chapter continues to improve, slightly. 2015 had 26.64% female assigned members, which is ahead of AIA National’s rate of 22%.

   d. The average age of a chapter member is about 50 years old, the extreme ends of the age category have 8 members under 30 and two members over 90.


Ms. Zettersten thanked 2015 President Bertrand Coldefy, Int’l Assoc. AIA, for his leadership in carrying out the audit and seeing through the awards program. She also thanked Giancarlo Alhadef, FAIA, for his bylaws review. Ms. Zettersten highlighted portions of the Financial Summary See Treasurer’s Report Financial Summary. In particular, she drew attention to the role of Sponsors and encouraged members to reach out to Graphisoft to invite them to their offices for presentations/demonstrations. She highlighted Laufen as a loyal sponsor and one that has provided us with enriching presentations, such as the Roca gallery visit in Barcelona and the showroom visit in Hamburg. Laufen will play a key role in
7. Conference reports

a. **Girne (Cyprus) – Sept 29-Oct 2 2016** – Ali Yapicioglu, AIA and Bari Wetmore Salathe, AIA

Ali and Bari presented their upcoming conference as being different from a typical conference in that there will be an integrated student design competition. Both the President of Northern Cyprus (a US-trained architect) and the Mayor of Girne are very excited about the conference and have offered to sponsor various related expenses such as some printing costs and room rentals. Ali encouraged members to bring their children or grandchildren and extend their stay as a vacation. Robert Rhodes offered to share UK’s practices concerning student competitions.

2015 President Bertrand Coldefy, Int'l Assoc. AIA, is organizing an event in Lille in conjunction with the AIA UK chapter. The date is to be determined, but it is likely to be in October.

b. **No conference planned – Spring 2017** – Norà Demeter

Norà informed the meeting that the planned Copenhagen conference would not be taking place. It was the first time the Chapter was approached by an external organization proposing to put together a conference. In this case, they chose not to follow through.

Given the gap in scheduling, Giancarlo suggested that members might wish to head to Orlando in April for the 2017 AIA National convention. Our own Tom Vonier, FAIA will be National President next year and it would be ideal to have a strong contingent from AIA Continental Europe in attendance.

c. **France Section Event – Spring 2017** – Ray Spano

France Section Director, Ray Spano, AIA, is tentatively planning a weekend event for May 2017 in the Côte d’Azur visiting Eileen Gray’s Villa E-1027. It is undergoing restoration by former members David and Claudia Devaux.

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

Vincent reiterated that the conference is entitled Prague 20/20 as it will have been about 20 years since the last AIA Europe conference in Prague and also allow a retrospective of the city over the last 20 years of post-communist development. Planning is well underway with the opening cocktail to be held at the US ambassador’s residence, a lecture in the Czech senate, and an unusual presentation by an architectural psychologist about the architect/client relationship.

There will be some different scheduling required as an International Region meeting will need to be added to the program. Tentative dates are either October 6-7, 2017 or October 13-14, 2017.

Vincent hopes to bring back sponsor AGC to the Chapter, as well as continue with
Sipral and Laufen. Robert Rhodes suggested that we try to learn from the International Region conference in Japan in 2015, as they obtained substantial funding from sponsors.

Vincent called on other Chapter members to volunteer to organize conferences. He put together the 2012 Hamburg conference even though he did not live in the city. He did have some assistance from part-time Hamburg resident and member Gabrielle Liebert, Assoc. AIA.

e. Kosovo – Spring 2018 – Norà Demeter on behalf of Bard Rama, AIA, Organizer

Preparation and planning for 2018 Spring Conference continues. The goal of the conference will be to show how the region is developing. A lecture from the urban planning department is scheduled as well as a visit to see a project by Liebskind. Saturday will feature a trip to Albania and the gala dinner will have the Tirana mayor present. AIA UK member Lorraine King, AIA noted that the 2017 AIA UK President is originally from Kosovo.

8. Germany Section Event – Gabiella Liebert, Assoc. AIA

Gabiella is putting together a webinar toward the middle of May. The theme will be the use of BIM on two Miami projects and will be presented in Berlin and Miami.


AIA UK member, Robert Rhodes, AIA, made a strong appeal to the Chapter to get involved in the International Region. AIA Europe and AIA UK are established chapters and may not feel the need for support in the same way newer chapters do. However, currently the Region is doing more for the southern hemisphere chapters and AIA Europe and AIA UK need to have a voice at the table. The current executive committee is heavily made up of AIA Middle East members. There has been a late entry by a AIA UK member to run for Secretary, as AIA UK and AIA Europe member Lester Korzilius, FAIA steps down from that position. Having a seat on the executive board allows for our chapters to have a stronger role in the Region. Past AIA Continental Europe representative, Vincent Marani, AIA, suggested that the Chapter’s International Region representative be systematically invited to the January Paris board meeting in a consultative, non-voting role.

There is no International Region conference slated for 2016. The next one will take place in conjunction with our chapter’s Prague conference in 2017.

10. Design awards and student scholarships-Vice-President Carsten Hanssen, Int’l Assoc. AIA

Carsten confirmed that the Design awards will be held every other year. For the student scholarship, the school from which they come from needs to be accredited.

11. Architects Council of Europe –

Giancarlo suggested that Charles Croigny, AIA, a resident of Belgium, be asked to
12. **End of meeting.** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved.

10:30 a.m.

Recorded by Elizabeth Heudebourg, AIA on behalf of Olesya Yefimov, Int’l Assoc. AIA, Secretary.

See Attendance Sheet