When do code violations become a crime?

SARA 2016 Fellow

59th Annual Conference
Well my friends, we are nearing the end of 2015, and for me the end of my two years of honor as SARA’s national president. It has been a thoughtful and exciting venture for me and I hope for you also, leaving you with positive thoughts for the continuing growth and ascension of SARA going forward.

Well, I have to say that we have done it again! Our 59th National Conference in Miami/Coconut Grove. Such a Great Time was had by all!

The conference, hosted at the Mayfair Hotel in south Miami, ran from October 14 thru the 18th, with the Registration/Hospitality room open all day, providing a venue for sponsors with table top displays and informational offerings. Each afternoon ended with a wine and cheese reception for attendees, sponsors, and architects and professionals interacting and sharing.

Beginning with our arrival at the hotel, we began to enjoy the ambience of the charming Mayfair which was a perfect site for this coming together of the art and architecturally aware people of SARA. Our home for five days was a fitting old world Miami experience and environment. But this was just the beginning, as developed by our host committee, of the enjoyment of days and times in the Grove back streets, charming haunts, and roof top dining.

The committee scheduled a new approach for the conference starting a day earlier than our traditional schedule seemed to be a welcome organizational move, addressing the business first.

Wednesday welcomed the convening of the meeting of the National Board. During the regular course of the meeting several items of note were discussed and certain actions of note were taken which included: petitions from two new chapters, the LA Central California Chapter of the California Council, sponsored by Vince Bertolini, and the Brandywine Chapter of the Pennsylvania Council sponsored by Rhett Jones. Both chapters are up and running with officers, members, and scheduled meetings. The Board approved both chapters with comments and reactions feeling that this is an excellent sign of the growth of SARA and in most instances this growth comes from organizations such as chapters providing meeting and local interaction of members.

Under benefits of membership, much discussion was undertaken relative to the proposed guide booklet for residential clients. This booklet as originally designed and promoted by Hector Munoz-Baras of the Delaware
Hudson Valley Chapter and has received much support from the board and is going through an editing and vetting process. The board approved the booklet pending final edit and agreement as to the availability and method of distribution. Ron Knabb agreed to finalize the material and present to the board in January.

Public awareness and the presentation of SARA has been an ongoing topic of need for SARA. Public Awareness Committee chair, Abby Schwartz, presented a power-point of her input and incorporated, as well previous board comments. The SARA historic logo/emblem will be retained and incorporated into a new fresh set of graphics designed to provide each council, chapter, as well as national the ability to incorporate these graphics creating a consistent brand identity of SARA public material. The board indicated full support of this approach.

Thursday provided many opportunities for architectural learning and earning the required educational units. Up to nine credits were available to attendees. A necessary need fulfilled in an attractive environment. Following the afternoon reception we fully enjoyed a Cuban dinner and evening experience, hosted personally by the Florida Committee meeting the proprietors and staff.

Friday brought a design awareness day. In the morning, ArquitectonicaGEO presented an overview of their work followed by an afternoon tour and presentation of the Zyscovich designed master plan, and development of 2 Midtown Miami, a 28 floor residential, urban residential building. Zyscovich Architects was presented with the Synergy Award that evening during the Celebration of Architecture and Design event. ArquitectonicaGEO was awarded the firm of the year, and its principals Bernando Fort-Brescia and Laurinda Spear were recognized with the International Award. The evening continued with a showcase of excellent architectural design awards.

Saturday opened with the SARA Annual Assembly providing much interaction, discussions, and energetic input from all present. The President’s Dinner and Award Celebration developed into a rather comfortable and intimate evening among our members, guests, and families. I think this was initially set off with the President’s wardrobe malfunction with a too small shirt, shoes with no laces, and a bow tie tying competition. Much personal embarrassment accepted by an understanding audience with much conviviality. The presentation of awards included Presidential Citations to several members acknowledging their dedication, service, and commitment to the Society. The energetic Abby Schwartz was elevated into Fellowship in SARA, a well-earned and deserved honor.

The highest SARA awards were presented to Octavio Santurio with the Boulanger and the Gold Medal, with much honor, to two Members, Dennis Dong and Gaetano Ragusa. Dennis, thru his diligent service for many years as the national secretary, has continued his service and support of SARA and the national board. Guy has continually supported and served SARA during his long tenure as membership chair and as well his support to the president. Guy will continue his service to SARA as he will sit this coming year as our national president.

The conference this year, in all respects, was an “EVENT”. An event designed and undertaken by an exceptional team of Florida members and the Florida Council, led by Octavio Santurio with Kevin Regalado and six energetic and talented committee members, they put together a seamless experience for us all. These five days were a well planned trip through the wonders of Miami and Coconut Grove working thru infrequently treaded back streets that evidenced unique environs rarely enjoyed by the traveling public.

This closes my journey as your president and a wonderful journey it has been. I look forward to my continuing involvement in SARA in the years ahead under Guy’s able leadership and on.

It has been a great ride for this strap hanger, and I love you all.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Knabb Jr., FARA
National President
Please join us in welcoming our newest Members:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Aaron Ede
Architecture Plus LLC
North Charleston South Carolina

Holly Spake-Gray
Interior Makeup
Hanahan South Carolina

Susan Jensen
Architecture Plus LLC
North Charleston South Carolina

STUDENT MEMBERS
Tasnuva Ahmed
Brooklyn, New York

Daniel Argudo
Rego Park New York

Anny Campo
New York

SARA’S WEBSITE
The Society’s website www.sara-national.org is continually being updated. Anyone looking for an architect can search our Members by Name, Company Name, City, State, or Project Type. Only your contact information including your company’s website will appear. Take just a few minutes and check it out at your earliest opportunity, let us know if your information needs updating, especially Project Type and the States you’re registered or licensed in. Call or email Cathie Moscato with updates, corrections or additions. The only way we can keep our information current is by communication from our Members.

Watch for upcoming newsletters with profiles of our member firms, affiliate members, sponsors and SARAScope advertisers. Please let us know of any information or related links you’d like to see posted. We have extra SARAScope Newsletters at Headquarters - let us know if you’d like some copies to share with fellow architects or colleagues. Think marketing and SARA membership promotion! Thank you…Cathie Moscato – cmoscato@sara-national.org or 888-385-7272.
**Building Information Modeling (BIM)**

Let us know what updates and/or Technology issues you’d like our committee to look into. Below is a response to our BIM Survey that was posted in Issue #4. The response was submitted by Pierre Guariglia of Savin Engineers, PC

**BIM Survey Response**

1. Office doesn’t use BIM.
2. Architecture has 3 professionals.
3. Educational & municipal.
4. Public.
5. No use of BIM for project delivery.
6. No need for BIM experience.
7. BIM has not impacted us for job selection.
8. Cannot offer any BIM advice.

Their MEP Department does use BIM.

**SARA Members Survey**

SARA Members, how important is BIM to your firm?

What size firm do you have?
What type of projects do you work on?
What type of clients do you work with?
Do you currently use BIM as a project delivery method? If so, which software do you use?
Do you consider BIM experience when interviewing production staff?
Has your use of or non-use of BIM affected your selection for a project?
What advice would you give firms considering making the change to BIM?

Please email your responses to cmoscato@sara-national.org

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We have used BIM on several jobs. The type of metadata attached to 3-D objects in all of the jobs we’ve worked on so far has not been very specific. This is because we only suggest which products to use and/or what the required properties they must have.

If at some point we find the need create metadata for entities that includes specs, approved shop drawing info, specific as-built and/or MOPO information we are fully prepared to do that.

The importance of this type of building model for will be increasing. In my opinion jobs we are managing the construction of would benefit greatly from the use of BIM.

The software we use to create BIM projects is Civil 3D, Revit and Autocad MEP.
WHEN DO CODE VIOLATIONS BECOME A CRIME?

Kelly P. Reynolds
SARA Code Consultant

Most code violations are a civil penalty, or may upgrade to a misdemeanor for non-compliance. But when do they become criminal? When someone is injured or killed the stakes are higher. Here are some case studies for your review.

- **MARCH 1911 - TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST** - (New York City) - Exits and stairways were locked, broken fire escapes and lack of fire alarm system killed 146 mostly immigrant female workers and injured another 71 people. Exits and stairways were locked, fire escapes were in disrepair and no fire alarm system nor fire sprinklers. The fire killed 146 immigrant female workers and injured another 71 people. The Punishment - The owners were indicted for first and second degree manslaughter. They were acquitted but found liable of wrongful death in a civil suit. No jail time. But it was the spark that started the union movement for the garment industry.

- **NOVEMBER 1942 - COCOANUT GROVE NIGHTCLUB** - (Boston, MA) - A fire start in the Melody Lounge and killed 492 people. One of the main causes of the high death toll was that the exit doors did not swing out. The building had numerous code violations at the time. The Punishment - The owner was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 12-15 years in prison.

- **SEPTEMBER 1991 - IMPERIAL PROCESSING PLANT** - (Hamlet, NC) - A hydraulic line failure caused a fire that killed 22 and injured 55 who were trapped behind locked Exit doors. The Punishment: The owner pleaded guilty to 25 counts of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

- **FEBRUARY 2003 - THE STATION NIGHTCLUB** - (Warwick, RI) - The nightclub fire lost 100 lives and injured another 230. The cause was fireworks ignited on the stage. The walls were covered with combustible foam insulation for sound control. The Punishment: The band manager pled guilty to 100 counts of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 15 years in prison. The two owners pleaded “no contest”. One owner got 15 years in prison and the other 10 years.

- **FEBRUARY 2003 - THE E 2 NIGHTCLUB** - (Chicago IL) - Not a fire, but a stampede from a pepper-spray discharge created a panic that killed 21 persons due to insufficient exits and exiting code violations. The building was not supposed to be occupied. The Punishment: The two owners and their attorneys worked out a deal with the city attorney. Both only got two-years probation and 500 hours of community service. Obviously the fix was in. So what are 21 lives worth?

If you have a code question, you can call
Kelly P. Reynolds at 1-800-950-2633 or e-mail: codexperts@aol.com.
This is free service for SARA Members only.
2016 SARA Fellow
Abby Schwartz, FARA

EDUCATION:
Brandeis University-Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude
University of Pennsylvania- Master of Architecture

CURRENT ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATIONS:
Pennsylvania     New Jersey

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:
Society of American Registered Architects
    Member Since 2005
SARA National Director (2012 to Present)
    PR Committee Chair – 2015
    International Committee – 2012 and 2013
    Global Initiative Committee: Hackensack, NJ Medical Center- 2013 and 2014
Pennsylvania Council:
    President 2014 - Present
    Vice President 2011 - 2013
    Board Member 2008 – 2010
    Conference Committee - 2009

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Ann’s Choice Retirement Community / Warminster, PA.
Local Junior & Senior High Schools / Career Day Speaker
Colleges & Local High Schools / Sponsor Student Interns
Temple Brith Achim / King of Prussia, PA.
Building Committee Chair / Building Committee / Board of Trustees Member
Conestoga High School Debate Team / Berwyn, PA
    (Judge and Team Chaperone)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:
Pratt Institute / Adjunct Professor  2010 - Present
Moore College of Art & Design (Interior Design Dept.)
    Adjunct Professor  2009 - Present

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE:
Abby Schwartz Associates
Integrated Architecture & Interiors
Wayne, Pennsylvania
Principal / Owner

AWARDS and HONORS:
2014 – SARA Pennsylvania Council Silver Design Award
    Ferndale Residence – Haverford, PA.
2009 – SARA Pennsylvania Council Design Award of Merit
    Main Line Manor;  Pool Courtyard and Garage / Guest House – Bryn Mawr, PA.

Service Awards:
Gregson Leadership Award – 2014
Jean P. Boulanger Service Award – 2013

Past Juror for Award Competitions:
Northeast Spa and Pool Association – 2015
SARA National Professional Design Awards – 2010
SARA Pennsylvania Council Professional Design Awards - 2008

PUBLICATIONS:
Dream Homes Greater Philadelphia / Panache Partners, LLC 2006 Featured Architect
Spectacular Small Kitchens / E. Ashley Rooney, Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 2005 “Philadelphia Row House”
Garden, Deck and Landscape Magazine – Fall 2002, Spring 2003 “A Grand Revival”
SARAScope – Contributor of multiple articles

Abby Schwartz has been a member of SARA since 2005. She has served SARA in a variety of Pennsylvania Council positions and currently serves as a National Director.
Ms. Schwartz has brought honor to our Society and the profession for her contributions to education, to community and her service to the Society. It is with great pleasure that the Fellowship Committee elevates Abby Schwartz to the status of Fellow at the 2015 National Conference.
The Society of American Registered Architects held its 59th Annual National Conference in Coconut Grove, Florida at the Mayfair Hotel from October 14th through the 18th. Hosted by the Florida Council, and led by Octavio Santurio and Kevin Regalado, the event was a huge success drawing attendees from all over the country.

The activities started on Wednesday with the full day National Board meeting. Many new ideas surfaced during the meeting, and the board’s energy and enthusiasm were obvious. Topics of interest included the recent increase in membership, our exciting new national public relations campaign, and initial discussions for next year’s 60th anniversary celebration to be held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

After sitting in a board room all day, we were all happy to participate in the conference Welcome Reception. Appetizers and cocktails were enjoyed on the beautiful rooftop deck of the hotel sponsored by the Florida Council, and a local historian presented a fascinating overview of the history of Coconut Grove and the development of Southern Florida.

On Thursday, eight CEU courses were provided by Icynene Inc., Pella Corporation, Eastman Chemical, One Philips Lighting, Garland, Barrier One, Brick America and Otis Elevator. RSW Insurance (Roehrs, Stanton, Willmann & Associates, LLC) sponsored lunch in the hotel, breaking up the long day of classes. That evening, after cocktails with our sponsors and vendors, the group experienced a lively dinner at a local Cuban restaurant.
Friday brought a much more active day to all of us. We began with a presentation overview of some of the recent projects by ArquitectonicaGEO, SARA’s 2015 Firm Award recipient. Participants then were whisked on a whirlwind tour of Miami, which highlighted these landscaping projects designed by ArquitectonicaGEO as well as a tour of a section of the Midtown Miami project by Zyscovich Architects, our 2015 Synergy award recipient.

After a late afternoon wine and cheese reception, the group thoroughly enjoyed the annual Celebration of Architectural Design Awards Banquet at which 38 firms from around the country received 58 awards. With every seat in the house filled, we enjoyed a vibrant slide show of award winning projects as well as the presentation of SARA’s International Awards to Bernardo Fort-Brescia of Arquitectonica and Laurinda Spear of ArquitectonicaGEO of Coconut Grove and the Synergy Award to Zyscovich Architects of Miami.

SARA’s Education Corporation presented a scholarship award to Natalie Inman, a student at Savannah College of Art and Design. We look forward to seeing a lot more of this impressive young lady.

During the event, the Florida Council also honored an aspiring young architect, Kelsey Dickson, who suffered from a rare childhood cancer and sadly lost her battle to the disease in 2014. A few words from her proud father made for a very meaningful and emotional evening.

Saturday began with the Annual Assembly led by Ron Knabb, SARA National President. The meeting was followed by an additional CEU sponsored by Xypex Chemical and then lunch at a local Coconut Grove restaurant. The afternoon activities continued as we enjoyed a walking tour of historic Coconut Grove.
The day culminated in the President’s Celebration, held at the Mayfair Hotel - an evening of enjoyment and camaraderie with awards, honors and mutual recognition for SARA members who diligently work toward furthering the society. The evening also included the swearing in of the 2016 officers and directors. New Executive officers include NY Council’s Gaetano Ragusa, President, FL Council’s Octavio Santurio, President-Elect, CA Council’s Dennis Dong, Vice President, IL Council’s Simone Demirjian-Beazly, Treasurer and PA Council’s John Di Benedetto, Recorder.
“Pride and Joy”
Barbeque Restaurant in Coconut Grove
After four very busy days and a variety of activities, SARA members said their farewells and began their travels home, looking forward to our 60th Annual Conference to be held in October 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Thank you again, Florida Council, for all your hard work and for so beautifully planning and hosting an unforgettable 59th National Conference.
President’s Celebration Banquet
The Society of American Registered Architects Education Fund Inc. commenced an annual student scholarship program this past year. The student scholarship program was submitted to all Accredited Architectural Schools across the United States. The student must be currently enrolled and we requested the deans and professors of the schools to select a currently enrolled student that is at the top of their class academically, and has a strong character and impeccable integrity.

There were numerous submissions from students across the country. Scholarship submissions were received from University of California, Copper Union, Texas, Florida University and Savannah College of Art and Design to name a few schools.

The student was required to submit an official transcript, letter of recommendation from the Dean or Course Advisor, Examples of students works, biographical sketch describing the student’s reason for studying Architecture and goals the student hopes to achieve and a peer recommendation based upon the SARA motto of “Architect Helping Architect” illustrating “Student Helping Student.”

The student selected to receive the first annual SARA Education Fund Inc. Past President’s 2015 Student Scholarship is Natalie Imran. Ms. Imran has graduated with a bachelor’s degree of architecture from University of Florida, and is currently enrolled in the graduate program of Savannah College of Art and Design. She has been employed by firms around and world from in New York to Australia and most recently in Florida employed at Arquitectonica. She aspires to become a licensed Architect in New York and Florida and work with a firm in Singapore or Germany.

Ms. Imran submitted an impressive portfolio of projects that includes sketches and lighting design. A sampling is on the following page.

Excerpt from Natalie Imran’s Application for Scholarship

I believe that design is a boundless sea of risk and opportunity, through which, the right current can guide us to the shores of solution. Architects, as the pioneers in this practice, are given the far-reaching task to remake and refurbish our world, to recognize our needs as they continue to evolve, and to find answers that can help ameliorate the problems of our society. I am aware that this act of making and remaking is incessant, and thus, the intellectual journey of an architect, too, sees no end. As such, I am motivated to progress forward on this perpetual cycle of practice and education, to begin my journey as an architect of my generation, and to transmit my imagination into forms and creations that are useful in the present, and respectful of past and future, place and user.

She has received the following Awards and Achievements:

Dean’s Fellowship | Savannah College of Art and Design | Fall 2014-Present
Witters Competition | 2nd Place Award | The University of Florida | Spring 2012
Simpson Strong-Tie Architecture Scholarship | The University of Florida | Spring 2012
1990 Student Memorial Scholarship | The University of Florida | Fall 2011
As this year’s co chairperson it was a pleasure to meet Natalie and present her with the scholarship and glad her family was able to join the celebration.

We look forward to hearing and seeing her advance her career in Architecture. Congratulations NATALIE IMRAN
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SARA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 4 - 9, 2016
Doubletree Paradise Valley Hotel
Scottsdale, Arizona
Articles and address changes can be sent to National Headquarters or directly to the SARAscope Editor:

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