1st Caucus Set to Discuss National Candidates

Come to the Chapter Board Room on Wednesday, May 26, at 5:30 p.m., and have a say in how Chicago votes on convention resolutions, and learn more about the national candidates. Meet Cynthia Weese, candidate for 1st vice president.
CHAPTER NEWS

Programs

NEW MEMBERS BREAKFAST
AIA Chicago members who have joined the Chapter within the last 12 months are invited to the New Members Spring Breakfast, April 21, 7:45 a.m., in the Chapter Board Room, Suite 1049 in the Merchandise Mart. Members of the AIA Chicago Board of Directors and other staff will be on hand to answer your questions and welcome you.

If you have not attended a previous New Members Breakfast and would like to attend this complimentary event, please contact the Chapter office at 312/670-7770 to make your reservation.

GREEN PRODUCTS NIGHT
Tues., April 27, 6-8:30 p.m.
Sauganash Ballroom, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 380 N. Orleans
Reservations required. (See last paragraph.)

The AIA Chicago Committee on the Environment (COTE) is joining the Chicago Chapter CSI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to sponsor the second annual Green Products Night program. Bob Falk, research engineer with the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, will speak on "Building Products from Recycled Wood and Paper" and recent research on sustainable manufacturing processes. AIA Chicago COTE members Kirk and Sheri Stevens, of Archimage, will serve as moderators. Extensive table top displays will highlight literature and samples for environmentally-responsive products. Brochures from numerous environmental organizations will also be available.

The exhibits open at 6 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in the 14th floor Sauganash Ballroom. Early arrivals may purchase drinks at a cash bar in the Ballroom reception area at 5:30 p.m. The program will start at 7 p.m., and the exhibits will close at 8:30 p.m.

For program reservations call 312/641-5986 before 2 p.m., Monday, April 26. The cost is $5, and reservations are required. Checks may be sent to Chicago Chapter CSI, 120 W. Madison St., Suite 1118, Chicago, IL 60602 or presented at the door. Cash at the door is also acceptable. William Lohmann, AIA

SHOP DRAWINGS: POINTS OF VIEW
Thurs., April 29, Noon
Chicago Bar Association
321 S. Plymouth
$7.50 (Includes full luncheon buffet.
Please pay at the Bar Association, and pick up lunch tickets in their 1st floor Membership Office before proceeding to the meeting room.)
Sponsor: Technical Committee

A group discussion on this controversial topic is planned with a panel of speakers, including lawyer/architect Jim Zahn, AIA, of Sabo & Zahn; contractor/architect Jerry Reich, AIA, of Schal; and specialty subcontractor Louis Nutini, Illinois Bronze.

Both AIA and non-AIA members are welcome to attend. If you would like your name on the committee mailing list, please contact me at Lohan Associates, 312/938-4455. An RSVP by Fax to 312/670-2422 is appreciated.

Richard Fencel, AIA
Chair, Technical Committee

MORE OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

The Government Affairs Committee continues to participate, along with BOMA, the Builders Association of Chicago, the Chicago Development Council, and other professional groups in a joint effort to develop and cosponsor a variety of programs with the City of Chicago Department of Buildings.

In 1992 we produced three programs dealing with the permit process and the ADA. We were very informational for architects and well attended by AIA members. This year we are continuing this effort with four quarterly programs:


June 15 - "Information on Demolition/Environmental Issues and the Permit Process." Reservations: fax to Mike Thom, BOMA, 312/236-5766.

September 9 - "ADA Case Studies Currently Under Consideration by the City." Reservations: fax to Builders Association of Greater Chicago, 708/383-9998.

November 8 - "Follow Up on the Overall Permit Process." Reservations: same as for September 9 program.

All seminars will be held in the Auditorium of the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., from 4-6 p.m. Due to the scheduled program times, all doors to the library should be accessible to the public until 7 p.m. As with past events, there is no cost to attend. However, there may be a nominal charge for printed material distributed by the City.

Please make your reservations immediately for the April 8 program and 30 days in advance for the other programs. To give as many interested persons as possible a chance to attend, please limit reservations to two participants per firm.

Robert Robicsek, AIA
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SETS '93 SCHEDULE

The committee will meet May 6, June 24, August 9, September 23, and November 11. All meetings will be held at the offices of Environ, Inc., 401 W. Superior, 5th floor. The meetings will start at 5:45 p.m. and adjourn no later than 7 p.m. The purpose of most meetings will be to review issues requiring our immediate attention, schedule programs and/or events, and discuss future topics that the committee has been assigned by the Chapter Board of Directors.

Currently there are seven active committee members. Interested chapter members wishing to find out more about the Government Affairs Committee please contact Bob Robicsek, AIA, committee chair, 312/951-8863.
Cynthia Weese Runs for National AIA President-Elect

At January’s Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C., Chapter member Cynthia Weese, FAIA, announced her candidacy for National AIA First Vice President/President-Elect. Her name will appear on the ballot at the Chicago Convention, and if elected (and for that she will receive our full support) Weese will become 1995 President of the American Institute of Architects.

AIA Chicago is proud that Cynthia Weese has thrown her hat into the race, for her dedication to the profession typifies what we need to carry on the long tradition of distinguished AIA leadership. In her three years as Illinois Regional Director to the AIA Board of Directors, she has demonstrated overwhelming enthusiasm and energy. She has faithfully reported back to the Chicago Chapter membership the goals, plans for execution, and achievements of the Board, always exhibiting a genuine concern for raising the value of AIA membership and for improving the position of the architect as a contributor to society.

Weese was president of the Chicago Chapter, July 1987-June 1988, working non-stop to advance the profession. Upon her election in 1989 to Regional Director, she expressed her concerns that the architect “redefine roles and set new agendas,” ever mindful of their “unique opportunity to influence and shape the environment. We all share in the responsibility - we cannot leave it to a few.” In her speech at this year’s Grassroots following the announcement of her candidacy, Weese spoke of the change architects are facing: “The very definition of what it means to be an architect is in question.” But, she adds, “We have the ability and the responsibility to lead.”

Weese has chaired the AIA/Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Council on Architectural Research, served as regent of the American Architecture Foundation, on the National Committee on Public Architecture, the Secretary’s Advisory Committee, and National Committee on Design steering group.

Come to the Chapter’s open meeting Wednesday, May 26 at 5:30, meet Cynthia Weese, and be instrumental in her becoming elected to the office of First Vice President/President-Elect.

A201 and B141 Revisions Have Begun

MEMBERS ASKED TO SUBMIT PROBLEMS FOR REVIEW

The National AIA Documents Committee has started planning for the next revision of AIA Document A201, General Conditions of the Contract for Construction and its related documents. The State Documents Coordinating Committee will be meeting in 1993 to review actual problems arising out of current versions of A201 and B141. To assist the national committee in gathering comments, concerns, and suggestions from members regarding the AIA documents, each AIA chapter has appointed a documents coordinator.

If you have experienced difficulties in your practice with the use of these documents, please contact me, James Jankowski, AIA Chicago Documents Coordinator, 312/663-5220. Without your “real life” examples we will not be able to successfully address problems resulting from the current documents. This is an excellent opportunity for us to have a voice in the shaping of the new documents.

James Jankowski, AIA

McCormick Place Planned Development Update

At the December 15, 1992, Plan Commission meeting regarding the McCormick Place Expansion, the Chapter’s Planning and Urban Affairs Committee along with several other civic groups, presented positions generally supportive of the planning process and its end product. The Department of Planning and Development, working with what became a coalition of civic groups, positively affected the end product. The Inter-Governmental Agreement and the Planning Development Application process were among the items in criticism. The City defined the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) as merely a “financial agreement” with the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), but with a value in excess of $100 million and a control of the access and infrastructure extending from 12th Street to 35th, the details of it are critical to the total lakefront planning. The review of the IGA had been broken apart from the McCormick Place structure to allow the building to be fast-tracked in the process. The downside in splitting up “building” and “site” planning is the potential for interrelated planning issues not being coordinated as closely as required.

At the Plan Commission hearing, Alderman Ted Mazolla was first to express the impatience and “suspicion” of the process, and the need for public input. The Department of Planning and Development indicated that the initial draft of the document would be out by approximately the end of January, 1993, and would be open for public review at that time. As of March 1, the release date remains uncertain, and the level of suspicion among the civic groups that we have spoken with remains high. The issues are critical to the total Lakefront Planning process.

The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) has observed that the Department of Planning and Development worked with MPEA up to the 12th hour in addressing the issues surrounding the Planned Development Application Process. MPC observed that these 11th hour revisions had fallen out of the public planning process; the specific language or graphics of a revision would not be publically available until after Plan Commission approval. The Plan Commission requested that MPC develop the specific recommendation for revisions to the process.

This issue has touched a chord within our committee. On one hand, where time is money, the P.D. application is seen as a dynamic process with continued negotiation. It also needs to be a public process. MPC recommendations have been formalized and some discussion will need to occur.

The AIA Chicago Planning and Urban Affairs Committee typically meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon. We will continue to actively track these issues. We welcome others in discussion of these planning issues. Please contact the chapter office to confirm the time and location.

Leonard Koroski, AIA

As of March 1, the level of suspicion among the civic groups we have spoken with remains high.
Sponsors, Parties, and Banners

Architecture in Chicago Video

As part of the January Grassroots program held in Washington, AIA Chicago Convention Co-chairs Steve Weiss, AIA, and Linda Searl, AIA, addressed Grassroots participants, promoting the convention in Chicago. Their slide presentation was so well received that it has been turned into a video to enable continued use. National AIA will use the video to promote the AIA/UIA conference.

A special thanks goes to John Schlossman, FAIA, of Loeb Schlossman and Hackl, for his hard work and enthusiasm in coordinating the slide presentation and providing the voiceover. Thank you to everyone who loaned photographs and slides for the presentation.

We are grateful to Ameritech for generously donating their service to produce the video for AIA Chicago. If your organization or committee would like to use the video for group presentations, it will be available through the Chapter office.

Host Chapter Party Table Sales

The Host Chapter Party on Saturday, June 19, at 7 to 11 p.m., is planned for 1,500 to 2,000 convention guests. This exciting evening will be a great opportunity to represent your firm or to entertain guests in town for the convention.

If you would like to sponsor a special table with reserved seating, tables for 10 can be purchased for $2,500 from AIA Chicago. For more information, call Carolyn Garrett at 312/670-7770.

Convention Memento for AIA Members

Architecture in Chicago banners will be hung on Michigan Avenue June through August. Once they come down, the banners will be sold, as is, to AIA members on a first come basis. These one-of-a-kind canvas banners are 31" x 91"; a white background with red and black type show Architecture in Chicago "reflected" in the blue of Lake Michigan.

Don't miss this opportunity for a unique memento! Until May 1, banners will be sold for $140 each, plus tax and shipping cost; after May 1, the price will be $175 each, plus tax and shipping. Send a $75 deposit check or credit card information to AIA Chicago.

Thank You New Sponsors

Sponsors for AIA Chicago's special events during the 1993 AIA and UIA Conventions continue to come in. New sponsors added to the list since the last FOCUS issue include:

- CNA Insurance Companies
- Downtown Evanston Business Group
- Fox River Stone
- Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc.
- Paul H. Schwendener, Inc.

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Send with $75 deposit to AIA Chicago, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, #1049, Chicago, IL 60654
Board of Directors Election in May

The following candidates to the Board of Directors are submitted to the chapter membership by the 1993 AIA Chicago Nominating Committee. (A call for nominations from the membership was made in the March FOCUS.) The election of officers and directors will take place at the Annual Meeting in May. Members of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Leonard Peterson, AIA, were Frank Castelli, AIA; Bob Cough, AIA; Mary Jo Graf; John Nelson, AIA; Robert Piper, FAIA; Pat Rosenzweig; John Syvertsen, AIA; and Ed Uhlir, FAIA.

First Vice President/President-Elect (Through Dec. 1994)
WILLIAM D. BRADFORD, AIA
Vice President, Director of Design, VOA Associates Incorporated

Chapter Activities: Current Vice President and past Director; Design Committee Co-Chair; Governance Task Force; Board of Directors Handbook Committee Chair; 1992 Fall Program Committee Chair.
Other Professional Activities: Village of Wilmette Zoning Board of Appeals; Alpha Rho Chi National Architecture Fraternity member and Board of Directors.
Honors: 1987 American Institute of Steel Construction Award of Excellence.

Statement: AIA Chicago is an organization that is its members. As such, we must always work toward identifying and responding to the ever-changing needs of our membership. This should include not only the needs of individual members, but also of member firms. We must offer continued professional education and development; we must strengthen the architect’s voice in establishing and influencing public policy; we must encourage greater member participation in the debate of policy; and we must ensure the efficient management of the Chapter's business. The proposed chapter organization change will help realize these goals. There is the opportunity to include a larger segment of the membership in the voice of the Chapter through expanded committee involvement at the Board level, and to encourage a greater interaction and sharing of information and resources among members through combined committee activities.

Treasurer (Through Dec. 1995)
JAMES C. JANKOWSKI, AIA
Vice President, Ross Barney + Jankowski, Inc.

Chapter Activities: Finance Committee; Computer Committee CAD Seminars; AIA Illinois Delegate; Chapter Documents Coordinator.
Distinctions: Software evaluator for Architect Magazine.

Statement: Sound financial management is a key element in the continued vitality of our chapter. Through the use of realistic budgets and close monitoring of results, AIA Chicago will gain a strong financial foundation. Careful planning and utilization of resources will ensure the success of programs and the quality of services offered to our members and our community.

Vice President (Through Dec. 1994)
JOHN M. SYVERTSEN, AIA
Partner, O’Donnell Wicklund Pigozzi & Peterson

Chapter Activities: Director (1986-91); Vice President (1989-91).
National Activities: National Committee on Design 1991 Chair.
Other Professional Activities: Current President, Chicago Architectural Club.
Statement: As providers of service to our clients, one of the challenges that accompanies the recent economic downturn and its significant effect on our profession is the challenge to continuously improve the quality of our work - aesthetically and technically. The most important role of the AIA is to help members meet this challenge.

Ice President (Through Dec. 1994)
3IGI McCABE-MIELE, AIA
Ice President, Riverside Architect, Ltd.

Chapter Activities: Illinois Council Alternate (1990); Illinois Council Delegate 1991); Health Insurance Committee Chair (1989-Present); IDP State Coordinator (1989-93); Government Affairs Committee member.
National AIA Activities: IDP State Coordinator.

Professional Activities: Chicago Women in Architecture Exhibition Chair; Women in the Military Competition and Exhibitor.
Publications: Work published in Practicing Architect and Chicago Lawyer; Ogus and Memo IDP articles; Chicago Tribune, 1989 and 1990, on firm.

Statement: Many architects ignore important needs beyond being a good designer: health and disability insurance, technical information, interaction with government agencies and other professionals. These behind-the-scenes necessities are the most important functions of the AIA. I want to help our organization keep its feet on the ground so we architects can keep our heads n the clouds as much as we want.

Ice President (Through Dec. 1993, completing term of Bill Bradford)
EFFREY P. KUTSCHE, AIA
President, The Architects Partnership

Chapter Activities: Treasurer (1991-93); Director (1984-87); Membership Committee Chair (1983-84).
National Activities: Corporate Architects Committee Corresponding Member.

Statement: Lead with vision or fail - as a professional, as a chapter, as a profession.

Ice Director (Through Dec. 1995)
SUSANNE E. ROUBIK, AIA
E. Roubik & Associates

Chapter Activities: Associate Director (1990-93); AIA/UIA World Congress VIP Protocol Committee Chair (1991-93); Real Estate Committee - Chair (1989-91), member (1992-93); AIA/UIA Sponsorship Committee.
National Activities: Young Architects Steering Committee - member (1991), Chicago Delegate (1990); Corporate Architects Committee National Conference Co-Coordinator (1990).
Other Professional Activities: Newhouse Architecture Foundation - Board of Directors, Exec. Vice President (1990-92), Director (1992-present), Director of Internships (1984-91).
Honors and Distinctions: "New Voices-New Visions," American Bar Assn./AIA Young Architects Award; Chicago Award, AIA Chicago; NAIC International Award; NAWIC Award.

Statement: I perceive the '90s as an enormous opportunity for growth and development with architects as leaders and team builders. Our profession must take a global perspective with a sensitivity to cultural diversity. We need to have the flexibility to respond to radical technological advances and to adjust to continual change effectively. We must take seriously our responsibility of investing in our community, environment, and the education of our youth. It is through teaching the general public, in particular the children, to appreciate our physical environment that we will be able to instill a sense of value to the immense contribution that our design profession brings to society.

Director (Through Dec. 1995)
ARTHUR G. SALZMAN, AIA
President, The Office of Arthur G. Salzman, Consulting Architect

Chapter Activities: Current Director (completing term of James DeStefano, FAIA); Mentor (1988, 1989, 1993); Technical and Office Practice Committees; Senior Management Technical Roundtable.
National Activities: Practice Committee past member.
Other Professional Activities: Construction Specifications Institute (1964-present) - CSI-BAC Liaison Committee member (1969-72) and Co-Chair (1969-70); Chicago Committee on High Rise Buildings - member (1986-present), "Exterior Cladding on High Rise Buildings" Symposium Program Chair (1989); Wind Engineering Research Council (1988-present), speaker at 8th International Conference on Wind Engineering, Ontario, Canada (1991); BOCA Int-
Shedd Aquarium Oceanarium; Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute 1992 Special Recognition, Central Park of Lisle Office Building, Lisle, IL; Friends of Downtown Chicago 1989 Special Award, Centennial Fountain, Chicago.

Statement: The objectives of the national AIA and the Chicago Chapter to demonstrate the architect’s value to society, to empower individual architects synergistically, and to focus activity within the chapter are inter-related. A strategic plan to foster these objectives has been promulgated by the Chapter’s Board. The implementation of this plan is an honorable task, and I want to help with that task.

Associate Director (Through Dec. 1993)
WILLIAM M. JERMAIN III
Intern Architect, Loebel Schlossman & Hackl

Chapter Activities: Current Associate Director.

Statement: To me, the AIA has always been synonymous with participation, dedication to our profession and a sincere interest in our society and the architect’s ability to shape it for a brighter future. Since I am a recent graduate and unhindered with the knowledge and dogma of past AIA practices, my hope is to add fresh insight into the direction of our professional society.

Associate Director (Through Dec. 1994)
BETH INGRAM DAVIS
Senior Associate, Mekus-Johnson Inc

Chapter Activities: Interior Design Committee; 1992 AIA Student Awards Jury.

Other Professional Activities: Professional Member, Institute of Business Designers; Institute of Business Designers 1992 Gilbert Grant Awards Jury; Arts Club; Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois - Board of Directors 1988-94, Fund Committee Chair (1992-94), Church Tour Steering Committee (1983-92); Architecture Society of the Art Institute.


Professional Affiliate Director
(Through Dec. 1994)
MICHAEL F. PETERSEN
President, Petersen Aluminum Corp.

Chapter Activities: 1993 Convention Sponsorship Committee; speaker on metal roofing for CSI/AIA Breakfast Seminar.

National Activities: participation in revision of MASTERSPEC 7400, 7600, 7715.

Other Professional Activities: Speaker for various AIA chapters on metal finish and metal roofing; National Glass Association Director (1993-96); National Association of Aluminum Distributors Director (1991-94); Industry Advisory Board of NRCA.

Statement: As the Professional Affiliate Director of the AIA Chicago Board, I hope to contribute toward increasing the professional affiliate membership base; increase the participation of those members in AIA Chicago activities; and work to further develop the educational opportunities that the professional affiliate group can afford to the Chicago Chapter membership.

TANNYS LANGDON, AIA
Langdon & Associates, P.C., Architect

VIRGINIA KINNUCAN
Director of Architecture & Planning, Cook County Office of Capital Planning & Policy

Chapter Activities: Board of Director; Associate Director (1990-91); Alternative Visions Exhibition Coordinator (1989); Young Architects Committee (1987-89).

Other Professional Activities: Exhibitor, Chicago Women in Architecture (1991); Chicago Architectural Club nominee.

Honors: Alko Award for Excellence in Lighting Design (1982).

JON MASINI, AIA
Attorney, Clausen Miller Gorman Caffrey & Witous, P.C.

Professional Activities: Seminar leader for "How to Stay Out of the Courthouse" (1992). "For the past four years, I have been involved in defending architects and other design professionals in all types of construction-related litigation."

Statement: One of the reasons I became an attorney was to assist and improve the architectural profession from a legal standpoint. The AIA, as well as the legal profession, must keep practicing architects and other design professionals aware of legal trends and case law decisions that affect design professionals. In addition, we must continue our lobbying efforts to promulgate the advancement and protection of the profession.
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For more information on NeoCon 93, call 800/688-5522. To make money-saving travel arrangements, call 800/528-8700.
EXCHANGE

30 Join in North Kenwood-Oakland Charrette

By STEPHEN W. RADKE, AIA

Spurred by the Columbian Exposition a century ago, the North Kenwood-Oakland neighborhood began as a settlement for affluent residents. Historically, the south lakefront was a major transportation corridor served by both the elevated trains and the Illinois Central Railroad. Since the 1950s the area has been on a downward spiral, making it one of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods. With the core of this neighborhood's masonry housing stock still intact, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has designated it a Multiple Resource District. Around it a Conservation Plan was developed and passed by the Chicago City Council in the fall of 1992.

Because the city owns more than 50% of the property and will be acquiring even more, the redevelopment goal is to preserve the historic fabric of the neighborhood and reinforce it through the use of design guidelines for new construction. Maintaining the existing density and character is critical to the success of the project. This year the city hopes to issue RFPs to developers for the city-owned land. Their goal is to begin building approximately 100 units of housing per year for the next five to 10 years.

Against this background, the city's Department of Planning and Development asked AIA Chicago for assistance in developing design guidelines for use in the RFP. Organized in less than a month, the February 27 charrette brought together architects, developers, and city staff. Approximately 30 participants, over 20 of them architects, met at the city's offices, first for an hour-long bus tour of the area and then a presentation by city staff. Participants then divided into four groups to analyze two prototypical areas of the neighborhood: a series of vacant lots on South Drexel Boulevard and the infill properties along South Oakenwald Avenue. After lunch, the groups convened to present their findings:

For South Oakenwald Avenue
- Honor established setbacks.
- Lots less than 30 feet wide should not be infilled. Properties with existing buildings could be paired to create common drives to the rear. Hard surface driveways required.
- No garage door should face the street.
- Masonry front facades should be required, and wrought iron fencing rather than chainlink or solid should be encouraged.
- Encourage double hung windows.
- The Illinois Central barrier wall should be maintained.
- The air rights potential over the I.C. tracks should be eliminated.
- Maintain existing R-5 zoning and allow single family only.
- Development must begin within 18 months of sale to discourage speculation.

For South Drexel Boulevard
- Guidelines should be consistent for both single property owners and developers of multiple parcels.
- Fill voids between buildings.
- All parking should be accessed from the rear to avoid curb cuts off the boulevard.
- Limit buildings to four stories, 50 feet maximum.
- Landscaping and fencing should be controlled along the boulevard.
- Front facades should only occupy 66% of property line to visually break up large lots.
- Off-street parking should serve new, as well as existing, buildings.

Most groups agreed that the front facades should be masonry and maintain existing roof lines. One group, however, suggested that the architect of new developments submit an essay illustrated with photographs. Through this, the architect would establish how the design responds/contributes to the existing neighborhood architecture, effectively setting the basis for judging the project. This method would not limit the architect regarding materials per se but would place the burden of contextualism on the architect, especially regarding how the new housing design improves the neighborhood.

Finally, the city of Chicago Department of Planning and Development should be commended for their orchestration of the day’s activities. AIA Chicago made numerous requests to facilitate the charrette. The city graciously provided maps, area photographs, a bus for the tour, drawing materials, and even lunch. Sometimes these kinds of events have a way of getting out of control, but this one started at 9 a.m. and ended on time at 2:30 p.m., with all participants staying focused on the issues.

The city knows it can count on the AIA as a resource. Thanks to everyone who participated!

-Steve Radke is Planning and Urban Affairs Committee Chair.
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A Clear Message: The Rules Have Changed

By THOMAS J. KNITTEL, AIA

In architectural polemic there is a long tradition of regarding the present, wherever it may be, as a moment of crisis, a crossroads. - Daniel Solomon, Rebuilding, 1992

The term crossroads carries two meanings: one being a convergence in a physical sense, the other being a time in which important changes occur or decisions must be made. In anticipation of the national convention in June, an outline for pervasive change was proposed during the Chapter Annual Dinner on February 18.

AIA President Susan Maxman and National AIA Committee on the Environment Chair Bob Berkebile addressed over 150 members within the setting of the 410 Club. The speakers confronted issues ranging from natural and man-made disasters to materials specification. The message was clear that the rules have changed, and the foundation of most of our professional ideology, based upon unlimited resources and self service, must change. Sustainability, which looks at the broad interconnected nature of environmental decision making, goes beyond the boundaries of traditional architecture practice. Further, it is not necessarily architecture who are demanding this change, it is a consequence of a changing global order.

Maxman stated that sustainability "is much more than the environment; it's about repositioning architects in society today through taking a leadership role" in quality of life issues. She paraphrased President Clinton, saying "each one of us must become the engine of change." Acknowledging that while she had limited exposure to sustainability at the time she ran for the office of president, Maxman has since integrated it into her practice. She quickly adapted familiar techniques such as daylighting and energy saving systems into her new design for a Girl Scout Camp in Pennsylvania, resulting in substantial operating cost savings for the owner and enhanced quality of life for the users.

Two concurrent events helped shape both the scale and immediacy of the issue for Maxman. In June of 1992 she joined Berkebile as AIA observer at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Additionally, firsthand exposure to the devastation of Hurricane Andrew has confirmed her belief that something is seriously wrong with the way America builds today. She acknowledges that new thinking is occurring among many disciplines related to the built environment, and her belief is that architects possess the problem-solving skills to provide much needed leadership. She also challenged nontraditional architects (corporate architects, planners, etc.) to step forward for leadership positions, as she believes that they are positively positioned to affect quality of life issues.

For Berkebile, the immediate future promises "to be the most remarkable opportunity this profession has ever seen...if we are willing to be observant." He believes that if we look at our profession, industry, culture, and society, "all the rules we are using to operate are obsolete." New models and methods of evaluation, which address present and future needs, must be developed.

Two such examples are our land use laws and the Gross National Product (GNP). Land use laws, originally developed to increase property values, were created decades before we had a population, resource, energy, and pollution problem, and before we knew the automobile would be the single largest source of pollution on this planet. The GNP, developed during World War II to measure the production of war goods, was developed when the economy was national (rather than global), less complex, and before it was deemed important to measure human and natural resources as part of the equation. Berkebile used the example of the Exxon Valdez oil spill (the largest environmental disaster in the United States), which as far as the GNP was concerned, resulted in a $2 1/2 billion benefit to the economy.

Berkebile continued, showing how decisions made by our society have a significant impact on global conditions, indicating that we are approaching a time of crisis if current methods and practices go unchecked. He provided encouragement, however, by way of the Chinese symbol "ji," which means that the moment of crisis is the moment of greatest opportunity. He believes this symbol exemplifies our present condition, and that there is still time to implement change at all levels of our industry - if we recognize the value of "future thinking."

The notion of approaching crisis is shared by fields ranging from biology to economics. Twenty years ago, the former created the phrase "population bomb" to describe an impending human biological crisis. While their original projections have proven to be exaggerated, it is worthwhile to revisit the concept of exponential growth and its impact on limited resources. The value lies in recognizing the difficulty of achieving drastic change through choice rather than consequence. I draw on my memory for the analogy used by the authors of The Limits to Growth, which illustrates this well.

"A pond has introduced to it one lily pad which reproduces itself each day; so that on the second day there are two, on the third day there are four, and so forth. On the thirtieth day the pond is full. The question is, when is the pond half full? The answer, of course, is the twenty-ninth day."

The fact that the February meeting set an attendance record shows a high interest level among members and promises future discussion about the degree of crisis we may face. The profession has historically experienced a cyclical social and environmental agenda. Currently, these are critical factors, and it appears the demand for this type of thinking is here to stay. -Knittel is an architect with Gastinger and Walker.
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CELEBRATING THE 1893 FAIR

Chicago Day ’93 Salutes Fair’s 100th Birthday

On May 1, 1893, the World’s Columbian Exposition officially opened to the public, offering 686 acres of massive exposition buildings, numerous attractions on the fairgrounds and Midway Plaisance, and the opportunity to view the latest advances in nineteenth-century technology. On Sunday, May 2, 1993, 16 of Chicago’s museums and institutions will salute the “Dream City”’s birthday by waiving their admission. Chicago Day ’93 will kick off a wealth of new exhibits, family activities, interactive workshops, and special events. WBBM Newsradio 78, AT&T, and Kraft General Foods are sponsors of this spotlight on 100 years of culture in the city.

Participating in Chicago Day ’93 are the Art Institute of Chicago, the Auditorium Building and Roosevelt University, the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago Historical Society, Columbia College Museum of Contemporary Photography, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, DuSable Museum of African American History, Field Museum of Natural History, Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Jane Addams’ Hull House Museum at UIC and the Hull House Association, Museum of Science and Industry, University of Chicago, and the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago. Courtesy buses will shuttle visitors between Chicago Day ’93 stops (excepting to and from the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park). For a free brochure, call 312/230-4884.

Here are brief descriptions of various offerings for Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - free for the day.

A Gala Dinner Benefit, on May 1, for the Art Institute’s Burnham Library of Architecture, will kick off six months of exhibitions, programs and special events commemorating the World’s Columbian Exposition. Mayor Daley is Honorary Chairman of the benefit, which will include military bands playing on the steps of the Michigan Avenue entrance of the Art Institute, fireworks in Grant Park, and a dinner gala in the manner of the 1890s.

**Constructing the Fair: Platinum Photographs of the World’s Columbian Exposition by C.D. Arnold.** The Art Institute of Chicago, Photography Galleries, May 1-July 4. Documenting the daily work of construction on the fairgrounds from early 1891 through the public opening on May 1, 1893, as well as the six-month run of the fair, on exhibit are 60 photographs from the 700 in the Art Institute’s Ryerson and Burnham Libraries.

**Grand Illusions: Chicago’s World’s Fair of 1893.** Chicago Historical Society. Through July 15, 1994. More than 500 objects from the Fair are featured. Throughout the day the CHS will host a wonderful variety of special activities: music from the fair and its era, portrayals of famous Fair personalities, handcraft demonstrations, a photographer snapping you in the Hands-On History Gallery, lectures, and on-going tours of “Grand Illusions.” The exhibition includes a detailed scale model of the Fair, a multimedia presentation recreated to reflect the classical beauty of the Agriculture Building, four interpretive pavilions occupying 3,000 square feet in the Museum’s South Atrium, and many souveniers from the Fair.

**Seven Days at the Fair. A Celebration of the World’s Columbian Exposition.** Harold Washington Library Center, Special Collections Gallery, 9th floor. May 1-October 30. The exhibition’s seven sections represent: planning the Exposition, the Exposition’s buildings, the art at the Fair, its music, the Midway Plaisance, the World’s Congress Auxiliary organization and Congress of Authors, and the closing activities and aftermath of the Exposition.

**100 Years of Ideas: The Midway Plaisance.** The University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration, 969 E. 60th St. Until October. Poster-size photographs of blueprints, architectural drawings, and other archival materials by Daniel Burnham, Eero Saarinen, O.C. Simonds and Sasaki Associates, and others commissioned over the past century to create designs for Olmsted’s “pleasant path.”

**Building MSI: 1893 to the 21st Century.** Museum of Science and Industry. Tracing the structural and institutional history of the Museum’s 100 year-old building, the only surviving structure from the Fair. Seven galleries will expose...
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visitors to: an introduction to the Fair; art works originally displayed when the Museum served as the Exposition’s Palace of Fine Arts; photographs documenting the Museum’s former residence and move to current location; the anniversary of the Century of Progress, 1933-1934; the early years of the Museum; and the space age.

The Field Museum will celebrate with a musical performance in Stanley Field Hall and special programs in the newly restored and reopened Ruapepupe, a treasured and sacred Maori meeting house.

Reflections of the Past: Visions for the Future. Chicago Academy of Sciences. Recounts the Academy’s past and celebrates 100 years at its present location, 2001 N. Clark, telling how it grew from a small natural history museum into a world-renowned scientific and educational institution. There will be costumed exhibit interpreters, adventurous tales of the Academy’s past, and Star Talks in the Atwood Celestial Sphere.


A Floating Festival. Jackson Park Lagoon and the Wooded Isle. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Floating on rafts will be Taiko Drumming, Tea Ceremony, classic Japanese dance. You’ll find other traditional arts demonstrated in the Japanese garden.

This event you will not be able to do on May 2, but an opportunity to visit the Columbian Exposition site in Jackson Park as well as others existing in 1893 is available May 22, June 26, August 28, September 18, and October 9 through a tour offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

In a CAF exhibit opening June 15 and running through October 28 at the Glessner House Museum, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., you can experience the Fair through the camera lens of George Glessner. The exhibit will also contain mementoes, artifacts, and anecdotes from the Fair.

The National AIA Committee on Architecture for Health (CAH) will meet in Chicago Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, to study national health care reform and the potential implications for facilities development. Following a keynote address by an expert on national health care policy issues, Friday’s program will proceed in three parts: 1) briefing by members of the Clinton administration Health Care Policy Task Force; 2) “The Health Care Community Response: Pros and Cons”; 3) CAH Health Care Policy Position Task Force will assess the potential effects of reform on the physical infrastructure of health care delivery in the future. Saturday all AIA members are invited to convene with the leadership of the AIA Government Affairs Department. For more information, call Todd Phillips at 202/626-7366.

Inland Architect will hold a benefit cocktail reception honoring the career of Chicago architect Walter Netsch on April 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., in the recently restored and landmarked lobby of the Belden Stratford, 2300 N. Lincoln Park West. Tickets are $50; $25 for students. For more information, contact Timothy Hill or Barbara Hower at 312/321-0584.

Beginning fall, 1993, the School of the Art Institute will offer a master of science in historic preservation. For priority consideration for the first term, the application deadline is May 1. Call 312/899-5219 or 800/232-7242.
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THE CALENDAR

April

5 Monday

7 Wednesday
Young Architects Open Meeting. 5:45 p.m. At Environments Group, 303 E. Wacker, Suite 315.

8 Thursday

12 Monday

UIC Spring Lecture. Bits and I/s, by Thom Mayne, Principal, Morphosis. 5 p.m. A-1 Lecture Center, UIC, 750 S. Halsted. Reception following in Room 1000, 845 W. Harrison. 312/996-3335.

13 Tuesday
Chapter Executive Committee Meeting. 8 a.m. Board Room.

15 Thursday
IFMA/Chicago Meeting. USG Building Tour. 11:30 a.m. 312/236-0900.

19 Monday


21 Wednesday
• Chapter New Members Breakfast. 7:45 a.m. Board Room.
• Design Committee Meeting. 5:30 p.m. Chapter Board Room.

22 Thursday
• Interior Architecture Committee Meeting. 6 p.m. Chapter Board Room.

26 Monday

27 Tuesday
Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. Noon. Board Room.

• Green Products Night. Exhibition and lecture. Building Products From Recycled Wood and Paper. 6 p.m. 14th Floor Sauganash Ballroom, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. $5. RSVP 312/641-5986 before 2 p.m., 4/26.

29 Thursday
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