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**Young Architects Networking Happy Hour**

Tues., February 1, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Monk's Pub, 205 W. Lake St. (Lake and Wells Streets)  
Sponsor: Young Architects Forum

Come to network and meet other young architectural professionals. Our winter location is Monk's Pub where we talk about studying for the ARE, community service projects, charrettes and design competitions, tours of firms and buildings, and other events around town. Learn about our plans, get involved with community service projects, or just come by to chat. Questions? Contact Jeff Missad at jeffm@mca-architecture.com.

**More Fun than a Yacht: Gentleman Farms in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff**

Thurs., February 10, 12:00 noon  
AIA Chicago  
Sponsor: Historic Preservation KC

Janice Hack, executive director, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, will follow up our February 2004 tour of Elawa Farm with a presentation of the culture and architecture of gentleman farms of the far North Shore, properties built by Armours, Ogens and others, that fit into the larger “country life” movement in the early twentieth century. 1 LU

**Unconventional Curtain Walls**

Thursday, February 17, 12:00 noon  
Chicago Bar Association  
321 S. Plymouth Court  
Sponsors: Technical Issues and Interior Architecture KCs

Modern curtain-wall technology provides a high-performance building envelope but is ideally suited to rectilinear or gently curved facades. A thorough understanding of how curtain wall systems are designed, fabricated, and installed allows innovative solutions for double curved or irregular surfaces. These processes will be discussed through case studies by façade engineer Neil McClelland, Façade Team Lead for the New York City office of Arup. Bring lunch or buy at CBA cafeteria (purchase lunch ticket in first-floor shop). 1 LU/HSW

**Mixing it Up: CHA's Plan for Transformation**

Wed., February 9, 12:00 noon  
AIA Chicago  
Sponsors: Planning & Urban Affairs and Housing KCs

William Little, managing director of development with the Chicago Housing Authority, will discuss the CHA’s “Plan for Transformation,” which encompasses the nation’s largest overhaul of public housing. The CHA is nearing the midpoint of this ten-year, $1.6 billion, 25,000-unit plan which includes a combination of both new developments and rehabilitation of existing facilities. The plan includes ten new mixed-income developments (one-third public housing, one-third affordable housing, and one-third market-rate housing), now under construction. 1 LU
Design Exposed: David Woodhouse Architects
Thurs., February 17, 6 p.m.
230 W. Superior St.
Sponsor: Design KC
Contemporary design practices and technologies will be explored through an office tour and lecture by David Woodhouse, FAIA. He will discuss his firm’s design philosophy, new projects and renovation work in the Chicago area. Limited to 35 participants. 1 LU/HSW

New for 2005: our PIAs have become Knowledge Communities, following the nomenclature adopted by national AIA. Check out the latest from the national KCs at www.aia.org.

Professional Development Conference
March 3 – 4
Thursday and Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Chicago Mart Plaza
Sponsor: AIA Chicago
Get ready for the Professional Development Conference on March 3 and 4! This year’s conference will again offer members an opportunity to brush up on the basics and learn something new. What should architects know to work better with lighting consultants, landscape architects and HVAC engineers? What’s the latest on “How to Understand and Use the B141 Contract” and on construction documents and the standard of care? Communication skills will be addressed in sessions on public relations and marketing and on architectural drawing. A keynote address will be given at lunch by Andrew Wagner, senior editor of Dwell, discussing what’s going on in residential design and how his magazine addresses both design professionals and the public. Mark Sexton, AIA and Ron Krueck, FAIA will also speak. Register through your conference brochure or online at www.aiachicago.org. See you there.

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There is that old question: If a tree falls in a forest, and nobody is around to hear, does it make a sound? Of course it does. But it seems to matter less if no one is around to hear witnesses and tell others about it.

Across the city, there are architects and firms doing great work. But much of it goes unnoticed by the public, or even others in the profession. In short, we need to get our message out there. That means engaging the news media so that we are featured more in newspaper stories, magazine pieces, television segments, radio interviews— even Internet news sources.

If we are inactive in this regard, people will know a little less about what we individually and collectively do; the civic debate over architectural and urban design issues carries on a little further without the full weight of the chapter’s input. We deny ourselves the ability to shape and inform that debate.

So how can we get better media and public attention? The effort begins by making better use of the publication you are now holding, whether it’s writing articles, submitting projects for publication or taking an active hand in making sure what Focus prints reflects the full scope and depth of what the chapter and its members are doing. There is a new communications director, Mary Beth Klatt. I would encourage all of you to get to know her and use her talents.

In addition, the chapter must be more aggressive in developing relationships with a variety of writers and beat reporters at local and national news outlets. The environmental reporter can be pitched a story about sustainable design. The sports writer will be interested in a stadium design story. A reporter who covers the parks and recreation might just be the person to pitch a landscape design piece. The television general-assignment reporter who covers trends, culture and lifestyles would be anxious to talk and write about design. The talk radio host is always looking for new voices and new subjects—why not architects and architecture?

Many of you who attended the annual meeting saw the presentation by Geoffrey Baer of WTTW. Baer does those great documentaries on Chicago’s places and history that air on Channel 11. He also does similar features on the station’s “Chicago Tonight” public affairs show. Baer mentioned how the engineers’ society sends him a media packet every month. This kind of persistence will pay off. And there is a lesson here for us to emulate.

Thomas Kerwin, AIA
President

UNCOVER THE PAST

Historic Preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago offers a two-year Master of Science in Historic Preservation degree. The interdisciplinary curriculum offers a broad approach, combining planning, design, history, and conservation in a program that takes full advantage of Chicago’s landmarks and status as America’s First City of Architecture. Our faculty are practicing professionals—architects, planners, and historians who have helped save and restore such landmarks as the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio; the Rookery Building; Richardson’s Glessner House; and the Reliance Building.

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Three Member Firms Receive 2005 AIA Honors Awards

Three AIA Chicago member firms' projects have been selected to receive AIA Honor Awards, which recognize excellence in architecture, interior architecture, and urban design. Florian Architects, Perkins & Will, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill will be honored in May at the AIA 2005 National Convention and Design Expo in Las Vegas.

Perkins & Will was honored for outstanding architecture at the Contemporaine, a 28-unit condo building at 516 N. Wells St. "A sculptural form for the city of Chicago," the jury noted. "The expressed concrete, the pinwheeled balconies and the stepped terraces give a wonderful precedent in a sea of 'modern lofts' or neo-Georgian apartments. It constantly surprises you with its variety."

In the Interiors category, Florian Architects was recognized for its design for the interior of the Hyde Park Bank Building Hall. "Gracious, respectful, but doesn't try to mimic the historic building," jurors commented. "Delicate interventions are screens of metal, steel, glass and wood against the heavier, bolder travertine of the original structure. Extraordinarily refined, (it) extends the elegance of the space non-stylistically (and) introduces discreet streamlined linear system but not invisibly."

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill will receive the Honors Award for Regional and Urban Design for its Chongming Island Master Plan in Shanghai, China. "This master plan is remarkable on multiple levels," the jury wrote. "At the scale of the island, care is taken to preserve the natural attributes and connections to the water, which attracts one to this special place. The spacing between and the scale of the villages and cities are appropriate with their boundaries and edges well defined."

National Component Coordinates AIA’s Response to Tsunami Disaster

Members of the AIA national component disaster assistance leadership team are figuring out how to respond to requests for assistance from affected countries and architectural societies. AIA President Douglas L. Steidl, AIA, and AIA Executive Vice President Norman L. Koenne, FAIA have sent letters of condolences to their counterparts in all 12 countries affected. Furthermore, the AIA is providing seed money to affected architectural societies to help them organize their own response efforts. For more information, visit the AIA's Web site (www.aia.org).

Mies Van Der Rohe Movie Premiere in Chicago

Stanley Tigerman, FAIA in November participated in a discussion following the Chicago premiere of the documentary film "Regular or Super? Views on Mies van der Rohe" sponsored by the Mies van der Rohe Society at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The film presents van der Rohe's work, his influence on modernism and 20th century architecture. Tigerman and Dirk Lohan, FAIA make appearances in the movie, which received the award for Best Canadian Work from the 22nd International Festival of Films on Art in Canada.

Healthcare KC Teaches Students

Following the success of the 2003 Emerging Horizon lecture series, which considered the impact of integrative medicine on healthcare design, the Healthcare Knowledge Community taught students at four architecture schools through a semester-long study and competition. This effort included fundraising, persuading schools to take on this challenge, providing the schools with supportive materials from the lecture series, and organizing a large jury which listened to student presentations Nov. 12. That day concluded with a reception at the Haworth showroom in the Merchandise Mart. Victoria Navarro, Assoc. AIA, chair of the Healthcare PIA, and co-chair Drina Nikola, and their fellow AIA members Matt Miller, Terry Hauk, Bob Schafer, Darrin Couturiaux, Jim Arends, Winnie Lee, Mike Doiel, and Dan White accomplished a major undertaking on the chapter's behalf.
AIA Guide to Chicago Tops Bestseller List

The AIA Guide to Chicago continues to be a popular read if the list of the Top 25 Bestselling Books at the national AIA Bookstore in 2004 is any indication. The guide was no. 12, sharing the spotlight with AIA Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities by AIA/Facility Guidelines Institute (AIA Press, 2001), also available at AIA Chicago.

AIA Trust’s Medical Insurance Plan

The AIA Trust’s insurance broker JLT Services Corp. now offers a service to all AIA members. JLT will shop the medical insurance marketplace to find competitive medical insurance for individual members, their families and employees. The AIA Trust no longer offers an endorsed, guaranteed-issue medical plan. Call JLT Services at 800/255-6215; ask for the Medical Benefits Center to obtain competitive quotes for you and your employees.
Using advanced computer modeling software, Ross Barney + Jankowski was able to create multiple "Jello mold" preliminary design concepts of the 90,000 square foot James I. Swenson Science Building, University of Minnesota at Duluth. Once a final plan was chosen, the architects shared rough computer drawings of structural and mechanical systems with consultants.

Joseph Valerio, FAIA remembers how his designs made it into the computer in the not-so-distant past. "I would make the hand sketches and then hand them over to someone else. To me, that's really awkward. It's like turning your baby over to the sitter when your baby is only a week old," says Valerio, president of Valerio Dewalt Train.

The awkward feeling left once he learned how to create computer models himself. "Now that I've been modeling, it feels a lot more natural for someone to just jump in and open my model and start modifying it because they have something that's already in place. It's a much smoother transition than it used to be," Valerio says.
Valerio indicates that he still initiates design concepts with pen on paper. "But as soon as I start asking myself questions about proportion, distance and measurement I open a notebook computer where I am and start laying out the framework for a model."

**Study Shows the Way**

Valerio's design process evolution foreshadows the sea change that will assuredly impact the entire industry. To better understand how architects are currently conducting their digital practice, The Art Institute of Chicago Department of Architecture has recently published the *Collecting, Archiving and Exhibiting Digital Design Data* study conducted by Kristine Fallon Associates, Inc.

The impressively comprehensive study of 102 firms includes statistical data, comments from architects, project case studies, images and design animations and is available on a free CD from Kristine Fallon Associates, Inc. – [www.kfainc.com](http://www.kfainc.com) – and available on the Art Institute Web site (see sidebar on page 13.)

Established to help the Art Institute understand how designs are being created so it can be prepared to archive and exhibit documents created in a variety of new media, the study can also

*continued on page 12*
be used to help architects understand how their industry is evolving and if they are prepared to change with it. Fallon’s long-term involvement with the national AIA Technology in Architectural Practice committee and her recent participation in an international digital practice seminar, position her with a unique perspective on the current state of architectural technology.

Of the many study findings, one interesting element Fallon noticed was the change in design processes enabled by technology tools. “There was a correlation between the extent to which a firm was digitally based and a collaborative design approach,” noted Kristine Fallon, FAIA. “Those with a lower technology base had more of a hierarchical approach. As design firm principals move into a digital environment they become more collaborative and authorship isn’t even clear, as Joe Valerio’s firm indicates in its case study,” Fallon says. Other Chicago firms with case studies include Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, OWP/P, Ross Barney + Jankowski, Garofalo Architects and Murphy/Jahn.

**Beyond Technology**

Collaborating through technology within a firm but the ability to legally share computer models with other design and construction consultants will shape the future of the profession, according to Fallon. At the recent AIA/ACADIA Fabrication seminar in Canada, a key presentation by Phil Bernstein, FAIA, vice president of AutoDesk Building Solutions Division, a professor focusing on architectural practice at Yale University’s School of Architecture, and upcoming chair of the AIA Documents Committee, indicated the importance of changing AIA Documents to reflect the powerful collaborative abilities of today’s technology tools.

“Right now computer data is seen as an instrument of traditional service in the contract,” Fallon explains. “If the AIA contract remains the same, architects can’t be involved with means and methods, architects’ computer models can’t be used for take-offs, cost estimation and construction sequencing and other services that the new tools make possible. If architects don’t step up and provide these cost-effective services, someone else will and architecture firms as we know them will be obsolete.”

Fallon, like Bernstein, sees the emergence of advanced digital design tools as an opportunity for architects to regain some of the leadership they have lost due to decisions the profession has made to limit liability and construction management.

Fallon agrees with Bernstein that using the AIA’s prominent role in creating the industry’s contract documents may be the last chance to make the right choice in reestablishing the architect’s leadership position in the building industry.
In addition to enhancing collaborative architectural design, Fallon sees digital tools assisting architects in new ways of creating buildings. “The increasingly prevalent ‘Design for Construction’ concept is very revolutionary, but it makes sense in that it is more schedule-focused and uses new tools to create the most economical use of building materials and trades available,” Fallon says. 

Michael Bordenaro is a Chicago-based writer and a regular contributor to Focus.

Collecting, Archiving and Exhibiting Digital Design

In a study of digital practice for the Art Institute of Chicago Department of Architecture conducted by Kristine Fallon Associates, one hundred and two (102) firms responded to a comprehensive survey. Of these, 42% were from Chicago and an additional 5% were from its suburbs. All sections of the U.S. were represented. International firms accounted for 10% of the responses. Firm size ranged from sole practitioner (one) to 1,700. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were principals; 10% were sole practitioners and 32% were technology managers.

Based on the number of firms using them, the top three digital design software products were Photoshop (93), Excel (85) and PowerPoint (69). The three most commonly used applications, based on total instances reported, were AutoCAD, Excel and Photoshop.

Survey respondents reported using digital design tools in all categories. The most frequently cited uses were Communication/Presentation (94%) and Documentation (93%). The least frequently cited category was Rapid Prototyping (24%). More than half the firms reported that digital working methods predominated in: Data Gathering, Documentation, Communication/Presentation, Design Exploration.

The Schiff Foundation and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts provided funding for the study.
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As a youngster, Geoffrey Baer was advised not to look up; everyone would be able to tell he was a tourist. Eager to fit in with his peers, Baer spent a lot of time looking at the first stories of great buildings.

Not anymore. In his adult life as an Emmy-Award-winning producer for WTTW Channel 11 (PBS), Baer spends a great deal of time craning his head looking high up at the skyscrapers that grace this city whether it's a modern River Bend or the Middle-Eastern-style Medinah Temple. He's constantly looking for fodder for “Chicago By Boat, the River Tour,” “Chicago’s Lakefront,” “Chicago’s North Shore,” and “Northwest of Chicago.” He also appears regularly on “Chicago Tonight.”

“Buildings don't dance, commit adultery, although they occasionally do burn,” Baer told architects at the AIA Chicago annual meeting in December.

“Buildings don’t dance, commit adultery, although they occasionally do burn,” Baer told architects at the AIA Chicago annual meeting in December. So he has to think hard about how to capture the interest of fickle television viewers. Baer confessed he has a “hidden agenda” to educate Chicagoans about what he knows about great design.

He’s decided that he has to create intrigue about the buildings that populate metropolitan Chicago. “Tell stories about people,” he says. “Buildings are manifestations of people with big egos.”

Baer provided advice about how AIA members can get publicity for their projects on WTTW:

- Address the “I never knew that factor.” Example: the Chicago Tribune tower is embedded at the street level with rocks from around the world. Find out what makes your building or project unique.

Baer focused on the Hotel Burnham for one episode as an example of a building with great local pride since it was designed by Chicago architect Daniel Burnham. For a piece on Burnham’s 1909 plan, he prefaced the story with a clip of the Chicago Fire. Another piece spotlighted the Hotel Sofitel as the best example of a new hotel. Baer and his crew showed close-ups of the new edifice with its suede curtains and bathtub overlooking the city.

It helps if the building is horizontal; it’s easier for a television camera to pan the structure. Even if the structure is vertical, fantastic visuals are essential, Baer says. “Clouds in the sky have a wonderful, dramatic effect,” he says.

Mary Beth Berkoff, president of Creative Consortium, agrees.

“To me any story has to answer a ‘So what?’” says Berkoff. “‘We did good design’ doesn’t cut it. If the release doesn’t have a news hook, the media won’t notice. What does work: We won an award or our project exemplifies a current trend. (Green buildings are a good example).”

- Create news. One good way is a survey. Berkoff surveyed local AIA architects about the best of the best of Chicago architecture for a press release promoting the annual AIA convention last year. Results were published and broadcast in local media. A good source of other ideas about publicity and marketing are the archived Small Practice Forum Journals at www.aia.org.

The August 2000, April 1998, and April
1997 issues are filled with tips on these topics. Also helpful is Architect's Essentials of Marketing, available for purchase at www.aiachicago.org.

- Provide all information in a clear way that's easy to understand, says Pauline Tingas, contributing writer for the Chicago edition of Design & Architecture. "Pose a problem and the architect's solution to that problem," she says. "Keep the release to two pages max with a short bio of the architect and related projects."

- Discover a publication's needs. The Chicago edition of Design & Architecture particularly needs unique original renderings for residences for its "on the drawing board" section. "The project doesn't have to have been built," says publisher Mitchell M. Obstfeld. "That's the whole point of it; that's what makes it fun. Architects are creative and some of their ideas get shot down during the creative process."

So if you've got a great design that was never built, send a high-resolution jpeg file of the early sketches slugged "on the drawing boards" to info@damagazine.com. A Wheeler Kearns project in Porter County, Ind. was featured in this section in the November/December issue.

- Upload your press release to Archiwire (www.archiwire.aia.org) for $75 for each release. Your release will be seen by thousands of reporters nationwide. You can post up to two pictures (of people or projects), as well as your firm logo and basic information about your firm. Your release will remain online and available for the press to review for one year.

Hopefully, with these insights from Baer, Berkoff, Obstfeld and Tingas, Chicagoans will spend a little more time looking up.

It's not difficult to get published in Focus, but we don't hear from all of our members.

While there is some competition to getting editorial coverage, follow some of the suggestions in "Make No Small Plans" and we'll consider including your press release. Not only is Focus delivered to 3,000 of your peers, it is read by national media, AIA members, architecture and design schools.

I even read Focus in my former career as a freelance writer specializing in historic preservation. As the new communications director for AIA Chicago, I plan to use my expertise to make Focus an even more robust and widely-read magazine in Chicago, one of the world's most architecturally diverse cities.

Please add my name to your mailing list for your press releases. I particularly welcome news about:

- new or finished projects
- staff changes
- awards and honors
- media coverage (TV, radio, newspaper and magazine)

Finally, I always need photos; the best format is a TIF or JPEG file with a resolution of at least 300 dpi measuring 5 x 7 inches. — M.B.K.
The new building was built to provide space essential for Andersen, opened its doors to the public in September. The Orland Park Public Library, designed by Lohan Wartburg College science facilities in Waverly, Iowa, where Wabash students have studied since 1938. Holabird & Root also completed a renovation for Goodrich Hall, a science building at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. The new address for Parallel Architecture is 1234 W. Diversey Ave. The phone number is 773/394-3640.

The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois has relocated to 645 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 540.

Projects

Holabird & Root recently completed Hays Halls, a new science building at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. The firm also designed a renovation for Goodrich Hall, where Wabash students have studied since 1938. Holabird & Root also completed an addition and renovation to Wartburg College science facilities in Waverly, Iowa.

The Orland Park Public Library, designed by Lohan Anderson, opened its doors to the public in September. The new building was built to provide space essential for community events.

OWP/P converted a fire station into the College of DuPage County Regional Center. The new center, which provides classroom space, a science lab and a meeting space shared with the local library, opened in October.

Clippings

Channel Two reporter Dorothy Tucker Jan. 7 interviewed Raymond Clark, AIA, about the dangers of ice falling from city buildings. Clark is a member of the Chicago Committee on High-Rise Buildings.

Kevin Kemp, AIA was interviewed on the Jan. 3 edition of WGN Radio about the Fine Arts Building where his firm DLK Architecture is located.

OWP/P and Gonzalez Haabrouck were mentioned in a story about the construction of Little Village High School in the January issue of Midwest Construction.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill was also cited in the same issue in connection with design for the new Trump International Hotel and Tower to be built on the site of the Chicago Sun-Times building.

VOA Architects was mentioned in a story about city development in the Dec. 24 issue of the Chicago Sun-Times. VOA is designing a six-story condo building at the corner of Bryn Mawr Avenue and Sheridan Road in the Edgewater neighborhood.

Helen Kessler, AIA was interviewed in the November/December issue of Metalmag. The story described Kessler’s work on LEED projects, the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals and sustainable design.

Booth Hansen was featured in the December issue of Chicago Architecture & Design. “We take a team approach to everything. There are no titles. No studio heads,” said Larry Booth, FAIA. Also mentioned in the same issue was Powell/Kleinschmidt.

Daniel P. Coffey, FAIA was cited in a Dec. 15 Chicago Tribune article about the renovation of the Biograph Theater.
projects they designed. Also honored with Silver Medals were Legal Architects, Yas/Fischel Partnership, and Nagle Hartry Danker Kagan McKay Penney.

**CALL FOR ENTRY**

The Chicago Furniture Designers Association is hosting a show, Sustainable Furniture…Chicago Designers Respond, to be held at the Chicago Cultural Center May through mid-August. More than 20,000 show visitors are expected. For more information, visit www.cfdainfo.org. The deadline for entries is February 15.

The IDP Outstanding Firm Award recognizes firms for exemplary contributions to the professional development of interns. For more information, visit the AIA's IDP Web site or contact AIA Emerging Professionals Director Suzanna Wight, AIA at 202/626-7325. The deadline for entries is February 9.

The Graham Foundation's Carter Manny Award Competition deadline for applications is March 15. Scholars whose dissertations concentrate on architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, architectural history and theory, urban planning and other topics are eligible to apply. The award recipient will receive $15,000 in financial support. For more information on how to apply for the award, visit the foundation's Web site at www.grahamfoundation.org.

**AWARDS**

Patrick Loughran, AIA of Lohan Caprielle Goetsch and author of Falling Glass: Problems and Solutions in Contemporary Architecture has been awarded a research grant from the Graham Foundation to write a second book. The grant will provide funding for research related to the innovations and limitations of concrete and stone design in contemporary architecture. Publishing company Birkhauser plans to release the book in 2006.

Kristine Fallon Associates (KFA) was selected by Constructech as winner of the 2004 Vision Award. KFA and its client, the Chicago Transportation Authority, in November were recognized for successfully using advanced technology to improved business performance.

Design Construction Concepts received the 2004 Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois' Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics. This award is presented annually to outstanding businesses from the northern part of the state for their commitment to exceptional standards in relationship with their customers, employees, suppliers, competitors, and surrounding communities.

The Oak Park Public Library was named a Best of 2004 award winner by Midwest Construction. The project team included Eva Maddox, Assoc. AIA of Perkins & Will and Nagle Hartry Danker Kagan McKay.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

On February 3 the Fogelson Forum on Real Estate will convene at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Panelists will provide a behind-the-scenes look at planning and developing residential communities in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. The forum will feature Anthony Downs, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C. Cost is $75 for one program. To register, visit www.Roosevelt.edu/REForum or call 312/464-9660.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation adult-education series will offer a three-session course this month on A New Look at the New Deal: WPA Architecture and Art in Chicago taught by Dianne Dillon, a scholar in residence at the Newberry Library. The course meets on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning February 8 at 224 S. Michigan Ave. The cost is $90 and online registration is available at www.architecture.org/adulted.

Sponsored by the American Builders and Contractors Association, The Building and Design Exchange on February 15-17 at McCormick Place focuses on the commercial building and construction industry. For more information, visit www.abcaevents.org. Cost is free for those who pre-registered; $20 at the door.

The Building Stone Institute is offering Designer Education Series – Limestone on February 16 at Allerton Crown Plaza in Chicago. The full-day program covers artistry and aesthetics, technology and construction related to limestone in design. The cost is $85. 7 LU/HSW. Registration is limited. For more information contact Connie Kitzinger at 630/775-9130.

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On February 3 the Eleventh Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. at Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The event will begin with a forum on creating and using open space in Chicago followed by the awards ceremony and cocktails. Organized by the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC), the awards are sponsored by Allstate, Bank of America, Bank One, Citibank, Chicago Bears, Harris Bank, LaSalle Bank, LISC Chicago, Northern Trust and Washington Mutual. Scott Sonnc, AIA and Tom Beeby, FAIA are among this year’s jurors. For more information, visit www.lisc-cnda.org or call 312/697-6455.

Ben Weese, FAIA will ask Does the Past Affect the Future at all? If So, How? in a lecture 6 to 7 p.m. February 9 held at Archeworks, 625 N. Kingsbury. A founding member of Weese Langley Weese, Weese is also a member of the City of Chicago Landmarks Commission. RSVP at www.archeworks.org or call 312/867-7254.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation presents several lunch-time talks this month. All take place at 12:15 p.m. at the Archicenter, 224 S. Michigan Ave. All are free and open to the public. On February 2 Paul Jaskot presents "Memory Foundations," Studio Daniel Libeskind’s initial design for the World Trade Center site competition. On February 9 Neal Samors, Richard Cahan and Michael Williams present Reel Chicago: Photographs from the Files of the Chicago Sun-Times on February 16. Jim Peters discusses Preserving the Recent Past on February 23. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

A new Museum of Contemporary Art exhibit, Universal Experience: Art, Life and the Tourist’s Eye, Feb. 12 – June 5, is designed to engage visitors and expand their awareness of what it means to be a tourist. Amsterdam-based NL Architects will explore how the tourist industry has changed the appearance of the surrounding world. For more information, visit www.mcachicago.org or call 312/280-2660.

Three exhibits are underway at the Chicago Architecture Foundation’s Archicenter, 224 S. Michigan Ave. Competition: Public Process for Public Architecture explores the contest process by presenting previous design competition entries for the White House and Chicago's Tribune Tower. Current entries to design public artwork that will be the centerpiece of a new museum at the base of the Tribune Tower will also be on display. New Federal Architecture: The Face of a Nation surveys great designs created under the auspices of the U.S. General Services Administration Design Excellence Program. Racine Art Museum: Building an Institution explores the collaboration involved in creating this museum. All exhibits end May 2.

On February 17 the Chicago Architecture Foundation will sponsor Creating New Federal Architecture. Los Angeles architect Thom Mayne, AIA of Morphosis will give a presentation about new designs for the U.S. General Services Administration at 6:00 p.m. in the Archicenter, 224 S. Michigan Ave. Limited seating; e-mail akrier@architecture.org for reservations.

On February 21 the Chicago Architecture Foundation will sponsor Creating New Federal Architecture: GSA’s Design Excellence Program. Edward Feiner, U.S. General Services Administration will give the presentation, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Archicenter, 224 S. Michigan Ave.
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1. Young Architects Networking Happy Hour. Sponsor: Young Architects Forum. 5:30 p.m.; Monk’s Pub, 205 W. Lake St. (Lake and Wells)

2. Libeskind’s Jewish Museum in Berlin: Between the Cold War and Reunification. Sponsor: Chicago Architecture Foundation. 12:15 to 1 p.m., ArchiCenter, 224 S. Michigan Ave.


5. Mixing It Up: CHA’s Plan for Transformation. Sponsor: Planning & Urban Affairs and Housing KCs. 12:00 noon; AIA Chicago, 1 LU.


8. More Fun Than a Yacht: Gentleman Farms in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Sponsor: Historic Preservation KC. 12:00 noon; AIA Chicago. 1 LU/HSW.


11. Unconventional Curtain Walls. Sponsor: Technical Issues and Interior Architecture KCs. 12:00 noon; Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court. 1 LU/HSW.
