Architects: Focus on What We Do Best

By Graham Dickens, AIA

It has been my pleasure to serve you as president of AIA Michigan for 1995. As I depart this role to take on the mantle of a "DIDDER" there are several observations and comments I wish to make.

As we are all aware, we have scored successes in the legislative arena, especially with the Attorney General's opinion as it relates to Public Act 400. We are however, besieged by countering legislation such as Senate Bill 656 and I'm not sure that I see any end in sight.

Over the past year, I have looked to other countries to determine what their policies are with reference to licensing regulation of Architects, and indeed, they are vastly different to ours.

There seems to be a general public awareness acceptance and respect for architects and the practice of architecture. This translates into our own inability to convert that perception and respect into respectable fees for work performed.

I do not believe that the reason for that inability is because of assaults on our profession by other members of the construction industry or other design professionals.

One of the advantages of being older than most people is that you have a lot of experience, knowledge and contacts to draw upon prior to making decisions or generating opinions. Those decisions and opinions therefore, tend to be rooted in a base of information provided from both within and outside of your profession.

In my opinion, and it is my opinion, our inability to generate the fees that we feel are warranted for the level of service, is based on two factors.

(1) As long as we engage in skirmishes or full-fledged war with other participants in the construction industry we will have no influence on the outcome of any negotiated settlement.

Several years ago, the former Vice President of Design and Construction for Dayton Hudson Charlie Zekind, told me, in fact told an assembled meeting of architects and interior designers, that the reason he was able to obtain our services so inexpensively was because neither of us knew or cared what the other one did. That was true in 1983, it is true today.

(2) We, as architects, have established our license as nirvana. We have told our customers, and indeed have talked among ourselves, that the only thing that is necessary for a customer to have to validate or qualify an architect over any other design professional is a license. We may deny that, but that is what we are communicating to our customers.

When asked why he had such a high opinion of architects and beat us up unmercifully when it came to fee, Bill Morrow, executive vice president of Crane Communications, sighted this reason: "As long as I am told that the only requirement for differentiation within the industry is that of a license, then the only basis I have for evaluating one architect over another, is on the basis of fee."

We have held the license as the ultimate goal. We have protected it. We have stopped others from assaulting it. Yet, what we should be doing is talking about the future.

That is, today, the license we hold so dearly, principally because we spend a lot of time in school to get it, is merely a baseline qualification and that all of the elements bringing VALUE to a project or to a customer are above that baseline.

I have spent my year as president presiding over the largest budget assigned to government affairs out of the general operating fund in the history of the association, and I do not begrudge that. But let's not lose sight of the future of this organization, or of the practice of architecture, by allowing our focus to be totally involved in legislative action.

Let's stop selling to our weakness. We have ample evidence that our customers believe our expertise lies in technology and design, and yet I have seen us time and time again attempt to convince a customer that our expertise lies in the realm of scheduling and cost control.

One of the things that people like about architects is that we operate outside of the envelope. That we devote more time to thinking about

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The Road to OZ

By Carl Roehling, AIA

We want to go back. We want to see the old days return when fees were not bid, when the State enforced our licensing law, when interior designers didn’t push for legal legitimacy, when design was our core value and architects were the recognized building team leader.

We thought we could. We thought this bad dream would go away if only we could see the Wizard, legislative action. We were advised that if we played the legislative game, we could go back.

We started the journey to OZ. We hired a lobbyist. We raised $20,000 for a Political Action Committee (PAC). We spent our AIA dues on lawyers. We went on a witch hunt to find unlicensed practitioners. But, we still couldn’t go back.

We stalled on the yellow brick road three years ago. The evil home builders threaten legislation; the wicked interior designers formed a pact with the mechanical contractors. The state spent even less on license regulation. We were convinced that if only we paid a “one time” dues assessment of $100 per member, we could go back. So, we spent $110,000. We made a video. We hired another lawyer. We hired another public relations firm. But the forces of evil prevailed when legislation was passed that blurred our professional status. OZ was getting further away, not closer.

We fought back. We got the Attorney General to agree that the wicked were still wicked. And, the AIA Michigan Board of Directors was convinced if we only had another $100,000, we could go back. And so the fairy tale continues. We haven’t seen the wizard. We haven’t found the way…but there is a moral to the story.

The wizard doesn’t seem to have the answer! Legislative action is necessary but it is not the way back. Our beliefs are the way back. Architects’ value to society is our vision, our creative talent and our contributions to the built environment. Public awareness and education (including our own) are the long term key to our profession’s future. Our profession, the AIA, must continue to allocate resources and passion to these issues.

What now? How do we get back if we need both a “legislative” shoe and a “public awareness” shoe to tap together? I think there are two strategies that AIA Michigan must pursue.

1) Fund Government Affairs from a sustainable source of revenue. This is not a “one-time” action. We cannot pass a “one time only” assessment every three years. This action requires $100,000 every year! Gene Hopkins and the Finance Committee offered a plan to capture the 1996 National AIA supplemental dues that are being sunset for the benefit of AIA Michigan’s Government Affairs action. We should do it. It will be a sustainable source of revenue without a dues increase or an assessment. It will fund this necessity without compromising our long term future.

2) Invest our current dues in the long term future. Public awareness, design excellence, and continuing education are investments in a preferred future. We must be as passionate about these issues as we are about litigation.

We have learned a great deal on the road to OZ. But unlike Dorothy, we cannot go to sleep and end up in Kansas. We must continue to slug our way through the legislation and invest in our preferred future. We have learned that it is not one or the other. We must do both!

President: Focus

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issues of design and technology and less time involved in the day to day scheduling and budgeting of projects.

I therefore call upon you, as the leadership of an organization that has an integral part in the future practice of architecture, to take a step back, look at what has made us engender the respect of our customers and the public, and set a course that is responsive to that perspective.
Survey Says Architects Most Responsible for Designing Safe Buildings

As part of its strategy to position architects as the gatekeepers of the public’s safety in buildings, AIA Michigan conducted a public opinion poll this fall in five geographic areas throughout the state. The survey’s purpose was to measure public attitudes regarding personal safety, health and welfare in buildings, and the role architects play in ensuring the public’s safety.

The survey was part of AIA’s Government Affairs Public Awareness Program and funding.

The statewide poll included telephone interviews with over 200 residents from the following areas: Ann Arbor, Flint/TriCity (Bay City, Midland, Saginaw), Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo, Northern Michigan (Charlevoix, Petosky and Traverse City) and TriCounty (Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties).

Unsafe Buildings

The poll revealed that one in four statewide respondents have felt unsafe or unhealthy in a commercial building in Michigan and most often cited structural soundness and poor construction as the causes. More TriCounty respondents (one in three) reported feeling unsafe or unhealthy than residents of other areas, and also cited structural soundness and poor construction as the leading causes.

Architect’s Responsibilities

The most important responsibility of architects, noted by 99 percent of statewide respondents, was to design a structurally sound building.

Nearly as many believe architects have the responsibility to assure fire safety by eliminating fire hazards and designing safe exiting routes. Eighty-seven percent of respondents reported that architects are responsible for specifying safe building materials.

A strong majority of respondents also cited designing attractive buildings and ensuring air and water quality as an architect’s responsibility.

Building Safety and Responsibility

Respondents were asked several questions concerning building safety and responsibility. Answers varied widely depending on the geographic region.

Ann Arbor

- Ranked the city as more responsible for ensuring a building’s safety for its occupants than respondents of other areas
- Assigned more blame to the city if a building’s occupants became sick from air or water contamination than any other geographic area

Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo

- More often felt architects were responsible for designing an attractive building, designing a structurally sound building, ensuring air and water quality, and using safe building materials than respondents of other areas
- Ranked owners more responsible for ensuring a building’s safety for its occupants compared to respondents from other areas

Northern Michigan

- Assigned architects the primary responsibility for designing structurally sound buildings and assuring safe exiting
- Safety was cited as the architects most important priority in the next century

TriCity

- Ranked architects as more responsible for ensuring a building’s safety for its occupants compared to respondents from other areas
- More TriCity respondents felt their community had adequate building safeguards than any other geographic area

TriCounty

- Less than half of TriCounty respondents believe the architects is responsible for ensuring air and water quality
- Assigned more blame to the builder and building code official if a building collapsed and more blame to the building code official and the city if the building’s occupants became sick from contaminated air or water

Barrier to Using Architects

When asked why some people choose not to use architects for building projects, 73 percent of statewide respondents said architects cost too much money. Eight in ten respondents from Flint/TriCity, Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo, and Northern Michigan cited cost as the number one barrier to using

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Survey

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architects in building projects.

Other responses included: a builder is all that is necessary; people don’t know what role they play or the importance of using them; time or hassle in using architects; and most people are interested in functionality, not aesthetics or design.

The Role of Architects in the Next Century

When asked to name the architect’s most important role in the next century, 44 percent of statewide respondents said to design safe buildings. Respondents also wanted architects to design buildings that are compatible with the surrounding community and environment, including the design of attractive buildings, and to incorporate energy efficiency, recycling and other environmental concerns into design.

In addition, statewide respondents also reported the following issues important to them and to architects:
- Building accessibility to the handicapped
- Structures that last
- Affordable housing
- Functional buildings
- Renovation as opposed to new construction
- Buildings that enhance community aesthetics

Designing to integrate buildings aesthetically with the community was mentioned frequently, indicating an unmet need. Fulfilling that need is an important role for architects in the new century.

Conclusions

Architects are in general viewed very positively by the public. They are seen as having the primary responsibilities for designing safe buildings with structural soundness, safe materials, clean air and water and freedom from fire hazards. Once a building is built, architects share in the responsibility for building safety, with the extent of their responsibility, relative to others, dependent upon the type of safety problem.

Most respondents feel safe and believe their community has adequate building safeguards to protect their safety in commercial buildings. In addition, they overwhelmingly oppose any legislation to relax regulations on who is qualified and responsible to design and plan a building, as proposed in state Senate Bill 656.

The Architect’s Future Role

The opinion poll provides insight into the perceptions of the public regarding the role of architects. The results suggest that
SH&G Offers Three Seminars

Three seminars of interest to design professionals will be held early next year at Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates headquarters in Detroit. Continuing education credits can be earned by attending these programs.

Dispelling the Myths of Value Engineering, Jan. 16, will cover methodology and techniques such as function analysis and life cycle costing. Typical VE program results and examples will be presented for both government and private industry. All the latest requirements and stands will be addressed. Learn how to use VE to save money, build teamwork and increase quality. Instructors include Stephen Kirk, AIA, VCS, FSAVE; Khaled Obeid, PE, CVS; and Jack Edwardowski, PE; all of SH&G. (Registration fee is $95.)

Life Cycle Costing, Jan. 18-19, participants can attend one or two days. Learn to identify key project study areas for LCC analysis; prepare life cycle cost analyses following ASTM and OMB procedures; assist owners in selecting the most cost effective solutions; save 10-30 percent of the project life cycle cost; use LCC techniques as part of value engineering studies; estimate life cycle costs using a computer spreadsheet; and perform risk analysis using probability and sensitivity analysis. Instructors same as Dispelling Myths seminar, plus John Pucetas, AIA, of SH&G. (Registration fee is $175 one day; $250 two days.)

Value Engineering Module 1, Feb. 26-Mar. 1, teaches VE technology in a “hands on” application seminar/workshop. Use “real-time” decision-making process using VE computer simulation model to optimize quality, value, and reduce cost of facilities. Also apply VE methodology to a live project, to see effectiveness of the VE techniques in enhancing the quality and reducing both initial and operating costs of the project. Instructors same as Dispelling Myths seminar, plus John Pucetas, AIA, of SH&G. (Registration fee is $800 individual; two or more, $600 each.)

AIA Michigan members can attend at a 20 percent discount. For further information about the programs or registration contact Dr. Stephen Kirk, vice president and director of facility economics at SH&G, 313-983-3650.

DPIC Companies Sponsor Eight Continuing Ed Programs

Improve your practice and satisfy education requirements through loss prevention programs sponsored by DPIC Companies, Inc. Some of the programs can be self-administered while others can be facilitated by a PLAN (Professional Liability Agents Network) agent.

Topics include: Lessons in Loss Prevention; Contract Review and Revision Exam; Claims Case Study Workshops; Contract Review Workshop; ADR Workshop: Focus on Dispute Resolution; Partnering Workshop; Taking Control Of Your Risks and Your Profits; and Mediation in the Construction Industry.

For further information contact Kim Fricke, president of Professional Concepts Insurance Agency, Inc. at 313-662-4041.
AIA and McGraw-Hill Form Alliance

AIA and the McGraw-Hill Companies' Construction Information Group have signed a letter of intent to pursue a long-term strategic alliance, allowing McGraw-Hill to publish AIA's magazine beginning in 1997. The agreement also produces a strategic, long-term communications alliance between the two organizations. AIA's current agreement with Billboard Publications Inc. (BPI) ends December 1996. Architecture, published by BPI, will continue to be the magazine of AIA until that time.

Beginning 1997, Architectural Record will replace Architecture as AIA's magazine. All members will receive the magazine as a member benefit.

During the transition in 1996, member needs will be researched and that information will be used to create a redesigned, refocused Architectural Record that will serve a steadily growing and increasingly diverse AIA membership.

Historic Resources Committee Sets New Direction

The Historic Resources Committee, AIA's oldest standing committee, has risen to the challenge of AIA's recent designation of PIA (professional interest area). Membership has grown from 350 to 1,600 in the past two years.

Changes include specific tasks being assigned to advisory group members; increased educational activities; improved communications between HRC and AIA members who have indicated an interest in this PIA; added special projects including updating a guide to architectural records; and conducting subcommittee meetings at annual meetings.

The HRC was featured prominently with an article and photos from a recent meeting at Cranbrook. Members Billy Lee Scylder-Sweat and Gene Hopkins, AIA, helped to make this event happen at Cranbrook.

State Approves Insurance Policy

The new CNA/Schinnerer Professional Liability Insurance Policy for Professionals has been approved by Michigan's insurance department. The policy was developed with the help of AIA's Risk Management Committee and the NSPE/PEPP Professional Liability Committee.

The new policy includes coverage innovations, and is the bedrock of the AIA Trust's Small Firm Program. For information contact your insurance broker.

Design and Construction Expo Moves to Silverdome in 1996

After a three-year run in downtown Detroit, Design and Construction Expo is moving to the Pontiac Silverdome. This expo is a combination of trade shows previously sponsored separately by AIA Michigan, Construction Association of Michigan and Construction Specifications Institute.

The trade show, set for Feb. 7-8, is the Midwest's largest construction trade exposition, and is expected to attract some 12,000 attendees. The 1996 show will center on the theme "Breaking New Ground."

The expo is jointly sponsored by AIAM, CAM, CSI and Building Officials and Code Administrators, Consulting Engineers Council/Michigan, Glazing Contractors Association and the Society for Marketing Professional Services.

AIA members can get free tickets in advance of the show, and avoid waiting in line, by filling out the pre-registration form on page 9 and mailing it by Jan. 12. It can be duplicated for additional copies.

New Organization Aims to Preserve Architectural Documents

AIA Michigan was surveyed recently by the Michigan Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records. COPAR is a network of architectural firms, institutional collections, libraries, archives and historical collections, preservationists and historians who focus on the need to preserve the documentary record, including drawings, plans, firm archives, CAD, correspondence, photographs, etc. It is not a repository, but rather, an organization to exchange and disseminate information promoting the identification, location, disposition and preservation of architectural records.


Anyone interested in the publications, activities or mailing list, contact Michigan COPAR, P.O. Box 1229, Midland, MI 48641-1229.
The following represents a compilation of information prepared by the AIA/CES Task Force. This is not intended to explain all the aspects of Continuing Education, but rather, to present an overview.

**What is AIA/CES?**

CES is a continuing education system developed by the AIA to record professional learning as a mandatory requirement for architect membership.

**What is its purpose?**

It's simple: Lifelong professional learning is necessary for success in our businesses. It enables us to keep current, master new knowledge and skills, plan for the future, and responsibly meet the role society entrusts to a professional. The AIA/CES is designed to assist us in maintaining our competence and in achieving our professional goals. In doing so, it has the potential to be one of the primary forces in the improvement and revitalization of our profession. Finally, it makes membership in the AIA more meaningful.

**Whose idea is it anyway?**

Yours. AIA members are the leaders of this important effort. In 1990, the AIA board of directors established the Lifelong Learning Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of professional development within the AIA. Delegates to the national convention in 1991 requested that the issue of mandated continuing education be added to the study. The year's research and discussion were presented to the 1992 convention, where delegates voted by more than a two-thirds majority to require continuing education as a condition of AIA membership, beginning in 1995. For three years, members and chapter executives participated in additional studies, evaluations, critiques, and a pilot program that lasted 28 months. It is the belief of the AIA that architects themselves best know the requirements of the profession and that they should set the requirements for lifelong learning.

**What do I have to do?**

You have to be committed to maintaining and enhancing your professional knowledge and skill. All architect members must develop a personal learning program directed toward their individual career needs to retain AIA membership. Association and emeritus members are encouraged, but not required to participate. The Institute will keep records for all participants.

**How does it work?**

As members, we can earn credit (learning units = LUs) in two ways: First, by participating in programs offered by chapters, firms, and other registered providers; in this case there is no paperwork at all for you to deal with. AIA members can fulfill their CES requirements by attending only chapter programs. (This does not include committee meetings.)

Secondly, by self-directed personal learning activities. (See question #10.) For these, you simply complete and return a pre-printed form so that the data can be entered into your individual transcript. Members calculate LUs for self-directed study by multiplying the number of hours spent in architecture-related learning by the quality level of the activity.

**What is quality level?**

Member earn LUs not only based on the length of the program of activity (seat time), but also based on its educational quality level. The three levels defined by the CES are as follows: Level 1 (passive) learning is any appropriate activity that has a professional purpose and professional resources, including, but certainly not limited to, reading, products analysis and lecture attendance; Level 2 (interactive) learning includes Level 1 and provides significant opportunities for participants to interact with each other and the learning resources. (Example: roundtable discussion groups.) Level 3 includes Level 2 and incorporates measurements or feedback concerning the learning progress of participants.

Any combination of Level 1, 2 and 3 programs is valid to meet the 36 LU requirements (i.e. the 36 LUs may be achieved by 36 hours of Level 1 activities, 18 hours of Level 2, or 12 hours of Level 3).

**How does health, safety and welfare tie into CES?**

One third of the LUs are to be earned in the area of health, safety and welfare, which is defined as those issues addressed by the Architecture Registration Examination (ARE). This requirement is based on states having the power to grant professional licensure as a means of protecting the life, safety and welfare of the public.

**What kind of time frame?**

To have sufficient time to become acquainted with CES, we have until Dec. 31, 1997 to earn 36 LUs. Beginning in 1998, we will be asked to earn 36 LUs each calendar year.

**What if I don't earn enough LUs or earn more than is required?**

Members who do no earn 36 LUs in one cycle may make it up the following year in addition to that year's requirements. If after the second year, the total number of required LUs has not been met, membership standing will be reviewed. If a member earns more than 36 LUs in a cycle, the additional LUs may be applied to the following year's requirements. (Up to 36 additional LUs maximum.)

**What is self-directed study and how do I do it?**

Self-directed studies that qualify for learning units are studies of matters relying principally on the architect's initiative as a method of gaining knowledge to improve professional skills. You choose the method most convenient and effective for you to accomplish this learning, including seminars, college courses, conference presentations, video and audio tapes, computer-based education software, study tours, etc. In fact you need not go farther than your own desk, even for structured learning activity. You can do independent research utilizing your own research materials as well. (Continued)
21 Questions About CES  Continued from Page 7

For self-learning activities, individual members need to fill in and return the standard completion form to the AIA/CES record keeping center. You can use the AIA/CES Self-Report Form to record any continuing education activity that is not registered with the AIA by an approved provider.

How are my learning activities reported to the CES if they're not self-directed study?
Registered providers of programs will use standard CES forms to report members who attend their programs.

How are my records kept and how may I access them?
The AIA/CES has incorporated an automated record-keeping and transcript service provided under contract by the College of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma, Continuing Education, AIA/CES, Room B-4, 1700 Asp Ave., Norman, OK 73072, 800-605-8229 information line and fax 405-325-6965. You may request information in writing by phone or fax. Major services include maintenance of individual members' continuing education activities and information support about CES for members and providers. Transcripts will be mailed each October to every member with CES activities during the calendar year. Individual transcript records will be posted monthly on AlAOnline and available to each member by using his or her member number.

In lieu of AlAOnline, a hard copy of the transcript can be faxed or mailed to a member for $10.

How else can AlAOnline help with CES?
In addition to transcript information, AlAOnline will provide members with information about registered providers and available programs. Using any key words desired, AIA members will be able to search the database. AlAOnline will enable any AIA member to reserve a place in a desired program and complete all advance registration and payment thus saving members both time and money. (Restricted to registered providers’ computer capabilities.)

How can I stay in business and do this too?
You’re probably already doing it. CES is the result of five years of study and testing by AIA members, chapter executives and one of the country’s leading research institutions on professional learning. Accessibility and affordability have been integral to AIA members guiding development of CES. The pilot program, conducted in 1993-94 with 4,800 AIA members participating and 175 chapters involved, demonstrated that CES encourages the widest possible range of choice by members for subject matter, cost and time. Participating members averaged 56 LUs (36 are required). Significantly, the pilot program showed that AIA members can meet 100 percent of the annual requirements just by attending chapter meetings and/or programs in their firm that are organized as learning experiences.

What will CES cost?
Costs will vary depending on you and your learning needs. Under the CES pilot project the average cost reported by the participants was under $100. By taking advantage of chapter programs and self-study programs, cost could be less than $20 per year. Learning activities from other resources fall within a widely varied price range. It doesn’t have to be expensive to be valuable and count for CES!

Are associate and emeritus members required to earn LUs?
Associate and emeritus members are exempt but are encouraged to participate for their own benefit and that of the profession.

What are continuing education requirements in other states to maintain a license?
Iowa was the first state to require mandatory continuing education (since 1979) for architects as well as for other professionals licensed in the state. For architects the state requires 20 hours per year (40 hours over a two-year cycle). Since then, Alabama in 1993 and Florida in 1994 have adopted mandatory continuing education requirements. Alabama requires 12 hours per year and Florida requires 20 hours every two years. Louisiana has a voluntary requirement of 12 hours per year.

What types of educational activities will AIA members engage in under CES?
Some indicators suggest 60 percent of our members will choose formal learning activities such as seminars, workshops, brown-bag sessions, university courses, etc. Another 40 percent will prefer less traditional methods such as audio-and videocassettes, self-study courses, computer-aided learning, or self-directed learning projects using a variety of resources to be determined by the learner.

How do I become a registered provider?
Contact the AIA national office (address, see question #20).

Where can I get help?
Assistance may be obtained from both the national AIA and your local chapter. The national AIA has increased its staff commitment for CES and has established a hotline to provide a source of information and to respond with requested materials and forms. A recorded message instructs callers to leave a message with their requests. The hotline number is 202-879-3089 or contact Thom Lowther, CES director, at the national AIA at 202-626-7478 (phone) or 50744 (AlAOnline number); or thlowther@capcon.net (Internet address). Or call AIAM at 313-965-4100.

How will quality be maintained?
Quality control is based on random audits of member and provider reports. Quality standards are based on a specific set of elements that research has shown to contribute to effective educational activities. These elements are generic and may be applied to any learning situation including self-designed study or research.
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Flint AIA Honors Architects

Two Flint-area projects earned Awards of Excellence from AIA Flint — the Fenton United Methodist Church and Parkway Place.

Both projects were designed by THA Architects & Engineers. Fenton United Methodist Church was designed by Ronald R. Campbell, and Parkway Place was designed by Gerald Harburn and Robert Hall.

Seven additional Honor Award nominees included the University of Michigan-Dearborn Campus Support Services Building (Ghafari Associates, Inc.); Patsy Lout Williamson Blain Buick (Gazall, Reno & Associates, Architects); and Carman-Ainsworth High School, a private residence, Court Street Village West, and Plaza One Financial Center (all designed by THA).

State Offers Incentives to Use Light Pipes

Financial incentives are now available to one building owner or builder to incorporate light pipes in a new or retrofitted commercial facility. The objectives of the program are to promote new energy efficient technologies and help to overcome economic barriers for the installation of these new technologies.

This pilot program is sponsored by the Michigan Public Service Commission, Energy Resources Division. Only one builder or building owner will be selected to receive up to $9,000 towards the use of light pipes. They must be installed by July 31, 1996. The cut-off date to apply is Dec. 31, 1995. Call Rose Hughes, Energy Resources Div. at 517-334-7235.

Obituaries

ROBERT B. ALPERN

Robert Blair Alpern, a noted architect who designed several Metro Detroit apartment complexes and hotels, passed away Oct. 2. He was 67.

Alpern was a past director of AIA Michigan and past president of AIA Detroit. He earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Michigan.

Alpern designed Somerset Apartments in Troy, North Park Towers in Southfield and the Berkshire Hotel in Southfield, among many other commercial and residential projects. He owned the Birmingham-based firm of Robert B. Alpern Associates.

He is survived by his wife, Zoe; a son, Jamie; a daughter, Chris; and two sisters.

Memorial tributes may be made to the American Heart Assn. in Southfield, or to the Architectural Alumni Scholarship Fund at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, U of M, in Ann Arbor.

GILBERT W. SAVAGE

Gilbert W. Savage, a retired architect and former chairman of the Oakland County Republican Party, died Sept. 28. He was 74.

Savage started his own architectural firm, Gilbert Savage and Associates, in Detroit in 1956, and later moved the company to Southfield.

A past member of AIA, Savage was also active on the Southfield school board, and was a member of that city’s Optimist Club.

Savage is survived by a daughter, Denise Galameau, and two sons, Guy and Keith; and four grandchildren.

NOVA Nominations Received From Record 7 Countries

The Construction Innovation Forum announced that its 1996 nomination campaign for the annual NOVA Award has been a tremendous — and international — success. CIF received 34 nominations from a record number of seven countries — Canada, England, France, Japan, Korea, Norway and the United States. Nominations also came from a record number of 22 states including Alaska and Hawaii.

Since 1990, a total of 18 innovations have received CIF’s NOVA Award, which recognizes innovations in the construction industry that improve quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The 1996 awards will be presented on March 14, 1996, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. For ticket information call the CIF office at 313-995-1855.

DPIC Policyholders Get $22.8 Million

DPIC reported that $22.8 million was given back to policyholders in 1994 for excellence in loss prevention practices.

DPIC rewards insured architects and engineers for risk management efforts including education program credits, limitation of liability credits, successful use of mediation, early warning credits and peer review programs.

For further information contact Kim Fricke, president of Professional Concepts Insurance Agency, Inc. at 313-662-4041.
Firm News

Harold Binder, AIA, has retired from Ghafari Associates...Scott Withers has been promoted to studio director at Arthur F. Smith Architects in Southfield...Jon Greenberg & Associates Inc. has appointed Kenneth Nisch, AIA, chairman; Michael Crosson, CEO; Michael Kirk, AIA, president; Tony Camilletti, vp of visual communications; Robert Berlin, executive vp; Mark Carlini, AIA, vp of project development; Jerry Gaudet, vp of project administration; and Gregory Geralds, vp of project services...Ann Arbor-based Cooper Design Inc. announced that Leo V. Mendez, Jr., has joined the firm. His responsibilities include project management and design and business development...Peter Basso Associates Inc./Consulting Engineers, Troy, was selected as one of the Future 50 Companies in the annual competition sponsored by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, BDO Seidman and WWJ Newsradio...A permanent exhibit entitled "Growing Up in Michigan," designed by Quinn Evans/Architects has received a 1995 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The firm was also recognized with a 1995 Award of Excellence from AIA for its exterior restoration of the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. Quinn Evans also planned the restoration and expansion of historic Nankin Mills along the banks of the Rouge River. Dedication of the newly re-opened site was held in late September...Beverly Hills architectural firm Danckaert & Associates has expanded services to include computer consulting to architectural/engineering firms in metro Detroit...Mayor Dennis Archer presided over the groundbreaking for the second phase of the historic Harmonie Park restoration project held on Oct. 3. The second phase includes updating five buildings in the three-block, mixed use community, and filling them with new tenants...The September issue of Builder/Architect magazine featured a cover story on DesRosiers Architects...Johnson Johnson & Roy/Inc has received two distinguished national awards, the National Design Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (for the Merritt Parkway master plan, Connecticut) and the Supplier Recognition Award for the Grand Award winning project (J.C. Penney Corporate Headquarters, Texas) from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America...Giffels Associates, Inc., has opened a regional office in Scottsdale, AZ. In addition, Giffels has appointed Conchita "Connie" Raffa marketing coordinator...Danny O. Park, AIA, has formed a new firm, Park & Associates, 8275 North Holly Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439. Ph: 810-695-6207...AKA's subsidiary Albert Kahn Collaborative, Inc. is a major force in Detroit's makeover, who, together with Schervish Vogel Merz, PC, is helping to design the big Harmonic Park makeover. The Collaborative was featured in a recent New Center News article...Alex Ivanikwi, AIA, has been promoted to president of The Argos Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Barton Malow Co. He is also a group vp for Barton Malow servicing automotive and manufacturing clients...Greiner Engineering, Inc. has received five national awards for its 1994 annual report...A Framework for Action: Recommendations of the Mayor's Land Use Task Force for the City of Detroit, developed by The Smith Group (SH&G), won a Michigan Society of Planning Officials Annual Honor Award...William A. (Sandy) Stevenson, AIA, has been named managing principal of Greiner's Grand Rapids office. He succeeds retiring Calvin D. Lane, AIA.

Grapevine

Special thanks to Graham Dickens, AIA, and Judy Patrus from Contract Interiors and to Art Smith, AIA, from Arthur Smith & Associates for supplying and installing new carpeting on the first floor of the Beaubien House...The November issue of Progressive Architecture includes an article discussing research on architectural education by Linda Groat, Associate AIA...Sharon Sutton, FAIA, will serve as a juror next summer for a new competition sponsored by AIAS and the Copper Development Assn....Robert Verdun and his Southfield-based computer-aided-design firm were featured recently in Crain's Small Business in a story about successful young entrepreneurs...For project models from simple foam block studies to finished models and animation look to Jon Bell and associate Dean Zoyes. They can be reached at 1101 Lakepointe, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. Ph: 313-823-5558...Keith Logspen, AIA, has joined the firm of Michael Willoughby & Associates in Birmingham (We mistakenly called him Kenneth in our September issue)...AIA Michigan President Graham Dickens, AIA, and Balthazar Korab were both captured in photos printed recently in AIArchitect PIA Special Edition. The Historic Resources Committee toured the Affleck House, after holding a conference at Cranbrook. Their meeting focused a nostalgic look at Cranbrook and architecture 30-50 years ago...Ed Francis, FAIA, was on the Today show (Continued on Page 12)
Grapevine

Continued from Page 11

with Willard Scott announcing the opening of the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, PA. Following 18 months and $9.5 million worth of renovations and additions, the 143-year old theatre re-opened in mid-October. This Italianate gem has undergone three major renovations, including this most recent one started in 1989 by Kessler and Roger Morgan Studio, Theater Consultants... A recent Grant Thornton survey of 400 A/E's and contractors regarding legislative priorities indicated that a majority of you feel reinstating the investment tax credit would most benefit the nation's construction industry in general and your own companies in particular... A director of AIA Michigan, Rudy Yu, Associate AIA, has relocated to the San Francisco office of Gensler and Associates/Architects... David Evans, AIA, principal of Quinn Evans/Architects recently participated in a symposium/workshop on U.S. Lifesaving Stations at Cape Cod National Seashore, MA.

Society of Design Administration Launches Membership Campaign

The Society of Design Administration - Michigan Chapter recently launched their annual campaign to recruit new members and increase awareness of their organization.

SDA is known for its quality continuing education programs, publications and support network, with nearly 40 chapters nationwide. The Michigan Chapter was formed in October 1994 and has grown from 4 to 20 members. They conduct monthly program meetings, publish a newsletter and provide networking opportunities as well as access to special publications and regional and national conferences.

Members of SDA are professionals who work for and with architects, engineers and other design professionals — virtually any support professional in the design firm, from secretaries to corporate controllers.

For further information contact Diane Evans, vice president of the Michigan Chapter, at Marshburn/Bunkley Associates, 616-327-0077.
Survey

Continued from Page 4

this role needs to be examined relative to the perception of value and the participatory role architects play in the community.

The data supports that the role of architects in building safe, structurally sound buildings is important and expected. When viewed in the context of value, however, that function is not a service for which clients expect to pay additional money. In fact, within this context, the poll reveals that the public perceives architects cost too much money — a sentiment expressed by the majority of those interviewed.

However, the poll indicates that the architect’s role of enhancing the community with attractive, aesthetically designed buildings integrated within the community is one of considerable value. It is one of the most important roles the public perceives for architects in the new century.

It is recommended that AIA Michigan consider elevating public awareness of buildings it has designed which enhance the community, providing an increased body of work that documents this significant contribution.

The Public Opinion Poll in Action

The results of the public opinion poll are being used to heighten state awareness of the role of architects through media coverage; establish a dialogue with legislators regarding their constituents’ perceptions; customize the findings by area to create a functional resource tool that can be utilized by city officials, legislators, media and AIA Michigan members; and provide a platform for AIA Michigan to develop a public dialogue concerning public safety and welfare.

In addition, the AIA Michigan Public Opinion Poll has received coverage in the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News and on Detroit’s National Public Radio station, WDET-101.9. Stories will also appear in: Crains’ Detroit Business; Flint Journal; Lansing State Journal; News Herald; Observer and Eccentric; and Saginaw News. The Associated Press and United Press International have expressed strong interest in the story, and stories are pending in the following publications: Bay City Times; Michigan Monthly; Midland Daily News and Oakland Press.

Customized and personalized poll results have been sent to 112 Michigan and U.S. Congressional Representatives and Senators to inform them of their constituents’ concerns regarding public safety and the overwhelming opposition to S.B. 656 and other legislative attempts to relax building design regulations.

To obtain a copy of the AIA Michigan Public Opinion Poll, please contact Karen Couf, LovieGeorgeInc., at 313-832-2210.


The Architectural Studies Center at Lansing Community College hosts the 17th annual Michigan High School Architectural Design Competition and the Michigan College Architectural Design Competition on Friday, Mar. 8, 1996. Participants will convene at the college for the one day, on-site competition. Internationally recognized architect E. Fay Jones, FAIA, will deliver a keynote slide presentation prior to awarding trophies and prizes to competition winners. For information call 517-483-1327.

More Than A Handsome Box: Architectural Education at the University of Michigan 1876-1986 is a book by Nancy Bartlett of the UofM Bentley Historical Library, featuring 359 citations and 65 drawings from the library’s archives. They include references to William Le Baron Jenney’s appointment as the first faculty member in architecture (he commuted from Chicago); correspondence from Louis Sullivan, down on his luck and looking for a job teaching; Eliel Saarinen hired by a student’s father (George Booth) to begin design and construction of the Cranbrook Boys School; visits by Gropius, Mies, Bucky and others in the 50s who helped launch the college’s research agenda; the social upheaval of the 60s, etc. Copies of the book are available from UofM or from architectural bookstores.

Architects’ Sunday: Tour VA Hospital

•Members Only•

Jan. 21, 1996, 1 p.m.
Tour conducted by SH&G
(Must wear hard hats & shoes)

CES Credit Level 1 RSVP AIAM-313-965-1400
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<tr>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Jan 1 AIAM</td>
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<td>headquarters office closed</td>
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<td><strong>JANUARY</strong></td>
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<td>11 Advanced AutoCAD workshops begin/LTU/</td>
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<td>Southfield/810-204-4050</td>
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<td>12-13 AIAM Leadership Conference for AIAM Board, Chapter Presidents &amp; VPs/Park Place Hotel/</td>
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<td>Traverse City</td>
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<td>17 UofM Lecture: Jo Noero/313-936-0221</td>
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<td>18 SMPS meeting “Marketing on the Job”</td>
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<td>21 Architects Sunday Tour/VA Hospital</td>
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<td>24 UofM Lecture: Leonard Eaton/313-936-0221</td>
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<td>24-25 Seminar: ASHRAE 90.1/East Lansing/517-334-7234</td>
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<td>27-30 AIA National Grassroots Conference/Washington D.C.</td>
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<td>28 DIA film: Bauhaus in America/313-833-7900</td>
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<td>31 UofM Lecture: William Mitchell, MIT/313-936-0221</td>
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<td><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></td>
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<td>5 UofM Architecture Program Student Exhibit Opens/313-936-0221</td>
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<td>7-8 Design &amp; Construction Expo/Silverdome/Pontiac</td>
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<td>9 UofM Lecture: Vincent Scully, Yale/313-936-0221</td>
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<td>15 SMPS meeting “My Funny Valentine...Humor in Business”</td>
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<td>17 ACEC/M-MSPE Awards of Excellence Banquet/Grand Rapids</td>
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<td>19 UofM Lecture: Roy Porter, University College, London/313-936-0221</td>
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<td><strong>MARCH</strong></td>
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<td>7 Architecture/Antoine Predock/Southfield/810-204-2880</td>
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<td>8 College Arch Design Competitions/Lansing Community College</td>
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<td>14 NOVA Awards/Laurel Manor/Livonia</td>
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<td>21-22 Health Facilities Conference/Shanty Creek/Bellaire</td>
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<td>21 SMPS meeting “Client Perspectives on Professional Presentations”</td>
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<td>28 Architecture/Lawrence Halprin/Southfield/810-204-2880</td>
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<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
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<td>10 UofM Lecture: Abdulla Bokhari, ARCHIPLAN/313-936-0221</td>
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<td>18 SMPS annual meeting</td>
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<td>25 Fellows reception/Beaubien House</td>
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<td><strong>MAY</strong></td>
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<td>3 MAF golf outing/Ypsilanti</td>
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<td>10-13 AIA National convention/Minneapolis</td>
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<td>16 SMPS meeting “Developing Business/Generating Leads”</td>
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<td>16-19 MSPE annual convention/Boyne Highlands/ Harbor Springs</td>
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Mid-Summer Conference
August, 8-10 • Grand Hotel/Mackinac Island

Design Conference
September 6-7 • Camp Hayo-Went-Ha