



Architects Hit the Hill

Alabama Council Visits Legislators

Architects are an untapped resource for policymakers. As professionals who are intimately involved with many of today's most relevant public policy issues, architects can provide insight, analysis, and opinions on a wide range of topics. The major issues in the 2006 session affecting the architecture profession are listed below.

One Building Code Authority

Earlier this session, there was an effort to pass legislation that would have created a single code authority for all

building and construction in Alabama. The effort met with opposition from the home builders, cities and counties and some of the current code officials. Thus, that effort was delayed to allow all parties to work on developing consensus.

In an effort to move something through the Legislature, a bill was drafted with a narrower scope that would require entities considering change to their codes and certain sections of Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

SB 528, by Sen. Hap Myers (R) of Mobile, would require code authorities to use the International Code Council when making any changes in building codes. The bill would prohibit any county or municipality from making modifications to building codes that would minimize public health, safety and welfare. The bill would require Baldwin and Mobile Counties, and any municipalities therein, to enforce the wind and flood provisions of these codes

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Grassroots Efforts in Washington

Eighteen members of the Alabama Council AIA attended National's Grassroots Conference in February. Although many legislators were not present due to conflicting meetings, we were still able to meet with valuable members of their staff. We were able to meet with Senator Shelby, who has been a strong advocate for the profession. Among our issues were:

- Small Business/Association Health Insurance, which

would allow associations like AIA to set up health insurance programs for their members.

- Affordable Housing/Community Revitalization/Historic Preservation: HR 3159 would update current rehabilitation tax credits for historic buildings and increase the credit for "difficult to develop areas." This would allow the 10% tax credit to be used for residential rental proper-

ties, increasing the credit for smaller projects, and would ease the requirements for use of the credits by tax-exempt organizations

- Hurricane Rebuilding: AIA supports legislation that would stabilize the economy and ensure redevelopment of areas within Louisiana and Mississippi that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.



Members of The Alabama Council AIA attended Grassroots in Washington, DC, and met with Senator Shelby.

President's Message

A Message from 2006 President Art Hargrove, AIA
Tetra Tech, Inc., Huntsville

The Alabama Council continues to broaden its efforts to represent the architects of the state and to serve the public in promoting and protecting the health, safety and welfare of the populace.



Art Hargrove, AIA

Much of our effort to influence the direction of our state concerning the practice of Architecture for this year has been accomplished. The future will be here tomorrow, however, and there is much at risk and there are many plans to complete and strategies to prepare for next year and beyond.

The Council elected Sommerville Hill of Montgomery Chapter AIA as the new Associate Director. The support to the Alabama Architectural Foundation scholarship program increased this year to \$5,000.00. Preparation for the Grassroots Capitol Hill visits was well coordinated by our Executive Director Larry Vinson and the Legislative Committee (special thanks to Don Brown and Patrick Davis). In late March we held our Second Quarterly Meeting and Legislative Day. Thanks to all who attended and made the effort to advance our issues on the state level. As a great example of the need for long term involvement with the legislative process, an issue we began to push for over a

year ago with fellow Alabama construction industry professionals in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan reached fruition. The legislature has passed and the Governor has signed a Good Samaritan law allowing Architects (and others) protection from liability when volunteering help in disaster assessment and recovery recommendations. We are now working with other industry representatives toward eventual adoption of a statewide building code.

The National Grassroots Conference was well attended by the Alabama Council. The speakers were outstanding and the chance to see the AIA National Headquarters again made the organization tangible. For me the chance to visit Congressional offices and present the AIA agenda and hear the response of our elected officials and their aides was the highlight of the trip. There was general enthusiasm for the scope and intent of our issues. We pushed primarily in three areas that will affect many architects in Alabama as well as throughout the country. There was a continuing dialog concerning tax credits for renovation of historic properties for housing. Strong support was found for crafting of a law allowing national associations (including the AIA) to set up nationwide health insurance programs. We also found universal support for ongoing efforts to assist the Gulf Coast in recovery efforts.

First Vice President Jay Jenkins and his committee have completed most of the plans for a great convention at Grove Park Inn in North Carolina. There will be tours, a golf tournament, excellent opportunities for continuing education and time for fellowship with our peers. Mark your calendars and make your reservations early. There will be a positive effect on your practice in the future because of a minimal amount of time away from the office.

The National Convention is June 8th through the 10th in Los Angeles and space is filling up fast. And, make plans to enter the Design Awards this year and attend the Gala on October 20th.

If you are reading this and you are not a member of the AIA, though you are an architect practicing in Alabama, I ask why not. Are you content to let others protect and mold your future practice? Do you think you have no voice? Are you a member and haven't found the time to participate? Join us, speak up and be a part of creating the future that you envision.

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without modification, effective no later than July 1, 2006.

The Alabama Council AIA supports the concept of developing one statewide code authority. We are concerned about the enforcement mechanism, enforcement costs and the stress it would put on local code authorities. We also would encourage the Alabama Legislature to make sure those individuals serving on such a statewide code authority have appropriate credentials in design and construction.

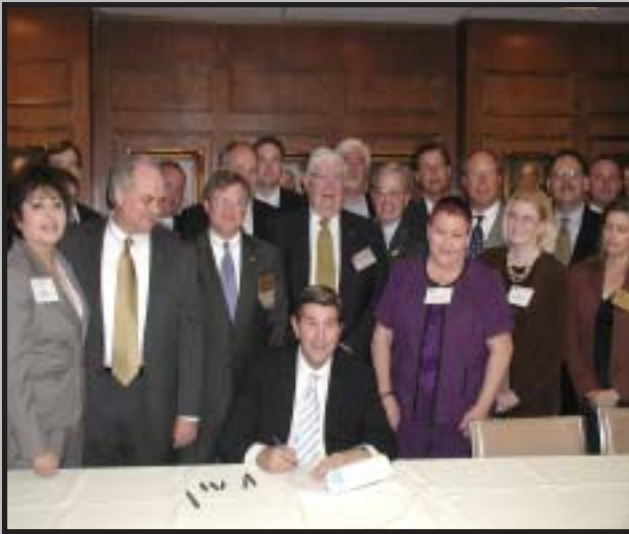
Statute of Repose - Too Lengthy SB 113, by Sen. Del Marsh (R) of Anniston, would decrease the statute of repose for claims against an architect, engineer or contractor from 15 years after completion of the project to 8 years. The bill is pending in the Judiciary Committee and will not pass this session.



Pictured with Senator Jeff Enfinger are Christine K. Jones, Art Hargrove, and Alex Felder.

Governor Signs Good Samaritan Bill

HB 68, by Rep. Randy Wood (R) of Anniston, provides civil immunity to licensed architects, engineers, land surveyors, contractors and subcontractors working under the direction or supervision of an emergency agency to render emergency response activities without compensation.



Patrick Davis and Don Brown are amid those present as Governor Riley signs the Good Samaritan Bill.

We greatly appreciate the work of the Alabama Legislature is passing this bill and providing much needed protection to Alabama architects.

Hopefully, we will not experience another disaster like Hurricane Ivan or Katrina. But, if we do, Alabama architects, engineers and contractors can help

those in need without fear of civil litigation.

Gilchrist Elevated to Fellow

The American Institute of Architects elevated 82 architects to its College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession. William (Bill) Aaron Gilchrist of Birmingham, has been awarded this honor.

Gilchrist is the Director for the Department of Planning, Engineering and Permits for the City of Birmingham.

He has been a leader in enhancing the quality of the built environment of Birmingham, and has accomplishments at the national level such as AIA R/UDAT Co-Chair on the Urban Land Institute Program Committee, and as a national design juror and media spokesperson.

Gilchrist has served on the executive committee for Birmingham AIA and for The Alabama Council AIA. He has also consulted on public processes and design in the Ukraine and Romania. Congratulations Bill.

Affiliate Partner's Corner

Pat Conrad, Professional Affiliate Director, Architectural Representative, Carapace, LLC

I am often asked by architects, designers and sales representatives why I am so involved with the architecture and design community. To understand my answer you need to know some of my background, then how I started in the sales field and the rewards that resulted.

I grew up as an "Air Force brat," as a result I attended thirteen elementary schools from Alabama to California. At an early age I learned that to fit in you must join in. I wasn't one to watch life from the sidelines. Fast forward many years to 1983 when I decided to leave the field of education for the business world. I was blessed to get a sales position with a small distributor whose main product was just coming into its own - DuPont Corian®. My first major event was the 1983 annual AIA convention held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. With no one to guide me or

to tell me that most sales representatives generally just set up a booth, show product, hope for specifications and as soon as the show is over pack up and leave as soon as possible; I just joined right in. I worked my booth, went to hear the keynote speaker, attended the education sessions, and participated in the fun activities. As a result I got to know many of the architects and their spouses on a first name basis. On the last morning of the convention at breakfast I had two architects, Jim Seay, Sr., and Evan Terry thank me for not only my participation in the product show but also my interest in their profession. I was informed that this was out of the norm. With my background of joining in this was the way I thought it was supposed to be. I still hold this belief.

Now for the rewards. First, the one that my company expects - specifications and sales. (A majority of the

product representatives who participate in architectural events are required to justify their participation in activities that require company money).

The personal awards have been the greatest: I have learned a lot about architecture and products. I have had the pleasure of working with some incredibly creative people. I have made many good friends. My partnership with the architecture community is making a difference by educating the public about good architecture, which affects us all!

This year I will attend my 23rd straight convention. I am a Partner, I am involved.

Professional Affiliate Partners may submit articles to the AIA newsletter for publication consideration. Contact the Alabama Council AIA office at aia@gmsal.com

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Alabama Architectural Foundation

The Alabama Architectural Foundation Board met in February for a day long retreat to review the AAF agenda and to discuss its role as an advocate for reinforcing the value of architecture in our culture.

Several critical initiatives resulted. The Board agreed to employ a part time executive director beginning immediately. Charles Moss was the unanimous choice and all look forward to Charlie's leadership in helping the Foundation achieve its goals. Also, Marzette Fisher is a newly elected board member.

A deadline was set for the production of the new Foundation sponsored book, "Creating Community," and a marketing strategy for book sales and dissemination was adopted. Approximately 60% of the funds required to publish the book have been committed. Proceeds from book sales will be used to endow architectural scholarships at Auburn and Tuskegee. Thanks to contributions from the Alabama

Council, Foundation scholarships will be



Jimmy Seay, AIA, and Pat Conrad (Alabama Architectural Foundation) accept a check for scholarships from President Art Hargrove, AIA, on behalf of The Alabama Council AIA.

awarded at both schools this spring.

Other policies adopted at the retreat included requiring a 100% Board member financial commitment to the AAF, placing additional emphasis on the Outstanding Building Award, and a continuation of the Silent Auction at the Alabama Council AIA annual convention.

AAF Silent Auction 2006

The Silent Auction is a "don't miss event" at the annual AIA convention. AIA members and affiliate members have

a great time bidding against each other. Sponsored by the Alabama Architectural Foundation, it features a multitude of great bargains. Proceeds from the auction will go toward the publication of the book *Architecture for Living Together*. Proceeds from the sale of the book go to scholarships for architectural students.

You can participate in the silent auction in two ways: by donating or by bidding on donations – OR BOTH!

Donate gift certificates, sporting event tickets, gift baskets, art work, etc.

Requested are items with a minimum value of \$100. Among items donated for last year's auction were original artwork, a trip to Callaway Gardens, a hunting trip with a well known architect, signed first additions, wine and golf clubs.

To donate your tax deductible item for the auction contact Pat Conrad no later than June 9th at (205) 531-7876 or pconrad@carapacecorp.com. All companies or persons making a donation will have their name listed on the auction list.

**2006 Convention to be held at the
Grove Park Inn in
Asheville, North Carolina**

Make plans this Father's Day to head for the mountains. Bring the whole family and enjoy all that Asheville has to offer. Specifically, make plans June 16-18 to stay at the Grove Park Inn and enjoy time with your friends and family at the Alabama Council AIA Annual Convention.

Make your reservations now by calling (800) 438-5800. Tell them you are with the Alabama Council AIA to receive your special rate of \$181 per night. The last day to make these reservations at this rate is May 6th, and rooms are already going quickly.

Education sessions will begin Friday and conclude around noon on Sunday. Enjoy speakers such as leading architect Marlon Blackwell of Arkansas and Bruce Johnson, furniture maker and author of the book *Built for the Ages: A History of the Grove Park Inn*. Hear about the latest technology (BIM) with Jim Martin of The Ritchie Organization (TRO). Visit with numerous affiliates, try your luck on their signature golf course, enjoy tours of the Grove Park Inn and The Biltmore or just chill in the cool Asheville air.

More information on convention activities and speakers will be mailed soon. Make your room reservations soon!



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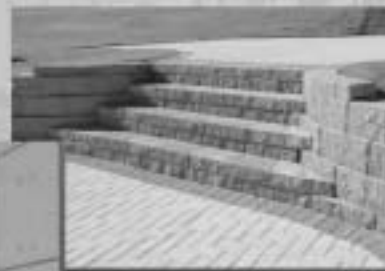
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Auburn University AiAS Update

Kathleen Simpson, AU AiAS President

AiAS Auburn University would like to thank all of the firms that attended our internship fairs this spring. Fifty-nine firms from New York to Montgomery and over a hundred students from second year to graduate level joined in the event. We have opened our resume website to the public, available at www.cadc.auburn.edu/aias/fair. There are more than 120 resumes posted.

Our chapter leadership is already working on next year's event. A few things to look forward to: an updated website with more information about the students interviewing, an opportunity to advertise your firm to students before the event, and an evening reception at Dudley Hall.

Due to the overwhelming success of our fair in Auburn, we have decided not to host a fair in Atlanta next year.

We are currently updating our mailing database to ensure every firm knows about the event in a timely



The Chapman Sisson firm interviews a student at the AiAS internship fair in January.

manner. If you have any input or would like to be added to our mailing list, please email aias@auburn.edu.

We are very excited to announce AiAS Auburn won the Auburn SGA Student Organization Fundraiser Award for it's continuing work on the Pumpkin Carve. And, this year all three elected

CADC student council representatives are AiAS officers.

The School of Architecture is currently conducting a search for a new department head. After five years in the position, Bruce Lindsey will return to teaching full-time this fall.

Also, the School of Architecture is putting a greater emphasis on community service. The architecture thesis students were required to complete a number of community service hours as a part of their coursework. AiAS and other student organizations continue to provide opportunities for students to work with Alabama Rural Ministries and Habitat for Humanity. DesignHabitat II is working on hurricane relief housing in a vertical studio this semester. While the Design-Build masters' students developed an economical housing system out of shipping containers last fall. Our Rural and Urban Studios continue their outreach work as the school seeks to give every design student the opportunity to serve the community.



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2006 Calendar of Events

April 17
Legislative Session Ends

June 8 - 11
AIA Annual Convention
Los Angeles Convention Center
Los Angeles, CA

June 16 - 18
Alabama Council Annual Convention
Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa
Asheville, NC

June 18
Alabama Council Third Quarterly
Meeting
Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa
Asheville, NC

September 15
Fall Wrap-Up Session

October 20
Alabama Council Fourth Quarterly
Meeting and Awards Gala
Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL

A R C H I T E C T

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