

Alabama Council AIA

Riley Declares Architecture Week

On April 10th, Alabama Council members headed to the hill to talk to the Alabama Legislature regarding issues such as the Statewide Building Code and the Statute of Limitations. And, they spent a moment with Governor Riley to celebrate his declaration of Architecture Week. For Alabama, Architecture Week was April 13th through April 21st.

AIA turns 150 this year! AIA has worked hard to provide the Ten Points of Livable Communities, Architecture Week Celebrations and AIA150 in an effort to help communities understand what architecture is, and how architects can provide safe communities and environments.

1. Design on a Human Scale

Compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural resources, and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit people's health.

2. Provide Choices

People want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation, and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and

accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.

3. Encourage Mixed-Use Development

Integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and diverse communities.

4. Preserve Urban Centers

Restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services and buildings and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promote stability for city neighborhoods.

5. Vary Transportation Options

Giving people the option of walking, biking and using public transit, in addition to driving, reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment and encourages physical activity.

6. Build Vibrant Public Spaces

Citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places to

stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.

7. Create a Neighborhood Identity

A "sense of place" gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.

8. Protect Environmental Resources

A well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution, and protects property values.

9. Conserve Landscapes

Open space, farms, and wildlife habitat are essential for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons.

10. Design Matters

Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.



Governor Riley and Alabama Council AIA members pictured on AIA Day in April.

President's Message

A Message from 2007 President Jay Jenkins, AIA
Jenkins Munroe Jenkins, Anniston



Jay Jenkins, AIA

It is my honor to serve as president of the Alabama Council AIA for 2007. I would be remiss if I did not start by thanking all those who have carried this torch before, understanding the need to serve our profession. I would like to extend special thanks to our past president, Mr. Art Hargrove, for his exceptional leadership and to Larry Vinson and Wendy Perry, our executive staff, who tirelessly serve year in and year out.

We have outlined several objectives for the coming year, focusing on better communication amongst our membership, modification of the current State Building Commission Fee Schedule, disaster assistance, statute of repose and AIA150.

Communication improvements must begin at the top. We must do a better job of conveying what is required of each position and develop ways to make our respective tasks easier to accomplish. We need to establish better lines of communication between our membership who travel to Grassroots, Regional and National events. We must do a better job of showing our membership, and just as importantly, our potential membership, the roles we play and the effects of our efforts on the entire profession. We must continue to develop our relationships with our peer groups to give us a louder voice in Montgomery when legislative goals are common to all. Several procedures were briefly outlined at the first quarterly meeting. We hope these procedures will not only improve this year's team, but carried forward throughout the years, make each subsequent group of leaders both more in touch with and more effective for our entire membership.

Following word of success in Louisiana and most recently Tennessee, Gary Greenshields has agreed to chair a committee to revise our current State Building Commission Fee Schedule. The fee schedule has not had an effective change made since 1974, although inflation, additional services required, and more expensive equipment and insurance has dramatically impacted our earnings. To date, we have received great interest from several engineering groups, with almost all committing vocal support and some who are offering financial support as well. Gary is working with economics professors at Auburn University to analyze our fees and our costs over the past thirty years, which we believe will show a tangible loss over time for all architects and a

justification for a change. We expect the first of two reports relative to this issue in hand by the end of the month.

Butch Grimes continues to work with a special task force developing an effective plan of action in the event of a disaster. The task force is being chaired by FEMA representatives and involves a number of different disciplines. The hope is that by working through this process, we can define exactly what roles each respective profession can play immediately following any disaster, so the public is both better and more quickly served.

Don Brown and Richard Meinert continue to serve as legislative committee chairs, with hopes of modifying the statute of repose for architects, currently 13 years, to more closely match that of the national average. Additionally, they will continue to work with our lobbyists, Fine & Geddie, to monitor all upcoming legislation, analyzing its effect on our profession, and advising our membership of any action needed.

2007 marks the 150th year of the AIA, and in as much, national has defined ten strategies to be implemented in the coming months and years to better serve our profession and planet. Rob Walker and Patrick Davis are chairing a team which will get the message out, celebrating our organization's efforts and putting architecture in higher focus among our communities.

As you can see, there is a strong team of leaders already in place, but we need the participation of all. If something above interests you, let us know. If something above disturbs you, we need to hear that as well. Getting involved is the only way to effect change.

Thank you for your support through the coming year.



President Jay Jenkins, AIA, and First Vice President Linda Snapp, AIA, pictured with the Proclamation for Architecture Week.

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Alabama Architectural Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Charles Moss, AIA Emeritus & AAF Executive Director

The Alabama Architectural Foundation's (AAF) new officers for 2007 are: Don Brown, President; Patrick Davis, Vice President; Hal Gandy, Treasurer and Scott Williams, Secretary.

The AAF is pleased to be taking a part in celebrating AIA150 in Alabama. Our new publication *COMMUNITY IN ALABAMA: Architecture for Living Together* will have a prologue saluting this special occasion in 2007 with the book containing "Principles of Livable Communities". AAF will also work with the civic leadership and citizens of a few communities who have addressed certain issues and have had the opportunity to improve and to implement these concerns. The publication of the new book is currently paused for the moment to increase the principles I have just mentioned and to make some fresh additions of community groups. This pause, we

hope, can enable us to move forward within the next few months, so that we can have the book printed sometime in the spring or early summer.

We also have four new members on our Board of Directors. They are: Roy Swindal of Masonry Arts, Birmingham; Kristine Harding, AIA, of JH Partners Huntsville; Geoffrey Golden, General Contractor, Birmingham; and Gorman Schaffer, PE, of Fairhope/Jackson, MS.

The Significant Building Award (or Outstanding Building) nomination process is being reviewed under committee assignment and will be presented to the Board for approval shortly, so that the Foundation can submit the entry forms to the AIA membership later this year.

We are looking forward to Convention in July at The Village of Baytowne Wharf. We will continue the Silent Auction and we are very fortunate to keep Pat Conrad on the Board for another year.

Alabama Council AIA in Washington

In February, architects representing Alabama visited Washington, D.C. for the annual Grassroots Convention. Members of the Alabama Council visited your legislators to request assistance in pertinent issues related to architects across the nation. AIA's Congressional Issue Agenda included Federal Building Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Design and Water Quality and Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deductions.

Federal Building Energy Efficiency

Alabama Council AIA members informed legislators that AIA is committed to sustainable design and want to help reduce energy consumption in the built environment. AIA believes the federal government should encourage energy efficiency. Congress can promote energy-

efficient practices by establishing energy efficiency requirements for newly constructed or significantly renovated federal buildings. AIA members urged Congress to consider legislation that directs federal agencies to require that all buildings constructed or significantly renovated after January 1, 2010, consume no more than one-half the energy that a similar building consumed in 2003. Also, after 2010, in five-year increments, agencies should follow a declining cap on energy consumption for new federal buildings and major modifications, such that they meet aggressive energy performance reductions when compared to the 2003 baseline.

Sustainable Design and Water Quality

AIA advocates strengthening federal regulatory requirements to better

control sources of pollution. AIA supports legislation that would provide incentives to construct buildings and landscapes to minimize contribution to water quality degradation. Members of AIA asked that legislators support legislation that mandates that any recipient of federal funding for water projects through the State Revolving Fund of the Clean Water Act must consider the use of green infrastructure projects in its water plan.

Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction

The 109th Congress approved legislation that provides a tax deduction for constructing energy-efficient commercial buildings and for installing energy-efficient systems in existing buildings, but this deduction expires in December 2008. AIA believes this deduction should be extended until 2013 ([HR 539](#)) and that Congress should increase the size of the deduction to make it more effective and will provide greater incentives to construct energy-efficient buildings and install energy-efficient systems.

Update: Robert Aderholt is a cosponsor of [HR 539](#). Before Grassroots, this legislation had 75 co-sponsors. The list has grown to 136 co-sponsors and is still growing.

H.R. 1043- The Community Restoration and Revitalization Act

Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) and Phil English (R-PA) reintroduced the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act on February 15th with 24 original cosponsors; the bill now has a total of 43 cosponsors. From Alabama, cosponsors include Jo Bonner, Bud Cramer and Artur Davis. Eight other members of the committee have also signed on. At the same time, Sens. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Gordon Smith (R-OR), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) introduced a Senate version of the same bill, [S.584](#). Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) are also cosponsoring the bill.



Senator Shelby and Alabama Council AIA members at Grassroots in February.



Alabama Council AIA's Past President, Art Hargrove, and North Alabama Chapter President Christine Kirchberg Jones and Secretary Paul Matheny visit with Congressman Cramer while in Washington at the Grassroots convention.

**Alabama Council AIA
2007 Convention
"Strength in Adversity"**

We are working to make this year's convention even bigger, better, and more productive for our members and guests. You and your family will be able to enjoy the shopping and beaches without having to drive anywhere.

The Alabama Council's 2007 Convention will begin on Friday, July 6th and conclude on Sunday, July 8th. It's the weekend after the Fourth of July, so bring the whole family. We have rooms available at the group rate beginning on July 4th. Remember to mention you are with the Alabama Council AIA to receive our group rate. You can call the Sandestin directly at (800) 320.8115 to reserve your room. You must call before June 4th to get the group rate, so call today!

**2007
Professional Affiliates**

These companies have put their money on the line for Alabama Council members. Their support of AIA will help us be more effective in representing Alabama Architects.

When making decisions on products and services, please keep these companies in mind. They are strong supporters of the Alabama Council and your profession.

Information on this program may be obtained from our website at www.aiaalabama.org or by calling the state office at (334) 264.3037.

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NCARB Announces Staff Leadership Restructure

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards announced a restructuring of its staff leadership that will bring a new focus on more integrated programs and improved operations over the next decade. The restructure is part of a continuing effort to more effectively service its wide-ranging constituency.

The core of the change is the establishment of two vice president level positions that will report directly to Executive Vice President Lenore M. Lucey, FAIA. Mary S. de Sousa will move up to vice president, operations, and Stephen Nutt, AIA, will move up to vice president, programs. Both de Sousa and Nutt are long-term NCARB staff members who bring a positive energy and commitment to NCARB constituents, its mission, and to their new posts.

Together with the executive vice president, these two vice presidents will form the Office of the EVP. The leadership of the Council offered its strong support to this restructuring.



Mary S. de Sousa, Vice President, Operations



Stephen Nutt, AIA, Vice President, Programs

**Position Open at Walcott
Adams Verneulle**

Walcott Adams Verneulle is seeking an Intern Architect/ Architect with 1-5 years experience. The hired candidate will be involved in all phases of work from schematic design through construction documents, and will participate in client meetings. He or she will also assist in scheduling and coordinating selected projects within our office and will be involved in construction administration.

Candidates must have excellent design, communication and organizational skills. B.Arch or M.Arch is required. Candidate should be proficient in Macintosh OS X and VectorWorks.

Please email cover letter, resume and work samples to info@wavarchitects.com; by fax (251) 928.6045; by mail: Walcott Adams Verneulle Architects, One South School St, Fairhope, AL 36532.

Calendar of Events

May 3 - 7, 2007
AIA National Convention
San Antonio, TX

July 6 - 8, 2007
Alabama Council AIA
Annual Convention
The Village of Baytowne Wharf
Sandestin, FL

July 8, 2007
Third Quarterly Council Meeting
& Annual Membership Meeting
Sandestin, FL

September 14, 2007
Fall Wrap-Up Education Session
Montgomery, AL

October 2007
Fourth Quarterly Council Meeting

January 2008
Design Awards Gala &
First Quarterly Council Meeting

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Past President Art Hargrove, AIA, presents Butch Grimes, AIA, with a 2006 Member Service Award for his work with the Disaster Assistance Task Force.



Past President Art Hargrove, AIA, presents Patrick Davis, AIA, with a 2006 Member Service Award for his continuous efforts in AIA.



David Fountain of State Farm Insurance speaks to members of the Alabama Council AIA about the statewide building code.

The Alabama Architect newsletter is published quarterly. Submissions of articles or advertisements can be made by sending materials to the Alabama Council AIA, Post Office Box 240757, Montgomery, AL 36124-0757, or by faxing the Alabama Council at 334.272.7128. Advertising rates and availability can be requested by calling the Alabama Council at 334.264.3037. Publication dates are subject to change based on information received.