

Alabama Council AIA

Has the Business Ever Been Better? Have You Given Back?

The past few years have seen unprecedented growth and produced more work than some firms can produce. These have certainly been fruitful years for architects.

There has been more competition in trying to find and hire architects and engineers than there has been vying for projects. The \$1 billion school bond issue will surely be followed by additional bond issues to repair, replace and improve the infrastructure across the state. Yes, business has been good and the future looks promising as well.

The question – Have you given back to the profession? The old saying has never been more true, “With Success Comes Responsibility.” • Responsibility to give back by joining and getting more involved in the professional association, AIA, giving \$100 to ArchiPAC, the political voice of the profession. • Responsibility of becoming an Intern Friendly Firm, pursuing LEED certification, getting more involved in your community, working with students and community leaders to advocate livable communities and supporting the AIA Foundation, to name just a few. These activities go hand in

hand with the practice of architecture. We believe one begets the other.

However, for the purposes of this article, we want to concentrate on ArchiPAC. Our goal is for every firm to contribute \$100 for every architect and associate on staff each year. Under Alabama law, a corporation can contribute up to \$500 per election cycle to as many political action committees as they please. As of today, a corporation can contribute up to \$18,500 to ArchiPAC. That amount will revert back to \$1,500 on January 1st. We realize our chances of receiving an \$18,500 contribution from a firm is unlikely. But, the point is that the firm can give a generous amount, reflective of all architects and associates in the firm.

Candidates are already raising funds for the 2008 General Elections. Our industry partners are taking advantage of this boom time to build their coffers and help their friends win election to office. We must do likewise.

The Presidential election will be the lead race in 2008, but we have a United States Senate seat, all seven of our Congressional seats, one

seat on the Alabama Supreme Court, one seat on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and hundreds of local offices up for election. We have numerous issues facing the profession and we must be represented. We are over 685 strong today in the Alabama Council. But, without a collective voice, we will not be heard.

As the year draws to a close, please take a few moments to reflect on the questions above and consider what you can give back. We encourage you to give back in all of the activities listed above, and we especially encourage you to give to ArchiPAC to help us prepare for the future.

Please take a few moments today to send your personal contribution to ArchiPAC. Or, your firm can contribute up to \$18,500 to ArchiPAC. Mail checks, payable to ArchiPAC, to the Alabama Council Office, at Post Office Box 240757, Montgomery, AL 36124.

If you have any questions about ArchiPAC, please contact the Council office. Thank you for your contributions to the profession.

ARCHITECT
ALABAMA



President's Message

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



Jay Jenkins, AIA

At the start of this year, I defined several objectives for the Council. With assistance from a large cross section of the membership, we were able to achieve significant progress on most all fronts.

Communication has certainly improved among members. Getting word out about what we do has done more than improve our efficiency. Our membership has grown by 10%, with active participation in all areas of the state, not just the larger cities. We continue to foster better relations with our contemporaries and look to be in good position to generate support for our initiatives in the upcoming legislative session. Each member of the executive council spent a part of their year writing a journal of sorts, outlining specific duties, complications encountered, and success stories which have been transferred to the next in line. Our hope is these efforts will yield improved results from our leaders in the coming years.

As noted previously, efforts to make changes through the legislature were minimally successful, largely due to bipartisan political agendas, but we are in a strong position to restate our cases for the coming year. Gary Greenshields has led a team trying to modify the State Building Commission fee schedule, garnering financial support from many of our peers and verbal support from some of the Building Commission Board of Directors. Gary has agreed to continue his efforts and it is possible we will see some positive change within the next year.

AIA 150 Campaign, celebrating our 150th year of organization, has presented 10 Strategies of Livable Communities, an outline of how to make our towns better places to live. The message presented by Patrick Davis and Rob Walker has brought architecture to the forefront of discussion on quality of life, exposing assets architects can offer a community. In concert with this campaign, Alabama Architectural Foundation released its second book, *Community in Alabama*, which is currently touring the state with book signings scheduled from Florence to Anniston to Mobile. Check the foundation website, (www.alabamaarchitecturalfoundation.org) for an event near you and plan to attend.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as 2007 president of The Alabama Council AIA. I could have filled this entire column with the names of those who have assisted and supported my efforts. Suffice it to say that effective leadership is never accomplished by one person, but instead by a mass of individuals with common goals and the necessary desire to reach for them. I truly appreciate each and every member. And to future leaders, may I say, I am here to serve you, just as you have done for me.



American Institute of Architecture Students

DON'T MISS OUT!

AUBURN UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP FAIR

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2008

AUBURN UNIVERSITY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

AUBURN, AL

EMAIL JENNIFER SMITH AT INTERNSHIPFAIR@AUBURN.EDU

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND MATERIALS.

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Birmingham



AGC Launches Competing Contract Programs

On November 5th 2007, the AIA officially released the 2007 Update to AIA Contract Documents. The AIA prepared the 2007 Update, which consists primarily of agreements in the popular A201 family of documents, with input from owners, contractors, attorneys, architects and engineers. The 2007 Update includes nearly 40 contract documents, including new owner/architect agreements.

The AIA, working with the AIA's Documents Committee, revises the A201 family every ten years to reflect changes in industry trends and practices. Work began on the 2007 Update in 2004, when the AIA solicited industry feedback on the 1997 A201 family of documents from more than a dozen industry organizations representing contractors, subcontractors, engineers, owners, and the attorneys who represent them. Many AIA members participated from committees such as The Committee on the Environment, Technology and Practice, Practice Management, the Small Project Practitioners, and the Risk Management Committee. The drafting process included sending two sets of agreement drafts to these groups for their comments and suggestions, and meeting in person with representatives from many organizations to address their concerns. This process resulted in the publication of updated agreements that take into account the interests of all contracting parties and reflect current industry practices.

In the past, the AIA has sought and received the Associated General Contractors' endorsement of A201, General Conditions of the Contract for Construction. This year, however, the AGC board of directors voted not to endorse A201-2007. Although the AGC did not provide any reason for not endorsing A201-2007, the AGC launched its own new documents,

called ConsensusDocs, on September 28, 2007 that they have intentionally positioned to compete directly with AIA Contract Documents. This quote (ENR March 07) by the AGC's spokesperson, J. William Ernstrom, Esq., "The AIA 201 documents are going to come very soon as a second choice to the consensus documents," says a very great deal about the AGC's motives.

The AGC touts their ConsensusDocs as a product of designers, owners, and contractors but, in fact, no organization representing design professionals took part in the development of the ConsensusDocs. The AIA and the engineering societies, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers, did not participate in the AGC's new program. Without the involvement of designers, these agreements can hardly be said to reflect "consensus."

While it is unfortunate news that the AGC has allowed current business interests to prevent it from voting to endorse A201-2007, AIA Contract Documents remain the industry standard. Only the AIA provides the winning combination of fair and balanced content with a state-of-the-art delivery system, AIA Contract Documents software, which generates documents in Microsoft® Word to allow easy editing and collaboration with colleagues and clients. AIA members can be reassured that every possible effort is being made to ensure that AIA Contract Documents remain the most respected and most widely used in the industry.

Sherlock, Smith & Adams Receives Preservation Award

The Alabama Historical Commission presented its annual preservation awards on Sept. 21st during the Alabama Preservation Conference held in Huntsville.

Sherlock, Smith and Adams, an architectural and engineering firm based in Montgomery, received a distinguished service award for its renovation of Birmingham's grand gothic-inspired Woodlawn High School. Completed in 1922, today Woodlawn Magnet High School serves around 600 students. Because of the leadership of Principal Shirley Graham, Sherlock, Smith & Adams was

commissioned to renovate the building.

"Woodlawn High School had always been a source of pride for this community and embodied a sense of place and belonging for students, their parents, and faculty. The design team of Sherlock, Smith & Adams knew this was an opportunity to make a difference for not only the children, but for the entire community," said Sander

Dix, AIA, the managing architect for the project.

Exterior limestone was painstakingly cleaned and replacement pieces handpicked to match existing textures and colors.

Emphasis was placed on preserving the awe-inspiring mural in the high school's auditorium which was painted between 1934 and 1939 by Sidney van Sheck and Richard Blauvelt Coe for the Works Progress Administration. A campaign is underway to raise \$190,000 for restoration of the mural.

Suspended interior ceilings were removed to reveal beautiful plastered molding and cornice work. Great emphasis was placed on preserving the awe-inspiring mural in the auditorium

painted between 1934 and 1939 for the Works Progress Administration. A fundraising campaign for the mural's restoration is now underway.

The Alabama Preservation Conference is sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Black Heritage Council, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Historic Huntsville Foundation. The three-day conference focused on the historic Tennessee Valley.

To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission.



At left, the original mural in the Woodlawn High School Auditorium, (restored) which was painted between 1934 and 1939.

Photo by Sherlock, Smith & Adams

Plan for the 2008 Convention Today!

Plan now to attend the 2008 Alabama Council AIA Convention, to be held at the beautifully renovated Battle House in Mobile, June 20-22. The convention chair is in the process of planning a wonderful convention filled with energetic, prominent speakers for your educational enjoyment. We also plan to have a four to eight hour session on preparing for the ARE Exam, so interns, students and associates, please make plans to attend as well!

We invite you to bring the whole family to Mobile. Close to The Battle House you will find the newly con-

structed RSA Battle House Tower, which is now the tallest building in Alabama, the Exploreum, IMAX Theater, Mobile Museum of Art, and many other historic museums and areas of interest.

To reserve your room, you can contact The Battle House at (251) 338-2000. Remember to tell reservations you are with the Alabama Council AIA to receive your special rate of \$149/night. We will mail out convention brochures in late April, but you can go ahead and reserve your hotel room today!





The Alabama Architectural Foundation Moving Forward with New Book and Website

The Board Members of the Alabama Architectural Foundation are pleased to announce the arrival of the new book, *Community in Alabama*. The new books arrived in time for the very first book signing held on November 1st at Architecture Works in Birmingham. A wonderful book review was printed the previous morning in *The Birmingham News*. The front page of the *Lifestyle* section featured the book review by Michael Huebner, a feature editor for the news, and images from the book were on the front page and on inside pages of the paper. Because quite a number of people had seen this article we had a wonderful group to attend the book signing/reception.

The coordinator for this first book signing was Dick Pigford of Architecture Works, whose office and staff furnished the space in the Saw Works Conference rooms with wonderful refreshments and music, and hosted Alice Bowsher and Lewis Kennedy, who were on hand to sign the books.

Another book signing was held in Florence on Thursday, November 15th at The Rosenbaum House. The event was coordinated by Don Lambert of Lambert Ezell Durham. Other dates are December 9th in Mobile at the Mobile Public Library, December 10th in Fairhope at the Page and pallet Book Store, and February 21st, 2008, in Auburn at the Auburn University Library. The foundation would love for you to visit and have your support. These books make wonderful Christmas gifts for family, friends, coworkers and clients. If you are interested in purchasing the new book, you may contact Charlie Moss at mosscharles@bellsouth.net, or purchase the book at a book signing.

The Foundation would also like to thank Don Brown for taking the time to engage a firm in Montgomery to rework the Foundation website, www.alabamaarchitecturalfoundation.org. Here you will not only be able to see the sources, activities and schedules for the book signings over the state, but you will also be able to view our accomplishments, such as the Distinguished Architect of the Year and the Significant Building of the Year. We will continue to update the website as we move forward.

Design Awards Gala Set for January at The Country Club of Birmingham

The Annual Alabama Council AIA Awards Gala will be held at The Country Club of Birmingham on Thursday, January 31st. We hope you will make plans to attend this event, particularly dedicated to honoring great architecture. A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Thirty-five entries were submitted to the Design Awards Jury, and six have received awards. These winners and their projects will be recognized at the

Gala. Also on this night, the prestigious Accolade Award recipient will be announced, as will the winner of the President's Award, Service Awards, Top Block Award, and the AAF's Distinguished Architect Award. You will also be able to vote on your favorite entry for the Member Choice Award, voted on by AIA members during the reception.

Please come and enjoy the evening, support your profession, and enjoy the atmosphere of The Country Club of

2007 Professional Affiliates

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.

Professional Affiliate Partners (\$1000)

Alabama Concrete Industries
Association
Alabama Power Company
Carapace, LLC
Henry Brick Company, Inc.
J.R. Prewitt & Associates
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Professional Affiliate Members (\$500)

Alabama Business Furnishings
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Duro Last Roofing
Emack Slate
iLevel by Weyerhaeuser
J. S. Cotney
Marvin Windows by Dale
Masonry Arts
McPhillips Manufacturing Company
Missco Contract Sales
PGT Industries
Smart Vent
Unistrut Alabama
Walter Hopkins

Birmingham as you mix and mingle with your peers. Invitations to the Gala will be mailed out shortly.

For those traveling out of town to the Gala, a block of rooms have been reserved at The Embassy Suites Hotel on Hwy 280. You can reserve your room today by calling (205) 879-7400. The First Quarterly Council Meeting will be held the following day, February 1st, at The Embassy Suites Hotel.

Calendar of Events

January 31, 2008

Design Awards Gala
The Country Club of Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

February 1, 2008

First Quarterly Council Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel
Birmingham, AL

February 11-12, 2008

Auburn University AIAS
Internship Fair
The Hotel at Auburn University
Auburn, AL

February 20 - 23, 2008

AIA Grassroots
Grand Hyatt
Washington, DC

April 22, 2008

Second Quarterly Council Meeting
and Legislative Day
RSA Plaza
Montgomery, AL

May 15 - 17, 2008

AIA National Convention
Boston, MA

June 20 - 22, 2008

Alabama Council AIA Convention
The Battle House
Mobile, AL

June 22, 2008

Third Quarterly Council Meeting &
Annual Membership Meeting
The Battle House
Mobile, AL

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National's Webinar, Advocacy 101, Moderated by Don Brown, AIA, a Success

*(taken from Institute Update, November 2007, issued by Chris McEntee,
Executive Vice President/CEO)*

Advocacy 101 Webcast a Hit with Members: Why don't more AIA members participate actively in the civic life of their communities? As I noted in the October *Update*, sometimes it's because they've never been asked. However, it may also be a matter of not knowing how to begin.

To help AIA members learn about the advocacy process, the AIA Government Advocacy team hosted a Webcast on Wednesday, November 14th, which we called *Advocacy 101: Advocating for Public Safety & Health*. The Webcast presented a lively panel discussion moderated by Don Brown, AIA.

The panelists were Mike Rodriguez, AIA, 2007 Vice President; Clark Manu, FAIA, 2008 Vice President; Walter Hainsfurther, AIA; and Stephanie Vance. Although Advocacy 101 was designed to help members

learn how to set up, prepare for, and follow-up on visits with elected and appointed officials, staff wasn't sure how many members would sign on to the two-hour Webcast, which was provided at no cost to AIA members. The results in fact exceeded our most optimistic expectations: Over 1000 members signed on.

Comment: The ability to ask the panelists questions in real time is a feature unique to the Webcast tool. It is another indication that the AIA use of new communications technologies to serve its members in a variety of formats. Unlike Webinars, which are conference calls that simultaneously run PowerPoint presentations over the Web, Webcasts allow for interaction as if the audience were right in the room. This initiative sets a new level of sophistication in the way AIA national and members are able to interact.