



December 31, 2009

Hello AIA Cincinnati Members,

This is my last letter to the Chapter as President. Let me first say that I love this Profession. I love being around the people who are in this Profession. And I loved serving this Profession over the last year and I want to thank you all for allowing me to be AIA Cincinnati's 2009 President.

This last year went by very quickly in some areas of my duties as President and incredibly slowly in other areas. But I got through it all with your help. In spite of the economy, this last year was a good year for me in many ways. I had the privilege of working with the most amazing Board. A Board that was always asking, "What can we do for our members?" and sometimes more importantly if not more challenging, "**How** are we going to provide this program or that program to our members?". The answer was not always easy to find since the Chapter was (and is) strapped for cash, but somehow, things happened, people stepped up and solved what at first appeared to be unsolvable obstacles. The other honor for me has been representing some of the hardest working volunteer members of AIA Cincinnati who never once quit volunteering in the face of adversity and lay-offs. These folks were some of the most self-sacrificing individuals, working in order to bring the programs and events to the rest of the Chapter members. It was an amazing experience to be a part of such dedicated outstanding individuals.

Although the Chapter had fewer members than the previous year, the Board managed to financially budget responsibly and still offer outstanding programs for continuing education, support outreach committee's events, and even start a few new committees requested by you, the Members.

Some of the major accomplishments are as follows:

AIA Cincinnati Office became a virtual office which happened without a hitch, with many other Chapters following suit.

AIA Cincinnati Urban Design Committee started up and has already had two very successful events, the joint venture with the CAC and the hosting of the debate on Issue 9. They also have been successful in scheduling a lecture Internationally known Peter Head of Arup International.

AIA Cincinnati Committee on the Environment teamed with USGBC and AIA Congress of Residential Architects to produce the first Residential Green Building Summit in Cincinnati. COTE also helped run the Habitat for Humanity State wide Design Competition.

AIA Cincinnati strengthened our ties to the University of Cincinnati's School of Architecture and Interior Design through the SAIDWorks events and with the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati (AFC) in the Brewery District Design Charrette.

AIA Cincinnati participated in the AIA Ohio Valley Regional Convention which was a success by the numbers both in attendance and income.

AIA Cincinnati's Communication Committee planned and launched a new website allowing the Chapter to be more efficient at communicating to its members as well as present more Architecture to the public.

AIA Cincinnati's Architecture By Children (ABC) is off to another great start at reaching over a 1,000 students in Cincinnati with a team transition plan in place.

AIA Cincinnati's Golf Outing was another fun success and the major fund raiser as usual, despite the economic environment.

AIA Cincinnati's Congress of Residential Architecture (CORA) committee's Residential Design Awards Program was the first of its kind in the Country.

AIA Cincinnati polled the members with an extensive questionnaire, compiled the data, and is responding with the development of a new Leadership program to be launched in the next year.

AIA Cincinnati Emerging Professionals regrouped and began meeting on a regular basis once again, with the addition of a new "Book Club" meeting.

AIA Cincinnati Program Committee developed a comprehensive approach to bringing quality programs and scheduling events to assure a smooth transition of Past Board to New Board.

Construction delivered the goods once again donating tens of thousands of can goods to the Free Store Food Bank.

Most recently, a Building Code Committee was formed to address building code issues that arise from time to time.

There are a few individuals that require special mention for their accomplishments and dedication to the profession over the last year. They are:

John W. Rogers, AIA for being elected to the position of AIA National Treasurer.

Michael N. Schuster, FAIA for being elected AIA Ohio Treasurer.

Brian McAlexander, Assoc. AIA, for being elected AIA Ohio Valley Region Associate Director.

James L. Titus, AIA, for receiving the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

and last but not least,

John C. Senhauser, FAIA, for receiving the AIA Ohio Gold Medal Award.

It is also important to note with respect the passing of three of our Members in 2009.

Gerald S. Hammond, FAIA

Robert G. Steinkamp, Jr., AIA

and

Richard H. Wheeler, FAIA

The Chapter extends our deepest sympathies to their families, colleagues, and friends.

You all should be proud of yourselves in what you as a Chapter accomplished this last year, yet once again, we still have more work to do. I encourage all of you to join with the 2010 Board under the leadership of the 2010 AIA Cincinnati President, Douglas Richards, AIA, LEED AP and make 2010 the year that brings the Members together, that outreaches to our community and its design challenges, that helps those who need help in these tough economic times. I have

known Doug since he was in Architecture school at U.C. I have kept track of his career ever since he co-oped with RWA. He is quite capable of leading us through this next year and we are very lucky to have him as our new President. Doug is one of the most talented Architects I know and is extremely passionate about Architecture as you will soon find out. Take the time to meet Doug and the Board and discuss the Chapter and the Profession with them. Please help the Board keep AIA Cincinnati the "voice of the profession". I am asking each and every one of you to do everything you can to attend the programs as well as the Chapter meetings. In the belief that a personal invitation is more powerful than an e-mail announcement, I ask that you get in the habit of asking your colleague sitting next to you, or the friend who is out of work, or the co-op student who worked with you but is now back in school, to attend a meeting with you. I believe that the more we can all learn and network *together* the stronger we will all be at facing the challenging times ahead. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I need to thank a few people specifically, before I sign off. First, I need to thank my family whom I know did not see me very much this last year due to my AIA commitments. Thanks for sharing.

Secondly, I need to thank my business partner at RWA, John Isch, AIA, LEED AP and the rest of the staff at RWA who supported me while being away from the office, allowed me to commandeer the RWA conference room for Board meetings, and for their participation in many of AIA Cincinnati committees.

Last but not least, I would like to thank AIA Cincinnati Executive Director, Pat Daugherty, SDA/C, RUF. As a past Director informed me when I first came on the Board, "Nothing gets done in the organization without Pat." Let me say that I quickly learned that he was not kidding. Pat, thank you for coaching, mentoring, and advising me over the last year. Your institutional historical knowledge is invaluable to the Chapter. We are lucky to have you.

Remember:

**The AIA does not make Architects. The AIA makes Architects better Architects!**

Sincerely,

Michael R. Mauch, AIA, LEED AP  
2009 AIA Cincinnati President