



*It only takes one. It only takes you!*

Dear AIA Cincinnati Member,

**Story telling.** This is how we learn, and this is the way parents teach their children... the parables of the Bible are story telling at its best. Story telling, we learned from Bruce Simoneax, the keynote speaker at last week's Procrastinator's University, is probably the best method of teaching. Today, as our profession is facing the delineation between generations from the Silent Generation to the Baby Boomers to the Generation X'ers to the Generation Y'ers also known as Echo Boomers. We, as professionals and as people, can use story telling to communicate why we do things the way we do. By talking about our experiences and "the old processes", we can help those following in our footsteps to understand why we love our profession. Please consider telling your story to your younger staff...keep that passion alive.

On Tuesday, I met with CORA Architects, and one of the questions I was asked to address was that the AIA has not been perceived as particularly friendly to the small firm or to the sole practitioner. A part of my response dealt with the enormity of our organization, and that there is place for all kinds of expressions of our profession. The majority of my response was that when you participate in an organization beyond just being a member, when you volunteer your time, and when you attend the events, the result is that you feel more a part of the organization. Two of the four elected officers this year represent small firms, doing a lot of residential work, so if you own or work in a small firm, they are your voice on our Board of Directors. I want to thank Greg Nicholls who prepared the power point and pretty much led the discussion.

AIA 150 Report presented to the Board of County Commissioners on April 7, 2008. Paul Muller, Andy Corn, Pat Daugherty, and I met with the Board; Paul, as Chairman of AIA Cincinnati's anniversary celebration did a terrific job in summarizing and presenting the final report to the Commissioners. Thank you to Paul!

Next week I will be attending AIA National Convention as your President. This will be my first national convention, and I am looking forward to visiting Boston again. If you are attending, you need to contact Pat or me in regards to the voting credentials card needed to obtain a ballot. A change to the By-Laws which will eliminate supplemental dues is to be voted on. It appears that Toronto, Ontario has been considered for one of our national convention cities in the future. New contracts addressing integrated practice are to be rolled out at the convention. I plan to give you an update on these and other news when I return.

**Some news for retired Architects.** The Governor signed SB225 into law, and Board of Architects staff is drafting the rules to go to public hearing soon. The change addresses the continuing education requirement for those in retirement, and the effective date will be late summer or early fall.

Attendance at our events continues to be low. Our Program Committee is working hard to find interesting programs and new ideas or venues for education for you. If you think of our events only as *this is how I get my credits*, you are missing a lot. This year, we have had to cancel breakfast tours, lunch and learns, an evening program, and a webinar for lack of reservations. Our goal has been to provide valuable and stimulating education that you can't get from vendors or in house training. It appears that attendance started dropping significantly about two years ago when the continuing education requirement for your professional license took effect. Ironically, many of our members are finding other sources of education, and not choosing the AIA as their provider of choice. The benefits to you by attending an AIA event is not just the credits. When you attend these events, you see old friends and meet new ones.

Your Board of Directors is in need of information from you on what your expectations are from your professional organization. We will be inviting you to fill out a survey soon on our program ideas, content, time, location, etc. We need your feedback to provide what you would like. Our sponsors really help with the funding of our organization, and we need our members to support their generosity by attending the functions that they present to you. Please send your comments to Pat Daugherty; the Program Committee needs your advice.

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*Update on the website*, short and sweet, the Communications Committee is working on it. We may have found a website designer as we are getting the final proposal tweaked. My hope is to have a contract in place by June.

#### ***What you have missed lately!***

April was Residential Month, and we started with the ABC Judging of Dwellings at the library and a panel discussion on *Current Residential Trends* with members of CORA.

GBBN, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hosted an evening at the Contemporary Arts Center, with Kim Patton, AIA, APA speaking on *Environmental Issues from Residential to Multi-Family in China*. Attendees were treated to the Daniel Libeskind exhibit. A special thank you to GBBN for sponsoring this event.

SAID Works at DAAP. Kevin R. Roche, spoke on *Design Matters, Moving From Objects to Experiences* and 17 local firms had the opportunity to speak with and interview up coming architectural graduates at DAAP. These firms are re-recruiting locally to keep this talent in Cincinnati. This was the second SAID event this year. If your firm is interested in participating next year, contact Pat Daugherty.

Our spring Procrastinator's University took place on Friday, May 2, 2008. Those attending received seven CEUs. All of the seminars were two hours in length, except for Bruce Simoneaux's keynote talk at the lunch break. The surveys from those in attendance, plus the spoken comments were extremely positive. If you have not attended either of our Procrastinator's Universities, you have missed some terrific seminars with valuable content; courses that stimulate your thinking along with the nuts and bolts stuff. Imagine 7 CEU's for \$100; that's \$14.00 per credit hour with breakfast and lunch free (parking cost \$5.00).

Today, we had a Chapter Breakfast meeting at Roberts Paideia Academy. The speaker was from The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute speaking on *Designing with Architectural Precast Concrete*. Randy Merrill gave us a tour of the facility which was designed by MSP.

#### ***What's Happening Next?***

AIA National Convention in Boston, May 15-17, 2008.

OCAS Expo, May 22, 2008.

*2008 Golf Outing at the Vineyard Golf Course on June 16, 2008.* There are only a few hole sponsorships at \$400 still available. Contact Pat if you are interested.

Well, I need to finish this letter so Pat can send it to you before I leave for Boston. Remember *It only takes one. It only takes you!*

Sincerely,

Tonia F. Edwards, AIA, CBO  
President, AIA Cincinnati