

president's column

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light/space/design
2004 president aiaVT*

aiaVT



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With the AIAVermont Annual Awards meeting around the corner, and the New England Regional Program and Awards in Middlebury now history, I'm feeling not just a sense of relief, but also of accomplishment. We've had a great year! Those of us on the Board of Directors all know how much AIAVermont has to thank Hanne Williams, our Executive Director, for allowing this organization to run as smoothly as it does. As our member's main contact with AIAVermont, Hanne exemplifies the thoughtful, personal, and non-bureaucratic professionalism that we would all hope to see more of every day of our lives. We are so happy to have her, and all of her experience, guiding our efforts.

As we approach the AIAVermont Annual Meeting and Awards, I would like to encourage architects to think about the people, architects and non-architects alike, who you would like to recognize for helping to bring excellent architectural design and planning to Vermont. These can be clients, who get recognition directly when their projects win awards. They also can be community leaders and planners, who set the stage in our communities for good design. Is there a newspaper writer or TV station that has brought recognition of good community and architectural design to its reading or viewing public? AIAVermont would like to recognize such individuals.

If you would like to nominate someone who you feel deserves special recognition, please send their name, an explanation of their contribution, and your contact information to Hanne Williams at aiavt@madriver.com by December 10th. We certainly would like to hear from AIA members all around the State. And, we hope to see as many of you as possible in Burlington on December 15th at our annual bash.

excerpts from Le Corbusier's many written tracts:

Towards a New Architecture: guiding principles

Architecture

The lessons of Rome.

The business of Architecture is to establish emotional relationships by means of raw materials.

Architecture goes beyond utilitarian needs.

Architecture is a plastic thing.

The spirit of order, a unity of intention.

The sense of relationships; architecture deals with quantities.

Passion can create drama out of inert stone.

cont.

12.04:1



gba office



private residence



woodbury college

firm profile- gossens bachman architects: *GBA*

We believe architecture is an art, achieved by collaboration. Our buildings are inspired by culture and place, creating interior and exterior spaces that are a pleasure to inhabit. We are continually developing and refining designs and building methods for Planning, Architecture, and Historic Preservation projects.

We try to the best of our ability to run GBA as an open studio environment. Our offices are completely open to promote interaction among staff at all levels. Conversations heard and input offered have been invaluable resources to project design.

Our designs incorporate "green" strategies that support community life. We built our office to experiment on ourselves and not our clients. We know what it is like to work with a 12' x 70' south facing glass wall without diffusing controls (Ask Tom about his sunglasses!). So we went to the drawing board and designed the interior adjustable light shelves, exterior shading grilles and trellises, and interior horizontal blinds. We enjoy watching the electric meter spin backwards due to the photovoltaic panel array recently installed. We walk to work, when possible. We double use paper for copying and faxing. We are not interested in designing any residence over 4,000 square feet in the Pseudo French Chateau Neo-Revivalist style. We believe in sustainability.

cont.

The illusion of plans

The Plan proceeds from within to without; the exterior is the result of an interior.

The elements of architecture are light and shade, walls and space.

Arrangement is the gradation of aims, the classification of intentions.

Man looks at the creation of architecture with his eyes, which are 5 feet 6 inches from the ground. One can only deal with aims which the eye can appreciate, and intentions which take into account architectural elements. If there come into play intentions which do not speak the language of architecture, you arrive at the illusion of plans, you transgress the rules of the Plan through an error in conception, or through a leaning towards empty show.

cont.

12.04:2



capitol district masterplan

We tried not to make this article a marketing campaign but share some insights to what we, as an office, believe in and pursue. We appreciate the opportunity to share with our Architectural community and look forward to seeing other firms profiled as well.

Some Inspiration:

"I prefer drawing to talking. Drawing is faster, and leaves less room for lies."
Le Corbusier

"Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context - a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan."
Eliel Saarinen

"We believe in Zeitgeist ("the spirit of the age"), not round tops!"
Gregg Gossens

Pure creation of the mind.

*Contour and profile are the touchstone of the architect.
Here he reveals himself as artist or mere engineer.
Contour is free from all constraint.
There is here no longer any question of custom, nor of tradition, nor of construction nor of adaption to utilitarian needs.
Contour and profile are a pure creation of the mind; they call for the plastic artist.*

Urbanisme

*The town is a working tool.
Towns do not normally fulfill this function. they are inefficient: they wear out the body,
they frustrate the mind.
The increasing disorder in our towns is offensive: their decay damages our self-esteem
and injures our dignity.
They are not worthy of the age. They are no longer worthy of us.*

cont.

12.04:3

aia new england awards

Among the many exciting events at the AIA New England Conference this November was the annual award recognition. There were five citations and four honor awards.

Citations:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Firm: | Andrew Cohen Architects / Wayland, MA |
| Project: | <i>Springstep: A Center for Traditional & Contemporary Arts / Medford, MA</i> |
| Firm: | Beinfield Architecture/ South Norwalk, CT |
| Project: | <i>Offices for Asset Management/ South Norwalk, CT</i> |
| Firm: | Daniel V. Scully Architects / Keene, NH |
| Project: | <i>Bellows Falls Waypoint Interpretive Center / Bellows Falls, VT</i> |
| Firm: | Kaehler-Moore Architects / Greenwich, CT |
| Project: | <i>Prutting Residence / New Canaan, CT</i> |
| Firm: | Einhorn Yaffe Prescott Architecture & Engineering / Boston, MA |
| Project: | <i>Widner Library, Harvard University / Cambridge, MA</i> |



andrew cohen architects / photographer greg premru



beinfield architecture / photographer robert benson photography

cont.

A town!

It is an assault by man upon nature. It is a human action against nature, a human organism designed for shelter and work. It is a creation.

Poetry is a human act - concerted interrelationships between perceptible images. To be exact, the poetry of nature is nothing but a construction of the human spirit. The town is a powerful image that activates our spirit. Why should not the town, even today, be a source of poetry?

Geometry is the means with which we have provided ourselves for looking around us and expressing ourselves.

Geometry is the basis.

cont.

12.04:4



daniel scully architects /
photographer: al karevy photography



kachler-moore architects /
photographers: esto and durston saylor



einhorn yaffee prescott architecture /
photographer: bruce martin photography

cont.

It is also the material foundation for symbols signifying perfection, the divine. It brings us the lofty satisfaction of mathematics.

The machine develops out of geometry. Thus the whole of the modern age is made up above all of geometry; it directs its dreams towards the joys of geometry. After a century of analysis, modern arts and thought are seeking something beyond the random fact and geometry leads them towards a mathematical order, an attitude of mind that is increasingly widespread.

The house poses the problem of architecture afresh by calling for totally new means of realization, an entirely new ground-plan adapted to a new way of life, an aesthetic arising out of a new frame of mind. there comes a time when a collective passion stirs an epoch (the Pan-Germansim of 1900-20, or the charity of the first Christians, etc.)

Today this passion is the passion for precision. Precision carried a very long way and elevated to the status of an ideal: the striving for perfection.

It is no good being defeatist if one is striving after perfection. This requires stubborn courage and strength of character. Our era is no longer one of relaxation and slackness.

cont.

12.04:5



*fletcher-thompson /
photographer: david sundberg,
esto photographs*



carol a. wilson architect photography by architect

Honor Awards:

- Firm:** Fletcher-Thompson / Shelton, CT
- Project:** *Timex World Headquarters / Middlebury, CT*

- Firm:** Carol A. Wilson, Architect / Falmouth, ME
- Project:** *Writers Studio / Mount Desert Island, ME*

- Firm:** Gray Organschi Architecture / New Haven, CT
- Project:** *Two Bridges / Madison & Washington, CT*

- Firm:** Leers Weinzaphel Associates Architects, Inc. / Boston, MA
- Project:** *Harvard University Science Center Expansion / Cambridge, MA*

It is powerfully tensed for action. Whatever one does, it is no good being defeatist (or foolish or disenchanting). We must believe; we must reach down to the good in the depths of people.

It is no good being defeatist if we are going to dream of modern town planning, because this involves overturning many accepted ideas. But today we may dream of carrying out modern town planning, because the time has come and a collective passion has been unleashed by the most brutal necessity and by a lofty feeling for truth. The awakened spirit is already reconstructing the social framework.

12.04:6

cont.



gray organschi architecture / photography by architect



leers weinzapfel associates architects /
photographer: alan karchmer

**vermont conference welcomes
national expert on sustainable design:
better buildings by design 2005
*returns to vermont***

AIA continues its partnership with Efficiency Vermont to present the region's top conference on building durability, efficiency and value returns to the Sheraton Burlington on February 9-10, 2005. The Better Buildings By Design 2005 Conference will offer opportunities to learn about design and construction approaches and technologies that are being used to create today's high performance commercial and residential buildings. 30+ interactive workshops, presented by leaders in the industry, will feature four simultaneous tracks on envelope, mechanical, lighting, and innovations/high performance.

The conference keynote address — Making the Business Case for Sustainability — will be presented by Bert Gregory, President and CEO of Mithun, a Seattle-based architecture, design and planning firm and a national leader in resource sensitive and environmentally intelligent design. Mr. Gregory will share his perspective on the ways that sustainable design and construction practices can make good business sense, with particular emphasis on Vermont land use issues. Mr. Gregory also will present a workshop entitled "From Green Buildings to Green Neighborhoods: Better Health, Liveability, and Bottom-Line."

Among the many presenters this year will be Nathan Good, AIA, IIDA, of the Portland, Oregon-based firm Nathan Good, Architect, who will lead a discussion on developing and facilitating eco-charrettes that incorporate project decision

cont.

pure creation of the mind

You employ stone, wood and concrete, and with these materials you build houses and palaces; that is construction. Ingenuity is at work.

But suddenly you touch my heart, you do me good, I am happy to say: "This is beautiful." That is Architecture. Art enters in.

My house is practical. I thank you, as I might thank Railway engineers or the Telephone service. You have not touched my heart.

cont.

12.04:7




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 - David Johnson, Burnell Architects

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makers early in the design process to help create sustainable, high performance buildings. Marc Cohen, AIA, of California based CTG Energetics, will discuss the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System and its role in measuring a project's environmental performance.

Highlights from this year's workshop sessions include "A Simple Approach to High Performance Commercial Buildings," "Case Study of a Net-Zero-Energy Home", and "Lessons Learned with an Exceptional High Performance Building."

Once again, an evening reception will offer you the opportunity to connect with other design and construction professionals in a casual atmosphere. This event will feature live music, demonstrations, hors d'oeuvres, and more. Even if you can't make it to the conference, stop in to join your colleagues for the reception.

Conference attendees will be eligible to earn AIA continuing education credits. Just ask for forms when you register.

Call 1-877-248-9900 for more information about this special workshop or about the Better Buildings By Design 2005 Conference. You can also register for the conference online at www.encyvermont.com.

But suppose that walls rise towards heaven in such a way that I am moved. I perceive your intentions. Your mood has been gentle, brutal, charming or noble. The stones you have erected tell me so. You fix me to the place and my eyes regard it. They behold something which expresses a thought. A thought which reveals itself without word or sound, but solely by means of shapes which stand in certain relationship to one another. These shapes are such that they are clearly revealed in light. The relationships between them have not necessarily any reference to what is practical or descriptive. They are a mathematical creation of your mind. They are the language of Architecture. By the use of inert materials and starting from conditions more or less utilitarian, you have established certain relationships which have aroused my emotions. This is Architecture.

12.04:8



news from aia national

The AIA Compensation Report is updated every three years, with the next survey to be conducted in 2005. The AIA Economics and Market Research Team is in the midst of preparing to launch the new survey in mid-January, 2005, and we need your help to make the 2005 report the most comprehensive ever.

The States, metro areas, and cities included in the survey report are dependent upon the number of responses received; we do not selectively choose which areas are reported. The more responses we receive from firms in your region, the more likely it is that your State, metro area, or even city will be included in the new report. In 2002 we reported on 34 states and 35 metro areas; in 2005, we would like to get that up to at least 40 states and 45 metro areas.

This is where you come in. Would you please help your firms become aware of the upcoming survey by publicizing it in your publications, at your events, or any other manner you think is appropriate? The survey questionnaire will be electronic and a link will be sent to firm principals/partners in mid-January.

Thank you for your help in getting the word out. We will be in touch with you again, closer to the launch date of the survey, when we will provide you with additional materials you may use to increase participation in your component area. If you have any questions, please e-mail compensationsurvey@aia.org.

The AIA Economics and Market Research Team

COTE call for volunteers

aiaVT welcomes

debra baslow, *professional affiliate of underhill*
john connell, *aia of warren*
andrew la'osa, *associate aia of burlington*

aiaVT is edited by Andrea Murray, AIA. Published views are the author's and not necessarily the views of AIA Vermont or any other organization.

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AIA Vermont reserves the right to edit articles for available space and determine appropriate content prior to inclusion. Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The Committee on the Environment (COTE) of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is recruiting volunteers to work as members of subcommittees addressing a variety of programs. COTE's efforts have increased over the years and have become an integral part of the AIA's agenda. And, we are looking to grow even more in the years to come. With this growth comes an opportunity for members of the COTE Knowledge Community to become involved in our programs; programs we hope will reach a national and local audience, influence legislation and advocacy, educate architecture professionals and the general public, and continue to positively affect the built environment. In that vein we are establishing subcommittees to address the following areas:

- Communications
- Top Ten Green Projects
- Relationships with Allied Organizations
- General Advocacy
- Relationships with Local Components
- Contract Documents
- Grant Project: Study of Sustainable Design in Architecture Schools

We are seeking volunteers able to make a one year commitment to a subcommittee in 2005. Most communication will be conducted via email; however we expect subcommittees to convene quarterly via conference call. Please note that these are unfunded volunteer positions. There is no expectation of travel; however should a volunteer be asked to represent COTE at a meeting requiring travel we would expect to fund reasonable travel expenses.

If you have an interest in working with the COTE Advisory Group in any of the above areas, please submit a letter of interest and resume or CV by email to the attention of Erika Taylor at etaylor@aia.org by December 15, 2004. Please also contact Erika if you have any questions about COTE and/or our programs.