



AIA BRONX CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Published by
Bronx Chapter AIA Publications Committee Info@studio360's.com
Highlighting activities and information of interest to the Practicing Architect

Events and Education Opportunities

- **AIA Conference on Architecture & Design**
June 4-7, Boston
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Exhibit Hall A-B
[AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2025](#)

- **AIA Westchester + Hudson Valley**
VIRTUAL EVENT COTE-VERSATIONS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 | 12:30PM
PRICE: Free registration is required
[Register](#)

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I Current Activities



January 16, 2025

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

The virtual meeting started at 6:12PM.

Attendees:

Antonio Freda
Hirinha Pena
Jerin Lisha
Julian Misiurski
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Matthew Rezkallo
Nicholas Friedman
Nico Zapata
Robert Esnard
Sara Djazayeri

Guest:

Chris Tedesco
Inter-Lux, tools for lighting
Market Manager, Sales
main 410 381 1497 ext. 481
cell 908 240 4817
chris@inter-lux.com

Agenda

1. Seminar Presentation

The sponsor, Christopher Tedesco, Sales Marketing Manager, of **Inter-Lux, Tools for Lighting**, presented a seminar titled "Integration, Integration, Integration," aimed at emphasizing the importance of lighting and how mastering it can be a powerful tool. The presentation was part of a 3-credit course, and Chris also highlighted his company Inter-lux, a Baltimore-based company representing various international lighting brands.

Lighting in Architectural Design

Chris discussed the importance of lighting in architectural design, with slides and physical examples emphasizing that it should enhance the experience of space rather than distract from it. He outlined four objectives for lighting a space: understanding available options, developing a strategy, acquiring knowledge of lighting details, and reviewing real-world examples. Chris also highlighted the role of light in directing people through space, enhancing specific focal points, and accommodating for daylight or its absence. He introduced the concept of integrating light into space, focusing on three key aspects: schematic, pragmatic, and systematic.

Lighting Plan for Physical Spaces.

The importance of understanding the physical layout and activities within a space to determine the appropriate lighting plan was discussed. He emphasized the significance of vertical surfaces in defining a space and the need to balance different surfaces to create a comfortable and

visually appealing environment. Chris also highlighted the role of lighting in creating an atmosphere and the use of color temperature to achieve different effects, such as a warm and cozy feel or a crisp and attentive atmosphere.

Lighting Design Techniques

The use of lighting in interior design was reviewed, highlighting the designer's strategic use of different color temperatures and lighting fixtures to create distinct areas within a space. He explained the concept of "layers of light" and how it can be used to communicate different purposes within a single space. Chris also discussed the use of symmetry and asymmetry in lighting design, and how it can be used to draw attention to specific areas or objects. He further explained the concept of "vocal objects" and how they can be used to highlight specific pieces of art or retail items. Lastly, he discussed the use of contrast in lighting design to properly illuminate subjects while allowing the background to appear darker, thus adding depth to the art.

Lighting Techniques and Architectural Integration

Various lighting techniques and fixtures were illustrated with actual installations, emphasizing their integration into architectural designs. Chris explained, for an even distribution of lighting, such as in ceiling systems or along walls, the use of luminous surfaces and panels for ambient lighting and cove systems for indirect lighting can be very effective. He also touched on the versatility of linear elements, which can be used as downlights or for grazing effects. He concluded this integration concept by suggesting the use of sound-attenuating materials in some fixtures which can be effective in handling space acoustics.

Summary

Chris concluded the presentation reviewing the unique features and benefits of using lighting fixtures and the benefits of using LED lighting systems, emphasizing their adjustability and energy efficiency. He explained that LED systems can be designed to fit specific spaces, unlike traditional lighting systems which are often limited to fixed sizes. Chris also mentioned the possibility of customizing LED lighting to fit specific design needs.

Finally, Chris indicated that he and the employees of **Inter-Lux Tools for Lighting** are willing to assist in the design development stages of any member's projects. He can be reached at:

Inter-Lux, Tools for Lighting
Christopher Tedesco
Sales Market Manager,
main 410 381 1497 ext. 481
cell 908 240 4817
email chris@inter-lux.com

2. **Adoption of Minutes**

Secretary Bob Esnard at the conclusion of the three-credit presentation started the business portion of the meeting by outlining the remaining agenda items. He then moved for the Adoption of Minutes with an apology to the Members for the late submission to the Board of the last newsletter; this was due to illness of our professional "editorial team."

Voting and the voting process was reviewed by Bob, when the Chapter adopted both its 2025 budget, and the 2025 Officers / Directors. Also, he reminded the members had suggested that after the October AIA meeting, we would, streamline meeting procedures as membership previously approved, to “a quicker and simplified” process of conducting the business portions of our meetings; by **not** having to make formal motions of seconding and individually counting votes. It was pointed out that in December we had a Holiday Luncheon and not an evening chapter formal meeting. Therefore, the last meeting minutes were for the November 2024 meeting, and they were adopted by unanimous consent.

3. Schedule for Next Meetings

The schedule of the next meetings was discussed, and Membership reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the first quarter of 2025:

February 20th (virtual)	6:00PM
March 20th (virtual)	6:00PM
April 17th (virtual).	6:00PM

The May meeting is planned to be converted into a May in-person public Awards Event, like prior years celebrating the Chapter’s Empowerment Student Grant and a CCNY Student Competition of a Public Project was also discussed with the location to be determined.

4. AIA National Annual Accreditation:

The Secretary then led a discussion of AIA’s “mini” accreditation requirement, of having each of the over 200 AIA Chapters briefly report on their significant program activities for the prior year. This National AIA Annual Accreditation Checkup is in addition to the more involved every four-year review requirement of all chapters. The goal is to guarantee that all AIA members have basic availability to the institute, as well as interface with each other and the profession at large. We had to fill out a four-part questionnaire with documents and submit them before January 15. The Parts of the submission were:

Bronx Chapter information:

Contact information of the chapter officers for submission

Education

Proof that the chapter originates 4 CEU credits – Bronx does 2 two CEU credit tours a year and

Partners with the Westchester+Valley Chapter for additional 14 CEU Credits to offer the required 18 CEU credits;

Finance & Operations

Proof of insurance with Insurance Certificates for Directors & Officers, as well as Liability coverage.

Proof that operations are legal and Chapter files taxes annually, is a NYS incorporated organization, and operates with an AIA Chapter Charter and By Laws

Governance

The chapter has entered, as required by National AIA, all its chapter officers and directors into National AIA’s Fanteva computer membership database. This

serves as an agreement allowing local components, all states, and the national organization to freely communicate.

This 2024 AIA component checkup was submitted on time and is now under review by AIA National. It was noted that this submission was the first time that the chapter officers did not need any consultants' help to complete the review. We must be learning something and hope that we will again be certified.

5. Chapter Holiday Luncheon

President Sarah Djazayeri has organized, scheduled and put together the luncheon held for the second year in the "Arthur Ave Italian Neighborhood Restaurant Row". This year she chose Mario's one the most popular and famous Restaurant, open since 1919, Mario's , is a gastronomic landmark located in the heart of the "Little Italy" of the Bronx, Arthur Avenue serve robust, authentic Neapolitan fare for five generations. It was a productive and enjoyable event, where members talked "shop", architecture, and ate the wonderful food.

Appendix I - Holiday 2024 Luncheon

Appendix II - Map "Little Italy" of the Bronx

6. Chapter Committees

Bronx Public Project/Empowerment Grants

President Sarah Djazayeri reviewed the past year's events and activities and discussed her plans and hopes for the Chapter in 2025. She thanked Soany Marquez for the photography at last year's event and for uploading them for the Chapter.

In terms of the public project for a student competition, the difficulties in planning and choosing a site in the past have been resolved and this year's competition will be about the rebuilding and reuse of a historic Bronx Courthouse on 3rd Avenue and 161st Street. The structure is a gorgeous building that has been empty for the past 40 years, and the Borough President had considered using it for medical clinics. The selection committee confirmed that this project will be the subject of this year's competition. The selection process began on January first and as a result, the Chapter needs to finalize the logistics of the competition. This includes a jury of 5 or 6 composed of members of the Borough Presidents Office, a community Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) active in this area of the Bronx, government employees and our Chapter Members. There will be a "kickoff" ceremony with the Borough President in May which will coincide with our May event/meeting (at a location has yet to be determined), and the awards will be scholarship grants.

The Chapter intends to continue its Empowerment Grant program for 3 or 4 schools to participate, and we will pick only 4 students (hopefully at least one from each school) as we have in the past. We anticipate our budget will be about the same as last year's, but with the addition of at least 1, if not 2, more participating schools. Sarah and Bryant will spearhead this Chapter project and seek additional assistance if needed. These efforts are to raise awareness in the Bronx community of the AIA Bronx Chapter's efforts, as well as to empower a few Bronx

young student professionals of the relevance of Architecture in improving the quality of our immediate built environment.

7. DOB – Update

Tony Freda as the Chapter’s representative to the “Architects’ Council of New York” reported that the last months holiday season the DOB issues have been “quiet”. However, Tony indicated that the industry has heard of a proposal to rearrange some of the City’s current Commissioners, due to the political problems the mayor is facing. In the last months many high-level city officials have resigned and/or changed their jobs. The Police Commissioner resigned, and the mayor replaced him with the Sanitation Commissioner, Jessica Tisch. There is a rumor that James S. Oddo, the DOB Commissioner, will replace her as a new Sanitation Commissioner. Members discussed that it may be a shame to lose Oddo as he brought stability to the agency as in the first two years of Mayor Adams administration there was a revolving door of changing DOB Commissioners. The conclusion was the hope that for the construction industry, as the Mayor has just a year left in his term, that he leave the DOB leadership as is.

8. New Business

There were two additional issues discussed; a Chapter 2025 Design Competition, and a suggestion that the Chapter have one of its members elevated to Fellowship status.

2025 Chapter Competition AIANY – Built by New York

Bob Esnard raised that last year we had a very “abbreviated” design competition. The chapter and its members annually receive an invitation from our state professional organization to submit their architectural work for a competition and cash awards. It is hoped that this year will be different. As the **AIANYS Design Awards** are sponsored and held by the New York State AIA Organization and offers each chapter in our state complimentary entry for two projects, if they are winners of the individual chapter’s design award program for that year. This year we should start sooner and hopefully more members with more advance notice can take advantage of the offer for our members and the Bronx Chapter to get some public and professional exposure. This idea is to in April/May of this year to develop a **2025 Bronx Chapter Design Award** program with more advance notice to maximize member participation. Attached is last year’s submission to AIANYS for member reference.

Appendix IV – AIA Bronx Chapter Letter to AIANYS

Bronx Chapter Fellowship

Sara Djazayeri, the President urged Members to consider becoming a Fellow at the AIA. Although the application is long and hard, having a member of the Chapter with Fellowship status would improve the standing of the Chapter with the AIA. Bob the chapter Secretary echoed the President’s statement that the Chapter’s status would be helped by having a Fellow. He pointed out that the last member and only member from The Bronx to obtain that status was Director Bryan’s Zelnik’s grandfather, Simon Zelnik FAIA, a Charter Member of the Chapter from 1945! The approval procedure is a very, very intensive process, opining that only 3% of the AIA membership currently is fellows. The Manhattan AIA Chapter annually offers technical assistance and support to New York City AIA members and this has again asked if we have any

members who should become elevated to fellowship status. Sara urged members to consider applying as she believes that there are several members who deserve and should be fellows.

9. **Adjournment**

As no additional new business was presented a motion to adjourn was agreed to, and the meeting ended at **7:36PM**.

II **Next meeting:**

**Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 6:00PM Virtual
ZOOM meeting link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9948476766>

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Holiday 2024 Luncheon

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Map “Little Italy” of the Bronx

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AIA Bronx Chapter Letter to AIANYS

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Appendix I Holiday 2024 Luncheon



**Attendees From Left –
Tony Freda, Sara Djazayeri, Bob Esnard, Hirinha Pena, Nico Zapata, Julian Misiurski and George Bulow**

Appendix II
Map



“Little Italy” of the Bronx

Appendix III AIA Bronx Chapter Letter to AIANYS

Bronx Chapter Design Awards for 2024;

As in past years AIANYS has held a statewide annual awards program which the Bronx Chapter or individual members did not participate in. The AIANYS Design Awards are sponsored and held by the New State AIA Organization which offers each chapter in our state complimentary entry for two projects if they are winners of the individual chapter's design award program for that year.

Over the last Months, several members recommended that this year, 2024, the chapter should publicize the offer and participate. Therefore, in May the chapter received the AIANYS Design Awards for 2024 and in June President Sara Djazayeri indicated that we would participate. The chapter requested members to submit their projects for the Executive Committee of the Chapter to review/consider and select the projects for entry to the Awards program. This committee is composed of the chapter officers; the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

On July 15, 2024, the Chapter invited members to participate. Then reminded them on July 20, 2024, of the opportunity and indicated that submissions must be received by email before July 31, 2024, at 5:00PM.

Of the projects the Chapter received there was a unanimous decision to select the following two projects for submission:

Rivera Toyota Automobile Dealership, Mt. Kisco, Westchester, New York Bran Zelnik, AIA
Young Israel Ohab Zedek Synagogue, Riverdale, Bronx, New York Michael Goldblum, AIA

This selection had to be submitted on or before August 23, 2024, and is attached as submitted on August 7, 2024.

Bob Esnard, AIA
Secretary



Cell: 917- 318 - 7097

The End