



AIA Bronx Chapter

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Publication Committee

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Newsletter

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 - 2019 Tri-State Design Conference
Albany, New York
October 17-19, 2019
Link: <https://www.aianyc.org>
 - AIA Convention 2020
May 14-16, 2020
Los Angeles, California
Link: <https://conferenceonarchitecture.com>

- V Next Chapter Meeting is Thursday September 19, 2019 at 6:00pm.

II Current Activities



June 24, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 6:09pm

Attendees

Faisal Ahmed
Bill Caplan
Ofe Clark
William Davis, Jr.
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Julian Misiurski
Frank Molinini
Carlo Nuzzi
Martin Zelnik

Guests

Doug Pilgrim – Davis Furniture Inc.

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Doug Pilgrim – of Davis Furniture Inc., presented a seminar, “Closing the Loop on Office Furniture”. He utilized a projector and a power point presentation to review the economics of recycling and/or rebuilding of existing office furniture. The concept of utilizing used furniture is probably the most environmental, friendly/sustainable way to provide furniture. Generally, new furniture, even when utilizing materials sustainably, locally and with materials that are mined or harvested from plentiful, renewable, natural elements, they still use some natural resources.

The manufacturing of furniture from existing furniture is the best way to preserve resources simply by using less of them. Although, some furniture can be refinished or resurfaced to be reused, most new furniture arrangements require some rebuilding. As office furniture is the largest sector of the furniture manufacturing industry. The use of recycling office furniture can significantly impact the use of natural or scarce resources. Office furniture is generally built in bulk and is repetitive in design. By carefully saving the “bones” or foundation elements of furniture, 50% to 60% of furniture can be reused, therefore saving a significant amount of material resources.

In 2012, \$120 billion dollars of furniture was thrown-out and sent to landfill waste dumps through-out the country. The recycling of furniture could eliminate 60% of that, if the office industry systematically recycled furniture. Recycled furniture provides comparable and almost equal products from new furniture, such as; chairs, tables, cabinets, file cabinets and work stations. Doug demonstrated that looking at the finished products, is almost impossible to tell the difference, from a new furniture element and a recycled one. The significant fact of recycled furniture is that there are economic benefits, in addition to the environmental ones. Large office installations of furniture can save anywhere from 40% to 80% in costs based on the size of large orders for major office tenants who save in the higher percentages. The companies who produce recycled furniture, also give similar or in some cases, better guarantees on the furniture. Companies that have successfully used rebuilt furniture are; Bank of America, Caterpillar, and major educational institutions.

At the end of Doug Pilgrim's presentation, he answered questions about the environmental considerations of recycling/rebuilding of furniture. Going forward he volunteered to respond to any Chapter member who would like assistance in using recycled furniture or the developing LEED projects and how furniture can help an LEED rating. His contact information is;

Doug Pilgrim
Business Development/Sustainability Manager/LEED AP
Davies Office
40 Loudonville Road
Albany, New York 12204
Tel: 617-290-9390
Fax: 518-449-4036
Email: dougpilgrim@daviesoffice.com

2. The Minutes of the May 16, 2019 were circulated. William Davis made a motion to approve them and the motion was seconded by Bill Caplan. The May minutes were then unanimously accepted.
3. Meeting Dates:
The meeting dates will continue to alternate luncheon and dinner meetings. The schedule for the next meeting in September, will start as an evening meeting to assure the meeting venue will not have a problem over the year, providing a room during any of the holiday months. It is hoped from now, on we will be able to continue with our 3rd Thursday of the month meeting schedule.

Therefore, the schedule for the meetings are:

September 19, 2019 - 6:00pm
October 24, 2019 - 12:00pm
November 21, 2019 - 6:00pm
December 12, 2019 - 12:00pm

4. New York City Council/Architects Council:

The importance of our Chapter having members participating with the Architects Council was again reinforced, as several items were discussed and reviewed including, New York State Legislation and the Department of Buildings (DOB) new regulations.

New York State Legislation

The State passed a series of very profound regulations to assist affordable housing in the state of New York. In New York City, although, these laws do not directly impact architects. However, many of our clients will be affected, in terms of the amount of work they can do. Increases in rent will be significantly limited/regulated and owners may not be able to improve properties, without the ability to pay for them with increased income. Also, in some cases, architects are required to indicate on their filing at DOB, when housing units are the subject to rent regulations. In addition, the new laws, as opposed to previous regulation laws, do not have a “sunset date”. Once these laws have been passed, they stay on the books until new Legislation changes them. This led to a discussion among the members, concerning the need for affordable housing, and how difficult it is to provide.

DOB NOW

The Department of Buildings has been laying out and implementing a new web based online platform for filing by; Engineers, Architects, Special Inspectors, Filing Representatives and Owners, when submitting many elements of a project or construction jobs. Currently, DOB NOW requires the filing of; plumbing, sprinklers, stand pipes, curb cuts, sidewalk sheds, fences, signs, electrical, elevators, LAA’s and for a place of assembly. Starting July 1, 2019, all mechanical systems and structural filings will also have to be done on DOB NOW. The DOB has been scheduling training sessions open to architects, engineers and owners to get oriented and to learn how to access the site. The basic point is to minimize the handling of paper, to allow as much filing online as possible, to reduce the amount of time spent at the local borough offices. Members applauded the idea of minimizing time spent “physically” waiting. The one concern members articulated, is whether the online platform will be maintained, serviced and operated without too many glitches or errors. Staffing at the DOB is not always what it should be.

5. National AIA Convention:

On June 6-8, 2019 in Las Vegas, the AIA held its annual Convention. The Chapter was represented by three Chapter members; Josette Matthew, Frank Molinari and Tony Freda. Tony Freda and Frank Molinari discussed their experiences and how many of the events were very interesting. They especially enjoyed the field trips to surrounding major infrastructure projects such as the Hoover Dam. The feeling was that last year’s Convention in New York City was more varied and allowed easier interaction with the other Convention attendees. Also, physically, the Las Vegas Convention spaces were

not as comfortable and needed upgrading. However, they thought it was successful and an interesting Convention. In the past, national AIA has requested the Bronx Chapter vote and/or regularly participate in national conventions. This year and last, our Chapter was represented and voted on all the items as per the National AIA Guidelines.

6. Department of City Planning:

Martin Zelnik reviewed the Department of City Planning's proposal to modernized and update the existing Special Natural Area Designation (SNAD) area of Riverdale-Feldstein-Spuyten Duyvil. This SNAD area came out of a local community's 1975 proposed plan. At that time, the Department of City Planning designated two areas in the City; one in Staten Island and the other in the Bronx. These areas, although having physically different natural areas, had the same regulations. Both communities wanted to see changes that would better protect their area. Currently, the City's Planning attempt to modernize SNAD Legislation became cumbersome and difficult to understand. After many discussions, City Planning dropped the Staten Island portion of the proposal but kept the Bronx portion. Unfortunately, the Bronx community wanted to have this legislation reworked, debated and then negotiated with the City, prior to officially starting the approval process. Some of the specific issues discussed are; to have the DOB local office review the applications, eliminating the reviewing of properties smaller than an acre and allowing certain "as of right" construction. These all are opposed by the community. Marty requested that we assist these community efforts and draft a letter in support of what the Community board 8 in Riverdale is proposing. At the end of a discussion and by unanimous consent, if a letter is necessary before September meeting, Marty Zelnik will draft a letter in support of these community efforts for our president to sign.

7. Continuing Education:

The Chapter will have this years' first Chapter Sponsored Tour which will be of the Triborough Bridge Complex. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th at 10:00am – 12:00pm for 2-CEU Credits. The Bronx County Historical Society will lead the Tour with Lloyd Ultan of the Bronx County Historian Society and assisted by Julian Misiurski of our Chapter. The two-hour Tour will include walking underneath and around three main bridges making up the "Triborough Bridge" and visit the public facilities developed in the park.

8. New Business:

Robert Esnard reported that his office has an "email security system" which created a problem in the emailing of last month's May AIA Newsletter. At last month's meeting, as requested by National AIA, the Chapter adopted a Policy on "Member Financial Data Security". Unfortunately, in copying this adopted policy, many of the words in the resolution, caused the emails to have a warning note that the email had a problem. It took a few try's and a couple of days to discover the problem. Hopefully this will be the first and last time, where we will have this kind of a security problem.

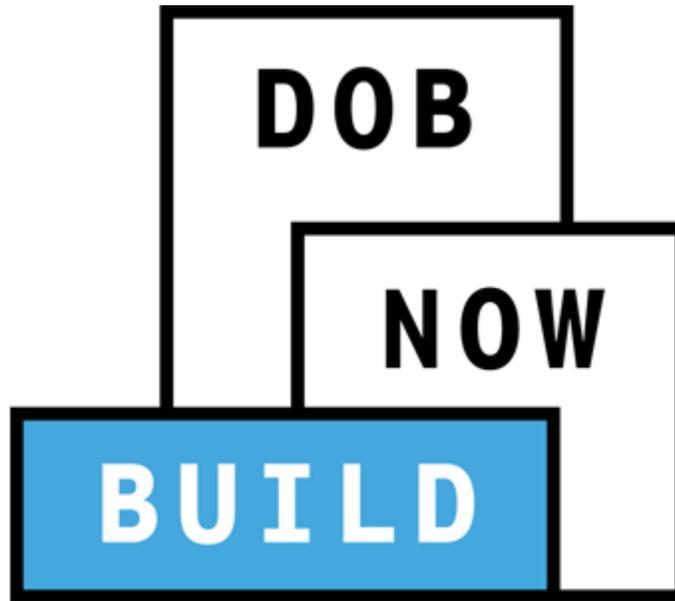
The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be a dinner meeting at 6:00pm at Artie’s Restaurant, on **September 19, 2019**.

Attachment A
DOB NOW - Notice

Attachment A

DOB NOW - Notice



DOB NOW: *Build*, is the online platform for Professional Engineers (P.E.), Registered Architects (R.A.), Licensees, Special Inspectors, Progress Inspectors, Filing Representatives and Owners to submit jobs to the Department of Buildings.

DOB NOW: *Build* is currently available for the following areas:

- **Plumbing, Sprinkler and Standpipe** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Antenna and Curb Cut** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Sidewalk Shed, Supported Scaffold, Fence and Sign** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Electrical** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Elevator** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **LAA** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Place of Assembly and Temporary Place of Assembly** filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- **Mechanical Systems** filings – starting **July 1, 2019** ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))

- **Structural filings – starting July 1, 2019** ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))

Log into DOB NOW

You need an [eFiling](#) account to use DOB NOW: Build. If you already have an eFiling account, you can use the email and password to log into DOB NOW. If you need to register for an account, visit the [Registration Information](#) page for additional information.

After registering for an account in [eFiling](#), you can use [DOB NOW: Build](#) to:

- File jobs and submit fees online
- View and search information related to your jobs and permits
- Upload documents
- View objections
- Schedule and review objections with a plan examiner in a virtual meeting
- Receive emails at milestones throughout the application process
- File Post Approval Amendments (PAA)
- Make Corrections
- Pull and print After Hour Variances
- Pull and print work permits
- Receive Letters of Completion by email.

Search for DOB NOW: *Build* filings

Jobs filed in DOB NOW: *Build* will not appear in BIS. You can access this information through the [DOB NOW Public Portal](#) or through the City's [Open Data Portal](#).

More Information

[Current code and rule provisions](#) are applicable in DOB NOW.

[Subscribe to Buildings News](#) for the latest DOB NOW Updates. Still have questions? [Contact Us](#).

Helpful Links

- [Register for DOB NOW: *Build*](#)
 - [DOB NOW: *Build* Log-in](#)
 - [DOB NOW: *Build* FAQ](#)
 - [About DOB NOW](#)
-



This course will explore three building sectors—hospitality, multifamily housing, and senior housing—and the flooring challenges these projects face, including heavy foot traffic, maintenance, safety, and aesthetics.

Earn .1 IDCEC CEU, 1 AIA LU | Elective, 1 Canada Potential Learning Credit

Register



Specifying Custom Fiberglass Doors: The Performance of Fiberglass and the Aesthetic of Real Wood

In the past, you have shown interest in door information.

This course discusses the many benefits of fiberglass doors and defines the testing, certifications, and performance of fiberglass doors for fire, acoustic, coastal, impact and thermal considerations.

Earn 1 AIA LU | Elective

Register



AIA: 1 LU | Elective, Canada Potential: 1 Learning Credit

Managing Projects During a Labor Shortage and Rising Material Prices

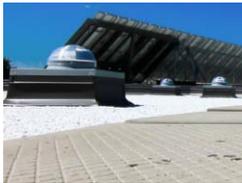
[Learn More >](#)



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Color Quality and the WELL Building Standard

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AIA: 1 LU | HSW

Roofing Options: Alternative Roofing Systems

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AIA: 1 LU | HSW

Introduction to Caulks and Sealants

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AIA: 1 LU | HSW

Optimizing Acoustics in Commercial and Residential Buildings

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Space Planning for a New Generation

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Register



Solving Moisture Issues with Rapid Drying Concrete

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U

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High-Performance Architectural Coatings for Metal Buildings

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NFPA 285: A Focus on Assemblies

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Recycled Rubber Flooring Provides Maximum Durability in High-Traffic Projects

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Principles of Grout: Technologies and Installation Procedures

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Cool Solutions: Adding Ice Machines to your Projects

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THE END