Published by the Bronx Chapter AIA Publications Committee to highlight activities and information of interest to the Practicing Architect.

Newsletter

NOTICE: Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic corona virus since March and due to the work from home order, March and subsequent newsletters will be abbreviated to include only the basic activities of the AIA Bronx Chapter until the health crisis is over.

Contents

I The Bronx Chapter Welcomes 2020 recent Chapter Members:
   Yennifer Miguelina Diaz Moscoso AIA Associate
   Alvi R. Khan AIA Associate
   Soany K. Marquez AIA Associate
   Carlos A. Matute AIA Associate
   Jonathan F. Medina AIA Associate
   Janelle Velez-Casey AIA Associate
   Gerome Ventura AIA Associate

II Current Activities:
   Chapter Virtual Meeting September 17, 2020

III Related Articles and Education Opportunities - Omitted

IV AIA Activities:
   • Most National and State activities are virtual until the health crisis abates
   • ABX20 | Architecture Boston Expo
     November 4-5, 2020
     Boston, Massachusetts
   • The AIA’20 National Convention in Los Angeles was officially canceled and will not be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

V Next Chapter Meeting is Virtual on Thursday October 15, 2020 at 12:00pm.
II Current Activities

September 17, 2020
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:07pm

Attendees:
Ellen Abraham
Ofe Clarke
Bill Davis
Sara Djazayeri
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Josette Matthew
Soany K. Marquez
Julian Misurksi
Carlos A. Matute
Janelle Velez-Casey

Guest
Sean Hilgeman, RA
NYC/NJ District Manager
Won-Door fire & Security Solutions

Agenda / Discussion:
1. Seminar:
   Sean Hilgeman – The NYC/NJ District Manager of Won-Door Company presented a seminar, “Sliding Fire Doors in a Means of Egress”. The course outlined the multiple ways in which horizontal fire doors may be used to create open-concept designs while maintaining fire code compliance and life safety requirements. He also covered Value Engineering uses of this product type. The information Sean presented was developed through case studies of how architects utilize the product in a multitude of projects since 1977, when the building codes first accepted the sliding doors for use. He described Local fire code references, NYC code references, and the basic differences between Fire Walls, Barriers, and Partitions.

   The differences of “rated” walls are; a Fire Wall is a wall that separates buildings such as party walls which must extended 30” from above the exterior roof through the foundation, with a 2 to 4-hour rating. A Fire Barrier is a separation of spaces within a building that separates horizontal and vertical penetrations and is constructed from the top of a foundation to the bottom of the roof or floor below. The rating can be 1 to 4 hours. On the other hand, a Fire Partition is of lighter construction and is designed to resist fire between spaces within a building for a required or limited time. They typically are corridor walls or spaces between different residences or tenants in a building. The fire rating of a fire partition can be 1 hour or less.
The Sliding Fire Doors and related products such as accordion and various folding style doors usually are more expensive solutions to unique problems. They, if designed correctly can be very large or small and operate safely, legally and be almost “unseen”. The code requirements are the same for all doors in terms of egress capacity and fire ratings, but although more expensive they can save space and allow flexibility in space use, that would be impossible with standard fire doors or space dividers. Sean illustrated schools, community facilities as well as many commercial spaces and malls or gallerias where the motorized fire “walls” operate automatically during emergencies as well as, any normal fire door but space wise are more efficient and unobtrusive. In addition, the Sliding Fire Door has a unique advantage in that it allows emergency exiting in both directions, that traditional hinged swinging doors cannot, as they can only swing in the direction of egress.

At the end of the presentation Sean Hilgeman answered questions covering costs and reviewing installation techniques. He was able to illustrate his talk with photos of buildings and different style applications with Sliding Fire Doors being curved, segmented, and accordion shaped. He volunteered himself and the technical resources of Won-Door to assist any Chapter member who would like help selecting the appropriate Sliding Door for any of their projects. His presentation was dynamic, very professional and well received by the Chapter members. His seminar referenced three charts in his discussion which are attached for Bronx Chapter members and are copied for reference in the;

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His contact information is:

Sean Hilgeman, RA  
NYC/NJ District Manager  
(801) 708-6518  
(856) 981-9569 – Cell and text  
www.wondoor.com

2. Adoption of June minutes:

The Minutes of the June 18, 2020 were emailed with the notice of this meeting for members to review. Sara Djazayeri made a motion to approve them, with the motion seconded by Ken Koons Sr., and the June minutes then were unanimously accepted.

3. Next meeting dates and sponsorship:

The next meeting dates will be:  
Oct. 15, 2020 12:00pm  
Nov. 19, 2020 6:00pm  
Dec. 17, 2020 12:00pm  

Bob Esnard reviewed the above dates and for the foreseeable future the Chapter will continue a virtual meeting practice. Whether, we can have a in person meeting at our normal restaurant venue will depend on if it can legally open and members are willing and able to have in person meetings. If there are any changes, members will be notified through the normal email Chapter Meeting Notices.
4. NYC – DOB:

**Covid / Electronic Filing**

DOB has implemented new very specific guidelines in terms of;
- Filing for projects to get approvals and permits, as well as,
- Safety construction regulations.

These rules have fundamentally changed how projects, applications and appeals are reviewed. As discussed in previous meetings, the increase of electronic filing requirement has become a major concern to chapter members. Applicants with unusual or special issues do experience significant time delays in communicating and attempting to resolve their unique circumstances. In the best case, occasional telephone calls are possible but cannot replace in-person contact. In addition, members reiterated their concern that the Covid crisis adjustments will be used as a basis to eliminate or restrict local/borough DOB office operations.

**Borough Commissioner**

The discussion of DOB issues highlighted the changes in personnel at the DOB Bronx Office and the appointment of a new Borough Commissioner. The suggestion was made and approved by the members to invite the Commissioner to a future meeting. It also was thought that it might be easier for the Commissioner to attend our current format of virtual meetings, as he could attend from home and not have to spend as much time which an in person meeting requires.

5. Chapter Committees:

Due to the pandemic, the Chapter modified and canceled many committee activities which historically are mostly in-person events/activities.

**The Education Committee** which had reached out to several schools to schedule activities had to cancel their plan to wait to see how and when the chapter can develop a practical and safe program to assist the schools with the virus health issues.

In addition, the **Continuing Education Committee** headed by Julian Misurski which for the last few years had joined with The Bronx County Historical Society to create two programs /tours each year; of Bronx buildings, neighborhoods and construction developments, for 2 CEU credits each. These had to be canceled due to the pandemic, as they are in-person activities.

**Chapter Dues**

Over the summer months the Chapter received several emails and the Chapter Vice President Sara Djazayeri personally received, from new members appealing for the Chapter to wave dues for recent architecture graduates and new associate AIA members. Sara investigated the issue and discovered that in late spring and early summer, due to the world health crisis and the resultant downturn in the economy, National AIA recommended that Chapters could modify or in some cases wave AIA dues. Most of the New York City Regions Chapters had immediately waved their dues for new graduates. As we are a volunteer organization, we had missed this notice, however once the chapter learned of this option, it did adopt this policy retroactively. If the Chapter had learned of it sooner, it and would have been implemented as soon as possible. It was noted during the meeting that the Bronx Chapter dues are the lowest in the region, mostly due to the fact that we do not have staff, a permanent physical office and the Chapter only spends money as prudently as possible.
Nominations for 2021 Officers
Every year at the October Chapter meeting, the Nominating Committee proposes a slate of officers for the coming year. As per the Bylaws, the Chapter must vote in November on the next year’s officers. The Nominating Committee for 2021 will be; Ken H. Koons Sr., Anthony Freda and Giuliano Penna. All the officers must be elected each year and the current officers are;

Tony Freda - President
Sara Djazayeri - Vice President
Ken Koons Jr. - Treasurer
Robert Esnard - Secretary
Ofe Clarke - Director
Ken Koons Sr. - Director
Giuliano Penna - Director
Frank Molinini - Director

Information Cloud Chapter for chapter documents:
Josette Matthew has developed a Chapter “Cloud” to store Chapter information and documents in a secure fashion. It has been a requirement of National AIA that, all Chapter members have Cloud access to; add, modify and work with Chapter AIA documents as appropriate and needed. Josette reported she had, with Bill Caplan the Chapter web site coordinator, created an “internet” domain/address for the Cloud. Josette now needs the membership to contact her, especially the members who participated in the four-year review of the Chapter for AIA Chapter accreditation, to upload all our documents they proposed for the review. She requested that in the next few weeks that members send digital copies of all documents to her email address; j.matthew061@gmail.com

6. Chapter Statement:
In the June Meeting Ofe Clarke, the Chapter State AIA representative, wrote that we as professionals in The Bronx should develop a position on issues surrounding the current civil unrest. This triggered a heartfelt and important discussion which ultimately resulted in a resolution passed to create a Chapter Statement, as well as, to publicize it to underscore the importance of what we as Architects are saying about discrimination, society and The Bronx. This Statement was an attempt to develop, as logical and concise a document, as possible and was based on a draft by Bill Davis, with significant input from many members. The public Statement was publicized in late June and put on our web site. At this September meeting, the Statement was reviewed and discussed again at length. The conclusion was, the Statement was strong and generally supported. However, many members felt that we could/should do more, if we can. The thought was that we are Architects who live and work in one of the poorest areas in the country and should, say/do more. After a discussing it further, it was proposed that Bill Davis and Ofe Clarke work with a new committee to see what might be the Chapter’s next steps and to bring back their thoughts for Chapter consideration.

Bill Davis invited other Chapter members to participate in the new committee and also requested we again print the Chapter Statement in September minutes. It is printed below for review and reflection:

Bronx AIA mourns with the families of the latest senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many more.
As we commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth, the date in which the last enslaved persons were freed after emancipation, the Bronx AIA membership shall go beyond the platitudes of standing in solidarity in recognizing that “Black Lives Matter” and the core values of the racial equality. We live and practice architecture in one of our nation’s poorest, most disadvantaged and diverse communities, therefore we see it as our special responsibility to expand our mission and pledge as Bronx AIA and community members:

To identify and reduce existing barriers and inequities that prevents increased racial diversification in our profession.

• To reach out to and engage all young people of color interested in architecture and encourage them to pursue our profession.
• To continue our advocacy for community-based solutions to improving the quality of our immediate built environment.
• To strengthen our resolve by partnering with like-minded professional, community, and educational groups.
• To mentor and develop black, brown and other disadvantaged student and intern architects as they enter our profession.
• To challenge assumptions, personal and professional, that inhibit our participation in the growth of our community.

This is a moment of great opportunity for growth, inclusion and promise for the Bronx AIA, the profession and the nation.

The Bronx Chapter of the AIA

7. New Business:

Virtual Zoom
This September meeting was the fourth virtual meeting since February due to the corona virus pandemic. It was the smoothest access for members so far and was successful, in that most members who had accepted, were able to attend. In June our meeting was cut off because of the 40-minute limitation of the zoom connection. This did not happen in September, as the Chapter now has a zoom account for meetings. The account now will allow members to use Zoom for any Chapter meetings or conferences at any time, without limitation. Therefore, if a member who needs to this access for Chapter activity, should contact the Chapter Secretary Bob Esnard for the access code.

The final new business discussed, was again the lament that the world is in a very difficult time and all of us hope for better or at least for more normal times.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM.
V. Next Meeting

The health crisis unfortunately continues, and as the meeting venue Artie’s Restaurant is only open for outdoor dining. Therefore, next meeting will be a Virtual meeting on;

Thursday October 15, 2020 at 6:00PM

APPENDIX

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## Fire Code Requirements of Common Design Elements

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<tr>
<td><strong>Sliding Fire Doors</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fire Rated Sliding Fire Doors</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Over The Openings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Attached Buildings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Exterior Stair Enclosures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elevators</strong></td>
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### Over The Openings
- Sliding Fire Doors: All vertical openings and horizontal openings in building assembly should be protected by fire doors or other listed means of protection.
- Over The Openings: Openings in walls between buildings shall be protected by fire-resistant construction on both sides of the wall where the walls are less than 1 hour fire rated.
## Fire Wall vs. Fire Barrier vs. Fire Partition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Fire Wall (IBC 706)</th>
<th>Fire Barrier (IBC 707)</th>
<th>Fire Partition (IBC 708)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept</strong></td>
<td>Fire wall, exterior wall to exterior wall, fire walls at each must extend 3/8 above adjacent construction. Fire walls are exterior walls and extend not less than 15' with adjacent walls constructed of 1 hour rated materials, (Section 706.4, 706.6, 2013 IBC)</td>
<td>Fire barrier, extends from top of foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below, to the underside of the floor/ceiling assembly above. (Section 707.6, 2013 IBC)</td>
<td>Fire barrier, extends from top of foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below, to the underside of the floor/ceiling assembly above. (Section 706.4, 2013 IBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Properties</strong></td>
<td>Must maintain protection between separate building during fire, without collapse, even if they are attached to other structural elements that may collapse.</td>
<td>Resist fire between spaces within a building for a required period of time.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Where Required</strong></td>
<td>Between or part of the building.</td>
<td>Separating vertical and horizontal egress shafts, modern parking garages, elevator wells, etc. (Section 707.6.2.8, 2013 IBC)</td>
<td>Between adjacent residential occupancies, tenant spaces in mall buildings, corridor walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Openings</strong></td>
<td>Non-Sprinklered: protected openings, up to 120 sq. ft. width not to exceed 25% width of wall</td>
<td>Non-Sprinklered: protected openings, up to 134 sq. ft. width not to exceed 25% width of wall</td>
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<td>Sprinklered: protected openings, may exceed 120 sq. ft. but width shall remain less than 25% width of wall</td>
<td>Sprinklered: protected openings, may exceed 134 sq. ft. but width shall remain less than 25% width of wall. (Section 707.6.3.3, 2013 IBC)</td>
<td>Sprinklered: protected openings, may exceed 134 sq. ft. but width shall remain less than 25% width of wall. (Section 706.4.1, 2013 IBC)</td>
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<td><strong>Final Wall</strong></td>
<td>Fire walls on lot lines may not have any openings, however, the lot line may not be considered if both properties are owned by the same entity and the wall is opened for the purpose of combined use.</td>
<td>Fire resistance 1 hour, (with exceptions noted in 703.3).</td>
<td>Fire resistance 1 hour, (with exceptions noted in 703.3).</td>
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### Ratings
- **Fire Wall**: 3, 4 hours
- **Fire Barrier**: 1, 2, 3, 4 hours
- **Fire Partition**: 1 hour, (with exceptions noted in 703.3)
Fire Guard

FireGuard FG-20, FG-40, FG-90, FG-120, FG-180

**FLAT LEAD POST**
- WITH INTERNAL COVER DOOR

**NARROW LEAD POST**
- WITH CUSTOM NON-RATED COVER DOOR (BY OTHERS)

**USE THE FLAT LEAD POST WHEN**
- YOU NEED A TIGHT STACK DEPTH AND CAN PAINT THE COVER DOOR TO MATCH SURROUNDING FINISH (NO VENEERS PERMITTED PER UL).

**USE THE NARROW LEAD POST WHEN**
- YOU NEED A COVER DOOR PANEL THAT MATCHES A UNIQUE ADJACENT FINISH (WOOD, STONE, GLASS, ETC.) OR HAVE A CURVED APPLICATION. COVER DOOR NON-RATED & DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT

**DESCRIPTION**
- SERVE AS PROTECTED OPENINGS IN AN EGRESS PATH
- EGRESS IS STANDARD (ADA COMPLIANT)
- FIRE RATINGS 20-40 min., 40-90 min., 120 min., 190 min.
- SMOKE AND DRAFT SEAL "S" LABEL ON ALL DOORS
- MAY BE USED ANYWHERE A SWING DOOR OR FIRE SHUTTER WOULD BE USED
- CURVES AVAILABLE IN 5', 10', AND CUSTOM RADIUS GREATER THAN 5'
- CSI 3-PART SPECIFICATION 08 35 13.23
- DOOR WEIGHT = 5, SUB/Ft² OF CLEAR OPENING
- DEFLECTION = 1/4" MAX. (LIVE LOAD + DOOR WEIGTH)

**APPROVALS ON ALL DOORS**
- IBC 1010.1.4.3, REQUIREMENTS FOR SLIDING DOORS IN AN EGRESS PATH
- NFPA 80, STANDARD FOR FIRE DOORS AND OPENING PROTECTIVES
- UL 10B, FIRE TEST FOR DOOR ASSEMBLIES
- UL 1784, SMOKE AND DRAFT SEALS

**SIZES**
- HEIGHTS UP TO 28'
- LENGTHS OVER 10' +
- TALLER DOORS AVAILABLE WITH SPECIAL ENGINEERING AND U.L. APPROVAL

**ABBREVIATIONS**
- FG-20/FGCS-20 - FIREGUARD 20 MINUTE RATED
- FG-40/FGCS-40 - FIREGUARD 40 MINUTE RATED
- FG-90/FGCS-90 - FIREGUARD 90 MINUTE RATED
- FG-120/FGCS-120 - FIREGUARD 120 MINUTE RATED
- FG-180/FGCS-180 - FIREGUARD 180 MINUTE RATED

**OPTIONS**
- KEY SWITCH - LIMITS CONTROLS TO MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
- BACKUP EXIT HARDWARE & REFLECTIVE SIGMA - INCREASES VISIBILITY OF EGRESS DIRECTION
- INFRARED OBSTRUCTION DETECTOR - SETS OFF AN AUDIBLE ALARM IF SOMETHING IS LEFT IN THE PATH OF THE DOOR
- VISION PANEL - REQUIRED IN I-OCCUPANCIES
- LCD DISPLAY - PROVIDES WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF AUDIBLE DOOR STATUS COMMUNICATIONS
- AIR PRESSURE RESISTANCE LEVEL 1 - RESIST PRESSURES UP TO 1 WATER COLUMN. CONSULT MEP ENGINEER FOR RECOMMENDED AIR PRESSURE RESISTANCE
- AIR PRESSURE RESISTANCE LEVEL 2 - RESIST PRESSURES UP TO .15 WATER COLUMN. CONSULT MEP ENGINEER FOR RECOMMENDED AIR PRESSURE RESISTANCE