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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 in March 2020, subsequent newsletters will be abbreviated to include only the basic activities of the AIA Bronx Chapter until the health crisis is over.**

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| II              | Related Articles and Education Opportunities - <b>Omitted</b>  |             |
| III             | AIA Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most National and State activities are virtual until the health crisis abates.</li><li>• ABX20   Virtual Architecture Boston Expo<br/>December 2-3, 2020<br/>Boston, Massachusetts<br/><a href="https://www.abexpo.com/en/home.html">https://www.abexpo.com/en/home.html</a></li><li>• The AIA '20 National Convention in Los Angeles was officially canceled and as of now has not been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.</li></ul> |             |
| IV              | Next Chapter Meeting is Virtual and on Thursday November 19, 2020 at 6:00pm.   | 7           |

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I Current Activities



October 15, 2020  
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 12:07pm

Attendees:

Bill Davis  
Sara Djazayeri  
Bob Esnard  
Antonio Freda  
Ken H. Koons, Sr.  
Ken A. Koons, Jr.  
Robert Markisz  
Soany K. Marquez  
Carlos A. Matute  
Julian Misiurski  
Bryan Zelnik  
Martin Zelnik

Guest

Joseph Bower – Architectural Consultant  
Andrew F. Harman - Consultant  
Representing Anderson Windows and Doors

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Seminar:

Joseph Brower – An Architectural Consultant was accompanied by Andrew G. Harman both whom represented Andersen Windows and Doors. Joseph Brower presented the seminar: Window Code Fundamentals. He went over four basic issues concerning how regulations and codes evolved significantly over the last few years. Joe discussed:

- The different elements of accessibility laws and their impact on windows.
- Emergency escape and rescue regulations and described some general exceptions to the rules.
- Fall protection requirement compliance methods and the variance between residential and commercial applications.
- Safety glazing in windows when and where they are appropriate or required.

The seminar described the current national standards for a safe egress and rescue which guide local jurisdictions and how interpretations can vary by state and city. The larger cities such as

New York City, have more stringent regulations, that in a relatively short time can/are modified or “improved”, as each jurisdiction adjusts the laws to suit the unique needs of its’ citizens. It is important for architects to follow these changes not only in new construction, but for retrofit situations. The national standard for a window clear opening is 5’-7” for escape and rescue. This standard recently was raised after many decades from a 5’-0” opening.

In terms of fall protection, the sill heights for a window opening requires a minimum of 24” for a residential building and a higher dimension, generally at 36” for commercial buildings. In addition, windows above 72” from grade must have window safety features that limit how high a window can be opened. The maximum is usually 4” to protect children from falling out. In addition, New York City has very specific rules about what is required for safety in new windows, as well as, how a building can retrofit each type of window to conform to city standards. Finally, the issue where and how safety glazing is required is complicated and can be very expensive in many situations. The design of how a door swings opens to the exterior can make a significant difference where fixed glazing is required. This rule also varies for various physical situations. Generally, safety glazing is required for glazing up to 60” high from the finish floor or street level to prevent people from inadvertently braking glass and injuring themselves.

Joe Brower made his presentation virtually, with slides and answered questions as during his talk, as well as after he finished. He reviewed the relationship of different installation techniques and costs in response to questions. Joe volunteered himself and the staff and Andersen’s research resources for Chapter members to utilize. The presentation was professional, complete and received well by Chapter members.

The seminar described charts one of which is attached for Bronx Chapter members reference in the;

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His contact information is:

Joseph Brower  
Architectural Consultant  
Andersen windows & Doors  
Tel: 201-978-5704  
Email: [Joseph.Bower@andersenwindows.com](mailto:Joseph.Bower@andersenwindows.com)

2. Adoption of September minutes:

The Minutes of the September 17, 2020 were attached to September’s meeting notice for members to review. Bob Markisz made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Tony Freda, and the September minutes were then unanimously accepted.

3. The next meetings will be virtual and on:

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| November 19, 2020 | 6:00pm  |
| December 17, 2020 | 12:00pm |
| January 28, 2021  | 6:00pm  |

The Chapter discussed briefly the impact of the COVID Virus, and our ability to continue having a sponsored Virtual meeting. Sara Djazayeri who had been instrumental and very successful in finding and identifying sponsors for the last few years, found that some of the companies are indicating resistance paying for a sponsorship during this virus time. Other AIA Chapter’s, in order to attract sponsors, have reduced or waived fees for seminars specifically for their meetings. However, for the next three meetings, we have confirmed reservations with different companies, who like today’s sponsor, Andersen Windows and Doors, are comfortable with paying a sponsorship fee. It was decided by members at the meeting, that until we cannot find sponsors, we should continue our policy of requiring a fee for companies to present exclusively to Bronx Chapter members. It was pointed out that sponsorship also includes, the Chapter publicizing the sponsor on our Website, the Internet, as well as, our monthly Newsletter and meeting Minutes.

4. **NYC DOB Update and COVID-19:**

The members reviewed how the construction industry has been impacted by the COVID Federal, State and City regulations for architects filing with governmental agencies. The rules have changed, so that just about everything is now electronic filed. There continues to be issues when unique circumstances occur, when programming, the imputing of forms and documents get misinterpreted and rejected in a way, that if an in-person meeting with examiners and DOB staff were possible, all would be easily rectified. The DOB process has become less professional, in that most of the reviews are really by “clerks or programmers” accepting or imputing information. These DOB staff are administrative people who usually do not understand the

construction process and have a limited sense of the time impact, of what they can cause in the approval process for architects and construction.

The Chapter would like to share these issues with other Chapters and industry organizations, to illustrate that these are significant problems and to attempt modify or improve the current “impersonal” DOB approval process.

**5. Nominations for 2021 Officers:**

Ken Koon Sr., and Anthony Freda the Chairman of the 2020 Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for next year. Our Chapter Bylaws require that the Nominating Committee in October propose next year officers which are published in the October meeting minutes and then be voted on at the next meeting in November. If members would like to add other candidates for any position, the changes need to be sent in writing or email, to the Secretary with three member signatures, recommending the change or additions to the candidate list for membership to vote in November.

The Nominating Committee proposes 2021 Officers to be:

|                 |   |                |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Sara Djazayeri  | - | President      |
| Martin Zelnik   | - | Vice President |
| Ken Koons Jr.   | - | Treasurer      |
| Robert Esnard   | - | Secretary      |
| Ofe Clarke      | - | Director       |
| Ken Koons Sr.   | - | Director       |
| Julian Misurski | - | Director       |

**6. Quarterly Audit:**

Ken Koons Sr. of the Audit Committee briefly reviewed the third quarter financials as required by our Chapter Bylaws. He reported that the pandemic interrupted normal operations and there were few expenses resulting in the financials indicating a significant reserve of over \$40,000. The Chapter is operating within its approved 2020 budget and is in good financial shape.

7. Chapter Statement: *(Drafted by William Davis modified for content)*

The Bronx AIA Chapter released in June 2020, a statement concerning its' response to the BLM Movement. At the September 2020 meeting a committee was formed to discuss how the pledges made in the statement can be integrated in the mission and goals of the Chapter. The committee members; Ofe Clarke, William Davis, Soany Marquez, Carlos Matute and Marty Zelnik first met on October 7, 2020 to discuss next steps. The committee reviewed and discussed the statement pledges, looked at a range of options to achieve each goal, prioritized as to what can be accomplished with the current membership and resources, and started to list which pledges require research and education. The committee decided it needed at least two (2) more meetings before they were ready to make a presentation to the Chapter. Based on the pledge options developed and advanced, the committee will make suggestions to the Chapter which pledges they are interested in tackling first.

The committee did suggest that a mentorship program should be started between interns and young professional architects and senior members of the Chapter. This was discussed at the meeting and Ms. Marquez offered to assist in managing the web material and suggested that the Chapter could start doing more social networking using Instagram.

8. The Cloud:

The discussion of the Chapter's Cloud was tabled as Josette Mathews was unable to attend the meeting and the discussion will be deferred for a future meeting.

9. New Business: *(Drafted by Soany Marquez and modified for context)*

A new member of the Chapter, Soany Marquez thanked everyone for welcoming this new effort to begin having the Chapter more involved in social media via Instagram, and for giving her the opportunity to participate as an active Chapter member.

Soany drafted an outline below for members to complete and for her to upload posts for the proposed Chapter Instagram page. For example, to indicate who the current board members are, the new members the Chapter each year, what firms the members work for/own, etc.... Soany requests new ideas/suggestions so if members have anything further to add or deem

appropriate, just send an email with the “Member Background” below to Soany Marquez at [marquezsoany@gmail.com](mailto:marquezsoany@gmail.com) before the next Chapter meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> and if possible before Sunday November 15, 2020.

*Member Background:*

1. *Full Name/Position or former position on the Chapter*
2. *School/Degree*
3. *Where do you work?/Position*
4. *Professional portrait*
5. *100 Word Bio*
6. *5 Fun facts about yourself*
7. *Images with captions of your projects, hobbies, extracurricular/volunteer (any image you want to include) Min 5. jpg format.*

*Questions: (Short answers)*

1. *What inspired you to pursue a career in architecture?*
2. *Why did you decide to Join AIA Bronx?*
3. *Why should new architects join the AIA Bronx Chapter?*
4. *As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its influence on the job market, what advice would you give to recent graduates who want to be active in the profession?*

After, a short discussion by the members it was acknowledged: how welcome it is for the Chapter to have more participants in our meetings. It is also hoped that this involvement can/will continue, and members will become encouraged to attend events and meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

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

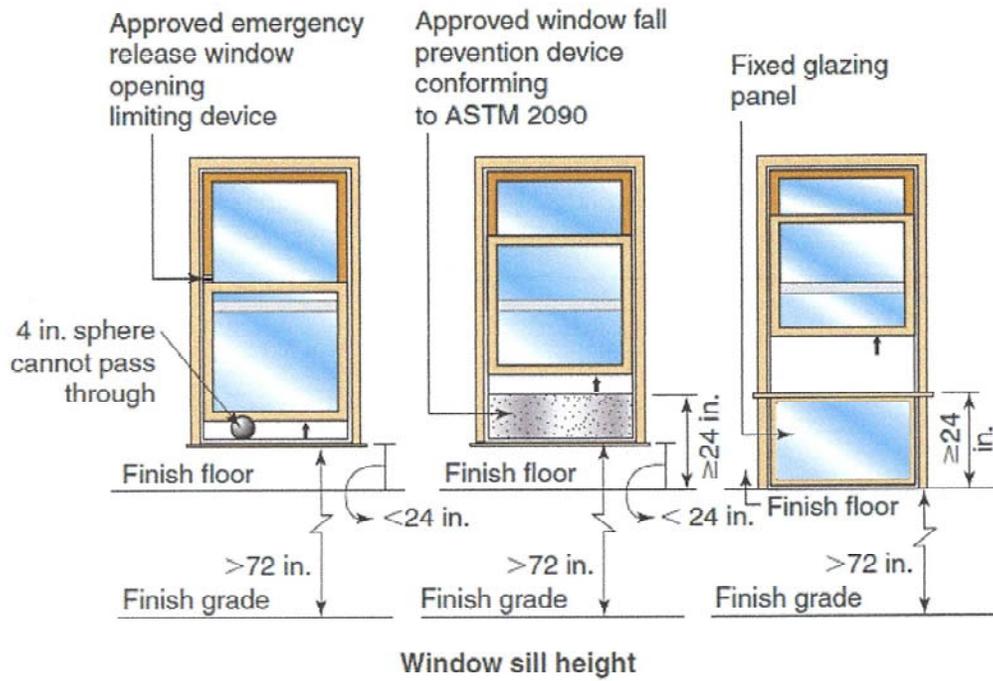
**Thursday November 19, 2020**

**at 6:00PM**

## APPENDIX I

### Window Code Fundamentals

Window opening limiting devices and fall prevention devices must be approved for emergency escape and rescue provisions



**FIGURE 8-18** Alternatives to 24-inch window-sill height

The End