



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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III AIA Activities:	
• Most National and State activities are virtual until the health crisis abates.	
• ABX20 Virtual Architecture Boston Expo December 2-3, 2020 Boston, Massachusetts https://www.abexpo.com/en/home.html	
• The AIA '20 National Convention in Los Angeles will not be rescheduled. As of now AIA '21 has not been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.	
• AIA New York State Emerging Professionals Launch First Podcast.	
Talisha Sainvil, AIA Brooklyn, speaks with At-Large Director Elect of the AIA Board of Directors, Ryan Gann, Assoc. AIA, about getting a seat at the "table". Ryan is no stranger to the proverbial "table," and will be discussing how YOU can get a seat at that table.	
Where to Listen: https://www.buzzsprout.com/1494238/6420667	
IV Next Chapter Meeting is Virtual and on Thursday December 17, 2020 at 12:00pm.	6

I Current Activities



November 19, 2020
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:06 pm

Attendees:

Ofe Clarke
Bill Davis
Sara Djazayeri
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Jerin Lisha
Soany K. Marquez
Carlos A. Matute
Jonathan Medina
Julian Misiurski
Martin Zelnik

Guest

Bill Kressler – Architectural Consultant
Regional Sales Manager
Leviton Lighting Co.

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Seminar:

Bill Kressler – The Regional Sales Manager for Leviton Lighting Co. presented the seminar: Best Practices for Your Lighting Design. The Course reviewed the latest generation of lighting products and their respective applications from a 30,000-foot view. Lighting has a profound effect on how we structurally design our architectural space. These spaces include vertical markets such as commercial, healthcare, educational, industrial and hospitality to name a few. The newest polarizing lighting technology is the light emitting diode – LED and an example of how this theory is used in our most common building design applications.

Net zero building design is almost always driven by Energy codes. In return the design community and their clients can capitalize on positive environmental results. However, the changes that happen frequently in technology and in codes are continuing to test the limits of power density requirements.

The course outlined lighting recommendations for various and exterior lighting applications. It reviewed the benefits of both linear lighting and point source lighting to determine the best practice for specific lighting applications.

The Key topics addressed in the seminar were:

- Application and assessment of alternative lighting arrangements.

- Standards – Energy Codes and IES.
- New and traditional lighting sources.
- Best practices relative to specific applications.
- The future Lighting Trends.

Bill discussed the lighting from the perspective of Health, Safety and Welfare in relation to; Exterior and Interior lighting issues. Both of these environments have design choices depending on how the areas are used, which can create dramatic differences in the “feel” of a place and how to highlight spaces. In many cases, he demonstrated how light can change human interactions with; steps, changes in surfaces or how obstructions are navigated. Most lighting is usually simply determined by code minimum illuminating standards. However, there many ways these standards can be met and by carefully selecting fixtures to; accent stairs by installing lights under handrails or by light in the ground shining up around a building/space, or under an overhang of a roof/room cove, shining down; and create dramatic effects for the same or a slightly higher cost of simply meeting standards.

Exterior lighting is used to highlight a sign or design feature of building which can create glare issues that producing the opposite effect by “blinding” a viewer with a glare “bomb”. Bill illustrated this very directly with physical examples of well-intentioned mistakes and indicated several techniques to solve the problems. In interior spaces; careful selection can create and/or clarify the use of the space; and how safe, as well as satisfying it is to be in. The subtle use of color can change the “feel”, such as a blue tint is easier for sleeping or relaxing. A white light can help keep people more alert, such as in schools or hospitals. Also, if people are in spaces for long periods of time, the circadian rhythm, the sleep wake cycle of life, becomes important for comfort. So lighting should be warmer (blue/white) during the day and gradually change to a cooler (red) color at night. The idea is to integrate the selection of fixtures and lighting sources into the architecture. To always see lighting as integral to the design and construction of a building or space. He highlighted the importance of the work of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), they study and propose many techniques, which historically have become laws, to eliminate energy waste and using lighting only where it is needed. Another very important goal of theirs is to allow people to experience the natural sky; stars, and planets without human created intrusive “sky shine”. Currently, more and more countries, states and municipalities are adopting regulations to require lighting to save power and allow for viewing a more natural and dark sky.

Bill Kressler in his presentation used many charts and examples of; landscapes, buildings and interior spaces to illustrate lighting concepts. The talk was energetic and allowed for a back and forth between the members and him. He also surprised members, with a media/movie quiz with for members to win \$20 gift certificates for correct answers. Finally Bill in conclusion, volunteered to assist chapter members with questions or lighting consultations on projects they are working on. The presentation was very interesting, professional and informative for the Chapter members.

His contact information is:

Bill Kressler
 Architectural Consultant
 Leviton Lighting Co.
 Tel: 973-255-9299
 Email: bill.kressler@leviton.com

2. Adoption of October minutes:

The Minutes of the October 15, 2020 were attached to November's meeting notice for members to review. Marty Zelnik made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Ken Koons Sr., and the September minutes were then unanimously accepted.

3. The next meetings unfortunately, will be virtual meetings until the COVID virus allows us to have in-person meetings at our restaurant venue. The dates are:

December 17, 2020	12:00pm
January 28, 2021	6:00pm
February 18, 2021	12:00pm

4. NYC DOB Update and COVID-19:

As reviewed in several previous meetings, architects and the construction industry are currently required to file "electronically" for all DOB actions: projects reviews, permits and enforcement responses. This electronic process has inadvertently caused wasted time and resources. This waste occurs at job sites, as well as, created tensions with clients who cannot understand the delays caused by simple administrative issues. Many of these issues previously have been resolved by a short in-person contact with DOB staff, which is now impossible to do. Efforts to meet with the Bronx Borough Commissioner to review these processing concerns, as of yet, have not been allowed. Current DOB staffing rules related to COVID have mandated minimizing people contact/meeting. The DOB's goal is to limit the spread of the virus; requiring most employees to work remotely. DOB offices, including the Bronx office are manned with only minimum "essential" staff. However, Chapter membership is requesting that efforts be made for developing other communicating alternatives, such as telephone meetings or direct limited contact with the specific DOB personnel, who work on particular applications or the processing of a project.

Although the Chapter President and Secretary have attended a few virtual meetings with Commissioner Melody LaRocca, only general concerns were reviewed. The Commissioner reinforced the DOB's effort to, not only continue the electronic filing procedure, but to increase it and implement more modifications in the next few months there by increasing the DOB NOW electronic filing and processing procedure. This direction the Commissioner "believes" will make the DOB relationship with the construction industry more efficient and timely. Most Chapter members are not sure that these so called improvements are "helpful".

As Chapter members indicated previously, there should be a "real" DOB dialogue with, AIA Chapters and/or Industry Organizations to acknowledge the "impersonal" processing reality and to urgently modify the current DOB process.

5. The Election of 2021 Officers:

As the Chapter Bylaws require, if the Chapter Secretary does not receive alternate candidates or additions to the Nominating Committee's candidate list prior to the November meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate of the 2021 must be voted on. Therefore, as no changes were received, members unanimously approved next years' officers, who will be:

Sara Djazayeri - President

Martin Zelnik	-	Vice President
Ken Koons Jr.	-	Treasurer
Robert Esnard	-	Secretary
Ofe Clarke	-	Director
Ken Koons Sr.	-	Director
Julian Misiurski	-	Director

6. The Cloud: *(Drafted by Josette Matthew and modified for content)*

The Chapter coordinator of Chapter Cloud, Josette Matthew developed and established a Dropbox by compiling archived Chapter documents. Tony Freda found many of the documents that the Chapter used as part of the recertification process of the Bronx Chapter three years ago and Bob Esnard was able to send her the original Bronx Chapter Charter. All of these documents were forwarded to Josette, who has “populated” the Cloud. It is hoped members will be able to access documents in the next month.

7. Open Restaurants:

At the October meeting, Marty Zelnik raised the economic, public safety and design issues as restaurants were reopening under COVID Restrictions. He had drafted a letter that was attached to October’s minutes and sent to membership. After a discussion, there were several modifications suggested to balance the need of businesses to survive and to serve the public as expeditiously as possible. However, there are still safety and design problems to allow eating in street parking lanes and/or sidewalk spaces in front of restaurant storefronts. Members agreed that the Chapter letter should be modified and sent, requesting the City “open up” the discussion of how it regulates these spaces, with a broader discussion to include; businesses, architects and communities with all the agency regulators. The hope is to produce a more rational, safe and effective dining experience. This is especially true if the city, as the Mayor proposes after the COVID crises, allows these street dining locations to continue. The letter will be sent and circulated to members and is attached to these minutes as Appendix # I.

8. Chapter Committee:

The committee members; Ofe Clarke, William Davis, Soany Marquez, Carlos Matute and Marty Zelnik met and one of the decisions made was to name the group as the AIA Bronx Chapter “Blueprint Committee”. The committee is continuing to discuss the Chapter’s last June’s statement and pledges the Chapter made. The committee’s goal was to propose action steps to be taken in the first months of next year, which will include a range of options as to what can be accomplished with the current membership and resources. One of the suggestions decided on was to develop a Chapter mentorship program between interns and young professionals with senior members of the Chapter. William Davis indicated that the committee will continue to meet regularly and will have more to present to the Chapter in the next Chapter meetings.

9. Instagram/Social Media Chapter Presence: *(Drafted by Soany Marquez and modified for context)*

Soany Marquez reminded members to fill out the questionnaire previously submitted to members which is copied and attached to the minutes as Appendix #2. She urged everyone to please fill it out as soon as possible, to allow her to start setting up our Instagram page for the New Year. The questionnaire should only take a few minutes and the answers need not be very long. If possible, members should include lots of images of work or extracurricular activities that can be shared on the Instagram page.

Appendix I

Chapter Letter

Open Restaurants



December 2, 2020

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: NYC DOT "Open Restaurants Program"

The Bronx Chapter AIA respectfully expresses its concern about the safety of the newly established "Open Restaurants Program" permitting dining structures to encroach upon NYC streets. It is suggested that although they are allowing many businesses to open, there are **serious** issues that negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of those seated at tables, as well as pedestrian, traffic, sanitation, bicyclists, and other related situations.

New York City issued "Design Standards" for the construction of these facilities currently lack sufficient details and specificity. Observation of some of those constructed street structures suggest that quality and strength of many of these units may be in need of re-evaluation.

Accordingly, The Bronx Chapter AIA calls upon these representatives of NYC Agencies including; the DOT, DOB, DCP, LPC, DOS, ECB, DEP, CPC and MOPD to immediately conduct **open Public Hearings**. The hearings will allow a dialog engaging; the public, Community Boards, restauranteurs, architects, engineers and the agencies in a dialog to further evaluate, refine, and improve the "Open Restaurants Program."

The Bronx Chapter of the AIA remains available to assist in any way possible.

Bronx Chapter

Antonio Freda
President

cc: Department of Building
Department of Transportation

Appendix II

Instagram Chapter Page

Background Questionnaire for AIA Chapter Members

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?*

**“Member Background Questionnaire” copied above to be sent to;
Soany Marquez at marquezsoany@gmail.com**

The End