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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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III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The AIA '21 National Convention is now scheduled as an all-digital AIA Conference on Architecture due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis. June 2021 will be series of four unique online events. <a href="https://conferenceonarchitecture.com">https://conferenceonarchitecture.com</a></li><li>• Most National and State activities are virtual until the health crisis abates.</li></ul>	
IV	Next Chapter Meeting is Virtual and on Thursday March 18, 2021 at 6:00pm.	6

## I Current Activities



February 18, 2021  
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 12:05pm

Attendees:

Yennifer Diaz  
Sara Djazayeri  
Bob Esnard  
Antonio Freda  
Susan Hinkson-Carling  
Ken H. Koons, Sr.  
Ken A. Koons, Jr.  
Robert Markisz  
Julian Misiurski  
Bryan Zelnik  
Martin Zelnik

Guest

Stephen DiRaffaele, LEED GA  
Architectural Sales Representative  
Policor, Inc.

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Seminar:

The seminar on "Specifying Natural Stone" was presented by Stephen DiRaffaele of Polycor, Inc., a company also known as Indiana Limestone Company. The presentation highlighted the:

- Features and benefits of natural stone products.
- Performance of Natural Stone using ASTM ST Test Methods.
- Stone quarrying and stone fabrication process as they affect design constraints and the finished products.
- The Application of natural stones in a variety of different building types and uses.
- Characteristics of natural stone products and where they are best suited to specific applications.

Stephen started by describing the three types of stone: Igneous (Granite), Sedimentary (Limestone) and Metamorphic (Marble). Each one of these general types of natural stone has different qualities that make a very useful and versatile building material. It has unique aesthetics as nothing looks like natural stone which is durable and sustainable. Stone is environmentally friendly and with its design flexibility can't be matched by manmade materials. Owners of buildings experience long term cost savings due to stone's durability, great compressive strength as well as fire retardant characteristics. These attributes turn into low maintenance costs with operational cost savings

because stone last so long without the need for upgrade or repairs, better than any other building material.

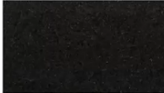



Historically, stone is one of the first building materials used by man which is still used in all types and levels of construction. All through time, stone has been used in the interior and exterior of buildings for religious, commercial and residential uses. Stone was used in “stone-age” public structures; like Stonehenge, the Greek Parthanon, the Roman Coliseum, to modern times, with the cladding and construction of skyscrapers and government buildings in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Stone is tested and defined by industry standards which if followed, will protect against product failure and its’ inappropriate use. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is an international organization which developed and publishes standards globally and is the industry guide. ASTM measures stone based on all its characteristics such as how heavy it is, how porous it is, how much pressure it can take before it breaks, how much it can bend before it cracks, and finally how slippery by measuring its’ friction co-efficient.

Steven used the chart below summarizing the ASTM standards describing the type of stones and their specific characteristics.

### ASTM Chart of Stone Types and Characteristics

## Popular Types of Dimensional Stone

	Stone Type	C97 – Bulk Specific Gravity	C97 – Absorption By Weight	C99 – Modulus of Rupture	C170 – Compressive Strength	C880 - Flexural Strength
	Granite	Cambrian Black® 179lb/ft3	0.11%	2,603psi	30,550psi	2927.9 psi
	Marble	White Cherokee® 169lb/ft3	0.09%*	1,364psi	9,333psi	1296 psi
	Limestone	Indiana Limestone® 144lb/ft3	7.5%*	700psi	4,000psi	1350 psi
	Soapstone	Alberene® 190lbs/ft3	0.01%	2,300psi	9,900psi	1130 psi

Stephen included videos and slides illustrating the quarrying, cutting and finishing of stone to fit specific uses. He demonstrated ultra-thin slabs; in exterior finishes, in elevator cabs and restrooms and large stone elements; supporting buildings, floors and roofs of large spaces.

Currently, one of the major ways stone is used is to anchor or secure stone “thin slabs” on walls or ceilings. This allows for stone to be used as a finished surface or in some instances carved to be

permanent and more durable than just about any other material. He illustrated this in historic buildings where decorations, cornices and friezes last without minimal if any maintenance. Finally, stone can be finished in many ways from; a smooth polished finish, to being brushed, sandblasted or flamed and water-jetted, to create very rough finish.

Steven DiRaffaele concluded the presentation by answering questions and encouraging members to contact him directly for advice in; specifying, selecting and designing the construction of projects utilizing stone.

The seminar was interesting, very professional, and informative for Chapter members. His contact information is:

Stephen DiRaffaele, LEED GA  
Architectural Sales Representative  
A Polycor Inc. Company  
Email: [Stephen.DiRaffaele@polycor.com](mailto:Stephen.DiRaffaele@polycor.com)

2. Adoption of January minutes:

The Minutes of the January 28, 2021 were attached to January's meeting notice for members to review. Marty Zelnik made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Ken Koons, Sr., and the January minutes were unanimously accepted.

At this point, it was brought out that; it was **Ken Koon Sr.'s** birthday! Ken, currently the longest continuously serving member of the Bronx AIA chapter who has held at one time or other, every chapter elected position. Ken's birthday was immediately acclaimed, with best wishes and many happy returns for the future expressed by all.

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

March 18, 2021	6:00pm
April 15, 2021	12:00pm
May 27, 2021	6:00pm
June 17, 2021	12:00pm

4. New York City – Department of Buildings (DOB)

Tony Freda reviewed the problems created by the combination of DOB NOW's electronic filing **only** and the difficulty of resolving processing issues. The Chapter along with other industry groups, unsuccessfully requested meetings, either virtual or in-person to review the issues that filing professionals are having. Processing applications using the DOB NOW new format, makes filing a "computer experience", rather than a construction review. Having to carefully read and follow the computer screens has become technical obstacle, as many filing architects get stuck on computer navigation issues. Tony suggested as the only realistic way to learn is to use the system and "work at it", although it takes time. The DOB self-help and their computer responses have caused frustrations and a needless loss of productivity just because DOB is trying so hard to have minimal in-person staff involvement.

Regretfully, the construction industry for the foreseeable future, will have to live with this “improvement”. Several members have attended DOB training sessions that are open to the public at large, however participants must register in advance to attend. The training sessions although better than nothing, do not allow for the interaction that is necessary for our industry to proceed as it should.

A few members discussed the training sessions and maintained that they are better than nothing. Therefore, members requested the Chapter assist in providing as much notice as possible, to allow more Chapter attendance. As the Chapter receives notices from the DOB NOW training staff, it will quickly as possible be circulated to members. The most recent DOB NOW training offering is attached as Appendix A.

#### 5. Chapter Committees:

- **Education**  
Sara Djazayeri along with Ofé Clark and the Education committee have scheduled a program for March which was an outgrowth of the program setup last year as an in-person learning program. The idea was to have architects visit a local school and then an architectural office for the students to experience and explore some hands-on designing. The plan had been to have two programs a year, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 health crises in the spring of 2020. The current program this March is to have a virtual event with the students and architects.
- **Bronx Blueprint:**  
The committee had a meeting and is finalizing specific ideas to assist the Chapter in its education and a mentoring program for young professionals. In the near future, they expect to present their thoughts for chapter consideration and implementations.
- **Budget**  
The Treasurer Ken Koons, Jr. will present a 2021 budget for adoption by the Chapter at the March meeting. He reported that last year’s Chapter activities, although constrained by the COVID crises, did not impact our overall financial picture. The Chapter has been responsive and always pays attention to operate with a surplus and within conservative financial practices.
- **Cloud for Chapter Documents:**  
Josette Matthew could not attend the meeting but reported that she received information to populate the Cloud with Bronx Chapter documents. She hopes to have a specific email address with the appropriate security controls so that members can have access, while limiting all modifications/changes to designated/Chapter members.
- **Instagram:**  
Although Soany Marquez also was unable to attend the meeting, she requested that members who have responded to her questionnaire; send a picture of themselves, of their work or any Bronx buildings/issues they would like to highlight. Soany is looking to feature as many members as possible and would appreciate more responses. The concept is to

have an active presence on social media publicizing the Chapter, as well as, interacting with a new generation of Bronx architects. Her email is [marquezsoany@gmail.com](mailto:marquezsoany@gmail.com).

6. New Business:

Marty Zelnik suggested modifying the Chapter meeting schedule to evening meetings only, at least during the COVID crises for better attendance. The Chapter now alternates the monthly meeting schedule between a 12:00pm day meeting and an evening meeting's at 6:00pm. After a discussion, everyone who attended the meeting, expressed a willingness to attend evening meeting as well. The agreed proposal was that the Chapter during this "virtual only" meeting stage, will only have 6:00pm meetings. The Chapter secretary will discuss with the scheduled sponsors of the two next scheduled 12:00pm meetings of April and June 2021, to see if the sponsors can attend evening meetings instead. A final decision will be made at the next meeting in March, an evening meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

As the health crisis unfortunately continues and the meeting venue at Artie's Restaurant is only open for outdoor dining. The next meeting will again be a Virtual meeting on:

**Thursday March 18, 2021**

**at 6:00PM**

**Appendix A:  
DOB NOW *Build* Questions and Answer Sessions**

## Appendix A

### DOB NOW *Build* Questions and Answer Sessions

# DOB NOW Training

The Department of Buildings offers free training sessions to industry members and the general public to learn more about DOB NOW.

Register today to reserve your spot by clicking the links below.

All courses will be conducted online via Webex. Sign up below to reserve your spot. Log-in information will be emailed the morning of the event.

*\*Note: Please bookmark and come back to this training page for updates as new dates may be added in the future. \**

All trainings are open to everyone but are tailored to different groups. See below for more details.

# DOB NOW *Build* Questions & Answers Sessions

This live Q&A session is for DOB NOW users who have questions about the new features and filing procedures implemented recently in BUILD. It will also include a review of frequently asked questions from prior trainings.

Date	Topics	Materials
<a href="#">Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Buildings</li></ul>	<a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> Frequently Asked Questions</a> <a href="#">Alteration filings (GC, FO, EA, SE and PMM) Resources Page</a>
<a href="#">Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alteration-CO (formerly Alt-1)</li><li>• Related details (Zoning, Schedule of Occupancy, Fees)</li></ul>	
<a href="#">Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Temporary BIN (TBIN) Requests</li></ul>	
<a href="#">Tuesday, March 23, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupancy functionality for BIS jobs</li></ul>	
<a href="#">Tuesday, March 30, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Construction (GC)</li><li>• Foundation (FO)</li><li>• Earthwork (EA)</li></ul>	
<a href="#">Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 2pm to 4pm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support of Excavation (SE)</li><li>• Protection &amp; Mechanical Methods (PMM)</li><li>• Tenant Protection Plan</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Safety Plan</li> <li>• Supersede &amp; Withdrawal</li> <li>• New features (improved search, exporting jobs, etc.)</li> </ul>	
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## Recent Trainings

Training Type	Topics	Materials
<b>Design Professionals &amp; Filing Representatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Construction (GC)</li> <li>• Foundation (FO)</li> <li>• Earthwork (EA)</li> <li>• Support of Excavation (SE)</li> <li>• Protection &amp; Mechanical Methods (PMM)</li> </ul> <p>New features (improved search, exporting jobs, etc.)</p>	<p><a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Design Professional Training Presentation</a></p> <p>To view a previous training, click below:  <a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Design Professional Training Webinar</a></p>
<b>Contractors &amp; Licensees</b>	<p>Requesting and renewing permits (highlight will be on GC permits but applies to all PW2 work permits)</p> <p>New contractor requirements (Tenant Protection Plan, etc.)</p> <p>Contractor Withdrawal</p> <p>New features (improved search, exporting jobs, etc.)</p>	<p><a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Contractor Training Presentation</a></p> <p>To view a previous training, click below:  <a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Contractor Training Webinar</a></p>
<b>Tenant Protection Plans &amp; Site Safety Plans in DOB NOW</b>	<p>Tenant Protection Plan</p> <p>Site Safety Plan</p>	<p><a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – TPP and SSP Training Presentation</a></p> <p>To view a previous training, click below:  <a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Tenant Protection Plan &amp; Site Safety Plan Webinar</a></p>
<b>Supersede &amp; Withdrawal in DOB NOW</b>	<p>Superseding Design Professional</p> <p>Withdrawing Design Professional or Contractor</p>	<p><a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Withdrawal and Supersede Training Presentation</a></p> <p>To view a previous training, click below:  <a href="#">DOB NOW: <i>Build</i> – Supersede &amp; Withdrawal Webinar</a></p>



# Prior Trainings

For training materials of already released work types, including Step-by-Step Guides and Videos, click on one of the below Resources links:

- Antenna and Curb Cut filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- Construction Fence, Sidewalk Shed, Supported Scaffold, 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](#))
- Plumbing, Sprinkler and Standpipe filings ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- Mechanical Systems filings – ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- Structural filings – ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- Boiler Equipment filings – ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))
- Cranes filings - ([FAQ](#) and [Resources](#))

To submit an inquiry about DOB NOW, visit the [DOB NOW Help Form](#).

To submit feedback about DOB NOW Training visit our [survey page](#).

## Helpful Links

- [Register for DOB NOW: \*Build\* or DOB NOW: \*Safety\*](#)
- [Log-in to DOB NOW: \*Build\* or DOB NOW: \*Safety\*](#)
- [Log-in & Register for a DOB NOW: \*Inspections\* account](#)

**THE END**