



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

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

Newsletter

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The AIA '21 National Convention in June 2021 is an all-digital AIA Conference on Architecture due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis. In addition, there will be series of four unique online events and CEU options. July 3, 2021 – Sustainable Practice July 7, 2021 – Firm Resilience July 29, 2021 – Community Engagement August 19, 2021 – Building Efficiency https://conferenceonarchitecture.com	
III	AIA New York State	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TriState Conference – AIA New Jersey, AIA New York State and AIA Pennsylvania December 8, 9, & 10, 2021 Vertical Conference to Share Ideas and Technologies for Architects is Requesting Proposals for Discussion and Programing Contact: mloidisi@aianyc.org	
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I Current Activities



May 27, 2021
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:05pm.

Attendees:

William Davis Jr.
Ofe Clarke
Sara Djazayeri
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Robert Markisz
Carlos Matute
Julian Misiurski
Martin Zelnik
Bryan Zelnik
Seymour Weintraub

Guest

Peter Restivo
Sales Representative
J+J Flooring

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Seminar:

The seminar on "Flooring and Acoustics" was presented by Peter Restivo, Sales Representative for J+J Flooring, J&J Flooring Group LLC 2021, located in Dalton, Georgia, one of the largest manufacturers of flooring in the country. The company was created in 1957 as a carpet company and over time developed into a diverse operation fabricating modular carpet, broadloom, LVT (Luxury Vinyl Tile) and Kenetex textile composite flooring.

Peter Restivo's presentation reviewed the relationship of noise, sound, and flooring and how the combination affects people when they are working, learning, and living in various building types. The seminar reviewed the science of acoustics and flooring by:

- Understanding how flooring impacts acoustics in the built environment.
- Assessing the acoustics properties of different floor coverings.
- Explaining the importance of considering acoustic properties when specifying flooring.

- Identifying ways that acoustics impact patient and staff outcomes in hospitals, student performance in learning environments and business professionals in office settings.
- Understanding how acoustics can affect reimbursements to hospitals.

There have been several important studies such as; “The Future of Evidence Based Design” by David White Meyer and “Evidence-Based Design of Elementary and Secondary Schools” by Peter Lippmann. The studies outline how the impact of sound is basic to people communicating, working, learning and how it effects their health. Therefore, controlling the acoustic characteristics of space is important in all aspects of living. If designers can balance, sound and noise appropriately for how people use spaces within buildings, they will be more successful and comfortable. Peter outlined various hearing environments, hospitals, workspaces and learning spaces where people are more successful by controlling sound. As it turns out the type of flooring used in spaces is one of the most significant physical elements that control sound and acoustics.

Different types of floors and their coverings control sound differently. Flooring can control airborne, and structure borne noise up to; 30% using vinyl and rubber tile, 50% with carpeting, and using Textile composite flooring from 50 to 70%. Architects can make a difference by specifying flooring based on the needs to support the activities and goals of spaces. All flooring specifications should be selected based on the absorption and remediation needs building in addition to choosing colors and structural qualities of a flooring material.

Peter reviewed, the science of background noise utilizing hertz (ITZ) characteristics which measures the frequency waves as well as, the decibel (DB) the intensity which measures (loudness). He illustrated the flooring Sound Pressure Levels (SPL) demonstrated in the chart below:

dB SPL in Real Life

Sound Environment	Sound Pressure Level (dBA SPL)	Approximate Loudness with Regard to Ordinary Conversation
threshold of hearing	0	don't hear anything
broadcast studio interior or rustling leaves	10	1/32nd as loud as conversation
quiet house interior or rural nighttime	20	1/16th as loud
quiet office interior or watch ticking	30	1/8th as loud
quiet rural area or small theater	40	1/4th as loud
quiet suburban area or dishwasher in next room	50	1/2 as loud
office interior or ordinary conversation	60	ordinary conversation
vacuum cleaner at 10 ft.	70	twice as loud
passing car at 10 ft. or garbage disposal at 3 ft.	80	4 times as loud
passing bus or truck at 10 ft. or food blender at 3 ft.	90	8 times as loud
passing subway train at 10 ft. or gas lawn mower at 3 ft.	100	16 times as loud
night club with band playing	110	32 times as loud
threshold of pain	120	64 times as loud as conversation (twice as loud as night club)

Peter indicated that independent laboratory results shows that carpet and textile composite flooring control noise more effectively than any other floor covering. He concluded his presentation outlining and showing specific products that his company could help Chapter members in solving sound issues while being efficient and economical installing the appropriate flooring.

Peter's presentation was professional, informative, and well received by Chapter members. If members are interested in learning more about flooring converting, J+J Flooring or are interested in samples they should contact him at:

Peter Restivo
J+J Flooring
Cell: 631-459-3142
Email: peter.restivo@jjflooring.com

2. Adoption of April minutes:

The Minutes of April 15, 2021 were attached to the March meeting notice for members to review. The minutes were corrected by adding Bryan Zelnik's name, which was inadvertently omitted, and the corrected version of the Minutes were attached to the last Meeting Notice sent to members.

Marty Zelnik made a motion for approval of the corrected minutes, which was seconded by Ofé Clarke, and the April minutes were then unanimously approved.

3. Next Meeting Dates:

Ofé Clarke requested the Chapter modify its virtual meeting schedule to only evening meetings which will allow for more member participation. The Chapter experienced over the last months, more virtual attendance at the 6:00pm meetings than 12:00pm. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Chapter will have 6:00pm evening meetings exclusively during the COVID crisis. Therefore, the future dates scheduled will be:

June 17, 2021	6:00pm (Sponsor accepted the change from 12:00pm)
September 23, 2021	6:00pm (Moving to in-person meetings will be discussed).
October 21, 2021	6:00pm

Carlos Matute suggested that the Chapter, when in-person meetings resume, attempt to find a meeting location closer to subway lines. Sara Djazayeri reviewed the problem of finding an economical location that was near transit, which will have parking and serve food. She urged that members look for alternatives in the Bronx for the Chapter to consider. Our current venue, a restaurant in City Island was originally chosen because it allowed us a private room with no cost, parking was available, and members only had to eat a meal. Carlos then recommended that the Chapter consider having a hybrid meeting which could allow members to attend virtually as well as in person to increase participation. It was agreed that the suggestions were good and this issue will be revisited in the fall.

4. New York City – DOB:

Tony Freda reviewed the activities of the Architects Council of NYC where a recent unfair punishment of an Architect was discussed. He filed an application for a building listed by DOB as an "SRO", but not by DHCR (the New York State Housing Agency). The building is a three-unit residence functioning as a three-family house. DOB cited this action and imposed a penalty for

three years not allowing the Architect to “legally” file anything with DOB, punishing him as a violator of “Tenant Harassment Laws”. In addition, the Architect had all his DOB applications audited for several years. The result was that all filings and special inspections were reversed, and he was faulted for “erroneous”, DOB approvals.

The Council used this unfair example of punishment to warn Architects to be very careful and read all the documents that they submit. A small or seeming “little” mistake can become very significant. Architects should check occupancy, the number of stairs and most importantly how DOB “characterizes” buildings. The Council wrote and urged the city to focus on “real” problem filings, affecting life safety or applicants who significantly misrepresent facts. DOB should not over punish for minor or disputable misrepresentations of codes or law.

The most recent new legislation that added to the Architects’ responsibilities are the TPP (Tenant Protection Plan) changes. There is a new notice rule that make the DOB applicants responsible for certain occupied residential building owner’s activities. The architect must be sure to notify DOB when an owner starts working in occupied buildings. The architect must be careful, as any “Tenant” issue can become a very serious problem. Unfortunately, “words” can become much more important than the drawings an architect submits.

Tony in addition, urged architects to be more aware of a new procedure for filing for a C.O. If there are separate buildings on a lot and even though all the buildings are on that one lot, the buildings need separate “Bin” numbers. This new interpretation when not followed can add unnecessary time or problems with a CO filing.

5. Chapter Committee:

- Education:

Sara Djazayeri reported on the Education’s committee’s recent activities and Ofé Clarke showed two short videos of a student and a teacher describing their positive experience with the education committee’s program and how much it meant to the elementary school children.

The committee hopes to schedule a new program in October and is looking to work with older High School or Middle School students to participate. Sara indicated that the success of the first program was based on locating a teacher to work cooperatively with the committee as well as finding a large volunteer Architectural firm willing and physically able to be involved with the program. Chapter members loved the presentation and hoped that the committee can continue its successful activities in the fall with a new program.

On a different issue, Sara and Ofé discussed utilizing the \$1,500 allocation for a Design Program in the Chapter’s 2021 budget, by reprogramming it as a “grant” assisting a Bronx Architectural student in CCNY’s architectural program. There was universal support among the members and the committee was charged with developing an implementation strategy for a ratification vote at the Chapter’s next meeting.

- Emerging Professionals: (EP)

Ofé Clarke reviewed the committee’s discussion and their proposal to join with AIA Brooklyn as its first program activity. Brooklyn has organized a series of study group

sessions to help associate members with their efforts towards passing the registered licensing requirement. Ofe requested and the Chapter secretary forward a list of recent graduate Chapter members to measure their interest in participating with the committee study group. In conclusion, the Chapter also profusely thanked Ofe Clarke, for her involvement with Chapter activities, i.e., following through on the Education, Emerging Professional and the Blueprint Committees.

- **Bronx Blueprint:**
Bill Davis, the committee chairman indicated that at this meeting there will not be enough time to go over all the issues the committee discussed. He indicated that since some of the original Blueprint proposals, such as reaching out to local school children and having a mentoring program for young architects, are being implemented he will write a note to outline some of the additional thoughts the committee discussed.

However, to start Ofe Clarke, who has been very diligent, outlined an implement strategy idea, to quick start the mentorship program, previously discussed and supported by the Chapter. She suggested scheduling an outdoor meeting on July 15th where potential mentors and mentees would meet and hopefully link up. This thought resulted in a discussion where a suggested targeted pilot program was agreed on as a first step. The potential mentors and mentees would be contacted initially electronically or by phone, to best find who is interested in participating in this program first. The Chapter secretary will identify a list of new associate members that Ofe could reach out to, to measure the level of interest. In addition, she volunteered to write a short paragraph about the duties and responsibilities of being a mentor or mentee, which then could be discussed at the June meeting.

Bill Davis finished the committee's update by quickly summarizing the Blueprint Committees' efforts, which are centered on building on last years "Chapter Statements", of five pledges that the Chapter would try to realize. Bill's hope specifically, was to have the Chapter work towards implementing a "Virtual Summit" event that would try to put pull together community leaders, developers, cultural institutions, and other organizations that are trying to encourage Bronx diversity and inclusion. The goal of the Virtual event will be to publicize the Chapter and join with other groups who are trying to improve life and support successful community activities. Bill suggests that this might take more time than usually available in a normal Chapter meeting to review and fully explore. He will try to write something to describe the committee's thoughts to send to Chapter membership first, to see and measure willingness to be involved in implementing the pledges and/or the virtual summit.

After a brief discussion, the members thought perhaps scheduling a separate meeting virtually or in person over the summer might be the best way to have a full discussion and to get consensus for Chapter action.

6. **New Business:**
As the meeting had been very long and there was no new business or issues to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

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

Thursday June 17, 2021

at 6:00PM

THE END