



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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Related Articles and Education Opportunities	
• The AIA '21 National Convention in June 2021 is an all-digital AIA Conference on Architecture due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis and continues throughout the summer. 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	
• 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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Next Chapter Meeting is Virtual and on Thursday July 15, 2021 at 6:00pm. (Note: This additional Ad hoc policy meeting is to review/discuss Chapter Committee activities)	

I Current Activities



June 17, 2021
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:07pm.

Attendees:

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

Guest

Chris Jordan and John Pepe
Market & Sales Representatives
Versatex Building Products

Agenda / Discussion:

1. Seminar:

The seminar on “PVC101: The Benefits and Uses of Cellular PVC Trim” was presented by John Pepe and Chris Jordan, Sales Representatives of PVC Versatex Building Products, a major manufacturer in the country. Created in 2004, they are a high-end PVC Trim company and over time developed many diverse products to meet the trimming needs of buildings and architecture.

Versatex Building Products is located in Aliquippa, PA. John Pepe led the presentation by outlining the seminar with Chris Jordan who will close the seminar and will respond to questions. The presentation is organized to help architects and designers understand the:

- Properties of cellular PVC.
- Cellular PVC micro-ingredients.
- Key differences between high and low-quality cellular PVC.
- Ease of use and adaptability of PVC.
- Common and unique end-use applications.
- Painting, staining, and laminating options.

PVS is a unique light versatile product that has replaced wood and precast concrete used as a trim in many buildings. It is similar to wood in that, it can be cut, drilled, and painted like wood but does not splinter, and is insect resistant. It also can be placed in direct contact with masonry, the grade or water. There are many PVC applications that weather well for use on porches, lockers, outdoor living areas, as well as in basements and garages. The resistance to water and moisture is illustrated in the chart below:

Moisture Absorption



Specimen ID	24 Hr. @ 23°C Water Absorption (%)
Fiber Cement	45.38
Urethane Fly Ash	5.16
OSB Trim	29.55
MDF Trim	37.54
Cellular PVC	<0.50

Test Method: Specimens were evaluated by Water Immersion in accordance with ASTM D570-98 (2010), Standard Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics, Section 7.1 – Twenty-Four Hour Immersion

However, there are many manufactures of PVC. Some have more “micro-ingredients” then others and are made utilizing various different manufacturing procedures. The better-quality manufacturing process impacts the long-term performance and wearability, workability, and flexibility of strength as well as the product warranty.

John illustrated with photos many examples of, porch ceilings, coffer beams, door and window trims, column wraps, custom brackets, soffits, decorative as well as structural railings, flower boxes, cupolas and even mailboxes. Manufacturers now have the ability to film laminated boards, windows, siding and ceilings and can mimic wood, grain colors and with the ability to significantly reduce the heat transfer and impact of UV fading not possible with other trim products. Finally, PVC is generally not affected by UV rays and over time will not fade in color.

PVC can be used in just about every type of building use; residential, commercial, community facility and historic buildings. PVC is affectively used in the restoration of older structures. In many situations if a structure is compromised, the lighter weight recreation can allow a building to be saved and reused.

John concluded his portion of the presentation highlighting the sustainability and fire resistive characterizations of Cellular PVC. PVC does not set “off gas”, it is rigid, inert and, a product that is one of the most researched and tested materials. It is recyclable, durable, strong and is self-extinguishing with a flame spread rating – Class A, which does not support combustion. In terms of landfill waste, it is almost negligible because it is basically recyclable.

Chris Jordan concluded by describing why architects should chose Versatex products as they are the industry standard. Versatex manufacturers only trim products that are the most; efficient, durable, clean, innovative, sustainable, flexible and safe in the industry. They are the “best in-class” in all aspects of the business and produce all their products in the USA. Chris showed photos of Versatex products in buildings throughout the country. He had physical samples to illustrate; siding trim, column wrap arounds, that last longer without a significant loss or waste of material in the construction of buildings. The sheet and trim pieces come in more; sizes, types, thickness and colors than other manufacturers. Therefore, Versatex products are more efficient and most project experience less waste of material. Versatex significantly has a unique 100% warranty for the life of all the products they produce.

John Pepe and Chris Jordan’s presentation was informative, and well received by Chapter members. Members were encouraged, if they are interested to learning more about Cellular PVC Trim, Versatex Building Products or if they would like samples, they should contact:

Chris Jordan
Versatex
Cell: 845-616-9035
Email: cjordan@versatex.com

2. Adoption of May minutes:

The Minutes of May 27, 2021 were attached to the June meeting notice for members to review. Marty Zelnik made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Julian Misiurski and the May 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Next Meeting Dates:

The meeting times were discussed at some length, and it was agreed that all future virtual meetings should be in the evening. Tony Freda then suggested that perhaps there is an advantage to having all meetings virtually and occasionally have in person meetings, since we have more participation of both new and older Chapter members in the virtual format. It was then agreed to stay virtual and only when appropriate, to have annually a few or as necessary/needed in-person meetings. It was suggested and agreed that we would have the next in-person meeting, if the COVID issue allows, in December 2021.

The future dates scheduled will be:

July 15, 2021 6:00pm

At the end of this June meeting, in agenda item #6 an Ad hoc virtual meeting was scheduled for July 15, 2021, at 6:00pm for exclusive discussions on Chapter Committee reports.

September 23, 2021 6:00pm

October 21, 2021 6:00pm

4. AIA '21 – National Convention Update.

As Sara Djazayeri could not attend the virtual Convention Presidents meeting, and the Chapter Vice President Marty Zelnik, attended on behalf of the Bronx AIA Chapter on June 14, 2021. This was a Virtual meeting of all AIA Chapter presidents, or their representatives where various National AIA policy and funding items were discussed and voted on.

Marty verbally reviewed the meeting highlights and summarized the agenda items voted on. The President and Executive Vice President of the AIA presented the overall National AIA goals for 2021 which are very similar to the issues and goals the Chapter has been working on and trying to implement through its' Committees. The idea of attempting to diversify and support inclusivity and fairness in the "architectural" workplace and society, to encourage young professionals' education and mentorship wherever possible and finally, to assist wherever possible architectural practice by recruiting as many young members as possible. The ultimate goal being to build as strong a professional organization while reflecting America's highest standards of democracy. Marty submitted his notes for members information describing the proceedings attached as Appendix I.

5. New York City – DOB:

Tony Freda was unable to attend last months' Architects Council of New York (ACNY) Meeting. However, he highlighted the educational opportunities and clarifications of DOB practices that the Council offers. ACNY coordinates with other chapters and professional organizations which he will forward to the Chapter Secretary for circulating to members as they are offered. In addition, Tony reviewed the continuing communication gap and practical difficulties in resolving specific processing issues that the implementation of DOB NOW combined with the pandemic, has made much more complicated. He urges those members to be as careful and precise as they can be, in filling all any DOB forms and submitting applications. Being accurate and consistent with the DOB procedures for filing, is critical to be successful as a practicing architect in NYC.

Sara Djazayeri suggested that our Chapter hold a seminar for CEU credit, that offers to our new members, the other AIA and Architects practicing in NYC, a "Basic" tutorial on how to file with the new DOB NOW system. After a short discussion, it was thought that it might be developed as a question and answer session. Sara thoughts was that she, Tony, and perhaps another member of the Chapter could present the seminar as a discussion of 60 minutes or so reviewing the basic steps of filing and ALT1, i.e, Change of Use or ALT2 i.e., modifying an apartment or expanding a house or deck that would be very helpful to associate and new architects who would like help in getting started with this complicated DOB process of filing. Bob Esnard indicated that the Chapter can set up such a course and get it approved but needs a paragraph and a set of learning objectives to file the course with National AIA. Sara said she would write it up and, requested if other members who may have interest in participating, they should contact her at; info@studio360s.com.

6. Chapter Committee:

- Education:

The Education committee is still working on their Fall event and hope to have a program worked out for discussion at the September meeting. Sara Djazayeri brought to the members attention, a request from the AIA Queens Chapter, for the Bronx Chapter to support and jointly sponsor with other borough Chapters, a "Small Firm Exchange" (SFx) for a one CEU credit to assist the needs and concerns of architects who work in small (10 or under) firms. The membership unanimously supported this effort and Sara will

communicate with the Queens Chapter to join as a sponsor of the event. The secretary was directed to send the email notice of the SFX program to all members, which is also attached as an Appendix II.

- **Emerging Professionals: (EP)**
Ofe Clark had followed up on the Mentors Program by sending emails to associate members requesting if they have any interest in being a mentee. She expects to have comments and a specific list of members interested by the end of summer. Her hope is to develop and propose a program of the associates interested at the next meeting. In addition, Ofe had also indicated that those Emerging Professionals in the Chapter who are interested in participating in the Registered Licensing Study Sessions that Brooklyn AIA is organizing, they also should contact her. If associate members who have not responded or have just learned of the Chapter's mentoring program and/or would like to join the Licensing Study Sessions, that they email her at; clarke.ofe@gmail.com.
- **Chapter Cloud:**
Josette Matthews could not attend the meeting and hopefully will be able to update the Chapter at a future meeting.
- **Bronx Blueprint:**
Bill Davis, the Bronx Blueprint Committee Chairman indicated that he had not been able to work with the Bronx Blueprint Committee since our last meeting and proposed an "Ad hoc" meeting in the summer just to review the Blueprint and other committee initiatives. In the last two meetings we did not have enough time for discussion. He hoped that at a summer meeting the members would be fresh and discussions would not be pressed by time. There was a general discussion with the remaining members still in attendance, who all approved an Ad hoc meeting with a specific agenda on our normal third Thursday in July at 6:00pm. In addition, Bill thought that he would have something prepared by then, which we could hopefully circulate before the meeting, focusing the discussions. Several members hoped that the Chapter could have more associate members attend and participate in the meeting. Over the last year it was mostly the associate members who expressed interest in working on the Emerging Professional and/or the Bronx Blueprint committees. Therefore, it was unanimously agreed that we would have an Ad hoc July meeting with a specific agenda concerning Emerging professionals and Bronx Blueprint Committees.

7. **New Business:**

There were no new business items and as there was no new business to discuss, Ofe Clarke suggested closing the meeting with Tony Freda seconding the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:16pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

As suggested at the June meeting, there will be a Zoom Ad hoc discussion meeting on:

Thursday July 15, 2021 at 6:00PM

Appendix

- I. Marty Zelnik - Summary on AIA National Convention Meeting.
- II. Intro to Small Firm Exchange (SFx) - 1 AIA LU (non-HSW)

Appendix I

Marty Zelnik - Summary on AIA National Convention Meeting

Re: 164th National AIA Zoom Meeting with Delegates.

On June 10, 2021, I participated as a representative of the Bronx Chapter AIA in National AIA Zoom meeting with AIA delegates from around the USA. The meeting lasted over two hours and consisted of various reports from AIA officials as well voting on certain motions that had been approved by "National" to be voted upon by the delegates. The meeting was long, tedious, but somewhat informative. I took notes as best I could, and share same with you and, as you see fit, the Bronx Chapter members.

A. Opening Comments by AIA National President Peter J. Exley, FAIA:

Pres. Exley indicated:

That the last year was, and the future will be, a "future of uncertainty."

Acknowledged the myriad contributions of AIA "volunteers."

Indicated the hardship and uniqueness of remote working on the part of staff and volunteers due to the Covid crisis.

Extolled the virtues of maintaining high standards and the values of the AIA.

Spelled out AIA priorities with respect to a "climate action plan" net zero energy programs and goals.

Stressed the importance of supporting recent architectural graduates in general.

Stressed the importance of AIA with respect to addressing "social equity and social justice."

Stressed the importance of "inclusion."

Noted that construction and architectural practice are in "a state of evolution."

B. Comments by Robert A. Ivy, FAIA, Executive VP and CFO:

He stressed that:

Long term financial picture of AIA National is "stable and secure."

Need to "broaden "non-dues income and resources."

Presently there are "85,623 AIA members as of May 2021. (No breakdown)

Local components throughout the USA are strong."

Components need to be more resilient to increase funds.

Importance for "AIA members and components to increase membership through innovation."

Important to provide clear role of architects and architecture to the public.

Strong need for "AIA components to expand membership."

C. Treasurer's Report by Evelyn M. Lee, FAIA Treasurer

AIA maintains a "very strong financial condition."

25% of AIA's revenue comes from membership dues.

AIA has significant reserves and maintains "fiscal responsibility."
Expenses for 2020 was approximately \$69.1 Million.
Was able to reduce expenses by approximately \$10 Million this last year.

D. Voting Session of Proposed By Laws Amendments:

1. Resolution 21A to have a 3-Year transition to dissolve all AIA "regions."
All regional dues will disappear. Existing funds remaining will be somehow redistributed (no formula provided):

Results:

Yes: 4128

No: 685

2. Resolution 21B (missed discussion).

3. Resolution 21.1 (by AIA Pennsylvania) "to enhance research into underrepresented communities, the increasing of diversity within the profession, and foster further AIA community engagement."

Financial implications/budget: \$118,000.

Yes: Resolution Passed (missed vote tabulation).

4. Resolution 21.2 - AIA Board took no position!

This resolution encourages AIA members and chapters to become more proactive politically. Encourages architects to run for office. A proposed "citizen architect" program. An effort to get architects involved and elected. Develop and provide a "toolkit for architects" interested in running for public office.

Encourage architects to run for public office.

Financial implications/Budget: \$112,000-212,000

Results:

Yes: 3748

No: 1323

5. Resolution 21.3-"New Member Task force:"

This resolution creates a "new member task force."

Promote diversity, women, inclusion etc.

Promote K-12 exposure about architects and architecture.

Engage with architecture students.

Increase mentoring and arrange internships

Increase exposure to "kids" as to "what architects do."

Encourage greater equity, opportunity, and diversity engagement

Financial Implications:

\$490,000 for "first startup costs"

\$195,000 for grants

Results:

Yes: 3921

No: 1310

E: New Business:

1. AIA National is conducting a new search for a CEO. In that regard, a "diverse committee" has been approved and appointed. It is still early in the process. No job specifications have been prepared or approved but expect this to be accomplished by late fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Zelnik

Appendix II

Intro to Small Firm Exchange (SFx) - 1 AIA LU (non-HSW)

INFO

- **Date:** Tuesday June 29, 2021
- **Time:** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
- **Location:** via Zoom
- **Registration:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrf-mvrTIsGtZLIM7L2Jg4VXq6u2t4k5io>
- **Course:** Intro to Small Firm Exchange (SFx) - 1 AIA LU (non-HSW)
- **Course Description:** The Small Firm Exchange is an AIA Member Group that was founded in 2005 to represent the needs and concerns of all AIA members who own or work in a small firm. A small firm is defined by having 10 or fewer employees and this contingent makes up roughly 75% of all firms in the U.S. In this course you will learn more about small firm data, how the SFx is organized, initiatives it has undertaken to help small firms, and ways that you can become involved with the SFx at local, state, and national levels.
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Become acquainted with the SFx and its primary functions.
 - Learn more about small firm statistics in the U.S. and the impact that small firms have on the industry.
 - Learn about how the SFx is transitioning to a state-based model and the ways in which this will open more opportunities for involvement and diversity.
 - Learn about special projects and resources that the SFx has recently created or is currently working on creating, in collaboration with other AIA groups.
- **Graphic for social:** Still needs to be created; awaiting response from other chapters by this week

THE END