



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 2020, 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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October 21, 2021
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:05pm.

Attendees:

Boris Baranovich
Bill Caplan
Ofe Clarke
Sara Djazayeri
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Robert Markisz
Richard Montana
Julian Misiurski
Bryan Zelnik
Martin Zelnik

Guest

Seth Tucker
Project Manager
Michelle Kalsi
General Manager
Spacetheory.com

Agenda / Discussion

1. Michelle Kalsi, the General Manager representing Space Theory, LLC, introduced Seth Tucker, Space Theory Product Manager, to present a seminar on “An Easier Path to a Great Kitchen”. Seth illustrated through slides, drawings, and photos how using a systemized approach simplifies the process of designing and building a unique and well-designed kitchen. He showed the inherent qualities of a system based approach and how using this methodology from start to construction allows the designer a greater level of creativity and assurance of the outcome.

The program highlighted the future of kitchen design with a computer assisted program that guides an architect through the process of laying out a well-designed kitchen with real time access and visibility to pricing, drawings and lead time. Seth outlined the foundational concepts of the Space Theory kitchen system and how relying on the system to manage the details gives the designer the freedom to focus on the overall design intent and

architectural integration rather than the minute kitchen details. This was illustrated in the software demonstration by a step-by-step systemized process (which also included utility connections) to show how a kitchen design using this process is ultimately faster and easier to develop and build.

Seth summarized the advantages of combining the planning and building of a kitchen to accurately include all fixtures, appliances, workspaces, storage, and lighting to create superior designs and a more refined and assured physical product. The system based approach was illustrated in the Design Engine software through each stage of a project and showed how it can simultaneously develop estimated final costs, for the architect and client and how any changes to the design would instantaneously show the economic impact. He concluded the presentation with a question-and-answer period that Michelle Kalsi participated moderated. They both were very professional, and well received by the Chapter members. Michelle volunteered to help Chapter members with any of their projects or to review Space Theory's information to understand any concerns the members may have. She indicated that members contact her at:

Michelle Kalsi
General Manager
Spacetheory.com
Tel: 206-406-6145
Email: michelle@spacetheory.com

2. The Minutes of October 21, 2021 were attached to the September meeting notices for members to review. A motion to approve the September Minutes was made by Ken Koons and seconded by Bill Caplan with the September 23, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Next Meeting Dates:
Continuing the meetings virtually at 6:00pm were reviewed and again approved. The Chapter will extend virtual meetings through February 2022. Although the members still have hope that the virus will abate, and a location can be found to have in-person meetings with parking and mass transit access in the near future. It was also pointed out that the December meeting shown on the agenda incorrectly had the meeting as a 12:00pm meeting. It was again agreed that at all meetings will now be at 6:00pm, especially as meeting virtually, most members find the evening meeting more convenient. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the next Chapter meetings will be virtual, at 6:00pm and the schedule is:

November 18, 2021	6:00pm
December 16, 2021	6:00pm
January 20, 2022	6:00pm
February 17, 2022	6:00pm

4. Nominations for Bronx Chapter 2022 Officers:
Ken Koon, Sr., the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, with the Nominating Committee, which is composed of former Chapter presidents, proposed the following slate for 2022.

Officers

Sara Djazari	President
Marty Zelnik	Vice President
Ken Koons Jr	Treasurer
Robert Esnard	Secretary

Directors

Ofe Clarke
Ken Koon Sr.
Julian Misiurski
Josette Matthew

Ken outlined the Bronx Chapter Charter that dictates a yearly election process for Chapter Officers. Each October the Chapter must publish a list of nominated officers for the next year. If alternate names are suggested after October, they must be in writing and proposed by five Chapter members in good standing. They should be sent to Ken or the Chapter Secretary for inclusion as alternatives to the Nominating Committee's slate of officers, all to be voted on in November.

5. DOB:

Building Code

Bob Esnard reported that the DOB newly announced revisions of the Building Code has been in the "works" for many years. The concept was to have NYC update its' construction codes based on model codes at the national and international levels. This announcement was attached to the agenda for discussion, sent with the October meeting notices.

The Code highlights included these updated rules concerning:

- Emergency Response and Fire Protection Enhancements
- Vertical Transportation/Accessibility and Elevator and Boiler Safety Regulation to protect Tenants,
- Streamlining Building Occupancy and Construction Safety Enhancements
- Sustainability and Resiliency Enhancements.

The Code requirements set forth in these updated revisions will go into effect next year, with some regulations taking effect as early as January 1, 2022. To support the implementation of the code updates, DOB will be conducting training and outreach regarding the new requirements.

Architects Council

Tony Freda, who had been attending the Architect's Counsel of New York meetings for the last several months, could not make last months meeting as the Counsel started in-person meeting last month and Tony could not get to Manhattan for the meeting. However, it was pointed out that the DOB has been having borough meetings in each borough approximately once a month as has been discussed at prior meetings. Although, these allow for some specific questions to be answered, the sessions were very formal and do not provide the contact or give and take needed for Chapter members to resolve Bronx issues and specific problems.

After a short discussion, which again reviewed our frustration with DOB, Marty Zelnik suggested that we reach out to the mayor or his office with the other borough AIA Chapters to have more

impact. Ken Koons pointed out that this historically has been the role of the Architects Counsel and we should ask them. Tony will discuss this at a future council meeting. It was agreed that this Mayor does not have the same priority or interest in resolving some of the construction or processing problems related to architects, engineers, contractors, and owners who can “professionally” discuss and resolve issues with borough DOB employees. Sara Djazayeri urged that we do something and that if Tony or Marty could develop a letter, the Chapter could write directly to the Mayor’s office and be on record urging for more active communication links with the DOB staff.

It was also hoped that a new Mayor and Borough President may be able to help and as they will be elected next month, and we should try to reach out to contact them as well. It was agreed that with the other AIA Chapters, we should try either through the Architects Council or through each Chapter’s Officers to perhaps organize a coordinated lobbying effort. Tony Freda, the Chapter Council representative, and Sara Djazayeri will try to reach out to other Chapters to see if a coordinated action is possible.

6. Chapter Committees:

- Education:

Although, the Educational Committee did not meet, and Sara Djazayeri indicated that the Committee is hopeful to plan an event this Fall or early Winter. However, she mentioned the most important thing to discuss at this meeting: was also attached to the October Agenda notice sent to members indicating that the Chapter vote, on the “2022 AIA Bronx Empowerment Scholarship” announcement. Sara indicated that Ofe Clarke has been working on this Scholarship program and developed the attached announcement. Ofe reviewed the Chapter’s prior actions to implement a program supporting two architectural students in their pursuit of an architectural career. The Chapter is proposing to do this with the City College of New York (CCNY) Architectural School which is the closest architectural NYC school to the Bronx and has many Bronx residents as students. In addition, a good number of the new Chapter members are CCNY graduates who are now working to become licensed.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the student selection process for the scholarships. The issue was how Chapter members should be or not be involved in the selection of the awards. Sara, the Chapter President requested that we vote to bring the issue to conclusion and try to get this project started, as soon as possible. She proposed a resolution that;

- the Chapter’s Scholarship program have the teachers and professors at CCNY choose the two graduates without the Chapter’s review or input.

Or,

- should the Chapter have the school send the Chapter a selected number of finalists anywhere from three to ten for the Chapter to then select.

A vote was taken, and nine of the sixteen attendees still on the Zoom meeting supported CCNY the school selecting two awardees for the Chapter to accept. A footnote to this vote, was a discussion triggered by a question by Bill Caplan, who thought that the applicant’s requirement in the announcement, “to provide a letter outlining hardship, community involvement and plans as well as a request to include images” was too vague. He

volunteered to define this statement a bit clearer, and encourage images, if necessary, of their work while defining their objectives of why they want to be an architect.

Finally, Ofe Clarke with the assistance of Tony Freda and Marty Zelnik will try to reach out to the CCNY to hopefully get their cooperation to implement the program. (Subsequent to the meeting a Revised Announcement was developed. See Appendix page 8)

- Emerging Professionals (EP) and the Chapter Cloud:
Josette Matthew could not attend the meeting due to a death in her family. However, she and Ofe Clarke have worked to have our Chapter join with the Brooklyn Chapter's study group for the Architects License Exam. The secretary of the Chapter has received a few inquiries from new members of the Chapter, who requested how they could participate in these groups. The Secretary gave them Ofe Clarke's contact email: Clarke.ofe@gmail.com to follow-up.
- Chapter Cloud:
Josette Matthew has put together Chapter documents; Chapter Newsletters, the Chapter Charter and other related documents sent to her by Chapter members. She is looking to set the documents up so that in the near future, the Chapter and the National Institute can use this cloud as a library resource of the past as well as to guide future meetings and Chapter actions.
- Bronx Blueprint:
Bill Davis the Committee Chairman, could not attend the October meeting but indicated that he hoped to meet with Chapter officers to review the Blueprint Committee's efforts.

7. New Business:

There was no new business.

The meeting ended at 8:12pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

Due to the continuing health crisis the next meeting will again be a Virtual meeting on:

Thursday November 18, 2021, at 6:00PM

Appendix - Revised Announcement

2022 AIA Bronx Empowerment Scholarship



2022 AIA Bronx Empowerment Scholarship

The Bronx Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents Architects who practice and/or live within The Bronx County of New York City. The Chapter was founded in 1945 to promote the profession, the objectives of the American Institute of Architects, and architecture within the Borough of the Bronx.

The Bronx AIA seeks to identify and empower students pursuing architecture but who may be struggling financially to make their educational dreams a reality. As such the 2022 AIA Bronx Empowerment scholarship was founded to award Two Architectural Students selected by the City College of New York (CCNY).

Applicants Must:

- Be enrolled full-time in the five-year B-Arch Program at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York.
- Be entering their 4th or 5th year of the program.
- Be a resident of The Bronx, NY.
- Display a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Provide a personal letter outlining why you have chosen to become an architect. Include a particular project that is meaningful to you, any relevant community involvement, and financial hardships.
- Provide a recommendation letter from a teacher.

Scholarship:

- Two student \$1,000 scholarship awards.
- The recipient will be invited to the Bronx Chapter AIA meeting where they will be introduced to the architects and emerging professionals within The Bronx.

Application deadline: January 1, 2022

*The selected applicants will be notified via email and the award amount will be mailed.

THE END