



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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I Current Activities



February 17, 2022
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:04pm.

Attendees:

Boris Baranovich
Bill Caplan
Ofe Clarke
Bob Esnard
Antonio Freda
Alvi Rahman Khan
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Robert Markisz
Julian Misiurski
Giuliano Penna
Bryan Zelnik
Martin Zelnik

Guest

Steve Standridge,
Director of Continuing Education
& Marketing
MASA Architectural Canopies

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar

Steve Standridge, representative of MASA Architectural Companies presented a seminar on “Don’t Wait: A Canopy Prep Timeline”. MASA is a company that designs, manufactures, and installs canopies nationwide. The company is headquartered in Pottsville, and has administrative offices in Avenel, New Jersey.

Steve started the presentation with slides and a discussion on how canopies vary in style, material, and in their relationship to buildings. Architects, designers, and builders use them on exterior elevations, from simple single entrances, to be part of total complicated building façade treatment. He showed how canopy systems can be important additions to a building envelope as well as providing a beautiful, unique aesthetic sometimes with many similar but creative accents to a structure. However, successful canopy systems do require proper planning, knowledge, and a well-kept development to construction timeline. Architectural choices ultimately drive a project, as well as costs. Its’ also possible to achieve full environment and green building benefits or at a minimum additional benefit for a building using a canopy system, if details are worked out early and completely.

Steve’s presentation reviewed how Architects can develop individual:

Canopy design elements, as well as attachment and structural needs.

Design elements of a canopy to determine the green building benefits to reduce energy, usage, costs, and building emissions while promoting health and wellness. Challenges in form and function to deal with those challenges in the early stages of a project avoiding late-stage revisions and higher project costs. Canopy attachments, and how those choices affect the safety and structure of the wall surface as well as the environment benefits.

Steve Standridge summarized his presentation with illustrations of various canopies of windows/door designs in different locations throughout the country, many of which were built by his company. He concluded his presentation with a short question and answer period as well as responded to questions from members on façade/entrance treatments. Steve encouraged members to contact him for assistance, that he or depending on the question, other members of the design, engineer and construction staff at MASA could be involved to assist on projects. He can be contacted at:

Steve Standridge
MASA Architectural Companies
21 Randolph Avenue
Avenel, New Jersey 07001
Email: sstrandridge@architecturalcompanies.com
www.architecturalcanopies.com
732-453-6120 x 116

2. The Minutes of January 20, 2021 were attached to the January meeting notices for members to review. A motion to approve the January Minutes was made by Bob Markisz, which was seconded by Julian Misiurski, and the January 20, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Welcome New Members:
At the beginning of February, National AIA updated the Bronx Chapter members list. In the last six months five members were added, and where the new members indicated phone numbers, our secretary called them to personally welcome and invite them to our meetings. The members are:
 - Arionnys Hororio, Associate AIA
 - Alvi Rahman Khan, Associate AIA
 - Tareq Al Naggar, Associate AIA
 - Heidi Ovalle, Associate AIA
 - Frances Reynon, Associate AIA

One of the new members Alvi Rahman Khan, did attend the meeting and indicated that she had graduated in 2020 from Columbia University and was attending our meeting from Haifa, Israel, on the other side of the world where it was 6:30am. Many of the members congratulated her ability and interest in the Chapter, to be up so early. It was pointed out that she was the first member in the history of the Bronx Chapter to attend a Chapter meeting from across an ocean. Up until now, we have only Chapter member attendees from the continental United States.

The new member roster also indicated that the Bronx Chapter membership is at 75 members. In addition, and since covid there have been approximately 15 members that have joined and have only attended our virtual meetings. It is hoped that in the near future we will be able to have an in-person meeting for old/new members to meet for the first time.

Sara Djazayeri in the past indicated, that she would try to organize one or two in-person meetings or at least a get together before the summer months. The hope is to have one in-person meeting or event to allow new and older members to be introduced to each other.

4. Next Meeting Dates

Although the covid health issue has become less severe, and some governmental agencies and businesses are scheduling to start having in-person meetings. However, the Chapter meetings for safety's sake will, for the next few meetings continue to be virtual and held at 6:00pm on:

April 17, 2022	at 6:00pm
May 19, 2022	at 6:00pm
June 16, 2022	at 6.00pm (Perhaps in-person)

5. 2022 AIA Bronx Empowerment Program

Ofe Clarke, Marty Zelnik and Sara Djazayeri, have been working on implementing a Scholarship Program approved by the Chapter from an idea suggest by Ofe Clark in 2021. It was decided to award two \$1,000 Grants to either 3rd or 4th year Bronx students at City College of New York (CCNY) School of Architecture. The Chapter requested that the teachers from CCNY Architectural School select the students. A few days ago, June Williamson, the Architectural Chairperson sent us a letter with their selection:

Xavier Raymore, a third year B Arch Student
Isaac Corniel, a fourth year B Arch Student

Sara wrote each a letter of congratulations and invited them to a celebratory event to present each their award. As mentioned in prior minutes, Sara Djazayeri arranged with a design studio to host and underwrite the event. They will provide drinks and snacks for the Presentation Celebration on April 7, 2022, from 6-8pm. Her hope is to have as many Chapter members as possible attend to support the awardees, to thank the CCNY teaching staff for their efforts and to present the checks to each student. (See Addendum I) In the next few weeks, the Chapter will circulate a flyer and email the invitation to each member to celebrate the students for their achievements, but to also publicly acknowledge the Bronx Chapters efforts to assist young Bronx architects.

This event probably will be the first in-person event that we will have had since the state of the covid health crisis.

6. AIA National Component Accreditation - Checklist for 2022

As reported at the last meeting minutes, every four years all AIA Chapters are scheduled to be reviewed and re-accredited. 2021 was to be the year, but due to the health crises; National AIA modified the review to a shortened "Component Accreditation Checklist Review". The Bronx Chapter submission was completed last month and filed on time. However, National responded with a series of questions concerning the Bronx Chapter's Educational CEU Program. In the last four years, we have joined with Westchester + Hudson Valley AIA Chapter to co-curated courses. The Chapter has the arrangement to assure we have the required minimum of 4 curated CEU LU/HSW courses and 18 CEU other offerings by other providers i.e., manufacturers, schools, etc., available for their members. Although we provided all the courses required for 2021, we did not have the paperwork or a "timely" signed agreement with Westchester + Hudson Valley until November 2021. Subsequently, we provided AIA National a backup memo indicating that the Bronx Chapter, normally does in-person tours which we could not do due to covid. However, we did offer the appropriate co-curated courses in 2021. The Chapter also committed to, in the future always have a signed formal agreement to co-curate if needed, at the beginning of each year.

On February 15th a few days prior to the meeting, the Secretary of the Chapter received a letter indicating that the Bronx Chapter supplemental information was acceptable, and successfully completed the 2021 Accreditation Checkup. (See Addendum II)

7. DOB Update:

There was a short discussion concerning DOB issues. One issue reviewed was the possible changes that new Mayor Eric Adams might make. He and his transition team have been talking to members of the industry; the real estate board, community leaders and construction trade organizations about a new DOB Commissioner. However, Mayor Adams, unlike recent Mayors, has been very deliberant about appointing all the agency commissioners. Many agencies such as DOB are still led by the previous mayor's appointees. The Chapter and many people in the construction industry continue to hope a new commissioner with an architectural or engineering license will be chosen. The goal is that the person at a minimum should be someone with a construction background and be licensed.

Tony Freda, our representative at the Architects Council of NYC indicated that the council has not publicly discussed the commissioner's appointment issue one way or another. However, the Council has continued to monitor DOB, as well as Legislative initiatives related to the Architectural and Construction industry. One of the things that they and the Chapter would like to see is that DOB provide the Council and the AIA Chapters was a list of all the Bronx DOB staff members with their email addresses for applicants to directly contact individual examiners. So far, the DOB has only provided a Brooklyn contact list with email addresses for applicant's information. This would be at least a small step, in an attempt to allow practitioners to attempt to communicate with their project reviewers. (See Appendix III)

8. Chapter Committees:

Unfortunately, several of the Chapter committee chairmen could not attend this meeting and their reports will be deferred to a future meeting. However, two items relative to the Education Committee were discussed.

- Chapter Norwood Spring Tour – 2 CEU

The Bronx County Historical Society and the Chapter will resume its' semi-annual Tour Activities to curate CEU courses. The Bronx County Historical Society historian with Julian Misiurski of our Chapter will be co-tour leaders or the Norwood Community in the northwest Bronx. The Tour will start and end at the Valentine Varion House, on Bainbridge Avenue, just south of Gunhill Road, on June 4th from 10:00-12:00pm which is proposed to be for 2 LU-HSW CEU Credits. The Varion house has a small parking lot and is accessible by mass transit on the last stop of the IND "D Line", and the next to last stop at Mosholu Parkway, on elevated IRT "4 line". The Tour will consist of a walk-through Norwood underscoring the NYC water infrastructure underground and the neighborhood above ground. All of New York City's water passes through and underneath the streets of Norwood to the rest of the city. Also, the Tour will illustrate how the residential areas, are integrated with many; parks, transportation links and community facilities all in a unique vibrant Norwood urban environment. The Chapter submitted the Tour to National AIA for Certification of this first Chapter Tour of the year.

- Bill Caplan, the Webmaster of the Bronx Chapter Website after a discussion with Sara Djazayeri and Bob Esnard presented a proposal to develop a Chapter curated CEU seminar based on a book, he authored over the last three years and just published called: "Thwart Climate Change Now". Bill had, with the "Environmental Law Institute" sponsored a 2-hour video webinar presentation and conference, on February 3rd discussing his book on, how to

reduce the amount of carbon in the environment in some logical and hopeful realistic way. The event was well received, and Bill's thought was to produce a virtual seminar for one hour with one LU-HSW Credit, sponsored by the Bronx Chapter, offered for free at a lunch time or early evening hour for architects. His idea was to have the Chapter publicly make a positive public statement and have an impact to assist in reducing the Green House Gases that are emitted from the construction industry, while simultaneously allowing Chapter members and other architects in the city, an easy opportunity for extra CEU credit. With Bill's help, the Chapter submitted proposal to National AIA for CEU Certification of the course. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Bronx Chapter should take this initiative but, not to have it as part of a meeting and be an independent event, similar to the Chapter's Tours.

9. New Business

There was only one new business discussion item, the 2022 full Accreditation Review. Bob Esnard reminded the Chapter members that this formal accreditation process originally National scheduled for last year, will now take place in 2022. This effort will be more involved for the Chapter members than the checklist accreditation process discussed earlier. He hoped that some of our members who can spare the time, would volunteer to assist in writing and responding to the various issues that the formal four-year Accreditation Review requires. All AIA Chapters nationwide must go through this review, and we are hoping it will be smoother than our previous experience five years ago. We expect to again utilize the help of Valerie Brown, the Westchester + Hudson Valley AIA Chapter Executive. Bob reassured and promised the Chapter members, that we will have more discussions as the accreditation process gets underway.

The meeting ended at 7:41pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

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

Thursday March 17, 2022,

at 6:00PM

IV Appendixes

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Appendix I

Draft Letter - "2022 Bronx AIA Empowerment Award" Letter

Spitzer The Bernard & Anne Spitzer
School of Architecture

The Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
The City College of New York

141 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031

+1 (212) 650 7118
<https://ssa.cuny.edu/>

DATE

STUDENT NAME
STUDENT ADDRESS
STUDENT EMAIL

RE: **2022 Bronx AIA Empowerment Award**



AIA
Bronx

Dear FIRST NAME,

On behalf of the Bronx Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Spitzer School of Architecture at City College of New York it is our great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to receive a 2022 Award in the amount of \$1000.

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 an additional component of the award, you are invited to attend and be celebrated at an annual AIA Bronx event, scheduled for the evening of **April 7, 2022**. Please save the date! More details about the event will follow.

Next steps:

- Fill out the attached Award Acceptance Form, and return it to the Spitzer School of Architecture, via Carolina Colon. Ccolon@ccny.cuny.edu
- Complete the attached W-9 form and return to Bronx AIA President Sara Djazayeri, who will arrange to send the award money directly to you in the form of a stipend payment. sara@studio360s.com

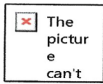
Congratulations on your achievement!

June Williamson
Architecture Department Chair and Professor
williamson@ccny.cuny.edu

Sara Djazayeri
AIA Bronx Chapter President
sara@studio360s.com

Appendix II

AIA National – “AIA Bronx Component Accreditation Letter”



From: Component Relations

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:17 PM

To: Bob Esnard

Subject: Congratulations on Your Successful 2021 AIA Component Accreditation Checkup!

Dear Robert:

It is my pleasure to confirm AIA Bronx has successfully completed the 2021 Accreditation Checkup. Thank you for your component's continued commitment to excellence in providing quality service for the members and communities you serve. I'd like to congratulate you and your leadership on meeting the requirements and thank you for your efforts.

We look forward to continuing to work together to put programs and services in place that will continue to deliver significant, relevant member value.

Sincerely,

William R. Turner, Jr., AIA
2021-2022 Secretary

Appendix III

DOB Staff Email – “DOB Brooklyn Email List 2022”

DOB Brooklyn Email List - February 2022

Name	Title/Department	Email Address
Emails to plan examiners are LIMITED to technical issues or system unlocking for efilng uploads. ALL plan exam reviews and objection resolutions require Plan Exam Appointments. ACEPE to be copied on all correspondence with their assigned plan exam		
Siham Michail	ACPE/Plan Exam	Smichail@buildings.nyc.gov
Larisa Korol	Examiner	Lkorol@buildings.nyc.gov
Sainath Dasma	Examiner	Sdasma@buildings.nyc.gov
Syeda Hossain	Examiner	Shossain@buildings.nyc.gov
Juliet Damnsa	Examiner	JDamnsa@buildings.nyc.gov
Fahor Patino	Examiner	FSanchezPatino@buildings.nyc.gov
Alaa Ahmed	Examiner	alahmed@buildings.nyc.gov
Sam Lai	ACPE/Plan Exam	SamLai@buildings.nyc.gov
Zhen Li	Examiner	ZhLi@buildings.nyc.gov
Krzysztof Bajda	Examiner	KBajda@buildings.nyc.gov
Cyr Garcia	Examiner	CyrGarcia@buildings.nyc.gov
Rudolf Govic	Examiner	RGovic@buildings.nyc.gov
Boris Kordinchik	Examiner	BKordinchik@buildings.nyc.gov
Seosi Song	ON LONG LEAVE	SSong@buildings.nyc.gov
Amal Hassan	ON LONG LEAVE	AHassan@buildings.nyc.gov
Kenneth Bailey	ACPE/Plan Exam	KeBailey@buildings.nyc.gov
Aakash Chhadwa	LEFT POSITION	AACHhadwa@buildings.nyc.gov
Hooman Khadem	Examiner	HKhadem@buildings.nyc.gov
Zhanna Chervony	Examiner	Zchernvony@buildings.nyc.gov
Alena Edelman	Examiner	AEdelman@buildings.nyc.gov
Moura Mansy	Examiner	MMansy@buildings.nyc.gov
Jimmy Villarraga	Examiner	JVillarraga@buildings.nyc.gov
Frank Dioguardi	ON LONG LEAVE	FDioguardi@buildings.nyc.gov
Anna Freire	LEFT POSITION	AnFreire@buildings.nyc.gov
Faraz Siddiqui	LEFT POSITION	FSiddiqui@buildings.nyc.gov

ATM Hoque	LEFT POSITION	Examiner	AHoque@buildings.nyc.gov
Dorina Pillumbi	LEFT POSITION	Examiner	DPillumbi@buildings.nyc.gov
Charles Coutain ACPE/Plan Exam			
Cosmos Ileanachi	LEFT POSITION	Examiner	CCoutain@buildings.nyc.gov
Sherif Labib		Examiner	Cilekanachi@buildings.nyc.gov
Samir Moghe		Examiner	SLabib@buildings.nyc.gov
Chole Gray		Examiner	SMoghe@buildings.nyc.gov
Michael Rahimi		Examiner	ChGray@buildings.nyc.gov
Johnny Aguilar		Examiner	MRahimi@buildings.nyc.gov
Roceli Molina		Examiner	JAguilar@buildings.nyc.gov
Rafia Chowdhry		Examiner	RocMolina@buildings.nyc.gov
Faaiqa Ahmad	LEFT POSITION	Examiner	rchowdhury@buildings.nyc.gov
Boubacar Sow	LEFT POSITION	Examiner	FAhmad@buildings.nyc.gov
Veronica Babych	ON LONG LEAVE	Examiner	BSow@buildings.nyc.gov
Sophia Hairston		CPE/Plan Exam	VBabych@buildings.nyc.gov
Construction Division to Cancel Apts			
Project Advocate			
Reassignment & Reinstatement			
BC Appointments ONLY			
Plan Exam Appointments			
Construction Enforcement			
Use this email to cancel apt w bkconstructionir@buildings.nyc.gov			
BRPAServicerequest@buildings.nyc.gov			
BKper11planexam@buildings.nyc.gov			
BrooklynPER11appts@buildings.nyc.gov			
BKper11planexam@buildings.nyc.gov			
bkconstant@buildings.nyc.gov			

The End