



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

NEWSLETTER

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Sara@studio360s.com	
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I Current Activities



March 16, 2023

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:04pm.

Attendees:

Boris Baranovich
Ofe Clarke
Sara Djazayeri
Robert Esnard
Antonio Freda
Michael Goldblum
Nicholas Friedman
Arionnys Hororio
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Alyssa Manfredonia
Robert Markisz
Josette Matthew
Julian Misiurski
Giuliano Pena
Matthew Rezkallo
Bryan Zelnik

Guest

Candace Maroney
Specification Sales Manager
Kingspan North America
Peter McQuaid
Thomas Whipple
Alex Somohano
Independent Kingspan Representatives

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar:

Candace Maroney, of Kingspan North America presented a seminar titled "Innovative Insulation Technologies and their Fitness for Use." Kingspan Insulation LLC is part of the Kingspan Group plc., one of Europe's leading construction product manufacturers. The Kingspan Group was formed in the late 1960s and is a publicly traded group of companies headquartered in Kingscourt, County Cavan, Ireland. Kingspan Insulation LLC, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, is a leading manufacturer in energy efficiency and moisture management products, offering high performance insulation, building wraps and pre-insulated HVAC ductwork.

At the start of the presentation, Cadence Maroney introduced three independent Kingspan technical representatives; Peter McQuaid, Thomas Whipple, and Alex Somohano who periodically supplemented the seminar with descriptions and illustrations of insulation characteristics and uses.

The Seminar outlined the three methods of heat transfer: conduction, radiation, and convection. In addition, several types of insulation boards and technologies were reviewed and illustrated in different applications. Also reviewed were strategies of designing thinner walls while maintaining and increasing thermal performance. Candace then concluded by demonstrating fire performance characteristics of various insulation board technologies and which types of insulation treatments work best while conforming to national/local safety standards.

Measuring Insulation Performance was reviewed indicating the values of conductivity, relative to the resistance of materials is characterized by three indicators: (Appendix I)

- The Lambda Value, (k-value) measures the thermal conductivity and the **Lower** the conductivity and numbers.
- The R-Value measures thermal resistance and the **higher** the resistance value.
- The U-Value is expressed as the inverse of thermal resistance and the **lower** value the better the insulation is in the building.

The importance of the foam closed and opened cell insulation was reviewed as closed cell insulation limits moisture egress and improves thermal conductivity. Open cell insulation, although cheaper and simpler to install, allows vapor and moisture to permeate through it. The characteristics of various types of insulation and how they are installed was highlighted. The Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) which is light weight rigid closed cell structure is an economical way to provide an effective light weight cost effective installation. Extruded Polystyrene (XPS) is also a closed cell high resistance to water installation. However, it can sustain very high loading applications and is useful for underground and foundation work.

Candace also reviewed the importance of moisture and condensation control to minimize damage to installation, if not handled properly. The fact is that in colder climate areas such as New York, the vapor barrier should be on the interior surface of the insulation material and in warm climates on the exterior surface but never both. She urged that architects review any installation, condensation risk, and the importance of eliminating thermal bridges where vapor and heat transfer, to undermine effective insulation performance of a structure.

Candace concluded the seminar with a question/answer period illustrating some unique buildings where insulation was creatively handled. She urged architects to feel free to contact her and to involve Kingspan in a projects early in the design process to; review insulation specifications, design specific wall and roof assemblies, as well as, developing the performance and cost implications of various insulation products. She indicated that Kingspan will specifically review insulating technologies and model projects without charge. Candace urged that Kingspan assistance will best ensure that all insulating construction products perform as efficiently, effectively, and economically as possible to the benefit of projects and satisfying architects, owners, and clients. She recommends that Chapter members contact her and Kingspan representatives at:

Candace Maroney
Specification Sales Manager
Kingspan North America
Cell: 646.939.0051
Email: candace.maroney@kingspan.com

2. Adoption of the February Minutes:

The February 16, 2023, minutes were unanimously accepted as proposed, with Julian Misiurski making and Bryan Zelnik seconding the motion for approval.

3. Next Meeting Dates:

Since the last meeting in February, the Chapter received a formal notification from AIA National that seven new members were added. However, Nicholas Friedmann AIA contacted the Chapter before the official notice was received indicating the new Chapter member appointments. Therefore, Nicholas was able to attend both the February meeting, as well as this meeting. The Chapter secretary has reached out to all the new members to personally invite them to be active participants and to hopefully attend as many meetings as possible. They are:

Charlon Abad, Associate AIA
Faysal Banafe, Associate AIA
Mimoza Demiraj, Associate AIA
Nicholas Friedman, AIA
Bhargav Munagala, Associate AIA
Ronnal Alison, Associate AIA
Jose Zacariaz, Associate AIA

The new members were again welcomed and urged to participate with the Bronx Chapter in the future. In addition, it was indicated that for the rest of the year, normal monthly meetings will continue virtually, with each starting the first hour with a CEU seminar. However, as Sara Djazayeri discussed last month, the May meeting has been modified with the new date of May 25, 2023, and will be an "In-Person Awards Event". Members will be contacted directly, and all are invited to participate.

Therefore, the next scheduled meetings, are:

April 20, 2023	at	6:00pm	(Virtual)
May 25, 2023	at	6:00pm	(In-person Award Meeting)
June 15, 2023	at	6:00pm	(Virtual)
September 21, 2023	at	6:00pm	(Virtual)

4. Chapter Committees:

Bronx Public Project/Student Studio

Michael Goldblum and Sara Djazayeri have been working on developing a Student Studio competition, for a Bronx Public Construction Project as part of CCNY's and Senior Year Student Class project. Michael reported that the design studio organized the architectural students into teams which will operate on two separate tracks: one would to be as a class studio, with the student teams evaluated by their teachers in the normal academic studio process. Then, the second track will be that will be a "jury review" process under the Bronx Chapters' Sponsorship with an independent panel, including: a community member, the architect consultant working on the project for the city, the Borough President's office representative, and Michael Goldblum representing the Bronx Chapter. The design project subject was originally suggested by the Borough Presidents' office, to be a repurposing of the Kingsbridge Armory, on Kingsbridge Road, in the Bronx, into a community facility including a vertical Hydroponic Farm. The timing will be tight, as the start and end of both project tracks will be approximately two months. The studio is currently underway and the

conclusion of both the CCNY studio course ending in early May, and the Chapter's design competition selection of First and Second design prize winners ending in late May, at the Chapter's award event on May 25, 2023.

The Borough President is also looking to publicize the Chapter competition to encourage the city, to sooner than later actually fund and build the project. Her plan is to utilize and advertise the Bronx Chapter's design sponsorship of the student winners on May 19, 2023, at Borough Hall, located in the Bronx County Court House. The winners will also be celebrated again at the Chapter's Award Event on May 25, 2023, at a design studio in midtown Manhattan.

AIA Empowerment Student Grants

Sara Djazayeri had to leave the meeting early and requested that Bob Esnard summarize the Bronx Chapter Student Empowerment Grant for Bronx students. This year the Chapter is fortunate to include two architectural schools: CCNY in Manhattan and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Two Bronx student residents are chosen by their respective facilities at each school with students being awarded an individual \$1,000 Empowerment Grant.

Also, Sara arranged that the May AIA Empowerment Award event award will include a first \$1,000 prize and a second \$500 prize to the winning teams participating in the competition, as well as, the empowerment grants. Sara urges that as many of our Chapter members as possible join this in-person event on May 25th. Specific invites will be sent to each member as we get closer to the Award Event date. In addition, the event specifics and updates will be outlined again at the next Chapter meeting on April 20th.

Associates/License Exams

Linda Infante, who could not attend this meeting, submitted a memo discussing the Chapter associates' efforts and shared their thoughts with the Chapter Secretary Bob Esnard, who briefly outlined their efforts so far. Specifically, the committee sent a note to Chapter associate members, who had expressed an interest in attending the Chapter Architecture Record Exam (ARE) Study Sessions. The committee decided that scheduling the sessions would work best during the evening workdays between Tuesday and Thursdays. In addition, the committee conferenced with AIA Queens, which expressed willingness to include Bronx associates in their work study sessions and will try to suggest alternate study sessions dates to start. At this point, there are three Bronx associates: Jerin Lisha, Alvi Rahman Khan, and Linda Infante who have actively agreed to work on developing study sessions.

Finally, the committee is hoping to get more associates to be part of this process and request if there are AIA licensed members who would be willing to serve as a guest speaker as part of future study sessions around ARE subjects, they should contact her. The Committee's thought is the study session should be organized similar to the AIA monthly meeting format; of CEU credit seminars first, so the study sessions will have a speaker first to review subject material before study discussions. Bob Esnard also invited and hoped that Arionnys Hororio, who attended this meeting, could join the group as well. The ARE study committees' memo is attached as Appendix II.

5. DOB – Update

Tony Freda, the Chapter's representative at the N.Y. Architect's Counsel reported that the Department of Buildings seems to work more efficiently in Manhattan than it does in the Bronx. The

issues he and some of our members have experienced are that the review process, which is now mostly virtual and digital, works smoother and much faster when things are processed through the Manhattan DOB office. In the Bronx, simple things such as “reinstatements” or project “audits” can become very lengthy and unnecessarily complicated. Michael Goldblum added that a colleague of his has had reviews/audits of projects that in normal practice and code review, were unreasonable and very hard to justify. This is a problem for architects and their clients to move projects forward as projects are unexpectedly delayed for no reason. After a short discussion, the consensus was that unfortunately the staff and operations in the Bronx DOB is suffering from a “leadership” problem. The unnecessary re-examinations and delays should not be occurring and reflect a misdirected administration supervision of the DOB approval process.

Independently, last week, Bob Esnard attended a Real Estate business meeting, with the Acting DOB Commissioner, Kazimir Vilenchik, P.E., who replaced the resigned Commissioner Eric Ulrich. The meeting participants were impressed on how knowledgeable and reasonable Commissioner Vilenchik was at discussing the problems and issues at DOB. Commissioner Vilenchik also invited members to bring issues to him and the agency, if they thought that something could be improved. It was suggested that the Chapter write a letter requesting a meeting to specifically discuss the Bronx DOB office. Tony Freda thought that he could talk to a few Chapter members and draft a short letter outlining the problem in the Bronx that the Chapter could review. The hope was to request a meeting to “professionally” discuss the management/operational DOB issues that members are experiencing.

6. New Business

There were two additional agenda points raised by Ofé Clarke and Julien Misiurski which they discussed and reinforced.

- Ofé Clarke, who several years ago proposed and development of the Chapters “Empowerment Student Award Program”, urged the Chapter to send individual notices of the Award Event on May 25th, to encourage as many members to attend as possible.
- Julien Misiurski attended a “Leadership AIA Exchange” meeting where the associates ARE applicants’ issues were discussed concerning the “revolving clock exam approvals”. Julian indicated that the State AIA Board has had prior discussions of changing the State License Exam Policy, to eliminate the revolving clock for subject parts, of the exam approval process, where applicants take individual portions over revolving time periods. Ofé Clark also indicated the NCARB has recommended changing the policy to relax the revolving number of years to get all part approvals and not lose passed exam approvals based only on timing. Julian indicated that several states have made the change and NY State is also reviewing it. Fortunately, it appears that the State Board has signaled a willingness to modify this controversial policy in the near future.

As there were no other new business items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with the meeting ending at 7:40pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be virtual on:

Thursday April 20, 2023, at 6:00pm

Appendix

Appendix I

**Measuring Insulation Performance
and
Type of Insulation**

Appendix II

**AIA BRONX CHAPTER
ARE STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE – Written Update #1
March 15, 2023**

Appendix I

Measuring Insulation Performance

Measuring Insulation Performance

Lambda value (k-value)

Measures the thermal conductivity of a material, its inherent ability to conduct, and internally radiate heat.

Insulation materials should have **low** thermal conductivity.

R-Value

Measures thermal resistance of a material at a given thickness. To calculate R-value, divide the thickness of the material by its thermal conductivity.

Materials with **higher** R-values are better at resisting heat loss or gain.

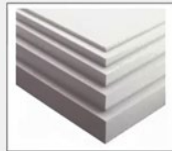
U-Value

Measures thermal transmittance of an entire building element; adds thermal resistances of all layers in the element and corrects for air gaps and thermal bridges.

Expressed as an *inverse* of thermal resistance, the **lower** the U-value, the better insulated the building is.

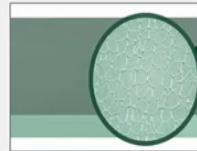
Types of Insulation

Types of Insulation



Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)

- Lightweight, rigid, closed cell
- Used in SIPs, ICFs, floors, walls, ceilings, below grade foundations, and roofing systems
- Least expensive, most vapor-permeable
- R-value = 4 per inch



Extruded Polystyrene (XPS)

- Uniform, closed cell structure
- High resistance to water penetration
- Lightweight, fiber-free
- Compressive strength from 25 -100 PSI
- High-load applications
- Used in under slab, below grade foundation exteriors, inside basement walls, on exterior walls over sheathing, green roofs and plaza decks
- R-Value = 5 per inch

Appendix II
AIA BRONX CHAPTER
ARE STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE – Written Update #1
March 15, 2023

Co-Project Leaders: Linda P. Infante, Jerin Leshia, Alvi Rahman Khan

Agenda: Update on ARE Study Sessions

This memo is to serve as an update on the efforts to construct ARE Study Sessions. Since our last AIA monthly meeting, the following has occurred:

- An inquiry memo was sent out to Associate AIA members (from list) in February to ascertain if there is an interest and availability to meet for ARE study sessions. The email resulted in (3) Associate members interested in attending sessions with the available dominant time in the evenings. The day of the week was more flexible although Mondays are unpopular as are daytime sessions. We will steer clear of these fewer desirable times and days.
- On March 3, 2023, Jerin and I conferenced called with AIA Queens for collaboration talks to merge the two Chapters for study sessions (not permanently), to invite each other to ARE Study sessions and to conduct and attend networking events. All agreed to collaborate. We left off that the Bronx Associate AIA would join late March study sessions hosted by the Queens Chapter. An email is pending with study session dates from Queens AIA.
- We are in touch with C. Fagan and R. Ruben from AIA Queens Chapter. I sent out an email today for an update on upcoming AIA Queens sessions.
- It was discussed with AIA Queens that the Bronx Chapter Associates will attend their upcoming sessions to examine their format (and for study purposes). In this way we can start to examine formats and set up Bronx ARE Study sessions.
- Bronx AIA Associates, Jerin, Alvi Rahman Khan and I are awaiting notice from AIA Queens upcoming sessions. I am reaching out to our Co-Project Leaders for a conference call to discuss dates for our first Bronx Chapter AIA session in the coming Spring/early summer (undetermined yet) and format, topics, and responsibilities.
- Lastly, I am discussing with Co-Project Leaders the idea of sending out an email to AIA members requesting volunteers as guest speakers to discuss ARE related strengths as a teaching tool – similar to the AIA chapter monthly meeting format – CE credit seminar then discussions.

My apologies for not attending the March 2023 meeting as I have an unexpected conflict with the time and date.

To Jerin: Please add or clarify any of the above in my absence. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda P. Infante, Co-Project Leader, Assoc. AIA

The End