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September 21, 2023

Publication Committee

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

NEWSLETTER

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I Current Activities



September 21, 2023

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:04pm.

Attendees:

Boris Abramovich
Sara Djazayeri
Robert Esnard
Antonio Freda
Michael Goldblum
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Julian Misiurski
Robert Markisz
Richard Montana
Matthew Rezkallo
Bryan Zelnik

Guest

Kelly Carns
National Architectural Business
Development Representative
Anderson Windows, Inc.
Email: Kelly.Carns@andersencorp.com
Tel: 513-404-9993

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar:
Kelly Carns, the National Architectural Business Development Representative of Anderson Windows Inc. presented a seminar titled, "Holistic Approach to Windows in Sustainable Design". She indicated that as the New York City regional Anderson representative recently retired, she is making the presentation from the mid-west and a new local representative will be appointed shortly. Anderson Windows is one of the major Window & doors manufactures in the USA and has been long term wonderful sponsor of the Bronx AIA and its activities. Anderson is a leader in producing high performance windows and doors that are manufactured to satisfy the latest regulations and environmental laws, while efficiently and economically providing windows, doors, and skylights to the construction industry.

Kelly's presentation will assist architects to be able to;

- Evaluate windows performance based on several basic planning factors.
- Compare and evaluate the importance of material sourcing and manufacturing.
- Consider occupants wellbeing in window selection.
- Understand the importance of window contributions to green building programs.

Kelly started with a definition of sustainability, which is to meet the present regulations and environmental goals without compromising the ability of future generations and buildings to meet their needs. She described how performance ratings for windows and doors are developed with a U-Factor as the measuring tool. That Factor rates windows and doors by describing the amount of heat loss through the entire; window, door, or skylight assembly in units of (BTU/HR/Degrees/feet squared). The lower the U-Factor, the lower the heat loss through the assembly, which results in lower heating and/or cooling, costs. The window and door U-Factor designation is important for designers to know and understand, as this Factor is usually how municipal codes regulate windows.

In addition, many municipalities also utilize Energy Star ratings which are independently tested, certified and verified by the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC). These ratings meet very specific energy guidelines set by the USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, Kelly reviewed the differences between Embodied Carbon versus Operational Carbon. The goals of environmental regulations are to produce a reduction of the total carbon footprint from construction. In addition, another significant effort is to reduce construction and building use of Operational Carbon, which include utilizing new efficient energy technologies to produce electricity for heating and cooling. Windows and doors play a very large role over time in reducing the Operational Carbon of all buildings.

Kelly concluded the seminar with a brief description of Anderson products, from the economical 100 Series, to the more generally used 200/400 Series of wood windows. The 100 Series is a vinyl/fibrex wood composite construction, and the 200 and 400 Series are the time-tested classic wood interior with Perma shield vinyl exterior. She described Andersens highest performing and most energy efficient windows, the "A" series of products which are more flexible and come in many different styles and "sight" lines. Finally, she reviewed the "E" Series which is aluminum exterior windows, another new product that Anderson has developed, which is highly resistant to the elements and mostly maintenance free. She illustrated many of their products in some unique buildings where windows and doors are creativity integrated into architecture. Finally, the seminar closed with a question-and-answer period.

Kelly urged architects to contact her directly as they need or would like to involve Anderson staff in projects early in the design process to; reviews specifications, design specific door and windows skylight assemblies, as well as explore the performance and cost specifications of their projects. She recommends that Chapter members contact her at:

Kelly Carns
National Architectural Business
Development Representative,
Anderson Windows, Inc.
Email: Kelly.Carns@andersencorp.com
Tel: 513-404-9993

2. Adoption of June minutes:

The June 25th, 2023, minutes were summarized and briefly outlined, as it has been two months since the last meeting. Over the summer the Chapter held a Tour of The Grand Concourse for 2 CEU credits and there were a series of special events, the largest being a New York Regional AIA Associates Beach Party.

After a short discussion Julian Misiurski made a motion to approve the June minutes, Michael Goldblum seconded, and the Chapter then unanimously approved the June 2023 minutes as circulated.

3. Next meeting dates:

As previously discussed, the last monthly meeting was in June, and after the summer break the Chapter is to continue until January 2024, a normal virtual schedule of meetings which are;

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| October 19, 2023, | at 6:00PM | Virtual |
| November 16, 2023, | at 6:00PM | Virtual |
| December 14, 2023 | at 6:00PM | Virtual (changed date to not conflict with holiday) |
| January 18, 2023, | at 6:00PM | Virtual |

4. AIA Accreditation - The Bronx Chapter.

Bob Esnard summarized the Bronx Chapter's successful accreditation review and received a congratulatory acceptance letter from that the AIA National Accreditation Committee sent on June 21, 2023. As members will recall this was and is a major effort every four years for our Chapter, as we do not have "staff" as the large Chapters do. The Bronx Chapter and other small Chapters only rely on volunteer members and as the Chapter had done in the past, we have received significant help from Valarie Brown, the executive of the Westchester + Hudson Valley Chapter. We submitted our application at the end of last year and AIA National requested clarification and additional information with Valerie's help we were able to quickly respond and we then received accreditation status for the next four years.

In addition, this time around the National AIA awarded "accredited" Chapters with a special Logo that the Chapter may use for specific documents, indicating its successful review.

Appendix I – AIA Letter/Accreditation Logo

5. The Chapter Committees

Nominating Committee

The Chapter secretary reminded the members of the Bronx Chapter Bylaws requirement, that in the fall of each year, and prior to January 1 of the next year, the Chapter's nominating committee, is to provide a slate of Chapter officers; President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as, 5 to 6 directors as the Chapter Executive Committee for the next year.

Kenneth Koons Sr. is the Chapter Nominating Committee Chairman, and the Committee, composed of two former Chapter Presidents. The schedule is for the Committee to present a list of officers and directors at the October meeting, and in November the board is to approve next year's Officers and Directors.

In a brief outline of officers' responsibilities, the Chapter Secretary indicated that the administrative duties of the officers have increased significantly. We have expanded events, activities and that he could not effectively continue as Chapter Secretary. The officers need additional typing and more "time" to organize meetings and the paperwork required by the; Chapter, National and State AIA activities. It was suggested by several members that the Chapter consider hiring part-time "professional" help to assist with the burden of paperwork to make the Secretary and Officers role more efficient and less burdensome. A motion was accepted to ask the larger chapters in our region, such as the NY Chapter that with 27 employees or perhaps the Westchester Chapter, also with several employees, if they could recommend someone on their staff for us to pay for assisting us part time.

Chapter Empowerment & Competition Committees

A general discussion developed concerning the focus of the Chapter's activities for the next 2023/2024 year. After members recapped last years' time consuming, as well as, very successful programs, several motions were proposed that the Chapter continue these very rewarding activities of;

Empowerment awards, and an architectural **Student Studio Competition**.

Empowerment Program

Sara Djazayeri reviewed the Chapter's commitment three years ago, to "make a difference" in our borough and work with community groups, elected officials, and young architectural students. The Empowerment program was implemented two years ago, when Ofe Clark and Marty Zelnik suggested that Chapter award two upper class Bronx resident architectural CCNY Students grants. Last year the Chapter added two students from Pratt institute to be included in the program. Last year and each of the four students received a one-thousand-dollar grant. Sara Djazayeri also organized a wonderful award ceremony at the Bendheim Midtown Studio which was well attended and very successful. After a short discussion, Bryan Zelnik made a commitment of his time as well as a motion to continue the program as the Chapter had done last year. Then Boris Baranovich seconded the motion which was then unanimously approved.

Student Studio Competition

Michael Goldblum who last year proposed a chapter supported student competition reviewed the successful effort. The goal was to do something public and positive as a Chapter, to lobby/assist a needed Bronx Public Project to construction. The project was to be something the Borough and its community could support and utilize. He together with our President Sara Djazayeri spent **a lot** of time working out the details of choosing a project. After reviewing several options, ultimately a project suggested by the Bronx Borough President's office to redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory was chosen. The students were selected by utilizing a 3rd year studio class at CCNY, the closest architectural school to our Borough. The program involved several meetings with government officials, architectural studio teachers and a specific professor at CCNY, to all work together to implement the project. Then after the students completed their designs a "jury" of community people, government representatives and the Bronx Chapter was organized to choose the First and Second best designs to redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory.

As it turned out, there were several public events concerning the competition involving CCNY, The Borough President and our Chapter. The process concluded with our Chapter's award event. Student grants were giving out as well as, two successful Competition Designs were awarded with a First prize of one-thousand-two hundred dollars to be split between three team members, and the Second prize of six hundred to also be split by its team of three students. The Chapter after discussing the idea of continuing the competition for another year and the

assurance that Sara and Michael were again willing to commit the time to make it happen again. A motion was made by Michael Goldblum to continue the program as it was last year; with Julian Misiurski seconding the motion and the Student studio Competition was then unanimously approved.

Associate License Exam

Linda Infante unfortunately was ill and could not attend the meeting. She has been leading the effort to coordinate Bronx Chapter's Associates members to develop a study group for taking the Architectural Record Exam (ARE). However, she worked on developing a series of virtual study sessions that would be led by two chapter members William Davis, who teaches Architectural Practice at City Tech, and Richard Montana who was a former DOB employee, who could talk about building code issues. Linda is looking for other AIA chapter members to volunteer and discuss an ARE subject for the associates to review/study to assist their negotiating the ARE. Associates or members who are interested should contact Linda directly at;
Email: linda@build-tech.org

5. Chapter Fall Tour

The Chapter annually develops and offers two tours, each for two CEU Credits, partnering with the Bronx County Historic Society. This year's first tour was in the south Bronx highlighting the designated NYC Landmark (Art Deco) District in the lower Grand Concourse.

The Second Tour is scheduled to take place in a few weeks, on **October 21st, 2023, from 10:00AM to 12:00PM**. The scope of the tour will take place in the East Bronx and will explore the Orchard Beach complex and its historical context as a WPA federal project, and the development of the Bronx Park system. This facility is another example of the City of New York's responding to "The City Beautiful Movement" of the late 19th and 20th century in our country. The beach portion of Pelham Bay Park and the Hunter Island national area will be explored. This tour is located and will all take place in Pelham Bar Park, the city's largest park. The tour will start and end, at the Orchard Beach parking area.

Appendix II - Orchard Beach and Hunter Island Tour

6. DOB – Update

The DOB operations have not really improved in the last few years. The problems that applicants have been having, goes back to the efforts of the DOB performing all interactions digitally and without any "real" interactions with the DOB staff. The critical problem for applicants, isn't working with computers when actions and processing are smoothly functioning, but if and when there are issues, applicants must have the ability to relate to "people"! The machines do not and cannot digitally resolve or work out issues using **only** computer actions. Historically DOB operational improvements and changes have been hard to do individually or as a single Chapter. Members hope that our involvement with the Architects Counsel of NYC maybe more productive, as the Counsel has all the AIA Chapters and SARA represented and work cooperatively together. Tony Freda has volunteered to represent the Bronx Chapter at the Council and will attend their monthly virtual meetings and assist in a coordinated attempt to effect some changes at DOB.

One other DOB issue discussed by the members was for Mayor's Adams to timely appoint a permanent DOB Commissioner. The Mayor selected three DOB commissioners, not one of them

with any construction background. The changes suggested by these Commissioners with their inexperience, has not helped the DOB organization or given it a positive direction. The latest and current Commissioner James S. Aoddo, appointed in this spring, was a former Staten Island Borough President and City Council member. Hopefully, he will stay long enough to understand the concerns of architects and DOB applicants and to start reviewing DOB processes. The construction industry is looking for; logical changes, implementing efficiencies and perhaps DOB staff to be a little “sympathetic” to the design and the construction industry and allowing for “professional” applicant and DOB staff interactions.

7. New Business

Over the spring and summer, Sara Djazayeri the chapter President attended several sessions hosted by the NY Chapter, with NYC’s five AIA -chapter Presidents. They discussed an offer from the New York Chapter with twenty seven employees and one of the largest Chapters in USA, to assist the outer borough chapters. The goal was to better coordinate architectural issues and to be more productive/effective. Specifically, the New York Chapter President and executive wanted to know how they can be “helpful” to the other NYC Chapters.

Sara led a short discussion about what or if we should request their assistance. The chapter members had several suggestions including revisiting some Bronx Chapter issues previously discussed over the last few meetings. The thoughts included a request help with;

- marketing the Bronx Chapter to increase participation,
- working on improving business practices,
- very importantly, supporting Bronx Chapter associates and their need to do study groups for the ARE. Several members discussed the fact that they had taken courses at the NY Chapter offices and that perhaps some of our associates could be part of that effort.

Sara requested members that had other thoughts or those mentioned above, to write a short note of a sentence or two, and email it to her for forwarding to the NY Chapter. The idea was as NY Chapter is offering help, if we don’t ask, we will not receive any!

Email: Info@studio360's.com

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

III. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be virtual on:

Thursday October 19, 2023, at 6:00pm

IV.

Appendix

Appendix I

AIA Letter/Accreditation Logo

Appendix II

Orchard Beach and Hunter Island Tour

Appendix I

AIA Letter

From: Component Relations <ComponentRelations@aia.org>

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 1:26 PM

Subject: Congratulations to Your Component on Successfully Achieving Accreditation!



Dear Robert,

It is my pleasure to congratulate AIA Bronx on its accreditation. Your status as an accredited component of the American Institute of Architects is effective May 1, 2023. Congratulations to you and your leadership on meeting the core standards and this significant achievement! Achieving accreditation demonstrates your component's commitment to excellence in providing quality service for the members and communities you serve, and I wish you continued success in providing quality member service.

While examining submissions, the reviewers discovered some Core Member Services proved challenging for a significant proportion of components. In some cases, the requirement was new and in others the reviewers were holding components to a higher standard of performance than before. Rather than let those issues stand in the way, we will hold trainings on those core services. Those components in need of such training will be notified and provided details soon.

As we propel toward the future, we have moved away from the paper certificates of the past and introduced a *NEW* digital accreditation badge to demonstrate your status as an accredited component. Only those components who have been notified that they have successfully met the core member service requirements are permitted to utilize this digital badge. The badge may be found in your Brandfolder and must be used in accordance with the Usage Guidelines also found in Brandfolder.

Meeting the Core Member Services takes dedication, and we thank you for meeting the fast-changing needs of the profession and continuing to deliver great value to all members. We appreciate your ongoing collaboration as we work to better serve our members around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Britt Lindberg".

Britt A. Lindberg, FAIA
2023-2024 Institute Secretary

Accreditation Logo



Appendix II

Orchard Beach and Hunter Island Tour



Orchard Beach and Hunter Island

Course Number - AIA Bx 14

Description

Orchard Beach and Hunter Island Walking Tour: The AIA walking tour will explore the promenade of Orchard Beach and discuss its architectural history, as well as situating the “Riviera of The Bronx” in its historical context; that is, the Robert Moses sponsored urban planning of the 20th century and its impact on The Bronx and New York City. The beach was borne out of the WPA and public works associated with the New Deal era of Franklin Roosevelt. The walk will also focus on the development of the Bronx Park system and the City Beautiful movement of the late 19th and early 20th century’s, with a particular emphasis on Pelham Bay Park, at 2,772 acres, the largest park in New York City, of which Orchard Beach is a part. Pelham Bay Park was borne of a particularly propitious moment for city beautiful movement.

The annexation of the West Bronx to New York City (in 1874) and the East Bronx (in 1895) hastened the urban development of The Bronx as a major mixed use business/residential urban area, a far cry from its early days as a critical agricultural supplier for New York City. Highlighted will be examples of urban planning and architectural construction that allowed for the creation of green spaces, which began early on in The Bronx with the New Parks Act of 1884. The act, spearheaded by Irish journalist and political reformer John Mullaly, created a committee charged with buying parkland north of the Harlem River, in what became the borough of The Bronx in 1898. As a result, the amount of total parkland in the Bronx is 4,000 acres, the most of any borough of New York City. Bronx Parks includes the New York Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo, two institutions who were founded at the same time as the new parks were formed. All of these components of urban planning and the city beautiful movement will be discussed, as well as the private sector efforts combined with the government of the State and City of New York, to orchestrate the creation of Orchard Beach and Hunters Island in Pelham Bay Park in the 20th century. In addition, a system of “greenways” was laid out to connect these parks, including Pelham Parkway, which connected Pelham Bay Park to Bronx Park, so Bronx residents could get to any of the parks with ease.

The access to Orchard Beach and Hunter Island is an excellent example of the Pelham Parkway “greenway” which include; a roadway for buses and cars, horse trails, running path, walkways, bicycle area and various seating locations and open spaces. The tour will visit the Hunter Island Wildlife Reserve, just adjacent to Orchard Beach. The flora and fauna of the East Bronx will be discussed, as will preservation efforts to maintain the ecology of Pelham Bay Park in a heavily urbanized Bronx. The tour will proceed down the Theodore Kazimiroff Nature Trail and hiking trails, and conclude at the Orchard Beach Parking lot where the tour began.

- Date and Time

This session **starts on Oct 21, 2023**

This session **ends on Oct 21, 2023**

This session **starts at 10:00 AM ET (UTC -5) Eastern Time**

This session **ends at 12:00 PM ET (UTC -5) Eastern Time**

- Location

This session will be held at:

Orchard Beach Parking Lot

Bronx

New York, NY

UNITED STATES

- Price

Architect member **\$20**

Associate member **\$20**

Non-member **\$30**

- Session Delivery Type

This course is an **In-person**

- Session Capacity

20

- Special Instructions

Wear comfortable shoes and tour will take place rain or shine.

- Session Contact

Bob Esnard, AIA - besnard@dzco.com

The End