2013 Annual Report

CONTENTS

The Year in Review, Karolina Burtt AIA, Board President 2
Affiliates Committee, Liz LeBlanc 4
Building Envelope Committee, Dale Doller AIA 2
Disaster Assistance Committee: NH AEER TF, Paul Bourbeau AIA 2
Design Awards, Caleb Sloan AIA 3
Education Committee, Scott Vlasak AIA 3
Emerging Professionals Network, Matt Lawton Assoc. AIA 3
Environmental Guild, David Ely AIA 4
Fellowship and Honors Committee, Dale Doller AIA 4
Legislative Affairs, David Udelsman AIA 4
Programming Committee, Shannon Alther AIA 5
Financial Reports 5
Board of Directors 6
2013 in Review

Karolina Burtt AIA, 2013 President

We began 2013 with the Annual Gala at the Bedford Village Inn where we celebrated architects and their designs. We finished the year by planning for the AIA 2030 Professional Series where we will inspire architects and their designs.

What a year!
- We began on a very sad note, however: In January, NH architecture, preservation, and conservation communities mourned the loss of Rick and Duffy Monahon.
  - The Environmental Guild began filming a documentary that will tell a story of high-performance and net-zero architecture in New England.
  - In March a few of our AIA Board members participated in an annual Grassroots conference in Washington DC, where we “came as we were, left inspired.”
- We surveyed our members to assess the value of the NH Forum.
- ArchiPAC, AIA’s Political Action Committee, donated $2,000 to Senator Jeanne Shaheen’s campaign fund and AIANH board members presented the check at an event in Manchester.
- AIANH members, a group of engineers, building contractors, and code officials began working with the State to set up a NH Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force (NH AEER TF).
- We revised our by-laws to allow for an independent financial review in place of an audit. A review for 2012 was completed in 2013.
- As I’m looking back through 2013 issues of the NH Forum our colleague Bruce Hamilton AIA went on some amazing trips! He visited Turkey and United Arab Emirates and wrote about both in such a way that nothing short of an actual visit will satisfy.

We had many great programming and educational events, just keep on reading...

Affiliates Committee

Liz LeBlanc, Affiliate Director

The Affiliates Committee represents the AIANH Professional Affiliate Members. These members are not architects but are involved in a related field and have an interest in supporting the field of architecture in the state of New Hampshire and AIANH.

In February 2013, we held a membership drive for new Affiliates. While we had some new and many returning members, we did not reach our goal. Our Affiliate membership is strong, but we are looking to grow the numbers in 2014 and to continue to involve Affiliates in the organization.

Building Envelope Committee

Dale E. Doller AIA, Chair

This committee, initiated in 2013, is a new offering to the NH community. It came about due to the lack of consistent and limited information available in NH for new building envelope design improvements over recent years. The closest similar programs, which have been available to the NH community, are located in Boston, MA and Portland, ME. Unsustainable travel commitment is necessary to reach these locations.

The goal for the first year was to develop programs, and the first one was presented June 13, 2013 at Lavallee Brensinger Architects. The topic was to look at options to eliminate thermal loss caused by structural members penetrating the building thermal envelope. The presentation was well attended by approximately 35 people from the construction industry and the architectural/structural professions.

2014 is the start of a new 10-session sustainability education series for the NH community called AIA+2030. The committee will choose to be complementary and supportive to this program and once again try for two programs during the coming year.

Disaster Assistance – NH AEER TF

Paul H. Bourbeau AIA, Co-chair

Jonathan Halle AIA, Co-chair

Submitted by Paul H. Bourbeau AIA

The Disaster Assistance Committee (now called the NH Architects & Engineers Emergency Response Task Force-NH AEER TF) was initiated to explore the role of AIA and more specifically, AIANH, in assisting communities throughout the state in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Ultimately, it is the goal of the committee to create the necessary framework within the State’s Emergency Management Network, which allows us to become a recognized resource that can provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

Carolyn Isaak Hon. AIANH has been the driving force behind the committee providing the necessary liaison between various committee members and outside resources. To date she has done a terrific job in organizing the group.

We started out the year with an organizational meeting in May 2013 at Warrenstreet Architects. Following that we held regular monthly meetings through November, slowly picking up steam and new members. During the summer, Carolyn Isaak, Chris Williams AIA, and Paul Bourbeau AIA had an initial meeting with the Director of Homeland Security, Dr. Perry Plummer; Assistant Director, Steven Temperino; and Deputy State Fire Marshall, Max Shultz. They were very supportive and enthusiastic about our group and offered unexpected support to our efforts. One purpose of the meeting was to inform them of our efforts to expand the Good Samaritan law to include engineers and architects. The expansion would grant civil immunity to licensed engineers and architects rendering assistance in an emergency in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct. In addition, we asked them for help in drafting our MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). We walked away from that meeting very encouraged.

In December, the NH AEER TF organized a training event at the State Fire Academy for members of the team. ICS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, was offered free of charge by the State at the State Fire Academy and was attended by 15 members. It was a broad-based training designed to introduce participants to the emergency management system that is employed during all emergencies at the State level. It was a good introductory course, and everyone walked away with a better understanding as to the organization and methodology used to organize disparate groups of volunteers and professionals during an emergency.

We will offer follow-up training in January 2014 – the SAP+AEER training program, taught by Rhode Island Architects & Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7. (Ed. Note: This was held Jan. 18 with 42 attendees. The State once again offered its facility to us.) SAP + AEER is a rapid assessment program structured to identify the safety of buildings immediately following a disaster. It is designed to specifically classify buildings into three different categories, assigning the appropriate placard to each building following an assessment by a trained team of architects, engineers, building officials, and building professionals.

Special recognition goes to Paul Hemmerich AIA and Chris Williams AIA for their hard work in getting the Good Samaritan Bill, SB209, before the Legislature. (Followup: At this printing, we are disappointed that SB209 failed in the House, but we plan to work hard this year to bring the Bill before the Legislature again in 2015 with better results, therefore allowing us as a group to finally be recognized at the State level as a true resource during an emergency. We continue to work with the State refining our MOA and exploring ways to enable us to participate should a disaster occur in absence of the Good Samaritan Law.)
Design Awards
Caleb Sloan AIA, Chair

2013 saw another successful Awards Program, starting with the Awards Banquet January 11 at the Bedford Village Inn. There were 39 projects submitted; we distributed two honor awards, five merit awards, three commendations, and two People’s Choice awards. The jury consisted of four members from the Rhode Island chapter. Spaulding Brick Co. and Charron Inc. were our sponsors.

Award winners are highlighted on the AIANH website and received notice in NH newspapers and magazines.

The 2013 Exhibit made worked its way through the State with stops at Sulloway & Hollis, PLLC (February), the Manchester-Boston Airport (April), Church Landing at Mill Falls, Meredith (June-July), Portsmouth Public Library (August), Lebanon City Hall (September), and NHTI Concord’s Community College (October).

The 2014 Call for Entries, with submissions due in October 2013, marked our transition from binders to electronic submissions.

Education Committee
Scott Vlasak AIA, Chair

The Education Committee of AIANH is responsible for delivering educational programs to NH students ages K-12. Built-environment education is an important part of a balanced and comprehensive school curriculum. The Learning by Design programs and activities designed and promoted by the AIANH Chapter are well-constructed curriculum units which have been incorporated in the existing curriculum of our elementary, middle and high schools in New Hampshire.

These activities allow our chapter to bring into the classrooms valuable knowledge about the man-made environment as well as its effect on the relationship to the natural environment. For our children who one day must live and work in a modern industrial society, this knowledge is critical if they are to be thoughtful and active citizens.

The Education Committee assists with forms, meetings, registration logistics, certificates and documentation of our currently available built-environment programs:
- ShoeBox Clubhouse (Elementary)
- Neighborhood Walking Tours (Elementary)
- Box City (Elementary-Middle School)
- Bridges and Structures (Middle School)
- Introduction to Architecture (Middle School)
- Annual High School Design Competition (High School)

The fifth Annual High School Design Competition 2012-2013: Students designed a Social and Media Center. Winners were announced in the NH Forum and received cash prizes at our Chapter meeting at Keene State College in April. Sponsors for the 2013-2013 program were: Keene State College Architecture Department, Dale Doller AIA, Shannon Altier AIA, Wayne B. Geher - Nathan Wechsler Co., Sheldon Pennoyer AIA, Liz LeBlanc, Matthew Lawton Assoc. AIA, Karolina Burtt AIA, and Katie Sutherland AIA.

Box City, Windham Middle School, Windham, NH – Spring 2013: This after-school program ran for five weeks and was supported by local Community Officials and parents. Students were guided through the process by weekly visits by AIANH volunteers and worked four days a week after school on the project. (Ed. Note: Scott Vlasak AIA is too humble to say so, but he was the sole AIANH volunteer for this program!) The program culminated in an Open House where students presented the City and design process to their parents.

The major goal for 2014 will be to increase our pool of volunteers in order to strengthen the knowledge about the Learning By Design NH programs to our members. By regionalizing our volunteers, we can offer more opportunities for AIANH members to get involved locally.

Secondly, we must increase our efforts to get back into classrooms during regular school hours. Requests for after school programs have become more common, but it seems the value is somewhat lost since students are tired from a full day of schoolwork and not all students can participate.

Thirdly, we will seek sponsorship for the programs we offer. The annual high school design competition offers cash prizes to the winners, which can hopefully be obtained through a commitment of annual sponsorship of NH based companies. Smaller sponsorships could be sought within local communities where Learning by Design programs are being offered on a case by case basis to help with purchase of supplies, etc.

One potential idea to work towards the above goals would be to focus on our existing walking tours program which has been very successful in the past. The program has several benefits:

- It allows local architect volunteers to take “ownership” of the program by tapping into the knowledge they have of their own communities, making volunteering more personal and rewarding. We have developed a complete “generic” workbook which can be easily altered with a route map and sites specific to each community.

- Based on previous feedback from Nashua schools, Neighborhood Walking Tours tie in very well to the educational objectives for the State of NH for fourth grade students when they are typically learning about their communities, its history, and local government. This will be key to getting these programs successfully integrated during normal school hours. There are no special space needs or time constraints since a walking tour program can consist of one or two classroom sessions.

- There is a lot of flexibility to tailor these programs to each school’s needs according to teacher input.

- By keeping the program specific to a community, sponsorship efforts would be more focused by seeking donors in that community. This money is needed for supplies, incidentals, and bus transportation (if required).

Emerging Professionals Network
Matt Lawton, Assoc. AIA, Associate Director

The year started out with a name change and combination of committees. In order to more appropriately align with AIA Nationals description of committees, the Young Architects Forum (YAF) and the Intern Development Committee (IDP/National Associates Committee (NAC)) were combined to form a unified Emerging Professionals Network (EPN), headed by the AIANH Associate Director and the State IDP Coordinator, Nicole Martinez AIA, who is also the New England YA Regional Director.

The New Hampshire Skills USA High School Drafting Competition took place on March 15, 2013 at the Seacoast School of Technology in Exeter, NH. The competition was organized by Kate Krumm (District Computer Teacher, Sanborn Regional School District). Eight students participated from regional high schools, and one student participated in the post-secondary school program. It is a great opportunity for high school students to develop an interest in architecture, and we hope the program grows.

2013 also was the reemergence of the Draughting Club, started in 2011 by Nathan Stolarz AIA. We attempted scheduling a bimonthly event, but it is finding dates when people can attend. We did have success in Manchester in February, with four people from local firms attending, and even greater success in Keene in June, with 14 people from New Hampshire and southern Vermont coming out.

In October, a speaker from NCARB came to discuss the licensing and certification processes and procedures. Lavallee Brensinger was kind enough to let us use their space, and AIANH and TMS Architects sponsored the event, providing pizza and beverages to the attendees. The hour and a half presentation was well received by upwards of 20 young architects, and was followed with a question and answer period that addressed individual concerns. I think hosting an event like this every couple of years would be beneficial to the emerging architects in the state, but perhaps a representative of the state licensing board would also be helpful to answer questions.
The contact list has also been maintained and increased, as we identify new interns. Going forward, I would like to increase the number of Draughting Club events and their attendance. There is limited interest once a week, to avoid an inundation of communication that can be ignored or deleted without reading. The Facebook page is also being maintained directly about state procedures.

One of the biggest efforts this year was to improve communication. Email blasts notifying different events and issues are being sent roughly on a new logo. We received two submissions. A design by Adam Lemire of LineSync Architecture in Wilmington, VT, was selected and used on email blasts and for the Emerging Professionals Design Competition.

The EP Design Competition was released at the start of September, with a theoretical project focused on providing a park facility to a local neighborhood in New Castle, NH. There were 11 entries, with the winning designs coming from Portsmouth area interns. The competition website, with the results, is at aianh-epdc.weebly.com.

One of the biggest efforts this year was to increase communication. Email blasts notifying different events and issues are being sent roughly once a week, to avoid an inundation of communication that can be ignored or deleted without reading. The Facebook page is also being maintained with upcoming events and notifications of changes to reach a larger audience. The contact list has also been maintained and increased, as we identify new interns. Going forward, I would like to increase the number of Draughting Club events and their attendance. There is limited interest in ARE study groups and sessions, with people located all over the state. But additional sessions for Structures, Mechanical, and Building Systems would be helpful, as well as a session for contracts led by either practicing architects or a lawyer.

Environmental Guild
David Ely AIA, Chair

The Environmental Guild is the NH arm of the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE). It is comprised of architects and others who have a stake in sustainability in the built environment. The goal is to work with an integrated group to develop educational and other programs to promote environmental responsibility.

The Guild has continued its work on the NH High Performance Building documentary. John Hession is leading this initiative, assisted by Michelle Thornton. We saw a screening of the first project to be covered, Tin Mountain Nature Learning Center, designed by Christopher P. Williams Architects. This segment is now complete and includes footage of the building and interviews with Director Mike Cline, other staff members, Chris Williams AIA, and Steven Strong from Solar Design Associates. They are now filming Beth McGinn and Ruth Smith’s less-than-zero-net-energy house and conducting interviews with them and others involved in design and construction. Other projects are under consideration, and we are actively looking for net-zero and carbon neutral projects. Once a few projects are completed John will be seeking additional grant funding.

Discussion began over next (7th?) Integrated Design/Integrated Development Conference, probably in 2015.

The Guild was asked to partner with AIANH to plan and implement the AIA+2030 Professional Series. Many Guild Members individually took on planning roles, and this has re-kindled interest and increased participation in all Guild activities. Planning the AIA+2030 sessions requires seeking out appropriate speakers and working with them to make sure the material presented falls into the curriculum designed by AIA and Architecture 2030 and that session content is not redundant with other sessions.

On April 13, 2013 the Guild presented a session at the Local Energy Solutions Conference at Winnipesaukee Regional High School, on the topic “Net Zero Building – Really”? The presentation panel included Guild members Kate Hartnett Hon. AIA, Kimberlie Hoffman, Dana Mosher, and Chris Williams AIA, and was augmented with George Brooks, Brooks Appraisal; Margaret Dillon, S.E.E.D.S.; and Peter Thompson, Bank of NH.

The monthly meetings are open to all who wish to participate in facilitating environmentally responsible work in the built environment.

Fellowship and Honors
Dale Doller AIA, Chair

The committee’s responsibilities are as follows:

• Identify and recommend to the AIANH Chapter Board non-architect individuals who should be considered for Honorary Membership to the Chapter.

• Recommend and work with potential AIA member architect candidates to submit to AIA National for consideration for national Fellowship award.

The committee recommended Jennifer Goodman and Phyllis Stibler ASID to the AIANH Board for Honorary Membership to the NH Chapter. They were approved and honored at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet. There were no individuals submitting for AIA Fellowship this year.

Legislative Affairs
David Udlesman AIA, Chair

With 424 members, the NH General Court is the largest state legislature in the United States, and the fourth largest English speaking legislative body in the world. The AIANH Legislative Affairs Committee is tasked with keeping an eye on what these folks are talking about and how it might affect the design and construction community. Here are some of the bills that we tracked in 2013.

HB113 - This bill permitted erection of a building on a lot that has access to a class VI or better highway via a private right-of-way. It passed the house but stalled in the senate.

HB156 - This bill clarified the appointment process for the state fire marshal and clarified the fire marshal’s authority to issue citations. This bill was signed into law.

HB215 - This bill required municipalities that adopt land use ordinances to allocate no less than five percent of their dwelling units to workforce housing. It went nowhere.

HB278 - This bill authorized an applicant to offer installation of fire suppression sprinklers as a condition of local permit approval. This bill was signed into law.

HB347 - This bill authorized cottage housing development as an innovative land use control. This bill passed the house but stalled in the senate.

HB531 - This bill allowed towns and cities to adopt a property tax exemption for farm buildings and structures actually and exclusively used for farming. This bill went nowhere.

HB619 - This bill prohibited images of a person’s residence to be taken from the air by a satellite, drone, or any device not supported by the ground. This bill “died on the table.”

SB43 - This bill enabled towns and cities to appraise certain qualifying historic buildings at a percentage of market value in order to encourage the preservation of the historic buildings. This bill was signed into law.

SB80 - This bill allowed towns and cities to add historic structures in the municipality, whose preservation and reuse would conserve the embodied energy in existing building stock, to the community revitalization tax relief program. This bill was signed into law.

SB185 - This bill established a commission on housing policy and regulation to identify and reduce legislative and administrative barriers to the creation of affordable housing. This bill was signed into law.

Also of note, effective January 2013, NHRSA 447:2 extended explicit mechanic’s lien protection to “design professionals” provided certain requirements are met.
2013 was a busy year for AIANH programming. We started off with our 29th Annual Awards Banquet at the Bedford Village Inn on January 11 with 177 attendees. Our February event was a tour of the Service Credit Union in Portsmouth, designed by Gund Associates. The meeting, sponsored by Office Resources and Knoll, attracted 60 attendees.

In March we toured Stonyfield Farm in Londonderry. Design Group Facility Solutions in Concord designed their expansion and renovations, and 48 people enjoyed the opportunity to get behind the scenes at the yogurt-producing plant. April was our annual meeting with the Keene State College Architecture Department, a popular event, that brought in 108 people including KSC students, AIANH High School Design Competition students and parents, KSC faculty and AIANH member architects, associates, and affiliates. The speaker was Peter Hedlund ASLA of Sasaki Associates in Watertown, MA. Rist Frost Shumway was our sponsor.

On May 16, 53 people toured the Bauer and Lindt buildings in Stratham, projects of Udelsman Associates and Bruce Ronayne Hamilton Architects, respectively. The event was sponsored by Office Interiors and Haworth, both involved with the two projects.

In June we had a joint meeting with Plan NH, highlighting scholarship distribution from both organizations, with 42 guests. Pella Windows & Doors was our sponsor for this event. In June we also had our first Building Envelope session about Structural Breaks (See Building Envelope Committee). On a beautiful evening in August a few of us joined NH/VT ABC for their annual Boat Cruise around the Isles of Shoals and Portsmouth Harbor.

September started out with a tour of the Montessori School in Hollis, NH, designed by Windy Hill Associates. 49 attended, and CertainTeed was the sponsor. On September 19 we held a special presentation on legal issues important to the profession by Jeff Alitz Hon. AIANH, Thomas McCraw, Matthew Leary, and Michael Weinberg from LeClairRyan; Brett Gough, Ames & Gough; and John Donavan, retired from CNA Insurance Co. LeClairRyan gifted the refreshments for this event.

83 people made the trip to Hanover in October to view the new Black Family Visual Arts Center at Dartmouth, designed by Machado Silvetti. Office Resources, Knoll, Yusen, and AW Hastings/Marvin Windows and Doors sponsored this event.

Rounding out the year, our final 2013 Chapter Meeting was November 7 at the Bridges House, the official Governor’s residence, in Concord. TMS Architects worked on this renovation and talked about the process. AW Hastings/Marvin Windows and Doors sponsored this event. We had 38 attendees, and the drinks were donated by A&B Lumber.

2013 was the first year since 2009 that AIANH ended the year in the black. A great deal of this was due to the timing of dues income. Ordinarily dues are split, some coming in at the end of the previous year, the rest in the new year. But in 2013 dues mostly came during the calendar year 2013, and this year, many people again paid their dues at the end of the previous year. So 2013 showed more dues income than is normal (usually about $33,000.) We also spent much less on conferences in 2013 as our Board president was unable to attend the AIA Convention and the Executive Director unable to attend the CACE Annual Meeting.

We used our reserves to fund the budget deficits in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Thankfully, we had those reserves, which are, in part, exactly for this use.

The Board constantly monitors our finances and works to make the best use of our income for our membership.

(Operating Expense and Administration includes salaries, outsourcing, AIA Contract Document expenses, printing, shipping & postage, supplies, telephone, trade shows, executive director travel, insurance, accounting, internet, merchant account fees, website, and other incidentals.)

Please contact the AIANH office if you have any questions about the Annual Report, 603-357-2863, office@aianh.org.
2013 AIANH Board of Directors

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2013 AIANH Board of Directors (taken at the October 2013 Board Retreat)