Honor Awards Presented at the Autumn Social

Once again, we celebrated our Honor Award recipients virtually at the Autumn Social. The most prestigious of the awards given, and the highlight of the event, was the presentation of our Award of Honor, recognizing a Chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding levels of professional influence and activity over a sustained period of time.

Award of Honor – Randall Mars, AIA

Comments: “Randy has been an active, engaged member for many years; over time serving as a board member, on the design awards committee, and as an AIA Virginia Director.

Despite running his own award-winning firm, Randy makes the time as an adjunct professor at Virginia Tech’s Washington Alexandria Architecture Center to teach the Professional Practice class. However, what really impresses is how many emerging professionals Randy has impacted because Randy will take the time to mentor and teach students and interns as they become architects.”

In addition to the Award of Honor, several

2021 Interschool Student Design Competition

For over two decades, the three Washington area chapters (AIA Northern Virginia, AIA Potomac Valley and AIA|DC) of the American Institute of Architects and the National Building Museum have collaborated to organize the annual Interschool Student Design Competition. These competitions have helped open doors for students to the various local architectural curriculums and the architectural profession. This year, AIA Baltimore joined the planning committee; and, NCARB was the exclusive sponsor for 2021’s event.

Participants in this design competition are students at all levels enrolled in the area’s accredited university architecture programs including:

• Catholic University of America;
• Howard University;
• Morgan State University;
• Virginia Tech Washington-Alexandria Architectural Center (WAAC);
• University of Maryland; and,
• University of the District of Columbia (UDC).

It’s Membership Renewal Time!

You’ve already received your renewal invoice from AIA. It’s fast and easy to renew your membership online, by phone, or mail. Learn more about the options online.

Dues installment plans are available and allow you to pay your dues in monthly installments. More information on this process and incentives are available online.

Visit www.aianova.org for news + updates

continues on page 4

continues on page 7
A Letter from the Executive Director

by Jaclyn S. Toole, Associate AIA
AIA Northern Virginia Executive Director

Happy New Year Everyone-

I am honored and humbled by the warm welcome and number of personal messages that I received from so many AIA Northern Virginia members. In the brief time I have been your new Executive Director, I find myself reflecting on what I have learned about the Chapter already. This community possesses far greater strength and resilience than I could have possibly anticipated. Despite the ongoing COVID crisis, AIA Northern Virginia continues to be a guiding light for the communities that we serve.

While I understand that I have big shoes to fill, and while change can be challenging, I am excited to bring a different perspective to AIA NoVA. I have been charged with coming up with new ideas and fresh solutions while also being mindful of what history has taught us. In the coming months, I will be reaching out to introduce myself and get your input on what issues your firms are facing and how the chapter can help.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a New Year filled with happiness, good health, and prosperity as well as increased opportunities to see each other in person. I look forward with great anticipation to the years ahead, meeting and working with all of you.

Regards,
Jaclyn S. Toole, Assoc. AIA
Executive Director of AIA Northern Virginia

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AIA Northern Virginia News

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WE believe the attorney-client relationship extends beyond the face of a legal issue. WE strive to develop an intimate understanding of the client’s principles and what the client is seeking to achieve as their desired outcome. Alison primarily represents architects and engineers in technical construction industry matters and advises clients regarding risk management throughout the entire construction project, from the conceptualization of the project and contract negotiations, through post-substantial completion issues, and everything in between.

Based in the City of Alexandria, and serving individuals and businesses throughout Virginia, Washington D.C., and Maryland, Shannon Mullins & Wright LLP provides comprehensive and thorough legal advice across a broad spectrum of practice areas, including: Design Professional, Construction, Business, Tax, Real Estate, Land Use, and Estate & Trust.

Contact: Alison R. Mullins
amullins@smw.law

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Rockfon provides customers with a complete ceiling system offering, combining stone wool ceiling panels with suspension grid systems, metal ceiling solutions, and now wood ceilings. Our products help create beautiful, comfortable spaces. Easy to install and durable, they protect people from noise and the spread of fire while making a constructive contribution toward a sustainable future.

Contact: Patrick Blasi
Patrick.Blasi@Rockfon.com

Thank You to Our 2021 Committee Chairs

Architecture for Education
Meredith Ellinger, AIA
Jenine Kotob, AIA

Architecture Lab
Ravine Kassam, Associate AIA

Architecture Month
Joe McCoy, AIA

Communications
Anh Tran, Associate AIA

Community Service / Canstruction
Lisa Lettieri, AIA
Jay Scruggs, AIA

Design Awards
J. Paul Lewis, AIA
Charles Todd, AIA

Committee on the Environment
Matt Alexander, AIA

Fellows
Kathryn Prigmore, FAIA

Golf Tournament
Bill Conkey, AIA

Historic Resources
John Burns, FAIA

Honors & Nominations
Joseph McCoy, AIA

Legislative/Government Affairs
Eliza Engle, AIA

Schools Connections
Joshua McKenrick, AIA

Women in Architecture
Rebecca Pantschyschak, AIA
Anna Barbour, AIA
Katie Selis, AIA

Young Architects Forum
Lara Fada, Associate AIA
Saanika Lokre, Associate AIA
Toni Lem, AIA
other members were honored for their contributions:

**Outstanding Achievement – Joseph McCoy, AIA**
Comments: “With great appreciation we recognize Joe for everything he has done to help the chapter through the time of the pandemic. A few examples follow:

As our Architecture Month Committee Chair, Joe oversaw and helped organize more than 20 public events to celebrate architecture, reaching out to collaborate with many local organizations.

Active on our Design Awards Committee, Joe was not only the leading force behind most of the event fundraising, but also played a significant role in the production of the virtual awards event.

Joe also mentors our Young Architects Forum and helps our Committee on Architecture for Education produce their impressive collection of seminars for our chapter’s YouTube page for even more exposure.

In addition to all this, Joe was co-chair of our search committee for a new executive director, along with co-chair & 2022 Chapter President, Sonia Jarboe. This was an enormous task and we thank them both, and the rest of the search committee, for their thoughtful work!”

**Distinguished Leadership & Service: Manoj V. Dalaya, FAIA**
Comments: “During his year as chapter president, Manoj has been a strong leader in uncertain times. He has led us forward and challenged us all to stay engaged and active, even though we couldn’t collaborate in person and most of our events remained online.

He has guided the chapter in important discussions dealing with racial justice, equity and inclusiveness and expanded our design awards program to focus on sustainable design by incorporating the AIA’s Framework for Design Excellence in all submissions.

Meeting with our volunteer committees on a regular basis, he has supported and encouraged them as they developed member programming. Focused on enhancing member experience, Manoj has collaborated with AIA Virginia and other components to share programming and resources. And of course, he has been instrumental in the search for a new executive director for the chapter.”

**Service to the Chapter Award: Meredith Ellinger, AIA and Jenine Kotob, AIA**

Meredith Ellinger, AIA                Jenine Kotob, AIA

Comments: “Meredith and Jenine started the chapter’s newest committee – the Committee on Architecture for Education (CAE) – which promotes the exchange of ideas and best practices related to learning environment design in both Northern Virginia and throughout the state. The educational events they develop are well done and thought provoking, featuring knowledgeable experts from all over the country. Their creative and innovative programs are an impressive addition to our continuing education calendar and are much appreciated by our members.”

Recent events include:
- Landscapes of Learning: The Heights Building (Virtual Tour and Panel Discussion featuring Bjarke Ingels Group)
- Celebrating Equity through DeafSpace Design: An Exploration of Gallaudet University’s Campus
- Equity in Public Schools: Supporting our Communities through School Design
- Building Better Futures in Native American Communities

**Award of Special Recognition - Rachel Montana Pampel**
Comments: “We recognize and thank Rachel for helping to organize the Interschool Design Competition for the past number of years. She has adeptly changed a large-scale event for the 6 area architecture schools, traditionally held at the National Building Museum, and successfully transformed it into a virtual event during the pandemic years. Last year the competition became a virtual ‘conversation’ and this year, while originally planned as an in-person event, the competition had to pivot and again be held online.

Rachel planned the kick-off meeting for the students, the all-day competition, and the jury session, even supplying food gift cards to keep both the students and jury going.”
AIA Northern Virginia Chapter Award: Loudoun County Design Cabinet
Comments: “The chapter is pleased to recognize the Loudoun County Design Cabinet for encouraging and promoting high quality design in the Loudoun County since 2003. Initiated by chapter member Al Hansen, FAIA, and currently chaired by Al Gooden, the cabinet is a volunteer group of architects, engineers, planners, and designers dedicated to maintaining the county’s sense of place, identity, and community. To assist the county Department of Planning and Zoning and the Department of Economic Development, Cabinet members volunteer in communities conducting design charrettes and problem-solving sessions, focusing on improving plans and stimulating new ways to think about projects in the county. The Cabinet is also responsible for establishing the annual Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Program to encourage and recognize quality design. In addition to benefiting the citizens of Loudoun County, the Cabinet has been recognized as a model of service and a prototype for municipalities throughout the country.”

Award of Special Recognition - Tom Sheridan with Potomac Valley Brick
Comments: “We all know Tom. He has helped our members whenever they have questions or need information, and he has long supported our chapter. He is a steadfast chapter sponsor and was the first one to join our partnership program. Our members know to call him whenever they need help. He is a friend to us all and he knows just about everyone in the room. We greatly appreciate his support of our charitable actions and I’m sure many of us still wear those CANstruction® tee shirts showcasing the Potomac Valley Brick logo.”

Chapter Elects 2022 Leadership

Our 2022 elections were once again held virtually prior to the Autumn Social, allowing us to announce the winners during the event. Congratulations to our newly elected chapter leadership:

Executive Committee:
President – Sonia R. Jarboe, AIA
President Elect – April C. Drake, AIA
Treasurer – Braden L. Field, AIA
Secretary – Christopher S. Kehde, AIA
Past President – Manoj V. Dalaya, FAIA
Chapter Directors: Meredith L. Ellinger, AIA; Yuhui G. (Grace) Gan, AIA; Roland G. Lemke, AIA; Joshua A.W. McKenrick, AIA; Rebecca W. Mezny, AIA; Simone Saidel, AIA; James W. (Jay) Scruggs, AIA; Charles J. Todd, AIA; and Anh Tran, Associate AIA.

AIA Virginia Directors: James W. (Jay) Scruggs, AIA, and Stephen R. Wakeman, AIA.

Thank you to Joseph McCoy, AIA, Stephen Kulinski, AIA, and Edward Weaver, AIA as they conclude their terms on the AIA Northern Virginia Board.

And a special thank you to Karen Conkey, AIA; Eliza Engle, AIA; Christopher Kehde, AIA; Spencer Lepler, AIA; and Maury Saunders, AIA, as they conclude their terms on the AIA Virginia Board.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting our Autumn Social

Autumn Social Patron:

Autumn Social Sponsors:
Autumn Social Celebrates Achievements

Congratulations to the newly licensed members of our Chapter. Even in the era of COVID-19, they were still able to complete their licensure. Cheers to you!

Shayna Cini, AIA
Kamran Charmsaz, AIA
Sean P. Haislip, AIA
Elizabeth A. Diseati, AIA
Sarah E. Kimble, AIA
John W. Elliott, AIA
Clelia P. Mayorga, AIA
Abi E. Kallushi, AIA
Sangyoon Park, AIA
Susy Munguia Mikhail, AIA
Carolyn M. O’Toole, AIA
Elizabeth Parry, AIA
Marium Rahman, AIA
Ramatoulie M. Sallah-Muhammed, AIA

Show Us Your Work!

We are looking for projects to publish in this newsletter and BLAST. We offer three features to showcase our members’ work:

**On the Boards** -- Each issue of AIA Northern Virginia News features a project currently “on the boards” being designed by chapter members. These can include theoretical, conceptual and unbuilt projects or projects currently in the planning or design phase. Submissions should include a project description of 150-250 words and at least four images at print resolution. Include project name, location and photographer credit, where needed.

**Featured Projects** -- Each issue of BLAST features a recently completed project designed by a chapter member. Submissions should include a project description of 150-250 words and at least four images. Include project name, location and photographer credit.

**Sketches** -- Sketches is a feature in AIA Northern Virginia News showcasing the artistic talents of our members. We encourage you to share your sketches. Please send high resolution images of one to five sketches with brief captions and information on how we should credit you, the artist.

We will generally publish work on a first-come, first-served basis. Photos and images may be resized or cropped to fit the formatting and it may be necessary to edit the description. Please let us know if you wish to review any changes before publication.

To submit for any of these features, please complete this form or email your materials to aianova@aianova.org

Brian J. Frickie, FAIA, Daniel J. Lemieux, FAIA, and David H. Peabody, FAIA celebrated for Fellowship at the 2021 Autumn Social

Congratulations to Brian, Dan, and David as they are elevated to the prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the architecture profession. Only 101 members were selected for fellowship during 2021.

Brian, a Principal at Kerns Group Architects, P.C., was elevated for his aspirational, enduring, and inspirational leadership across the AIA at all levels. His visionary activism and collaborative, participatory style uphold the profession’s stature, elevate the organization’s relevance, and empower individual architects as leaders.

Dan, Director and Principal of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and Wiss, Janney, Elstner Limited, UK, has led the advancement of building science in architecture throughout his over 25-year career in professional practice and as a thought-leader in the development of international technical design and construction standards.

David, Principal of Peabody Architects and a Certified Passive House Consultant, pioneers passive and zero-energy building in the United States. Through practice, advocacy, and collaboration, he advances the design profession’s leadership in the transition to an economy built on connected, energy-positive buildings.
Due to the on-going pandemic, the competition was again held virtually in 2021. We were honored to have Dr. Hazel Ruth Edwards, FAICP, and Billie Tsien, AIA, as our speakers at the Kick-Off event where the students also met their teammates for the first time, received hints at the program and site location, and were given some words of wisdom. The competition was held on Sept. 18, with each student group setting up their own virtual meetings to collaborate and creating virtual submission boards. The jury was composed of Dr. Edwards; Suzanne Klein, AIA; Nathan King, DDES; and Jeremy Fretts, AIA, who deliberated online and selected the winners. The award ceremony was also held virtually and included the jury critiquing all the submissions and announcing the winners.

First Place: Team 3
Juan Soto, Catholic University of America
Stephanie Walker, Morgan State University
Keith Thomas Castro, Washington-Alexandria Architectural Center
Gesine Pryor Azevedo, University of Maryland
Dia Harris, Howard University

Second Place: Team 1
John Jones, Catholic University of America
Rahmah Davis, Morgan State University
Kennard Taylor, Washington-Alexandria Architectural Center
Jeyda Muhammad, University of Maryland
Etana Sesay, Howard University

Third Place (TIE): Team 4
Isabella Bernard, Catholic University of America
Shelby Pollack, Washington-Alexandria Architectural Center
Glenn De Los Santos, University of Maryland
Dezja Sabree, Howard University
Eric Harris, University of the District of Columbia

Third Place (TIE): Team 7
Ricard Charles, Morgan State University
Christina Jeyaseelan, Washington-Alexandria Architectural Center
R. Maisha Islam, University of Maryland
Daphne Arko-Dadzie, Howard University
Cameron Wright, University of the District of Columbia

Congratulations to all those who participated in the successful event!
Two AIA NoVA Members Receive Top Honors from National

Congratulations to our members, Kathryn Tyler Prigmore, FAIA and Katherine Williams, AIA for receiving the 2022 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award. Named for civil rights leader Whitney M. Young Jr., this award distinguishes an architect or architectural organization that embodies social responsibility and actively addresses a relevant issue, such as affordable housing, inclusiveness, or universal access.

The additional award winners are from neighboring AIA Chapters: Kathy Denise Dixon, FAIA from AIA|DC and Melissa R. Daniels, Assoc. AIA from AIA Potomac Valley.

For more than a decade, RIDING THE VORTEX (VORTEX), a collaboration of African-American women representing the entire spectrum of practice, had endeavored to increase the number of people of color licensed to practice architecture in the U.S. Following its 2007 launch at the AIA Conference on Architecture in San Antonio, VORTEX has directly responded to Whitney M. Young Jr.’s observations on the disheartening history of American architecture. Even today, through the first quarter of the 21st century, entry, success, and progress in the profession remain dominated by white men, something VORTEX works tirelessly to change.

Perhaps the greatest contribution VORTEX has made thus far is its direct impact on the increased number of African-American women architects, which from 2007 to 2020 has risen from approximately 175 to more than 500, according to the Directory of African-American Architects. When participants gain insight and advice from collaborators and panelists who have successfully navigated the maze of architecture education and licensure, it often helps keep them on the path to achieving their own goals.

“Two words come to mind when I think of VORTEX: impact and empowerment,” R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA, executive vice president of AIA Virginia, wrote in a letter. “VORTEX has twice been a part of our annual conference, which boasts nearly 600 participants. Each time, they engaged local African-American women architects in various career stages to tell their professional stories. Immediately, these stories ignite a dialogue on race in architecture that leads to a culture shift focused on inclusivity of all. The most impactful part is that local VORTEX participants become empowered to lead in our state.” Read more about RIDING THE VORTEX.

Free Membership for New Grads!

AIA supports architects from their first job, to licensure, and beyond with a strong community, valuable resources, and so much more.

AIA helps new grads succeed with up to 18 months of FREE membership. And, students can pre-join now to automatically become a member upon graduation.

Membership benefits include ARE Prep, scholarships, one of the industry’s best job boards, salary information, and a local network no matter where they move – and that’s just the beginning. Learn more here.

Hiring or Looking for a Job?

The AIA Northern Virginia’s Online Job Board can help.

Chapter members can easily post job opportunities. And those looking for a job should regularly check the postings. Just visit the job board to get started:

www.aianova.org/jobs.php

The Chapter also maintains a digital resume library. If you wish to include your resume, please send a PDF to aianova@aianova.org

If you are hiring and would like to request the resumes we have in our library, just let us know at nd we’ll email you the resumes we have for the level of experience you need.

Another source for both employers and job-seekers is the National AIA Career Center: careercenter.aia.org
This past year, the AIA Virginia Political Action Committee (PAC), the legislative advocacy group for all Architects in the Commonwealth, had a very fruitful year. We were able to continue to strengthen our relationships with legislators leading to positive outcomes.

For example, in 2021, we advocated for a $100,000 business expense deduction cap, up from the initial $25,000 that was proposed for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loans. This allowed full deductibility to almost 80% of Virginia businesses who received this assistance. We were at the table for this decision because of PAC investors – architects, interns and firms – around the Commonwealth.

Were you one of those investors? If you were, thank you again for your investment. If you weren’t, we would love for you to join our group of dedicated, forward-thinking, and engaged investors. With requested donations beginning as low as $20, and rising along with your ability to give, it doesn’t take much to make a difference! These investments in our collective future allow us to continue building relationships that pay great dividends to all the architects in the Commonwealth. Another topic we’ve taken on in recent years has been to guide legislation that closed a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) loophole in the Virginia Public Procurement Act and made the “duty to defend” language in indemnification clauses in public contracts void and against public policy.

Unfortunately, AIA Northern Virginia was once again defeated in PAC Rumble in the Jungle, the annual competition among local AIA components in the Commonwealth of Virginia. AIA Hampton Roads came out on top this year. I am hopeful that with your help, we embrace this opportunity in 2022, and win the $1,000 prize for our 2023 Architecture Month this year. It starts with you! Invest today.

What a great way to use some of that bonus, giving back to your profession!! I just made my investment, you should too!
Fairfax County: 2021 James M. Scott Exceptional Design Award Recipients

**Honor Award - The Boro**
ARCHITECT: Shalom Baranes Associates
OWNER: Kettler / The Meridian Group
CATEGORY: Mixed-Use
YEAR COMPLETED: 2020
PHOTOGRAPHER: Alan Karchmer
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: This exciting urban design composition took a potentially ordinary project and elevated it to the exceptional. Determining the pedestrian experience was a key factor; the massing was scaled to reflect more intimate interior streets, emphasizing both the vertical and horizontal planes in a dynamic balance of various styles. The jury was drawn to the sense of place created by a variety of materials, that are pleasing, sun drenched, and a welcoming destination for pedestrians and those utilizing the center public areas. This project’s superior architecture and design intent which were carefully planned and beautifully executed, is well deserving of the Honor Award.

**Merit Award - Woodlawn Fire Station #24 Replacement**
ARCHITECT: BKV Group
OWNER: Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
CATEGORY: Institutional
YEAR COMPLETED: 2021
PHOTOGRAPHER: James Oesch Photography
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: The architects achieved a good upgrading of the site with this facility, evident in the before and after photographs. The jury appreciated the care given to phasing - keeping the facility functional throughout the upgrade, and a sensitivity to the neighborhood in the circulation route to ease traffic congestion. Simple way finding and very clear organization added to the jury’s decision to give the Woodlawn Fire Station #24 Replacement a Merit Award. The contemporary design, both inside and out is well-integrated into the neighborhood as reflected in the scale and materials for the facility.

**Honorable Mention - Herrity Fountain Stormwater Retrofit Project**
ARCHITECT: Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.
OWNER: Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
CATEGORY: Community Benefit Project
YEAR COMPLETED: 2020
PHOTOGRAPHER: Suzanne Foster, DPWES
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: The jury was proud to award this creative engineering solution an Honorable Mention as it is a great benefit for the community. It exemplifies innovative water quality features such as infiltration techniques in a responsible sustainable way. This project achieved a quality retrofit design, replacing an antiquated poorly functioning fountain.
Honorable Mention – Innovation Center Station Parking Garage and Plaza
ARCHITECT: HGA
OWNER: Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
CATEGORY: Commercial
YEAR COMPLETED: 2021
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jason Redding
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: This project was ‘challenged to develop an aesthetically pleasing landscape on a small site.’ The Innovation Center Station Parking Garage and Plaza earned an Honorable Mention. The jury was intrigued by the plan for diverse community events and appreciated the use of the infiltration stormwater techniques to provide an attractive educational experience.

Honorable Mention – NS2 Innovation Lab
ARCHITECT: The M Group
OWNER: NS2 (SAP National Security Service)
CATEGORY: Commercial Interiors
YEAR COMPLETED: 2019
PHOTOGRAPHER: David Belgin
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: The jury was pleased to award the Innovation Lab an Honorable Mention for successfully achieving the design intent to provide ‘a next generation, technology driven human experience.’ This project takes technology to the next level for a collaborative, immersive, deliberately inward focusing and engaging solution.

Honorable Mention – Prosperity Metro Plaza
ARCHITECT: GTM Architects
OWNER: The RMR Group
CATEGORY: Commercial Interiors
YEAR COMPLETED: 2021
PHOTOGRAPHER: Greg Powers Photography
DESIGN AWARD JURY COMMENTS: The Prosperity Metro Plaza is a pleasing and comfortable environment with attention given to the interior/exterior connection. Thoughtful introduction of natural light and material choices provide a sense of being in a landscaped outdoor room. The jury would like to encourage more inviting spaces like these and were pleased to award the Prosperity Metro Plaza an Honorable Mention.
Do Your Words Really Matter?
Shop Drawing Liability

by Alison Mullins & Shannon Peak
Shannon Mullins & Wright LLP
Supporting Partner of AIA Northern Virginia

There is more than one way to build a project to the plans and specifications that design professionals provide. The “means and methods” for doing so are typically up to the contractor. However, those means and methods are often subject to advance scrutiny by the design professional, through the “shop drawing” submittal process.

Submittal Process
As the AIA A201 General Conditions of the Contract for Construction (2017) explains in Section 3.12.4, the first review of the shop drawings is conducted by the contractor. The contractor’s duty is to review the proposed information in the shop drawing and ensure its conformance with the design concept and Contract Document requirements. After the Contractor review, the design professionals’ review begins—but it is more limited. Section 4.2.7 says that a design professional’s review of shop drawings is “only for the limited purpose of checking for conformance with information given and the design concept expressed in the Contract Documents.”

In other words, the design professional is to review such submittals for both compliance with the construction contract and the project’s design intent. Because bidders and contractors are typically not privy to all details of the project’s design intent, it is common for contractors to seek to reduce costs and improve constructability through the materials, equipment, fabrication techniques, and features proposed via submittals. Such matters have strong potential to affect the project’s ability to achieve the design intent and, sometimes, can affect health, safety, and welfare. Therefore, it is a mistake for design professionals to treat reviewing contractor-furnished shop drawings and submittals as a mundane, plug-and-chug task to be delegated to under-qualified reviewers. Potentially, there can be substantial professional liability and other risk associated with submittal reviews.

“Reviewed” vs. “Approved”
Design professionals’ submittal review stamps, whether inked or electronic, can have a direct impact on the scope of a design professional’s liability. Most of the design community’s discussion of submittal stamps has focused on the actual words assigned to action submittals, regarding whether a design professional should explicitly “approve” shop drawings and other action submittals. Many in the design community, embracing decades-old advice from certain professional liability insurance carriers, advocate using wording such as “No Exceptions Taken,” “Furnish as Submitted,” or a simple, “Reviewed,” rather than expressly marking action submittals as “Approved.” The rationale often expressed for avoiding the word “Approved” is that “taking no exceptions” or “reviewed” somehow confers less liability on the design professional than does “approved.” Using alternate word choices like these are useless.

Courts in the United States have ruled that there is no perceived difference, in action or liability conferred on the design

continues on page 13
Legal: Do Your Words Really Matter?

Professional in “approved” versus “reviewed” stamps. The purpose of design professionals’ review of submittals is clear and, no matter the exact wording on the design professional’s review stamp, the liability is the same. Significantly, in the litigation following the 1981 collapse of the skywalk system in the Hyatt Regency Kansas City Hotel, courts rejected the structural engineer’s argument that it was not culpable, because it stamped the fatal shop drawing as “Reviewed” rather than “Approved.” For this case, the courts concluded that “Reviewed” had the same meaning as “Approved” in the shop drawing context.

Furthermore, for decades, AIA A201, together with all associated agreements for design professional services (AIA B101), have consistently used the term “approve” when referring to the design professional’s reviews of shop drawings, product data, and samples. Regardless of whether one takes refuge in avoiding submittal label words like “approved,” the submittal labels assigned by the design professional should be consistent with the project’s general conditions and other construction documents.

Disclaimer Language

Disclaimers are common on design professionals’ submittal review stamps and should always be included. Although the design professional’s disclaimer on its submittal review stamp is not a contract document, in certain situations such disclaimers may be useful to design professionals and limiting their liability. Disclaimer language consistent with the contract documents may help reinforce the limits of a design professional’s review and comments in any substantive disagreement related to the submittal review. Thus, it is strongly advised that a design professional consult with their professional liability carrier regarding the precise language of such disclaimers.

Conclusion

The use of submittal stamps on shop drawings may have an impact on a design professional’s potential liability for any given project. The potential danger of the idea that stamps indicating “Reviewed” or “No Exceptions Taken” is their use may lull the design professional into a false sense of security. Architects’ or engineers’ staff members who believe “taking no exceptions” or “reviewed” on a shop drawing reduces their risk and liability may sometimes be less diligent in their reviews than a design professional who expressly “approves” shop drawings. Again, the design professional’s liability is the same regardless of whether these specific words are used. Thus, the words used to indicate the architect has reviewed and approved a submittal do not matter; however, the words of the disclaimer on the submittal stamp do matter.

Alison Mullins is a Founding Partner at Shannon Mullins & Wright LLP, www.smw.law, and is a Supporting Partner of AIA Northern Virginia Chapter. She may be reached at amullins@smw.law or by calling 571-620-1934. Alison focuses her practice on all aspects of construction law. In particular, she often represents architects, engineers, and others involved in the construction industry.

Shannon Peak is an Associate Attorney at Shannon Mullins & Wright LLP, www.smw.law. She may be reached at speak@smw.law or by calling 571-620-1930. Shannon’s practice focus is civil litigation and dispute resolution, with an interest in construction law. Her research and assistance in the preparation of this article is immeasurable.

This article is not intended to provide specific legal advice, but instead as general commentary regarding legal matters. You should consult with an attorney regarding your legal issues, as the advice you may receive will depend upon your facts and the laws of your jurisdiction.

ARE Prep: Make 2022 the year you get licensed!

Each year the AIA Northern Virginia Young Architects Forum organizes seminars for those preparing to take the Architect Registration Exam® (ARE®). The award-winning seminars offer the opportunity to learn from a professional in each discipline and use that knowledge in preparation for the ARE®. All sessions offer AIA Continuing Education credits.

All 2022 seminars are being held virtually and you can view the schedule online. The registration fee for the entire 6-session series is $250 for members; $400 for non-members. Individual sessions are $50 each for AIA members; $75 each for non-members. Fees include study materials.

Advance registration is required and sessions fill up quickly, so don’t delay -- sign up today!!

Thank you for voting SMW Best Law Firm in Northern Virginia!
School Connections Committee Mug Competition

Each year, the School Connections Committee holds a scholarship competition for architecture students who are attending school in Virginia or attend an architecture school out-of-state but reside in Virginia. Cash prizes are awarded to winning students with funds coming from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the AIA, and matching funds from AIA National through a component matching scholarship grant program.

The competition typically involves a graphic design for a common item such as a coaster or phone case. This year, due to the success of the previous two years of competition, students once again created a design to be placed on a standard white ceramic coffee mug. The aim of the competition was to design a graphic that would spark a conversation about architecture when the mug is viewed in someone’s hands.

Entries were solicited back in October of 2021 with a due date of the end of November. Students’ entries were judged on composition, clarity, technique and an overall answer to ‘does this make me want to talk about architecture?’ Three winners were selected, each representing the Washington Alexandria Architecture Center. The winners were notified at the end of December and will be presented in late January with a scholarship check as well as a mug with their winning design. This year’s winners are:

Beyza Kastan - 1st year master’s student at the WAAC. The simple color palette and graphic representation of an Old Town Alexandria streetscape won over the judges.

Monica Wang - WAAC. Another interesting take on Old Town Alexandria, this entry caught the attention of the judges familiar with the city’s layout. Though more of a take on urban planning, the buildings were recognizable and the composition was strong enough to warrant a selection.

Arielianna Walker - master’s student at the WAAC. The vibrant clipart-style graphics immediately grabbed the judges’ attention. Taking the design prompt quite literally, this image is sure to start a conversation on architecture.

Thank you to all the students who participated and submitted entries this year. If you would like to order one of the winning mugs for yourself, please contact the Northern Virginia AIA Chapter House.
AIA Northern Virginia Job Board – Chapter members can always post job opportunities free of charge. So if you are looking for work, be sure to check our job board and share your resume with us for our resume library.
https://aianova.org/jobs.php

Submissions are now open for the Edward C. Kemper Award, recognizing members who carry on his legacy of continued and significant service to the AIA. Submissions are due Feb. 15 prior to 5pm ET.
https://www.aia.org/awards/10581-edward-c-kemper-award

Submissions are now open for the Healthcare Design Awards, which showcase the best of healthcare building design, healthcare planning and healthcare design-oriented research. The awards highlight the trends of healthcare facilities and the future direction of these facilities. Projects should exhibit conceptual strength that solve aesthetic, civic, urban, and social concerns as well as the requisite functional and sustainability concerns associated with a healthcare setting. Submissions are due March 15 prior to 5pm ET.
https://www.aia.org/awards/7906-aia-healthcare-design-awards

The Architecture Billings Index (ABI) is an economic indicator for nonresidential construction activity, with a lead time of approximately 9–12 months. Investment groups like Wells Fargo, media outlets, firms of all sizes, and business leaders rely on this leading monthly economic indicator to assess business conditions and predict and track the market.
https://www.aia.org/resources/10046-architecture-billings-index-abi

The familiar terms “design assist” and “delegated design” often mean different things to different people in design and construction industry—which can lead to differing expectations, issues, and claims. Is the contractor simply providing input or taking contractual responsibility for a design? What is the degree of liability that flows from the contractor’s involvement? Increase design collaboration with new design assist and delegated design services agreements from AIA Contract Documents.
https://www.aiacontracts.org/articles/6431092-increase-design-collaboration-with-new-design-assist-and-delegated-design-services-agreements

Save the date! AIA Conference on Architecture 2022 heads to Chicago to explore what’s new and now in architecture and design.
https://conferenceonarchitecture.com

The U.S. Green Building Council announced USGBC Live 2022, an annual event series designed to help prepare and inspire building industry practitioners and changemakers including USGBC members, LEED users and credential holders to accelerate the transition to green buildings, cities and communities. This year the event will be a hybrid-format based in Washington, DC in June.
Do you have news to share with the AIA Northern Virginia Community? Complete [this form](#) to have your announcements included in an upcoming chapter publication.

**KCCT Relocation Announcement**

KCCT, a leading provider of innovative design solutions for the built environment, is excited to announce our new location at 1350 Eye Street, NW on Franklin Square as of Oct. 2021. The relocation accommodates KCCT’s steady growth, which has increased with 17 new employees since the beginning of 2020 and enables us to remain centrally located for our longstanding regional client base. KCCT’s interiors team designed the new office and tailored the technology-enabled space to foster collaboration and creativity as our employees return to the office.

**FOX Architects Promotes Robert Sikorski to Associate**

FOX Architects is proud to announce that senior project architect Robert Sikorski, AIA, has been promoted to Associate. Sikorski joined FOX Architects in 2019, bringing over 15 years of experience in domestic and international design. Prior to joining FOX Architects, Sikorski worked with Perkins&Will and Shalom Baranes Associates.

He is the senior project architect on several of the firm’s architecture projects, such as 1333 New Hampshire Ave, One Bethesda Center, 1900 M Street, The Heritage Foundation and the recently completed FLIR Billerica. Some of his specialties include mixed-use residential, exterior envelope base building design, office space, science and technology and higher education programming. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from State University of New York College at Buffalo and a Master’s Degree in Architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Robert has also a LEED AP certification.

**Hoffmann Architects Promotes Daniel Bishop to Senior Architect**

As Senior Architect, Bishop conducts comprehensive on-site investigations of building enclosure conditions and leads project teams in developing drawings and specifications for rehabilitation and new construction consultation. He performs site visits during construction to observe the quality of work, conducts job progress meetings, monitors contractors’ construction schedules, reviews shop drawings and product data/samples, evaluates contractor requests for details and changes, and coordinates with the entire project team. His recent projects include terra cotta tile investigation at Union Station in Washington DC, exterior envelope restoration at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Chantilly (VA), facade replacement at the Verizon tower in Newark NJ, and plaza accessibility improvements at the Smithsonian Institution Freer Gallery of Art.

He lives in Fort Washington, Maryland with his wife, Amanda, where he has been hunkered down during the pandemic and spends time with a hands-on renovation of their home.

**DBI Architects’ Firm Anniversaries**

In late 2021, DBI Architects recognized the following staff members for their years of professional excellence at DBI:

- Roseanne Beattie, AIA – 40 years
- Michael Hartman, AIA – 35 years
- Felipe Turriago-Borrero, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP – 15 years
- Steven Foster, AIA – 10 years

At DBI, an amazing 45% of our staff have a 10+ year tenure, and 17% of staff have tenure of 20 years and more! Congratulations to all!

**New Members**

Khalil Abdelmoumen, Assoc. AIA, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC
Chamberlain D. Beard, AIA, HGA Architects & Engineers
Andrew S. Benavides, Assoc. AIA, Wiencek + Associates Architects + Planners
Joshua D. Berkeley, Assoc. AIA
Graydon Blakeslee, AIA, Array Architects
Neetu Chandra, Assoc. AIA
Jack Chin, AIA, Quinn Evans Architects-DC
Jorge E. Daniels, Int’l Assoc. AIA, JD + A Design & Build, Inc.
Claire G. Dickey, AIA, Hestia design collective
Amy Findley, AIA, Waldon Studio Architects & Planners
Antoinette C. Ford, Assoc. AIA, HDR
Shayan Ghodousi, Assoc. AIA, Michael Winstanley Architects Planners
Cedric Gilliam, Assoc. AIA, Jacobs
Tesslyn Hamilton, Assoc. AIA, GTM Architects
Samantha Harlow, Assoc. AIA, O’Brien and Keane Architecture
Audra Herriges, AIA, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Julia Hunger, Assoc. AIA, Kerns Group Architects, P.C.
Magdy B. Ibrahim, AIA, The MBI Group, Inc.
Sarah E. Kimble, AIA, Quinn Evans Architects- DC
Michael Lagarde, Assoc. AIA
James D. Latham, AIA, Latham Architecture
Arnold Lee, Assoc. AIA, AV Architects + Builders
Andrea Y. Lucas, AIA, Tekutura Studio
Lisa Mayville, Assoc. AIA, Society Of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Sari Melhem, Assoc. AIA, Samaha Associates PC
Ghudaf Musharraf, Assoc. AIA

continues on page 17
continued from page 16

Isabella Nassar, Assoc. AIA, KGD Architecture (Kishimoto. Gordon.Dalaya PC)
Brandon J. Newcomer, Assoc. AIA, Lessard Design
Melody Nobleza, Int’l Assoc. AIA, ci design, Inc.
Ayse Elif Ozkan, Assoc. AIA, MV+A Architects
Merlyn Rivera, Assoc. AIA, Hoffman Architects
Luz Rosado, AIA, Lessard Design, Inc.
Megan Ross, AIA, Kishimoto.Gordon.Dalaya PC (KGD)
Roya Saeidi, Assoc. AIA
Gigi L. Scovel, AIA
Alex Shifflett, AIA, Kishimoto.Gordon.Dalaya PC (KGD)
Warees Smith, AIA, KTGY Architecture + Planning
Ramiro Solorzano, Assoc. AIA, AIA National
Jamie Stauffer, Assoc. AIA
Stephanie Stubbs, Assoc. AIA, National Institute of Building Sciences
Zaira Suarez, AIA, Maginniss + del Ninno Architects, PC
Jaclyn S. Toole, Assoc. AIA, AIA Northern Virginia
Alyssa R. Tope, AIA, Beyer Blinder Belle
Adam Urbina, Assoc. AIA, LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects
Erin C. Unger, AIA, Jacobs
Paul Valesky, Assoc. AIA, Powers Brown Architecture
Ian B. Vaughn, AIA, Clark Nexsen
Ariel N. Westmark, Assoc. AIA, Hickok Cole Architects Inc.
Frank W. Willcoxon, Assoc. AIA, Shalom Baranes Associates
Shareef T. Younis, Assoc. AIA, Gradient Design LLC

**Upgrading to Architect**
Sarah E. Kimble, AIA, Quinn Evans Architects - DC

**Upgrading to Emeritus**
Najah M. Abdalla, AIA
Charles Matta, FAIA

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**Customize Your Chapter Communications**

Several of our committees send emails focused on particular topics or groups, like Small Firms or Women in Architecture. Much like the AIA’s Knowledge Communities, these committees share information geared to special interests. AIA Northern Virginia offers six specialized email lists and all members are welcome to sign on to receive any or all of the following options:

- Committee on Architecture for Education (CAE)
- Committee on the Environment (COTE)
- Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN)
- Historic Resources
- Small Firms
- Women in Architecture (WIA)
- Young Architects Forum (YAF)

Send a request to aianova@aianova.org to be added to any of the lists.
Referral List System on www.aianova.org

In the interest of keeping our firm referral lists as current as possible, we offer a sortable web-based interface. This allows us to make changes much more quickly and has the added benefit of allowing users to link directly to firms’ websites from aianova.org. You can visit the database of firms here: http://aianova.org/referral.php

Our listings can contain the following fields for each firm: Firm Name, Address, Website, Contact Name, Contact Email, Phone Number, Number of Personnel and up to five practice areas.

If you would like to add or update your information, please email us at: referrals@aianova.org

AIA Northern Virginia Calendar - www.aianova.org
AIA/DC Calendar - http://aiadc.com/calendar
AIA Potomac Valley Calendar - www.aiapv.org/calendar.php
AIA Virginia Calendar - https://www.aiava.org/events
Branch Museum Calendar - http://branchmuseum.org/calendar

Calendar

For a full listing of upcoming events, visit our chapter calendar at https://aianova.org

January
19 | ARE Prep: NCARB Roundtable
20 | CAE Meeting (Committee on Architecture in Education)

February
4 | J.E.D.I. IRL - Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Real Life
7 | WIA Committee Meeting
11 | VANOMA 2022 Open House Series @ WAAC
17 | CAE Meeting (Committee on Architecture in Education)
19 | ARE Prep®: Practice Management (PcM)

March
7 | WIA Committee Meeting
9 | WIA Book Chat
17 | CAE Meeting (Committee on Architecture in Education)
19 | ARE Prep®: Project Management (PjM)