Chad Oppenheim to Speak at Design Awards Gala

by Mike Nawrocki, AIA
Design Awards Committee Chair

Emerging architecture star Chad Oppenheim, AIA, NCARB, of the 35-person Miami-based firm Oppenheim Architecture + Design, will be the keynote speaker at the AIA Northern Virginia Design Awards Banquet on June 7th.

Oppenheim’s firm is re-defining architecture in tropical South Florida and beyond, and will complete over 10 million square feet of dramatic new architecture in the next several years, including COR (shown, rising 400’ above the Design District) which is the first sustainable mixed-use condominium in Miami, and represents a dynamic synergy between architecture, structural engineering, and ecology.

Robert M. Gurney, FAIA Wins a 2008 AIA Housing Award

The Wissioming Residence, designed by Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, is one of nineteen houses honored by The American Institute of Architects with a 2008 Housing Award. The Housing Awards program, now in its eighth year, recognizes the best in housing design and promotes the importance of good housing as a necessity of life, a sanctuary for the human spirit, and a valuable national resource.

This house, located in Glen Echo, Maryland, is sited on a heavily wooded lot overlooking the Potomac River. Glen Echo stands as a rare enclave of modern houses in...
Meet the Architects Forum

by Jennifer Byl, Associate AIA
Schools Connections Committee

The 9th Annual Meet the Architects Forum, hosted by the Schools Connections Committee, was held on March 18th at Virginia Tech’s Washington Alexandria Architecture Center. The event features four panelists, three architects and one landscape architect, who discuss their experiences in the profession with college students. Participating this year were Marlene Shade, AIA, PSA-Dewberry; Robert R. Smedley, AIA, The Onyx Group; William T. Brown, AIA, BerryRio Architecture + Interiors, and Lauren Brandes, ASLA, Oculus. Sean E. Reilly, AIA, Kerns Group, once again moderated the event.

Themes for this year included the future of the architecture profession, sustainable design, emerging technologies, and the role of the intern in an architectural practice. Each panelist shared their opinion on where they see the profession evolving, including more design-build projects, interdisciplinary design with BIM, the architect as an all-purpose designer like Michael Graves (his kitchen gadget line at Target as an example) and an increasing necessity for green buildings. There was even a smattering of advice on how to weather an economic downturn. It was one of the liveliest Forums to date. The Schools Connections Committee heartily thanks the student volunteers from Virginia Tech for all their help and the panelists who made the event a success.
Lunch Seminars

Free Presentation – Free Continuing Education Credits – Free Lunch
The AIA Northern Virginia Lunch Series offers free lunch time educational seminars, usually held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Chapter House or various firm offices. Each session earns AIA continuing education learning units, often health, safety, welfare credits. Presentations begin at noon and usually last for one hour. Space is limited to 18 participants. Registration is required. Please e-mail your registration request to reservations@aianova.org.

May 21, Noon – 1:00pm, Hazard Mitigation Technologies for Windows, at the Chapter House, 205 South Patrick Street, Alexandria. This seminar will focus on the design and installation of retrofit window systems as well as new construction to reduce glass hazards that are associated with bomb blast, windstorm, earthquake, forced-entry and electronic eavesdropping. The latest methods employed by the US Federal Government and the private sector for physical security and reduction of wireless signals through windows will be reviewed. Presented by Glasslock Designed Protection. 1 AIA/CES HSW LU.

June 18, 11:00a – 1:15p, Two seminars with lunch served between, at the Chapter House, 205 South Patrick Street, Alexandria. First presentation – Mitigating Moisture Penetration in Masonry Structures. Learn why and how redundancy and a system approach are key to designing for water penetration resistancein masonry walls. Learn about the many levels of defense that should be incorporated into any masonry wall design in order to mitigate the penetration of moisture through the wall as well as mitigating the effects of such moisture – namely damage to building components and contents. Also discussed are industry standard details and material specifications for concrete masonry walls. Attendees will learn to identify key locations where moisture penetration resistance must be considered. Second presentation – Sustainability Beyond LEED – What is the Role of Concrete Masonry in Sustainable Construction. This seminar will focus on LEED and what is and is not contained within the LEED® Rating System – specifically sustainable material characteristics that are not part of LEED® – abuse resistance, mold, moisture penetration, life cycle costs, construction costs, sustainability of materials. Detailed description will include how masonry products fit and fall within various LEED categories (and beyond) as well as the many additional environmentally friendly benefits of concrete masonry construction of which designers may not be fully aware. Presented by Robert S. Zobel, Ph.D., P.E., Executive Director of the Concrete Masonry Promotions Council. 2 AIA/CES HSW LU.

July 16, Noon – 1:00pm, Elevator Technology, at the Chapter House, 205 South Patrick Street, Alexandria. This presentation will cover conventional and new elevator technology, including features and benefits of both. It will provide an overview of elevators that do not require a machine room and highlight the differences with a traditional hydraulic elevator. Also better building practices and sustainable best practices relating to elevator installations will be discussed. Presented by KONE Elevators. 1 AIA/CES LU.

This information is a public service announcement. No fees were paid to print this information and the chapter receives no income from these events.

Builders Ball Selects Charities
The 9th Annual Meet the Architects Forum, hosted by the Schools Connections Committee, was held on March 18th at Virginia Tech’s Washington Alexandria Architecture Center. The event features four panelists, three architects and one landscape architect, who dikitchen gadget line at Target as an example) and an increasing necessity for green buildings. There was even a smattering of advice on how to weather an economic downturn. It was one of the liveliest Fo-}

Troubleshooting the Building Envelope
AIA Potomac Valley is sponsoring a seminar titled Troubleshooting the Building Envelope at the University of Maryland on June 19. Earn 5 AIA/CES HSW LUs. For additional information, visit www.aiapvc.org/0619rsvp.htm.
Seminar on Epigenetic Design

by Eliza Beth Engle, AIA, LEED AP
Women in Architecture Committee Chair

Epigenetic Design - the new frontier in healthy living, understanding how and why the human body receives interior environmental stimuli and the consequences our design selections have on the human body and brain.

Learn more about this fascinating concept at a workshop May 13, presented by Deborah Burnett, a keynote presenter in the field of Epigenetic design who has appeared regularly on national network programming with informative design and lifestyle segments.

In the emerging field of Epigenetics we learn that it’s the signals from the environment that determine expression of our DNA; and as design professionals we must understand that our interior selections and finishes have consequences on anyone who occupies the spaces we design. We will learn how the body and brain receive, perceive and interact with the physical environment in order to take our projects beyond aesthetics. With hands-on demonstrations and numerous audience participation exercises, knowledge-based design pros in this fast paced interactive session will learn:

- How to understand the interconnection of color, light and sound in order to create an interior environment that is physiologically supportive for the human body to thrive.
- Examine the connection our bodies have with natural daylight and learn how the newly discovered photo receptor in our eyes will have direct bearing on how we specify lighting and light control in every room of every project including hospitality, healthcare, contract, education, retail and last but not least residential.
- Discover how the brain uses environmental sound and light for key neurological functions as well as a means for providing clues on location, pattern recognition, stress relief, motion detection and many more key elements for a healthy and productive life.
- Learn how the brain and body receives, perceives and processes the reflected and inherent energies of various interior surfaces and environmental conditions and translates that into behavior leading to increased sales, performance, stress reduction and the most important emerging factor in workplace, productivity and employee health - sleep!
- Review the latest reports, research projects and evidence based studies delving into the study of how interior surfaces, finishes, lighting and overall IEQ affects the human condition and the impact this will have on the future practice of interior design.

Join the Continuing Education Committee and Women in Architecture for a fascinating look into knowledge based design. This half day seminar offers 3 AIA/CES LUs.

The event is Tuesday, May 13th from 8:00a to Noon at JE Jacobs, 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22201. Parking is available on-site and the Ballston Metro is just a few blocks away. A continental breakfast will be served. The cost to attend is $50 in advance, and $60 at the door. To register, send an e-mail to reservations@aianova.org. Payment may be made by credit card at www.aianova.org or by mailing a check to AIA Northern Virginia, 205 S Patrick St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Oppenheim to Address Design Awards Gala

Oppenheim, who initially made his reputation with high-rise condo projects that combine a sleek Modernism and tropical atmosphere, has begun to branch out in terms of both building types and location. The hospitality side of his practice has three, billion-dollar hotel projects on its plate in Las Vegas and Dubai.

Born in New York in 1971 and raised in the suburbs of New Jersey, Mr. Oppenheim received a bachelor of architecture from Cornell University in 1994, and founded Oppenheim Architecture + Design in 1999. He is the 1994 recipient of the KUME Fellowship in Japan and a two time winner of the Chicago Athenaeum’s American Architecture Award. An adjunct professor of architecture at Florida International University, he has lectured globally, and is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions.

Mr. Oppenheim is one of six distinguished architects from the Miami area who will comprise this year’s design awards jury. The complete jury includes:
- Chad Oppenheim, AIA - Oppenheim Architecture+Design
- Max Strang, AIA - Max Strang Architecture
- Jacqueline Gonzales Touzet, AIA - Touzet Studio
- Roney Jorge Mateu, AIA - Mateu Architecture, Inc.
- Michael Kerwin, AIA - Spillis Candela DMJM
- Rene Gonzalez, AIA - Rene Gonzales Architect

Visit www.aianova.org to access jurors’ websites and biographies.

Design Award entries are due Friday, May 9th, 5:00p.

Visit the AIA Northern Virginia website for complete submission requirements and Design Awards Gala details.
When the temperature rises in Washington, DC this summer, you’ll want to be where there is plenty of cool air, but lots of hot topics. That place is DesignDC 2008, being held July 8th - 10th at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, located at Federal Triangle Metro Station in Washington, DC. AIA|DC, AIA Potomac Valley and AIA Northern Virginia are co-sponsors of this year’s event, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. With twice the exhibit space, larger classrooms and more sessions, this fourth year of the event finds it maturing into a must-attend local conference for education and networking opportunities.

The theme this year, Leading ReNEWal, looks at how sustainable design and adaptive reuse, historic preservation and downtown revitalization can all work together. Sessions and speakers will talk about the tools, trends and technology needed to ensure industry leadership. Whether you are an architect, designer, engineer, contractor, developer or just interested in the world of design, there is something for you to learn and apply to your professional or personal life.

Educational sessions will be wide-ranging, include presentations on sustainability in a variety of practice settings, the NCARB IDP process for emerging architects, mentoring, marketing and strategic planning, accessibility, building codes, architectural photography, historic preservation, Building Information Modeling, healthcare trends, justice trends, international practice, and various building technologies. For the complete agenda, go to DesignDC website at www.aiadesigndc.org.

Several tour opportunities are part of the agenda, including the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Building, designed by Moshe Safdie, FAIA; Sidney Harman Hall – Harman Center for the Arts designed by Jack Diamond and Smithgroup; Eastern Market designed by Adolf Cluss, renovated by Quinn Evans; The Nassif Building redesign by Smithgroup; and a tour of the National Building Museum’s Saarinen Exhibit.

This year’s keynote address will be delivered by Marshall Purnell, FAIA, the AIA’s 84th president and design principal at Devrouax & Purnell. Throughout his career, Marshall has been instrumental in the creation of a number of notable Washington landmarks, including the Nationals’ new stadium and the Washington Convention Center. Mr. Purnell is spearheading the AIA’s goal of promoting sustainable design and resource conservation across the country.

Want to know more? Want to sign up right away? Of course you do, and you can go to www.aiadesigndc.org to get details on how to register, peruse the agenda for a complete list of educational sessions, get directions, and see the growing list of vendors that will be available to make your job easier and more productive. Early bird registration prices end June 1st, so keep that in mind. Finally, please consider having your firm become a sponsor of this important conference. Many opportunities are available, and I would be glad to discuss those with you:

(703) 682-6091; edward.weaver@aecom.com
The American Institute of Architects has recently launched an ad campaign entitled, “Walk the Walk: Architects Leading the Sustainable Evolution.” The campaign and associated website and online resources assert that architects have long been leaders in their communities and as such need to uphold that tradition in the move to a more sustainable world. The AIA recognizes that sustainable or green design is not a fad or movement, and needs to be a reality or we face a very uncertain future as a population and as a planet. The members of the AIA have been charged with leading by example in the constantly-changing field of sustainability.

AIA (National) has put together a comprehensive (and growing) website geared toward helping its members lead by example. Briefly though, we can look at our potential for leadership in three areas:

**Education**

In order to be leaders in environmentally-sensitive design, architects need to educate themselves on the ever-changing array of technologies, products, and synergies available in the building industry. For example, it isn’t enough to know what a photovoltaic panel is. Architects need to understand how a PV panel works, the cost of installation versus energy cost savings, and how to integrate the PV system with roofing, wall assemblies, or other more conventional elements of a building. In educating ourselves, we also must educate our clients. Hard data is becoming more available that proves the benefits of green design for building occupants. This information must be shared with clients to help them understand that building green does not just mean benefits for the environment; designing with the environment in mind can yield significant savings in energy and healthier occupants as well.

**Design**

“Where the rubber meets the road,” as the saying goes; we as architects must put into practice what we take in and process through continued education. Green design needs to become standard practice. It cannot be simply talked about or included as an alternate to standard ways of thinking and designing. Sustainable design will only have true impact if it is done en masse and becomes the first path to creating a design solution. While this hasn’t happened overnight, there are simple modifications to drawings and specifications that can be done today that have significant impact on the health of a building and its occupants. For example, revising your office’s standard specification for paint to require low or no-VOC (volatile organic compound) products takes little effort up front can have a significant impact to building occupants as well the laborers who do the painting.

**Practice**

We as architects often look at our designs as the place we have the most impact on the world around us, but to truly lead by example we need to begin right in front of our eyes, in our offices. By analyzing and making changes to the way we do business and run offices, we can have a visible impact on the environment and provide an example to clients as well as other businesses in our communities. Firms can sign on to meet the 2030 Challenge promoted by Ed Mazria and the AIA, pledging to cut carbon emissions in an effort to curb global warming. Simple changes can have major effects too—consider changing light bulbs to compact fluorescents, purchasing reusable silverware and plates for the lunch room, recycling more than just paper and plastic, and conducting regular maintenance of mechanical systems for utmost efficiency. Using our own offices as example may make it easier for clients to agree to green strategies since the can see them in regular use.

For more information on how you can “walk the walk,” log on to http://www.aia.org/walkthewalk/.
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WE ARE NO LONGER A
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We are now a full service
General Contractor
serving the architectural community of
the greater Washington area.

All requests for design
are forwarded to our
local architectural partners.

Here are a few area architects who we have served
since closing our design department in 2002:

George F. DeFalco, AIA
Renovation Design Architecture

Ben Van Dusen, AIA
Van Dusen Architects

John Burke, AIA
Studio 27 Architecture

Paul Gaiser
Paul Gaiser Architects, LLC

Gaver Nichols, AIA
Gaver Nichols Architect

William L. Feeney
William L. Feeney Architect, LLC

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Robert M. Gurney, FAIA Wins National Award

continued from page 1

suburban Washington, DC. The new house occupies the footprint of the existing structure in an effort to minimally disturb the site, removing no mature hardwoods in the process. A new swimming pool is suspended twenty feet above grade to further reduce the impact to the steeply sloping site.

To lessen his dependence on the automobile, the owner/builder required that his office be part of his residential compound. The office is located on the ground floor of a detached structure separated from the main residence by a reflecting pool. That structure also contains a garage and a guest suite above. Translucent glass and panels of Kalwall allow the building to serve as a lantern to the main house at night.

Structural pre-cast concrete planks were employed throughout the project in effort to expedite the construction process, span large open areas and provide the ability to heat the house hydronically. Combined with a 5" concrete slab and terrazzo flooring, the structural system provides additional passive heating. Large overhangs on the glazed southern wall and the tree canopy minimize solar gain in the summer.

Wood siding is combined with soft gray terne coated stainless steel and black steel window frames to provide an exterior material palette that fits comfortably in the landscape. Bluestone, gravel and water complete the palette.

ARE Prep Seminars Continue

Intensive Graphics and Structures Workshops Ahead

The Chapter’s Architect Registration Exam (ARE) Preparatory Seminars are continuing with Material and Methods in May; Structures with David J. Thaddeus, AIA June 6-8; Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing in June; Pre-Design in July, ending with the Graphics Review on July 26.

Organized by the Young Architect’s Forum, the seminars offer the opportunity to learn from a professional in each discipline and use that knowledge in preparation for the ARE. In addition, study groups meet regularly to share resources and discuss the seminar material. Most sessions are held on Saturdays at DMJM Design in Arlington.

Two special workshops are organized for the Structures and Graphics portions of the exam.

Structures

Once again the chapter welcomes David J. Thaddeus, AIA, NCARB, on June 6-8 for a three-day intensive workshop to review for Structures I and II. The sessions are at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus. Registration is now open and additional information is available on the Chapter’s website at www.aianova.org/prof_are.php.

Graphics

The Graphics workshop is scheduled for Saturday, July 26 and offers an overview of all three Graphic Divisions. The instructors are Kurt Wassenaar, Architect and Principal of the Wassenaar Design Group, PC; Bruce Grulke, AIA, Project Architect with Clark-Nexsen Architecture and Engineering; and Greg Winkler, also an Architect with the Wassenaar Design Group. The workshop, organized by all three metro area AIA Chapters and Virginia Society, will be held at the University of Maryland School of Architecture in College Park. Online information will be available on the VS website shortly. Questions may be directed to Jim Walker at 804-644-3041 x207 or jwalker@aiava.org.
Architecture Week 2008

by Debbie Burns
AIA Northern Virginia Executive Director

Architecture Week 2008 was a great success, beginning with our 5th annual Canstruction® Competition on April 4 at Ballston Common Mall. Fourteen teams worked hard to construct everything from a Lego Man to a Whale, contributing over 50,000 pounds of food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. We wish our six winners good luck as they move on to the national competition. Thank you to our Canstruction® chair, Brian Donnelly, AIA, for his dedication and hard work. Please read the separate article in the newsletter to learn more.

Speaking to a packed crowd, Greg Hunt, FAIA introduced our first About Architecture lecture series with a talk about Hollin Hills and the Modern Subdivision. An expert on architect Charles Goodman and Hollin Hills, Greg was able to offer tremendous insight into the development of Hollin Hills and how it fits with other modern subdivisions. Supported by the City of Alexandria, the event was held at the Lyceum. Thanks to Greg for sharing his knowledge, to Randall Mars, AIA for helping plan the event, and to Al Cox, FAIA, who conceived this new series and organized this inaugural lecture.

Continuing the tradition of exhibiting our design award winning projects at Virginia Tech’s Washington Alexandria Architecture Center, Lee Quill, AIA, of Cunningham | Quill Architects, shared several of his firm’s winning entries. Students, professors, architects and members of the public gathered together to appreciate the fantastic array of projects by Northern Virginia members. Thanks to Lee for offering his presentation, to Ela Nowak, Associate AIA for planning the refreshments, and to the WAAC AIAS Chapter for helping to hang the exhibit and set up the refreshments.

A semester’s worth of work from the Architecture in the Schools program went on display at Ballston Common Mall. Students, teachers, principals, volunteer architects, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends all gathered together for the exhibit opening the evening of April 11. The Mall beautifully arranged the projects in kiosks and the students excitedly talked about their experience. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked with the students; our AIS chair Jean O’Toole, AIA; Mary Kay Lanzillotta, FAIA and Beth Judy with our AIS partner the Washington Architectural Foundation; and to the Mall for hosting the exhibit.

On Saturday, April 12, the Young Architects Forum organized another successful architectural bike tour along the Potomac River. Thank you to Francisco Grimaldi, Associate AIA for organizing the event and all the volunteers who distributed the tour brochures. Also that morning, Michael Nawrocki, AIA presented the How To Work With An Architect Workshop at the Chapter House to a room full of eager homeowners considering both renovations and new homes.
With a record crowd attending, the Historic Resources Committee held its annual walking tour of Alexandria on Sunday, April 13. To accommodate the 100 participants, several separate tours set off from the Lyceum to visit a wide variety of buildings, including the Parker Gray historic district and the Cromley Lofts, Virginia’s first LEED silver rated sustainable condos. Thank you to Al Cox, FAIA for organizing this event, Peter Smith for all his research, and to all our knowledgeable tour guides: Richard Bierce, AIA; John Burns, FAIA; Bill Cromley; Timothy Dennee; Karen Irvin, AIA; Terry Necciai; Eleanor Krause; Lisa Lettieri, AIA; and Mark Orling, AIA.

Greg Hunt, FAIA delivers the first About Architecture lecture

All Architecture Week photos by Debbie Burns
A Deeper Look at the 2008 Continuing Education Debate

by Thom Lowther
Senior Director, AIA Continuing Education

Even though the issue has been discussed in the profession of architecture for more than 15 years there is still a lot of debate over mandatory continuing education requirements (MCE). Currently 38 states have MCE enabling legislation requirements in place. States such as Alaska, Hawaii, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin are still in the process of defining their regulations and are trying to determine exactly what they will accept, from whom, and how their state will monitor the process. States such as California, Maine, Michigan, and Pennsylvania are now considering taking the next step to require MCE for those architects licensed in their states.

Three concerns always come up when the MCE issue is seriously debated. The issues revolve around time, money, and value. The issue that is frequently missed, MCE is changing the behavior of what continuing education courses architects take.

Time & Money
The issues of time and money often become interchangeable. Possible billable hours can be lost and courses often cost money. Sticking to the profession of architecture, possibly 12 or more billable hours a year could be lost when preparing for, traveling to, and/or attending continuing professional education (CPE) courses. It is easy to lose billable hours especially when the architect chases after required MCE hours without focusing their attention towards their practice. Call it marketing research if you will, but when the courses sought are related to a project that the architect is working on or the work they are seeking, these hours are not wasted.

A criticism expressed often concerning continuing education providers, they just want to make money. Harvard University annually offers a wonderful summer continuing education series and generally the prices for such courses range from $1000 - $3000. Last year from just the 2600+ AIA/CES Providers, collectively they offered more than 40,000 different CPE courses. More than 60% of these continuing education courses were free. These courses included both traditional instruction and a growing number of web based. When we mention these facts, a response from architects generally comes back, “but the free courses are not of the same quality.” As an architect you know, you get what you pay for. How many pro bono hours can you as an architect afford to perform before those hours begin to affect your business? The reality, there are some very poor high priced courses and there are some very good free courses. Most important, does the course help you meet your needs? You should take continuing education so that it will improve your projects, your research, or maybe your marketing. If you are only spending money to meet an hour requirement, you are not making the best use of your time or money.

We frequently hear from architects that the AIA only implemented the continuing education requirements to make more money. From
the AIA components and universities we hear that they cannot compete because there are too many CES Providers offering free courses. And from the CES Providers offering free courses we hear that they have difficulty reaching the architects. There must be a communication somewhere because personally, I am not sure where this circle starts or ends.

**Value**

Is education a waste of time? Most architects attend undergraduate school for 5 years. They often spend 5-10 more years as emerging architects in some type of intern program. So let’s follow the logic here. Should someone be allowed to become and architect with out a college degree? So, a college degree = knowledge and provides the basic foundation to be an architect. The graduate then struggles for a number of years interning to learn the practical nuances of the architectural profession and gets registered. This all takes 10-15 years. Once the architect becomes registered, further education is no longer necessary and it then becomes a waste of time?

Did you ever stop to think why your insurance provider is willing to offer you a premium discount, as long as you take their risk management continuing education course? The answer is simple, most insurance companies are generous. Most of us have experienced that generosity first had when we filed a claim with our insurance carrier. What the insurance companies learned long ago was that continuing education works. If you the architect take a continuing education course from your insurance carrier, your claims statistically will be reduced, more than the premium discount that you receive.

The segment of the architect profession that has begun to gain the most benefit from the requirement of continuing professional education (CPD) is within the architecture firms. For most of the later half of the 20th century an architecture firm’s CPD consisted of which ever manufacturer who brought into the firm lunch was considered the training department. The better the lunch the manufacture provider, the longer the training (sales) sessions they were allowed to provide. In a rare instance the manufacturer timed it so that the lunch (training session) actually met the need of the firm. We still see this practice in firms today. When the AIA introduced their learning units (LU) requirements in the mid 1990’s we began to document a change of behavior. The change looked something like this:

**Lunch > LU’s > Need**

As the states began to require MCE many of the architecture firms began to place more time and emphasis on their internal CPD. The firms began to focus more on their mentoring programs, their staff retention efforts, their recruitment practices, and their staff development as it related to tasks, skills, and more recently, their projects. The documented change looks something like this:  

**Needs > Lunch > LU’s**

**Change of Behavior**

What is the primary argument for not requiring mandatory continuing education? It causes architects the burden of documentation and accountability. When the state licensing boards began to require mandatory continuing education, it changed the behavior of the architect, especially what courses they take. For 25 years, the most popular, top 10 attended courses at the AIA National Convention have been marketing, presentation skills, working with clients, leadership, and how to improve your business practice. These are all good subjects and important to the architect’s professional career. Only since the majority of the state licensing boards began requiring MCE have we see a change of what courses architects take at the AIA National Convention. In 2007, the top 10 attended sessions started with Green Building, Preventing Moisture, Sustainable Design, America’s New Regionalism, and 100 Years Since the San Fran Earthquake. Rarely did you ever see sessions attended on Sustainability and HSW prior to 2000. If the state licensing boards want to change the behavior pattern of design professionals, mandatory continuing education is an effective way to do so.

**Sustainable Design CES Requirement Coming**

*by Charles Enos, AIA Continuing Education Committee Chair*

Beginning in 2009, the AIA will incorporate Sustainable Design into continuing education requirements. The annual requirement will be for 4 hours of AIA approved Sustainable Design (SD) content. These 4 SD hours will be included as part of the current 8 hour HSW requirement. They are not additional hours to the 18/8 LU hours that the AIA already requires. This requirement will run until 2012, at which time it will be evaluated.

To qualify as Sustainable Design learning units, the content must meet four thresholds: it must address the AIA definition of sustainability; be a structured program, not self-study; at least 75% of the program content must qualify as HSW; and the primary purpose of the session must address at least one of the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) Top Measures of Sustainable Design and Performance Metrics - like Design & Innovation, Regional/Community Design, Land Use & Site Ecology, Bioclimatic Design, Light & Air, Water Cycle, Energy Flows & Energy Future, and Materials & Construction to reduce product-cycle environmental impacts and optimize occupant health and comfort.
Burdick On Brick.

“Using brick as a building material allows a designer to create something that’s both contemporary in form and timeless in beauty. The application of brick conjures up a 4,000 year memory in our collective subconscious.”

—Joshua Burdick

Glen Oaks School campus is the biggest project awarded to date by the New York City School Construction Authority (NYCSA). Brick, including 100,000 special shapes, was used to cover more than 500,000 square feet of exterior and interior wall space.
The Onyx Group / Forrester Construction Company
Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC

The Onyx Group is designing a new Operations Facility for the Air Force under a design-build delivery with Forrester Construction Company. The 21,000-sf facility will provide consolidated administrative spaces to support two independent command operation centers requiring high levels of security design. Design challenges include developing an architectural aesthetic that compliments the buildings location within an existing historic district while maintaining the requirements for a secure building envelope. The design-build team is working collaboratively via Building Information Modeling (BIM) to include every building system for interference checking – “clash detection”, quantity takeoffs and construction scheduling. The project is also being designed to achieve a US Green Building Council certified level.

ZOSO Residences

Kishimoto | Gordon | Dalaya
Arlington, VA

Surrounded by restaurants, stores, and public transportation in the heart of Arlington, Virginia, ZOSO offers 4 floors of condominium living, a retail and office plaza, and 2 stories of underground parking. Originally designed as a condominium project, this 114-unit project consists of one and two bedroom apartments with the top floor units boasting private terraces. The building includes: a roof top garden, rapidly renewable wood products, and bicycle storage areas.
A frog, two hippos and a whale went to the Mall. Sounds like the set up line for a bad joke, but for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and the 800 clients they serve, the punch line came in the form of over 50,000 lbs of canned food. These animals and 11 other structures were part of AIA Northern Virginia’s 5th annual Canstruction® Competition, held at Ballston Common Mall in Arlington.

Teams from 14 area firms competed to build the most impressive display of canned foods inventively arranged as sculptural objects. As it turned out, the frog, officially titled CANphibian and built by Samaha Associates, Inc., was selected as the Jurors’ Favorite. The hippos and whale were also winners, capturing an honorable mention for Grimm + Parker Architects and the award for Structural Ingenuity for Mulvanny/G2. Cannon Design provided the Best Meal, in the form of a Lego man, and Perkowitz & Ruth’s rendition of Rosie the Riveter won Best Use of Labels. An impressively scaled and finely crafted toaster by MTFA rounded out the Jury awards with an honorable mention.

The jury, which selected the winners from an unusually strong field of entries, included Larry Cook, FAIA, founder of Cook Architecture and Carol Rickard-Brideau, AIA, partner-in-charge of Little’s Arlington office, as well as interior designer Denise Dermody. All of the structures were on display at Ballston Common Mall for
more than a week, and the public had the opportunity to select their favorite as well. They favored the impressive entry by Wisnewski Blair, CANstruction Site, which included over 8,000 cans.

The cumulative donation of 52,647 lbs of food makes our Canstruction® event the largest single contributor to AFAC this year, and is expected to serve their need for about three months, an indication both of the importance of our effort and the depth of the need. Rising food and energy costs around the world as well as the slowing local labor market have combined to increase the demand for supplemental groceries by more than 27% over the last year. While Canstruction® 2008 was as colorful, creative and engaging as in past years, it has never been as needed or appreciated.

Watch for an insert illustrating all the structures in the July/August newsletter.

2008 Canstruction® Participants
Cannon Design
Cooper Carry, Inc. and Haynes Whaley Associates, Inc.
Cubellis
Gensler
Grimm+Parker Architects
HSMM
Kerns Group Architects, PC and Jack Bays, Inc.
MTFA Architecture
Mulvanny/G2 Architecture
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KnollStudio
TLR Screen Printing
Chick-fil-A of Ballston Common
Kettler Capitals Iceplex
Subway
Charley’s Grilled Subs
Blue River Cafe
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Society for Design Administration

Jury Members
Lawrence Cook, FAIA, President, Cook | Architecture
Denise Dermody, Co-Founder, Simply Design
Carolyn Rickard-Brideau, AIA, LEED AP, Partner-in-Charge, Little

Thanks to the volunteers who assisted us at the build-out: F. Carter Jones, AIA, and Aerotek staff members Cynthia Gallo, Suzanne Goodlatte, Megan Anguish, Rondeesha Lewis, Christine Cantu and Cara Ritacco. Photography provided by Kathryn Brown.

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Quick Escape Acts - Part I. The Overview

by Timothy R. Hughes, Esq.
AIA Northern Virginia Legal Columnist

Lawsuits can be time consuming and expensive. Even suits of little merit can drag on for an extended period of time, consuming precious resources from your firm in both cash and dedication of time from key employees. These resources directly translate to lost opportunity costs.

Given this very obvious statement, there needs to be a heavy premium placed on knowing how to rapidly and efficiently end litigation. As a lawyer, I am always looking for a legal or procedural argument to rapidly end a case. This article outlines several such rapid means of ending a case. In future installments, we will take a more detailed look at some of the examples.

Timing Based Defenses
Timing based defenses are a good example of the quick escape. Timing based defenses come in several flavors. First, there are statutory timing based defenses. Such defenses arise from the statutory laws of a particular jurisdiction. The two primary statutory timing based defenses are statutes of limitations and statutes of repose.

One should note that the concept of a timing based defense is not limited to just statutes of limitations or repose. Another example is the strict time limitations placed on filing of notices of appeal. A failure to follow such a deadline may end an appeal in its tracks. The main concept here is that your counsel needs to intimately know all available timing based arguments that apply to your specific case.

Another style of timing based defenses may arise from contract. Some states expressly permit the parties to establish a contract based time limit of assertion of lawsuits. Claims notice provisions present another parallel contract timing defense. Architects are intimately familiar with the AIA documents time limitations on assertions of claims. While subject to more interpretation and potential judicial tinkering than statutes of limitations or repose, contractual time periods may offer rapid resolution to a case.

Party Based Arguments
One would assume that the question of who can sue whom for what would be a basic and easily resolved question. In the absence of detailed knowledge, one would assume these questions are well settled and not a matter of dispute. I am continually surprised at how much of my practice centers of fighting these most basic questions.

Party based arguments are particularly prevalent with regards to claims against design professionals. The law struggles to define the limits of where an architect’s duties start and stop. For example, an architect designs a building for a client. The client defaults on a loan. The client’s lender, with whom the architect has communicated on an infrequent basis, forecloses and takes over the project. Can the lender sue the architect for design negligence? Can a purchaser of a negligently designed building sue? Does it matter if the purchaser talked to the architect or saw the plans prior to settlement?

The murky nature of these questions, and the inconsistent answers applied by differing jurisdictions, explain much about why banks are becoming so aggressive about trying to insist that architects agree to be directly liable to the bank by agreement.

In another example, developers or owners will often have multiple entities that are created on various projects. These entities are created to interpose corporate shields from liability and protect one project from another project’s problems. They can instead have the unintended consequence of injecting uncertainty into the question of what entity owes duties to whom.

Legal Claim Based Arguments
The law also presents a host of additional layers of rapid resolution style arguments. Workers compensation laws may bar personal injury claims. Waivers of subrogation may end tort based claims. Failures to properly allege conditions precedent may end contract claims. Failures to allege facts regarding reliance may end misrepresentation claims. Each argument may provide a quick out to a pending claim.

Conclusion
Not every case is subject to a quick end. Indeed, such situations are the exception rather than the rule. The possibilities depend on your specific case. The main point is that both you and your counsel need to evaluate your case for the potential for rapid resolution. A well developed understanding of these issues will arm you to recognize steps that can increase the chance of your case being rapidly resolved.

Timothy R. Hughes, Esq., is the principal of the Northern Virginia law firm of Hughes & Associates, P.L.L.C. He specializes in construction litigation, corporate and business related representation, and complex civil litigation. He may be reached at tim@hughesassociates.com, or by phone at (703) 671-8200.

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Firm Tours

Get to Know Your Colleagues

Tours of several Chapter architecture firms are planned this year. They are scheduled to coincide with our Chapter Board Meetings.

Members are invited to participate in the board meeting and tour or just the tour. The board meetings begin at 4:30p, followed at 6:00p by a tour of our host firm, including a discussion about the firm and its recent projects.

One hour of AIA/CES credit is available for the tour and discussion. Reservations are not necessary.

DMJM | AECOM will be hosting the meeting and tour this month:

May 12, 2008
DMJM Design
3101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 900
Arlington, Virginia  22201
www.dmjm.com

Future tours can be scheduled by contacting the Chapter House at (703) 549-9747 or aianova@aianova.org

4:30p Board Meeting - 6:00p Office Tour

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The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice, 14th Edition is now available from the AIA Bookstore. With more than a third of it new content and significant revisions throughout, the AIA’s new Handbook reflects how all aspects of architecture practice reflect current business, legal and technical trends. It is available in a book/CD package, which contains two CD-ROMs: one that allows easy searching of the entire book via PC, and another that provides samples of all AIA Contract Documents in PDF format for Mac and PC computers. Order the new handbook online through the AIA Bookstore at www.aia.org/bookstore.

The 11th Edition of Architectural Graphic Standards is now available. In celebration of 75 years as a cornerstone of the industry, this commemorative edition by Charles George Ramsey and Harold Reeve Sleeper is the most thorough and significant revision of this essential resource in a generation. Thoroughly reviewed and edited by literally hundreds of building science experts and experienced architects, this edition has been substantially revised to meet the needs of today’s design professional. To order your copy, go to www.aia.org/bookstore.

For additional information on NCARB, access their two quarterly e-publications, IDP and ARE e-news on their website at www.ncarb.org. The March issue of IDP e-news contains an IDP Records Processing Update and the April issue of ARE e-news contains information on ARE 4.0 Study Aids.

The Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians announces a Call for Papers for their biennial symposium on the historic development of metropolitan Washington, DC. Washington on the Move: The Architecture of Transportation in the Capital Region, will be held March 7 & 8, 2009, at the University of Maryland. Abstracts are due September 2, 2008. For details, visit www.latrobechaptersah.org or contact John Sandor at (202) 354-2030.

Boston architect Keith Moskow, AIA is seeking projects to publish in his upcoming book, Urban Interventions. Such interventions are defined as visionary yet simple solutions to everyday problems inherent in contemporary American city life. If you are interested in having a project considered for inclusion, contact Keith at km@moskowlinc.com or (617) 292-2000 x28 by June 1.

Author Jeremiah Eck, FAIA is seeking projects to include in his upcoming book, Breaking Ground: Site-Sustainable House Design, to be published by Princeton Architectural Press. He is looking for projects that will illustrate how good site design helps produce a well designed and sustainable home. If you are interested, e-mail jeremiah@eckmacneely.com.

Architecture into Art, an exhibit organized by the American Society of Architectural Illustrators, will be on display the month of May at the Still Life Gallery in Ellicott City, MD. It will feature the work of Frank Costantino, Steve Stannard, ASLA, and Stewart White, ASAI. Visit www.asai.org for information on the artists and www.stilllifegallery.net for details on the exhibit.

New Members
Fiorella G. Agule, Intl. Assoc. AIA, Davis, Carter, Scott Ltd.
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Anny N. Batista, Assoc. AIA, CH2M Hill
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Seeking summer employment (in Northern Virginia) - I am a 2nd year Architecture student at Auburn University and will be available beginning May 12, 2008. I am proficient in AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator and Rhinerceros. Contact Dennis Eldridge at (703) 424-5664 or eldrijd@auburn.edu.
Virginia Tech Student Wins the Virginia Society AIA Prize in a Statewide Design Competition - Each year, students from Virginia architecture schools participate in a weekend-long design competition. The jury included Paul R. Erickson, AIA, of LeMay Erickson Architects; H. Randolph Holmes, Jr., AIA, of Glavé & Holmes Associates; and Bruce Wardell, AIA, IFRAA, of BRW Architects. They awarded the $1,500 Virginia Society AIA Prize to Marisa Brown (Washington Alexandria Architecture Center). Also awarded were Best of School to Lesley Golenor (WAAC), Best of School to Mark Paulo Ramos Matel (Hampton University), Honorable Mention to Nikkolas Smith (Hampton), and Honorable Mention to Jon Gabriel Gaines (WAAC).

PSA-Dewberry announces the firm has adopted the 2030 Challenge, a global initiative aimed at reducing the use of fossil fuels through sustainable strategies in building design. The challenge requires each new building project or major renovation to be designed to achieve an energy consumption performance standard of 50% of the regional or national average for that building type.

HSM AECOM announces the promotion of Joseph E. Wells, AIA to Director of Buildings Division. Joining the firm 27 years ago, Mr. Wells, a graduate of Virginia Tech, has held positions as a department head, project manager, regional manager, and director of operations. The firm also welcomes two new employees to the Washington, DC office, Robert C. Allen, AIA, head of the Higher Education Design Studio, and Jeffrey C. Cannon, Regional Market Director for Museums.

Edwin R. Schmidt, AIA has been named a Principal at Fanning Howey. Schmidt joined the Washington, DC office in 2005 with over 20 years of experience in planning, design and development of educational facilities. He received his degree in Architecture from Virginia Tech.

Perkins+Will announce the addition of Janet R. White, FAIA to the Washington, DC office as Principal and Director of the Architecture Studio and Federal Services Group. The firm also announces several promotions including James Wood, Principal; Patrick Schultz, Associate Principal; Marion Danowski, Associate Principal; Andres Losada, Senior Associate; and David Cordell, Associate.

Cubellis announces the establishment of a new office in Baltimore. Located on the inner harbor, the office will initially be led by two new team members who recently joined Cubellis: Managing Principal, Retail and Mixed-use John Larsen and Principal, Retail and Mixed-use Chris Bauer.

Davis Carter Scott in partnership with Monday Properties introduces 1812 North Moore Street, the first planned LEED® Core and Shell Platinum office building in the Washington Metropolitan area. This past December the Arlington County Board voted to approve the 385-foot, 30-story office tower. This pioneering project includes a ground-breaking community benefit package which will fund affordable housing programs, the renovation of the Rosslyn Metro Station and the adaptive reuse of an operating Dominion Power substation reinvented as a piece of public art.

Little was selected to perform Spatial Data Management services for the US General Services Administration (GSA). The scope of work includes base building validation and occupancy boundary definition for approximately 25 federal buildings in the Public Building Service portfolio, totaling more than 6 million square feet.

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Hickok Cole Architects announce the completion of Liberty Square in Washington, DC. This eleven-story 481,000 sf renovation, adjacent to Judiciary Square, includes sustainable finishes, energy-efficient MEP systems, full ADA upgrades and a terrace featuring a green vegetative roof. Hickok Cole Architects also welcomes new employees Stephanie Cole and Marcus Cross.

O’Donnell & Naccarato announce the promotion of Scott Bauer to Project Executive. Mr. Bauer has been an employee of O&N for more than 15 years, was part of the original staffing at the Lehigh Valley office, and helped establish the firm’s Washington, DC office in 2004.

K3 Construction Group announces the completion of the American Sociological Association’s new headquarters at 1430 K Street, NW, Washington, DC. In addition to offices, the space features large conference rooms for association meetings and a state-of-the-art publication production facility.

KIM Engineering, Inc. announces the opening of their third office at 45690 Elmwood Court, Suite 180 Sterling VA 20166. The office provides geotechnical engineering, soil test boring, construction inspection and testing, footing inspections, and soil and concrete laboratory testing.

The law firm of Hughes & Associates, PLLC announces that Alison R. Mullins has joined the firm as an associate. Ms. Mullins will concentrate her practice on construction and commercial litigation, corporate and transactional representation.

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Calendar

May
9  Design Award Submittal Deadline
10  ARE - Materials & Methods
12  Board Meeting
12  Firm Tour of DMJM
13  Epegenetic Design Seminar
15-18  AIA National Convention
21  Lunch Seminar
29  Design Awards Reservations Due

June
6-7  ARE - Structures Review
7  Design Awards Gala
9  Board Meeting
14  ARE - Mechanical, Engineering + Plumbing I
18  Lunch Seminar
21  How to Work with an Architect
28  ARE - Mechanical, Engineering + Plumbing II

July
8-10  DesignDC
12  ARE - Pre-Design
14  Board Meeting
14  Firm Tour
16  Lunch Seminar
22  About Architecture Series at the Lyceum
26  ARE - Graphics Review

August
No events scheduled
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