Leagueline

2Q.10
The Quarterly Newsletter for the Architects League of Northern New Jersey

Back to Basics... Back to Business
update on regulatory issues
energy systems
Green Jobs Certification
Trades Licensing Board
IgCC
Stimulus Act
LEED

www.alnnj.org
Greetings:

During my term as 2010 President of the ALNNJ, I will focus on business aspects of the Architectural Profession. With the severe downturn to the economy there is an opportunity to consider our best business practices by taking time to reposition our professional efforts to focus on the next decade. The Architect’s greatest potential resource — our Leadership Skills — will be a powerful force in changing the built environment within our communities.

As AIA NJ State Government Network representative, I attended the SGN Conference on February 1st at AIA Headquarters in D.C. where national issues of interest to the profession were discussed. Panel discussion on PACS, Grassroots Advocacy, Emerging Professionals, the Current State of Sustainability Initiatives, Licensure Issues, the State of the Economy and the Federal Jobs Bill took place. With one third of the 2009 Federal Stimulus Bill funding expended, another 50% of the Bill’s funds are anticipated to be expended in 2010.

Ben Lee, Larry Parisi and I attended the Grassroots Leadership Conference in DC where Congresspersons Rothman, Sires, Adler, and Frelinghuysen were visited and presented the AIA Blueprint to Economic Recovery outlining issues of importance to Architects:

- helping communities rebuild
- freeing up credit for commercial projects
- expanding the energy efficient commercial building tax deduction
- investing in schools, and
- providing relief for small businesses.

Locally, the ALNNJ Installation Dinner at the Liberty Science Center was a huge success which included recognition for the 2009 retiring Board, installation of the 2010 Board, and a presentation of our new Vegliante Award pins to past distinguished service recipients. Congratulations and thanks to Past President Kim Vierheilig and all involved, including our Sponsors and Vegliante awardees, for a fabulous event!

The February ALNNJ Member meeting, with both a Small Business legal issues presentation and a showing of the Sacred Spaces movie on Frank Lloyd Wright’s religious buildings, gave members a total of three CEU’s. The March Members Meeting featured presentations by an architect and historian on Historic Tuxedo Park, NY — another very interesting event!

Engage in your Profession!

Joyce Raspa, AIA, Esq.
AIA-ALNNJ President 2010
From the Editor:

The lead article addresses several topics currently under consideration by the New Jersey Legislature which may affect the architectural profession. Executive Order 12, calls for an end to COAH and a complete reconsideration of how NJ will achieve the mandated objectives of the Mount Laurel affordable housing decisions. The controversial Construction Trades Licensing Board bill proposes the creation of such a board to ensure the “health, safety and welfare” of the citizens of NJ by regulating the construction trades – clearly we must monitor this bill with a goal toward protection of the licensed architect’s rights. Another bill encourages the furtherance of the Economic Stimulus efforts with tax incentives for public/private higher education design and construction. Three bills support a Green Design approach through mandatory LEED guideline incorporation in new school design, setting a standard for high performance schools that are healthy, comfortable and cost-effective. There is a bill regarding the use of solar energy modeling systems for State buildings with a solar & geothermal focus, and a bill concerning an interesting new Green Job certification program at county and state schools in furtherance of sustainability.

In addition, Paul Bryan, AIA has provided you with a summary of the highlights of the International Code Council’s new draft Model Green Code which is currently calling for review and comment by members of the profession – so take a look at the IgCC and respond!

1. EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12: The Abolition of COAH, the Council on Affordable Housing:

On February 9th, the Office of The Governor issued EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12 stating that the 1975 and 1983 Mt. Laurel Cases the Supreme Court of New Jersey identified a constitutional obligation on the part of municipalities to provide, through their land use regulations, for a choice of housing for all categories of people desiring to live there, including providing affordable housing to those of low and moderate income. There has been extensive legislative and regulatory efforts made to try to achieve compliance with the Court’s decisions and much litigation over the implementation and regulatory efforts. The NJ Legislature enacted the Fair Housing Act ("FHA") to enforce the constitutional obligation to provide affordable housing and COAH was created to develop regulations to provide affordable housing consistent with the Mt. Laurel decisions. As we all know, the procedures governing affordable housing for those NJ citizens with low and moderate income are complex and have resulted in delays, litigation, and costs to municipalities and the private sector without much benefit to its citizens. COAH’s long-delayed “Third Round” regulations that were originally due in 1993 have been highly challenged in Court. Because COAH failed to ensure that the obligations were satisfied in a reasonable manner to the already burdened municipalities of our State, the legislature is considering amendments to the FHA including the complete abolition of COAH, the elimination of “growth share” as a methodology to determine prospective need and the elimination of a municipality’s prior housing obligations. Governor Christie has established a Housing Opportunity Task Force to review the FHA, State Planning Act and COAH regulations to assess the effect of these laws to accomplish the goals of meeting the obligations of the Mt. Laurel decisions. The Task Force, consisting of 5 members appointed by the Governor and serving without compensation is to provide recommendations to the Governor which will include such issues as the best means for determining if a municipality should have any further affordable housing obligation, if the regions used by COAH are still appropriate, workforce housing as part of affordable housing, projections for housing and employment growth while considering open space preservation and environmental protection; supporting the rehabilitation of deteriorating housing in urban centers, encouraging rehabilitation and new development in meeting the affordable housing needs, and the appropriateness of continuing to include prior round needs part of a growth share approach.

2. BILL A1423 Creates Construction Trades Licensing Board for Licensing and Regulation of Several Construction Professions.

AIA NJ is monitoring this Bill, introduced on 01/12/2010 and currently under consideration with the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee, which would create the Construction Trades Licensing Board for licensing and regulation of several construction professions and creates a new division for homeowner protection in Department of Law and Public Safety. It begins by stating that “...delays, litigation, and costs to municipalities and the private sector without much benefit to its citizens.”

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...We want to avoid any conflict between this bill and the existing regulations for licensed professionals.

The bill also modifies the terms of the new home warranty statute. It states that its desire is to: (1) provide more balanced, but in-depth, State oversight of the construction industry; (2) clearly recognize and provide consumer protections, and (3) lessen confusion for the public concerning the registration of construction contractors, including contractors of home improvements as well as new home construction, all registration of construction contractors shall be subject to the administration of the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs. The processes of construction code establishment and enforcement, including the licensing and management of code enforcement agents, and the administration of the New Home Warranty program shall remain under the authority of the Division of Codes and Standards in the Department of Community Affairs, which department is charged with the enforcement of the State Uniform Construction Code.

The Construction Trades Licensing Board is to be comprised of twelve appointed members, for terms of four years, with one licensed professional engineer, one licensed architect, one licensed general building contractor, two members who are licensed residential and small commercial contractors, and two members from the general public. Five members shall be the five chairpersons from the following: The Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, the State Board of Examiners of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors, the State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board, and the Fire Protection Equipment Advisory Committee.

The Board shall have the following responsibilities:
(1) To provide general guidance to all boards regulating the trades and professions which provide services to the construction industry;
(2) To establish model examination requirements for use by the various boards listed in subsection b. of this section;
(3) To establish model standards of supervision for students or persons in training to become qualified to obtain a license in the trade they represent; and
(4) To establish model standards of conduct for various licensees;
(5) To conduct administrative hearings not delegated to an administrative law judge relating to the licensing of any applicant when requested by a participating board;
(6) To advise the director on the administration and enforcement of any matters affecting the division and the construction industry in general;
(7) To advise the director on matters affecting the division budget;
(8) To advise and assist trade associations in conducting construction trade seminars and industry education and promotion; and
(9) To perform other duties as provided by this act.

The Construction Trades Licensing Board will be charged with the following powers and duties:
a. Examine and pass on the qualifications of all applicants for license subject to its jurisdiction, and issue a license to each qualified successful applicant;
b. Examine, evaluate and supervise all examinations and procedures;
c. Adopt a seal which shall be affixed to all licenses issued by it;
d. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” to enable it to perform its duties under and to enforce the provisions of this act;
e. Annually publish a list of the names and addresses of all persons who are licensed under this act;
f. Establish standards for continuing education; and
(g) Prescribe or change the charges for examinations, licenses, renewals and other services performed.

Although this bill has not made much progress in the Legislative process, we are working on meeting with the bill sponsors. We want to avoid any conflict between this bill and the existing regulations for licensed professionals. It is important for licensed architects to have a seat or two on the new board, if established, in order to ensure us a voice. We need to seek to add language protecting a licensed architect’s right to act as constructor without any additional license, and to explicitly prohibit Contractor’s from the practice of architecture (i.e. filing drawings.)

3. BILL A1098

Authorizes County Colleges and Vocational School Districts to Establish Green Job Certification Programs.

AIA NJ is monitoring this Bill, introduced on 01/12/2010 and currently under consideration with the Assembly Higher Education, which authorizes county colleges and county vocational school districts to enter into partnerships with private entities to develop and establish green job certification programs. These programs would identify skills, develop training programs, and train workers for green jobs in one or more industries such as energy efficient building, construction and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, biomass, and manufacturing that produces sustainable products and uses sustainable processes and materials. A green jobs certification would be issued to an individual who successfully completes the program.

4. BILL A1899

Revises provisions of the “New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009” concerning public-private higher education construction and improvement projects and municipal ordinances to adopt stimulus measures.
AIA NJ is monitoring this Bill, introduced on 01/25/2010 and currently under consideration with the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee, which modifies provisions of the "New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009", to ensure its effective implementation. This bill allows a State or County college to enter into a contract with a private entity for full financial and administrative responsibility for construction or improvement of a project on campus, provided that the private entity finances the project and the State or institution of higher education retains ownership of the land. Such a project will not be subject to property taxation, payment in lieu of taxes, and special assessments of the State, municipality, or other political subdivision of the State provided that the project is owned by or leased to a public entity, non-profit business entity, foreign or domestic, or a business entity wholly owned by such non-profit business entity. The bill removes the time limit on the submission and approval of projects, and ensures that local ordinances will not be delayed by public referendum challenges in those municipalities in which general initiative and referendum are authorized.

5. BILL S239

New Public Schools to Incorporate LEED Guidelines.

AIA NJ is monitoring this Bill, introduced on 01/12/2010 and currently under consideration with the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, which would require the design of new public schools incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as the "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (LEED) as is currently required under State Board of Education regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A: 26-6.3(b)13). The United States Green Building Council is a non-profit organization composed of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible and healthy places to live and work. LEED for Schools addresses issues such as classroom acoustics, master planning, mold prevention, and environmental site assessment and is recognized as a standard for high performance schools that are healthy for students, comfortable for teachers, and cost-effective.

6. BILL S855

New State Buildings to have Solar or Geothermal Energy Systems.

AIA NJ is monitoring this Bill, introduced on 02/01/2010 and also currently under consideration with the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, which would require the construction of all new State buildings to include installation of renewable energy systems powered by solar and geothermal energy sources, where feasible. Renewable energy systems shall be designed to provide all or a portion of the heating, cooling, or general electrical energy needs of these buildings.

Joyce Raspa, AIA, Esq.
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The International Code Council (ICC) has released for review a draft of the new International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The draft will be open to public comment before a final round of public hearings in 2011, with its ultimate publication scheduled for 2012. The IgCC will be another in a series of I-Codes to serve as a model code that a jurisdiction may adopt in whole or in part, and modify to local conditions, allowing elected legislators a voice in its enactment. Unlike Green Globes or LEED rating systems, the IgCC will serve as an enforceable code written in regulatory language based on measurable building performance with an emphasis on building safety and sustainability. The code is intended to apply a uniform standard that will affect both new and existing commercial buildings. It will address residential construction by reference to the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard for Residential Construction, promulgated by the ICC in January 2009. Although many organizations that have developed green building standards, such as the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Green Building Initiative (GBI), have endorsed creation of the IgCC, some design professionals remain unsure if the IgCC will allow the flexibility of LEED in terms of being able to choose a design path to achieve a desired result. According to the IgCC website, the new code will serve as an “overlay” to the existing I-Codes, including Building, Energy Conservation, Fire Safety, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel/Gas, among others. It will address both minimum and advanced levels of performance and will include prescriptive and pre-engineered solutions. Once it is finalized, the IgCC will be revisited every three years through the two-hearing process typical of all I-Codes.

The Greening of the Codes: IgCC Draft Release Set for Public Review

By Paul S. Bryan, AIA

Due to the increasing number of green building standards that have been developed over the past decade, demand has increased for the establishment of a clear, enforceable code to guide design. Both ASTM International and the AIA are working as “cooperating partners” in conjunction with ICC to develop a green code that is “consensus based” with input from architects, contractors, code officials, building owners and other construction experts. Implementation of the IgCC is anticipated to result in increased efficiency in use of energy, water, materials and resources; improved indoor environment quality; education for building owners and facility managers; and a reduction in overall carbon emissions in keeping with AIA’s 2030 Initiative which calls for the carbon neutrality of buildings by 2030. Commercial buildings currently account for 40 percent of energy consumption, and contribute approximately the same percentage of U.S. carbon emissions.

For more information, including a view of the draft document, log on to the IgCC website at www.iccsafe.org/igcc.

Concepts behind the International Green Construction Code (IgCC):

- Will use the “model code” approach to provide communities/states the ability to modify
- Will address minimum and advanced levels of performance
- Will work as an overlay to the ICC Family of Codes
- Will be written in mandatory language that provides a regulatory framework
- Will provide performance, prescriptive and pre-engineered solutions
- Will allow for consideration of local conditions
- Will support the AIA 2030 Carbon Neutrality Challenge
- Will be written with local, state and federal law in mind
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Architects and contractors alike have experienced unparalleled downward pricing pressure in recent years. The industry landscape appears to be changing drastically and there is a sense that the commoditization of our services is here to stay. As service providers in this highly competitive marketplace we must embrace the current adversity and be inspired to greater innovation. Our success hinges on our ability to effectively communicate to our clients that the complexities of the design and construction processes are not always best left in the hands of the lowest bidder. Now more than ever we must emphasize the value of good planning, quality design and strong leadership.

– Jim Heuer
President

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Homeland Security Committee
by Laurence E. Parisi, AIA

An update to the Haitian and Chilean disasters - I have had several calls from architects who want to assist in this relief effort. I have been in contact with Terry Brown, FAIA, he stated that AIA National is monitoring these situations very closely and our charge is to go in after the emergency is over and Red Cross has finished their work. He also stated that any sort of disaster assistance in building evaluation and recovery is months away. First responders are serving to provide search and rescue for people who were buried under the collapsed structures. This is not the time for architects to be there. If you would like to help, donate to the Red Cross.

We are scheduling CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training this spring to be held at NJIT in our AIA Board Room at the New Jersey School of Architecture. This training will qualify us to assist the NJ State Police in disaster recovery. The principal reason for this training is to have a well balanced mix of emergency training in addition to our architectural skills. This will enable us to be under the umbrella of the State Police providing us Good Samaritan protection; otherwise we would all be vulnerable to law suits for volunteering our expertise.

For those who are interested, kindly respond with an email to LEPDESIGN@AOL.COM stating that you are interested in this committee and want to receive the training. I will forward you the application.

ALNNJ meeting on Feb. 18th was a well attended event, open to the public.
At the Williams Center for the Arts in Rutherford, with its fabulous 1920's theatre interiors. Thank you to dinner sponsor and speakers from the Newark based law firm of Proskauer: Mark Saloman, Harris Freier, and Adam Kleinfeldt who presented labor and employment law small business issues. The evening included a showing of the movie Sacred Spaces, a documentary on the ten religious buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright with an introduction by the movie's director, Michael Miner from Los Angeles.

Annual Installation Dinner at Liberty Science Center Saturday evening January 16th was a huge success.

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Edward Abram Levy, 84, of Woodcliff Lake died on December 25, 2009 following a long illness. Mr. Levy practiced architecture for more than 50 years, initially with the Ridgefield Park firm of Ballou, Levy, Fellgraff Architects and later with his son Walter at Levy + Levy Architects. In addition, he played the string bass with the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra for 45 years.

Mr. Levy was a Past President of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey, and was a past recipient of the Vegliante Award. AIANJ has made a donation to the AIANJ Scholarship Foundation and additional donations may be made in Mr. Levy’s name from colleagues, friends and family. These donations may be sent to:

AIANJ Scholarship
c/o Robert Zaccone, AIA
212 White Avenue
Old Tappan, NJ 07675-7411

Lots of Awards presented at the ALNNJ Annual Installation Dinner, held this year at the Liberty Science Center on January 16, 2010

The ALNNJ Awards Committee is happy to announce the following winners for the 2009 ALNNJ Scholarship Awards:

- Nehali Nanawati is the recipient of the Albert G. Haloe Memorial Award given to undergraduate students for excellence in architectural delineation and/or architectural models. ($3,000)
- Seiji Anderson is the recipient of the Architects League Scholastic Achievement Award given to undergraduate & graduate students for scholastic excellence in architectural design. (Award Amount $2,000)
- Muhammad Hanif-Azly is the recipient of the Clarence Tabor Award given to undergraduate students entering their fifth and final year of architecture, and is based on scholastic excellence, attitude toward the profession, probable success as an architect, and need for financial assistance. (Award Amount $3,000)
- Jeffery Senatore is the recipient of the John J. Gilchrist Memorial Awards given to a high school senior entering an accredited architectural design program. (Award Amount $500)

Edward Abram Levy, 1925-2009
The League is pleased to announce their newest members:

- Luis L. Garcia, AIA
- Erik Maran, AIA
- Richard Bednarczyk, Associate AIA
- Ruchi Dhar, Associate AIA
- Lindsey A. Kozlowski, Associate AIA
- Michele Pope, Associate AIA
- and Allied member:
  - Kyle Sweppenhiser, Tremco, Inc.

The League welcomes you and looks forward to your involvement and participation. Please make a point of introducing yourself at the League's next dinner meeting or event.

**Events**

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- **Milestones:**
  - LAN Associates Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying Inc. of Midland Park, NJ celebrated its 45th anniversary this year.
  - SNS Architects & Engineers PC of Montvale, NJ celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009.

- **Save The Date**
  - Monday, July 12, 2010

- **Memorial Day**
  - May 30

- **Father’s Day**
  - June 20

- **Picasso and the Avant Garde**
  - Feb 24 thru April 29
  - Philadelphia Museum of Art
  - www.philamuseum.org

- **Picasso and the Avant Garde**
  - Thursday, May 6th
  - Newark & suburban
  - and ALNNJ, 1st Annual trade show
  - Mariott Glenpoint

- **AIA-NJ Seminar**
  - “Building Your Practice”
  - NJIT
  - April 21, 4:30 pm
  - Newark, NJ
  - aia-nj.org

- **ALNNJ Membership & Dinner Meeting**
  - CSI joint meeting
  - Construction Specification Jeopardy
  - Bergen Community College, Paramus

- **ALNNJ Membership & Dinner Meeting**
  - Joint N&S meeting
  - David Zach, Futurist
  - Mayfair Farms
  - West Orange, NJ

- **ALNNJ 11th Annual Golf Outing**
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To:

David C. Hall, CDT, CSI
Architectural Account Representative
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Best in Class Winner
The Curve by FineLite was awarded Best in Class in the DOE 2009 Next Generation Luminaires™ (NGL) Design Competition. This LED desk lamp features classic styling, Quicktouch™ dimming, and a field-replaceable LED module. Visit www.finelite.com to get more information on this award-winning desk lamp.

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