The Architects League visits Turkey
As outgoing President of the Architects League, I ask, “Where did the time go?” It’s been a flash, yet my experience as your leader will remain a cherished milestone for me. It’s been quite an honor to have worked with such a diligent, caring board, and it’s been a pleasure to get to know the many members who strive to have an impact by participating in our meetings and events.

Many thanks to my predecessor, Ruth Bussacco, and the other Past-Presidents on our board and among our membership, who gave advice and support throughout the year. You are the pillars of this organization and I am grateful. Many thanks to Fay Logan and Ralph Rosenberg for the high quality of our events and programs. Thanks also to Rich Bettini for his years of service as scholarship coordinator, and Terry Durden for arranging a record year for our Golf Outing. Thank you to Kurt Vierheilig for taking up the mantle of arranging events and services for our Emerging Professionals, and to our Leagueline committee for maintaining a stellar publication of which the League can be proud. Thanks to Tom Haggerty for his attention to membership service, and to Todd Hause for keeping our finances in order. And to the many, many others who have contributed to the success of the League in 2015, I realize I could not have done it without you.

Deserving special thanks is our Administrative Assistant, Elvia Orellana, for her assistance and patience in dealing with the many diverse personalities and opinions of the Board. Your service is greatly appreciated.

My sincere best wishes to our incoming President, Bryan Pennington. I would say “good luck” but I know he won’t need it. The League will be in good hands with his leadership. To all, much success for 2016!

Best regards,
Paul S. Bryan, AIA
ALNNJ President 2015

This is a time of change for the AIA. As the business world has changed, the AIA is changing as well, at the national, state, and local levels. At the national level, AIA National has heard the call that many members do not feel supported and do not see the value of membership. This past year at Grassroots, AIA presented the Core Member Services plan which mandates that every chapter or section provide fundamental services to its members, and attaches funding to achievement of those goals. These include achieving certain competencies in: Member Communications, Education, Advocacy, Elevate Public Awareness, Governance, Membership, and Finances and General Operations. Last year, Paul Bryan led the ALNNJ Board of Trustees through the process of self-evaluation to determine how the Architects League will meet those criteria. Paul and I also participated in a similar process at the state level. The good news is that after reviewing ALNNJ and AIA-NJ, we are already doing this very well. In the coming year, I will continue to work with incoming AIA-NJ President Justin Mihalik to complete the transition and file the required documentation with AIA National.

In keeping with that theme of improvement and service, I am always looking to leave a place better than I have found it. One of the best ways to do that in an organization such as the AIA is to take an active role in developing the younger people in the profession. The young Architects I have had the pleasure to work with, and to interact with at meetings are intelligent, passionate and motivated, and are a great foundation for the AIA of the future. ALNNJ is already doing a good job of supporting young professionals and students in a number of ways. This past year, we added a fourth scholarship, this one focused on high school students starting their first year of college. ALNNJ also restarted the ARE Structures Seminar this past September. And our October meetings focus on Emerging Professionals and invites students at no cost. This year, we will look to develop and support in new ways: Potentially adding another ARE seminar and supporting AIA-New Jersey Early Professionals Committee (EPC).

In this endeavor, I ask for your help. In taking part in developing these young people, you will help them become better leaders not just for the AIA, but for your firms, as well as the greater communities in which we all live. There are several ways to help:

- Encourage interns and young Architects in your firms to attend ALNNJ monthly meetings as well as Emerging Professional Events.
- Consider supporting them in leadership training courses.
- Encourage young staff to participate in ACE high school mentoring programs.
- Help the ALNNJ Board of Trustees in the efforts we either already have in place or are starting.

I want to close by thanking Paul and the outgoing Board of Trustees for a great year of service. In 2016 we have a fantastic slate of meetings in the works and I look forward to seeing you all there.

All the Best,
Bryan Pennington, AIA
ALNNJ President 2016
Last September, the Architects League of Northern New Jersey organized an Architectural Tour of Turkey. The tour continued the offering of international tours to AIA-NJ members that commenced with last year’s Cuba tour, before the U.S. opened our diplomatic relationship with Cuba. These tours allow member architects to see the architecture of the world and learn through experience about the diverse cultural history of architectural design. This year, the impetus for the tour was an invitation by a former member of the Architects League to visit her home country, Turkey, once the Silk Road between the East and West, is now the passage for refugees to escape the conflict of their Middle East homelands to the European countries. The first city on our tour was Istanbul, a city which reflects history from Byzantine to Ottoman Empires to the modern history of today. Istanbul is truly a crossroad between the European and Asian continent. In Cappadocia, we saw how the natural rock formations were carved out as caves for dwellings and sanctuaries.

A highlight of the trip was Ephesus, where we walked the old Roman marble streets and saw the culture and civilization of an ancient city 2,000 years old.

The photograph above is our ALNNJ group taken at Ephesus in front of Library of Celsus.
TURKEY, spans both the continents of Europe and Asia. Its ancient history of Anatolia (Asia Minor) can be traced from the stone age to the Hittite period, the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, The Hellenistic Period, and the Byzantine Period spanning the early medieval period to the age of the Crusades and the Turkish Ottoman conquest of Anatolia in the 15th century.

The highlights of our trip are as follows:

Day 1 – We arrived in Istanbul and had turkish coffee and apple tea on Pierre Loti Hill overlooking the Golden Horn, an estuary inlet to the Bosphorus River, followed by a river Cruise up the Bosphorus with views of the Dolmabahce and Beylerbeyi Palaces, Ottoman Houses, ancient city walls of the Rumeli Fortress, and new luxury villas. We walked through the city visiting the Egyptian Spice Market built in the 17th century A.D. where we sampled turkish delight and baklava of many variety; and toured the Suleyman Mosque, with its beautiful Iznik tiles, built in 1560 by the greatest Ottoman imperial architect Sinan (Koca Mimar Sinan) for the son in law of the Grand Vizier of Suleyman the Magnificent.

Day 2 – We started the day with a tour of Sultan Ahmet Square in the heart of the “Old City” from which the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires ruled; then toured the Hagia Sophia, Church of the Divine Wisdom, one of the world’s great marvels of architecture, constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian and is now a museum undergoing renovations to stabilize the structure and restore mosaics covered when it was converted from a Greek Orthodox church to a grand mosque. We then visited the adjacent Blue Mosque, famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique for its 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet; and the Hippodrome, center of sporting events and political activities of the old city monumentally decorated with the Serpentine Column, ancient Egyptian Obelisk of Theodosius, and German Fountain of Wilhelm II. We toured the Topkapı Palace, the major residence of the Ottoman sultans for almost 400 years (1465–1856) of their 624-year reign, it is one of the best examples of palaces of the Ottoman rule. The palace complex consists of four main courtyards, Harem, kitchen, and many smaller buildings with exhibits of the imperial treasury, sacred Islamic relics of Prophet Mohammed, Chinese porcelain, and weapons. The second courtyard of Topkapı Palace was the “Divan Square” (Square of Justice) hosting the Imperial Council of the Sultan. Construction began in 1459, ordered by Sultan Mehmed II, the conqueror of Byzantine Constantinople. And finally the Underground Cistern which was built to supply water to the Topkapi Palace.

Day 3 – Istanbul, architectural tour of the Kariye Museum (Chora Church) with its 14th century mosaics and frescoes with scenes from the Bible. Then, Istanbul’s Byzantine City Walls which were for the most part built during the 5th century by Emperor Theodosius and are 8 km long. Topkapi Gate takes its name from the time of Fatih (Mehmet). We toured the grand Dolmabahce Palace. In 1856, the Topkapi Palace lost its importance as the sultans preferred to spend more time in new palaces along the Bosphorus River, Sultan Abdul Mejid moved his court to the newly built Dolmabahce Palace, the first European-style palace in the city. It held the imperial treasury, the library, and the mint and has decorative grand Baccarat crystal chandeliers and a staircase with crystal balustrade.

Day 4 – We toured the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul including the Tile Museum. Then we took an Architectural walking tour of Istiklal Street which has been the center of the nightlife of the city over 150 years, visiting Embassies, Armenian and Romain churches, and ancient Byzantine buildings along the way. We climbed the Galata Tower with its fabulous views of Istanbul, built by Emperor Theodosius II. Galata was a Genoese colony from the 6th to 15th centuries. Finally, we visited the very trendy Museum of Modern Art, a real change of pace. Some of us ended the day with a visit to the Ancient Hamam (Turkish Bath) for a relaxing steam and scrubbing!
Day 5 – We flew to the Anatolia Region of Turkey – Cappadocia, where we first visited the Devrent Valley where the unusual geological formations called “fairy chimneys” are abundant. Next we visited Pasabagi (Monk’s Valley) with multiple columns and caps formations. Then to Avanos which is known for its pottery, a craft dating back to the ancient Hittite period of 1600 BC. Then to Goreme Open Air Museum with chapels and monasteries carved into the natural volcanic rock, dating to the 10th century, with frescos painted on many walls.

Day 6 – Woke up at 4:00 am to enjoy sunrise and a fabulous hot air balloon ride over the Cappadocia region, including Rose Valley, one of the most beautiful trekking valleys in the region. Then we explored the famous rock-cut churches by hiking through the valley, continuing the river-side hike into Cavusin, an old Greek village, known for its Christian houses and churches. We also toured Ortahisar Castle, and the Kaymakli Underground City, five levels below grade, where early Christians lived in fear and faith.

Day 7 – Visited the Ihlara Valley of Cappadocia created from the ashes of the volcanic Mt. Hasan along the Melendiz River; then proceeded to Selime where fairy chimneys populate the steep hillside; then the Derinkuyu Underground Village where dwellings with stables, cellars, storage rooms, refectories, churches and wineries were used as refuges for the early Christian communities. We visited a Caravansary to experience a performance of the Whirling Dervishes of the Sufi religious order, then flew to Izmir.

Day 8 – We started the day with a visit to the House of the Virgin Mary, a shrine believed to be where the Virgin Mary spent her last years accompanied by St. John, a place of pilgrimage for many Christians. This was followed by a highlight of the trip; a tour of the famous ruins of Ephesus, an important cultural center of the ancient world. We explored 2,000 year-old Marble streets, a theater, the Library of Celsius, a gymnasium and Hadrian’s Temple.

Day 9 – On our last day, we drove to the city of Izmir for a visit to the Archaeological Museum which has an excellent collection of ancient coins, pottery and mosaics. We ended our tour of Turkey with a walking tour through the ancient Agora, and then to the iconic clock tower at the Konack Square with mosque before heading to the airport for home!

Joyce Raspa-Gore, AIA, Esq. assisted in coordinating an Architectural Tour of Turkey with fellow AIA New Jersey members of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey. The tour was pre-approved for 27 Continuing Education credits.
A Native’s Return Home
by Birten Kafescioglu

Moving back to Turkey after living 45 years in the US has made me realize that I am an expat even though my home country is Turkey. As an expat, you’ll witness a modern country packed with cultural heritage and tradition. Figuring out the intricacies of everyday life might take some time even a year and half later. You must constantly remind yourself that you are in Turkey and not in New Jersey.

Some of the interesting things I’ve experienced:

Turkish time is one that does not exist. 5 minutes is really 30 minutes. Tomorrow morning means next week sometime. I will call you, OK? means you will never hear from or see this person. This has taken some time to adjust but once you come to accept this mentality it no longer becomes a problem and you just continue on with your day or week.

Driving is a nightmare if you dare to. The amazing thing is most do not follow traffic rules and you feel like you are in a video arcade and seldom see accidents that you would mostly likely expect. Somehow, everyone manages to out smart each other like a game of chess. For me it will take some time since driving defensively only allows for an accident. You have to move with the flow like a participant in a line dance.

Turkey has the largest young population with 16.6% compared to European countries. 17% of the population are in the 18-24 age group with a population of 76.6 million in 2013. Retirement is around the age of 45-50 so finding a full time position has been challenging. Being asked your age of 45-50 so finding a full time position has been challenging. Being asked your age is something normal during an interview. Seeing employment ads with age criteria posted is something you would not see in the US.

The possibilities of doing your own thing is highly more attractive especially when you have a lot to offer from living overseas.

Hospitality is one of the most common traits especially when it comes to foreigners. When speaking Turkish I am always asked where I come from. I guess I have an accent. People are always willing to help when asked. There are no boundaries. Once you meet someone within an hour you will know their personal life, their family, and will be invited to their home the next day to meet them in person. This is also witnessed in restaurants and cafes.

When ordering a cup of coffee it will be always accompanied with a cookie, a Turkish delight and if you have dinner you might find a tray of fruit on the house.

Suprisingly, the healthcare system is fabulous and one that truly amazes me compared to that in the US. You have the ability to get an MRI the same day without a pre-authorization for a fraction of the price, $250.00. You don’t have to wait months to get an appointment and the insurance companies do not dictate as much as in the US. Most prescription drugs can be bought without a prescription from the doctor and again at a fraction of the price as sold in the US.

Cafes are a way of life here that goes hand in hand with smoking. I am amazed with the amount of people that sit outside in the winter months in areas heated with outdoor warmers or cooled in the summer by outdoor misters. Most restaurants have an open section which is usually the front of the restaurant that is for smokers. The consumption of tea is a tradition where the average person consumes 5-8 times a day. But one should not forget the delicious Turkish coffee that is also served.

You have a great diet and everything is in season. No freaky genetically modified foods. Its all fresh here and you can actually taste the difference.

Turkey has perfected the delivery system. I was shocked to find fast-food establishments from Mcdonalds to the local, deliver your order via motorcycle. Of course, they are crazy drivers including driving in the snow.

I should have been a veterinarian. The love for animals has been with me for many years and seeing the abundance of stray cats and dogs has been heart breaking. Street cats have been in abundance in Turkey for centuries but abandoned dogs have been increasing over the years. People prefer that they live as if in the wild rather than spaying and neutering them. Euthanization is not existant and everyone will do whatever they can to save the animal whether it is a free treatments by vets or animal organizations that try to get donations. I have been able to save 10-15 cats by connecting them with a forever home.

Facebook has been a life saver for meeting and networking with new people from all over the world. Being connected to local expat forum groups I have made great friends and have made me feel more at home than being in a new place. I am honored to have been nominated to head the Expat Womans Dinner night organizing monthly gatherings in different restaurants. I have also started volunteering with Ankara International Charities Committee. This group finances selected projects across Turkey to assist schools, women’s groups, workshops for the disabled and disadvantaged youth.

Turkey has the world’s oldest and biggest malls. One of my favorite visits in Istanbul is the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşın) which dates back to 1455 and was established shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. It’s considered among the most extraordinary bazaar quarters of any city in the world. There you’ll find exotic goods spilling out of crowded shops and merchants ready to haggle down to the last lira. It’s well marked and easy to find— although just as easy to get lost with 61 streets lined with more than 3,000 shops and occupies 333,000 square feet.

In contrast to the old malls, Turkey houses approximately 350 newly constructed malls, that offer everything that you miss from the US for double the price. Imported goods always cost more here.

Some other interesting facts:

• Turkey is packed with cultural heritage – Istanbul has one of Europe’s most exciting art scenes
• You can cross continents underground
• Some of the Mediterranean’s primary sea turtle nesting beaches are in Turkey
• Turkey gifted the tulips to the world
• More than 130 peaks reach 9,900 ft
• The seeds of agriculture were first sown in Turkey
• Turkey is the home to some of the most important sites in Christendom
• Oil wrestling is the national sport

Serpins were being being built back in the hunter-gatherer era

The month of December has Christmas. Santa Claus is from Turkey — Saint Nicholas was born in Patara. He is not the only saint with connections in Turkey. The Virgin Mary’s resting place could be near Ephesus, while Saint Paul was from Tarsus in the south. Other biblical figures include the Prophet Abraham. Noah may have run his ark aground on Mount Ararat.

I am thankful to be closer to my mom the only person left from my small family. Being here has allowed me to appreciate the beautiful and historic country that I was born in. When you step back and see what you have - beautiful coastlines, amazing cities, great people, lovely weather... yep, its not bad at all.

Let’s hope it stays that way.

Birten Kafescioglu - Spent 45 years in the US, worked in the contract furniture industry for half of that time. She is a former Allied Member of ALNNJ, currently resides in Turkey since 2014 and frequents the US which she calls home.
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AIA National’s Core Member Services Program to be implemented in 2016

Beginning in 2016, AIA components will need to go through an accreditation process to assert that Core Member Services are being met by the component. On Wednesday, November 4, Paul Bryan and Bryan Pennington, representing ALNNJ, met with members of the AIA-NJ Executive Committee in Trenton to discuss areas in which each of the six sections, along with AIA-NJ, comply with requirements, as well as those areas where more effort is needed. ALNNJ overall does well regarding its member services, although it is envisioned that AIA-NJ may supplement the sections in areas such as Health, Safety and Welfare (HSW) Continuing Education offerings. It is also anticipated that sections may enter into shared services agreements with other sections to help supplement their services to members. The Core Member Services program will, over a five-year period, replace contract document sales as a basis for revenue sharing by AIA National to the local components, and will provide consistency among chapters throughout the nation with regard to providing member benefits. Component accreditation will be evaluated by AIA National on an annual basis.

Codes Update

This is a reminder that New Jersey adopted the 2015 suite of International Building subcodes on September 21. Also adopted were the 2014 version of the National Electrical Code and the 2009 version of the ANSI Barrier Free Subcode. The plumbing subcode remains unchanged. Look for further information regarding the changes in a future Leagueline.
Emerging Professionals Event: SU+RE House Presentation Thursday, October 29th

The annual ALNNJ Emerging Professionals Showcase was held on Thursday, October 29th at the Porcelanosa USA showroom in Paramus. Faculty member Ed May, with students from Stevens Institute of Technology, presented their SU+RE House, winner of the 2015 Solar Decathlon. Through their design, which emphasizes sustainability and resiliency, the students are striving to build in a world affected by a changing climate, helping to educate the next generation of innovators, and are working to help the New Jersey Shore bounce back from the damaging effects of Hurricane Sandy. Kudos to Kurt Vierheilig for organizing the program, and special thanks to the folks at Porcelanosa for generously sponsoring and hosting this annual event. For more information on SU+RE House, visit surehouse.org.

Arthur Davis Lecture and Spouses Night Thursday, November 12th

The Architects League annual Arthur Davis Lecture and Spouses Night was held on Thursday, November 12th at the Meadowlands Renaissance Hotel in Rutherford. Vishaan Chakrabarti, author of “A Country of Cities, A Manifesto for Urban America”, and founder of the Partnership for Architecture and Urbanism, presented his research to support the argument that well-designed cities are the key to solving America’s great national challenges, and closed with an overview of his most recent innovative projects, including a master plan for redevelopment of the Brooklyn waterfront. Many thanks to Ralph Rosenberg for organizing this annual event.

Lego Night Friday, November 13th

Ruth A. Bussacco, AIA and Steven B. Lazarus, AIA were guest judges at the annual Hasbrouck Heights Library ‘Lego Night’. First, Second and Third Place ribbons were awarded in two categories – individual and group, and two age groups – 1st thru 3rd and 4th thru 6th. All Pre-K and kindergarten entrants received medals for their effort. The Architects League would like to thank the Hasbrouck Heights Library and staff for inviting us back every year to participate.

Ted Kessler Walking Tour - Greenwich Village Saturday, November 7th

The Architects League’s Ted Kessler Walking Tours remain a tribute to the memory and legacy of Ted Kessler, who was a longtime Architects League member.

The Ninth Annual Tour followed an all new route through Greenwich Village. The approximately four mile long walk featured stories about iconic landmarks, hidden gems, historic buildings, recent construction and proposed projects. The tour focused on building exteriors and neighborhood history. A reprise of the tour will be offered in the Spring of 2016.
**New Members**

ALNNJ is pleased to welcome the following New Members:

- Victor Angulo, Assoc. AIA
- Mary Boyajian, AIA
- John Desousa, Assoc. AIA
- Grace Friedhoff, Assoc. AIA
- Eric Friedman, Assoc. AIA
- Daniel Geroski, Assoc. AIA
- Zehua Jia, Assoc. AIA
- Peter Khalil, Assoc. AIA
- Livio Minino, Assoc. AIA
- Justin Moench, Assoc. AIA
- Noel Musial II, Assoc. AIA
- Kaan Sanalan, Assoc. AIA

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**Recommended**

Thannhauser Collection
Guggenheim Museum
ongoing

design show
March 17 thru 20
Piers 92 & 94 NYC
addesignshow.com

Van Dyke: The Anatomy of Portraiture
March 2 thru June 5
The Frick Collection
frick.org

**Van Dyke: The Anatomy of Portraiture**

**Looking ahead...**

**ALNNJ/Newark Suburban**

27th Annual Trade Show
Marriott at Glenpointe
Thursday, May 5th

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July 11, 2016
ALNNJ Annual Golf Outing
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