

BIO

Robert Kleyn studied architecture at UBC in the early 1970s and then apprenticed in Rome, working in architecture, film and theater, and doing projects with international agencies such as the UN Environmental Program, Regional Seas and the FAO in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He lived in New York in the early 1980's, returned to Vancouver in 1990, then taught architecture at the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan while working for several Detroit firms and became a registered architect. Currently he practices architecture in Vancouver as Robert Kleyn Architect. He taught in the degree program at BCIT and now teaches design at Emily Carr University. A recipient of numerous Canada Council grants, he has served on the Rome Prize and Venice Biennale juries.

STATEMENT

Last year I ran for Council, having attended many of the Ad Hoc meetings concerned about the lack of clear direction that the legislative renewal was taking. This is still of great concern to me, but at the same time I believe we need to do more to accommodate new forms of practice, particularly those of the young and small firms where the future of our profession lies. I am now a sole practitioner, after years of having worked in firms large and small, here in Vancouver as well as in the US and Europe. I would like to see the AIBC do more to support the contribution that small firms and individual practitioners make to the profession and to our society. There is no doubt we are seeing another technological shift with the introduction of BIM, and we need a critical understanding of how this affects architects and firms large and small, as well as our relationships to parallel professions. Clarifying how architects serve the public interest both through our professional practice as well as our participation in civic life and through pro bono work will also help us focus our energies and resources.

Sincerely,

Robert Kleyn MAIBC