



intern architect update

April 2008

Upcoming ARE Preparation Seminars

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mechanical & Electrical Systems: Lighting and Electrical

Presenter: Samira Verjee P.Eng and Joseph M. Scott, IALD, LC, PLDA

Monday, May 26, 2008 (date changed from May 19)

Mechanical & Electrical Systems: Mechanical

Presenter: Asif Hussain P.Eng

Monday, June 2, 2008

Graphic Exams

Presenter: Tony Yip MAIBC

Monday, June 16, 2008

Graphic Exam Techniques

Presenter: Intern-run (TBA)

Each seminar commences at 6:30 p.m. and finishes at approximately 8:30 p.m.

No RSVPs necessary. Please check the updated schedule on the AIBC web site for possible changes. For more information contact registration@aibc.ca.

Upcoming Courses

May 30 Building Code II

Jun 13 Blueprint for Business

Jun 26 Ethics, the Architectural Act, and Bylaws

- Sep 12 Building Envelope Principles
- Oct 03 Construction Administration
- Oct 31 Ethics, the Architectural Act, and Bylaws
- Nov 06 Law & the Architect
- Nov 14 BC Building Code I
- Nov 21 BC Building Code II
- Dec 04 Building Envelope Principles

To register, go to http://www.aibc.ca/member_resources/professional_dev/index.html and download the registration form.

Oral Reviews

The next Oral Review session is scheduled for June 18 and 19. The application form, along with information about the Oral Review Workshop, will be available next week on the AIBC website.

Exam Availabilities

Are you unable to find an exam opening within a reasonable time? You are guaranteed a testing time within 30 days if it is booked over the phone. See the form at www.ncarb.org/are/scheduling_verification.pdf. The number for telephone registration is 1-800-479-6215.

ARE 4.0 Study Material



Are you waiting for the ARE 4.0 study materials for the new exams rolling out July 1, 2008? The AIBC has ordered two complete study guides sets from Kaplan which will arrive in early June. If you would like to purchase your own, each study guide costs \$200 or \$1300 for the entire set. In addition to the practice questions in the study guides, additional computer based questions (previously on CD in the version 3.1 study guides) will now be available online; they will cost \$80 per topic. You can find a link to the Kaplan website through the Intern Architect section of the AIBC website.

For those who would like to write the exams in the old format, you have until May 15, 2008 to do so. The first day to schedule an ARE 4.0 exam is May 18, 2008. See www.ncarb.org for more information on the transition between ARE 3.1 and 4.0.

NCARB now offers their 3.1 and 4.0 ARE Study Guides in a downloadable PDF format on their website at no cost. The following link will take you there: <http://www.ncarb.org/are/40/StudyAids.html>.

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Intern Issues, Online

Last month, the Ontario Association of Architects launched an intern website. This month it features an excellent survey open to all Canadian IAs. For those who prefer a more open-ended response style to the typical multiple choice format of surveys, you will be happy to see that each question includes a dialogue box for written comment. Before posting a comment you can view comments by other participants. See the survey, the results, and all the comments, at www.internarchitect.ca/survey.

ExAC Exams (Examination for Architects in Canada)

An exciting new development is occurring across Canada in the form of a Canadian-made architectural registration exam.

Several provincial architectural associations (BC not included) have been working together to develop a Canadian licensing exam. This two-day exam is intended to be the Canadian alternative to the nine divisions of the NCARB ARE. Many interns across the country will be excited about this possibility but should think carefully about the value of reciprocity as there is currently no reciprocity agreement between Canadian and American regulatory bodies for this exam. The first sitting of the Canadian ExAC exam is set for November 17 and 18, 2008. The ExAC will be delivered once each year simultaneously across Canada (except in BC).

From the ExAC website:

In 2006, the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA), the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) and the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) agreed to develop a new Canadian licensing/registration examination, over which they would have complete control, including control of its development, updates and administration.

The Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) which, to date, all of the Canadian Licensing Authorities have adopted, with the exception of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, was developed to test the minimum standards of competency acquired by an Intern during the Internship period, to ensure both public safety and the professional and skilled delivery of architectural services.

The AIBC has not participated in the formulation of these exams and will not be administering them in this province. BC IAs must still take

and pass the NCARB ARE if they wish to register in BC. However BC will recognize these exams as fulfilling the examination requirement of the Intern Architect Program for reciprocity purposes for architects registered in other Canadian jurisdictions.

We will continue to keep you informed about this new process. You can also familiarize yourself with the latest developments at the official website: www.cexac.ca/en/exac.php.

The AIBC Annual Meeting: Nuts & Bolts

On April 26, the AIBC held its Annual Meeting. Stakeholders including Architects, Intern Architects, Architectural Technologists, Building Designers and the public heard information including the AIBC financial report, IA representative's report, a report from the UBC School of Architecture, and the goings on of the Registration & Licensing Board.

Highlights included work being done to remove the requirement for graduates of CACB accredited degree programs to pay for and obtain CACB certification of their degrees. The CACB certification should be given automatically upon graduation. Work is also being done to more quickly and effectively recognize Foreign Trained Architects.

AIBC Council has authorized a policy allowing for expanded use of the architect's seal. Details and rules will be contained in a revised Bulletin 61 to be published shortly.

The meeting included motions from the floor followed by general discussion. The "motions from the floor" session provided MAIBCs a chance to propose initiatives, objectives, etc. to AIBC Council for its consideration. This is an exciting avenue for suggesting and affecting change within the institute. There are many issues that the AIBC does not have on its agenda, but might very well have if suggested. For example, last year a motion was proposed that the AIBC seriously address the issue of sustainability and think of ways to incorporate and promote this agenda within the profession.

The AIBC is not bound by these motions but must report back to all members within six months with strategies or an alternative position

taken. At this year's meeting, the only motion proposed was defeated by an overwhelming vote.

At the end of the meeting, questions and comments from the floor were taken. This was an excellent opportunity for attendees to make suggestions and comments or ask questions regarding policy. For example, a member asked for clarification on the AIBC's position regarding the soon-to-arrive, "made in Canada" ExAC exams and why the AIBC is not part of this initiative. This led to a very lively debate.

It was too bad that only three IAs were in attendance to represent the voice of the institute's 500 IA members. IAs who want to become a part of the profession are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting, observe the organization of which you will become a part, and make suggestions.

Intern Architect Committee

The Intern Architect Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested, please send an e-mail expressing your interest to the AIBC's Registration Coordinator Róisín O'Neill at roneill@aibc.ca.

At its monthly meetings, the committee raises issues on behalf of the IA membership as well as its own issues concerning the IA process or other topics that affect IAs, such as overtime, registration, course schedules, course content, events and competitions. Some of these discussions result in recommendations to the AIBC that result in action, policy change or new initiatives.

Feedback

This newsletter is formed and compiled by IAs for IAs of the AIBC. Do you like it? Find it useful? Have comments? Suggestions? Send us an e-mail at interncommittee@yahoo.com.

Do you have any concerns about the process, structure, fees, or requirements of the Intern Architect Committee? If you send us an e-mail, we can bring the issue up for discussion at the next Intern Architect Committee meeting. Proposals for change come from expressions of concern, so please take five minutes to let us know what's on your mind.

intern architect update

News from DC

by Sean Ruthen IA.AIBC

“To me, architecture is a kind of mystery, a dangerous adventure, but most of all, architecture is a kind of magic...” Such were the observations of Renzo Piano as he accepted his AIA/AAF Gold Medal during the *Accent on Architecture* gala this past February in Washington, DC. Along with Piano, this year’s recipients include Kieran + Timberlake, the architect/authors of *Refabricating Architecture* for Best Firm; Richard Meier’s Atheneum for best building to have “stood the test of time”, and the MoMA’s Architecture & Design Department. Held in the National Museum of Building, its Byzantine-like interior framed by 10 colossal Corinthian columns, the event featured 700 attendees representing the executives of the AIA’s state chapters. Attendees were also able to watch a prepared video by historian Ada Louise Huxtable, as well as hear from Robert Ivy, Editor-in-Chief of *Architectural Record*.

The occasion that brought so many members of the AIA’s state chapters to Washington was the Grassroots Conference, a four-day series of workshops punctuated with keynote speakers including a four-star general and former director of the Girl Guides of America. The event emphasized the enhancement of leadership skills for practicing architects who are also active volunteers in their respective state chapters. Although few in number, international representatives from the UK, China, and Canada were also present, including an RAIC executive.

Workshops emphasized public speaking skills, media presentations, and running a successful practice. There was a handful of workshops intended for “emerging practitioners” or EPs, the politically correct term for IAs south of the border. This included an assembly of representatives from the Young Architects Forum in the Washington AIA offices and, most importantly, a workshop entitled ‘Improving the Efficacy of the IDP’. After a brief presentation by intern representatives of the respective AIA state chapters, the floor was opened to questions. There emerged a common concern among the registered architects present: “Why aren’t architecture graduates getting registered?”

It is precisely this concern, one that all Canadian provincial associations are also attempting to remedy, that is at the heart of the RAIC’s current agenda. As RAIC President Kiyoshi Matsuzaki FRAIC sees it, young architects are the future of Canada’s profession, and we are all responsible for ensuring that this next generation is not forgotten in the current climate

of local liability issues and mergers between parallel professional associations.

With the AREs about to go through a much needed overhaul, along with the new ExAC set to go live this year, there appears to be an overemphasis on the registration process itself, as though it can provide impetus enough for young architecture graduates to become registered. This is, I believe, why the RAIC felt that two of the six representatives going to Washington, one from BC and one from Alberta, should represent young architects.

Other highlights of the conference included meeting the editor-in-chief of *Architecture Record*, and the Dean of the Hong Kong School of Architecture. However, it was Washington itself, dressed up in its best neo-classical garb, that was most certainly the biggest star. While cold and overcast, the sun put in an appearance on the final day, revealing the city in all its inspirational glory. Aside from the usual suspects – the Capitol Building, the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials – it was the Smithsonian Museums (of which there are many) that best demonstrated the diversity of architectural style that highlights “The Mall”, the famous three kilometer long strip of grass at the heart of the city.

Though technically not a Smithsonian, Arthur Erickson’s Canadian Embassy commands a spot at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue next to the Capitol building, within a stone’s throw of I.M. Pei’s National Art Gallery. Erickson’s concrete expression, which sits adjacent to the ultra-modern “Newseum”, finds a visual ally in Pei’s building. To my surprise, the entry to the embassy is graced by the same Bill Reid sculpture that British Columbians are accustomed to seeing at the International Terminal of YVR. As explained by RAIC Executive Director Jon F. Hobbs OAA, FRAIC, ASSOC. AIA, two castings were made of the famous piece for display at both locations.



Across the mall from the Canadian Embassy is the work of another Canadian architect – the Museum of the American Indian by Douglas Cardinal. With its corrugated masonry undulating in Cardinal style, the building sits in marked contrast to the austere uniformity of the Capitol building.

Overall, the conference was a success in its embrace of volunteerism in the architectural profession, demonstrated by the representation from within and outside of the AIA. Finally, a more fitting venue couldn’t have been more appropriate, as the capital city provided a most formidable backdrop for the honing of leadership skills.

ABOVE: The Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC