

CHARRETTe-NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS - SAN MATEO COUNTY



*Hillsborough Green Home, TRG Architects, Randy Grange, AIA. A winner of the 2010 San Mateo Green Building Award, New Residential Category.
Cat-a-lyst Event Organized by Rick Leitzinger, Assoc. AIA- Photos by Nicole Chacon, Assoc. AIA*

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

John L. Stewart
AIASMC President 2010

Hello!.....

It has been a great first month of the year for the chapter. We had the Board Retreat in early December and hit the ground running. So far I have had meetings with many of the Committees.

Website Committee

We look forward to showcasing our revised website in a few weeks. We have already updated all of the membership and board member information, as well as launched some new photos. Soon, we will have photos of the last Design Awards on the site. Check it out. Thanks to Terry Murphey, AIA, Chairperson; Kevin Norman AIA; Rick Leitzinger, Assoc AIA; Martha D'Amico, Exec Director and Ron Gravatt, Computer Guru for being a part of this team and pulling everything together. Our long term goal is to have a more improved website up by the end of the year. We had been waiting for National AIA to give us a template to use, but due to budget cuts this didn't happen.

Membership Committee

I'd also like to thank Roger Hagman, AIA and Joelle Colosi for being on this committee. Joelle is a new Professional Affiliate member who is a professional marketing agent. Membership Development will be a strong focus for the year. We need to rebuild the membership of the chapter, or it will cease to exist in a short

time. We will begin by marketing to past members and county architects who are not members. We will also reach out to potential associate or affiliate members. We encourage all our members to bring a friend to a meeting.

Publicity Committee.....

Helping us promote our events is Noemi Avram, AIA. She has many contacts with newspapers and will promote our events if we give them to her well in advance. She has done this work for the chapter in the past, and I appreciate her leadership.

Associates Committee

Rick Leitzinger, Assoc AIA has continued to give us a plethora of events for Associates as well as other members. He is a committee in and of himself. Get out and try one of the Happy Hours and always remember to save the date for an upcoming Cat-a-lyst tour. His events are for all types of members; not just Associates.

Programs Committee

Jon Mason, AIA is doing a great job of lining up programs that are interesting and provide membership with learning units. We had over 50 people attend our January program, the Round Table on Green Ordinances, at Central Park Bistro in San Mateo. Jon organized an informative panel of Building Officials and Build It Green representatives who updated our members on the latest adoptions of the Green mandate by our local cities. We truly are the leaders on this issue in the entire country.

Newsletter Committee

Nicole Chacon, Associate AIA and her committee, including Dianne Whitaker, AIA and Laura Acevedo Diaz, are to be commended for getting this newsletter out so early in the year. They have promised to release two more issues by the end of the year. Members should contact Nicole with ideas, stories and photo contributions.

Sponsorship Committee

Unfortunately, we do not have a chairperson or a committee for this at the time, but have fortunately

received our first paid sponsor of the chapter, Bo Gustincic. Bo is an Affiliate Member who does takeoffs and estimating, as well as acts as a loan consultant. He generously donated \$500 to be listed as a sponsor of the President's First Sketch. With a total yearly goal of \$5,000, we still have \$4,500 more to raise as a chapter! Martha will be sending us a list of the sponsorship opportunities. I encourage all members to connect with personal contacts and help raise the awareness of the AIA San Mateo County Chapter. By raising this money, we will avoid dues increases or cuts in our programs.

Awards Committee:.....

Dale Meyer, AIA Chairperson and John Lucchesi, AIA have begun planning for this year's awards program. The awards will be handed out at our Holiday Party in December. Currently, they are in the process of selecting judges. Please begin thinking about projects for submission.

Grassroots:

Martha, Roger and I are off to Grassroots in Washington DC the first week in February. Please look out for my highlights on the trip in February's First Sketch.

I look forward to a promising and successful 2010 with AIASMC. In addition, I wish the same success to all of your businesses and hope they are showing signs of a rebound!

John L. Stewart

GOOD GREEN OR GREEN WASH?

Dianne Whitaker
AIA

I noticed a disturbing trend in mid-2009: the number of emails I received containing the word 'green.'

The year started with a mere nine emails in February and March each; but by June the number had jumped to 29. Build It Green logged an average of one email per week for the months of January through April. In May, the GreenV Sustainable Center (formerly the Green Building Exchange) matched Build It Green's 6 emails.

September marked the highpoint (or low point?) of 2009 with 39 emails containing the word 'green' in the subject line. West Coast Green tied with Build It Green at nine emails apiece. That is an average of 2 emails per week from each of the two organizations! A relative newcomer, iGreenBuild.com, sent seven emails in October; and the year concluded with 36 'green' emails in December.

Although not a true scientific survey – I really didn't start counting 'green' emails' until about April when the quantity seemed to skyrocket – I logged a total of 288 'green' emails' in 2009. Build It Green was by far the most consistent sender of 'green' emails,' averaging just over 6 emails per month, with a high of ten in November. GreenV Sustainable Center and McGraw-Hill

Construction's Green Source Magazine also got high marks for consistency throughout the year.

So, you might ask yourself, "How many green emails do I really need?" When does Good Green become Green Wash? Do I really need Green Schools, Green Colleges, Green Community Colleges, Green Home Builder, Multi-Family Green Building, Green Building News, and Green Building Digest? I can probably do without Greenworx, Green on Three (Chimere), Green Motion, Green Sage e-news, and iGreenBuild.com; but think I will keep my eyes open for Green Technology Magazine, Green Source Magazine, and Build It Green in 2010.

The remainder will be added to my spamBlocker list for sanity's sake!

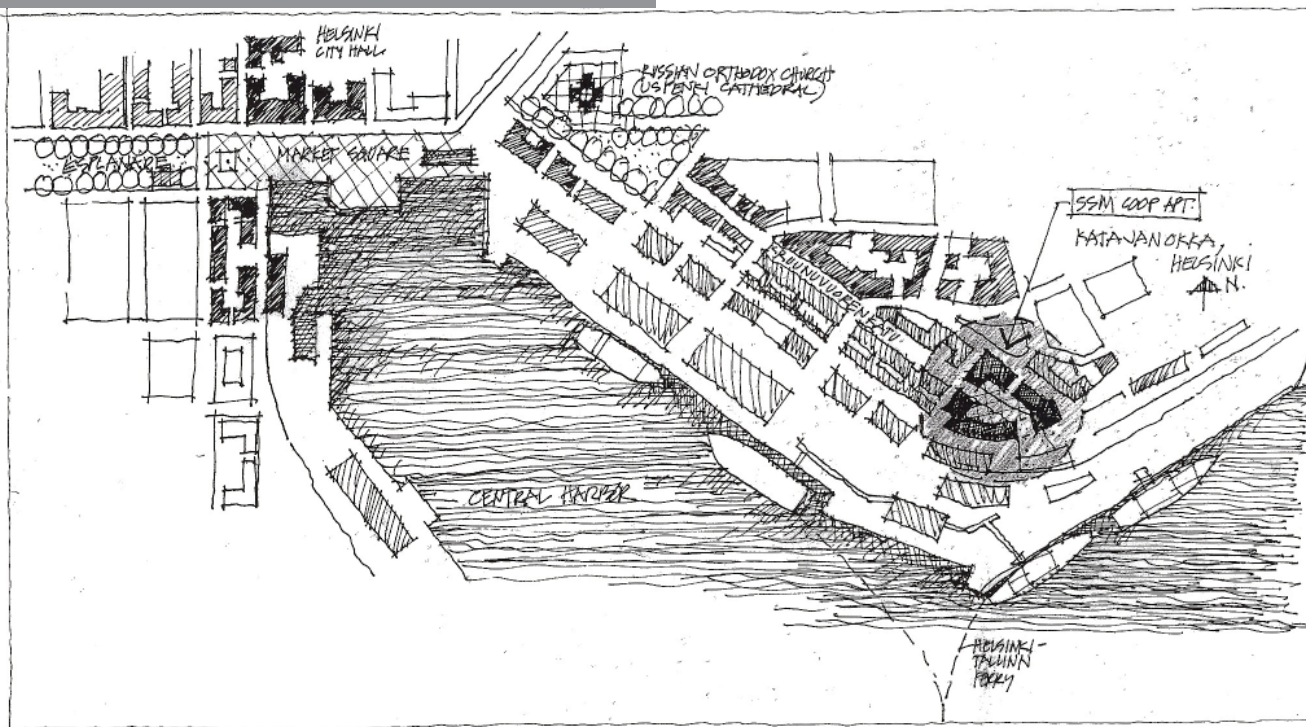
REEN GREEN GREEN GREEN GRE

SUBTLE CONTEXTURALISM

John Lucchesi
AIA

SSM Housing Cooperative Block, Helsinki, Finland
Architects: Arkkitehdit NRT Oy, (Jyrki Tasa, Pirjo Soininen, Anne Kleemola, Eeva-Liisa Elo-Lehtinen, SAFA)

The SSM project is actually the combination of three housing cooperatives proposed on a rather large urban infill block in the heart of the Katajanokka neighborhood of Helsinki.



Completed in 2008, the Svini, Stanssi, Mastokoukku (SSM) Housing Cooperative block provides some realized insights on building new living places within a historic but transitional neighborhood that may not only be respectful of context but also generative of positive emergent urban form.

Katajanokka is within walking distance just east of central downtown Helsinki and has traditionally been a district where heavy maritime and shipping activities laid claim to the waterfront and urban housing of 3-4 stories grew inland. Now a community in partial transition, with an influx of new housing in demand and some heavier industries relocating eastward, the



waterfront has remained the home of popular passenger liners and large ferries with destinations such as Estonia and Germany.

The project site rests between the terminus of an arterial street with a tram line, Kruunuvuorenkatu, linking Katajanokka to the City Center to the northwest and the waterfront to the south.

The site planning of the new project clearly established the three housing cooperatives around a defined courtyard block, typical of Helsinki urban pattern, but then continues the axis of Kruunuvuorenkatu through the block in the form of a pedestrian passage as wide as the street, to the waterfront south of the block. This slice provides both a connection from the north to the sea but also a visual and place-making view from the courtyard back northward to the Russian Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral which serves as a visual link back to the City center.

SUBTLE CONTEXTURALISM



The lower 4 stories of the 5 story buildings are clad on the street - public face in red brick pierced with crisp glass & metal bays and balconies, recalling the material usage and color, but not form language, of the historic red brick maritime and warehousing buildings of the district. The interior courtyard face is treated with white-washed brick wall elements providing welcomed brightness, contrast and recognition of a new place but with a tactile texture. The topmost story of the housing block enjoys an extended ceiling height with expanses of glazed and multi-colored exterior wall panels capped with a celebratory roof canopy that at once shelters the top floor's roof decks while unifying the entire complex. To the south, this roof element bridges across the broad pedestrian walkway creating a perforated portal that initiates urban connections in both directions.



The entire project consists of 147 ownership units ranging from just 330 square feet to 1700 square feet. The buildings are constructed very conventionally with poured in place concrete floors and frame with precast concrete interior and exterior wall elements. Of particular note in the plan is the absence of corridors served by two means of egress. This standard of our code is not evident in modern Finnish concrete housing as up to five stories & up to five units per story are permitted served by a single exit stair and elevator core. There is also a subterranean parking garage below the complex.



As experienced, the SSM project suggests clues to queries relevant here in the morphing Bay Area : How to build in our cities so that not only is history and context respected and not erased, but more critically that the complex order that is the nature of living urban places is not destroyed but rather contributed to, hopefully in a piecemeal, incremental fashion, as small as possible? Then, how do we accomplish this in building actions without the simplistic mockery of trying to replicate what existed before and thereby diluting and disguising real history and homogenizing context, but rather opening the architectural blinders to a layer that presents and reminds us of our own place in the here and now, all the while contributing to, not simplifying, the complex organic order of the urban situation?.

John Lucchesi, AIA



**SUBTLE
CONTEXTURALISM**

A NEW YEAR OF EMERGING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Richard Leitzinger
AIA Associate Director

*Saratoga Tea Houses by Swatt Architects.
Cat-a-lyst Event Organized
by Rick Leitzinger, Associate AIA
Photo by Nicole Chacon, Associate AIA*



I think we're in for a good year for our Emerging Professional programs. We'll continue Cat-a-lyst, Happy Hour, Video Friday, maybe a Movie Night or two, and Hard Hat Cafe. Also, Plein Air is still on for whenever the weather will accommodate. We can look forward to perhaps some joint events with some of our neighboring Emerging Professionals, too. I've talked to Stephanie Silkwood, Associate Director for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter. We have been discussing continuing our joint venture with Hard Hat Cafe and perhaps a workshop in the fall, much like the Color Marker Presentation Workshop

our chapters' co-produced. She and I have talked about sharing a couple of Happy Hours, as well.

This brings up a nice segue into my intention to provide those of you who are interested in taking the exams with resource information and connections to others who have set similar goals. I've been talking to some of you, individually, who have expressed an interest in this subject and I really appreciated your insight as to needs and desires. Also, I have been looking at what other chapters are doing to support those who are pursuing their license.



By the time you are reading this article Santa Clara Valley Chapter will have launched their new and improved website. <http://www.aiascv.org/> SCV has a great study program and hopes to offer ARE seminars in the near future. If you need additional information about their programs you can contact Stephanie at ssilkwood@rmw.com

A NEW YEAR OF EMERGING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Some of the ideas I would like to propose are:

Paperwork Parties

The idea is to take the edge off the process by having parties to assist individuals with the various and sometimes frustrating facets of filling out paperwork related to IDP/testing/licensure process.

ARE 4.0 Study Guides and Material

Acquire a full set of Kaplan ARE Study Guides to be made available for a one week check-out at the AIA office.

ARE/IDP Q & A

Have a California Council representative host an informational session with our members once or twice a year to specifically address any and all questions about the new “rolling clock” rule for the filing of IDP hours and how to get into the system, as well as other questions you may have.

Other event ideas would be perhaps an IDP Speed Match event and a Mentorship Workshop.

On this note, I would like to inform those interested in attending some of the local seminars that they might visit the websites of AIASF and AIAEB for their first quarter schedule of ARE seminars.



*Hillsborough Green Home by chapter member Randy Grange, AIA.
Cat-a-lyst Event Organized by Rick Leitzinger , Assoc. AIA - Photos by Nicole Chacon, Assoc. AIA*

A NEW YEAR OF EMERGING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Also, Tatjana Polyakova, AIA, has created a great website that is well worth looking at. Its called **AA aspiring architects** <http://www.aspiringarchitects.com/> You can download, for free, alternate practice problems for graphic vignettes, post solutions on the forum and take a sample multiple choice exam. It's a wonderful site, very informative.

Here are some other sites worth considering:

ARE eNews

<http://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:22587.1213313690/rid:69b9fc69fe14a79f0811752ddbaed00b>

IDP eNews

<http://www.ncarb.org/idp/enews/2008/July/index.html>

6 Month Rule Update

<http://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:22587.1136986013/rid:5f30afc3a28f3af0ab1f8ab36dda9e86>

National Council of Architecture Registration (NCARB)

www.ncarb.org

Emerging Professionals Companion

www.EPCompanion.org

Arch Voices

<http://www.archvoices.org/>

The ARE Forum (discussion board)

<http://www.areforum.org/>

ArchiFlash Flash cards and other study material

<http://www.nalsa.com/>

Prometric Testing Centers

<http://www.prometric.com/default.htm>

These are just a few examples of the information available online. If you like to find out more contact me at 650 576 8445 or email me at richardleitzinger@att.net

Also, as always, I'm looking for anyone who would like to volunteer or has an idea for the Emerging Professionals, be it an event or program or a service. No surprise, volunteering for Emerging Professionals gets you into the heart of the chapter quickly. Meet people who know people, organize an event. You'll find many opportunities to make a big difference in the group and increase the cache of the chapter. Thanks again for all your emails regarding Video Friday and if you would like to prepare and share a video set or two, I'd be happy to forward it to the Emerging Professionals group. It's always best when there is more than one voice.

Richard Leitzinger

REINVENTION CORA CONVENTION IN SEATTLE

John L. Stewart
AIA CORA

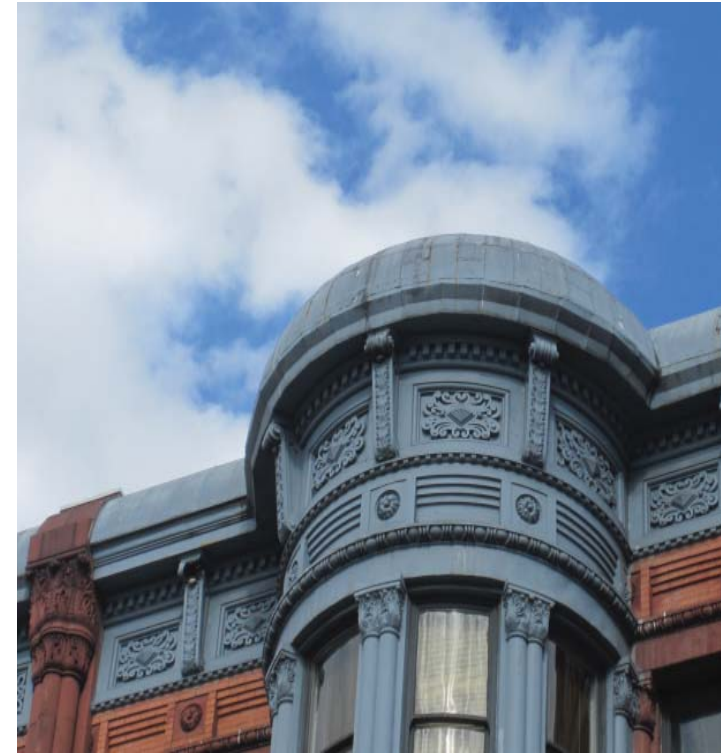
Recently, I attended the combined Reinvention CORA convention in Seattle at the Olympic Hotel on September 14-16. Reinvention is an annual conference sponsored by Residential Architect magazine. At the conclusion of the Symposium, there is a half-day conference by CORA, the Congress of Residential Architecture. Previous conferences have been held in Los Angeles, CA; Coral Gables, FL; San Diego, CA; Charleston, SC; and Austin, TX. With the exception of the conference in Austin, I have experienced all the conventions and was even the California representative guest speaker for Coral Gables. The conventions have become a new tradition of mine.

I decided to take advantage of my trip to Seattle, and went up two days before the conference to do some sightseeing. The weather was beautiful, as you can see in my photo of the Space Needle, and I was impressed by the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame designed by Frank Gehry. I also had fun walking around and photographing the historic architecture.

The theme of this year's conference was The New, New Reality: Expanding the Architect's Role Through Outreach, Collaboration and Innovation. Every year the conferences follow a similar format. Monday there is a tour of several local houses, and this year we saw houses designed by Pb Elemental Architecture, Coop 15, E. Cobb Architects, The Miller /Hull Partnership, Eggleston Frakas Architects, and Hybrid Architects. Touring the homes with

other Residential Architects from all over the country supported some really interesting discussions, and I enjoyed learning and sharing. The houses tend to be "modern," meaning they have flat roofs and stucco and cedar siding, similar to what you see in Residential Architect or Dwell magazines. Although the homes were not applicable to the traditional houses I design, the projects were interesting nonetheless.

The conference sessions takes place all day Tuesday and a half-day on Wednesday. The keynote address this year was given by Andres Duany, FAIA. His topic was "Beyond the Building: The Architect's Best Hope for Greater Relevance." He is in favor of getting rid of many of the planning and building restrictions, including LEED. He contends that they just don't work and that buildings do not perform according to the energy formulas of LEED. Next was a roundtable discussion called "Partnering With Allied Professions, To Bring New Ideas to Market". The panelists were Steve Glenn, Tom Kunding of Olson Sundberg Kunding and Allen Architects, and Robert Humble of Hybrid Architecture. A leadership lunch and breakout sessions followed the roundtable discussion. It is



always difficult to choose which of the four breakout presentations to attend. This year's choices included: "Architects as Real Estate Agents," presented by John Brown, Jeremiah Eck, and Erik Lerner; "Green Then and Now," presented by Miller/Hull Partnership; "Citizen Architects," presented by Steven Moore; and "Big Houses Little Houses," presented by Gary Brewer of Robert A.M. Stern Architects. I chose the Miller / Hull lecture on their 30-year sustainable design practice. I enjoyed seeing their creative houses that sit on lovely island beach locations near Seattle, and it was inspiring to know that these two partners, who still enjoy working together, could collaborate on such dynamic projects. They were both Peace Corps volunteers

REINVENTION CORA CONVENTION IN SEATTLE



suburban lot into multifamily housing. Then after an hour they were presented to the group. Some interesting ideas emerged.

The CORA meeting was co-sponsored by AIA-CRAN, Custom Residential Architects Network. The prominent discussion was how to encourage the AIA to recognize the many residential architects that support the organization. As the statistics stand now, the AIA is made up of people from large commercial offices; out of 130,000 architects in the US, only 93,000 are practicing (compared with 660,000 doctors) and only 55,000 are AIA members; 20,000 architects practice by themselves, mainly doing wood-framed residential work; 57% of architects work in firms with fewer than 5 people; an additional 40% work in firms with fewer than 50 people, and only 3% work in firms with over 50 people; 43% of AIA members work for these large firms because the firm pays their dues; the 45 people on the National Board



right out of college. One went to Afghanistan and the other to South America. They said they learned much about Green Architecture in these developing countries.

Next up was Michelle Kaufman who talked about marketing her green modular homes. Her talk was entitled "Using Mass Media and Technology to Promote Good Design." She candidly revealed that the company folded a short time ago because of the economy, lending practices, and unreliable manufacturers. I subsequently conversed with her, and she has agreed to speak to us next year. Michelle lives in Marin County and has some great new ideas on marketing, including using Facebook and Twitter!

Previous presenters Andres Duany, Steven Moore, Michael Pytok, and Joseph Tovar led a discussion entitled "The Big Think: Engaging Community and Government in Design Solutions."

A charrette concluded the conference. Groups of architects prepared sketches to remodel a 5,000 SF Big Box McMansion on a half-acre,

REINVENTION CORA CONVENTION IN SEATTLE

all work for large firms; only 10% of architects make over \$100,000; and 25 % of architects are unemployed. Both the CORA leadership and the AIA CRAN participants agreed to work together to benefit the members of the AIA who feel "left out." They plan to meet in the next few months to see what can be done at the next National AIA Convention in Miami in June of 2010, and they invited me to be one of the members of this task force.



An additional perk to attending conventions is the friendships you make with people of similar interests, and I have met many interesting people over the past six years. We all go to dinner and share stories, and this year a few people went to a blues club with me. I urge all of you to go to the next convention, which will be held in early December in New Orleans. Who knows, maybe Brad Pitt will be there talking about his solutions to the housing crisis caused by Katrina. I plan to be there.

John L. Stewart

AN OLD FASHION HOLIDAY WITH AIA

Nicole Chacon
AIA Associate

Thanks to the members and friends who helped make this last Holiday Party a success; with a very special thanks to John Stewart, AIA for graciously offering his home and creating a very festive and warm atmosphere. Both the décor and host were decked in the Holiday spirit, and not a single belly left without a plump helping, or two, of delicious home cooked dishes and decadent treats. Although 2009 was a struggling year for most of us, the party allowed the faithful AIA community to gather and reconnect friendships. There was definitely a supportive vibe throughout the members, and it was clear that 2009 was not going to stop the progression of the profession and ongoing goals of the chapter. Here's looking forward to a promising 2010!



If you wish to have your firm represented in the Charrette Newsletter please contact Nicole Chacon.

We are looking to have a full inventory of Chapter members' work on file as part of our database.

Please submit all inquires to Nicole Chacon at:

NcChacon@hotmail.com

We invite our chapter members to submit examples of their work that reflect their style of detailing / sketching ideas for their projects.

We will scan images.



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DELIVER TO: