



DESIGN

AIA INDIANAPOLIS

ELEVATING

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

The background features a large, stylized graphic of a mechanical pulley system. It consists of a large white triangle pointing downwards, with a smaller white triangle pointing upwards inside it. At the top of the large triangle is a pulley with a red circular center and a white outer ring. A white curved arrow points clockwise around the pulley. At the bottom of the large triangle, there are two more pulleys, one on the left and one on the right, also with red centers and white rings. A white line runs horizontally across the middle of the large triangle, passing through the centers of the two bottom pulleys. A white vertical line runs down from the top center of the page to a white rectangular box containing the text "ELEVATING DESIGN".

ELEVATING DESIGN

When I was elected president of AIA Indianapolis, I wanted our focus to be on design. As architects, design has such an impact on our lives and is central to nearly everything we do. I think of one of the greats, Michael Graves, who left such a tremendous legacy of whimsical interesting designs. I met him in 1996, when he spoke at the Indianapolis Art Center, and he was a real inspiration for me.

Design has an impact on all of us. Like art, architecture can compel debate and conversation. It can evoke emotion. And for people like me, it can inspire our career choices.

Our goal for 2015 was to really dig deeper into some of the projects changing our city's landscape and designers who, like Graves, are making an impact around the globe. We learned and discussed the city's plans for the City-County Building Plaza and the state's plans for a Bicentennial Plaza. It's why we brought in New York architect Deborah Berke, FAIA, and LA architect Thom Mayne, FAIA. It's why we invited Juan Miro, FAIA, and Jonathan Hess, AIA, to speak about renovations at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It's why so many of our monthly programs focused on design projects.

It's not just about listening to others, about taking tours and talking about design. We also have to be engaged and involved. So, when Indianapolis considered moving the justice center to the west side of town, we spoke out. Our leadership helped influence the decision to reconsider the project. We talked to our city leaders during the annual City-County Council reception about the importance of urban planning. We also took a stand against lifting a ban on digital billboards, which could have brought in bright lights throughout the city, including historic neighborhoods.

It's been an honor to lead AIA Indianapolis in 2015 and to be part of the reorganization of our chapters, which through unanimous vote brings all chapters throughout the state under one AIA Indiana umbrella. My hope is that this change in structure will help all of us focus our efforts toward promoting and advocating for great architecture all over Indiana.



D. Blake Wagner, AIA / President

AIA Indianapolis / A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



