

# AIA Michigan



A Society of  
The American  
Institute of Architects

## Bulletin

November/December 1994

Volume 17 Issue 4

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT -- LONG RANGE PLANNING UPDATE**

*Eugene C. Hopkins, AIA*

A year and a half ago, as Vice President, I formed a big picture committee to provide, as the name implies, a critical overview of the Society. This included analyzing finances (what is needed to break even), structure (is the Board structure and the Chapter structure providing the best vehicle for communicating, representing and operating the Society), and marketability (are we being effective in the way we promote what architects do -- its importance and what it means as a source of revenue generation.) The purpose of the overview was to respond to concerns of the Executive Committee that the Society was struggling to survive. We needed to step back and take a serious look at ourselves. Has the Society changed with the times? Is it effective as it exists? Is it what the members want it to be? And will it be effective (positioned) to take us into the 21st century?

After four months of effort by this committee, it was determined that the big picture committee could not answer all these questions. It became obvious that the effort needed to be turned into a Long Range Planning function for the

Society. There needed to be input by the entire membership, because the Society represents all of us. It was decided that this data gathering effort would be conducted over the 1994 year. Steve Vogel, FAIA, accepted the position as chairperson to conduct interactive sessions at each of the ten chapters, including the AIA Michigan leadership retreat (with the Board of Directors and the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the chapters), Staff, Council of Presidents, and Firm Principals. These were typically two-hour sessions that encouraged input from the members about their likes and dislikes, what gets done well and poorly, what it isn't doing and should be doing, and what they would like to see the Society focus on.

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The next step is to take the appropriate elements of the recommendations and put them on the floor for further debate and scrutiny at several of the Board of Director's meetings for 1995. This input will then be incorporated into the Reorganization Plan final document and the appropriate elements taken to the Board of Directors or the Membership for a vote.

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architectural profession. It enhances the position of architects as leaders of the building team and designers of the built environment.

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- \* *Public Affairs Advocacy* through the development and dissemination of policies that enhance the natural and built environment; and the influencing of governmental legislation and regulatory policy that impact the effectiveness of the profession.
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The current structure and programs, as well as all new ideas for possible change of the Society, were tested against the Mission in order to justify their appropriateness.

Based on this evaluation, the following areas of improvement have been identified:

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  - \* Equal representation on the Board from all

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  3. Review the current relationship with the Michigan Architectural Foundation to ensure the goals of both AIA Michigan and the Foundation are being met.
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  5. Review relationship with AIA Detroit to ensure the goals of both AIA Michigan and the Detroit chapter are being met.
  6. Implement programmatic budgeting to evaluate each program's performance and value to the membership (underway).

I want to assure you that as shareholders in the Society, you will have the opportunity to have further input into this document. You had the opportunity this past year, and

your representatives on the Board and Executive Committee will be dealing with these issues this year. In addition, any action requiring a change in the bylaws cannot be taken without your vote approval. Many of these decisions are too important to be made by a select few. I feel very strongly that the membership needs to have input on the long range direction of the Society and am supported by the Executive Committee and Board in these feelings.

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point incremental reforms), personal watercraft restrictions, personal watercraft restrictions, Tiger Stadium (and related downtown Detroit redevelopment), availability of vaccines, waste flow restrictions, anti-discount drug pricing, ban on tobacco and alcohol billboard advertising, charter schools (further refinement and expansion), high speed rail, disposal of low-level radioactive waste, downsizing of state government, DNR structural and procedural reforms, gaming, regional transportation revamping (for southwest Michigan), enterprise zones for economic development in each county, battery disposal, environmental code recodification, all appropriations matters, educational restructuring (Dept. of Education and ISDs), and restructuring of judiciary (i.e. jurisdictions of trial-level courts).

If you'd like a copy of the outlook they provided, give us a call at headquarters...we'll be glad to mail it out to you.

## **NEWS FLASH STATE OF MICHIGAN**

### ***Government Affairs Task Force/AIA Michigan***

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In our opinion, not much progress has been made in removing or reducing some of

the issues which are generally thought to have significant liability for the professional. As a word of caution and advice, read carefully those articles pertaining to:

- \* **Indemnification:** Check with your insurer. You may not be covered based on the language of your policy.
- \* **Hazardous Materials:** Again, check with your insurer. Don't assume a responsibility you are not insured for and not expert to execute.
- \* **Open End Responsibilities:** Resist the temptation to assume everything will be "O.K." Be clear about your responsibility and those of the State.

Key words to look for:  
"approval" making you responsible for an agency's future action.  
"assist" this usually means - the professional will do it.  
"monitor, evaluate, and take timely administrative action".

Read your contract carefully, negotiate assertively, practice like a business person, document your discussions and understandings, and seek qualified advice from your friends and your attorney.

## **BE AWARE: UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS MAY BE AFFECTED BY SOME BUYOUT OFFERS**

A growing practice among employers, when reducing their workforce, is to offer incentives to employees to retire earlier than usual. As part of the buyout offer, many companies have allowed workers to

liquidate the money in their retirement accounts and roll over these funds into an IRA. This is usually a better option for the employee than leaving their retirement accruals in the employer's retirement fund to earn a sometimes unattractively low interest rate. However, employers and their employees should be aware that taking this option *does* affect the worker's unemployment benefits.

Although the Internal Revenue Code does not treat the payment as having been "received" for income tax purposes, the Michigan Employment Security (MES) Act does. According to the MES Act, if a worker chooses the *option* to roll over the pension amount into an IRA, that worker has "received" the pension and used it by depositing it into an IRA. By receiving the pension, even for a limited time, and even with the purpose of rolling it over into an IRA, the claimant is subject to a total or partial reduction in unemployment benefits.

Even though the claimant is not literally using the money, he or she has control of it, and it is available for use. The amount of the deduction would depend on the amount of the claimant's contribution to the pension fund.

If you would like further information, contact the MES Employer Customer Service Hotline at 800/638-3994.

## **AIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

National's advertising campaign will be implemented in late January focusing on major business media. The project's goal is to elevate the stature and value of the architect, and



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## OBITUARIES

**George Zonars, RA**, 64, passed away in his Birmingham home on September 6, 1994. He was a former member of AIA Detroit. A graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and the Cranbrook Academy of Art where he received his Masters Degree, Mr. Zonars served on Cranbrook's Board of Governors for more than 25 years. He had his own practice and taught at Lawrence Technological University. Mr. Zonars is survived by his wife, Lillian, two daughters, Tina and Anthea, and a son, John. Memorial contributions may be sent to Cranbrook Academy of Art, Department of Architecture, Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.

## CLASSIFIED

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Andrews University is seeking applicants for a full-time, nine-month visiting professor position with the rank of Associate Professor to begin September 25, 1995 through June 1, 1996. Teaching responsibilities include: undergraduate design studios each quarter, one specialty area, and one elective class. Minimum qualifications: M. Arch. and professional license to practice architecture. Preference to applicants who have design recognition from the profession and experience teaching design studio. Send resume and portfolio (examples of works and publications), statement expressing educational/professional philosophy and names of three references by March 15, 1995 to: Chair of Search Committee, The Division of Architecture, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104; phone 616/471-6003.

#### Entry Level Design Assistant

Architectural lighting design firm has an immediate opening. Must be skilled in clerical work, Autocad and board drafting, with a strong desire to work in lighting. Architectural degree/background preferred. Send resumes to: Attention--Employment, P.O. Box 970096, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## DECEMBER

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skillfully-executed preservation and restoration projects; believes in the "modern moment," the "moment" that heralded rational, functional form - LTU, Southfield

- 15 SMPS Holiday Party (for members and their guests); contact Janet Baetz 313/886-1190
- 15 Last day to purchase NOVA Awards Tickets at reduced rates; phone 313/995-1855
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- 9 AIA Detroit Legislative Breakfast; 7:30 to 9:00 am - Cobo Center; 965-4100
- 16 LTU ArchiLECTURE: Gae Aulenti, Architect and Designer, Milan, Italy; internationally-regarded avant-garde designer; only two presentations on U.S. tour--Chicago and Detroit - please note that this LTU ArchiLECTURE will be held at the DIA; tickets available at DIA ticket office



# The Top Seven Reasons Why You Need To Attend Design And Construction Expo '95

- 7 Park in Joe Louis garage with a **FREE** shuttle to the Cobo Center door
- 6 It's the largest design and construction industry show in the midwest
- 5 **FREE** advance registration
- 4 See and be seen by industry leaders
- 3 **FREE** hot dogs and meet sports celebrities\*
- 2 Save time and money for your company — compare products at one time and place

## ***And The Number One Reason Why You Need To Attend . . .***

- 1 Experience the latest industry technology, products and equipment — all under one roof!

## DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION **EXPO 95**

*"An Industry Built On Teamwork"*

**FEBRUARY 8-9, 1995 • COBO CENTER • DETROIT**

\*Thursday, February 9, 3 p.m.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
EXPO 95**

P.O. Box 7018, Troy, MI 48007-7018



## **SAA COMES TO MICHIGAN**

Great news to pass on to the administrative assistants, secretaries, clerical staff and other administrative professionals in your office . . . The Society of Architectural Administrators (SAA), an Affiliate of The American Institute of Architects, finally has a chapter in Michigan! Although originally formed for administrators in architectural firms, membership is encouraged for those working within the design profession for architects, engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, etc. Recognized by AIA Michigan, SAA supports and advances continuing education and provides networking opportunities for its membership

through monthly meetings as well as annual regional and national conventions.

The monthly meetings will rotate throughout various cities. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday evening, January 10th, at 6:00 pm in the offices of Marshburn/Bunkley Associates in Portage. If Portage isn't nearby, there may be someone to carpool with . . . just let a committee member know when calling for reservations.

For more information about membership in SAA, contact Karen Cawley, SAA, President, at Architects Four, Inc. in Ann Arbor at 313/769-9444. Or, in Detroit you can call Marilyn J. Lynn, SAA, Treasurer, at John D. Hilberry & Associates, Inc. at 313/963-8074.

## **THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The offices of AIA Michigan and AIA Detroit in the Beaubien House will be closed at the end of the work day on Friday, December 23rd and will reopen on Monday morning, January 2, 1995.

If you have any business to take care of--membership, dues, or especially *document orders*--please be certain to contact us the week of December 19th.

On behalf of the Staff of AIA Michigan, may we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry and safe holiday season!

**AIA MICHIGAN  
BEAUBIEN HOUSE  
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DETROIT, MI 48226**

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☐ Exhibit

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **SAA COMES TO MICHIGAN**

Great news to pass on to the administrative assistants, secretaries, clerical staff and other administrative professionals in your office . . . The Society of Architectural Administrators (SAA), an Affiliate of The American Institute of Architects, finally has a chapter in Michigan! Although originally formed for administrators in architectural firms, membership is encouraged for those working within the design profession for architects, engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, etc. Recognized by AIA Michigan, SAA supports and advances continuing education and provides networking opportunities for its membership

through monthly meetings as well as annual regional and national conventions.

The monthly meetings will rotate throughout various cities. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday evening, January 10th, at 6:00 pm in the offices of Marshburn/Bunkley Associates in Portage. If Portage isn't nearby, there may be someone to carpool with . . . just let a committee member know when calling for reservations.

For more information about membership in SAA, contact Karen Cawley, SAA, President, at Architects Four, Inc. in Ann Arbor at 313/769-9444. Or, in Detroit you can call Marilyn J. Lynn, SAA, Treasurer, at John D. Hilberry & Associates, Inc. at 313/963-8074.

## **THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The offices of AIA Michigan and AIA Detroit in the Beaubien House will be closed at the end of the work day on Friday, December 23rd and will reopen on Monday morning, January 2, 1995.

If you have any business to take care of--membership, dues, or especially *document orders*--please be certain to contact us the week of December 19th.

On behalf of the Staff of AIA Michigan, may we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry and safe holiday season!

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