

- Advocacy
- Information
- Advancement

AIA/EIC eastwolds

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

February 2008
Issue 2/08
www.aiaeic.org

President's Message

by Ed Lugowski, AIA

At our first meeting of the new year on January 30, 2008, it was my privilege to take over the reins as the President of the AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter. As a charter member of our chapter, I had somehow escaped taking on the responsibility much earlier in the last thirty years. Since I was part of an unforgettable experience those thirty years ago when so many fellow architects worked so hard to establish the Eastern Illinois Chapter, I was really reluctant to take on the two year obligation necessary to take on this job. Why? Well, I didn't know many of the persons who were now the leaders of this organization. Yes, Bob Bohlmann and I had served together for many years, and since he was to be President, I knew he'd be a good tutor for me. Also, my dear friend Wayne Babiak agreed to serve as a Director during these two years; a more reliable and straight shooting sounding board does not exist. If I had any doubts that these present leaders were not as fervent and sincere as we rebels back in the mid-seventies were, they all went away when I sat down with the Board of Directors at the transitional meeting in January of 2007! What a dedicated and sincere group of people

you have serving you, the profession, our organization, and our community.



Our program for last month was "Mold is Gold" and was hosted and presented by Mold Solutions' Tom Ballard & Ed Mahalovich. Phil Radloff has covered their presentation in more detail in his "Rear View Mirror" column on page 3 of this issue. Suffice to say it was a presentation that stimulated many questions from the audience, and was well received by all in attendance. Although Mold Solutions has applied for CEU certification from AIA National for their presentation, they have not received it as yet. Therefore, John Benware, Continuing Education Chair, will apply for certification for the architects in attendance.

In my previous writings, and as one of my goals for our chapter, I've asked that all 89 of you consider coming to one our monthly meetings. The quality and educational value of our programs is first class. Until we as a Chapter can convince you that

Continued on next page...

FEBRUARY 27TH CHAPTER MEETING

Program:

"Smart Growth"

Presenter:

Kevin Nelson, EPA

See page 4 for details.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Transitional Bd. Mtg.	2
Rear View Mirror	3
Upcoming Meeting	4
New Year's Resolutions . . .	5-6
Advertisers	6-8

President's Message

...continued



Current Chapter President Ed Lugowski (center of photo below) chaired his first Board Meeting Saturday 1/12/08 at the Linden Group Offices in Homewood, IL. Our thanks to the Linden Group for sharing their conference room. The Transitional Board Meeting went well, though a little long for some... much to-do about the turning over of the Treasurer's files and books; but then after five years, we guess Paul collected a lot of "stuff." ~R.B.

your membership in EIC is beneficial to both you and your fellow members, we're reluctant to start a membership drive. The benefits you gain in attending? Well, most of you need the CEU's to keep your license(s) current. However, that is not the only benefit to you. Quite honestly, the benefits that I think are the most important are the knowledge, camaraderie, and friendships you will gain through meeting with your peers. I have benefited so many times from networking with my colleagues that it would take this whole edition of "Eastwords" to tell you about it. By the way, "networking" wasn't a word back in 1978; in a way, I guess it takes the place of "knowledge, camaraderie, and friendships." So give



Photos courtesy of Robert Bohlmann, AIA

us a try - you might like us.

Speaking of seeing new faces at our meetings, our attendance was not only graced by at least two new faces, but a few "absentee" members as well. Whether or not you think this was a good thing, Mike Topielec, who Steve Reardon says was responsible for him becoming an architect, was a first time visitor to our meeting. Thank you all for your effort on

attending on a night that wasn't exactly blessed with good weather.

I hope to see you all next month when our program will include a presentation by Kevin Nelson of the EPA on their "Smart Growth" program. Kevin is the son of AIA/EIC charter member, Ben

⇒ ⇒ ⇒

Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR

a look back at the January chapter meeting

by Philip Radloff, AIA, Vice-President AIA/EIC



MOLD SOLUTION

Host/Presenter: Tom Ballard

Mold is GOLD - Yes the lawyers are running out of asbestos cases and now are focusing on mold. There are over ten thousand mold lawsuits filed every year, with tens of thousands pending. Mold has always been present in both new and old buildings. Even the Romans had problems; they just didn't know a good lawyer to call.

The main culprit is the introduction of water or moisture in the wood being installed in the project. Mold can only exist with the combination of water moisture, temperature to activate, and a food source (wood, drywall paper etc.), all of which exist in all of our buildings. The present construction techniques acquire water penetration into wood products used from the mill, in storage at the lumberyard, during delivery, and when sitting at the site during construction. The average home contains six thousand to nine thousand gallons of water during construction, and the average 2"x4" was a tree only thirty to forty days before being used. Mold grows on moist surfaces commonly found in basements, laundry rooms, bathrooms, crawl spaces, and in ventilation systems. Codes already specify that all exhaust fans must be ventilated to the exterior of the residence.

Mold Solutions' antimicrobial is a system of sprayed-on prevention of a permanent silane molecule, resulting in a highly active molecule 3-trimethoxysilyl (try to say that three times). Actually, an ammonium chloride bonding agent is sprayed on all wood members of the residence, protecting them from mold growth. Mold Solutions suggests the solution

be applied directly after rough framing and before MEP work begins. They provide a twenty-five year warranty for new construction and a ten year warranty for remediation work on existing buildings. The cost is sixty-five to seventy-five cents per square foot.

It looks like mold is only going to create additional problems - not only for homeowners who are now aware of the mold situation, but architects as well. There is already pending legislation in Illinois from our favorite governor that will require the mold remediation companies to be licensed. Florida and California code ordinances already require this treatment.

Could some possible solutions be to leave HVAC systems on in unoccupied buildings or foreclosures, or possibly to use metal studs? Good grief, the insurance companies will be after us next! According to Mold Solutions, they paid out over \$9 billion in 2003 claims. The average settlement was \$150,000.

For further information, contact Tom Ballard at Mold Solutions, P.O. Box 935, Mokena, IL 60448, or call 815-606-3034. His product, *Microbe Guard*, is recommended by both OSHA and the EPA for requirements of safety. Better yet, come to our next meeting and talk to Bill Brazley, FAIA. He just installed it in his new pool enclosure and is very informed on the subject.

*Philip Radloff, AIA
EIC Vice-President*

...continued from previous page

Nelson, AIA. Also, we have given the Libation and Conversation Hour over to hear various AIA business reports from Gaines Hall, FAIA, President of the AIA/Illinois Council Board of

Directors; and from our DC Grassroots Conventioneers, Phil Radloff, Bob Bohlmann, and Ed Lugowski. If the report from DC is anything like last year's, you'll have to be sworn to secrecy, especially when meeting with Bob's

wife. Just a bunch of "wild and crazy guys." Of course, Phil and Ed will have to be even sneakier than Bob, since their wives will be in attendance as well.

*Ed Lugowski, AIA
EIC President*

Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, February 27, 2008

The EPA's Smart Growth Program

Host: Prior to dinner, our "Libation and Conversation Hour" will be given over to AIA business, as Gaines Hall, FAIA, President of the Illinois Council Board, will be giving the President's Annual State of the Union to our Chapter. Gaines will probably have a couple other people in tow, both staff and members of the board. If that isn't enough for you, we will hear from our delegates returning from the previous week's AIA Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C. So, before the night is over you'll learn all there is to know about AIA National, AIA Illinois, and AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter.

Presenter: The program for our meeting this month will be presented by Kevin Nelson of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation Development, Community and Environmental Division. Wonder how long it took for Kevin to memorize that? Kevin will be speaking about "The Smart Growth Program" at the EPA. This would cover the ten smart growth principles, how and where smart growth development should be focused, and its benefits to the community, including economic, health, and environmental impacts. A local example of this can be found in Tinley Park's "Oak Park Avenue District Design Guidelines and Regulations." In a few words, "Smart Growth" at EPA is helping America's communities create great places.

CEUs: Our Continuing Education Czar, John Benware, will be making application for AIA's acceptance for each program for a minimum of one (1) CEU. The EPA program should qualify for a HSW CEU.

Location: Holiday Inn Select Hotel & Convention Center
I-80 @ Harlem Avenue Exit, North
18501 South Harlem Avenue
(Enter from 183rd Street, East of Harlem Avenue)
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

Time: 6:00 PM - Libation & Conversation
7:00 PM - Dinner
8:00 PM - Program Presentation

Cost: \$30.00/ Member - \$35.00/Non-member

Menu: Minestrone Soup, Caesar Salad
Prime Rib, Baked Potato
Seasonal Vegetables, Dinner Rolls
Chef Special Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Reservations by:
noon
Wednesday
February 20th

Contact Phil Radloff, AIA
1st Vice-President, AIA/EIC
Program Coordinator

Phone: (815) 806-0146
Fax: 815-806-0149
p.radloff@rjaarchitects.com

Payment required if cancellation
after Monday noon.

Upcoming AIA events:

February

20-23 National Grass Roots
Washington, D.C.
27 AIA/EIC meeting

March

19 AIA/EIC meeting

April

10 Prairie Grass Roots
Springfield, IL
30 AIA/EIC meeting

May

15-17 National Convention
Boston, MA
28 AIA/EIC meeting

Please make a note:

The March meeting has been
moved up one week to
Wednesday, March 19.

Resolutions for Architecture in the New Year

John F. Benware, Jr., AIA

The beginning of the new year is always a time for resolutions - the time when we make deals with ourselves to do better. Usually after a period of reflection and self examination, sometimes with the suggestions of friends and loved ones, we decide on those things we need to do to improve. These resolutions are supposed to be long-term changes in habits that are intended to correct past faults and to prevent such things from happening again in the future.

Unfortunately, most of us fail in some or all of our new year resolutions. Habits are hard to change, and the inertia of the past makes it difficult to realize our best intentions. Most people who make resolutions fail to keep them. We all know people who make a resolution to get in shape every year. They join a health club, and for the first couple of weeks they go and work out. There are crowds at all the fitness machines and treadmills. But by the time summer comes around, the crowds are gone. As a whole, we are just not that into change. We can do it for a while, but the old habits return. The fact is, the weight of tradition and past ways of doing things catch up with us.

It would nice to come up with a similar list of resolutions of what we should change in the buildings around us. In many ways a list of resolutions for architecture would go through the same process that we use to come up with our own list. Some time should be taken to reflect on what has been done,

and how it got to be that way. We have to ask ourselves questions about what is most important to us about the houses we live in and the buildings we work, shop, and play in. What can be changed in the way we build our buildings that will make them better, and how can we implement these changes? Are these changes even realistic? We would also have to resign ourselves to the fact that, like a lot of resolutions, some of them won't be achieved.

In any case, I submit the following list of resolutions. I think architects, interior designers, landscape architects, building trade professionals of all kinds, and the public should strive to accept and put into practice for

the next year and beyond, the following changes:

BE RESPECTFUL Let's face it, nobody likes an eyesore. We have all seen the latest trend of tearing down old houses and building monstrosities which overwhelm the existing neighborhood. These 'McMansions' came about as a result of the housing boom, but the phenomenon is not limited to houses. It also occurs when a chain store decides to build a building which represents their corporate identity, however the new building clashes with the existing storefronts in town. Let's try to be respectful to the existing scale and feeling of the areas in which we build.

Continued on next page...

Are you an Associate Member studying for the A.R.E.?

...Have you heard the news?



AIA/EIC has purchased the complete **07 Kaplan A.R.E. Learning System** for library check out as a benefit to all Associate EIC members.

Please contact Trip Hummel for additional information and check-out procedure.
thummel@lindengroupinc.com
708.799.4400

NOTE: You must be a member to check out material!

Resolutions

...continued from page 5

BE DIFFERENT The last thing anyone wants to see is the same building, strip mall, or house repeated with no diversity for miles. It may be comforting to know that your favorite drugstore or fast food restaurant is easily identifiable when you need it, but the same colors and shapes repeated again and again leads to a blandness. It is this sameness which is a common criticism of suburbs, not just in the repeated proliferation of strip malls, but also in the types of housing. Let's mix it up. Not every house needs a gabled roof, and not every commercial building needs to look like it was built at the turn of the last century.

BE ACCESSIBLE I don't just mean accessible for those with disabilities; that is required by law. But let's follow the true spirit of the legislation by designing buildings that are universal in their approach to usability. I realize that square footage is a valuable commodity, but that shouldn't require that buildings

get designed to the minimums. Architects have a duty not only to the client paying for the building, but also to the public who ultimately will inhabit it. Let's remember that successful buildings and public spaces are the ones that the public decides are successful by actually using them.

BE SUSTAINABLE We do live in a world of limited - and shrinking - resources. The buildings we live and work in are the largest single source of greenhouse gases, responsible for nearly half of all emissions. We have a responsibility to ourselves and later generations to change the way we build and operate buildings to reduce our impact on the world. The goal is to build buildings which have zero negative footprint on the environment. This is not a pipe-dream; the technologies exist, or have existed. What is missing is the real imperative or incentives to pursue their acceptance. We are still constructing our buildings using

methods and technologies that are woefully inefficient. We can do better. Let's take steps toward insuring our future today.

Certainly this is a short list of resolutions. I'm sure there are more that could be added to the list, but it's always better to start small. The resolutions are also stated simply. There is broad latitude within each resolution to do a little or a lot. Even doing small things will go a long way toward improving our built environment.

My hope is that a few people out there will take these goals as part of their new year's resolutions. Some of these offer significant challenges to our current way of doing things. Hopefully, unlike most of our own resolutions to lose weight, these will be resolutions that we keep. Not only will we be better, but our communities will be the real beneficiaries.

*John F. Benware, Jr. AIA
john.benware@gmail.com*

"Eastwords" is the monthly publication of the American Institute of Architects/Eastern Illinois Chapter. Opinions expressed are those of the particular author and not necessarily those of AIA/EIC. For information on advertising contact Ed Lugowski, AIA at (708) 895-4716 or ehlarh@aol.com. Submit articles to the Editor, Roxanne Paukner, at sfto1@aol.com. Deadline for March submissions is Thurs., Feb. 28.

This space available.

*For information on advertising
contact Ed Lugowski, AIA at
(708) 895-4716 or ehlarh@aol.com.*

This space available.

*For information on advertising
contact Ed Lugowski, AIA at
(708) 895-4716 or ehlarh@aol.com.*