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**Paul Jeffrey, AIA**

## A letter from the President



### Architecture in the Spotlight

Architecture and architects are getting a lot of attention by Nebraskans so far this year! Oh, it's not all the kind we hope for; proposed legislation to tax architectural services, and an occupation tax on services by architects, are getting the attention of our state legislators. It has taken a great deal of hard work by some of your fellow architects as well as our staff and lobbyist to keep these bills from advancing – and protecting our profession. Surely, that effort alone was worth all of your dues for a year; and then some. But don't relax; bills similar to these are sure to return in future years, and we'll again need your help to thwart them.

The GOOD kind of attention our

profession is getting comes in the form of:

- Don Polsky FAIA featured in local and regional publications;
- a proposal for producing Omaha city design standards is gaining momentum;
- Public workshops for design improvements happening all across Nebraska.

There are sure to be more opportunities to highlight the great things architects do in Nebraska in coming months. To be in the public's eye is a high priority for the AIA this year, across the state; the good kind, anyway.

The Spring Design Conference was a great success thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and attendees in Kearney in March. We are gearing up for a great 'Celebration of Architecture' at our Fall State Conference, to be held October 1- 2, 2003, at the new Omaha Convention Center. Make plans to attend – it's just around the corner from summer!

Your Board of Directors is working hard to make this a memorable and exciting year for architects and architecture in Nebraska. Join in to make it even better!

### AIA Nebraska 2003 Executive Committee Officers

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Bahr Vermeer Haecker

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**Executive Director:**  
**Sara A. Kay**



An AIA Publication  
2nd Quarter

# the nebraska architect®

## Nebraska Architects' Influence

Sara Kay

Exec. Director, AIA NE

Fifty architects joined forces at the Nebraska State Capitol to participate in the AIA Nebraska's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual legislative forum/luncheon. Members had an opportunity to hear first hand about developments expected to occur during the Legislative Session from the Speaker of the Legislature, Curt Bromm and Senator Ron Raikes, Chair of the Education Committee and member of Revenue Committee. AIA Nebraska lobbyist Gordon Kissel also

provided timely information. "The purpose of the forum is for members to gain knowledge of legislation affecting the practice, in addition to developing relationships with their State Senator," said AIA Nebraska President, Paul Jeffrey.

The profession of architecture was included in two separate bills to generate revenue for the state's budget deficient. LB 809 was the proposed occupation tax to be imposed on architects, engineers, attorneys and accountants, \$1,200.00 for architects practicing over 5 years; \$250.00 for architects practicing less than 5 years. This was indefinitely postponed one day after the hearing. LB 453 would impose a 7% sales tax on professional services, including architec-



### Day at the Capitol

AIA Nebraska President, Paul Jeffrey, Senator Pat Bourne, District 8 of Omaha, Joe Lang, AIA.

tural services. At this time it appears unlikely the professional tax will be included in the revenue package this year.

AIA Nebraska had representatives testify on both of these measures. Testifiers included Lloyd Meyer, AIA, Leo A Daly, Merle Bachman, HDR Inc.; Lowell Berg, AIA, The Clark Enersen Partners, Inc.; and Melinda Pearson, AIA, represented the Board of Engineers and Architects.

In response to a multitude of issues affecting membership a Government Affairs Committee is being formed. For further information please contact Sara Kay, Executive Director, [skay2@unl.edu](mailto:skay2@unl.edu) or 402/472-1456.

(See page 11 for further information.)

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### Excellence in Architecture AIA NE Design Awards Program

#### Deadlines

- Thursday, June 26, 2003 by 5:00 p.m. Submission of Registration Form and Payment for each entry due to AIA Nebraska.
- Thursday, July 31, 2003 by 5:00 p.m. Submission of Entries due to AIA Nebraska.

Award winners will not be notified in advance. Winners will be announced at the AIA Nebraska Design Conference Banquet on Thursday, October 2, at the First National Bank, Omaha.

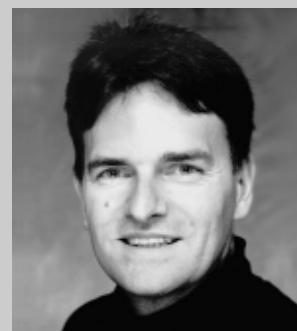


AIA Nebraska State Convention



omaha convention center & arena  
omaha, nebraska  
01-02 october 2003

PEOPLE PLACES AND SPACES



Craig Curtis, AIA, of Miller/Hull, Seattle, WA, is the 2003 AIA Nebraska Design Awards Jury Chair.

R - Prouty Place, Omaha, Location of AIA NE Opening Reception, October 1.

For more information, visit [www.aiane.org](http://www.aiane.org)



# Chapter News

## Architecture Hall and Beyond



**Pam Grell**  
AIAS President

With our past-President leaving to take over in Washington D.C. and others departed to London, a void in the leadership of AIAS presented itself. However, a group of fresh-faced executive board members that were more than willing to fill this void came forward. New perspectives coupled with the guidance of our national president-elect, Wayne Mortensen, has driven AIAS to expand its horizons beyond the confines of Architecture Hall in 2003.

In addition to our work with the Matt Talbot Soup Kitchen, AIAS has begun the formation of a committee solely devoted to community outreach. Programs we are currently exploring are Habitat for Humanity and Brite Lites. This increased opportunity has provided increased involvement and interaction between members.

AIAS has also just wrapped up a successful West Midwest Quad Conference. Students from all over the Midwest attended and participated in a number of lectures and workshops coordinated by the executive board. The conference occurred in conjunction with this year's Beaux Arts Ball. A plethora of togas, a live band, and a search light that could be seen from I-80 made the evening complete. Special

thanks to the architects of Sinclair Hille of Lincoln and Leo Daly of Omaha as well as the professors and administrators of the College of Architecture. This conference could not have been successful without their participation and financial support.

It is this type of connection to the profession is what makes AIAS so crucial to an education in architecture. Therefore, AIAS has participated in the recent AIA/Lively Omaha 11<sup>th</sup> Street Design Charette. Through word-of-mouth the demand for such events has become exponentially higher and has peaked the interest of members and students outside AIAS. It is such events that encourage students to make the transition from AIAS to AIA, students to professionals.

This connection has become the theme for the 2003 Brown Bag Lecture Series. We are exploring this connection or lack of connection between students and the

profession. If there is any interest in speaking to the students about this topic, I would encourage professionals to contact me. Any information we receive from both practicing and non-practicing architects is very beneficial to our members.

This is all very new and exciting territory for me. Any words of advice are greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to the challenges that will no doubt present themselves and the solutions that can reach through working with AIA NE and thank you for your assistance thus far.

Wayne Mortensen was elected as the 2003-2004 National AIAS President at the annual AIAS Forum in Chicago. His term will begin in July. Mortensen is the fifth AIAS President from the University of Nebraska.

## Fellow Associate Slackers



**Jeff Dolezal,**  
**Associate AIA**  
Associate Director, AIA Nebraska

It's me again. Sara has asked for my contribution to another letter of our AIA newsletter. The topic for today is YOU. You

and your AIA Associate Membership: to be specific. As your Associate Director I am investigating what makes you tick. I am trying to uncover what your interests are. What do you want out of your membership to the State AIA?

I am proposing an informal poll online. If you have writer's block: don't fret. I have taken the liberty of typing a few ideas relating to how we may improve our membership at the State Level.

- Form a subcommittee specifically designed for Associate Members. I know you want to be apart of this! We could have our own secret handshake.
- Start an online Associate Member AIA Forum/Help Desk hosted through the State AIA website.
- Hold a statewide Associate AIA Social Event.
- Hold a statewide Associate AIA Design Competition.
- (Insert your great idea here).

These are but humble beginnings of something much greater, but I need YOUR INPUT! Please, if you are an Associate Member, or not, e-mail me your thoughts at [jdolezal@rdgusa.com](mailto:jdolezal@rdgusa.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

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308-237-0187  
[midstateengr@nebi.com](mailto:midstateengr@nebi.com)

# Member News

## New Members

Steven Weber, AIA  
*Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects*

James Hutchinson, AIA  
*Hutchinson Design, PC*

James Koenig, AIA  
*James Koenig, Architect*

Bradley Brandenberg, AIA  
*Bradley E. Brandenberg & Associates*

Ralph Swinarski, AIA  
*Leo A Daly*

Leroy Svatora, AIA  
*Davis Design*

## Transfer AIA Members

Ryan Swanson, AIA  
*Ryan Swanson, Architect*

Charles Rownd, AIA  
*HDR Architecture, Inc.*

Tamara Say, AIA  
*Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects*

## Transfer AIA Associate Member

Ben Perry, Associate AIA  
*HDR Architecture, Inc.*

## New Associate Members

Shane Lewis, Associate  
*InVision Architecture*

Kevin Tedore, Associate AIA  
*RDG Schutte Wilscam Birge, Inc.*

Thomas Clark, Associate AIA  
*Design Basics, Inc.*

Brad Brooks, Associate AIA  
*Ayars & Ayars, Inc.*

Olamide Banwo, Associate AIA  
*HDR Architecture, Inc.*

Anthony McKenzie, Associate AIA  
*Frasier & Stokes Architects*

Gunner Riggert, Associate AIA  
*Leo A Daly*

Laura Lynn Dokken-Houston, Associate AIA  
*Holland Basham Architects*

Joseph Pawlowski, Associate AIA  
*Davis Design*

Kelly Korenoski, Associate AIA  
*Diamond Engineering & Architecture, Inc.*

Robert Ryckman, Associate AIA  
*HDR Architecture, Inc.*

Kenneth Millard, Associate AIA  
*Davis Design*

Ryan Kucera, Associate AIA  
*Carlson West Provoda*

## Member & Firm News

- **Leo A Daly** has acquired **SETTER LEACH & LINDSTROM**, a Minneapolis-based architecture & engineering firm.
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce announced **RDG Schutte Wilscam Birge Architects** as one of the fastest growing companies in Omaha.
- The Omaha Business Hall of Fame has named **Stanley How, AIA**, as one of six 2003 inductees.
- **Studio NRG** received an award for the F Street Recreation Center, best use of a commercial/institutional rehabilitation project.
- **Merle S. Bachman, AIA**, has been named president of HDR Architecture
- Druid Hill Elementary School, designed by **Jackson-Jackson & Associates**, was a featured school in American School & University 2002 Architectural Portfolio.
- **Lisa Lackovic, AIA Affiliate**, marketing director of Watkins Concrete Block has been appointed to the executive committee of the National Concrete Masonry Association.
- P + D House by **Randy Brown Architects LLC** was recognized in **Small Urban Interiors Book**
- **Randy Brown, AIA**, was appointed as the University of Nebraska Hyde Chair of Excellence in Architecture. Established in 1986, the Hyde Chair of Excellence allows the College of Architecture to attract visiting faculty of national and international distinction. Through this endowment, renowned scholars and practitioners are invited to spend a semester or more in responding at the College, working with and teaching architecture, interior design and planning students in studios, in seminar and in an informal mentor role.

### Preliminary Schedule:

#### Wednesday, October 1, 2003

- 8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament  
*Ironhorse Golf Course, Ashland*
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception -  
*Prouty Place, Omaha*

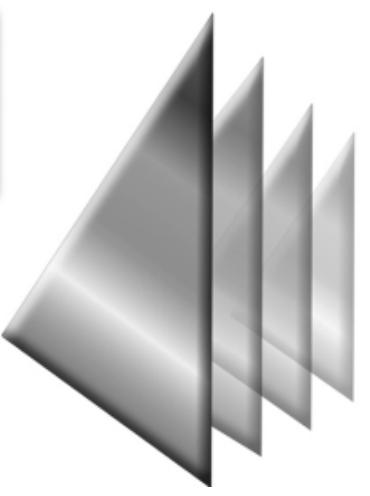
#### Thursday, October 2, 2003

- 8:00 a.m. Keynote Address/Continuing Education/Exhibition, Omaha Convention Center & Arena
- 6:30 p.m. AIA NE Design Awards Banquet, First National Bank, Omaha First National Tower

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# Member News

## 2003 AIA NE Western NE Spring Conference Exhibitors

**Thanks to the below exhibitors for their support. A special thank you to Spectra Engineering in alliance with Alvine Associates for sponsoring the Opening Reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney.**

**AMI Environmental**  
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402/397-5001

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Alma, NE 68920-0260  
308/920-0048

**Buildex, Inc.**  
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Ottawa, KS 66067-0077  
785/242-2177

**ComWall A Division of Iowa Paint**  
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800/659-4455

**Concrete Industries, Inc**  
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Lincoln, NE 68529-0529  
402/434-1800

**Dakota Wall Systems**  
9840 South 140th Street  
Omaha, NE 68164  
402/981-6520

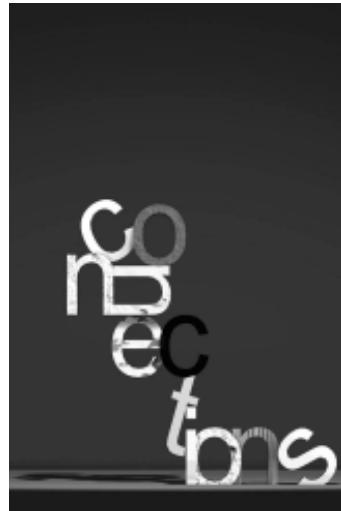
**Diamond Vogel Paints**  
7870 L' Street  
Omaha, NE 68127-0600  
402/592-2400

**Emanuel Construction Specialties, Inc**  
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Omaha, NE 68102-2606  
402/342-2920

**Endicott Clay Products Company**  
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Fairbury, NE 68352-0017  
402/239-8079

**Essex Industries**  
3047 North 70th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
42/464-5157

**Heartland Pella**  
2224 N. Broadwell  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308/384-0800



**Hirshfield's Inc.**  
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Urbandale, IA 50322-6312  
515/988-3207

**Kearney Crete-Christensen**

**Concrete Reimers Kaufman**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Block**

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Lincoln, NE 68507-3103

402/434-1855

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**Midland Garage Door Manufacturing**

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402/895-6575

**Nebraska Masonry Institute and Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association**

11414 W Center Rd Ste 211

Omaha, NE 68144-4420

402/330-5260



### Scenes from the Conference

**Top:** Participants of the Crane Watch sponsored by Roger Jasnoch of the Kearney Visitor's Bureau. Held in conjunction with the Spring Conference.

**Above:** Over 110 gathered to exchange information and view exhibits.

**Bottom:** Cranes migrating along the Platte River.

*Photographs courtesy of Kurt Schleicher, of Hirshfield's.*

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# Chapter News



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## Greetings Lincoln Chapter AIA Members



**Robert Koza, AIA**

President, AIA Lincoln Chapter

I had the good fortune to attend this year's national AIA Grassroots Leadership and Legislative Forum in Washington D.C. More than 600 members attended. To all who are looking for architectural inspiration in a historic context, a visit to D.C. is a must.

To those who are looking for a

"why" for AIA dues, a visit to AIA headquarters provides ample justification. We are all busy, but a little digging into the resources available at AIA can provide valuable insights into design, products, and practice. Check out [aia.org](http://aia.org) for more information.

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you got 'till it's gone..."

Was Joni Mitchell right? While the Metropolitan apartment building in Lincoln could hardly be considered "Paradise", the demolition of the 80-year old nine-story building and its metamorphosis into surface parking reminds us how fragile our built environment can be. The building had

deteriorated, but its demolition has left a hole in our urban environment. It would be naïve to say that once built, a building can never be demolished. However, architects are uniquely qualified to make judgments which structures are worthy of preservation.

Members are urged to stay aware of potential demolitions in the future, and use your judgment and enthusiasm to advocate preservation of items of architectural and cultural importance. Once demolished, that physical entity will be gone forever, and its replacement is unlikely to be as great of a presence.

The Lincoln chapter board has a director position open. If you're

interested in becoming a part of this active and involved board, please contact a board member.

### AIA Lincoln Chapter

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Randy Stramal, AIA

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Eric Maxwell, Associate AIA

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Steve Bertrand

# Chapter News

## Under Construction

Omaha Convention  
Center & Arena



## Omaha Convention Center & Arena Tour

AIA Omaha sponsored a construction tour of the Omaha Convention Center & Arena on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Over thirty people gained an insight to this unique facility. The group had the opportunity to stand at "center ice" and look around at what will be seating for 15,000 for a Hockey game and up to 17,000 for a concert. Other highlights included a look at the luxury suites and a view down from the upper concourse to the arena floor. The east terrace affords a great view of the river front construction activity. The convention center side also had some interesting elements including the 30,000 square feet ballroom, the massive open exhibit hall and the 700+feet long pre-function space that features a serpentine roof and full height glazing up to 92 feet. One of the first events at the new convention center this fall will be the AIA Nebraska Design Conference. If you missed the tour, attending the

conference would be a great way to experience the facility. Thank you to DLR Group for arranging and assisting with the tour.

## **University of Nebraska-Lincoln and LEO A DALY Team for AIA Case Study of Omaha's New First National Tower**

LEO A DALY and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Architecture, recently collaborated on a project submittal for "Case Studies in the Study and Practice of Architecture," a program sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The Case Study Program, currently in its second year, was developed by two AIA subcommittees, the Educator/Practitioner Net and the AIA Large Firm Roundtable. By assembling a body of shared practical knowledge from real-world experiences, the case studies are intended to serve as reference tools for the entire profession. The AIA also expects the program to foster meaningful dialogue between students and practitioners of architecture. Students learn first-hand from their professional counterparts, all the nuances that may occur during the reality of an individual project. The project featured in UNL's first case study submittal was the new First National Tower in Omaha, Nebraska.

ARCHI  
HOME TOUR  
TECT'S

On September 20<sup>th</sup> the Omaha Chapter will be presenting the *Architects Home Tour*. The event will showcase selected examples of residential design by members of the Omaha Chapter. Further information will be forthcoming, or contact Tamara Say AIA, at [tsay@bvh.com](mailto:tsay@bvh.com).

# Member News

## AIA Member Fights Terrorism

**Rob Hailey, AIA**

Lieutenant Colonel, NE National Guard

I'm a Registered Architect with HDR Architecture Inc from Omaha, Nebraska. I was asked by AIA Nebraska to tell you a little about me and my current mission in fighting terrorism for the United States of America. I am also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, I received a call from my higher headquarters that my unit was to be mobilized for active duty the following Monday for Operation Enduring Freedom. Stationed out of Lincoln, Nebraska, the unit assembled for one week to prepare for our deployment to our mobilization station at Fort Hood, Texas. After receiving validation and the loading of our equipment, we boarded an aircraft bound for Southwest Asia.

Due to operational security I can't tell you where we are and what we are doing, but one thing I can tell you is the overwhelming support that we have received from home. The soldiers are able to contact their loved ones by phone and/or email almost on a daily basis. We have to thank today's technology and our senior leadership for having the vision to keep the soldiers informed and their morale high during these stressful times.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Support Center (RAOC) provides terrain management and force protection for units moving in and out of the Corps Rear area. As commander of the unit, it is my responsibility to ensure that unit carries out its mission. At any given time we could have as few as fifteen units in our area of responsibility or as many as two hundred. We work in coordinating their location on the battlefield and providing them with the best force protection from the enemy.

The morale of our soldiers is at an all time high here. As we advance through the battlefield and watch the Regime fall, you wonder how the US soldiers can do so well in such horrific conditions. We have been in the field for several weeks working with soldiers from all around the United States and from Britain. I am so impressed at the professionalism and the respect that the soldiers have for their country and there fellow soldier. Soon the war will end and will have to transition into a peacekeeping mission, much like the one done in Kosovo, which our unit participated in 18 months ago for a six month rotation. I guess you can say that the Nebraska National Guard has done its part to keep the peace in the world. In addition, a lot of the credit needs to go out to the Employers of Nebraska for standing behind their employees and supporting the Nebraska Army and Air Force National Guards and Reserves Units.

As a soldier here on the ground, I can tell you that these people have lived in oppression long enough. The living conditions are not even close to our standards and there appears to be no middle class, either you're rich or poor and 95% of them are poor. Freedom will soon come for the people and the road to recovery will take some time, but without our presence this would have never been possible. On behalf of the soldier of the 41<sup>st</sup> RAOC, we are honored to serve our country and strive for the freedom of others. We stand tall, knowing that our



**AIA Nebraska  
Rob Hailey,  
AIA, defending  
country abroad.**

citizens are behind us, and are praying for our safe return. I thank you for the opportunity to express my sincere thanks and support to the soldiers at war and to those soldiers that are protecting the safety of our homeland. I also would like to thank the entire American people for supporting our families and for the moral courage you have endured to us, thank you again and GOD BLESS AMERICA.

## AIA Contributes to UNL Emergency Student Loan Fund



AIA Nebraska President Paul Jeffrey, AIA presents Dean Wayne Drummond, FAIA, College of Architecture, \$2,000 to begin a student emergency loan fund to aid UNL College of Architecture students in time of difficulty.

# Member News

## Award-winners:

*below:* UNL parking garage, Bahr Vermeer Haeger Architects.  
*right:* 1950's farmhouse bathroom remodel, Randy Brown Architects



## Nebraska Firms Earn Awards, International Recognition

Several architectural projects designed by Nebraska firms Bahr Vermeer Haeger Architects and Randy Brown Architects LLC have caught national and international attention recently.

A UNL parking garage designed by Bahr Vermeer Haeger Architects (BVH) received the top award from the International Parking Association for the large facility design.

BVH was part of the design/build team chosen by UNL to design and construct the first in a series of multi-level parking garages. The first garage, located at 17th and R Streets in Lincoln, accommodates 1,715 vehicles and provides over 15,000 square feet of useable retail space on the ground level. The garage was completed in Fall 2001.

Randy Brown Architects LLC has been honored with two national Residential Architect Design Awards 2003 by Residential Architect magazine, to be published in the May issue. The two winning projects were a remodel of a bathroom in an existing 1950's farmhouse and a custom designed fireplace/media wall.

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## Don Polsky, FAIA, Elevated to Fellow

A Jury of Fellows from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated Don Polsky, FAIA, and 61 other members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the profession. The recently elevated fellows, who are entitled to use the designation "FAIA" following their names, were inducted into the College of Fellows on May 9 at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif. during the 2003 AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in San Diego, Calif.

The Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of architects as individuals, but also their significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Out of a total AIA membership of nearly 70,000, there are fewer than 2,400 distinguished with the honor of fellowship. The elevation to fellowship is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA who have made significant contributions in one or more areas.

Don Polsky, FAIA, pioneered the design-build delivery process, helped develop national AIA Policy on political endorsements, and has designed numerous award winning houses.

Don received the AIA Nebraska 2002 Cunningham Gold Medal. He currently works with Randy Brown, AIA, of Randy Brown Architects, as well as teaches design at the University of Nebraska College of Architecture, sharing his energy and creativity to benefit countless future architects.

*You are cordially invited to participate in the*

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For additional information or to reserve a space,  
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# Chapter News

## AIA is Our One Voice

**Martin Janousek, AIA**

President, AIA Omaha Chapter

The first week in March three of us from the AIA Omaha board along with board members from AIA Lincoln attended a conference called Grassroots. This conference is a leadership workshop that takes place in Washington D.C. and involves other AIA chapters from around the country all organized by the AIA National Headquarters. I know many of you have heard about this before since most past presidents have attended this conference. For myself it's the second time and both times I came away with new insight, energy and frustration. Frustration? Yes, frustration. During this conference attendees have a chance to learn about other chapter's programs, initiatives, speaker series, committees, newsletters, web sites, continuing education programs, parties, affiliate programs, urban design committees, public outreach...blah...blah...blah!

At first when this frustration occurred I rationalized that we're a small chapter, a small state and few architects. We don't have all the resources that other states have and we're here in the middle of the country and what can you expect. Well, I do expect more...I want more. We need more! Nebraska has some of the largest architectural firms in the nation located here. (Note: 50 or more employees are large.) But our architecture hasn't really set the world on end. Our cities aren't exactly canvases painted by architects, planners and visionary people. Those that should lead haven't lead and most firms have just followed and I'm talking all size firms. Yes, we've had excellent people in the past but remember I said the past. I want to challenge all the states principals, partners and owners of large and small firms to find their best and brightest and encourage them to join the AIA and be active. The AIA should be just as important as joining the Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce or any other board. The more programs we've sponsored outside our "Professional Circle" the more we've been approached by non-architects in the community asking for our involvement. I believe people want us (Architects) to be more visible, active and engaged. The AIA is our one voice and our vehicle for change and civic engagement. Our communities need our one voice but we can't

do everything by the hard work of a few. Principals should help their office's future leaders financially if that's what it takes to join. The dividends can be great; you just need the right investment.

AIA Omaha has worked hard forming committees and programs all in need of volunteers. This past year we've had seats open up on city boards all deserving of an AIA Architect. We've given an endorsement for a city board to an individual who wasn't even an architect. Now, there's an issue brewing about town dealing with "Design Standards" that people other than architects seem more interested in. Are we now giving up one more part of our profession to a

committee of realtors, developers, and bankers? I want to believe we spent way too many nights in studio during college to let this happen. We have a state newsletter that could use an editor and writers. There is no reason why our state couldn't be the most architecturally active. We have talented people here I know. They just need some encouragement to get involved with the AIA. Please don't ask the question why the AIA doesn't do more. Because instead, we need to ask why you haven't done more.

I'm finished...Thanks for putting up with this rant...But in the end, maybe we don't have to turn the world on end but I just wish we could tip the world a little.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Street Design Charette

On Saturday April 12 AIA Omaha and Lively Omaha ([www.livelyomaha.org](http://www.livelyomaha.org)) partnered to conduct a design charette for the Old Market district in downtown Omaha. The charette was a continuation of an evaluation process started by Lively Omaha back in November by conducting a "Place Game" workshop with members of the Old Market community. The charette focused on 11<sup>th</sup> Street from Farnam Street at the north to Leavenworth Street at the south.

The charette resulted in several ideas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street that will be assembled into a program document for Lively Omaha to use for the procurement of grants to help implement many of the ideas from the charette and the Place Game. Many thanks to the diverse group of Architects, planners, architecture students, interior designers and graphic designer for giving up a Saturday to help the Omaha community. The charette was a huge success for the AIA, Lively Omaha and the city of Omaha.

# Chapter News

## AIA Omaha Events



**Martin Janousek, AIA**

President, AIA Omaha Chapter

Yes, you're right, AIA Omaha President didn't submit a letter for the first 2003 issue of our organizations newsletter. Instead, all anyone got from the Omaha President was a smashing photo of a chiseled and well-defined face to admire....Yeah! My photo.... Please let me enjoy the moment. Well, anyway, that wasn't what I had planned and I should thank all my friends who enjoyed sending me copies with mustaches and pirate patches applied. My excuse would have to be that AIA Omaha has been busy.

The year as President started 3 months early in 2002 when the Cathedral Arts Project invited us to participate in their annual "Flower Festival". The C.A.P. wanted to highlight architecture for this years weekend long event on January 25th to 26<sup>th</sup>. So AIA Omaha sent out 77 letters to all AIA Nebraska firms inviting everyone to participate and got responses back from 13. The mostly Omaha firms submitted boards and models highlighting their companies work and history. Everything was displayed in Saint Cecilia's New Cultural Center in a gallery that will eventually house a permanent exhibit on Thomas Kimball. That weekend over 8,000 people attended this event with people coming as far away as Kansas City, Des Moines and Minneapolis. Over 2,000 people came through the New Cultural Center and 300 people attended the opening night patron party. Both days, these people came to view all the quality work from our local architects. We had models of a pedestrian bridge, skyscraper, chapel and others. Plus boards showing everything from homes, commercial, and educational projects. The response from the public was great and many people were disappointed to find out the display would only last the weekend. We had press coverage in 3 different articles in the World Herald along with radio spots weeks in advance. To say no one knew anything about it would be disappointing. Thanks to all the offices who participated and a great Programs Committee (Greg Staskiewicz, Mike Hamilton, Mike Kros, Tamara Say,

Pat Leahy, Scott Heaney, Bryan Nielsen, Nicolette Amundson, Standard Digital Imaging and many others) this event would not have gone off as well as it did. It went so well, we've been asked to do it again next year.

We've had a LEED program already. Other events planned for the year, are the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Charette with a group called "Lively Omaha", The Nebraska Brick/Seedorff Masonry sponsored Brick Seminar at the end of March, and a tour of the new Omaha Convention Center and Arena, our tribute to "March Madness". There's a possible presentation on the \$1,000,000 dual temperament organ being installed in Omaha. It's the second one ever built in the world with the first being in Dresden, Germany. We'll have a chance to hear from the craftsmen

### AIA Omaha Committees could use your help

#### Design Advocacy Committee

Contact: Patrick Leahy: [pleahy@hdrinc.com](mailto:pleahy@hdrinc.com)

#### Programs Committee

Contact: Mike Hamilton: [mhamilton@rdgusa.com](mailto:mhamilton@rdgusa.com)

#### Public Outreach Committee

Contact: Greg Staskiewicz: [gtaskiewicz@dlrgroup.com](mailto:gtaskiewicz@dlrgroup.com)

#### Architects and Their Homes Tour Committee

Contact: Tamara Say: [tsay@bvh.com](mailto:tsay@bvh.com)

#### Summer Arts Festival Committee

Contact: Cathy Rupprecht: [crupprecht@rdgusa.com](mailto:crupprecht@rdgusa.com)



installing this instrument who are here from Austria, Switzerland, and the US. Keep your eyes open for future announcements. Later in the year, we have a tour/presentation by world-renowned artist Jun Kaneko. It will be about his work and future museum. Then ending the year with the crème de la crème program of "Architects and Their Homes Tour". If you want to help with this one please let us know (Mike Hamilton @ RDG and Tamara Say @ BVH) it's already shaping up to be a great event.

Thanks everyone for volunteering and helping out. None of this would be possible without everyone's enthusiasm and hard work along with their firm's support. Looks like we have another great year in the works.

### AIA Omaha Chapter

#### President

Martin J. Janousek, AIA

#### President Elect

Michael J. Kros, AIA

#### Secretary

Robert R. Krupa, AIA

#### Treasurer

Roger Dochling, AIA

#### Director

John Hrvnak, AIA

#### Associate Directors

Greg Staskiewicz, Assoc AIA

Bryan Nielsen, Assoc. AIA

Michael P Hamilton, Assoc. AIA

#### Past President

Patrick J. Leahy, AIA

### Cans Festival

AIA Omaha and the Omaha Food Bank held their annual "Cans Festival" the week of March 23. Local AIA firms teamed up with Omaha corporations to create sculptures out of cans, boxes, and bags. These sculptures were then displayed at the Westroads Mall and when completed all proceeds went to the Omaha Food Bank.

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year AIA Omaha has participated in this event. AIA Omaha originated this program and it has since been implemented by other chapters nationally. Thanks to the following AIA Nebraska firms who volunteered this year: Carlson West Povondra, DLR, HDR, Leo A Daly, and Zenon Beringer Mabrey. If your firm is interested in volunteer opportunities next year please e-mail [mijanousek@leoadaly.com](mailto:mijanousek@leoadaly.com)

# State News

## Architects Escaped this Time

**Sara Kay**

Executive Director, AIA Nebraska

The first session of the 98<sup>th</sup> Legislature is coming to an end and architects have narrowly escaped once again. If you have been reading your AIA Nebraska e-mails you will know architects have been targeted this year for an occupation tax and professional sales tax. Thus far, we have been successful with the Revenue Committee in holding the professional sales tax in Committee and indefinitely postponing the occupation tax. Such taxes would be detrimental to the practice and viability of Nebraska architectural firms, placing Nebraska at a competitive disadvantage over firms from other states.

AIA Nebraska applauds the efforts

## Economist to Study Impact of Taxation

AIA Nebraska received a \$5,000 matching grant to hire an economist to study the impact of taxation on architectural services and develop a comprehensive report on the detrimental effects to Nebraska's economy, including decline of employment and loss of income to state revenue. The economist will also focus on the theoretical implications to a buyer/client and seller/architect of a product/service. This information will be utilized in opposing the expanded taxation of architectural services in Nebraska and other states.

The report will be disseminated among AIA Nebraska members, Nebraska state government leaders including members of the Nebraska Unicameral, Nebraska Department of Revenue, University of Nebraska and AIA State Components.

of Gordon Kissel, Amy Prenda and Susan Rodenburg of Kissel E&S Associates for their expertise and hard work in supporting the profession and fighting on our behalf. Much of our success is also from the guidance of AIA NE Government Affairs Chair, John Sinclair, AIA.

Our members deserve much credit and appreciation for their telephone calls, letter writing campaigns and personal visits to their respective State Senator. Thank you to those who testified. Everyone's efforts truly make an impact on their decision making process.

This year is a prime example of the benefits and value of your membership to AIA Nebraska at work. Collectively working together we saved each practicing architect in Nebraska an occupation tax of either \$250 or \$1,200, as well as a 7% sales tax to gross receipts. Examples of AIA Nebraska's grassroots legislative efforts includes:

- communicating to our members the latest legislative developments;
- sponsoring a legislative forum/luncheon;
- coordinating and writing testimony/talking points to present before the Legislature;
- working directly with lobbyist and state senators.

Reality is we escaped this year, yet taxation of architectural services will not disappear. We must be prepared to meet future challenges head-on. You will learn more of AIA's vision in the coming months.

## Status of Legislation Impacting AIA Members

**LB 453 (Aguilar)** Imposes a sales tax on the services of engineers, architects, attorneys and accountants. **Status: Remains in Revenue Committee.** **Comment: Unlikely to advance.**

**LB 492 (Tyson)** Provide for community colleges and state colleges under the Nebraska Schools Construction Alternatives Act to enter into design-build contracts. **Status: Remains in Government Committee.**

**LB 599 (Tyson)** Authorizes the Board of Engineers and Architects to regulate the provisions provided for in the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act through rules and regulations as adopted using the procedure of the Negotiated Rulemaking Act. **Status: Remains in Health and Human Services Committee.**

**LB 643 (Harnett)** Amend the State Building Code to include the International Building Code. **Status: Remains on General File.** **Comment: Urban Affairs Committee Priority.**

**LB 809 (Appropriations Committee)** Imposes an occupation tax on architects in private practice, as well as engineers, attorneys and accountants. The tax below would have applied annually to every architect in private practice registered in the State of Nebraska: \$250 - Practice 5 years or less; \$1,200 - Practice 5 years or more. **Status: Indefinitely Postponed.**

**LR 2 CA (Pederson)** Exemption for increased value of real property resulting from improvements designed primarily for the purpose of renovating, rehabilitating, or preserving historically significant real property. Constitutional amendment to be submitted to the electors at the November 2004 general election. **Status: Speaker Signed.**

## Craig Curtis, 2003, AIA NE Jury Chair

Craig Curtis began his career with Miller/Hull in 1989, becoming a partner in 1994. Miller/Hull is the 2003 AIA Firm of the Year. From 1984-86 Curtis was with Austin Hansen Fehlman Group of San Diego, CA. He received a Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Science degrees from Washington State University.

Curtis has received approximately 30 award or merit awards from AIA Seattle over the past 11 years. Selected award winning projects include: Pierce County Environment Services Building, Brainbridge Island City Hall, Campbell Orchard Residence, Pt. Roberts

Border Station, EWU Student Union, Passenger-Only Ferry Terminal.

His experience as a jury member includes the Sunset Magazine/AIA Western Home Awards and Seattle Daily Journal Commerce, Project of the Month.

Throughout his career he has lectured at many education institutes including Washington State, University of Washington and North Kitsap School District. His involvement with AIA has been instrumental, serving as chair for the Washington State AIA-AELC (Architects and Engineers Legislative Council); AIA Florida: Jacksonville Lecture Series.

# State News

## AIA Grassroots/ Central States Update

**Michael A. James, AIA**

**AIA President Elect**

All of the delegates from the Central States region met for a meeting to discuss the budget and issues coming before the Central States Region. The budget set for 2003 is very similar to that of 2002. The total budget for 2003 went down approximately \$2,000 from 2002. This amount was mainly in the reserve contribution. A major issue discussed was having the members respond to the CSR representatives on issues or questions via e-mail. It was also suggested that we try to not schedule conferences on either Mother's Day or Father's Day.

It was a cold and windy Thursday that over 700 Architects from all over the country went to Capital Hill. The issues we discussed were Qualifications Based Selection process, Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21), Architects as Community Leaders, and Building Security through Design. The Nebraska contingent met with Senators Hagel and Nelson as well as the Chief of Staff for Terry and Bereuter. We talked about the Antelope Valley Project in Lincoln as well as the role of Architects as leaders in the community and our role in the design of structures, solving the security measures while



keeping the scale and function inviting. We left literature with the congressmen's offices and offered ourselves as a resource for any future issues. The AIA Institute also offered workshops on Thursday at the same time as the Capital Hill visits, covering Security through Design and Profession Services Taxes.

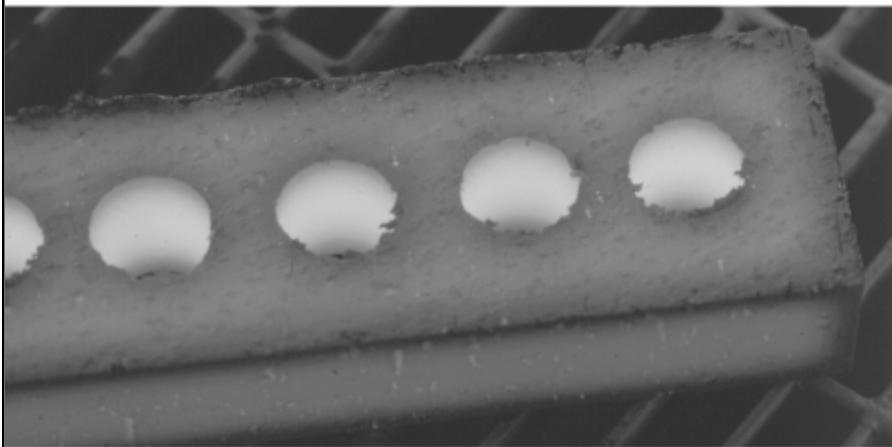
The leadership programs were varied and well attended. They ranged from Creating Non-revenue dues, Ethics, Volunteers and Organizational skills. A visit to the AIA offices was offered with the Institute staff available to discuss any issue. I understand the food served was wonderful. The next day was filled with general sessions, introduction of 2003 candidates, workshops and business meetings. Leo A

Daly sponsored a tour of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The general session had a survey that everyone took electronically. The results were instantaneous and we were informed that this would be the new format for voting at the National Convention in the future. This was a wonderful opportunity for Architects to come together to share ideas, goals and issues that affect us all as a community as well as the individual. For all of you considering attending in the future; if the speakers, forums or workshops don't inspire you the surrounding architecture certainly will. I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend and bring back some ideas that I hope to implement next year.

### Capital Hill Visit

L to R: Mike Kros, AIA; Michael James, AIA; Randy Stramel, AIA; U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel; Sara Kay; Greg Staskiewicz, Associate AIA; Bob Koza, AIA; and Martin Janousek, AIA

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# Chapter News

## AIA Western Chapter Activities Unfolding



**Dan Keiter, AIA**

President, AIA Western Chapter

Only four months into my term as Chapter President and much has already transpired! While officers of the Western Chapter of AIA are elected for a two year term, it becomes quickly obvious that time is nonetheless fleeting. 2003 is unfolding rapidly and several significant issues and events have already been marked.

The Spring Conference in Kearney, a significant event in the Western Chapter calendar, was held March 30/April 1. With a record-breaking number of vendor booths, and great AIA member participation, Sara Kay and Amanda Harshbarger once again did an excellent job in organizing this years Spring Conference! This event continues to provide a wonderful and much appreciated opportunity for Western Chapter and all AIA Nebraska members to fulfill their Continuing Education requirements. More importantly, the Spring Conference serves a vital role in maintaining peer contact within our profession. The participation of the Lincoln and Omaha AIA Chapter members in the Western Chapter Spring Conference brings additional benefits in promoting statewide communication between all AIA members. The Western Chapter thanks Sara and Amanda for their concerted efforts in organizing this event and the Omaha and Lincoln Chapter representatives who took the time to attend the Spring Conference this year. The opening reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art, sponsored by Spectra Engineering, LLC, in alliance with Alvine and Associates, Inc, on Monday evening, was a wonderful kickoff for the conference. Please remember to thank these sponsors and all the various Exhibitors who provided product displays, the next time you visit with them.

Many of us, with schedules full and deadlines bearing down, find ourselves facing legislative issues, some old and some new, that would normally not show up on our 'Architectural Tasks' radar screens. I am referring specifically to LB453 and LB809. While our State AIA leadership and Legislative

Lobbyist have been on top of the many issues which could have significant impact on our livelihood, I encourage each of you to inform yourselves of these and all legislative issues. On January 30th, I called on my Grassroots experience as I met with several Senators in Lincoln during AIA's annual Legislative Forum and Luncheon. Personal contact with your District's Senator is critical and is appreciated by the Senators. A short, well-focused visit, whether at the Capitol or in the Senator's home-town, can be both effective and eye-opening. Making our presence known today, at all levels of State Government will serve our future purposes. Please contact myself, Sara Kay or John Sinclair, our Government Affairs Representative, if you have any questions or comments concerning these and any other legislative issues.

I certainly welcome the opportunities and challenges that are present in the office of Chapter President. Participation in the monthly AIA Executive meetings, while logically challenging, is very rewarding and personally enjoyable, as these meetings are held at different AIA member offices each month. Of greatest value is the development of professional and personal relationships and the sharing of ideas and resources.

Improved member networking at the Chapter and State level remains an important issue for the Western Chapter. While the availability of technology has the potential to shorten the distances, it still remains incumbent upon each of us to take the time to put the technology to use.

The Western Chapter meets at least 4 times each year. Its third meeting will be scheduled for mid to late summer. All members are reminded to mark their calendars and plan to attend to the 2003 AIA Fall Conference at the Omaha Convention Center this fall.

### AIA Western Nebraska Chapter

*President*

Daniel C. Keiter, AIA

*President Elect*

Jeffrey L. Hinrichs, AIA

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