

## AIA Japan

RK Building 7F  
2-13-10 Shimo-meguro  
Meguro-ku, Tokyo  
Japan, 153-0064

Tel: 03-3491-1577  
Fax: 03-3491-0494  
e-mail: mail@aiajapan.org  
http://www.aiajapan.org

### AIA Japan 2009 Board

#### President:

Geeta Mehta, Ph.D, AIA

#### Treasurer:

Michel van Ackere, AIA

#### Secretary:

Hisaya Sugiyama, AIA

#### Directors:

George Kunihiro, FAIA

Wasaku Kuno, AIA

James Lambiasi, AIA

Jun Mitsui, AIA

Yasuyuki Sakurai, AIA

Shigeru Yamaki, AIA

Nicolai Kruger, Assoc. AIA

Martin van der Linden, Assoc. AIA

Yasuyuki Yanagisawa, Assoc. AIA

#### 2011 Regional Conference Preparation Committee

\* Nicolai Kruger

Hisaya Sugiyama

#### Award Program Committee

\* Yasuyuki Yanagisawa

Michael Thanner

#### CES / Lecture Series Committee

\* James Lambiasi

#### Publicity / Website Committee

\* John Mader

Yasuyuki Sakurai

#### Newsletter Committee

\* George Kunihiro

Martin van der Linden

#### November 2009 Event Committee

\* Jun Mitsui

Harutaka Oribe

\* Chairperson

Graphics:

Yoshifumi Nakano

Hideyuki Suzuki



# AIA Japan

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

## Newsletter - February 2009 (No. 3)

## Newsletter - February 2009 (No. 3)

### Letter from the 2008 AIA Japan President

I would like to thank you for your commitment to the AIA and our AIA Japan Chapter over the past year, and I sincerely look forward to your continued support as we begin 2009. It has been an honor to serve as the AIA Japan President alongside our very dedicated Board of Directors, to whom I would like to extend my gratitude as we lead our still very young chapter into its fourth year of operation.

I believe that we were able to make significant accomplishments in 2008. We arranged several events in our lecture series, allowing our AIA Japan members to have valuable access to CES credits. Our 2nd annual AIA Japan Design Award program gave this year's recipients recognition from a distinguished panel of architectural critics, and the opportunity to compete further in regional and national design award programs. Furthermore, for the first time we invited architecture students in Japan to submit projects in their own design award category, which we feel was a great community outreach success that we hope to continue in future years. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Design Award Ceremony in November, and I was very happy that we could once again gather as a community to support each other, as we endeavor to raise our own visibility as AIA qualified professionals.

There is indeed much work to be done in the future, and I am very confident that under the leadership of our incoming President, Prof. Geeta Mehta, 2009 will see even more progress. I would like to stress that all of the work accomplished so far has been pure volunteer effort by our members, and I strongly encourage everyone to become involved in order to have your own input into the direction in which our AIA Japan community continues. Your volunteer time, participation in events, and communication of your opinions are all vital to our continued growth, so on behalf of myself and Geeta in the upcoming year, I invite all members to contact us directly and let us know how you would like to contribute.

Best Regards,

James Lambiasi, AIA  
AIA Japan, 2008 President



Dinner with the Jury of 2008 AIA Japan Design Award



AIA Japan - Bounenkai 2008

### Corporate Affiliate Sponsors



American Hardwood Export Council



DAIKO Electric Co., Ltd.



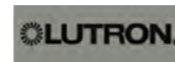
ERCO Lighting Ltd.



GranitiFiandre S.p.A



Halfen GmbH



LUTRON Electronics



Marvin Windows and Doors Japan



Temple University Japan Campus



AIA Japan thanks the Corporate Affiliate Sponsors for continuing support of our Chapter in Japan.

### Message from the President

AIAジャパン会員の皆様

今年度の役員会を代表致しまして、私たちのまだ発足して日が浅い職能団体の今日まで三年間の目を見張る発展にご助力をいただいた会員の皆様に深く感謝申し上げます。

AIAジャパンの会員の皆様は、建築家というグローバルな職能にて社会へ重要な貢献をされており、AIAジャパンの使命はその会員の皆様に時宜を得たサービスを提供することであると思います。私たちの協会は会員制団体ですので、会員の皆様のご意見を随時反映し、新しいアイデアをご提案していただき、さらに使命を遂行するためにリーダーシップを発揮していただく場をご提供するオープンな組織です。現在、AIAジャパンでは以下の会員サービスをご提供しておりますが、同時に皆様のご提案を、随時募集しております。

- CES (継続教育システム) による研修事業では、隔月第3金曜日にゲストをお招きし、講演会を開催しております。また、2009年よりHSW(健康・安全・福祉)単位の他にSD(サステナビリティー・デザイン)単位の取得も可能になりました。
- AIAジャパンのホームページでは会員の皆様の紹介や求人広告、お知らせ等を掲載しています。
- 建築家職能ネットワークでは、年間を通していくつかのイベントを開催し、会員の皆様のビジネスチャンスを演出し、また、同志から様々な体験を学習する機会を設けております。
- 紅葉の秋に開催される恒例のAIA Japan Award (AIAジャパン・デザイン賞) では、優秀な建築作品を賞賛、表彰し支部の建築デザインレベルの向上を図っております。
- 2008年度より、アメリカ留学を志す日本国内の学生たちとの積極的な交流を開始し、AIA Japan学生賞も設立致しました。
- さらに2011年にAIA ジャパンが主催するNorthwest and Pacific Regional Conference (AIA北西・太平洋地域大会)の準備を始めております。どうぞ皆様もふるってご協力、ご参加ください。

AIAジャパンはAIA北西・太平洋地域とAIA国際委員会のメンバー支部です。また、AIAジャパン会員にはアメリカ国内のみならず、国際的に多くのイベント、奨学金、後援、奨励賞などに参加するチャンスがございます。是非、これらの機会に参加されることをお勧め致します。そして、国内では、日本建築家協会(JIA)との協定のもと、相互関係を深めており、JIA主催の様々なイベントへも招待されるようになりました。

以上、私のご挨拶とさせていただきますが、会員の皆さま、ご質問、ご提案がございましたら、是非、私のメールアドレス (president@aiajapan.org) までご連絡頂きたいと思っております。

皆様の積極的な活動を期待しております。

ギーター・メータ Ph.D. AIA  
AIAジャパン2009年会長

Dear AIA Japan Members,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank you for being part of our young professional association, which has made impressive progress over the past three years since its founding.

Members of AIA Japan provide services of critical importance to our globalizing profession, and the mission of AIA-J is to support you in doing so. Since ours is a membership organization, each one of you is empowered to propose new ideas, and to come forth to take a leadership role towards this mission. The services AIA-J currently provides are listed below, and we are always open to new ideas:

- CES learning opportunities: We hold lecture events on the third Fridays of alternate months. From this year, we will also include opportunities to earn sustainability design credits besides fulfilling health the safety requirements.
- The AIA website includes member profiles, job listings and announcements.
- Professional Network: Periodic events and meetings to help promote your business and for members to learn from each other.
- AIA-J Design Awards and reception in autumn acknowledge and celebrate excellence in design.
- Since last year we are making a special effort to engage Japanese students interested in studying in the US.
- We are also starting preparations to host the annual Northwest and Pacific Regional Conference in Tokyo in 2011.

As AIA-J is both part of the AIA's Northwest and Pacific Region and the International Committee, AIA Japan members also have many opportunities to participate in the events, scholarship, sponsorship and award programs in US and internationally. I encourage you to avail of these. We are also continuing to strength our relationship with JIA, and AIA Japan members are frequently invited to their events.

Should you have any questions about our programs or ideas you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact me at [president@aiajapan.org](mailto:president@aiajapan.org).

I look forward to your active engagement,

Geeta Mehta, Ph.D. AIA  
AIA Japan, 2009 President



Northwest and Pacific Regional Conference  
Honolulu, HI 2008

### Northwest and Pacific Regional Conference 2011

Following Anchorage, Alaska in 2009 and Eugene, Oregon in 2010, AIA Japan has been selected to host the Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference in fall of 2011. This will be a great opportunity to showcase Japan's unique built environment and context for design practice to our fellow AIA members. Early planning is underway.

There are many aspects to preparing for a regional conference. The first steps include designing the program, reaching out to prospective sponsors, speakers, partners and publicizing the event. In the coming months we will be calling on all of the creative talent within our membership for assistance with: program planning; call for speakers; fund raising; publicity; mailing directory; registration and general logistics.



The New Tokyo City Hall Complex  
Shinjuku, Tokyo 1991

## George Kunihiro Elevated to the College of Fellows (FAIA)

AIA Japan is pleased to announce that our member George Kunihiro has been elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows.

The AIA elevated 112 architects to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor given to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession. Out of a membership of more than 86,000, there are fewer than 2,600 AIA members distinguished with the honor of fellowship.

George Kunihiro received the A.B. from University of California, Berkeley and the M.Arch from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is a professor of Architecture at the Kokushikan University and a principal at George Kunihiro Architect and Associates in Tokyo since 1997. George joined the AIA Los Angeles Chapter in 1981 and currently serves on the Board of the AIA Japan Chapter.

## AIA Event List 2009

**AIA 2009 National Convention and Design Exposition**  
-The Power of Diversity: Practice in a Complex World

**April 30 - May 2**  
Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA

**2009 Northwest & Pacific Region Annual Conference**  
September 17-19  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Cityscape Dubai Conference & Exhibition**  
October 5-8  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**AIA Japan 2009 Design Awards Ceremony**  
November 14  
Tokyo, Japan

## Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference News

2008 Conference - Honolulu, HI  
AIA Japan is a member of the Northwest & Pacific Region which holds annual regional conferences hosted by a different member component on a rotating basis. The purpose of the Conference is to provide a forum for the Region Annual Meeting and to advance the profession of architecture by gathering component members, individual AIA members, Associates, faculty and students of Schools of Architecture in the Region. Attendees enjoy fellowship by participating in lectures, exhibits, educational tours, professional development seminars and the annual regional design awards program.

The 2008 AIA Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference was hosted by AIA Honolulu from October 7 - 10. It brought together over 400 architects from Alaska, Guam, Hawai'i, Hong Kong, Idaho, Japan, Montana, Oregon and Washington. AIA Japan was represented by Wasaku Kuno, Yasuyuki Yanagisawa and Nicolai Kruger. The theme of the Hawaii 2008 Regional conference was Crossroads of Design & Diversity. Keynote sessions included: Ed Mazria, Architecture 2030, The 2030 Challenge; Peter Bohlin, FAIA, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, The Nature of Circumstance; Marshall Purnell, FAIA, 2008 AIA National President.

Save the Date for the 2009 Northwest and Pacific Region Conference, September 17-19 in Anchorage, Alaska. See <http://www.aianwpr.org> for more information.

## AIA Japan Lecture 2008

Thanks to all members who have participated in lectures this year sponsored by AIA Japan. All events were registered with the AIA Continuing Education System and all members received CES points for their participation. In addition to the lectures co-sponsored with the Tokyo Planning Forum, we had two lectures provided by our Corporate Affiliate Sponsors. We are grateful to all of our lecturers who volunteered their valuable time for this, as well as to Temple University Japan for providing us with the lecture venue.

- **"The Basics of Lighting Design"**  
Speaker: Miyako Ukita, ERCO Lighting Ltd.
- **"Learning from Dharavi: The Informal City"**  
Speakers: Prof. Geeta Mehta, Temple University Japan & Matias Echanove, Research Student at University of Tokyo
- **"Dubai: Market & Cityscape"**  
Speaker: Shigeru Yamaki, AIA Architect, Taisei Corporation
- **"Housing ReForms"**  
Speaker: René Davids, FAIA, Professor of Architecture at UC Berkeley
- **"Thermal Aspects of Facade Design: European regulations and practice viewed from Japan"**  
Speaker: Mr Philipp Schaefers, Facade Engineer Halfen Germany



James Lambiasi, AIA presented a certificate of appreciation to René Davids after his lecture.



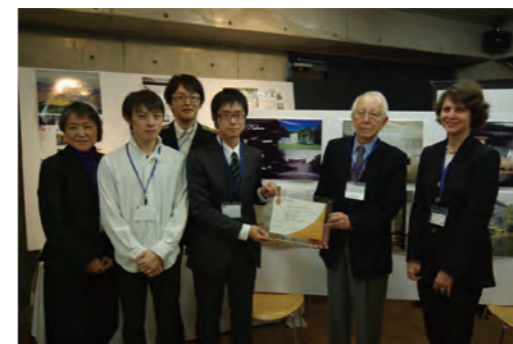
James congratulating Matias Echanove and Geeta Mehta, Ph.D, AIA after their lecture to AIA-J

## 2008 AIA Japan Design Award

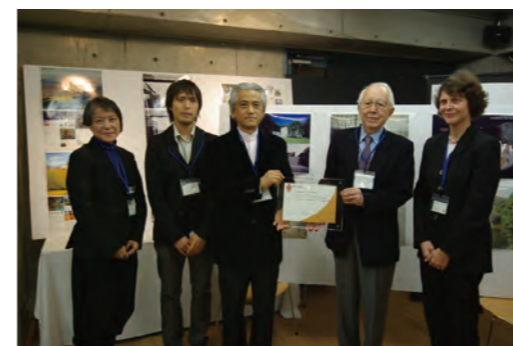
The Second AIA Japan Chapter Design Award was successfully held on November 15, 2008 at Daikan-yama Hillside Terrace. We had more projects than the Award in 2007; 22 entries in total submitted not only by AIA professions but also students studying Architecture at Universities in Japan. AIA Japan was also gifted with enormous understanding and support from three jury members; Mr. Fumihiko Maki, Ms. Yoko Kinoshita and Ms. Naomi Pollack. AIA Japan enjoyed a great turn out from students in many ways, project presenters, volunteers and joining us at the Award Event.

Three projects selected from Professional category: Honor Award: Nakamura Keith Haring Collection by International Associate AIA, Mr. Atsushi Kitagawara, Award of Merit: (Interior) Emi Music Japan by Michael Thannar, AIA of Genslar Japan and (Architecture) Temporary Stage for "Othello in Noh-Style" by Tomoaki Tanaka, AIA of Forms. Three Projects selected from Student Category:  
Student Honor Award: Green Core Project by Atsushi Abe, Nozomu Onodera, Hiroaki Koike from Tohoku University.  
Award of Merit: SaMghaaraama by Hiroaki Kanamitsu, Yohei Ogata from Waseda University, and Scenery flow into Galleries by Yusuke Hiromatu from Meiji University.

We would like to continue this Award Event to be open to students' participation in this year. Are you interested in submitting your project? Please stay tuned with AIA Japan email announcements for more detail about Design Award Schedule. Award Committee chair, Mr. Yasuyuki Yanagisawa (Yasu), Associate AIA, also welcome your voluntary assistants. There are many experience that you may find very refreshing and memorable; Review session and socializing with very experienced jury members and meeting with many professionals and students. If you are interested in, please feel free to contact Yasu for volunteering opportunity.



Jury Chair Fumihiko Maki FAIA (second from right) giving award to the Waseda University students  
Other members of the jury: Yoko Kinoshita, left, Naomi Pollack, right



Atsushi Kitagawara receives Honor Award from Fumihiko Maki Hon.FAIA

## Afterthought of the AIA Award Event. by Martin van der Linden, Assoc. AIA

To be an architect is a lonely job. Don't get me wrong, I don't assume that all architects work alone, in Japan or anywhere else a significant number of architects are employed by the larger companies and work together. No, what I mean with "lonely" is the architect who pursues what I would like to call "the cause of architecture", alone, as they have decided in setting their own direction of their cause of architecture.

Let me explain of what I want to say with this. A business study in the Harvard Review showed that for people to become successful, they first of all need to set a direction for themselves. The study found out that most people who actually became successful had a clear goal set early in their career. Arata Isozaki stresses the same goal-setting principle as he described what I called the cause of architecture above: that an architect should spend his twenties searching for the direction within architecture to pursue, refine this direction in their thirties, while in his/her forties an architect should materialize these ideas. Whether Isozaki implies that it takes almost 20 years to become an architect is not the point that I want to make here, although it does seem to be rather ironical. Isozaki is echoing Alberti's definition of an architect as a highly talented individual who uses knowledge, reason and above all his or her genius to create masterworks. I believe that this striving for artistic and (or) personal greatness that reinforces individuality and becomes the source of architectural loneliness.

This creates a dilemma that, according to Bertrand Russell, is why people with artistic jobs are on average less happy than men of science. As Russell wrote: "When the public can not understand a picture or a poem, they conclude that it is a bad picture or a bad poem. When they cannot understand the theory of relativity they conclude (rightly) that their education has been insufficient."

Does this mean that architects are doomed to unhappiness? QED? Maybe, but let us not stop here. If we accept the idiom that as architects we will always need to face the fact of, in the words of Russell of "being despised and being despicable" (and let's not even start talking about "high brow architecture" which hides under the cloak of pseudo-philosophy) or being adorned, then yes, to be an architect is a very lonely job indeed... But wait, it gets worse! Architects seem to get even little comfort from the fruit of their labor: the very buildings they design. As the now 91 year old I.M Pei confesses in Hanno Rauterberg's book, Talking Architecture: "I'm really happy with only a handful [of my buildings]". So what comfort is there then for architects? (Apart from marrying another architect, think of Charles and Ray Eames, Alison and Peter Smithson, Diller and Scofidio, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien...)

When in 1857 a group of architects founded the American Institute of Architects, their mission was, apart from the promotion and elevation of the standing of the profession, "...to combine the efforts of those engaged in the practice of Architecture, for the general advancement of the Art". To me this notion of being able to share an experience, a shoulder to cry on, a hand to pick us up is the comfort that architects will need more than anything else. Or in the 2300 year old words of Epicurus: "Of all the things that wisdom provides to help one live one's entire life in happiness, the greatest by far is the possession of friendship." I believe that associations such as the AIA Japan are crucial to us architects, not from a networking point of view, but as a way to stay sane. I let Epicurus have the final say: "Before you eat or drink anything, consider carefully who you eat or drink with, rather than what you eat or drink: for feeding without a friend is the life of a lion or a wolf."