

Message from the President

The American Institute of Architects Buffalo/WNY Chapter is pleased to present the 2009 Design Awards. This is a yearly event in which we celebrate design excellence in Architecture by local Architects from the Buffalo region, and building designs for our area from Architects outside our area.

The 2009 Design Award submissions were reviewed by a jury of architects from the Niagara Region. It is a time to recognize individuals who have made contributions to Architecture through service awards. These service awards are voted on by our 12 person AIA Board of Directors, and are nominated by various local individuals.

Architecture is the art and science of building design. An Architect requires a state license to practice Architecture. It takes 4-6 years of college training, 3-5 years of intense apprenticeship through the IDP program, and 7 separate exams to become a licensed Architect. After obtaining our license we are required to obtain 12 -18 hours of continuing education per year to maintain our license. Only a licensed member of the AIA can use these AIA letters after their name. When you meet an AIA Architect that individual has gone through an extensive amount of learning and hard work to be called an Architect. As a residence of Clarence I live only two miles away from where the flight 3407 Clarence crash occurred. I can't help but wonder if the pilot and copilot had the similar intensive training in which we as Architects are required to follow this tragedy may not have occurred. Have you heard lately of any buildings collapse or numbers of people die in a fire because of insufficient exits. No, what you hear is how Architects are making buildings safer, healthier, and more design oriented for our environment.

Our local AIA Buffalo/WNY Chapter is celebrating our 118 year of service to our members and our community. Our current membership is composed of approximately 220 Architects, Associate Architects, and Affiliate members. We offer our members and our community a number of continuing education classes, tours and presentations of a number of our local historical, newly renovated, and new building portfolio. We're proud of the partnerships which we've been forming with local organizations, and our local schools of Architecture. We're a group of individuals who love building design, and experiencing the transformation from detailed building design on paper, through construction coordination, and final occupancy by our building users. We are a local AIA Chapter one of 8 chapters in New York State with our state chapter located in Albany, NY, which is all part of the National AIA Chapter in Washington, DC.

Our Chapter this year has accomplished a number of its goals, and has held a number of successful events. This is a result of the steady hard work of our 12 member Board of Directors. Some of these events include the following: chapter outreach with the Buffalo Waterfront and the Buffalo Common Council Waterfront Committee, chapter outreach with the Central Terminal Restoration Corp., professional support of the Richardson Olmsted Plan, professional support of the Frank Lloyd Larkin Building Plaque, professional support of the Martin House Restoration, professional support of the Wright's Graycliff Cottage, our residential committee's booth and guest speaker at the Buffalo Home and Garden Show, Buffalo Emerging Professionals helping Intern Architects with preparation courses to help them with their ARE licensing exams, updated and very active Web Site with the celebration of Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House new Visitors Center, initial creation of an AIA Buffalo/WNY Foundation, partnerships with our Buffalo Engineers in a fun golf tournament, Interior designers with Daemen College, USGBC Chapter and the ASES National Solar Conference, Canadian Consulate General Sustainable Design seminars series, McKinley House Competition with McKinley High School, the Construction Industry Education Foundation and the Buffalo Board of

Education, seminar series with the CSI Buffalo/WNY Chapter, and the Louise Bethune annual lecture series with the University of Buffalo School of Architecture, Architecture and Education Reception, and others. In 2010 we'll be hosting the NYSAIA State Convention here in Buffalo. Wow we did do a lot – please give a thank you to our Board Members, and join us for our annual Holiday Party on Dec. 2, '09. Please review our updated web site (aiabuffalowny.org) for more information.

Architecture and the 2009/2010 economy, do I dare talk about this! Why not this effects us all, work is tougher to get and more competitive. I've talked with a number of our local members, state AIA Architects, and Architects from our National AIA. A number of these Architects are having difficult times, reducing their staff and/or reducing their hours to keep their business afloat. It also brings other opportunities from which to grow from, and become stronger. Keep the faith, buildings need to be updated, client needs are always changing, our work may be slower for now, but we'll have that much more work in the coming years – maybe even a building boom.

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy viewing the design entries, or better yet enjoy the moment at our sold out Annual Design Awards Gala.

Paul L. Herendeen, AIA, NCARB is president of AIA Buffalo/WNY Chapter 2009/2010 and President of Herendeen Architect, PC

