



THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS

# ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

## JOURNEY TO THE URBAHN MEDAL

BY ED GAUVREAU, FAIA, M.SAME

As much as the path to gaining Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was long and winding, becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> recipient of the SAME Urbahn Medal was an equally interesting and divergent road. It was especially challenging when the bulk of your work over the years does not involve extensive major military construction projects or programs, but incremental work at various installations or developing policy for such programs.

When I started my federal career in the Directorate of Facilities and Engineering at Fort Stewart, Georgia in 1981, I was pretty raw as far as fitting into a workplace. Having spent the prior year recovering from a compound leg fracture did not help my psyche, not to mention the move from my hometown in Michigan to southern Georgia. In time, with help and patience



**Edmond Gauvreau, FAIA**  
2015 Chair, AIA Public Architects  
Knowledge Community

from my new found colleagues, I found my architectural legs and became part of the team. Subsequent jobs at two other installations, a brief foray at USACE Detroit District, plus six years with the Food and Drug Administration, prepared me to handle virtually any facility situation.

The great advantage of working at a Public Works Department is that one gets to assume total responsibility for a project early on. If you're the only architect in the office, you get it all: meeting with clients, assess needs, develop designs from schematic through construction documents, learn to write specifications (sometimes creating new ones for materials that didn't have guide specs), develop cost estimates – and most importantly, staying within budgets. Equally important was learning unlike school, no one succeeds alone – you need to build relationships with both your colleagues and client groups (especially given the usual military turnover).

My first extensive experience with USACE was as a Project Director with the Corps' Medical Facilities Center of Expertise. For the first time I managed sizable projects, ranging from \$4 million to over \$150 million, with a very supportive environment and colleagues who were truly world-class experts. Truth be told, it remains the best job I have had in my career. However, time and circumstances dictated some changes – in the first 6 months of 2001, I held four different jobs in four different locations.

The last job turned out to be the most broadening of my career – becoming executive assistant to Bill Brown, P.E., F.SAME, Hon. AIA, who was the Director of Military Programs at HQ USACE. I received exposure to the entire USACE organization and beyond, building relationships across the Army and other services that are valuable. I also was forced to stretch my abilities beyond my comfort zone, taking on tasks and duties that were initially foreign but soon became routine.

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# WELCOME LETTER



**Laura Lavelle, AIA**  
SAME APC Member

Welcome to this issue of the SAME APC Quarterly Journal. I'm pleased to be a part of its development and so grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the organization. I've been a member of the APC for two and a half years now, after a lucky encounter with some of the committee's members at the 2015 JETC in Houston. Within a few hours of my arrival at the conference, I was fortunate to meet a small squad of fellow architects, many with connections and roots to the Midwest like mine. I felt at home right away with this group and found their energy for the industry and SAME contagious.

As a graduate student in architecture years ago, I never would have imagined the route my career has taken.

As my career developed, I gravitated into planning and programming and into work with Department of Defense clients that I find very rewarding. The APC helps keep me connected to the profession of architecture, and with a great group of architects that are also passionate about the work they do for our military.

I welcome you to get involved in the committee, submit articles, sketches, and member news. We offer a great forum for communication and connection. Join us!

I always look forward to our committee's calls and outings at various SAME conferences. Please enjoy this issue, dial in to our quarterly calls, and I hope to meet more of our audience in person at upcoming conferences.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Tom".

FEDERAL  
**SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE**  
for the Architecture • Engineering • Construction Industry

November 15-17, 2017 • Pittsburgh, PA



# NEXT QUARTERLY CALL

The Architectural Practice Committee will host a quarterly conference call on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm Eastern.**

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/937269541>. You can also dial in using your telephone at:

**UNITED STATES (TOLL FREE): 1 (877) 309-2073**

**UNITED STATES: +1 (646) 749-3129**

**ACCESS CODE: 937-269-541**

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, Eastern; 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, Central; 10:00 am to 11:00 am Mountain; 9:00 am to 10:00 am, Pacific; 8:00 am to 9:00 am, Alaska; 7:00 am to 8:00 am, Hawaii.

The agenda for the quarterly conference call includes an update on committee focus area initiatives, open discussion, and 1 AIA LU/HSW/SD credited presentation.

The AIA credited presentation will be given by **Paul R. Erickson, FAIA, Principal, Lemay Erickson Willcox Architects** on emerging design philosophies for fire and rescue facilities titled **“You Thought Your Fire Station was OK Healthwise? Think Again”**.

Fire Stations are located at many military installations and many of us have developed requirements for new fire stations or overseen their design and construction. So we think we know about fire stations, but Mr. Erickson will convince you that there is more to be learned. The human price of fire and rescue service is being increasingly recognized and voiced in studies that go beyond budget reports and staffing plans. Emergency service professionals are classified by the insurance industry as high hazard and demonstrate an alarmingly high incidence of heart attack, high blood pressure and cancer. While scientific studies connecting what firefighters do with their health consequences is still in their infancy, common-sense observations and actions can be made about exposure to carcinogens, transport of the cancer-causing agents back to the fire station



**Paul R. Erickson, FAIA, LEED AP**  
*Principal / President Lemay Erickson Willcox Architects*

and control measures to limit their impact. Recognizing sources and developing strategies to isolate carcinogens represents an important first step to improving the long-term health of our firefighters. An expanded view and understanding of a fire station must be developed by both the design professionals and department leaders to address the role of the same fire station as a receiving and distribution depot for cancer-causing chemicals.

## **Learning Objectives** include:

- » Learn about the potential link between cancer causing agents that may be present in fire houses and rates of cancer in fire fighters.
- » Learn about ways to design fire houses to include zoning for hot spots, yellow zones and green zones.
- » Learn methods to contain the contaminants and separate occupants from contaminants.
- » Learn best practices for operations and detailing.

# LAST QUARTERLY CALL

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*Images courtesy of Kevin Hildebrand*

Paula Loomis, Architectural Practice Committee Chair, accompanied by APC Vice-Chairs, welcomed participants to the APC Quarterly Call on Friday, May 16, 2017. Paula offered a few comments and details on the upcoming JETC APC tours and social. JJ Tang noted the three initiatives proposed by Urbahn Medal recipients during their recent Summit, including establishment of an Urbahn Medal Interview Series, inclusion of an architectural course at SAME summer engineering camps, and linking all military service design programs and publicizing them in the APCQJ.

The AIA credited presentation was given by **Kevin Hildebrand, Executive Architect**, on the work of the office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC).

The mission of the AOC to “Serve, Preserve, and Inspire” can be traced to 1793 with the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol and its first designer, William Thornton. The AOC consists of a team of over 2,000 with goals of providing an awe-inspiring experience for the 30,000 daily occupants and 3M+ annual visitors, fostering and empowering the AOC workforce, providing extraordinary service to the public, and being good stewards of the environment. Heritage assets include 17.4M square feet of facilities, 580+ acres of grounds, and thousands of works of art, including structures, monuments, and memorials. The AOC is also

responsible for preserving archival records including drawings by Thornton, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, and Thomas Wallter and Montgomery Miegs, who were responsible for additions to the structure. Of special note is the continuation of craft skills with guilders, sheet metal artisans, stone masons, and plasterers, all representing dwindling skill sets.

Kevin shared some of the ongoing work of the AOC. The Grant Memorial was refurbished with work to improve the appearance of statuary, cavalry bronze restoration, and stone cleaning, which remains to be completed. Stone work on the Senate Wing involved cleaning through a mild wash, carving and pinning new stone “Dutchmen” to replace missing elements, and placement of new bird deterrent systems. New laser cleaning methods have significantly improved the appearance of many features without compromising integrity. Work has begun on the ten-year, five-phase restoration and refurbishment of the Cannon Building, built in 1909. Kevin discussed work on the Capitol dome project, part of the original structure which had seen only one restoration in 1959-60. Significant deterioration of iron work has occurred and water infiltration had caused damage to the rotunda. A long-term master plan for maintenance of the structure is underway.

# LAST QUARTERLY CALL

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Kevin closed with a short comment about his career path. He has been an architect for 30 years, graduating from the University of Virginia and had never planned to be a career public architect. His passion was reflected in his presentation, so it is unlikely we will lose his contributions anytime soon.

*As in the past, slides for this presentation are available in the archives of the APC web page at <http://www.same.org/Architectural-Practice>.*



*Images courtesy of Kevin Hildebrand*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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AUGUST 2017

**2017 Tri-Regional JETS -  
“Securing the Future”**

August 29-31  
Jacksonville, FL

NOVEMBER 2017

**FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS  
CONFERENCE**

November 15-17  
Pittsburgh, PA

For more information on  
upcoming SAME events visit:  
<http://www.same.org/calendar>

# COLLABORATION WITH AIA

## SAME OMAHA POST AND SOUTH WEST IOWA CHAPTER COLLABORATE FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

BY DAVID PACKARD



In the past, you may have read that the Omaha Post and the South West Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects have developed a strong relationship through shared interest in professional development for members of both organizations. Monthly “Dine and Discover” sessions, originated through the AIA, are now co-sponsored by the Omaha Post of SAME. Product vendors complete the requirements for AIA accreditation on technical topics similar to presentations many of you may have experienced in your own communities. The emergence of the SAME/AIA alliance has energized the leadership of both organizations resulting in exploration of other educational (and social) opportunities.

Members of the Omaha Post and AIA visited the Education Building and Children’s Adventure Trails at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on May 5, 2017. The

two-year project was completed in June 2017 at the cost of \$27.5M. The complex occupies five acres of land and provides a combined experience of outdoor adventure with hands-on learning in three distinct areas, an outdoor children’s adventure trail system, the Dick and Mary Holland Meadowlark Theater, and the Education Building. The latter hosts year-round programming and provides educational space to more than 9,000 student visitors annually through full-time high school, kindergarten, and after school programs. The facility houses seven classrooms and administrative areas, a small auditorium, and an outdoor classroom. The prime contractor was Kiewit Building Group, Inc. and was designed by DLR Group. Interior design is by Smith Bourne and Associates, Inc. SAME is grateful for the assistance we received from the AIA and Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium staff.



*Henry Doorly Zoo Education Building, Design by DLR Group*

# COLLABORATION WITH AIA

In an effort to pursue additional professional development opportunities like the site visit and “Dine and Discover” sessions, David Packard, RA, PMP, F.SAME, APC Vice Chair for Communications and Past President, Omaha Post was invited to join members of the AIA Iowa Board of Directors during their annual retreat in Council Bluffs, Iowa on July 27, 2017. The dinner event was a great opportunity to share information about our organizations and explore future collaborative activities. Programs involving both organizations are being explored, including the Omaha Post’s annual Industry Day and monthly Omaha Post luncheon programs. The AIA has graciously supported SAME efforts by assisting in the preparation of the AIA CES Course Submission Template and approval process.



*AIA Iowa Board of Directors*

## ARCHITECT’S SKETCH CORNER



While traveling in Denmark this summer, I had an opportunity to attend the world premiere ballet of the Royal Danish Opera presentation of “Chopin Danser”, performed by the Danish Dance Theater. The performance was held at the Copenhagen Opera House, designed by architect Henning Larson. The dance took place in the lobby, which is a spectacular space of glass walls, elevated walkways, and the beautiful curved wooden shell of the opera hall. This scene is near the end of the ballet with a male and female dancer moving in sync to a live piano rendition of Chopin. The sketch is ink on newsprint that was subsequently highlighted with a white gouache wash.

- Glenn Grubbs

# MEMBER NEWS



*David Packard, F. SAME with his wife, Cathy Grow, Attorney, USACE, after his induction into the SAME Academy of Fellows*

Two of our members were recognized at the SAME Academy of Fellows Investiture on March 8, 2017

Congratulations again to David A. Packard, RA, PMP, F.SAME and Junjian "JJ" Tang, FAIA, F.SAME

Since 1972, The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has bestowed the designation of Fellow on SAME members who have rendered dedicated and outstanding service to SAME and

to military engineering. In 1995, this group of distinguished individuals was organized into the Academy of Fellows to bring all Fellows together to further SAME's missions and goals. As such, the Fellows Pledge details the role Fellows should play, primarily that of a mentor. Today, there are more than 700 Fellows in the SAME Academy of Fellows.

Thank you David and JJ for providing such outstanding mentorship to many members of the APC and beyond!

Congratulations to Yvonne Lee Simon for her two new positions as she continues to inspire young and older SAME members alike:

- **Young Member Council (YMC)  
Vice Chair of Communications**
- **Elected Director (Young Member),  
National Board of Direction  
2017 - 2020**



*Yvonne Lee Simon, AIA*



*Mickela Pallares, RA, LEED AP BD+C, GPCP  
2017 USACE Architect of the Year*

The US Army Corps of Engineers is proud to announce Ms. Mickela Pallares, RA, LEED AP BD+C, GPCP from the Sacramento District as the 2017 Architect of the Year. Ms. Pallares has served as architect, sustainable design subject matter expert and senior design branch technical lead for the Sacramento District for the last seven years. She provides exceptional service and professionalism within USACE as technical architect for Army facilities such as Beale AFB BCE Replacement, Vandenberg NRO Building 2510 Addition, Fort Irwin Gray Eagle Hangar, Lake Isabella US Forest Service Fire Station and Visitors Center,

Military Ocean Terminal Concord Tidal Fire Station, and the Military Ocean Terminal Concord Engineering, Housing and Maintenance Shop. Ms. Pallares' additional initiatives within USACE include: the promotion of sustainability through design and education; becoming the first Guiding Principles Compliance Professional (GPCP) in the district; active fostering of careers in STEM among the Hispanic collegiate community; civic volunteer efforts in service to cancer patients; and historic design efforts in Sacramento.



# COMMITTEE LIAISONS

The APC liaisons help coordinate architectural programs within their local SAME post as well as coordinate shared programs between SAME and local architectural organizations.

If you are interested in becoming a SAME Architectural Liaison, please contact Daphne for more information: [gurrimatute@gmail.com](mailto:gurrimatute@gmail.com)

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# KINGSOLVER ELEMENTARY DESIGNED FOR GREEN, INNOVATIVE LEARNING

BY KATIE NEWTON,  
USACE LOUISVILLE DISTRICT  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Students entering the new Kingsolver Elementary School at Fort Knox, Kentucky this fall will have the unique opportunity to learn about sustainability from the building around them. Every aspect of the new 115,000 square-foot school was designed with green features in mind—from energy dashboards that allow students to see how much water or energy their class is using to a composter that turns kitchen trash into plant food.

“The building’s design is meant to be a learning tool for the kids,” said Patrick Drury, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Knox Resident Office Project Engineer. “All of the features aim at teaching the students the different environmental aspects of the building around them.”

The \$38.9 million project, managed by USACE Louisville District, is being constructed by AWA Wilson Joint Venture to meet requirements for LEED Silver certification. Meeting LEED Silver certification means every aspect of the building’s design, construction techniques and its future use was taken into consideration, from using high-efficiency toilets to low-VOC paint on the walls. At least 75 percent of the construction waste must be recycled when removed from the site.

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) 21st Cen-



**An energy dashboard shows energy and water use allowing students to learn how the building around them affects the environment.**

ury School includes 635 student stations within the new concept of learning hubs or neighborhoods, as well as learning studios and open-area common spaces for students. This type of innovative learning environment coupled with the educational green features is a game-changer for today’s students. There will be an interactive component to keep students engaged in the building around them and its effects on the environment with an energy dashboard showing energy and water usage for each neighborhood.

“It really shows the kids how much energy and water is being used in their neighborhood or by their class and gives them an appreciation for it,” said Drury.

The building is estimated to have a

61 percent energy savings due to all of its green features. It includes a geothermal system using the ground to help heat and cool the school. LED and natural lighting with the help of tubular light wells bring the sunlight in through holes in the roof, and light-colored roofing helps reflect the sun’s heat away from the building.

Twelve solar collection panels are on-site to heat more than 75 percent of the building’s hot water, which saves money and energy.

The building’s position on the 14.5-acre site also plays a role in energy conservation. The school is positioned horizontally across the site for optimal light and heat during different seasons. Learning spaces have north and south facing windows to take advantage of sunlight

and provide picturesque views of the landscape, adorned with native plants.

Signage placed throughout the school will explain many of the features and green construction techniques. For example, one sign titled “Rain’s Journey” will be fixed to a large clear storm drain pipe coming from the roof so students can better understand the water’s path to the three large bioretention ponds for stormwater management.

Nothing has been overlooked. Even the kitchen has state-of-the-art equipment and a robust composter machine to grind up 90 percent of the school’s food waste and cardboard, such as milk cartons, into organic material that can be used for mulch in the landscaping.

“All parties have endured and continue to make this project a success, including the designer, Fort Knox DPW, DoDEA, the contractor and USACE,” said Drury. “This completed facility will be a great resource for DoDEA, the surrounding Fort Knox community, and the students of America’s Soldiers.” **APC**

***Adaptable open spaces and a flexible stage, which can be used for theater-in-the-round performances were incorporated into the school to promote a versatile learning environment.***

***Exposed pipes allow students to get a first-hand look at how the building functions.***



# APC CELEBRATES JETC 2017

May 23-25, 2017 - Columbus, Ohio



Members of the Architectural Practice Committee gather for annual JETC Social Outing at Milestone 229

*SAME Architectural Practice Committee (APC) Meeting, Tours and Events in conjunction with JETC 23-25 May 2017 included:*

## **KNOWLTON HALL, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

This year the APC meeting was a tour with a short meeting. The APC will toured the American Institute to Architect's (AIA) national award winning Knowlton Hall at Ohio State, home of their School of Architecture. This building is an architectural and engineering marvel. It is all post-tensioned concrete with cantilevers as large as 50 feet, a state-of-the-art rainscreen cladding system with thousands of individually hung marble "shakes", and a raw concrete free span interior. The building was designed by Mack Scogin Merrill Elam of Atlanta with

WSA Studio as the Architect of Record. Tim Hawk, FAIA, President of WSA, lead the tour. Tim is also the Ohio Valley Representative to the National AIA Strategic Council.

While at Ohio State some members took the time to also visit William Oxley Thompson Library (an amazing renovation...old and new contrasting), the Wexner Center by Peter Eisenmann, the Ohio Stadium and the original oval that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **OHIO STATE HOUSE**

The Ohio Statehouse is the oldest and most renowned example of Greek Revival architecture. It is located at the corner of High and Broad. It was recently renovated by Schooley Caldwell Architects. Bob Loversidge, FAIA, a nationally recognized historic architect, architect for

the statehouse renovation as well as President and CEO of Schooley Caldwell will be leading the tour. Come see this great public building.

## **GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER**

The Columbus Convention Center was designed by Peter Eisenmann in 1993, expanded shortly after and undergoing a second expansion designed by LMN and Schooley Caldwell. APC members received a tour of the building by Scott Reed, an architect and senior project manager for the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority (the owner) as well as the architect for the expansion. The expansion area was not open to the public yet, so we got a behind the scenes preview as well as seeing areas that have been completed.



*The APC conducted its annual meeting in conjunction with one of the sponsored tours. Pictured left are photos from the committee's tour at Knowlton Hall, Ohio State University. Pictured above are Ed Gauvreau, Paula Loomis, and various committee members during the meeting outside of Knowlton Hall,*



# AIA FEATURE MEMBER: HAROLD ADAMS

## AS TOLD TO STEVE CIMINO

*To kick-off the Urbahn Medal Summit initiatives, the AIA (American Institute of Architects) featured the first SAME Urbahn medal recipient, Harold Adams, FAIA. The following article is also presented on the [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org) website.*



A decorated architect who designed numerous major projects for the United States government and military, Harold Adams spent years expertly navigating the tricky Washington, DC landscape. He even became “Ethel Kennedy’s architect.”

The first-ever recipient of the Society of Military Engineers’ Urbahn Medal, Harold Adams, FAIA, is a decorated architect who spent years designing for the federal government. An early opportunity with John Carl Warnecke led to numerous projects involving the Kennedy family, including a lifelong friendship with Ethel Kennedy. He is now retired and serving as chairman emeritus at RTKL, a firm he helped build into a global leader in the profession, but he stays active in the architectural world and even visited Orlando for the AIA Conference on Architecture 2017.

*I started my career in Washington, DC, right after graduation, working for John Carl Warnecke. He was the star architect working with the Kennedys, and they turned to him for everything. I was in a fortunate position as a young man coming to work as an architect and designer, because I got thrown into the middle of it all. Mr. Warnecke took me to every meeting he ever had with First Lady Jackie Kennedy, with President John. F. Kennedy, and with their aides as well. We did a variety of projects that aren’t even listed anywhere on my resume, including an addition to Bobby and Ethel Kennedy’s house in McLean, Virginia. I was out there every morning checking on the building and developed a relationship with both of them. Ethel still considers me her architect.*



**RENOVATED BANCROFT HALL IN ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**  
*Image courtesy of CallisonRTKL/D Whitcomb*



**UNITED STATES CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC**  
*Image courtesy of CallisonRTKL*

Warnecke always told me, “Get to know the secretaries, the assistants and the professionals they don’t ever change. People come and go in Washington, but there’s a stable group of people behind it all. Get to know them.” I did, and it followed me throughout my career.

Working with the federal government can be complicated sometimes. One of the most challenging projects at RTKL was one where I served as executive architect for 22 years, serving three different Architects of the Capitol and many Speakers of the House and Senate Majority Leaders: the US Capitol Visitor Center. The late George White, FAIA, then the Architect of the Capitol, was struggling with the balance of necessary security versus protecting the integrity of the building’s architecture. We were brought in to give advice, which began a consulting relationship that went through several stops and starts, different presidents, and various security issues. It was a fascinating project, to go through all those changes of leadership and still come out with a great end product. Another project with many challenges was the rebuilding of the Pentagon after September 11. That was all about quickly organizing the team in order to rebuild in a record time of 10 months.



**THE NATIONAL GROUND INTELLIGENCE CENTER HEADQUARTERS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA** Image courtesy of CallisonRTKL/D Whitcomb

□ continued from page 1

Since 2003, I made a partial return to my installation roots by joining the Installation Support Division. Through this association I became involved in the Corps’ master planning work, becoming the springboard to be promoted to Chief, Planning Branch and oversee the body of work that ultimately became the basis for my applications for both honors.



**Hood Installation Development Plan**



**Vicenza Military Community**



**Fort Hood - Home of 1st Cavalry Division**



**Fort Hunter Liggett Development Plan**



**Vision Practicum**



**Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii**

Images from FAIA application

Lessons I have learned and continue to learn:

1. Always be open to opportunities – you never know where they may take you
2. Master your job and your profession – a sound foundation will always help you get through tough times
3. Always leave on good terms – more than likely paths will cross multiple times through your career and life



# THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP – PART 2

When I left off at Part 1, I was almost ready to make the submission for Fellowship. Just a few more morsels concerning the process.....

The AIA DC Chapter Fellows Committee had its last working session and submission review two weeks before the FAIA submission deadline. At that point, one should have the 98 percent solution in place and deal mostly with finishing touches. Again, remember that it is YOUR submission – unless you have made a grave mistake, input should be to make enhancements and tweaks, not a major overhaul.

What was interesting to find out that two weeks before the deadline, half of the AIA DC group had still not registered on the AIA Fellows website. My public sector mind immediately flickered “oh you poor fools!” They probably had no clue as to all the submission requirements and directions – as I explained last time, the directions and advice take up 20 printed pages and they are ALL important. The last thing one wants to happen is to have your submission rejected because of a technicality or you forgot something.

Some common miscues: not getting a signature on one or more exhibits in Section 3; not current on continuing education requirements (mentioned this before); missing one or more letters of recommendation (another reason to always have back-ups); not being current on AIA dues; missing exhibit(s); missing endorsement letter from your chapter president. There are also the common sense things like correct spelling and grammar, text is readable (remember that 20-somethings are not the ones reviewing your package), assuring text and images are aligned and located properly, no 1-2 word sentences carrying over to next page.

Within a week after the last meeting, I received my endorsement letter from the chapter president, went to the website and did all the required uploads – background data, photo credits, head shot (professional grade, not from a selfie), the actual submission, list of references, and paying the application fee (not cheap!). Once you hit the button, then receive confirmation that it was received, the wait begins.....

One of my references told me you just need to get on with life and let the process work its course. Easy to say but hard to hold to, especially given the amount of time, blood, sweat and tears involved – and it is a LOT of work. I admit to checking with a former College of Fellows jury member who was on the AIA Strategic Council in late November whether I made the list – just a little bit of nervousness. She gets a copy of the referral list of candidates that will be reviewed and voted on. National AIA does vet your application before it ever gets to the jury members, checking on membership status, completeness of application and required submission materials. Again, one doesn’t want to lose on a technicality. Good news – I made the list.

Here was the next revelation - over 300 applications were received this year – a record. The seven jurors definitely had their hands full! Each of the jurors gets a share of the applications to read in their entirety. The piles are randomly assigned, but there are some controls – one does not get to read applications from your firm or chapter, or candidates one knows personally. They can also request to not read a specific application for personal reasons, mostly for the previously stated reasons. From my perspective, the 2016 Chair of the Fellows

Jury was from AIA DC, so I knew she would not be reading or presenting any DC candidates. One of the other jurors was chair of a national task force that I served on in 2015, meaning that she would probably not read my application.

Once the applications are submitted, no contact is allowed between jurors and candidates – one can be disqualified from consideration if you contact a juror. I did get one instance where one of the jurors I knew copied me on a message referring a colleague to me for a particular issue. I chose to answer the colleague directly – did not want to even get a whiff of impropriety.

Once the Christmas /New Year’s holidays passed, the pace of work picked up again, especially since I became the only branch chief standing for 4 weeks in our division and assuming responsibility for all the financial aspects. Of course there was the additional pressure of a new Administration coming on board, adding another layer of uncertainty. I knew from past practices that the jury meets in Washington, DC in mid-January to deliberate and vote on all the applications. With the Inauguration falling on the middle week, I figured they would meet the week after, do their duty, then we would hear the results a week or so later.

Well.....on January 26, David Trevino, FAIA, sent me an email around lunchtime. He was attending a Fellows luncheon for Dallas-based members, and heard that the letters were going to be sent out the next morning. I checked with the same colleague who was a past Jury member – she confirmed that the jury had met that week but was not sure when the letters would be mailed. I figured at this point, just wait and see.



Friday, January 27 – woke up not feeling quite right. Emailed my boss to say I would be arriving late, took my time waking up, having coffee and light breakfast, dressing and then the 15 minute drive to the commuter train station. Once aboard, I checked my Blackberry for email.....and saw a new message from AIA, courtesy of Kathleen Daileida, Hon AIA, Director of Honors and Awards. Her message was a letter from the AIA Secretary regarding Fellowship. The attachment name is simple – your last name.pdf. So I opened the file and read the first line of the address.....Edmond George Gauvreau FAIA.

My immediate reaction was elation, happy that all the hard work, hours taken away from family and other things. However, being on the “quiet car” of the train, I had to exercise a great deal of restraint – one thing I did not have to restrain was the growing smile, which stayed on the entire day. At the same time, a great sense of humility fell upon me, knowing that I had just received an honor only 3 percent of AIA members receive, plus the number of extremely talented architects that had done equally good things but either did not step up to apply or had applied and were not elected. As examples, my sponsor made Fellow on his NINTH attempt; one of my coaches made it on her third attempt. The fact that I made it on my first full attempt is a testament to their assistance and advice throughout the process, as well as superior amounts of perseverance on my part

Oh yes – finally read the rest of the letter. It’s very congratulatory, and gives you the date and time of the investiture ceremony at Convention, saying that more details are to come. Those will include registration for the events, accommodations, etc. Needless to say, that file was instantly saved!

Next part was to let people know.....an email to my sponsor, references, professional associates who added quotes, exhibits, family, friends, thanking them for all their help and support. Also posted notes on social media – Facebook, Twitter, change my title on LinkedIn. I was more than surprised to see the immediate and positive responses from all quarters – have a feeling I may not have to buy any drinks in Orlando during Convention!

One advantage of becoming a Fellow is that you are a Fellow upon receipt of the letter. As I have told others, the three things you need to do are: throw the party, change your signature blocks, order new cards and stationary. Items 2 and 3 were done within an hour of reaching the office – Item 1 will occur at several venues and conferences, where I can gather with my peers/friends/colleagues and toast the honor properly and in good spirits.

I also contacted the chair of the AIA DC Fellows Committee, thanking her and the group for their efforts and looking to assist the next class of candidates. For AIA DC, that is a requirement for new Fellows – we are automatically members of the Fellows Committee and tasked to coach one or more candidates for the Class of 2018. In my view, that is simply the first step of giving back to the profession. As one of the “3 percent”, our responsibility is to help others “rise up” and raise the level of practice for architecture, our clients and the general public.

When the entire list of 2017 Fellows was published two weeks later, a couple of discoveries – 178 architects were elevated to Fellow, a record number. Among this number, 16 public architects were elevated in Category 4, for Government/Public Service – by far a record high (usually the number of Category 4 Fellows can be counted on one hand. Among those being elevated are Phil Neuberg, FAIA of NIST (formerly with NIH), Lane Beougher, FAIA, State of Ohio and 2012 Chair of this committee, and J.J. Tang, FAIA, of HDR and founding chair of SAME’s Architecture Practice Committee.

By the time this is being read, I will be in Orlando preparing for investiture and receiving my Fellows medal. Friends and family will be there to cheer; a past Chancellor of the College of Fellows – the same one who early in Part 1 asked when I was applying for Fellow – will be there to escort me off the stage. The overall coincidence is that the first AIA Convention I attended was in 1986 in.....Orlando! And the first name of my sponsor is.....Orlando! So at one level, I have come full circle and the stars have aligned at the right time and place.

Best wishes and let’s continue to raise the bar!

Ed Gauvreau, FAIA

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