Women in Architecture
April 26, 2019
AIA Connecticut, 370 James Street, Suite 402
New Haven, CT 06513 203-865-2195

Discussion Topics:

- Review of April 5 Girl Scouts STEMagination event?

New Business/Program Ideas:

- Pascale Sablan, Omarys Vasquez’s (Svigals + Partners) dear friend, is curator of “Say It Loud”, an exhibit that promotes and brings awareness of women and minority architects. We’d like to bring Pascale and this exhibit, if possible, into the next program
- Another idea from Ming Thompson: a roundtable on “The Future of Architectural Practice” in collaboration with the Emerging Professionals committee. Ming has offered to host this event at her new location on State Street
- Social Equity Design Award idea for 2020 developed by WIA?
- Other ideas?

Old Business:

- Interest in forming a Revit study group for Autodesk Revit User or Revit Professional Exams? Shamila Zubairi, AIA is looking to start a study group. shamilazubairi@msn.com
- Community Garden – KL emailed the New Haven Land Trust for information about a community garden. No response yet.

Next meeting will be May 10, 2019 at 8am

Antitrust Compliance Statement:

It is the policy and practice of The American Institute of Architects and its members to comply strictly with all laws, including federal and state antitrust laws, that apply to AIA operations and activities. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws.
Women in Architecture Panel Discussion:
The Path to Leadership in Design
April 23, 2019 * Berlin, CT
Evaluations Summary Report

The first program offering developed by the AIA CT Women in Architecture Committee, The Path to Leadership in Design panel discussion, took place on April 23, 2019 at the Eversource Training Facility in Berlin, CT.

Total Preregistration: 49
Total Sign-In Attendance: 41
Total Evaluations Completed: 13
Total Program Rating “Excellent”: 13 (this is a first since KL has been at AIA CT)

Ten people listed the following additional comments on their evaluation forms:
“I think the fact that it was small was really helpful to create more dialogue with the audience.”
“Hearing their perspectives and alternate leadership paths were very relevant.”
“Would love to see more people speak.”
“Engaging.”
“Great personal stories as well as diverse advice for women/others looking to start a family or pursue better work/life balance.”
“Very helpful perspective given that so many of the speakers were parents. Would have been interesting to have one additional speaker who was in a position of leadership at a larger firm rather than founding principal of a smaller firm.”
“Need many more just like this!”
“Well moderated.”
“Great discussion on work/life balance and the need for more women in the industry.”
“Fantastic job!”

Six people suggested the following topics for future programs:
* More discussions on diversity and engagement in careers/mentoring
* Negotiation!
* How to build a broader culture of diversity and inclusion
* More exposure – attract regional media; television & newspaper
* Part II
* invite a woman in a leadership role in a larger, male dominant firm/office – different perspective?
* Small group convos – our table conversation was great

Responses to the Charge Statement/Why did you attend this program today? question are:
“One of the top issues for the preservation and growth of our profession”
“The stories are so inspirational!”
“Supporting our amazing CT Women in Architecture and design!!!!”
“Admiration and respect for three amazing ladies.”
“To gain insight on what it takes to be a woman in a leadership role in a male-dominated field (especially work/life balance)”
“Interest in greater diversity and inclusion in our industry!”
“To learn and support all of the great people that enhance the built environment.”
“Wanted to hear other women’s stories and their paths in architecture.”
Social Equity Design Award

New in 2018, the Social Equity Design Award is held in partnership with the Neighborhood Design Center in honor of their 50th anniversary. NDC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1968 by AIA Baltimore members after Whitney M. Young’s speech at the AIA National Convention.

Categories:

Eligible projects can be submitted to any of the AIA Baltimore Excellence and Design Awards categories with the exception of Unbuilt Architecture—projects must be built to be eligible. The award will be given at the jury’s discretion.

Selection Guidelines:

Preference will be given to submissions that clearly define their alignment with the following values:

According to racial equity designer Antionette Carroll, “The route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone equitably, or justly according to their circumstances.” In her work, this means outcomes are not predictable based on race. Social equity in design is driven by equitable processes resulting in equitable projects.

This award aligns with the Neighborhood Design Center’s values of:

- The more inclusive and community-driven the process, the better the design.
- Healthy places are built with consideration of social justice, environmental sustainability, and the true character of a place and the people who live, work, worship, and do business there.
- Everyone deserves access to good design.
- Well-designed places enhance healthy cultural and democratic life in our neighborhoods.

Judging Criteria for Social Equity Design Award:

1) Inclusivity
   How did the design process invite all potential project stakeholders, especially those
historically marginalized from design conversations? Describe how the demographics of those engaged compares with the overall demographics of potential project stakeholders.

2) Co-Design
How was the project designed with project stakeholders rather than for project stakeholders? Submissions are encouraged to demonstrate local stakeholders’ power in the design process from the programming and pre-schematic phases through operations and maintenance. Describe the composition of any steering committee, board, or other decision making structure in the design process.

3) Leadership
How does the project demonstrate leadership in social equity? How did the applicant articulate the values of social equity during the process and share back with partners?

4) Public Space
How does the project enhance the surrounding neighborhood’s access to and/or experience of public space? Are the project’s outdoor and appropriate indoor spaces inviting to the public and not exclusive to project residents or members?

5) Economic Opportunity
How does the project increase economic opportunities for existing neighbors, especially those from marginalized demographics? How does the project resist the traditional narrative of gentrification pushing out resident populations? Was there any local job creation or workforce development during the design and/or construction process?

6) Community Identity & History
How does the project enhance and celebrate the existing identity or identities of its place? How does the project approach issues of poverty, past or present disinvestment, or historic redlining that impact its immediate or broader geographic location?

7) Sustainability
Equitable projects are sustainable projects. How does the project not just mitigate its environmental impact, but improve the sustainability of the surrounding community?

Process for Entry and Submission:
The process is the same as the overall AIA Baltimore Excellence in Design Awards.
AIA Baltimore is launching a social equity design award in collaboration with the Neighborhood Design Center, a nonprofit launched by AIA Baltimore members after the Whitney Young speech to provide accessible and inclusive design and planning services for local communities. Being that it's the 50th anniversary of Young's speech and the founding of NDC, and energized by the Blueprint for Better initiative, we felt it was the perfect time to launch the award and are so proud of our volunteer leaders for putting together what we believe is an excellent set of criteria.

The Social Equity Design Award recognizes projects that promote social equity and align with NDC's values:

- The more inclusive and community-driven the process, the better the design.
- Healthy places are built with consideration of social justice, environmental sustainability, and the true character of a place and the people who live, work, worship, and do business there.
- Everyone deserves access to good design.
- Well-designed places enhance healthy cultural and democratic life in our neighborhoods.

See the full submission criteria

Entries will be judged by a panel of local architects and community leaders. Awards will be presented at the 2018 AIA Baltimore Excellence in Design Awards Celebration.

Any other components have a similar award or working on one? We're very excited to see what projects are submitted this year!

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Nathan Dennies
Operations & Communications Associate
AIA Baltimore
Baltimore MD
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Please provide contact information of vendors you have personally worked with or encountered, that may be able to assist AIA Connecticut with future events and sponsorships. Thank you!

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