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.

Minutes:  AIA Connecticut, Women in Architecture
Friday, September 21, 2018, 8:00 am.
AIA CT Offices, 370 James Street, New Haven, CT.

Gina Calabro welcomed all to the first Women in Architecture Council Meeting. The premise of the group is to promote interaction, networking, and community outreach. She asked for the group to comment on what they would like the group to become. She introduced Nancy Alexander, who is facilitating the AIA Connecticut Strategic Plan. Nancy gave a brief overview on her work with AIA National as well as how she is currently working with the AIA Connecticut with the Board and Staff. She also asked for input from the group on their thoughts on the future of AIA Connecticut.

Susan O’Dell, AIA of Paul Bailey Architects
- interested in showing more support for new moms going through licensing. Wants more of a support network for people struggling with the process. Currently lacking network.

Emily Ky of S/L/A/M
- current emerging professional, would like more mentorship outside of the firm. Firms don’t encourage you to look elsewhere for advisors or mentors, but there should be valuable resources externally too.

Shamila Zubairi, AIA of L & S Architects/ WSGA
- spoke about moving to the US from Pakistan after becoming full-licensed. Felt very lonely without a network.

Ming Thompson, AIA of Atelier Cho Thompson
- talked about a recent survey that showed women graduating at decreased rates in 10 years. Wants to look into the reasons why women may not be as successful long term.

Lori L. Donadio, AIA of OPA
- suggested reaching out to Girl Scouts for a possible collaboration.

Some other thoughts:
- Would like to see women who have experience in the field help those who don’t have the experience.
- Hear from firm women practices large to small
- Support path to licensure - life events
- Study together for test- connect them to each other
- Mentoring young people - k-12, Girl Scouts
- Connect with women who are not involved and need help professionally
- Learning how to keep women in the profession - actionable ways for 10 years down the line
- Host a breakfast at the conference
- New Awards-women in architecture Design excellence award

The council will be deciding on a final name for the group (Women in Architecture vs Women in Design).

Group has agreed to meet once a month. Specific meeting times will be determined according to what works best for people who attended.

Angela Cahill spoke about the Diversity Challenge and asked for someone to consider stepping forward as chair. The advisors would get together, working on mentoring in schools and making people understand how the lack of diversity is causing the profession of architecture to suffer.

Gina Calabro spoke about the new online Bookstore promoting AIA Connecticut Member Authors and reviewed upcoming goals and plans, including introducing a Women in Design Excellence Award and the 2019 September Woman’s Summit and a possible SLAM project hard hat tour for trip, as well as submitting to the Find an Architect Directory on the AIA Connecticut website. Other upcoming AIA Connecticut events were reviewed.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 19th at 7:30am at AIA Connecticut.
Meeting adjourned at 8:58 am.