



An AIA Publication
1st Quarter
2004



the nebraska architect

Plans Underway for 2004 Fall Conference

Dave Johnson, AIA, of studioNRG, Lincoln will serve as Chair of the 2004 AIA Nebraska Fall Conference to be held September 23-24 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. "Dave has hit the ground running on identifying an energetic committee. His organization skills and abilities will guide the committee in developing a successful venue," said Michael James, AIA, President of AIA Nebraska.



Dave Johnson, AIA

Please contact AIA Nebraska if you are interested in assisting with this year's conference at 402/472-1456 or skay2@unl.edu

*Excellence in Design:
AIA NE Design Awards Program*

Deadlines

Thursday, June 10, 2004 by 5:00 p.m.

Submission of Registration Form and Payment for each entry due to AIA Nebraska. Materials will be available online, www.aiane.org in April of 2004.

Thursday, July 8, 2004 by 5:00 p.m.

Submission of Entries due to AIA Nebraska.

Winners will be announced at the AIA Nebraska Design Conference Banquet on Friday, September 24.

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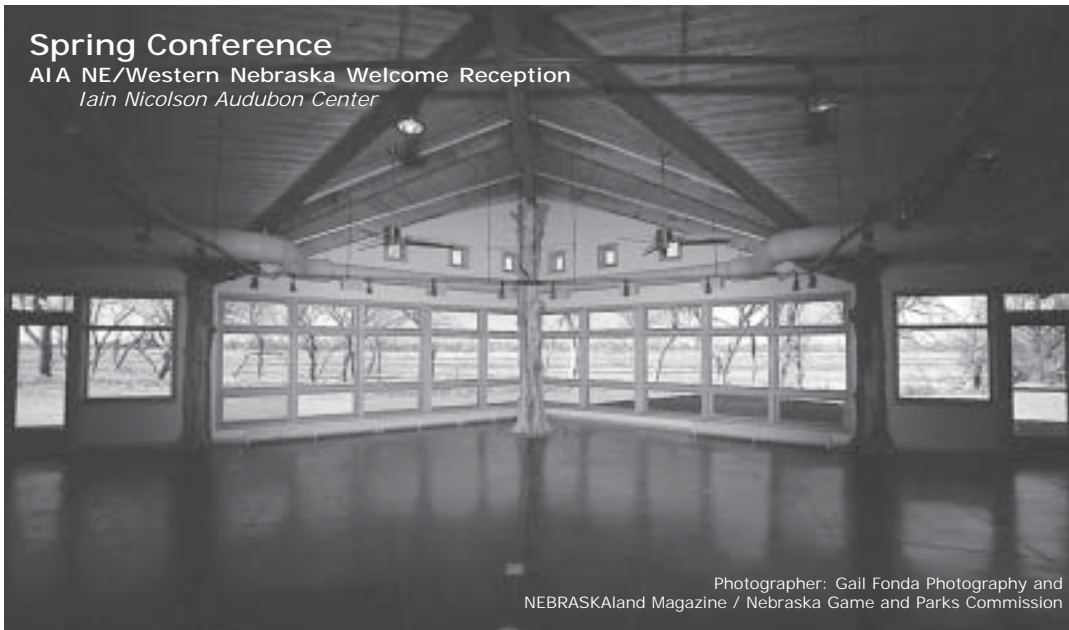
Senator Pam Redfield and Ken West, AIA, of DLR Group meet at the AIA Nebraska Forum/Luncheon. Further information on the Forum/Luncheon is available on [page 2](#).

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Spring Conference

AIA NE/Western Nebraska Welcome Reception
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center



Photographer: Gail Fonda Photography and NEBRASKAland Magazine / Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

"Design professionals must be prepared to respond to the numerous, sometimes confusing requirements that impact the built environment,"

Dan Keiter, AIA President,
AIA Western Chapter

Spring Conference Schedule

May 3, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

AIA NE/Western Nebraska Welcome Reception
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center
44450 Elm Island Road
Gibbon, Nebraska

Sponsored by Spectra Engineering, LLC
(Transportation provided by Kearney Visitor's Bureau)

May 4, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Continuing Education/Exhibitor Interaction
Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska

EVOLUTION |
AIA NEBRASKA WESTERN CHAPTER
SPRING CONFERENCE
May 3-4, 2004
Kearney, Nebraska
Holiday Inn Hotel / Convention Center
110 Second Avenue

Architects Influence

Sara A. Kay, AIA

Executive Director, AIA NE

Over 30 State Senators participated in the 3rd annual AIA Nebraska Legislative Forum/Luncheon on January 27, 2004. Senators had the opportunity to meet AIA members from across Nebraska and listen to perspectives on a variety of issues affecting the profession.

The Statement of Position on the Extension of Sales Tax to Architectural Services was unveiled. Senators were presented with the key elements contained within this document by John Sinclair, AIA, Government Affairs Representative. This document was prepared by Economist, Donald Pursell and designed by HDR. Please download a copy on the AIA Nebraska website, www.aiane.org to review. Our efforts have been successful; at this time it appears sales tax on architectural services is history for the year.

During the morning AIA members gathering at the Nebraska State Capitol to meet with their representatives and hear about legislation of interest including:

Taxation of architectural services; Revisions to remodeler's sales tax law; Amendments to the Board of Engineers and Architects negotiated rulemaking to determine requirements.

Many controversial issues are before the Legislature during this short 60-day session which will conclude April 15. Pay particular interest to a list of legislation AIA Nebraska is monitoring. (*Amendments are rapidly being considered for LB 1017 and LB 599, please contact AIA Nebraska for updates and clarification.*)

Legislation of Interest

LB 1025 (Raikes) Change the sales tax rate, tax services, and eliminate exemptions. This legislation did not include architects. *Revenue Committee indefinitely posted.*



LB 1017 (Landis) Redefine a term relating to contractors for sales tax purposes. AIA Nebraska is working to ensure architects are not held responsible for liability of exemption requirement. *Revenue Committee Priority.*

LB 599 (Tyson) Change and eliminate requirements for use of engineers and architects. *Engel Priority Bill.*

Status of AIA Legislation

The latest on public hearings and status of legislation is available through AIA Nebraska Lobbyist, Gordon Kissel's new website, www.kisseles.com. Please contact skay2@unl.edu for user name and password.

A note of thanks you for your contributions in establishing the AIA Nebraska Legislative Fund. Together architects are making a difference in decisions affecting your practice.



From the top...

Senator Leroy Loudon and Lowell Berg, AIA (r), discuss legislation of interest.

Senator Roger Wehrbein, Chair, Appropriations Committee highlights the State of Nebraska fiscal issues.

Family friends, Senator Marian Price and Gary Bowen, FAIA, of Bahr Vermeer & Haecker.

Awards
Presentation
in Conjunction
with the
Legislative
Forum

Commitment to Design Excellence

First National Bank was awarded the Commitment to Design Excellence presented by AIA Nebraska. The First National Bank was recognized for their commitment to the integrity of place, design excellence, and to the renaissance of downtown Omaha and was commended for preserving the history of the past while creating the exciting urban setting and skyline of the future.

Upjohn Fellows

Richard Upjohn assisted in establishing the AIA in 1857 and was its first President, serving in this capacity for 19 years. AIA Past President Tom Penney, FAIA, designed a medal, presented to outgoing national board directors last year for their leadership and vision.

The following were recognized as an Upjohn Fellow for their service on the National AIA Board of Directors.

John Birge, FAIA • Gary Bowen, FAIA • Gayle Krueger, CAE • Cecil Steward, FAIA

State News

Historic Preservation Task Force Created

Amendment 1

Twelve Nebraskans long active in historic preservation will plot strategy for promoting Amendment 1, which is on the November ballot. George Haecker, AIA, Bahr Vermeer & Haecker will co-chair Friends of Amendment 1.

The amendment would enable the Nebraska Legislature to provide tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic properties. The AIA Nebraska Executive Committee has taken a position in support of Amendment 1.

The most popular incentive nationally is a property assessment freeze. The property remains on the tax rolls at the pre-rehabilitation rate for a certain number of years before assessments are allowed to rise. The freeze has been adopted by more than 30 states, including South Dakota, where it has been extremely successful.

Arguments are being developed for a tax incentive before the public. The committee will stress the benefits the incentives would bring to older neighborhoods and main street commercial districts because historic properties would be renovated and new revenue would be generated.

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My Architect opens in April

The movie, *My Architect*, plays at the Ross Film Theater in Lincoln April 2nd through April 15th. The film chronicles an illegitimate son's journey to understand his father, renowned 20th

century architect, Louis I. Kahn. In his search, the son travels to some of Kahn's most famous creations (right, capital of Bangladesh), and delves into Kahn's divided personal life.

www.theross.org

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Chapter News

Young Architects Forum

Thursday, March 25th - 5:30 'till ?
 @ RDg Planning & Design, 900 Farnam on the Mall
 Omaha, Ne



-Office Tour
 -Informal dialogue on whatever
 -Anyone's welcome

Beverages Provided... 'nuff said

Just Do It



Jeff Dolezal, Assoc. AIA

Associate Director, AIA Nebraska

sion that you can't wait around for the opportune time to take this thing. You need to want it. You need to make the time. I don't care if you're busy with home life, kids, work overload, or having fun. I've been

My fellow *Associates*,

You thought I was going to use the *Sword* didn't you? Not this year buddy. I'm back, and 2004 is going to rock!

I am throwing the gauntlet DOWN. Those ready to take the registration exam, and you know who you are (at least 6 in my firm alone), I am challenging **you**. I am challenging every one of you out there to make 2004 a record year for registration. Of course this means I will also take the exams.

But why, you ask? It's not because a firm is going to pay you more if you are licensed. It's not because you get to use the cool **AIA** after your initials. It has to come from inside oneself. For me, it's time. It is that simple. I have discovered after 7 years in this profes-

through my fair share of excuses too.

Sara doesn't know this yet but I intend to monitor those of us taking the exams this year. We are going to reward those who take their exams this year, pass or fail.

So make 2004 your year as well. **Just do it.**

By the way, the Young Architects Forum (or whatever we decide to call it), will be having our first meeting March 25th at RDG Planning and Design. 900 Farnam on the Mall, Suite 100. 5:30 pm.- Whenever we get 'er done. You don't have to be an AIA member to come. We'll be giving an office tour and meeting thereafter. No agenda.

So, my fellow *Associates*: welcome to 2004.

A R E

Preparation and introduction to the Architecture Registration Exam is available through AIA Nebraska beginning March 22 through June 14. For further information and seminar schedule please view www.aiane.org or call AIA Nebraska at 402/472-1456.

New Visions for 2004

David Orrick

AIAS President

As the American Institute of Architecture Students embarks once more on a new year, it is with great excitement and ambition that we reassess our current operation. Along with a new Executive Board has come an abundance of ideas and visions for the future of our organization.

Community service is an area of our organization that is currently undergoing significant change. While we still volunteer monthly at the Matt Talbot Soup Kitchen, we are relentlessly seeking other volunteer opportunities that will cater to our abilities as architecture students, which will allow us to impact our community on a larger scale. On the horizon are two service projects: Habitat for Humanity and Freedom by Design. Habitat for Humanity offers invaluable

building experience as we focus our efforts on improving the community. We are currently bidding through our national office to pilot a service project entitled "Freedom by Design." This project encourages the application of our design/build skills as it asks that our members go into the homes of underprivileged individuals and perform minor construction tasks that will improve the resident's living conditions.

Another area of our organization that is currently being revamped is our mentorship program. While this program was originally nationally recognized for its success in uniting students and professionals, we are presently in a lull due to the exhaustion of our professional resources. With the same professionals volunteering as mentors year after year, it comes as no surprise that we are currently seeking other means of mentorship. While we still rely heavily on A.I.A. members to help facilitate this program (as with many oth-

ers) we are currently seeking student mentors from within the college as well. Here, we hope that first and second year students can gain knowledge from those who have experienced the same trials and tribulations, while at the same time vertically networking the college. As we look forward to revitalizing this program, we require involvement from professionals to make our efforts a success. If you are at all interested in getting involved in this, or any of the programs mentioned please contact myself or Sara Kay.

Already this year we have tweaked some of our everyday operation techniques in order to strengthen our group. Chapter communication is an area that we have thoroughly assessed in order to better inform our members and enhance the overall function of our chapter. Internally, we have put AIAS onto Blackboard, an online service that allows

see *Visions* on page 7

Chapter News

Responsive to Evolving Needs



Dan Keiter, AIA

President, AIA Western Chapter

AIA Western Chapter encourages you to mark your calendar for the upcoming Spring Conference, to be held on May 3-4, 2004 in Kearney, Nebraska. This year's theme is 'Evolution'. This conference will again provide you with a great opportunity to gain useful and timely information on issues affecting your practice of Architecture.

As the chosen conference theme implies, design professionals must be prepared to respond to the numerous, sometimes confusing requirements that impact the built environment. Recently, we've seen major changes in our building codes and tax laws. Many planning

and design activities once considered routine and predictable now require careful scrutiny and flexibility. In most firms, particularly smaller operations, the hours spent researching, understanding and implementing new building codes or tax legislation can be over-whelming. Perhaps one of the most valuable tools available to us in our efforts to remain responsive to the evolving needs of our clients and to the demands of new codes and legislation, is our active participation in the AIA.

During a recent AIA Western Chapter meeting in Kearney, Nebraska, members in attendance discussed, among other things, the recent change to the Nebraska sales tax on construction labor and its impact on current and future projects. The ensuing round-table discussion provided an excellent forum within which AIA Members and Associates were able to discuss and compare individual experiences and opinions re-

garding the implementation of the tax law. While our discussions did not result in unanimous resolution on how to handle this particular issue, the dialogue allowed us to consider a lot of scenarios that might otherwise been overlooked.

There may be numerous solutions to the problems we encounter in our service to our clients. If we, as design professionals, can quickly secure a concise understanding of the problem, we will find ourselves with more time for finding appropriate solutions. A thorough and preferably uniform understanding of the various codes and laws or any given design problem, will promote client confidence in our ability to solve his or her problems.

Our practices must be responsive to the evolving needs and demands of our clients and to the political, environmental and legal matrices within which we and our clients exist. By participating in open dialogue with our colleagues, particularly on issues that affect us all, we will continue to become more efficient, more responsive and more valuable to our current and future clients.

Programs, Opportunities On the Horizon



Mike Kros, AIA

President, AIA Omaha Chapter

Hello and welcome to AIA Omaha 2004. I am very honored to serve as president. I believe this year will be another good year for AIA Omaha. A big part of that success will be because of the great board we have. This year's board includes; Bob Krupa (RDG) - President Elect, Roger Doehling (Schemmer Associates) - Treasurer, Tamara Say - Secretary, John Dineen (HDR) - Director, Jared Gerber (Robert Torson Architects) - Director, Mike Hamilton (RDG) - Associate Director, Greg Staskiewicz (DLR Group) - Associate Director, and Martin Janousek

(Leo A Daly) - Past President. Our committees are a vital part of the board. The three main committees are

- 1) **Education** chaired by Mike Hamilton and John Dineen. Their main focus is to develop and implement programs for the members.
- 2) **Urban Design** (Community) - Chaired by Patrick Leahy. This year the committee is continuing to be involved with Omaha by Design. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a positive, large scale design influence on the community called Omaha.
- 3) **Public Outreach / Advocacy** - Chaired by Greg Staskiewicz. This committee exists to increase an awareness of the Architecture around us and promote the value of quality design by engaging the community through special events, lectures and one on one contact.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved with one of the committees please contact me, a board member or the committee chair. It is only through your involvement that AIA Omaha will continue to be a strong organization.

see *Programs* on page 7

2004

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2004

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Chapter News



AIA Lincoln Board of Directors (l-r) Director: **John Badami, AIA**; Secretary: **Annette Zacherson, AIA**; Associate Director: **Kent Steen, Assoc. AIA**; Affiliate Director: **Steve Bertrand, Affiliate AIA**; President: **Randy Stramel, AIA**; President-Elect: **Ronald Skoog, AIA**; Director: **Doug Elting, AIA**; Treasurer: **Kristi Nohavec, AIA**; Past President: **Bob Koza, AIA**; Not present: Associate Director **Eric Maxwell**

Return on Your Investment



Randy Stramel, AIA

President, AIA Lincoln Chapter

We're only in the second month of 2004 and already the election coverage is beginning to consume the news broadcasts and fill the newspapers. The forever repeated phrase, "all politics is local," could just as easily be applied to AIA membership. It has been my experience that although the national organization offers a wide range of services and support, it is at the local level that we have the greatest opportunity to affect our professional lives on a day to day basis.

Our traditional efforts to promote the value of architecture and design will of course continue with the same enthusiasm we have always shown. In addition, there has been an increased emphasis the last couple of years to provide Continuing Education Units to our membership. We have completed the first in a series of four educational programs in conjunction with the City of Lincoln. This series evolved out of the Mayor's Streamlining Committee which was charged with recommending ways to sim-

plify and streamline the issuance of building permits as part of the development process. The first program, held February 18, was attended by more than fifty people and concerned floodplain permitting and proposed changes to the Floodplain Standards. The series will continue this spring with one program per month. On March 17 the use of the City web site and on-line special permits will be discussed. Building Code topics will be addressed on April 21 and Architecture and Engineering laws will be the subject for the last seminar of the series to be held May 19. All of the programs will take place at The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Conference Board Room. Keep your eyes open for the post card reminding you of each of the seminars.

AIA is a special organization but it also shares at least one characteristic with other groups: "You get out of it what you put into it." AIA Lincoln is an opportunity for each and every member. Consider taking this opportunity to become actively involved in your professional organization. You may be surprised at the return on your investment.

2004

AIA Lincoln Chapter

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Visions *continued from page 4*

the leaders of our group to post everything from meeting minutes and agendas to upcoming events and national publications. Many students frequent this online service for classes and other organizations already, so we feel it is our most timely way to connect with the masses. With the addition of Professor Mick McConnell to our

faculty advisor position we look to update our web page in the near future as well.

Despite our new aspirations, our largest 'burden' is to follow the precedents set forth by our past officers - precedents that have set the standard for what I believe is one of *the strongest AIAS chapters across the nation!*

Programs *continued from page 5*

A few of the upcoming events are;

Omaha by Design (Civic Omaha proposals) March 31st at Scott Conference Center 6:30 p.m.

20th Street Design Charrette will be held the end of April. Steven Shogrin is chairing this event. We will again be partnered with Lively Omaha on this one. We will be looking for volunteers (architects, planners, students, others) interested in being involved. Please contact Steven if you are interested. Email: steve.shogrin@hdrinc.com phone: 399-1497

We will be having a "sustainable" program in the fall entitled "Natural Capitalism". Natural Capitalism is a new business model that is built around a more radically productive use of natural resources, which can solve many environmental problems at a profit. Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute will be the speaker.

We would like to repeat last year's success with the Architects Home Tour. The tour will be in the

fall. We are starting the selection process for the homes that will be on the tour. So if you or someone you know has a home designed by an AIA Architect that would be interested in being on the tour, please contact us.

There are many other items I would like to write about but I am out of time and space. I will do my best to serve you as members and represent AIA Omaha. I am always open to your comments, suggestions and involvement.

Loss to the Architectural Community

Bernie Gehrki, AIA Omaha

Assoc. Managing Principal, HDR Architecture, Inc.

HDR has lost an executive architectural family member. **Gary Spring**, AIA, senior vice-president from the Omaha office, died on Sept. 17 from injuries received when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a pickup truck. Gary was 53 years old.

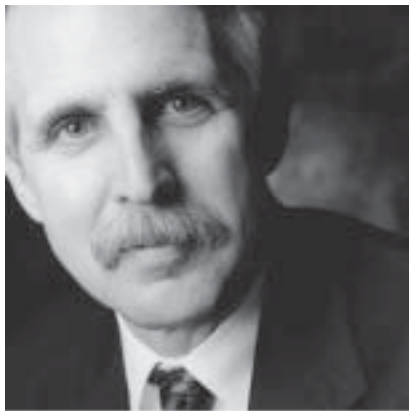
Gary received his architectural degree in May of 1973 from the University of Nebraska. He joined HDR on June 7, 1971 as a systems clerk at age 20. He worked summers while attending college then started full time with HDR in January of 1974. He married his wife of 28 years, Vickie, in 1975. Gary and Vickie have two children, Mandi, 27, and Jeff, 25. Vickie is a paralegal with an Omaha law firm. Mandi is a doctor in physical therapy currently practicing in Omaha. Jeff has a degree in computer graphics, which he utilizes as a freelance Web site designer, also in the Omaha area.

As an architectural graduate, Gary began his 29 years with HDR as a staff architect working primarily on healthcare projects. After passing his architectural registration examination, Gary grew into a project architect role and continued growth into a project manager and principal position.

Gary has an extraordinary resume of accomplishments while at HDR. His project successes include Sentara Norfolk General Hospital(s), Norfolk, Va.; Deaconess Hospital, Evansville, Ind.; LDS Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah; Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Boynton Beach, Fla.; Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus, Neb.; Spohn Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas; Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk; Portage Health System, Hancock, Mich.; Saint Luke's Hospital, Sun Valley, Idaho; Roper Medical Center, Charleston, S.C.; and St. Mary's Hospital, Centralia, Ill. In addition to these project successes, Gary served as an architectural team leader, chaired the Healthcare Best Practices Committee and participated as a national task force member for Project Management Development training with a primary focus on "Client Relationship Management," his favorite project task.

HDR staff, clients, and contractors will all miss Gary, his professionalism, leadership, mentorship, creativity, and most of all, his comic relief. Our memories will be kept fresh throughout an eternal friendship with his family, clients, and the architecture he has left us with.

HDR Creates Architecture School's Largest Endowed Scholarship



The generosity of co-workers working in the memory of an architect's untimely death, coupled with matching funds from their company, has created the largest endowed scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Architecture.

The Gary A. Spring HDR Memorial Scholarship was initiated with \$62,247 in donations from employees

of HDR, matched by equal funds from the company for a total of \$124,494.

"We are all saddened by the loss of Gary to his family and to our profession," said R. Wayne Drummond, dean of the college. "However, it is clear that both his family and our profession have been enormously strengthened by his presence. These scholarships will honor and celebrate Gary's life and will have a great significance to the College of Architecture, its students and faculty for years to come."

"Gary was an outstanding and rare individual who positively influenced all around him," said Richard R. Bell, chairman and chief executive officer of HDR, Inc. "It's extremely rewarding to see that his memory and legacy will continue to help young architecture students for generations."

Contributions to the Gary A. Spring Memorial Scholarship continue to be made by employees and matched by HDR. Outside of the company, contributions may be made by contacting Marilyn Kerans at HDR, 8404 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114 or at (402) 399-1000.

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Calendar of Events

March 2004

March 25

Speaker Mark Guetzko, President Sedorff Masonry, Inc.
8:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Park Inn Regency Lodge
909 South 107th Avenue, (Pacific St. & 107th Ave.)
Omaha, NE
No Fee, Registration online www.aiane.org
HSW Hours provided.

Young Architect's Forum

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
RDG Schutte Wilscam Birge, Inc.
900 Farnam Street

April 2004

April 13

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights Presents
Fair Housing Conference 2004
Lincoln, Embassy Suites Conference Center
No fee, Registration online www.aiane.org
HSW Hours provided.

April 16

Speaker Charles Linn, Senior Editor, Architectural Record
4:00p.m. University of NE, Richards Hall Room 15
Reception to follow in Architecture Hall link, 5-7 pm.

May 2004

May 3-4

"Evolution"
AIA Western Chapter/AIA Nebraska Spring Conference

June 2004

June 10-12

AIA 2004 National Convention and Design Exposition
Chicago, McCormick Place Registration online:
http://www.aiaconvention.com/aia_splash/index.asp

Member News

Renew/Update Your Membership Today

Paying your dues has never been easier. Simply logon to www.aia.org then to the AIA's Member Service page and enter your AIA member number and password (your last name in lowercase letters) to pay your 2004 member dues. You can even use this same page to verify and change your mailing address. Paying online is quick and efficient, and you receive a confirmation of your payment via e-mail after your transaction is complete.

Also verify your membership information on the National AIA website at www.aia.org. The membership information for the Handbook will be gathered from this site, therefore it is important you verify its accuracy.

Directions: www.aia.org

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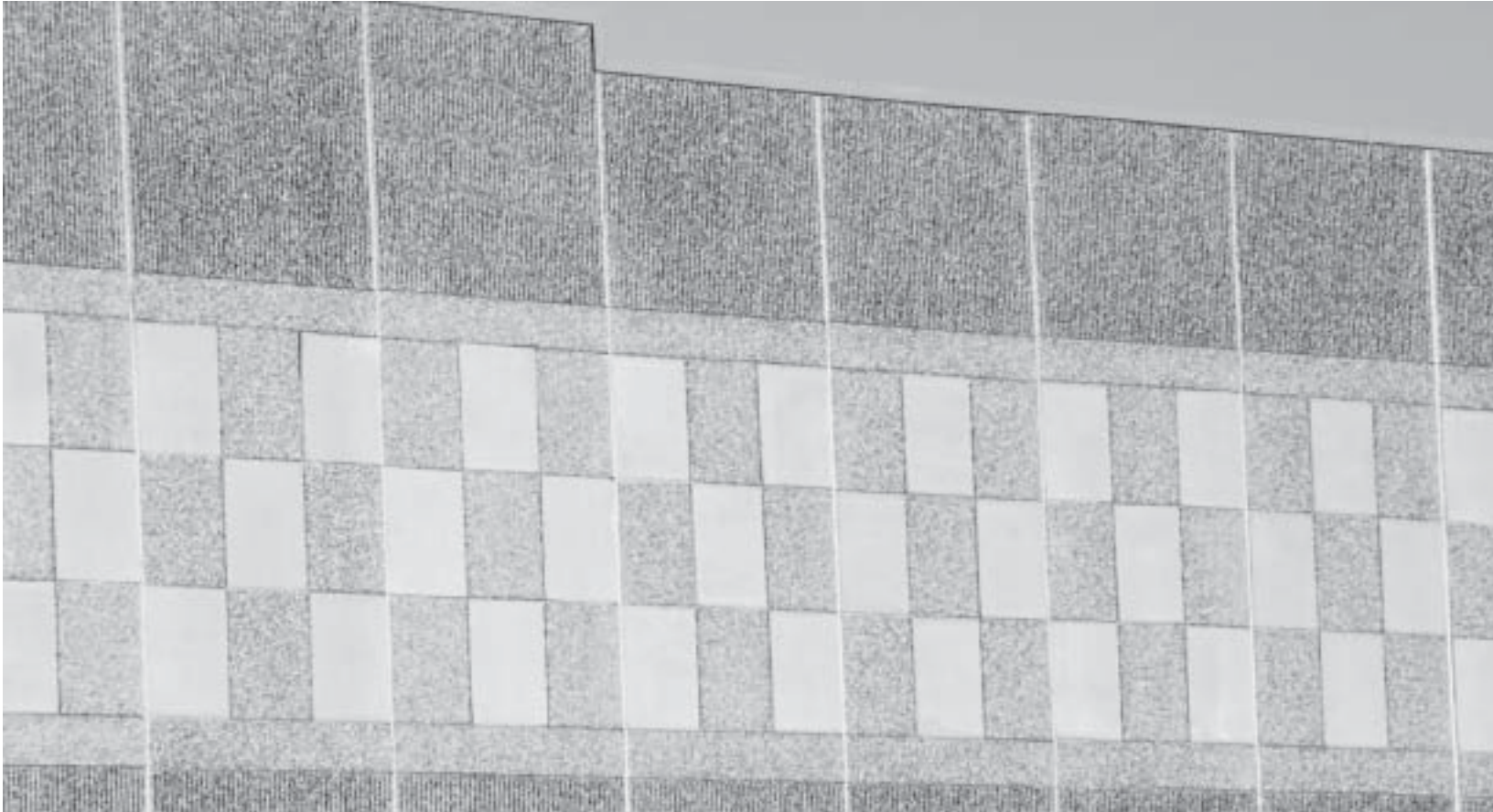
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Member News

Member & Firm News

- Inadvertently not included as 2003 AIA NE Fall Conference Exhibitor in 4th Quarter 2003 Nebraska Architect:
 - Chicago Lumber Company/Marvin Windows and Doors**
1324 Pierce Street
Omaha NE 68108
Phone 1-402-342-0840
Fax 1-402-344-8323
- The AIA Nebraska Executive Committee thanks **Tom Dibiase** of Standard Digital Imaging for sponsoring the President's Holiday Gathering at the Omaha Country Club.
- Leo A Daly announces **Ed Vidlak, AIA**, has been named an associate.
- Zenon Beringer Mabrey Partners and Ciaccio Dennell Group have merged to become **bcdm**, www.bcdm.net.
- **Tammy Eagle Bull, AIA**, and **Todd Hesson, AIA**, have formed Encompass Architects, www.encompassarch.com
- ZweigWhite, a national consultant to the design and construction industry has designated **Leo A Daly** as one of the 100 fast growing firms in the Nation.



Allisma Residence, three views

New Associate Member

Heather Keele, Associate AIA
Unthank Design Group

Reinstated

Karl Person, AIA
DLR Group

Special Thanks

HDR Architecture, for leading the efforts in crafting and designing the Statement of Position Extension of Sales Tax to Architectural Services document.

studioNRG, redesign of AIA Nebraska Legislative Forum/Luncheon invitations.

Nicole Ludaka, Associate AIA, design of AIA NE/AIA Western Chapter Spring Conference graphics.

John Sinclair, AIA, as Government Affairs, Chair, for his tireless efforts in protecting architectural profession before the Nebraska Legislature.

Recently Published

The Allisma Residence (pictured, left), a loft within a family dwelling, designed by **Tom Allisma, Associate AIA**, and his father Peep Allisma has been recently featured in *residential architect*/November - December 2003 and *Dwell* January - February 2004.

Randy Brown Architects, LLC, was featured in *Better Homes and Garden*, January 2004, for renovation of his parents Paul and Djel Brown's Omaha home.

Congratulations

Aaron Franco, "Nebraska Architect" newsletter designer, for being awarded a Silver Addy in the "Student Logo / Corporate Symbol" category at the 2003 Omaha Ad Federation's Addy Awards.

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Michael A. James, AIA

A letter from the President



AIA is Your Organization

Your new board of directors is already hard at work for you. We have maintained the same goals as we did last year and have formed committees with committee chairs to handle Public Awareness, Academia/Professional, Continuing Education, and Membership Value. We are looking for members to work on these committees, so if anyone wishes to get involved, we would encourage you to contact either myself or Sara Kay at the AIA Nebraska office. We have many important issues ahead of us this coming year, and with the help of all of us we can make this organization the best it can be.

In January we had our annual legislative luncheon with more than 31 senators in attendance. The meeting at the capital was well attended with lively discussion regarding Nebraska's fiscal outlook, legislation affecting the profession and the consequences of sales tax on services. This is an especially important issue, since tax on

services will affect all architects doing business in the State. A fund has been started to help defray the cost regarding the legislative effort. A letter has been sent to all firms with a suggested contribution level. We encourage all firms to consider their contribution to this fund. Our government affairs committee along with our lobbyist has been keeping track of these issues for us and we need to thank them for all of their hard work.

The Omaha, Lincoln and Western Chapters have planned many opportunities for us this year and I would encourage you to take advantage of them in order to collect as many of your continuing education credits as possible as well as supporting your fellow architects. The Spring convention in Kearney promises to be even better than previous years. The National Convention in June will be located in Chicago. This will be an exciting convention and a must attend for those of you who have never attended a national convention. The State convention will be in September in Lincoln. The committee is in place and planning has begun. You can see many of the activities on our website at www.aiane.org. - So get involved - **AIA is Your Organization**.

On behalf of the entire Lincoln AIA Board of Directors welcome to 2004. We are here to help insure that your membership in AIA is a fulfilling and rewarding experience. If you don't know the members on the Board please take the opportunity this year to introduce yourself and give us your input. We're actually a fairly approachable group of people and would welcome your comments and suggestions.

2004

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