

Architext



A message from the President:

Melissa L. Clarke AIA

The Eastern New York chapter is seeing activity from a new group....the emerging professionals are, well, emerging. Why have we not seen this kind of wide-spread activity and initiative in the past? Perhaps it was because we were all so beaten down by the monumental requirements and less-than-mainstream support system in place when we were emerging professionals? I tell my interns that it built character. However, today there are great efforts being made to make the path to licensure less cumbersome and more streamlined, thereby increasing our numbers and promoting interaction.

While there are many of us out there applauding the changes, there are many of us out there who are not so comfortable with what appears to be a significant relaxing of the standards. The question is why are they fixing the system now? I believe there is one, very important reason: Architects are in danger of going extinct. Based on AIA research, the retirement rate of seasoned professionals outweighs the graduation rate of architecture students, and a shortage to the point of not meeting the marketplace demands is anticipated within 15 years.

For those who do choose to be educated in Architecture, it has taken an average of 8.5 years from graduation to licensure, per NCARB statistics. For many, the time and the cost in relation to the reward of the license is not appealing, and so they have simply elected to stay the current course and do what they love to do at a firm, sans license. For others, the diversification of the field has led them on paths that do not require licensure. Comparatively speaking, in NYS a medical graduate of

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CORRECTIONS:

Please contact AIAENY at admin@aiaeny.org if you find any areas that need correction in the Architext. AIA Eastern New York appreciates all comments and feedback.

A message from the President continued:

an accredited program must complete one year of postgrad hospital training in an accredited residency program followed by a three-part (or Step) exam process. To practice Law, a May graduate may sit for the Bar exam in July.

With a 15 year timeframe on the minds of our profession's leadership, it has been determined that our cumbersome system that is out of balance with other professions is due for an overhaul. As a result, there are three prominent changes to the system recently enacted or are imminent. First, the IDP system has relaxed the hours requirements, placing the priority on the core hours dedicated to architectural skills and eliminating the elective hours. The 5,600 hrs of the past is now 3,740 hours, and additional changes in the pipeline include simplification of the core categories and alignment with the exams topics. Second, the numbers of AREs has been reduced from 9 to 7, consolidating redundant or overlapping material into single exams, with an additional reduction to 6 in the coming year. Finally, the education system is embracing the concept of the "Integrated Path." There are 12 schools in the US who will be offering this Integrated Path curriculum. Per ArchDaily.com, "The initiative would give students the opportunity to complete the IDP requirements and take the Architect Registration Exams prior to graduation...The programs in this inaugural class exhibited a high degree of creativity, and are focused on strengthening the relationship between schools, the practice community, and licensing boards..." According to an intern in my firm who has recently graduated from a "beta" version of this type of program at Boston Architectural Center, this type of curriculum has helped to streamline his experience in an office. The curriculum itself mirrors the process of a project, and support is given to promote proactive office behavior and responsibility.

The energy of the emerging professional community has definitely shifted, empowering these individuals to work together to push past the status quo and strive for change and innovation.

Let us all tap into this energy to improve our profession.

Melissa L. Clarke AIA
2015 President
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**Membership
Renewal Season
has begun!**
**Don't forget to
renew your
2016 AIA
membership!**

The VP-Programs Corner

Dear AIAENY Chapter Members,

On September 17th, AIAENY organized 1.5 hours Lunch & Learn with Leidos Engineering on energy efficiency in commercial buildings and incentives from local utility companies. This program was held in Halfmoon, NY.

AIAENY collaborated with USGBC NY Upstate Chapter on September 28th for an evening event reviewing LEED V4 and changes from LEED 2009. This was an exciting collaborative event where industry members discussed LEED V4 credits.

AIAENY in collaboration with Green Built LLC organized a half-day workshop event in Catskills to understand Hemp building design. This workshop focused on thermal mass and embodies energy along with other sustainability features of Hemp building design.

As always we look forward to having you join us for our next event. If you have any suggestions for future programs or tours, or you would be willing to organize an event in your area, please let me know at bonnied2d@gmail.com. I hope you can join us in some of our upcoming events!

Regards,
Baani Singh, AIA NCIDQ LEED AP
AIAENY VP-Programs 2015



A Look at the Evidence Linking School Design to Student Outcomes

By: Tina Mesiti-Ceas, Design Principal at CSArch

Can renovations or new construction really improve student health and achievement? Do the outcomes actually justify the taxpayer expense? These recurring questions, often posed by school board members and community residents, can stir debate and obstruct consensus. For those in support of devoting significant funds to renovations or new construction, a response backed by strong evidence is especially crucial.

The McGraw-Hill Research Foundation published, “The Impact of School Buildings on Student Health and Performance: A Call for Research,” to strengthen the understanding of the connection between school buildings and student health and learning. This paper uniquely classifies the latest research by how we see, breath, feel, hear, move, think and learn.

As defined by Dr. Lorraine Maxwell, an associate professor at Cornell University and an expert on the topic of school facilities and achievement, there are a set of psychological processes that are impacted by building design, including cognition, attention, motivation, and emotional affect. Supported by Maxwell’s research in addition to that of many other field experts, when the physical state of a school building compromises how students see, breath, feel, hear, move, think and learn, a student’s cognition, attention, motivation, and emotional affect can suffer. Furthermore, teacher performance and retention, community engagement, and school leadership declines.

By categorizing relevant statistics and inferences by each of the six types of experiences, the link between school buildings and student outcomes is strengthened, serving as evidence in favor of pursuing school building renovations or new construction:

1.SEEING

- Natural daylight offers the most positive effect on student learning by increasing concentration and learning, reducing student absenteeism and improving test scores.¹⁻⁴
- Students with limited classroom daylight were outperformed by those with natural daylight by 20 percent in math and 26 percent in reading.^{1,5}
- Students with plenty of daylight in classrooms learn up to 21 percent more than those with less daylight.⁶

2.BREATHING, FEELING, AND HEARING

- Ventilation, air supply, thermal comfort, and acoustics and noise affect a student’s information retention, concentration, mental task speed and completion, testing, general performance, general comfort and daily attendance. These effects can be negatively impacted by the following sources: Windowless classrooms; antiquated mechanical systems; and poor separation between classrooms and background noise.^{2, 7-15}
- Many classrooms have a speech intelligibility rating of 75 percent or less, which means listeners with normal hearing can understand only 75 percent of words from a list.¹

3.MOVING

- Undersized classrooms and circulation can contribute to excessive levels of stimulation, cognitive fatigue and less pro-social behavior.^{5, 16}
- Undersized classrooms and inadequate furniture debilitate routinely re-organizing classrooms in response to engaged learning and 21st Century Learning.^{1,17}

A Look at the Evidence Linking School Design to Student Outcomes - *continued*

- Overcrowding can augment negative student behavior and poor performance. ²

4.THINK AND LEARN

- The least quantitative, though significant in turning around an individual or a student body at large, is sense and pride. Small schools promote positive student engagement, attainment and well-being. ¹⁸
- Introducing public space, such as a commons, can foster community and family engagement, resulting in a sense of unity and belonging, as well as improved student behavior and achievement. ^{19, 20}
- The concept of aesthetics is often misunderstood as how something looks or appears. Aesthetics in the context of schools is how the building appeals to the senses and emotions of students, staff, and faculty.⁶
- Color has the power to influence the performance of its occupants, as it is the most immediate form of nonverbal communication. ¹
- Schools that are engaging and vibrant foster a sense of belonging that is important for all kids, especially those at risk. ¹
- A study of the District of Columbia School system found that after controlling for other variables such as a student's socioeconomic status, standardized achievement scores were lower in schools with poor building conditions. ²¹

For more information, please contact Tina Mesiti-Céas, a design principal at CSArch, at tmesiticeas@csarchpc.com or 518.463.8068.

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AIA has been working on our profession's "Identification Crisis" for some time now, and while we all know what it is we do, the public doesn't...and that makes it pretty tough to sell our value.

We challenge you to come up with the tag line that sums up who we are, what we do, and why, frankly, we are so darn special. There are no rules - just make it marketable and memorable. The PR gurus say you have 10 seconds to win over the average person, if they are feeling generous with their time. We think that AIAENY members have the personality, wit and creativity to nail it...

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