

# Architext



## AIA Eastern New York

### Presidents Message

#### Special points of interest:

- Message from the President
- AIAENY Cathedral Tour
- Check out our exciting list of programs

This year I attended the A'18 AIA Conference on Architecture as an AIA member, a designer and firm leader but not on behalf of our Chapter. Baani Singh, our past president was given the honor of representing AIA ENY. Baani will provide an update on the conference as our delegate in the next newsletter.

The 2018 AIA Conference was particularly special for me, as James Stewart Polshek was awarded the AIA Gold Metal. I was fortunate to work with Polshek Partnership (now Ennead) under James's leadership along with several other partner's. His fearless attitude, design approach, charisma and selflessness was unmatched. During my time at Polshek Partnership, James was beginning to wind down but his presence and guiding principles were persistent.

James's sensitivity to place, context and creating space that enhanced any given environment began in 1963 under the office of James Stewart Polshek. His career spanned over forty years with countless awards and firm recognition. To put this award in perspective, James joins the ranks of other visionaries and architectural models whom we have all studied through our course work, including: Frank Llyod Wright, Louis Sullivan, Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, I.M. Pei and many others.

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Working at Polshek was special, a time in my career that I'll never forget and in fact, helped shape my career and development as an architect and firm leader. As I listened to AIA 2018 President, Carl Elefanta speak about the importance of our profession coming together NOW to address the societal, cultural and environmental issues we phase, I couldn't help thinking that James Polshek started this movement 40 years ago, and his legacy continues the journey.

Congratulations James, well deserved!

Sincerely,  
Tina Mesiti-Céas, AIA, LEED Green Assoc.  
AIA Eastern NY President 2018



## Save the Dates

**Emerging Professionals  
Networking Mixer**  
September 27

**Beaux Arts Ball**  
October 25

**AIAENY Annual Meeting**  
November 14

**Holiday Soiree**  
December 6



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**CORRECTIONS:** Please contact AIAENY at [admin@aiaeny.org](mailto:admin@aiaeny.org) if you find any areas that need correction in the Architext. AIA Eastern New York appreciates all comments and feedback.

## 2018 AIAENY Leadership

### Executive Committee



Tina Mesiti-Ceas, AIA  
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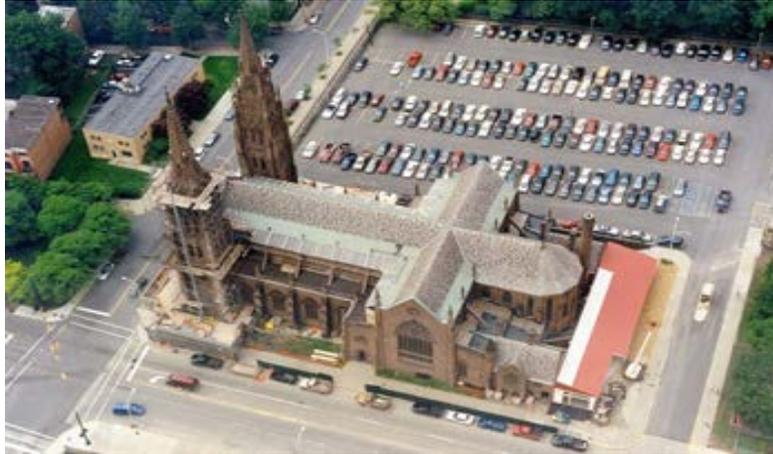
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## Cathedral Tour



### Chapter Tours Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Members Experienced the 170-Year Old Structure and Its Restoration Story

In June, AIAENY held a well-attended Historic Structure Tour and Presentation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Albany. The Cathedral serves as the “mother church” of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and its spires have been a major part of the Albany skyline since the mid-19th century.

Laurence F. Wilson, Partner at Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects, offered an insightful and illustrated presentation on the construction of the Cathedral and the restoration work overseen by his firm over the last 40 years. He was joined by Thomas Prindle, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Albany and Brian Buff, Coordinator of the Cathedral's History & Heritage Program, who offered insights into the Cathedral's rich heritage and how it impacted local, state and national history.

Tour organizer VP of Programs, Paul Conant believed offering this program would be informative and showcase the history of the local area.

The Diocese of Albany was created by Pope Pius IX on April 23, 1847 in order to serve the population of upstate New York, which quadrupled in the years following the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.



John McCloskey, the first Bishop of Albany, envisioned a Cathedral that would be prominent in the city and serve as a center for his flock: “To erect a structure more spacious and more enduring...that the wayfarer may enter in and find rest.” He commissioned Patrick Charles Keely to design a Cathedral in the neo-Gothic style. On July 2, 1848, the cornerstone was laid in the presence of 10,000 people. Four years later, on November 21, 1852, people from all over Albany, from laborer to merchant king, gathered for the Cathedral's dedication.

From 2000 – 2004, the restoration of the Cathedral first addressed the critical sections of the Cathedral’s brownstone surfaces and to provide for the waterproof integrity of the entire structure. From 2008 – 2010, the spacious and soaring interior of the Cathedral was repaired and renewed to its original artistic beauty, to bring a fresh vitality to the Cathedral’s role as the center of Diocese liturgy and community celebration. In 2017, the sacristies were renovated and restored. Attendees learned of the Cathedral’s current restoration efforts on one of its original stained glass windows, the Rose Window, featured on the East façade of the Cathedral.



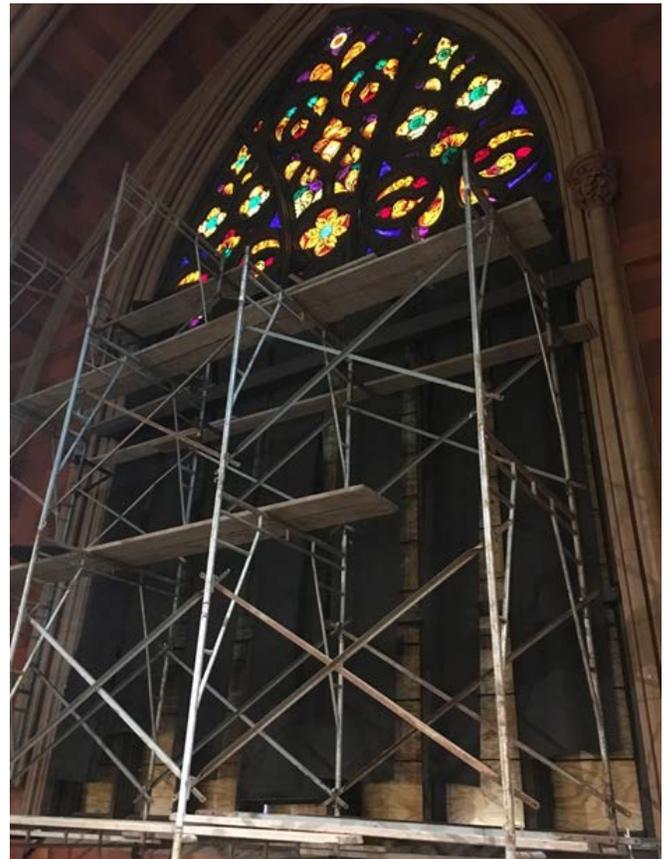
Following Wilson’s presentation, the group was split into two groups so that each group could experience the Cathedral from different perspectives: first attendees took an exterior tour to understand the exterior restoration efforts and learn about future restoration plans of the brownstone masonry facade; then the groups switched to explore the Cathedral’s sanctuary, sacristies, undercroft and crypt. Artifacts dating back to the Cathedral’s construction from 1848 – 1852 were displayed and interpreted for the group. Following the formal program, a group of remaining attendees joined Larry Wilson for a tour of the Cathedral’s North Tower, where they saw the interior results of restoration, as well as the graffiti left behind by many workers who toiled to erect the original tower.

The entire program was a success. As one attendee shared: “The program was great. Tell an architect he can tour a fantastic building, get 2 AIA credits AND not have to take an exam, you’ll find it a no brainer.”

These types of educational tours are a great balance to the usual ‘Moisture Management in Traditional Stucco Buildings’ or ‘Strategies to Keep Birds from Flying into Your Curtain Wall.’ Well done AIAENY!”

AIAENY President Tina Mesiti-Ceas stated: “I want to thank all who worked hard to make our Cathedral program a reality and such a positive experience for those who took part. Our Chapter is already at work looking to do more programs like this in the future.”

If you have any suggestions for historic structure tours, please contact the AIAENY Office at [admin@aiaeny.org](mailto:admin@aiaeny.org) or 518-694-5365.



## July 2018 Programs Summary



Wood storage area at the beginning of the process and beginning of the Tour.



Wood materials are brought in from the storage area to begin the process of joining wood members to their desired lengths



"Wave" Glulam Beam

With spring wrapping up and summer going into full swing I'm happy to say that we've had some good program opportunities for the chapter in May and June. Within this timeframe we've had a tour of the UNALAM manufacturing facility on May 18th, participated in the Capital Region Architecture & Design Industry Scavenger Hunt on May 31st, and had a Tour of the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Albany on June 7th.

I would like to give Liz Connor a special thank you for leading the chapter on the UNALAM Manufacturing Plant in Sidney, NY. UNALAM manufactures engineered wood construction materials specializing in glulam beams. For chapter attendees this program included a nice lunch, power point presentation, and a tour of the plant. The presentation focused on glulam design, preferred wood species used, grades, span capabilities, member shape & connector options, and finish coatings. After the lunch presentation the group went on the hour-long plant tour and got to see the glulam manufacturing plant in operation. The tour concluded at the metal shop where they fabricate the standard and custom glulam connectors.

Regards,

Paul R. Conant,  
2018 VP of Programs





# AIA Eastern New York

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518-694-5365

## Programs Schedule

Please see the currently scheduled 2018 AIAENY Events (CEU opportunities in **Bold**):

Emerging Professionals Networking Mixer – Thursday, September 27

Beaux Arts Ball – Thursday, October 25

AIAENY Annual Meeting – Wednesday, November 14

Holiday Soiree – Thursday, December 6

On the Web @ [WWW.AIAENY.org](http://WWW.AIAENY.org)

## Special thanks to our Allied Members!

