

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Year in Review 2017

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"The architects we're working with are phenomenal. They're listening, they're doing their homework, and they're researching. The creative process-space, time-they think about things that we wouldn't ever think of."

Michelle Obama on Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects at the AIA Conference on Architecture 2017

Letter from the CEO

The Institute celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2017, and we marked the occasion with a record-breaking 91,000 members. Another fact? We're going to need every single one of those 91,000 members to confront the environmental and social challenges of today and beyond. Architects are naturally empathetic leaders, who must translate the deepest hopes and highest aspirations into real places and spaces that keep us safe, healthy, and inspired. Our members have called on their AIA to help them lead-to help them drive positive change through the power of design. We stand for equity and human rights. We stand for architecture that strengthens our communities. We stand for a sustainable future. We stand for protecting communities from the impact of climate change. We stand for economic opportunity. We speak up, and policymakers listen. These are our values, and 2017 was the springboard to clarify them, to broadcast them, and to put them into action. This annual report is a chronicle of those values.

After all, our shared values are what set AIA members apart from the crowd. The Institute is committed to putting those values to work for all members—and giving all members the tools they need to apply those values to their businesses, their careers, and their design ethics. Your passion is our purpose.

Robert Ivy, FAIA EVP/Chief Executive Officer



Community

As the first new development in San Francisco's Transbay Redevelopment Area, Rene Cazenave Apartments, designed by 2017 AIA Architecture Firm Award recipient Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, provides 120 mini studio apartments with comprehensive supportive services as permanent homes for formerly chronically-homeless individuals.

BECKER



Building community

Architects are part of a dynamic network that empowers them to be design thinkers and transformational forces in their communities.

Highlights from A'17

AIA took a cue from its members and, in 2017, transformed its own annual convention to be the AIA Conference on Architecture. Simply put, there is nothing conventional about the passion of our members, and we wanted to reflect that fact by creating an experience like no other.

In her first public talk since leaving the White House, former First Lady Michelle Obama sat with 2017 AIA President Thomas Vonier, FAIA, for a special conversation that underscored the importance of including women, people of color, and all underrepresented groups in the profession—and in all professions. It was an unforgettable event for many of the 15,500 A'17 attendees from 60 countries gathered in Orlando.

AIA's premier event was a major success. The Institute is transforming the conference, with a focus on making it more inclusive for all members, attracting a younger audience, and renewing its effort to highlight architecture. That hard work is clearly paying off. In a survey, 94 percent of attendees said they would urge colleagues to attend the AIA's Conference on Architecture. Former First Lady Michelle Obama at A'17, in her first post-White House speaking engagement, reinforced the need for all professions—including architecture—to embrace fresh, diverse voices from all walks of life.





SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

91K

membership

92%

15,500

94%

who would recommend a colleague

Strengthening connections

The success of the Leadership Institute made it clear that we're on to something: our architect-leaders are legion and, more importantly, are passionate. The Women's Leadership Summit pushed that message further to advance specific mentorship opportunities for women, whose numbers in architecture are growing faster than ever. The Practice Innovation Lab, put on by AIA's Young Architects Forum, pushed leadership in a different direction: new ways of practicing. Together, these events made 2017 a pivotal year for architects who claim a personal stake in driving positive change.

Leadership Institute

Emerging and established leaders in the field met to talk about what it means to put leadership into practice as an architect. The 350 attendees covered a range of topics, from turning design thinking into action, to mentoring teams, to pursuing careers in public service as "citizen architects."

Conversation emphasized regional issues that architects can tackle in their communities. For example, AIA Pasadena chapter discussed leadership in the context of the local housing shortage. In New Orleans, members discussed working with local officials on sea level rise and its implications for planning and building.

The 2017 Leadership Institute was the final

event in a three-year pilot program. It was so successful—exceeding expectations for 80 percent of attendees—that AIA will offer it again in 2018.

"When I think about leadership, I think about starting with yourself. Be the example of what you want to see."

Nooni Reatig, AIA



After a three-year pilot program, AIA is committed to building on the success of its Leadership Institute—and training the next generation of leaders.



Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA, (center) reveals her path to leadership as a recognized sustainability expert at the Women's Leadership Summit 2017.

Women's Leadership Summit 2017

Women in architecture are growing at a faster rate than ever before. The Women's Leadership Summit, a bi-annual conference, was hosted September 14-16 in Washington, DC, and focused on supporting women architects, creating new paths to leadership, and recognizing and championing their work. Four hundred members attended the sold-out event.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS



394 Women's Leadership Summit attendees





With a record number of attendees this year, the Women's Leadership Summit deepened its commitment to systemic change in architecture.

Young Architects Forum's Practice Innovation Lab

AIA actively cultivates a diverse and accomplished pipeline of young professionals. One way we do this is through the Young Architects Forum (YAF), which for 25 years has connected architects with less than 10 years of experience, for conversation and action.

In October 2017, the YAF convened its biggest and boldest initiative ever—the Practice Innovation Lab. After meeting virtually to organize their agenda, 60 attendees—selected from 150 applicants—gathered at 1776 Crystal City to discuss how the practice of architecture and the profession may evolve as the 21st century progresses. These early career professionals broke into 10 teams, each working hackathon-style, to devise and pitch a new model for an architectural practice. Models played with different funding mechanisms—from crowdfunding to subscriptions—and different uses of data to make money, create value, and do good.

> The Young Architects Forum isn't just about community—it's about action. YAF's Practice Innovation Lab set the terms for new courses of action within firms and outside the mainstream.





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SUCCESS



Improving our digital community

Digital transformation

Serving members online, and building a digital community, is a challenging task, one AIA is tackling in stages.

In 2015, we launched the Digital Transformation initiative to provide easy-to-use career and practice tools and resources and new ways to connect with fellow members. In 2017, our digital efforts began to generate big value with the completion of 80 projects and software releases that enriched the experiences of all visitors to aia.org, making it easier to log into the website, track continuing education and accreditation credits, as well as deliver important news and opportunities directly to members.

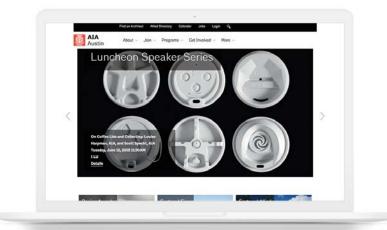
Ensuring excellence

Chapter accreditation

In 2017, AIA wrapped up work on the first cycle of chapter accreditation, which resulted in full accreditation for 217 U.S. and international chapters.

This is great news. AIA chapters are crucial engines of support, networking, and professional development for members. After a rigorous audit, we know that they are providing members a baseline of core services in education, advocacy, governance, outreach, membership, communications, and finance. The accreditation process also shows that all chapters have a stable financial, legal, and operational infrastructure.

We are working closely to help chapters that didn't meet our accreditation standards make the transition to other governance options, while retaining their independent identity in areas that are important to them.



SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

217 chapters achieved full accreditation

Recognizing excellence

Every year, we recognize the best in architecture and design. These honors and awards give a nod to distinctive, even iconic, work by individuals and firms and celebrate our universal passion for excellence.

Gold Medal

The Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, the first black architect to become a member of AIA and first black AIA member to be inducted into its College of Fellows. With a client list of Hollywood luminaries, Williams developed a portfolio of nearly 3,000 beautiful buildings during a five-decade, barrier-breaking career. An architect whose work celebrated the glamour of classic Southern California style, Williams was among the first black students admitted to the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design.

Architecture Firm Award

Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects (LMSA) was recognized for its ingenuity in making the most of the small budgets available for affordable housing projects—even in San Francisco, where space is notoriously scarce and financing is particularly tight. LMSA's proficiency in diverse building types—from



affordable housing to adaptive reuse of historic structures—has been recognized with more than 140 design awards, and it is only one of three firms to have received eight AIA COTE Top Ten awards. A small, nimble firm comprised of 21 dedicated designers, LMSA's work demonstrates design with purpose.



Architecture Firm Award recipient Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects designed the Sweetwater Spectrum Community for autistic adults in Sonoma, California, which offers a new model for supportive living and designing for dignity.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

152 members elevated to FAIA

500+ submissions for Honors & Awards Architecture, Interior Architecture, Regional & Urban Design award recipients

17

Twenty-five Year Award

I.M. Pei's glass-and-stainless-steel-pyramid entrance to the ancient Musée du Louvre has been embraced over the last quarter of a century as an important Parisian landmark. The structure is the public face of a massive entrance redesign and helped to triple the number of visitors to the Louvre. It received the Twenty-five Year Award in 2017 for its enduring significance.

Topaz Medallion

The recipient of the 2017 Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education, awarded jointly by AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), was Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, former dean of the Yale School of Architecture. Stern's impact on architectural education is on par with the great deans in the last 50 years. But, his value to generations of architects looking to make the jump from school to practice is perhaps greater. His own firm has served as a model of practice for years, and he, himself, has modeled the kind of architect that makes a difference; erudite, engaged in architecture's past and future and tough-minded.





"When you ask the visitors, 'Why are you coming to the Louvre?' they give three answers," said Henri Loyrette, president-director of the Louvre from 2001 to 2013. "For the Mona Lisa, for the Venus de Milo, and for the pyramid."

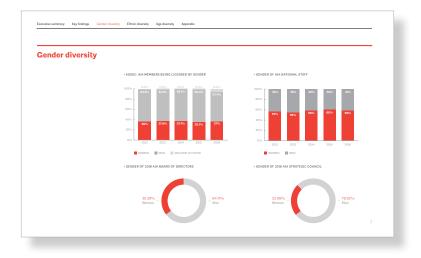
Advancing diversity

Diversity is about fostering differences and creating new opportunities for advancement. AIA has made some progress on this front since Whitney Young's time, but there is work to be done. The future of architecture depends upon it.

Advancing diversity starts with advancing students before they even set foot on a college campus, which is why we completed and published our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion K-12 Architecture and Design Education Scan. The report revealed how far architecture reaches into curricula—inside and outside of schools—and what we must do to deepen those roots. We also completed the AIA Demographics Report which reflects three years of dedicated work: a resolution in 2015, research in 2016, and a release in 2017. The report's findings will propel us forward with more information than ever about our members and their needs.

We are committed to broadening equity, diversity, and inclusion to create a stronger profession.

Membership Demographics Report 2016



Architects Foundation

We are pleased to announce that Marci B. Reed, was hired as executive director of the Architects Foundation. Her current focus includes expanding the Diversity Advancement Scholarship program for 2018–19 to offer more students the opportunity to pursue a successful career in architecture. At the same time, the Architects Foundation oversees preservation efforts at sites such as the Octagon Museum as a model of stewardship and care.

The Architects Foundation had a record number of applicants to the Diversity Advancement Scholarship in 2017—and it's a sign of a healthier pipeline from architecture's academy to professional practice. The historically high attrition rate among women within that pipeline is starting to come down, thanks to efforts like the Sho-Ping Chin Memorial Academic Scholarship for undergraduate or graduate school women in architecture.



Benjamin M



250

diversity advancement scholarship applicants

20

diversity advancement scholarships awarded

Leslie Epps, 2017 Diversity Advancement Scholarship recipient and her mother Chris Epps, who had the opportunity to experience A'17 courtesy of Benjamin Moore & Co. Foundation.

Influence

48.BC

1

The cost of rebuilding after disasters was more than \$300 billion globally in 2017. Through their influence and skill, architects are working to make the world a more resilient place, one community at a time.

110



Championing the profession

There is nothing more fundamental to AIA's success than how effectively it advocates for the interests and livelihood of its members. That was true in 1857, and it remains true today. The stakes have never been higher, but then again, our voice has never been stronger.

Legislative & political advocacy

Thanks to rebuilding, reorganizing, and revamping key aspects of AIA's government affairs program—from grassroots strategy to hiring a new lobbying firm—we made major advocacy advances in 2017.

Policymakers on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the country heard the voice of architects throughout the year—and we achieved significant victories.

One win was Congress' first major overhaul of the federal tax code since 1986. Most notable was securing an exemption for architecture firms that prevented a drastic tax increase on projects organized as "pass throughs."

Another win: Saving the Historic Tax Credit, an economic engine that spurs design and construction job creation while revitalizing cities and towns across America. Finally, Congress introduced legislation to improve infrastructure—a major AIA policy priority in recent years—to fund highways, water and energy improvements, and rural development.

These victories were achieved because AIA's advocacy team was active early and often, educating lawmakers well before legislation was introduced.

We engaged with leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, lobbying for programs that promote energy efficiency, such as Energy Star, and in the process saved consumers money and reduce carbon emissions.

AIA in 2017 also helped several state chapters successfully shut down efforts to question architects' occupational licensing and the necessity for Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) procurement programs.



Where We Stand statements

In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, AIA quickly learned that harnessing the collective voice of architects was essential to asserting our core values—equity and human rights, sustainability, fighting climate change, creating economic opportunity, and recommitting to a bright future for the profession—on Capitol Hill, in state houses, and in communities everywhere.

Based on member feedback, AIA's Board of Directors approved the "Where We Stand" initiative, a long-term campaign that clearly and strongly states the Institute's positions and shares those views with policymakers, the media, and key influencers in business and in nonprofit sectors. We circulated these statements widely, vetted them extensively with our board and member groups, and displayed them prominently on aia.org. Over the course of 2017, AIA released the following statements:

- Where architects stand: A statement of our values
- Where we stand: immigration and visa restrictions
- Where we stand: climate change
- Where we stand: Buildings are infrastructure

The timing and content of these statements is flexible. The debates in Washington and across the nation on key issues that impact the profession—from equity to the economy is fluid. We're closely monitoring the public conversation and are prepared to join discussions that affect the built environment, the design and construction industry, and our shared values.

Leading by design

Grassroots 2017

Architecture's influence goes beyond the spaces and places that give our lives meaning—and our annual Grassroots event convenes senior members of every chapter to help architects better influence policy, practices, and people.

The heart of the Grassroots event is connection, as we convene senior members of every chapter in small-scale discussions that provide a more intimate experience than the annual conference. The theme of Grassroots 2017 discussions was urban renewal. Speakers delivered the AIA version of the TED talk– dubbed "ArchiTalks"—on the themes of walkable cities, heritage cities, resilient cities confronting challenges, and today's cities and tomorrow's ideas. Grassroots also features leadership development courses, with 2017 topics ranging from decision-making to engaging with the media and the public.

Mixing leaders from cities big and small to share their views and experiences can change minds—and professional practices.



This year, Grassroots assembled thought-leaders from around the country to discuss urban renewal's legacy and architecture's agency in making more livable communities.



chapter officers and staff who connected at Grassroots

Promoting sustainability

Sustainability is not just a consideration—it's the foundation of good design. Two key ways that AIA continues to deepen its commitment put members—and their contributions—at the forefront: our Committee on the Environment's COTE Top Ten Awards, and the architects making a difference around the country through 100 Resilient Cities.

COTE Top Ten

Now in its 21st year, AIA's Committee on the Environment (COTE) Top Ten Awards are one of our most effective sustainability initiatives—and is considered the industry's premier program celebrating sustainable design excellence. For the first time in 2017, projects were awarded according to new measures reflecting the most current criteria for deep sustainability.

Resilience

AIA members in 24 cities contributed to the 100 Resilient Cities initiative, in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation. We also continue to co-lead the Building Industry Statement on Resilience—now with 44 signatories—to implement policy and practice changes to break the cycle of destruction and rebuilding caused by natural disasters or aging infrastructure.

We continued to address the intersection of public health, architecture, and climate change by partnering with the American Public Health Association to share stories about architects' contributions to sustainable development. Finally, in 2017, we completed the groundwork for a healthier materials protocol for design teams—owners, architects and contractors alike—that will help them meet client goals for health and environmental materials attributes when its published in early 2018.

SmithGroupJJR's Brookfield Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia, expresses the mission of their client, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to protect one of the nation's most valuable and threatened natural resources—the bay, itself. The center received a 2017 COTE Top Ten Award in part because it surpasses LEED standards for zero-net-CO₂ emissions.





Supporting communities

AIA's Communities by Design, Disaster Assistance Program, and public awareness campaign, Blueprint for Better, evidence the Institute's commitment to direct action in improving lives and enriching the public's understanding of why architects matter. It's work that we'll always need to do, but it's work that we're very good at doing—and have been for decades.



Vinalhaven, Maine, has thrived for decades as an artist colony, lobster fishery, quarry, and more. Thanks to a partnership with AIA Communities by Design in 2017, its future looks just as bright as its past.

Communities by Design

Through its design assistance programs, AIA has worked with over 200 communities since 1967. Each project involves an interdisciplinary team that works pro bono with a host community, typically involving hundreds of local participants in an intensive public process that produces strategies to achieve local aspirations for a place. These programs have resulted in a number of notable urban transformations, such as the Pearl District in Portland, revitalization in East Nashville and Santa Fe's Railyard redevelopment. During 2017, Communities by Design organized its first project in Ireland with a joint team of American and Irish professionals that worked on neighborhood revitalization with hundreds of participants in Dublin. We partnered with the African Union of Architects to hold a training workshop with architects from across the continent in Nairobi, which led to a new national policy proposal in Kenya. Our work in the US included projects tackling growth management and livability in Bozeman, Montana, downtown revitalization in Helper, Utah, and community resilience in towns across Iowa, Colorado, and Maine.



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Disaster assistance

Architects design and plan—and that includes managing the risks posed by hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

In a year of epic disasters, AIA conducted a record number of safety-assessment program trainings to ensure that members are ready to respond when necessary. When Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, AIA members sprang into action, volunteering to evaluate more than 4,500 structures damaged by the storm and subsequent flooding so that residents could safely return to their homes and businesses.

Insights in our "Disaster Assistance Handbook," now in its third edition, also help members prepare for, respond to, and recover from, disasters. Increasingly, AIA is working with local elected officials to appoint architects to serve as state disaster coordinators. Given inevitable population growth and climate change, we must create communities that are both resilient and adaptable to keep them thriving in the decades to come.

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

500+

individuals who were trained in AIA's Safety Assessment Program (SAP) during the 2017 hurricane/wildfire season

34

states who have SAP trained architects at the ready

4,500

structures assessed pro bono by architects in Texas after Hurricane Harvey

AIA members evaluated more than 4,500 buildings in Hurricane Harvey's wake, which cost more than \$125 billion in damages. Their guide? AIA's "Disaster Assistance Handbook"—now in its third edition.

Blueprint for Better

To serve the public, architects must connect with the public. That's why we made public engagement a key area of focus in 2017.

To raise the profile of the profession, we ran ads on Hulu and HGTV, and sponsored HGTV's Urban Oasis. We launched the third year of our successful AIA Film Challenge, which shows the impact architects have on their communities. We had 82 film submissions last year-more than double the number submitted just two years ago. The public cast nearly 300,000 votes for their favorite short films. The top prize went to Myles Kramer, director of *Community by* Design: Skid Row Housing Trust, featuring Michael Maltzan Architecture and Brooks + Scarpa. Shot in Los Angeles, the film shows the positive impact design has on the lives of the homeless.

To complement these outreach efforts, we developed a message book that helps AIA members find ways to avoid architectural and design jargon and communicate their passion for their profession and their projects.



A resident of Jackson, Mississippi buys watermelons at a farmer's market in Midtown, an impoverished neighborhood that was revitalized due to design and civic efforts made by Duvall Decker Architects. "Midtown. A Blueprint for Better" is an AIA-produced, short documentary film that highlights the collaboration between architects, civic leaders and residents.



SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS



82 Film Challenge submissions 262k+

votes for People's Choice Award film

Knowledge

Architects are single-minded in their focus, but openminded in leveraging information from a diverse set of sources. Tomorrow's research agenda depends on today's architect-driven data sets.



Developing insights

Among other things, AIA is here to help architects find work, get work, and do work. That's why we launched the Center for Practice in 2017, and that's why we doubled-down on our research efforts. After all, architects are busy—and they should have the benefit of accurate intelligence and useful resources at the tips of their fingers.

Center for Practice

In 2017 we launched the Center for Practice (CfP) with the mission of helping architects advance their understanding of what it takes to build a thriving firm, and how to make it happen. Since 95 percent of architectural firms have fewer than 50 employees, and 77 percent have fewer than 10 employees, many struggle to effectively manage the multiple facets of running a practice, from hiring to marketing to budgeting and finance.

CfP's first year focused on listening to what members consider the most critical business development issues—conversations that will shape our future agenda for this important new member benefit.

Research

How will future architects practice their profession? What kinds of buildings will they construct? What design techniques will they use? What materials? These are some of the questions we seek to answer through AIA's research.

In 2017, we used market data to develop new partnerships with product manufacturers and investigated the benefits of business intelligence. When AIA's Academy of Architecture for Health's (AAH) Journal was released, we added its content to our Building Research Information Knowledge (BRIK) database. We also brought together 40 leaders for our annual research summit.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017



The core of Michelle Laboy, Peter Wiederspahn, and David Fannon's 2017 Latrobe Prize-winning project, "Future-Use Architecture," is the potential of a structure to adapt to seen or unforeseen circumstances.

The AIA College of Fellows' Latrobe Prize is awarded biennially to a two-year program supporting the advancement of architecture. In 2017, a team of three professors at the Northeastern University School of Architecture captured the \$100,000 prize for their work on "future use design," and finding ways to adapt existing structures to unforeseen contingencies while retaining the heart of the original design. Other AIA prizes, totaling \$100,000, were awarded to joint academic/practitioner projects that included the following:

- finding ways to use nature in designing schools to improve learning outcomes and reduce stress,
- employing 3-D printing for complex wall assemblies, and
- creating façades with microalgae to reduce carbon emissions.

Designing for the future

Quick math: how many years away is 2030? Just 13—and our success in achieving carbon neutrality is not a foregone conclusion. The future really is now, and that applies to licensed architects and unlicensed associates—an incredibly diverse and motivated group of Emerging Professionals.

Sustainability: 2030

As major consumers of energy, buildings are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. That's why AIA supports the 2030 Challenge, which calls for all new buildings, developments, and major renovations to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

By the close of 2017, 462 architectural firms in the US have joined AIA's 2030 Commitment. By doing so, they will submit a portfolio containing all their work, monitor their progress designing and building carbon-neutral structures by 2030, and be held accountable for meeting interim goals, including 70 percent fossil fuel reduction by 2020.

New online education tools—including AIA's 2030 Challenge goals—promote adaptation to climate and societal change. New educational workshops, piloted by our Seattle chapter and adopted by four others, ensure that attendees have access to best practice strategies.

Sasaki's Bristol Community College John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building, which received a COTE Top Ten Award in 2017, transforms how we think about zero-net energy buildings.





462

110

architecture firms have joined AIA's 2030 Commitment.

Emerging Professionals Exhibit

We believe in the power of design to make positive social change. We witness this through an inspiring, creative, and fresh lens in our annual Emerging Professionals Exhibit.

This annual juried exhibition of work by students, recent graduates, and newly licensed architects featured 40 works, from traditional architectural renderings to large-scale models to multi-media productions.

In 2017, AIA mounted the exhibit at AIA headquarters in Washington, DC (and made it accessible online), exposing the talents of our newest architects to the broadest possible audience.

> How can you transform a neglected lot in Guatemala City? That's the question Gregory Melitonov, Assoc. AIA, and his cohorts in FUNdaMENTAL Design-Build Internship answered with their intervention entitled, "playAchomo." Part shade, part passage, and part flexible venue for any number of programs, playAchomo is as colorful as it is instructive about what's possible when design thinking takes effect.





SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS



submissions for the Emerging Professionals Exhibit



33 projects selected to be included in the exhibit

Summary

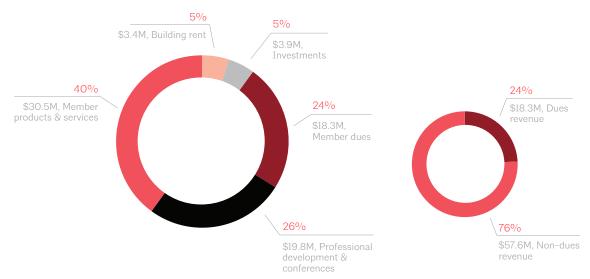
The repositioning work that we began together in 2012 is producing tangible and lasting results. Today, members of a vibrant 21st-century AIA network are enjoying new programs and services that highlight our value as architects and enhance our relevance to society.

In 2017, we made progress in several areas. We enriched our definition of "community," which is as broad as it is deep, and as diverse in experience as it is singular in the power of its voice. To that end, our voice gains power with each passing year, and "influence" is not just a buzzword—it's a reality. But, our foundation—and our strength—remains the ways in which we define "knowledge"—as a key business advantage for architects, as a peer network of experts, and as a rich and varied research initiative.

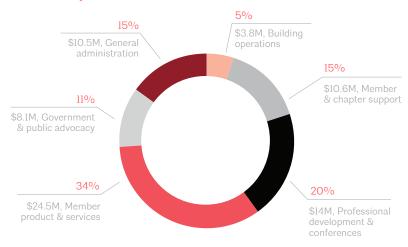
Above all, we reaffirmed our desire for a just and equitable world. The fact is community, influence, knowledge aren't just program areas at the Institute. They are the ways in which we can put our values into action.

Financials

2017 Revenue total: \$75.9M



2017 Expenses total: \$71.5M



Letter from the president

Dans le rétroviseur: A look back-and ahead.

In terms of political viewpoints at least, AIA members prove to be more diverse than is sometimes thought.

If diversity of opinion is one of our strengths, it is also a challenge—the Institute's elected officers quickly learned that AIA members don't always share the same opinions and beliefs. There is unity of purpose, but rarely unanimity.

Members must be confident that the Institute represents their interests and values. We regained and even renewed that confidence by standing our ground on policies adopted collectively, using well-tested consultative methods on issues of direct and wide professional concern.

Thankfully, we're now back to the ordinary business of seeking influence—back to stimulating public demand for architecture wherever we can, to advancing our professional interests.

But we remain a long way from where we must be: at the forefront of discussions about national infrastructure and making greater strides in environmental research. We tend to underestimate—or underuse—our power to influence. We can affect outcomes, sometimes just by envisioning them. So let's continue to advance issues of civic design through engagement, influencing public policies and investments. As national attention turns to infrastructure, let's advance the interests of true urban innovation, of new ideas and new urban systems. Let's not settle for painting and patching the artifacts of outmoded inventions from the 19th century.

The American Institute of Architects can be a fount of constructive ideas and progressive outlooks in a world that is bereft—and yet so sorely in need—of the ability to look ahead with compassion, foresight, imagination, and optimism.

Thomas Vonier, FAIA 2017 AIA President



Strategic Partners:







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