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Chris Downey, AIA, who has been blind since 2008, turns this logic on its head, and the ability to have perspective is, well, a matter of perspective rather than rule. Yes, he can review construction drawings with his fingers using a special CAD program that prints plans and elevations in relief. Yes, he can advise other architects on the experience of being sightless as they design for the sightless. An architect who relies primarily on sight to understand environmental factors. For Downey, architecture is a matter of vision, not necessarily sight.

The most fundamental misunderstanding that people have about a disability is about a focus on things that can't be done, as opposed to all the things that can be done—or, perhaps, done differently. Architecture is a creative profession, and with that should be the realization that creative powers transcend disabilities. There's also a perception that disability defines a person. I've experienced that, sure, and I'm fairly new to being blind, so it's something that I think about.

When I say that it's important to get more people with disabilities into the profession, it's a multifac-

eted thing. When you have a disability, you think in those terms—you recognize new needs, you can find improvements, whether you're in a wheelchair or without an arm or without sight. Think, for instance, of all the things you have to do in a bathroom related to simply washing your hands. That relationship, between ability and action, becomes a very clear concept when you have a disability—and, I think, people like Michael Graves drew that out and made people think about it.

How I practice now that's different is, before, with sight, I was so focused on the visual agenda of architecture. Without sight, and drawing on my personal and professional experience, it's about dealing with the environmental factors that really fill in the picture, if you will, of what architecture is and can be. It's about focus, as I said—because I have to—because that's how I experience the world now. Since I don't see the drawings, I feel them through touch, and I have a more intimate relationship to space in that way because I have to mentally put myself in that building—moving through the space, how the space will sound, how it could feel.

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Articles or notices may be submitted to the Editor by e-mail, fax or on disc. Handwritten articles or verbal comments are cheerfully received.

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A VISION TO ENDURE cont.

continued from page 1

One thing that you realize—something I read about in Juhani Pallasmaa's book *The Eyes of the Skin*—is that sight, of all the senses, is the most detached. In other words, you don't have



architect? But I was able to renew it. The good news is: You'd be hard-pressed today, with ADA and civil rights legislation, to bar someone from retaining their license. It's such a broad profession, in terms of skills and talents and abilities, that there's room for everyone. As a

The most fundamental misunderstanding that people have about a disability is about a focus on things that can't be done

to touch something to understand it if you can see it, and you can be mentally satisfied just to see it. So I feel more connected and attached, and I have an appreciation of thermal aspects of a material, for instance, that I couldn't tap into before. Another example might be that louder sounds have a great physical and mechanical impact on your mind that you can't imagine unless you're without sight.

Being suddenly without sight, there are materials that you realize have a more enduring or delightful experience than you did before. Compare stone and a plastic laminate for countertops, for instance. There's a degree of solidity to the stone versus something that's clearly synthetic—we know this. In between those two extremes, though, there are synthetic materials that feel much more generous than they should—and engaging tactility really changes your bias about materials.

Not long after I lost my sight, I had to renew my license, and all sorts of practical issues came up. How do you have control over your drawings, for instance, if you can't see them? So, then, how do you continue to be a licensed

practicing architect today, I have a far greater appreciation of accessibility as it relates to spaces and, importantly, to architects.

In the days of the cloaked architect—the heroic master doing it alone—I'd have a harder time. But today the profession is so collaborative that I find myself on skilled teams that I contribute to. I will, and do, strongly attest to the value of having different perspectives and different approaches and different biases of a team setting. I'm not currently stamping drawings, and I don't have the capacity to do working drawings, so I partner with people to do that. If I were to have a full-service firm one day—which I aspire to—I can, just like any other firm, employ a team of trusted people and sighted partners. I don't see how there would be any difference between that scenario and a scenario in which I have sight.

- William Richards

The cover image is a graphic representation of the special CAD program that prints plans and elevations in relief.

June 11, 2015

TCO'S

Why are TCO's issued for only 30 days?

Commissioner Gluckman stated that TCO's that are issued for only 30 days have life, safety or Landmarks' issues still pending. All other TCO's are issued for 90 days, with renewals thereafter. It was questioned why can't TCO's be renewed for 3 consecutive times after the initial TCO as other boroughs, whereas Brooklyn only allows for 2 renewals? Commissioner Gluckman will discuss with the C of O room to extend the renewals to 3 consecutive times after initial TCO.

TR1

The new TR1 has a new inspection "structural steel - details", due to the backlog of inputting

special inspection agency registrations, no one is currently designated to take responsibility for this particular inspection, how shall an applicant proceed to obtain a permit? Commissioner Gluckman stated that if this is an issue on your project, email Commissioner Gluckman or Borough Manager Pineiro and he will have that inspection waived for permit issuance.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION OF OBJECTIONS

The new procedure for professional certification of objections is that once the applicant submits his/her response it will be reviewed by the original plan examiner.

MISC

Adding a story to a building by removing the roof and installing a new floor counts towards the 110% of substantial improvement. If the roof remains as to not exceed the 110% limitation and an interstitial space between the new floor and existing sloping roof is created that space will need to be sprinklered and would warrant approval from FDNY as well.

DOB is in the process of hiring new staff.

Many professionals are asking why are they required to go through the system upon entering Brooklyn DOB as the lines are very long often causing late entrance for plan exam appointments. Commissioner Gluckman stated that this item is not under DOB control but instead is enforced by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

It was suggested that a third station (even if only in use during peak hours) be set-up to move the lines quicker. Another solution would be to allow professionals direct entry similar to DOB employees as we are subject to background checks, etc upon issuance of professional DOB identification cards. Unfortunately both of these suggested steps are beyond the scope of DOB and should be brought to the attention of the proper agency.

- Ida Galea, AIA
- Anthony Marchese, AIA



THE LICENSED PROFESSIONS IN NEW YORK STATE - PART 2 OF 3

The practice of a profession is a public trust, earned through educational preparation, experience, the passing of rigorous examinations, and the commitment by each professional to serving the public. Public protection is of the utmost importance to the New York State Board of Regents and the State Education Department.

One must be licensed in New York State to render or offer to render professional services and architectural services may not be provided to clients by or through a general business corporation, such as a contractor. There is nothing to prevent a contractor from employing or retaining an architect to perform services the company may require so long as the services are not specific to the needs of their client.

An example of a service specific to a client is the signing and sealing of documents for the client's project. If a contractor wishes to construct a project for himself/herself and lease, rent or sell the project when completed, the "in-house" architect may sign and seal the documents. In this situation the contractor is the client and the professional services provided by the architect are to that client.

An architect, who identifies a serious code violation in an existing structure with which he/she is, or might be associated in a professional capacity, could have a responsibility [Regents Rule Section 29.3(a)(1)] to bring this situation to the attention of the appropriate parties. Appropriate steps to follow might include:

- The client, tenant or owner should be informed of such violations.
- Violations appearing to pose an imminent danger to health & safety, should be reported to the local authority having jurisdiction.

- It is perceived by the State Education Department and the State Board for Architecture that the licensed architect has a professional obligation to document the violation to both the client/owner and the authority having jurisdiction [29.1(b)(5)] even if informing the client/owner that they might jeopardize the receipt of the associated commission.

- If the code violations are present in the area of a potential project, and the architect is assigned the commission, he/she should endeavor to have such violations included as an integral part of the scope of the design solution.

From the OP web site, in the 21 years for which data is posted, only 160 architects have been disciplined for one or another of the violations of the public trust that constitutes professional misconduct. The penalties for misconduct are imposed by the Board of Regents.'

The particular misconduct which leads to a disciplinary actions are various, among them: conviction of a crime (26), making false statements (22), practicing while having failed to register (10), conviction of receiving bribes (10), fee splitting (10), not meeting the continuing education requirements (10), errors on plans submitted (10), DWI (9), and failure to complete contracted services (6). The largest number (38) were disciplined for rubber stamping. (see December, January and February Pylon for discussion of "Rubberstamping")

- John Gallagher, AIA

**The particular
misconduct
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disciplinary actions
are various**

On June 15 State Supreme Court Justice Lawrence Knipel ruled that construction work could proceed on Pierhouse, the hotel and housing complex adjacent to Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Plaintiffs in the case, Save the View and several individuals brought suit against Brooklyn Bridge Corporation and others earlier this year. They claimed that the heights of the project violated agreements made to cap the height of the complex at approximately 100 feet including mechanicals.



it was a compromise without which Brooklyn Bridge Park might not have been created. In hindsight, this court cannot now say, and it is not within the provenance of this court to say, that the compromise was erroneous as a matter of law."

As the Starwood hotel (the northern building) nears completion, the final design is a disappointment with its façade of dark mullions and green tinted glass. Earlier schemes showed a lighter colored mullions and more airy façade that used wood accents. The hotel guests, however, may never notice the façade as they stand at their windows taking in stupendous views of Lower Manhattan, the East River and the Statue of Liberty, but the neighborhood will.

In yet another court case also presided over by Justice Knipel, involving the development at Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park, the parties agreed to a settlement that calls for a public hearing to allow for expert testimony and public comments. The original General Project Plan for Pier 6 called for two residential buildings to be built at Pier 6. Many community member opposed the development and the height of the buildings (the tallest one being 315 feet). In 2013 the Brooklyn Bridge Park issued an RFP and received fourteen responses. In 2014 some citizens formed a group called People for Green Space Foundation and filed a law suit against Brooklyn Bridge Park claiming that this much

When our government had the opportunity to significantly improve the view (Brooklyn's majestic Promenade), a conscious decision was then made not to do so.

The judge concluded that no agreement existed that limited the height including mechanical equipment to 100 feet. He dismissed a reference to mechanicals being within the 100' height limit in the comments to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Park (2006) as being ambiguous and not having been incorporated into the Modified General Project Plan – which was the approved master plan for the Park. He also ruled that the statute of limitations had expired since the lawsuit was filed 7 months after the topping out ceremony for the northern most building.

He did however state that *"the casual passerby walking along Brooklyn's majestic Promenade is struck with an indelible impression that these buildings, now nearing completion, are simply too large... When our government had the opportunity to significantly improve the view, a conscious decision was then made not to do so, for reasons relating to economic sustainability... The decision may have been shortsighted, but*



housing was not necessary to support the park maintenance, operations and repairs. They also claimed that the (2005) Environmental Statement for the park was out of date given the amount of new development in the area over the last ten years.

At a June 12 board meeting the Brooklyn Bridge Park Board presented financial figures to justify the current development proposals. NYC Controller Scott Stringer has publically requested improve the transparency of its financial statements and give greater detail to the public on past, present and future budget projections.” Local elected officials, including Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, Public Advocate Letitia James, State Senator Daniel Squadron, State Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon and Councilmembers Brad Lander and Stephen Levin also joined the Park’s Community Advisory Council to request financial justification for the Pier 6 towers.

At a June 22 meeting of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (the parent of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation and a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation - ESDC), the BBPDC board proposed modifications to the park’s General Project Plan but maintained that a new EIS was not warranted based upon a Technical Memorandum from ESDC

from December 2014.

On June 25 the ESDC held a meeting and public hearing on BBPDC’s vote several days earlier. In contrast to the rubber stamp vote by BBPDC, the board of the ESDC took the testimony of the public seriously and raised questions about the changes – such as population increase, school overcrowding – since the EIS was finalized then years ago. ESDC Director Joyce Miller, in a comment that was music to ears of advocates for a new EIS, said “Due to my experience development in the city and affordable housing development in the city, there is sometimes – and I’m not criticizing any particular administration – there is a tendency to look at projects one by one, rather than the totality -- particularly when dealing with projects of this size.” The Board voted to proceed with the General Project Plan modification but will schedule a public hearing In July followed by a thirty day written comment period.

- Jane McGroarty AIA



One of fourteen proposals for Pier 6 development. Rendering by Asymptote Architecture





HOW DESIGN-BUILD CAN SAVE YOUR FIRM MONEY

Design-build is best known for achieving greater efficiency — and ensuring cost savings — over traditional design-bid-build. In another comparison, advocates claim that the design-build method protects clients from translating between separately contracted design and construction service providers. Ohio-based architect Marika Snider adds that integrating stakeholders in this way can also have positive financial effects: “I find that design-build is a great way to build because we have knowledge of both budget and construction costs from the project’s beginning.”

The upward trend in residential design-build is poised for a boost this month, when the American Institute of Architects adds the A145 to its Design-Build family of AIA Contract Documents. The new document codifies an agreement between an owner and design-builder specifically for residences

According to Bell Architecture founder Michael Bell, abbreviation reflects the scale of a residential commission in which a single design-build entity can execute a project from start to finish. “With larger commercial design-build packages, generally the owner contracts with the design-build entity, which may in turn contract with an architect or contractor — depending on whether that entity is architect- or contractor-led. Simpler projects mean fewer documents.”

Architects indeed take on additional legal risks by per-

forming construction services, the new document directs them to specific concerns in this realm. Section 1.2, dedicated to statutory requirements, highlights the jurisdictional laws — such as those home warranty acts, as well as consumer protection notifications — that are unique to residential construction.

Another key difference between the A145 and the A141 is how the new document handles goals. Whereas a commercial design-build commission traditionally establishes programming and other essentials at the time of contracting Once the Owner’s Criteria has been established and the design has progressed far enough, according to the A145’s protocols, the owner and the design-build entity will enter into a design-build amendment that establishes the cost for construction.

Will the A145’s formalization of the agreement process actually propel architects into design-build? The delivery method warrants a try. Residential design has long been a tough field for fees; you have to do projects of a certain size to get a worthwhile fee. The calculus of construction, on the other hand, yields more profit. People who do design-build as their primary business model say you can do fewer projects and really invest all your time and energy into those projects. Architect and client alike benefit from the greater focus, the higher profit margins may ultimately allow architects to provide services to a wider swath of consumers **AIA**

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LOOKING AHEAD

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted,
all meetings are scheduled at:

Committee Meetings: 5:30 PM
Cocktails: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:00 PM
Program: 7:00 PM

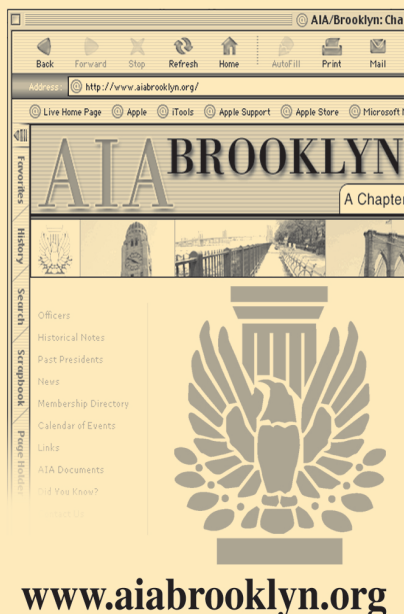
General Meeting
Thursday,
Wednesday,
September 16

Borough Hall - Community
Room, 209
Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Executive Meeting
Wednesday,
September 2

AIA learning unit credit and certificates towards
NYS mandatory continuing education
will be given for each program.

AIA Brooklyn Chapter website



LAST PRESENTER MONTH

*Many thanks to
last months presenters ...*

"HPD" Health Product Declaration Collaborative
by **Peter Reiss - IceStone Corp** (photo below left)

The New Realignment Practices Coming
by **Tim Boyland, AIA Pres. of AIA NYS** (below right)
(see July/August 2014 Pylon for report of field trip to IceStone Plant)

Other Speakers:
Burt Roslyn FAIA
Jessica Sheridan AIA



Frank LoPresto,
President of the Scholarship
Committee bestowing the
Scholarship Award to
Daniel W. Keller
student of architecture from
Pratt Institute.

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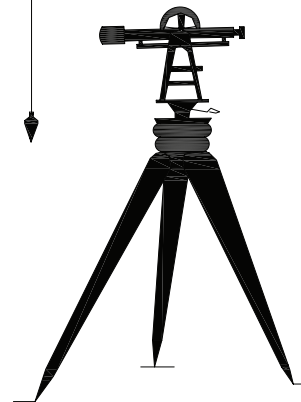
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P Y L O N
N E W S L E T T E R

**UPCOMING
CHAPTER
MEETINGS**

Sept. 16, 2015
Oct. 21, 2015

EVENTS CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations Due: July 13, 2015

Call for nominations for 2016 AIA New York State Officers, Associate Director, New York Regional Representative to the National Associates Committee, Student Director and Information Regarding the AIANY Board of Directors. Officers must be nominated by their Chapter.

FOLLY 2015 OPENING

*May 17 - August 30, 2015
Socrates Sculpture Park
32-01 Vernon Boulevard
Long Island City, New York*

Socrates Sculpture Park and The Architectural League launched the annual Folly Program in 2012 to explore the intersections and divergences between architecture and sculpture. An annual competition, the program creates an opportunity for an emerging architect or designer to build a project in public.

AIA BROOKLYN GOLF OUTING

*August 6, 2015
Dyker Beach Golf Club
tga@tgarch.com*

TOUR OF THE (OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MAGAGEMENT) “OEM” POST DISASTER HOUSING PROTOTYPE (photo)

Sept. or Oct TBD, Time 3:00 pm

1 CEU pending Free (no cost)
Details to follow.
See website
NYC.GOV/OEM Post Disaster Housing

MAPPING BROOKLYN EXHIBITION

*February 26, 2015 - September 6, 2015
Brooklyn Historical Society*

Mapping Brooklyn juxtaposes the work of contemporary artists working with historic maps, with examples of maps themselves, suggesting the myriad ways that maps can represent, on the one hand, such practical matters as way finding, property ownership, population shifts, and war strategy, and on other, the terrain of the metaphorical, psychological, and personal. The desire to explore, chart, and analyze territory - and highlight the innovative ways that contemporary artists use mapping, cartography, and exploration.

UPCOMING TOUR JAPANESE / VICTORIAN HOUSE

131 Buckingham Road Brooklyn

Details to follow.



THE FIFTH
ANTHONY GIACOBBE
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22ND ANNUAL
AIA BROOKLYN
CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

THURSDAY, AUG. 6, 2015
DYKER BEACH GOLF CLUB

1030 86 Street & 7th Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11228

Club: 718-836-9722

Email: tga@tgarch.com

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@ 6:30 Am
@ 7:30 Am
9-10th Hole
@ 1:00-3:00 pm



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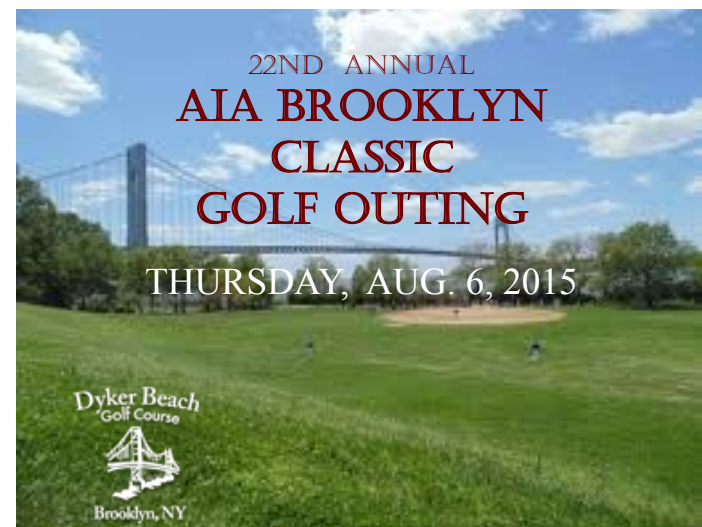


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THE FIFTH
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THURSDAY, AUG. 6, 2015



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| 2) ____ BREAKFAST SPONSOR | \$ 1,200.00 |
| 3) ____ REFRESHMENT STAND | \$ 450.00 |
| 4) ____ 9TH HOLE BABEQUE | \$ 500.00 |
| 5) ____ GOLF CART SPONSOR | \$ 850.00 |
| 6) ____ CLOSEST TO THE PIN | \$ 200.00 |
| 7) ____ HOLE SPONSOR | \$ 150.00 |
| 8) ____ (2) HOLE SPONSOR | \$ 250.00 |

SPECIALS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1) ____ GOLD SPONSOR | \$ 1,000.00 |
| (FOURSOME + BANNER @ BREAKFAST) | |
| 2) ____ SILVER SPONSOR | \$ 900.00 |
| (FOURSOME + 2 HOLE SPONSOR) | |

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 3) ____ SCHOLARSHIP DONATION | FROM \$ 50.00 - \$ 250.00 |
| (A 501C-3 TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION) | |

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO "AIA BROOKLYN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION"

SPONSOR ORDER FORM

PARTICIPATING SPONSOR:

Officers Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment:

Item #: ____ @ ____ = \$ ____

Item #: ____ @ ____ = \$ ____

Total Cost = \$ ____

Credit card payment, Please follow the link or Enter data at center column

Date: _____ Check #: _____

☐ Attending Golf Outing ☐ Will not attend Golf Outing

*All sponsorships are "First Come, First Served" basis.
Clearly Print your Name & Your Business Name as it will appear on
sponsorship*

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING:

GOLFER: (LEAD GOLFER RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

THE FOLLOWING GOLFERS WILL BE JOINING ME:

FOURSOME:

1. Name & Tel: _____

2. Name & Tel: _____

3. Name & Tel: _____

4. Name & Tel: _____

PAYMENT:

ENCLOSED HEREWITH IS:

NUMBER _____ AM'T _____

1) ____ AIA MEMBER - GOLF & LUNCH \$ ____

2) ____ NON- AIA MEMBER - GOLF & LUNCH \$ ____

3) ____ AIA MEMBER - GOLF ONLY \$ ____

4) ____ NON-AIA MEMBER - GOLF ONLY \$ ____

5) ____ AIA MEMBER - LUNCH ONLY \$ ____

6) ____ NON-AIA MEMBER - LUNCH ONLY \$ ____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ ____

Office Use only :

Date: _____ Name: _____

Card #: _____

Sec. Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Payment Enclosed: ☐ Check: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
☐ Discover ☐ Amex

**Your transaction payment must be completed before the Event.
No late payments permitted.**

PARTICIPANT'S QUALIFICATIONS

Golf Players:

Non-AIA Member (Golf & Lunch)	\$ 215.00 Ea.
Non-AIA Member (Golf Only)	\$ 175.00 Ea.

AIA Member (Golf & Lunch)	\$ 200.00 Ea.
AIA Member (Golf Only)	\$ 160.00 Ea.

Business Networking & Luncheon:

Non-AIA Member (Lunch Only)	\$ 100.00 Ea.
AIA Member (Lunch Only)	\$ 90.00 Ea.



Make Check Payable to:

"AIA Brooklyn" For Golf & Lunch Outing Only, &
"AIA Brooklyn Scholarship Foundation" For Contribution Only

MAIL: YOUR PAYMENT:

GAETANO RAGUSA, AIA

P.O. BOX 906

GLEN HEAD, NY 11545

AIA Brooklyn Chapter is a 501c-3 (Not for profit Organization)

Approved by the AIA Executive Committee & Assembled by

THE SPORTS EVENTS COMMITTEE

Gaetano Ragusa, AIA Chair,

718 627 1707 Email: tga@tgarch.com

Promoters:

Bruce Gamill, Promoter	718 522 - 5232
Joseph Tooma, Promoter	718 857 - 2900
Nick Raschella, Promoter	718 837 - 6800
S. D'Alessandro, Promoter-	718 259 - 2644
Vincent Nativo, AIA	718 259 - 5178 (Ext. 212)

Cut Here MAIL THIS PORTION

Cut Here Keep this portion for your Records