

# P Y L O N

APRIL 2012

 American Institute of Architects  
Brooklyn Chapter

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April 18, 2012  
May 16, 2012

## GRASSROOTS 2012

**G**rass Root 2012 was an exhilarating fellowship of all AIA chapter executives throughout the country who gathered in Washington DC for a 5 day period to re-energize and learn from each other through workshops and meetings to return to their respective communities charged and armed to continue the extraordinary work we do as architects and design leaders in the community. The theme for the five day event was **LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION.**

Giuseppe and I arrived in Washington mid day Wednesday. **ADVOCACY** and the importance of political activism was trusted upon us in the afternoon in a session titled *Advocacy Issues Briefing: AIA legislative Agenda to Member of Congress.* The main purpose of this seminar is to educate us on the pressing issues for architects throughout the country and then we were to be released on Capital Hill the following day after breakfast to assist our local congressperson to understand these issues listed below that are of great importance to us as professionals:

1. Removing Barrier to private sector Lending
2. Helping Small firms Survive
3. Saving Energy, Creating Jobs
4. Revitalizing America's Neighborhoods

The key note speaker of the day was Dr Richard Jackson MD, MPH, FAAP and his message was simple, the urban environment designed with exploring sustainable issues has the ability to reduce medical cost in this country across the board, a point well taken and well documented.



Pictured above (left to right): Karl Carter, AIA Brooklyn Secretary, Michael Cosentino, AIA Queens President, Congressman Robert Turner, Giuseppe Anzalone, AIA Brooklyn President, Gino Longo, AIA Queens Vice President, Willy Zambrano, AIA Queens Treasurer.

Thursday arrived with a guarded optimism coupled with a dreaded anticipation quite similar to a DOB examination as we were all herded to Capital Hill by shuttle to meet with

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# GRASSROOTS 2012 *cont.*

*(continued from page 1)*

Congressperson Turner, Grimm, Nadler, and Valasquez. We were joined by Queens chapter president, their president elect, treasurer, and also apart of our contingent was Manhattans president and their team, as we are all comprised the greater city of New York borough chapters and we, on some levels, shared the same issues. The interaction between our team and the congresspersons was one of positively sharing, exchanging and understanding. Growing the economy is on capitol hill's agenda and Guiseppe was very capable in articulating our position in these areas and in fact, a couple of our sessions with our elected officials were cut short because their vote was required on a jobs bills that was currently on the senate floor, and I believed it was passed that very day. The energy in Washington that day palatable given the urgency of the bill and it was interesting being a 'witness' in the 'eye of the storm'.

The rest of the day was spent over lunch, dinner, a reception at the AIA National Office commiserating with the Queens, Manhattan

and Staten Island chapters as well as chapter throughout the country understanding their peculiar issues trying and relating yours in an effort to get a common understanding of each others plight: **COMMUNICATION**. This sharing was unparalleled in anything I have experienced because I learned a great deal about many chapters throughout the country and spent an inordinate amount of time with our local chapters nurturing our relationships.

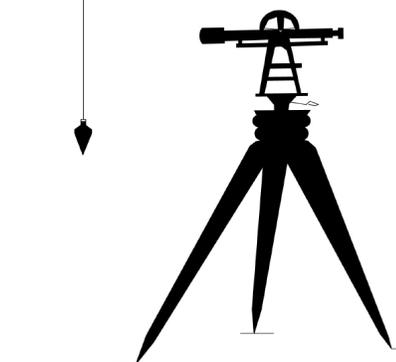
Friday and Saturday was devoted to developing **LEADERSHIP** skills and professional development through workshops discussions and seminars. I sat in a few workshops, had great exchanges with chapters across the country that will undoubtedly be key in my continued growth in service to Brooklyn AIA.

It was an extraordinary time in an extraordinary place, thoroughly enjoyable and a 'must do' for all emerging leaders of our great chapter. Bravo AIA National! Bravo!!!

- Karl Carter, AIA

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# NEW YORK INVESTS IN DESIGN-BUILD

This past December, New York passed a law known as the "Infrastructure Investment Act," to be in effect for three years, which permits authorized state entities to enter into design-build contracts for public infrastructure projects.<sup>1</sup> The Act provides that design-build contracts entered into pursuant to this law shall not constitute the unauthorized practice of a professional service. However, all professional services must still be performed by licensed professionals, which requirement must be explicitly set forth in the design-build contracts.

Pursuant to the Act, the selection of a design-build contractor is a two-step process. First, the state agency will generate a list of qualified providers based upon its review of responses to a publicly advertised request for qualifications. The criteria for being placed on such a list include the qualifications and experience of the design and construction team, organization, demonstrated ability of the team to comply with applicable requirements, and such other qualifications the state entity deems appropriate, including

project understanding, financial capability and record of past performance. The state entity may also maintain a list of prequalified contractors who shall be continuously eligible for entry into the list for either all or specified types of projects.

Entities deemed by the state agency to be qualified (either in response to a request for qualifications or who have been prequalified) will then receive a request for proposal, which is the second step of the two-step process. The criteria to be used in evaluating the responses to the request for proposal include the cost, the quality of the proposal's solution, the qualifications and experience of the design-build entity, and other factors deemed pertinent by the state agency. These other factors range from the proposal's project implementation to the ability to complete the work in a timely and satisfactory manner, to maintenance costs of the completed project.

The state agency will award the contract to the contractor that offers the best value to the state, which is defined as services that optimize quality, cost and efficiency, and price and performance. Specific evaluation criteria may include:

1. The quality of the contractor's performance on previous projects;
2. The timeliness of the contractor's

- performance on previous projects;
3. The level of customer satisfaction with the contractor's performance on previous projects;
4. The contractor's record of performing previous projects on budget and ability to minimize cost overruns;
5. The contractor's ability to limit change orders;
6. The contractor's ability to prepare appropriate project plans;
7. The contractor's technical capabilities;
8. The individual qualifications of the contractor's key personnel;
9. The contractor's ability to assess and manage risk and minimize risk impact; and
10. The contractor's past record of compliance with Article 15-A of the Executive Law (Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Law).

It is anticipated that this design-build method of project delivery will have the potential to achieve projects delivered on guaranteed or accelerated schedules, lower costs and reduce risk to the public as well as to accelerate capital investments throughout the state. The state has already begun the process and completed the first step for selecting a contractor pursuant to this Act for the Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing Project.

This article is for information purposes only and should not be considered legal advice, which is dependent upon specific facts and circumstances. For more information, please contact Michael S. Zetlin (mzetlin@zdaw.com) or Jeffrey T. Yick (photo: top left) (jyick@zdlaw.com).

- Jeffrey T. Yick, Esq.



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# DRAFT: PLAN EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR DRAWINGS TO COMPLETE FIRST REVIEW

Please be informed that DOB is in the process of implementing new requirements for drawings to complete first plan exam review. The documents are in the draft phase at the moment and DOB has contacted two people from each borough to sit on the committee for the creation of these minimum requirements. DOB is looking to implement this quickly with a pilot start date sometime in April thru June. Walter Maffei and myself attended the kick off meeting on Wednesday, Feb 29th at 80 Centre Street along with Thomas Fariello, Kanda Gordon, Ravi Patur and Athena Harris (representing DOB), as well as representation from the Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan chapters.

DOB had already established a draft set of guidelines as to what items should be incorporated in the minimum drawing requirements (please contact me for a copy of the draft). The draft guidelines are NOT "minimum" to say the least. My interpretation of the DOB guidelines relate to NB applications more so than Alt I and Alt II applications, although



DOB has stated that these guidelines are to be used on all applications across the board. The DOB guidelines do not appear to be set in stone as they are requesting our feedback as to what should remain and what should be eliminated, ultimately the document we create as a committee will be reviewed and I'm sure revised by DOB.

The draft has been amended due to discussions at the kick-off meeting as several of us felt that some listed items should be eliminated as they are not minimum requirements. We were only able to touch on a small section of the draft as the majority of the meeting was

introductions and a presentation of the draft document.

Another issue that was raised is the mere fact that many of the listed items in this draft are NOT applicable to ALL applications and therefore the guidelines need to state "WHERE APPLICABLE" across the board. We stressed that this needs to be incorporated and Thomas Fariello agreed to include a statement that declares that the listed items will vary and will depend of the project scope.

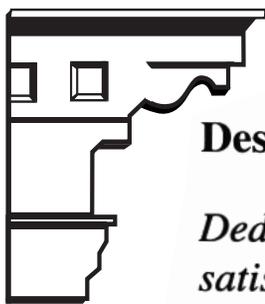
As a group we were unanimous in our fear that these guidelines will create yet another layer of bureaucracy and additional raised objections to an already ludicrous procedure we currently endure. Thomas Fariello stated that the plan examiners will be trained properly once the guidelines have been established but we all know how that goes. Furthermore the implementation of this process is to streamline and alleviate the back log of appointments that apparently are being tied up by applicants not submitting a complete set of drawings making it difficult for plan examiners to even establish the scope of work at times, as per DOB.

The purpose of the guidelines that will ultimately be established will be to weed out the incomplete set of drawings prior to first plan exam review. If DOB feels that the plans are incomplete (assessed by the plan examiner and ultimate determination by chief or other senior staff), a new job status will appear "INCOMPLETE". The applicant will then be required to address the missing items before the application goes to plan exam review status.

The projected plan is to implement the guidelines in one borough first (that is still to be determined and will be at the discretion of the DOB). This will be a pilot program to determine if the guidelines should go citywide.

As you know in our dealings with DOB they will implement this with or without our feedback, so we need to make ourselves heard on this issue and be unified as an industry.

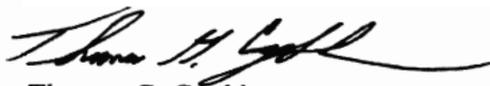
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# THE MIND HOUSE

Barcelona, Spain – Built 1900-1914, Architect: ANTONI GAUDI



The most popular work of the famous architect Gaudí in Barcelona is Park Güell, located just a few steps from Gracia, on a

hill in the suburb of Vallcarca. In 1900 Euzèbi Güell bought this hill in order to arrange there a private garden city in English style. The areas in the park

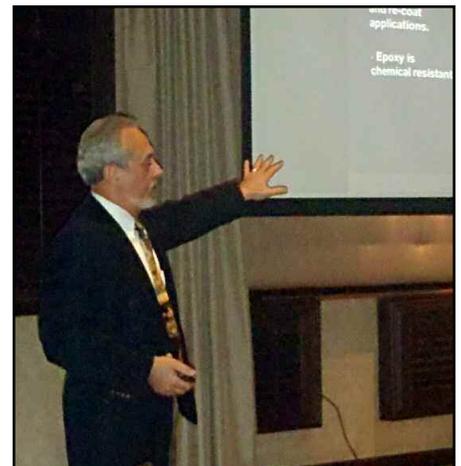
were designed to be sold for building the mansions and all the infrastructure and public places Güell commissioned to Gaudí. However, the project failed: for those who wanted to live in Barcelona, the park was too far from the center, but for those who wished to live outside the city it was too close. As a result, Güell's heirs sold the hill to city authorities, who opened the park to the public.

The last thing that Gaudí managed to do in the park is to pave the ingenious system of roads, on which future tenants would have to drive up their mansions and to build several whimsical stone arches, which pillars are inclined to the hill under the most improbable corners. **AIA**

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# 2012 AIA LEADERSHIP & LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## MARCH 7 - 10, 2012

### REMOVING BARRIERS TO PRIVATE SECTOR LENDING

The AIA supports policies that will ensure credit is available for worthy commercial and residential development projects that create jobs and rebuild our communities.

Thousands of needed construction projects that would employ millions of Americans are on hold because credit is frozen. Banks, especially smaller community banks, want to lend, but report that federal regulators are making it difficult. The AIA is doing its part to help make financing available with its Stalled Projects Web site, launched in 2011, to match building projects to investors. Congress needs to do its part by reigning in regulatory overkill. In particular, Congress needs to pass legislation such as the Capital Access for Main Street Act, which would help prevent large numbers of commercial foreclosures and free up credit to help small businesses get back to work. In addition, the AIA calls on the administration to help job creation by working to ensure that regulators do not unfairly block financing for worthy projects.

### HELPING SMALL FIRMS THRIVE

The AIA supports government policies that open doors for small design firms to create jobs and economic opportunity in every community in the country. The AIA strongly opposes policy proposals that discriminate against small design firms and place barriers in the way of their survival.

Small architecture firms and sole practitioners work in every community in the country to help homeowners and businesses design better buildings. But, high taxes and burdensome paperwork hold them back. In 2010, the AIA helped defeat a plan to increase payroll

taxes on thousands of small architecture firms that organize as S corporations. In 2011, the AIA helped repeal burdensome paperwork and tax withholding laws that would place huge burdens on small firms.

As Congress looks to reform the tax code and reduce the budget deficit, it needs to ensure that tax rates on small entrepreneurs are reduced, and prevent efforts to penalize smaller design firms. The AIA asks Congress to pass the Small Business Protection Act of 2012 to ensure that changes to the Small Business Administration's size standards do not harm small entrepreneurs. In addition, the AIA calls on

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Hamilton, NJ – Feb 28 • East Hanover, NJ – Feb 29  
Syracuse, NY – April 4 • New York City, NY – May 3

**FULL-DAY SELECTIONS:**  
**Practical Wind and Seismic Retrofit of Buildings**  
Buffalo, NY – May 3 • New York City, NY – May 22

**New York City Building Code: Multi-Family / Mixed Use Building Design**  
New York City, NY – March 30 • New York City, NY – May 10

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the administration to help small firms thrive by recognizing their unique needs as it develops rules and policies on small business lending and government procurement.

**SAVING ENERGY,  
CREATING JOBS**

The AIA believes that governmental policies, programs, and incentives should encourage energy efficiency, especially as it relates to the built environment.

Across the country, building owners, state and local governments, and school districts want to lower energy bills by retrofitting their buildings. AIA member firms are answering the call by signing up for the AIA 2030 Commitment to develop plans to ensure their projects and practices meet far-reaching energy-efficient goals. But with financing still hard to come by, many worthy projects remain on the drawing boards.

The federal Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction has helped owners build and retrofit thousands of buildings to make them save money through lower energy bills. Congress can spur tens of thousands of jobs by increasing the value of the deduction from the current \$1.80 per square foot to \$3.00 per square foot, and by making changes that make the deduction easier to use by more people.

In addition, the administration can help increase use of the deduction by providing technical guidance to federal, state, and local agencies on using it as a financing tool to save taxpayers money through lower energy bills in government owned buildings.

**REVITALIZING AMERICA'S  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

The AIA supports reforming federal transportation policy to help the country develop and improve transportation systems that promote economic vitality and create vibrant, prosperous communities.

Crumbling infrastructure, high unemployment, and rising congestion have hurt our nation's communities, reducing property values, impairing safety, and increasing pollution. Outdated federal transportation laws and tax policies have slowed projects down, deprived the public of a voice in the planning process, and forced Americans to spend more time in their cars.

Architects have a long record of providing solutions that get our communities moving again. The AIA is committed to helping communities plan for more vibrant, safe, and sustainable futures through its Design Assistance Team program, which celebrates its

45th anniversary this year.

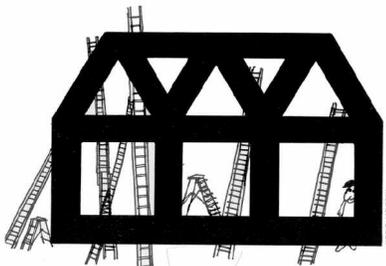
But we need Washington to act. Congress needs to pass transportation reform legislation this year that maintains current funding levels, invests in all modes of transportation, and recognizes the multiple enhancements that well-designed transportation projects can bring to a community.

The AIA also urges the administration to ensure that lending standards account for the kinds of mixed-use developments that communities need in order to bring back economic vitality and jobs. **AIA**

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

**Date:** March 21, 2012  
**Place:** Ft. Hamilton  
**Present:** Pam Weston, Lenny Herezeg, Jane McGroarty, Don Weston

### Discussion:

1. The selection of the best design for a hotel in the Brooklyn Bridge Park was put off until next month because the chair of the sub-committee evaluating the seven proposals could not make the meeting this month.

2. The information we sought from NYU regarding the purchase and design of the old MTA building situat-

ed at Jay Street and Willoughby Street will be put off until our next meeting because Woody Blaufeux, who is contacting NYU, could not make this month's meeting.

3. The committee discussed the proposed 52 story residential building to be located at the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Schermerhorn Street and decided not to take a position on this building for several reasons. First the rendering of the proposed building was not particularly different from the other new hi-rise buildings recently constructed on Flatbush Avenue. Second and more importantly the building when built will probably change for the worse

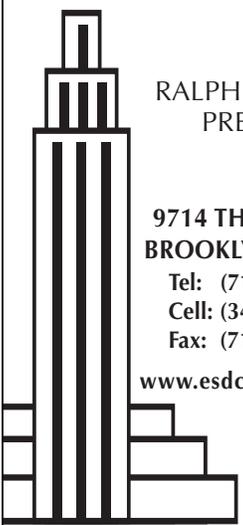
when the developer starts cutting costs to stay within budget.

4. The committee discussed the latest proposal from the Parks Department for the surfacing of the Coney Island Boardwalk, which is to have a 20 foot wide concrete surfaced lane running down the middle of the Boardwalk for emergency and Park Department vehicles and concrete for the full width of the Boardwalk at the street entrances. The remainder of the Boardwalk would be surfaced with imitation wood (plastic) planks. **AIA**



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# VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM WEIL AM RHEIN, GERMANY

Founded in 1950 Vitra is an International company headquartered in Basel Switzerland, with manufacturing facilities in nearby Weil Am Rhein, Germany.

Since 1977 Vitra had been manufacturing and collecting furniture and interior design objects by world renown architects and industrial designers, such as Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, Alvar Aalto, Jean Prouve, Marcel Breuer, Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier and others.



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In 1987 Vitra's CEO contacted California Architect Frank O. Gehry to design a Museum to showcase the collection, and provide space for a program of changing exhibitions on architecture and industrial design.

Opening in Nov. 1989 the museum exhibits one of the world's largest collections of industrial furniture design

The Museum can be viewed as a precursor or early version of what was to become the Gehry trademark of undulating and restless shapes. With a floor area of some 8,000 sq. ft.

the curved shapes on the interior and the light wells, give the illusion of the ceiling floating overhead. The building has been compared to LeCorbusier's 1950-1954 Chapel at Ronchamp.

- Article and Photos by  
Anthony Marchese, AIA



**APRIL 17**

## THE GRID AND CYCLES OF PLANNING

6:30 PM

*The Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY*

Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm The Grid and Cycles of Planning Manhattan's street grid provided a template for the growth of New York City's real estate and development. Since the start, market cycles and changes in design strategy have fueled debate among architects, policy makers, and residents as to what is aesthetically desirable and economically sustainable. Join us for a conversation

\*\*\*\*\*

**APRIL 19**

## DISASTER MITIGATION- PROTECTING BUILDINGS CHRIS MARRION, PE, FSFPE, MARRION CONSULTING

**6:15 PM**

*Pratt Manhattan, Room 213, New York, NY*

Disaster mitigation through performance based design/analysis provides numerous benefits, allowing objectives and credible hazards to be addressed, and to develop risk-informed, sustainable, cost-effective solutions. This talk will focus on historic buildings applications and protecting cultural resources.

\*\*\*\*\*

**APRIL 25**

## CURRENT WORK: HANIF KARA / ADAMS KARA TAYLOR (AKT II)

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

*The Cooper Union, The Great Hall, in the Foundation Building, 7 East 7th Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues, New York, NY*

Structural engineer and Design Director and co-founder of AKTII, Hanif Kara will present his approach to engineering

in the lecture: "The Engineering of Empathy." Kara will discuss the evolving relationship between architects and engineers brought on by new struggles and challenges with technological advancement, economy, and ecology in the past decade.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAY 3-4**

## FRIEZE ART FAIR

10:00 AM

*Randalls Island, New York, NY*

The New York fair will take a similar approach to that which has made Frieze Art Fair one of the world's most influential contemporary art fairs, housed in a bespoke structure and located in a unique setting. The fair will house approximately 170 galleries and will be designed by New York-based SO-IL architects. The exhibitors will comprise some of the most forward-thinking galleries from around the globe, bringing an international focus to the dynamic contemporary art scene in New York. **AIA**

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**PYLON STAFF**

**EDITOR :**

Ida Galea, AIA  
vp@aiabrooklyn.org

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR :**

Allen Kushner  
bigal1999@hotmail.com

**ADVERTISING MANAGERS :**

Ida Galea, AIA  
vp@aiabrooklyn.org

**CONTRIBUTORS :**

Ida Galea, AIA  
Karl Carter, AIA  
Anthony Marchese, AIA  
Jeffrey T. Yick, Esq (Zetlin & De Chiara)

*Deadline for submission to the Pylon is the second Wednesday of each month.*

*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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## JOKE CORNER

You know you're in a recession when:

- .. you put your inlaws on eBay
- .. you brag about your new Apple, then go home and eat it
- .. you took the pennies out of your loafers
- .. you use your food stamps to buy food
- .. you develop a taste, and a varied menu, for government MRE's
- .. your weekend home looks like your weekday home
- .. your weekday home looks like your parents' home
- .. you're using credit cards to meet your mortgage payments

## REMINDER:

2012 AIA Brooklyn Design Awards Program entry application and fee deadline...

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2012**

For additional information contact  
Teresa Byrne Salter, AIA  
at  
tbyrne@dfarchs.com

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— The majority of contractors surveyed agree that fair and balanced contracts are an important consideration

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## LOOK 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

**Wednesday,  
April 18, 2012**

#### Presenter:

**Evan Meyers – Kamco  
Bill Kraus - Serious Energy**  
“Fundamentals of Architectural Acoustics & Noise Control”

**Robinson Hernandez, Ivy  
Nguyen, Elizabeth Gelpi**  
Office of the Mayor  
of the City of NY  
New Business Acceleration Team  
(NBAT)

#### Location:

US Army Garrison  
Fort Hamilton  
(Fort Hamilton Army Base)  
Building #207  
Brooklyn, NY 11252

#### Executive Meeting

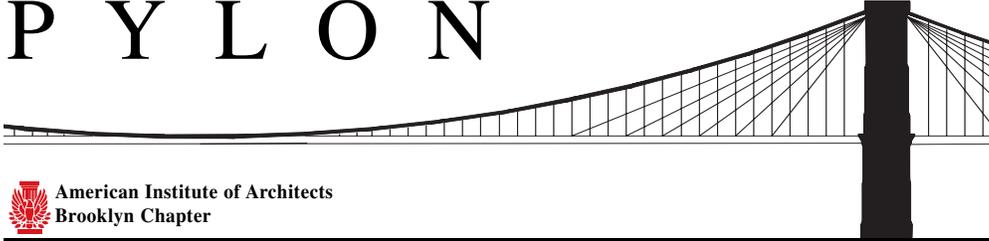
**Wednesday,  
April 4, 2012**

#### Location:

T B A

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

# P Y L O N



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## MESSAGE BOARD



**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Second Annual  
Anthony Giacobbe  
Memorial Golf Outing

Thursday, August 9th, 2012

For more information and  
sponsorship contact  
Richie Moss, AIA at (718) 442-3111

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