

December 2011

Staten Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
All members.
VIA email distribution

Fellow AIASI Members,

It has been a great privilege serving as our organization's President and representing all of you for the past four years. During this time we have lived through an unprecedented era of historic change within our profession here in New York City.

Some of these changes include...

- Over 200 revisions to the Zoning Resolution.

- An entirely new Building Code based on the IBC.

- The creation of a Fire Code for the first time in New York City's history.

- The creation of an Energy Code for the first time in New York City's history.

- Numerous significant reinterpretations of long accepted and established DOB policies & procedures.

- New DOB filing procedures including e-filing, document scanning and now the HUB.

- Three different Deputy Mayors in charge of the DOB.

- A change to the New York City Charter with regards to the DOB.

- New Special and Progress inspection rules and regulations.

- A new State law governing our ability to practice here in New York City

- And of course, a most difficult economy.

Through all of this we have made our concerns known to government and at times have been able to mold some of the government's actions to better suit the needs of our community and our profession. Most importantly we have been able to cement an excellent relationship of comradery and cooperation with the AIA Chapters of the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan. We have never in our history had a better relationship with the Manhattan Chapter than we have now. I first approached this in 1981 as an Associate member of AIASI under the direction of the then President Charles Magrino, and am pleased that we have finally arrived at a point in time that we are considered an equal voice of the profession within New York City by our fellow Chapters and the government agencies we deal with.

Through these new relationships we have assisted our own member David Businelli in his election bid as a Vice President of AIANYs and as President of AIANYs as well as the election of our own member Timothy Boyland as Vice President of AIANYs. For the first time in our Chapter's history we will have two of our members on the Board of AIANYs.

We have been able to move the Architects Council to rewrite its By Laws so as to realign the power base of the Council giving our Chapter an equal voice with the other organizations that make up the Council.

We assisted in the first ever AIA National RUDAT study in New York City here on Staten Island in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, an effort first started under the direction of the then President Leonard Rampulla in 1998.

We have participated in the New York City Department of City Planning Public Sessions for the North Shore Study as well as the South Shore Study, and the Professional Only sessions during the Zoning Resolution Text change redefining the word "Building" and the just announced Green Building Zoning text change.

We participated in the Jury for the New York Institute of Technology Senior class Thesis project for Stapleton.

We have asserted our place in the home improvement community by participating in the Chamber of Commerce's Home Show.

We have been able to re-establish our Scholarship Program for High School students going on to architecture schools, laid the foundation for a continuing Public Relations campaign and have firmly placed our chapter on a strong financial foundation to build upon as we go boldly into the future together.

As the year and my Presidency comes to a close I must thank the members of the Executive Board, Committee Chairpersons and all of the volunteers who have assisted our organization all through the last four year for their guidance, wisdom, patience and the time which they have given freely of themselves to assist this organization and myself in representing our Chapter and the needs of our community and our members. Without their assistance these accomplishments would not have been possible.

Our last meeting of the year is Thursday evening at our usual meeting place, Bocelli's on Hylan Boulevard in Dongan Hills. In keeping with the gayety of the season our meeting will be slight on business and steep on comradery. Join us in a celebration of the fellowship of Architects.

Respectfully submitted
Marcus Marino, RA, AIA
President
American Institute of Architects
Staten Island Chapter