



The American Institute of Architects

AIA Michigan
4219 Woodward Ave.
Suite 205
Detroit, MI 48201

T (313) 965-4100

www.aiami.com

Winter greetings from Detroit! I know our great state of Michigan is experiencing a very traditional winter full of icy roads, chilly nights, and beautiful snow filled fields. Meanwhile, AIA Michigan have so much going on. As I begin my third and final year as the Michigan Young Architect Regional Director (YARD), it is an honor to continue writing this column to all of our Michigan membership.

This last month, AIA National held their annual meeting for Emerging Professionals. Both Chris Stefani, Assoc. AIA and I were in attendance. We worked towards guiding the institute, NAAB, and our own committees in understanding what our generation of professionals need. Intriguing, our work groups seem to look more at how to engage in a new digital era. Our advocacy issues are shifting. There is a thirst to have an AIA which allows for tough industry discussions. Subjects of interest range from Pay Equity, Family Leave, and other workplace “forbidden” topics. More to come, but very interested in giving support and a platform for the discussions which are difficult for everyone.

Of interest, the meeting was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Chris and I had the opportunity to volunteer at a community garden, participating in a design charrette and learning more of the diverse community—who knew immigrants from other Caribbean Islands come to the United States via Puerto Rico? We also met many local architects and students who are working hard to put Maria behind their daily dialogue. We left feeling no less than inspired.

Every year, the College of Fellows provides a liaison to the Young Architects Forum. Our outgoing Fellow is Michigan’s own John Castellana, FAIA – a big thank you for his service to the YAF and the institute.

Our incoming Fellow had a very surprising message. Roger Schluntz, FAIA made his position clear, “APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIP EARLIER”! He asserts, fellowship is not exclusive to the nearly retired, but rather made for mid-career professionals (the requirement is 10 years as an AIA member in good standing). Making impact in our communities, profession, academia, and firms earlier and is happening more often than we realize. It’s important to keep your momentum and to start now, rather than waiting for a magnum opus in the twilight years. Roger wants more AIA members to consider their submission, but in doing so, also is a means to consider the weight and importance of their career on the world around them. Please reach-out to a Fellow to learn more about being elevated.

Lastly, with lots of enthusiasm, AIA has two unique programs:

2019 is the year of “Blueprint for Better”. We Architects are some of the most respected of professions, however the public isn’t sure of our role in the community. The main goal is to strengthen partnerships with elected officials, giving a voice to architects. Share your stories and view others’ at blueprintforbetter.org.

Nationally, a great meeting is coming up. Apply now to attend the Women’s Leadership Summit, September 12-14 in Minneapolis. The Summit is a vehicle to raise the profile of women in the profession, explore new paths to leadership, and the opportunity for more mentorship relationships. Sponsorships available, please check-out the website for more.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve our membership.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Guinta".

Matt Guinta, AIA

P.S. . Design / Honor Awards submissions are due March 25, 2019 and Recognition entries are due April 19, 2019