



The American Institute of Architects

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Fall greetings to AIA Michigan. Don't be tempted to listen to the holiday music just yet. Plenty of autumn activities have been occurring in our great state. A cornucopia of AIA programs has kept most of us very busy. If you haven't had time to engage, we have more great things coming.

On October 25, AIA Michigan hosted a local version of Practice Innovation Lab. We are so proud of the success and feedback we have received. 30 applicants ranging from students to fellows became innovators. We held three panel discussions focused on Business Innovation, Technology in Design, and Visions of Architects in the Community. Our six teams were fantastic. Each presented a pitch of a new business for architects to participate in. These varied from rating buildings on quality metrics to creating new ways to form a coalition of professionals to delivery projects under the umbrella of work-life balance.

All-in-all, we had over 50 speakers, volunteers, and participants engaged in this day-long event. Thank you for all the support. We could not have done it without our sponsors: AIA College of Fellows, HKS, and SDI Structures. A big thanks to AIA Michigan staff for tirelessly advising, assisting, and keeping the day rolling.

Lastly, I want to thank AIA Michigan's membership and staff. This is my last column for the Emerging Professionals Corner. I have spent nine years in a titled AIA role. Since 2010 as AIA Detroit's EPC leader, AIA has been more than a single line on my day-planner... I had one of those when I started!

In this time, the opportunities to network, learn, serve, and grow have been plentiful and purposeful. I want to truly thank the institute for investing and offering me these great opportunities. Together we have looked at how to engage and serve our members. We have dug deep on moving forward licensing our profession in a shorter time with contemporary testing and "practicum." Officially, we've changed titling of unlicensed professions and discussed how to make education more affordable by nothing less than an act of congress. We've engaged in lobbying for sustainability tax credits, created conference presentations, and published nationally, continuing the tradition of a strong AIA Michigan leading the conversation.

Here at home, we've participated in repositioning, adjusting our delivery of services to members, and moving from our beloved Beaubien House. Licensure candidates have more resources and programming on-hand across the state. We enjoyed our 76th AIA Michigan Mid-Summer Conference and the 30th AIA Michigan Design Retreat. Our membership has continued to bring new and unique programing to the greater design community. AIA gives voice, guidance, and solidarity to each of us who choose to be a member. I am very grateful for the honor of representing this single state region as the NCARB IDP State Coordinator, Associate Director, and Young Architect Regional Director. We have grown together, and I am in your debt.

Be assured, this isn't goodbye — it is sincere and lasting appreciation.

Best from Detroit,

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

Matt Guinta, AIA