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It's September and back to school for children and college students alike. There is something about the return to school... new people to meet, old friends to see again, new patterns of behavior, even the smell of brand new school supplies. The beginning of the school year gives me a renewed sense of order out of the lazy chaos of summer. To me, the beginning of school beats New Years as a time to create new habits and break old ones.

I have been reading recently about the habits of highly creative people, looking to create some new habits of my own. One of the most popular is to keep an idea journal; as architects are rarely without a sketchbook, this should be an easy habit to pick up. The trick is to spend some time drawing, thinking, or daydreaming every day. Vincent Van Gogh said, "Drawing is the root of everything, and the time spent on that is actually all profit." What better profession than architecture to prove his point?

Perhaps my favorite creative habit, though, is to be around highly creative people. Think about those people who you talk with easily, exchanging ideas back and forth like a game of ping-pong. Those creative thinkers are the people we should be around on a regular basis. I have a handful of people that fall into this category. I do not see them often enough, but whenever we do we have wonderful, wide-ranging discussions. I will be trying to meet with these folks more often this fall! And what better way to do that than to attend the 30th Annual Design Retreat? Join us on September 13-14 at Camp Hayo-Went-Ha for some great, creative discussions. Early bird registration ends on September 3.

One last reminder for upcoming events: keep an eye out for the Leadership Retreat & Annual Meeting on October 10-11, and the Practice Innovation Lab set for October 25. More information will appear on aiami.com.

Onward and upward,

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