



The American Institute of Architects

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Hi folks,

Well the tone of this entry will be drastically different than the last one I posted a couple of months ago. It's no secret that a lot has happened since my last entry and in the words of my pastor, "I feel like a mosquito in a nudist colony. I don't know where to start."

All kidding aside, we as architects know that our duty is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. That statement really rings true during times like these. Even prior to this pandemic, the question of what our role as Architects in society will be in the coming years has been on the table for some time now. However, this pandemic has provided the opportunity for the AIA, in all its facets, to show the world that we can come together (metaphorically speaking) and provide help to those in need. Whether it's the firm providing studies on potential temporary medical facilities, or the person 3D-Printing face shield components from the comfort of their home, we all can do our part to get through this.

With that being said, below is a quick summary on what has already been accomplished and what you can do to help as well.

- Lauren Myrand, Assoc. AIA, Executive Director from AIA Detroit sent out an email calling for volunteers to help assist with the production and distribution of face shields. Acquiring the materials, staff, and equipment is a multi-step process and there are many opportunities for everyone to contribute to this important effort.
- Timothy Hawk from the National Board of Directors put together a great summary of all of the plans and programs put in place to battle disasters such as this. He along with many AIA members are on the front lines reaching out to government officials, putting task forces together to connect architects to community needs, and getting information out there to help businesses continue to work through this crisis.
- The AIA posted many links on their website to resources such as AIA's Disaster Assistance Program, the Good Samaritan State Statute Compendium, and articles on what other firms are doing to adjust to this situation. If you go to AIA.org and click on the Advocacy tab, you'll find a list of important events that have taken place this past month in response to this crisis.
- YAF is addressing the needs of emerging professionals by providing information for how to obtain continuing credits online (check out CE Center), where to donate to provide resources for PPE, providing information on bills that if passed would directly affect our profession, and much more.

Needless to say, the list goes on.

In closing: We live in a time where car manufacturers are building medical devices, distilleries are making hand sanitizer, and furniture companies are building prefabricated partitions for hospitals. As designers, we too can be innovative and look for ways to apply our skills and abilities to the current needs we face with this worldwide pandemic. In the words of Charles Eames – "Recognizing the need is the primary condition for design."

P.S. Don't forget to check out this year's first issue of Connection:

https://issuu.com/youngarchitectsforum/docs/yaf_connection_2020_q1_climate_action

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