



Chapter Meeting Minutes

24 May 2015, Milan

Call to order — the meeting was called to order. A quorum of chapter members was present.

Previous minutes — Rada Doytcheva

The minutes from the chapter meeting held on October 26, 2014 (Paris) were read and accepted.

Letter from Tom Vonier, 2016 AIA President Elect, 2017 President – Bertrand Coldefy

Tom and Françoise will not be able to make the Milano conference. Tom expresses appreciation for all the support from AIA Europe chapter and friends - for his winning candidacy. AIA Europe can take pride in advancing a member to the highest Institute office.

Barcelona Conference Spring 2016 Planning – Sophia Gruzdy

1. Conference dates. It was concluded that April 14 is an appropriate start date, clearing various holidays. To be confirmed.
2. Tentative Program. Conference Title: Barcelona 2016: the Compact City.

Barcelona's commitment to build new buildings and reinvigorate existing ones continues unabated.

Underway are also projects previously delayed such as the completion of Sagrada Família (Gaudí) planned for 2026 - guided tour to be given by Mauricio Cortes.

Among points of interest are the following: Restoration of Hospital Sant Pau (Domènec I Muntaner), Plaça Glòries Development, Food markets renovation projects, etc.

Possible speakers from "Canopia Urbana", also Benadetta Tagliabue, Josep Mateo and others

Walking tours: Eixample District, Sant Antoni Market, Barcelona Food Markets Renovations.

Possible locations for Gala dinner: Barcelona Pavilion (Mies), Casa Batlló (Gaudí), Casa Fusta (Domènec I Muntaner), Dos Cielos (Dominique Perrault) or other.

Optional visits: Casa La Ricarda (Bonet) and Penedès wine-growing region, or visit to Poblet Monastery, or a day trip to Girona.

Sponsors: Tiles of Spain, Estrella Dam, Moritz, Laufen/ Roca

President's report — Bertrand Coldefy

1. National Convention in Atlanta.
 - a. The convention was very well attended; our chapter was well represented. 7000 members were present at the Keynote address given by President Clinton, moderated by AIA President Elizabeth Chu. Important changes have been made to the AIA organization; AIA wants to become more international.
 - b. Two of our Chapter Members were inducted as FAIA members, Yael Kinsky, FAIA and Thomas Bitnar, FAIA. Congratulations were given.
2. AIA International Region (IR).

There was good participation of the different chapters at the National conference. Some



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international chapters are growing very fast, such as the Middle East and Shanghai chapters. The next IR conference in Kyoto is very close to the date of our fall Vienna conference. In Atlanta, Bertrand Coldely mentioned that AIA Europe would like to continue our 2 decades close ties with AIA LONDON/UK chapter. It is very positive that one of our members, Lester Korzilius, is also on the board of AIA International Region.

Our challenges scheduling our respective conferences to not be in conflict with the IR events, as well as with the national events. AIA IR will try to coordinate with its chapters better and to also have some joint conferences. IR's intention is to have a conference once a year.

Treasurer's report – Sandra Zettersten

2015 shows loss for the chapter in the amount of – € 1,600 (monetary losses at both London and Paris Conferences in 2014, some of them planned), made up quickly this year so far. The Milan Conference should break even.

Chapter current assets to date on both US and French accounts amount to €95,500 (\$64,000 Suntrust + €39,500 LCL).

Corporate sponsorship for 2015 should total a minimum of €18,500.

Ongoing expenses include: continuing education conferences, section events, printing, board member expenses, administrative help and equipment, bank fees, the recently added Alan Schwartzman Scholarship Award stipend and new liability insurance for conferences, to name some items.

Membership revenue will be lower in overall, as our chapter has not increased the chapter dues the last 2 years while we were contributing to the International Region dues to the extent of \$10 per member per year. At the January 2015 board meeting in Paris, the board voted to increase the chapter dues in 2016 for the first time in over 12 years to cover the cost of IR dues as mentioned and some increased overhead that is normal over such a long timeframe. An increase from \$100 to \$125 for 2016 was voted on and approved.

A discussion of the Treasurer's report and of the dues increase followed. A question regarding why are we keeping such a large reserve while raising membership dues was asked by Stephen Scamihorn. Sandra explained that it is prudent and responsible to keep a reserve at least equal to the costs of 2 conferences and our yearly chapter expenses. We have increased obligations related to the scholarship stipend, to the upgrade of administrative/records storage equipment that was failing due to age and to the possibility to open free conference participation to students – a longtime wish of some members at many chapter meetings over the year.

A discussion ensued with Stephen Scamihorn, Marc DiDomenico, Lester Korzilius, Alan Schwartzman and Bari Wetmore sharing opinions. A motion was made by Alan to accept the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Bari to continue the discussion about membership dues increase until Vienna.

A request was made to the Treasurer and Board to present a more comprehensive Financial Strategy Plan at the Vienna meeting. A request was made that the Board sends out a copy of the Board minutes of the meetings held. (Board minutes have always been posted on the chapter website.)



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(Pursuant the conference, the board decided on phased dues increase, with this year's increase only to \$110).

Chapter Awards Program – Yael Kinsky

Yael reported that the program submission link is live and ready to accept submissions. She thanked the group supporting the program. Lester conveyed Christine Bruckner's concern about coordinating the dates of our Europe Chapter awards with those of the IR awards in the future.

Alan Schwartzman AIA Europe Scholarship – Bertrand Coldefy

The Alan Schwartzman Scholarship Award has been allocated for 2015. It is a €4,000 stipend for an American architecture student to study at a European institution, Ecoles d'Art Americaines de Fontainebleau. This institution was recommended by Alan Schwartzman, himself a former student. The board committee selected Julia Kwolyk from University of Virginia to spend a summer semester there – from June 30 to Aug 7, 2015. It is being recommended to her that she presents her work and experience from this summer at our Vienna conference. Alan Schwartzman spoke about expanding the award to other architectural programs.

Students Program 2016 - Nora Demeter read Tiffany Melancon's report on the AIA Europe Student Awards Program.

Conference Reports –

a) Girne, Cyprus – Fall 2016 – Ali Yapicioglu

Tentative dates have been set for Sept 29 to Oct 2nd or October 6 to October 9, 2016. The conference theme will be "Communicating across cultures, Past, Present and the Future". Ali has talked to four universities and has invited eight local architectural students to participate in the conference and to present their design charrette ideas to the attendees for a project for renovation/repurposing of a local former bazaar project. Ali has already garnered support from the Mayor of Kyrenia, from the Minister of Education as well. Ilker Hussein, Laufen, born in Cyprus, is also assisting in the conference organization.

b) Copenhagen – spring 2017 – discussion deferred to Vienna conference chapter meeting.

c) Prague – fall 2017 – discussion deferred to Vienna conference chapter meeting.

d) Thessaloniki – spring 2018 - This is to be coordinated by the organizer of our past Athens conference. There were some concerns whether this location would interfere with the draw to Kosovo for the fall conference. To be further discussed later.

The AIA Committee on Design has expressed interest in organizing a joint conference in St. Petersburg.

Other suggestions came in (Ray Spano, Sergio Danese) – for a conference in Marseille.

e) **Kosovo/Albania** – fall 2018 – Bard Rama; Bard has already had local organizational meetings and worked toward getting support locally. Suggestion to combine Albania and Kosovo.

AIA Administrative Changes – Bertrand Coldefy

Certain administrative legal changes were made. Also, recently an insurance policy for conference



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liability has been put in place. Contracting for a chapter audit is also underway.

Germany Section Event – Bertrand Coldefy read Gabriela Liebert's report

The report represented a proposal/rough draft for one hour webinar to be streamed in Germany in fall 2015.

New Business –

Bari Wetmore suggested a serious consideration for sending a chapter representative/liaison to ACE each year. Giancarlo Alhadef, former AIA Europe Chapter liaison to ACE, recommended looking into getting someone who is living closer to Brussels, like Charles Croigny. The issue of funding needs for this representation needs to be resolved – usually there are two yearly meetings: one in Brussels and one elsewhere in Europe. The chapter could possibly pick up the cost for the latter. This was not reimbursed in the past.

New Business –

Special thanks for organizing and supporting the Milan conference were expressed to Giancarlo and his colleague Stephen (present at the meeting), to Gregg Brodarick and to Sergio Danese.

Also, the planning of a formal recognition of Richard Anderson's contributions to the chapter was proposed by Lester Korzilius.

End of meeting

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved.

Recorded this date by Rada Doytcheva, Secretary

[Click here to view the attendance sheet.](#)