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National Associates Committee  
American Institute of Architects

# RAD REPORT | October | Regional Updates

A Publication of AIA AssociateNews

## Leading Off

### Updates from the Field

Before the NAC begins its transition into 2012 in earnest and continues to plot its long-term course, the RAD Report takes a month to highlight 2 Regional conferences with strong Emerging Professionals programming.



The **AIA Ohio Valley Region** held its first ever *UnConvention* for Emerging Professionals in conjunction with its regional convention in Dayton OH on September 16 & 17, 2011. A wide range of programs and activities focusing on career and professional

development for Emerging Professionals complemented the offerings of the larger convention.

A week later, **New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania** held their Tri-State Convention in Atlantic City NJ. Among the offerings specifically geared towards Emerging Professionals were a panel discussion covering every stage of a professional career, through an internship in Architecture to licensure and beyond.



Read more about both events on the [following page](#).

After meeting with and hearing from their constituents at regional events at home the past couple of months, the representatives of the NAC will come together next month to begin planning for 2012, and continue the discussion on the Next 10 Years. As we continue the process, it is essential that Emerging Professional members continue to get their voice heard in their profession. If you have any further ideas for the NAC, please contact your [Regional Associate Director](#).

## Announcements

### Call for 2012 Grassroots Programs

The AIA has put out a call for programs and award entries for its annual Grassroots Leadership Conference in Washington DC, March 7-10, 2012. Program and award submissions are due **November 4th!**

## AIA Grassroots

2012 Leadership and Legislative Conference  
Washington, D.C.  
March 7-10, 2012

### AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion Nominations

Just a couple more weeks for nominations for the AIA/American Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) [Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architecture Education](#) are due **October 21, 2011** at **5pm EDT**. The award honors an individual who has committed himself or herself to Architectural Education for at least 10 years.

### AIA Associates Award and Young Architect Nominations

This is also the last call for nominations for the 2011 Associates Awards and 2011 Young Architect Awards. Submissions are due by **October 14, 2011**. The award is open to all Associate members not licensed at the time of nomination, and those Professional Architects within their first 10 years of licensure, respectively. More information and a walk-through of the nomination process is available on [aia.org](#).

### Build Boston, November 16-18, 2011



**AIA New England** will be a part of Build Boston, a combined Architecture/Engineering/Construction industry event held in Boston MA November 16-18, 2011, providing an opportunity for all industry professionals to learn, network and refine their skills. Compete information is available [here](#). [Scholarships](#) for young industry professionals to attend 1-2 Build Boston workshops are also available.

### Staying in Balance

The **Texas Society of Architects** will hold its annual convention in Dallas TX October 27-29, 2011, with a theme of balance. The sessions held on Friday, October 28th will be free to Associate and non-members who [pre-register](#). In addition, the state component and **Dallas Associates Committee** are planning a full slate of events for Emerging Professionals. More information and registration details are available on the [convention website](#).

### [Re]stitching Tampa's Riverfront

An international design competition, sponsored by **AIA Tampa Bay**, is underway to redesign Tampa's riverfront, the "social, economic and ecologic spine" of the city. Details and registration are available on the competition website, [\[re\]stitch TAMPA](#).

Have news for the NAC? AssociateNews can help spread the word - Clarice Sollog [csollog@gmail.com](mailto:csollog@gmail.com) and Patrick Weber [pweber31@gmail.com](mailto:pweber31@gmail.com)



# Regional Spotlight

**Clair Wholean, AIA**  
**2011-2012 New Jersey RAD**

In lieu of individual state conventions this year, **Pennsylvania, New Jersey** and **New York** came together to hold the first ever **Tri-State Convention** in Atlantic City NJ on September 21-23, 2011. Design award winners from each of the three states were entered into a tri-state competition, and numerous continuing education seminars were held including two programs specifically for Associates; "Maximizing Your Career: Getting the Most Out of Licensure and Certification" and "Tri-State Speed Mentoring."



Due to low attendance, the format for "Tri-State Speed Mentoring" was changed to a strategic planning session about how the regions can better provide mentoring programs engaging AIA Associates, Architects and Fellows. Moderators **Venesa Alicea, AIA**, and **Nicolette Feldser, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C** have both been involved with various speed mentoring programs within New York State. Several other mentoring programs are in development throughout the three states, including "Mentorship NOW" in New Jersey, which was recently awarded the College of Fellows Emerging Professionals Component Grant, and the "Architecture Group Mentoring Program" which is an ongoing effort in Philadelphia.

"Maximizing Your Career" was a panel discussion among a current IDP/ ARE candidate, a recently licensed architect, and an architect licensed over five years, moderated by the NCARB Assistant Director of the Intern Development Program, **Nick Serfass, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**. Panelists included the New York State Associate Director; **Nicolette Feldser, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C**, the AIA NJ Regional Associate Director, **Clair Wholean, AIA, NCARB, LEED GA**; and the Chair of AIA Pittsburgh's Young Architects Forum, **Sean Sheffler, AIA**, also an IDP Auxiliary Coordinator at WTW Architects.

**Brian McAlexander, Assoc AIA**  
**2010-2011 Ohio Valley RAD**



The Unconvention began with a simple premise, "get Emerging Professionals to convention". First, we brainstormed possible reasons why they would not attend. These reasons ranged from personal to educational interests: time away from work and home, cost of registration, cost of stay, transportation means, and relevant programming. Then, we developed solutions to each possible issue.

We scheduled the event for a Friday & Saturday keeping the time away from the office to just one day and giving up one day of the weekend. To address costs we applied for and received grants from the AIA College of Fellows Emerging Professionals Grant and the AIA Trust. **Kaplan** and **NCARB** provided in-kind donations with two complete ARE learning systems and five ARE vouchers. **AIA Ohio**, **AIA Kentucky**, and **AIA Indiana** all provided funding as well. We sent out a survey asking what topics were of interest to Emerging Professionals and developed programming around survey results.

The much anticipated Alternate Career Paths in Architecture was moderated by **Lee Waldrep, AIA**. The panel was quite large and included those who had specialized within the profession and those who had taken their knowledge and training and applied it to other fields like home inspections and comic strip writing. The authors of **Architext** provided some much needed comic relief.

The "Architecture as Business" session provided EPs with a chance to hear from a panel on the business decisions firms face on a daily basis. The three panelists, from a variety of backgrounds and from firms of different sizes participated in a moderated, open discussion. Topics covered included setting strategic goals, marketing, contracts and client retention among others.

Although the Ohio Valley Region *Unconvention* was an evolution of programming from a previously-held **AIA Ohio** Emerging Professionals Retreat, we believe it can be produced much more quickly in other regions with the help of the forth coming **Best Practices Template**. What took us several years to evolve you can engineer in a single year. In the next few months we will dissect the Unconvention using actual attendance, expenses, and attendee survey to determine our successes and not so successful outcomes. Learn from us and go out and produce your own *Unconvention*!

*Unconvention team:*  
 Brian McAlexander, Assoc. AIA  
 Greg Spon, Assoc. AIA  
 Jack Baumann, AIA  
 Melissa Seig, AIA  
 Michael Neureither, Assoc. AIA  
 Kate Brunswick, Hon. AIA, CAE  
 Janet Pike, Hon. AIA  
 Jason Shelly  
 Jane Treiber  
 Terry Welker, AIA



I to r: Crystal Montgomery, Joshua Lloyd, Joker, Greg Spon, Brian McAlexander, Sarah Markley, Maverick



## Coming Up

Click the button to see the full NAC calendar.

October 6-8  
**Central States Regional Conference**  
 Wichita, Kansas

October 6-8  
**Western Mountain Regional Conference**  
 Las Vegas, Nevada

October 14  
**Deadline for 2011 Associate & Young Architect Awards**

October 27-29  
**Texas Society of Architects Annual Convention**  
 Dallas, Texas

November 11-13  
**NAC Fall Meeting**  
 Raleigh, North Carolina  
 (2012 NAC Members)

November 16-18  
**Build Boston**  
 Boston, Massachusetts