

PRESS RELEASE

Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between RIBA-USA and RIBA



*Jonathan Wimpenny, President RIBA-USA and Angela Brady, President RIBA
Signing the Memorandum of Understanding April 2013*

We are pleased to report that in April 2013, an important accord was signed between Angela Brady, President RIBA and Jonathan B. Wimpenny, President of the RIBA-USA Board of Trustees. Entitled a “Memorandum of Understanding” (see attached), the agreement now clarifies the close collaboration and partnership between RIBA-USA (a US 501C3 charity) and the RIBA Institute in London.

First established in Los Angeles (1995), followed by New York (1996), RIBA-USA was a members’ initiative led by Tim Clark, who founded its Board of Chapter Representatives, encouraged new Chapters in Boston and Chicago and co-drafted its Constitution, quickly inspiring similar action by RIBA groups in Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco and Washington DC to cover the entire US region.

Studiously coordinating progress with RIBA London, RIBA-USA has endeavored over the decades to ensure a solid foundation, in accordance with the original RIBA Charter yet complying with the legal framework of the United States. A combined effort which would not have been achieved without the legal counsel of RIBA-USA Honorary Secretary, Cynthia Fischer, and the continued assistance from RIBA Presidents and the staff at Portland Place.

The benefits of this partnership have been far reaching. Ever cogniscent of members’ “knowledge community” in the United States, RIBA now benefits from the many RIBA-USA competitions, lectures, exhibitions as well as providing a local platform for essential fundraising. Beyond this, collaboration with the AIA has resulted in a far-reaching international Continuing Education agreement (1997) and RIBA-USA is now regarded by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) as an essential network ready to assist in their various programs across the United States. Portfolio reviews and guidance are also welcomed by UK students where RIBA-USA chapters give invaluable local advice, linking them to the many career opportunities in the United States.

This Memorandum of Understanding is a “*huge step forward*,” writes Angela Brady PRIBA (see attached letter), “*which will strengthen relations between RIBA-USA and the Institute....*” and defines “*RIBA-USA as a respected architectural forum for RIBA members in the region.*”

RIBA-USA Board of Trustees.

Annual General Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Date: 20th June 2013

Royal Institute of British Architects

Jonathan Wimpenny
RIBA-USA President of Board of Trustees
18 East 12th Street #9a
New York 10003
USA

10 April 2013

Dear Jonathan

I am delighted to hear that an arrangement has been reached by the RIBA-USA Board of Trustees to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and enclose two copies for your signature.

This is a huge step forward which will strengthen relations between RIBA-USA and the Institute with a view to building more beneficial engagement and collaboration.

I look forward to hearing news on further activity in 2013 and would like to thank you for your continued efforts in defining RIBA USA as a respected architectural forum for RIBA members in the region.

Please could you sign both copies of the attached and return one copy to William Hawkins at the address below.

Yours sincerely



Angela Brady
RIBA President

cc. William Hawkins, Director N&R Operations

66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7580 5533
Fax +44 (0)20 7255 1541
info@inst.riba.org
www.architecture.com

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Memorandum of understanding between the Royal Institute of British Architects and RIBA-USA

Introduction

The relationship between Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and RIBA-USA, which is a regional organisation of the RIBA, has grown organically over nearly 18 years and has been successful because of the goodwill and positive, sensible approach by all of the individuals involved. It has depended on good relations between good people.

There is exciting potential for greater RIBA activity and membership in the USA to advance the RIBA's purpose of championing better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and RIBA members.

The RIBA and RIBA-USA are keen to work together to achieve this. This requires that the relationship between the RIBA and RIBA-USA is put onto a more formal footing, so that it can thrive based on shared principles, as well as goodwill and common-sense.

A formal memorandum of understanding is needed to mitigate these risks and to enable success and growth in line with shared aims. This will lead to the adoption of a formal constitution in accordance with bye-Law 14.2, under which RIBA's Council has the power to make regulations prescribing or varying the constitution of a branch or region.

The following memorandum of understanding is agreed between RIBA and RIBA-USA:

1. Guiding principle

RIBA-USA is an integral part of the RIBA and is a regional organisation of the RIBA. Accordingly RIBA-USA's activities are an emanation of the RIBA's.

2. Purpose

The RIBA welcomes and encourages members to form international communities that enhance and develop the RIBA's presence and help achieve its strategic aims in an international territory.

The purpose of an international community is to contribute towards the overall RIBA strategy of championing better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and RIBA members.

RIBA-USA is an international community of the RIBA that operates in the USA.

3. Activity

RIBA-USA achieves this purpose by undertaking activities and developing partnerships which contribute to one or more of the following RIBA strategic priorities:

- Clients: We will stimulate demand for architecture that delivers economic, social and environmental value.
- Members: We will work with our members to transform the practice of architecture to meet the opportunities and needs of the 21st century.
- Leadership: We will influence, lobby and lead to inspire improvements in the built environment nationally, locally and internationally.
- Knowledge, innovation and culture: We will be the hub for knowledge, innovation, research and debate on the built environment.

4. Governance

RIBA-USA is a network of members, architects and co-professionals within the USA. It is also part of a network of RIBA communities from all over the world, including the branches in the UK. These networks undertake activities that promote architecture and support architects working in partnership with local members, the RIBA's global community of members and co-professionals.

In common with the network of other RIBA communities RIBA-USA reports to and coordinates its activity, statement of accounts and partnerships with the RIBA Nations & Regions Committee, a committee of the RIBA Board of trustees.

5. Operations

RIBA gives direction and guidelines on the broad areas of policy, activity, relationships with other bodies, use of branding and financial accounting. RIBA-USA develops its activities and practices within this broad framework.

i) Funding

RIBA-USA may apply to the Nations & Regions Committee for grants for projects, activities and capital expenditure that support the above purpose. RIBA-USA may also seek funds for activities from sponsors within the USA.

ii) Assets

Within reasonable constraints RIBA-USA has access to the RIBA's collections of drawings, books and photographs, its knowledge base, research and programmes to assist activities. RIBA-USA may also enhance the RIBA's collections and knowledge. The means of access and purpose of the activity to be initially discussed with Nations & Regions staff. Formal access can then be requested via the Nations & Regions Committee, who will pass the request to the relevant RIBA Committee or Board

iii) Brand

The RIBA will seek to protect the RIBA brand in the USA. RIBA-USA is required to adhere to RIBA guidelines in all their communication materials.

iv) Data


RIBA-USA will provide a named representative member, contact data for them to use on behalf of RIBA-USA. This will be subject to a separate agreement with the

individual in order for the RIBA to demonstrate compliance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998.

6. Shared subscriptions and membership

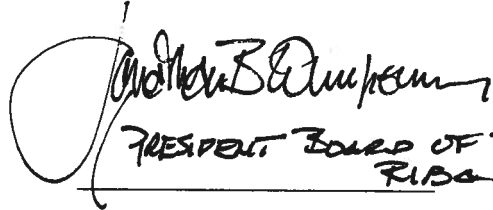
All categories of RIBA membership are open to those in the USA. The RIBA will pay to RIBA-USA 50% of all new subscriptions (including Associate Members and Affiliates), in the first year of joining, where RIBA-USA recruits those new RIBA members in the USA.

Signed


PRIBA

On behalf of the RIBA

Date 10:04:2013


PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RIBA-USA

On behalf of RIBA-USA

Date 15th April 2013.