



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of RIBA-USA
June 11, 2010
Miami, Florida**

Venue: The Boardroom, Wolfsonian Museum,
Florida International University

Present: Jonathan Wimpenny, President
Philip Allsopp, Vice President
Ruth Reed, President RIBA
Cynthia G. Fischer, Secretary
Shaumyika Sharma
Leyla Hilmi
Jim Bannon
Joseph Burns
Niall Saunders
James Karl Fischer
Chad Overway
Rob Dennis
Lauren B. Allsopp
Noel Ogunbunni
DeeAnne Treadway, Guest from Children of Haiti Enhancement
Foundation

Apologies for Absence Received:

Clive Copping, Philip Fraser-Andrews Catherine Davis, Tim Clark, Derek Bradford, Zoka Zola, Angela Brady, Page Ayers Cowley, Anthony Di Guiseppe, Andrew Golland, Go Chong Chia, John Steigerwald, Tim Sudweeks, Christine Mannering Samwell, Mike Drake, Manny Abraben, Aiah E Pessima, Joyce Owens, Paddy Tillet.

1. The meeting was convened at 5:00 P.M.
 - Cynthia asked whether anyone would volunteer to start a Miami chapter.
2. Jonathan Wimpenny
 - Since last years' AGM, RIBA-USA has two new chapters: in San Francisco and Phoenix.



- Our thanks to Clive Copping (Chair, Philadelphia) who could not be with us and who organized RIBA-USA as a non-profit corporation and obtained the 501(c)3 tax exemption status.
- RIBA-USA now has seven chapters and is growing membership. Under the By Laws, we also have the potential to put up to four members on the board who are not necessarily in areas with chapters but would like to participate.
- We encourage affiliate members and other U.S. architects who are not chartered RIBA architects. For example Mark Strauss, former New York President of AIA, has indicated an interest in becoming a RIBA member. Please encourage AIA members to take membership in RIBA.
- Over the next two to three years, RIBA can have a significant cultural impact on the AIA. For example the Palladio Show, which was the first time RIBA entered the U.S. market, is the vanguard and we believe more can be done.
- Thanks to Phil Allsopp for organizing the Dade county program approved as a bono fide educational enterprise.
- Thanks to the Board, it takes a lot of work to have an active chapter.
- With this structure for the first time we can plan ahead two to three years to do programs. With the 501(c)3 status we can better achieve the economic ability to finance programs and activities.
- Thanks to Ximena Prella and Rebecca Mowat_who assisted in organizing the canapé reception under the leadership of Kevin McGurgen (UK Consulate Miami). Thanks also to Cathy Leff and Ian Rand who made this wonderful venue at the Wolfsonian possible.
- Introduction of Ruth Reed, the sixth president of RIBA to come to the U.S. in the past twelve years to meet with the RIBA-USA membership.



3. Ruth Reed

- Wonderful to see RIBA-USA growing and focusing on the cultural side of architecture. There is a very positive attitude here in the U.S.
- Recent problems with the London region show how there can be damage to the brand and they are looking very carefully at governance.
- She is discussing with Jonathan Wimpenny having a memo of understanding between RIBA and RIBA-USA to protect the brand. They would like to have a consistency in approach.
- RIBA is generally trying to have a more public interface getting involved in housing and working with the RIBA students.
- We have a very good relationship with RIBA-USA with Jonathan and with James Fischer, (international member of the council in London). The U.S. as a region needs to send a representative to London on a regular basis.
- The RIBA council has changed. There are thirteen members of the Board of Trustees which supervise financial and business planning. She hopes that the council will also become the center of the Body of Knowledge owned by RIBA with a remit for education.
- To encourage membership growth, she proposed that one half of the membership dues for the first year of membership of each new member recruited by RIBA-USA be paid to RIBA-USA.
- The Palladio Show was magnificent. James Fisher did a beautiful job on the lighting. The show is now moving to Washington, DC and will be in Pittsburgh next year (the RIBA Trust is funding). RIBA is also looking for sponsorship to digitalize the collection.

4. Phil Allsopp presented his report:

- RIBA-USA: A View of the Future - Collaborations and Partnerships - Bringing new Insights into the Role and Value of the Profession through Arts, Cultural and Community Initiatives.



- **PLEASE REFER TO THE FULL TEXT OF PHIL'S REPORT WHICH IS YOU CAN FIND ONLINE AT:**
- <http://www.riba-usa.org/events/2010/2010-07/RIBA-USA-A-View-of-the-Future.pdf>
- In summary, RIBA-USA is looking forward to working with RIBA to push forward this cultural and arts agenda.

5. Jonathan Wimpenny

- Thanks to RIBA-USA member Noel Ogunbunni for donating services today as RIBA-USA photographer of record
- He met with Harry Rich, Chief Executive RIBA, to discuss how RIBA and RIBA-USA can work together, especially with respect to the RIBA Trust. To that end, Harry Rich introduced Tim Hollins (Deputy Director RIBA Trust), who requested help from RIBA-USA in compiling the Morgan invitation list. See attached email.
- Irena Murray and Tim Holland have done a wonderful job for the Trust with limited resources. It is hoped that RIBA-USA may be able to assist in the future and in that regard, the Board are preparing a business plan for 2011.
- Thanks to Sian Cook (Director of Development) who has been extremely helpful in keeping the Board apprised of current issues and future plans of the RIBA and The Trust..
- Thanks to James Fischer who has been working on our behalf on the council representing RIBA-USA as a region. Pertaining to Ruth's comment (US region's representation on Council) we look forward to working with RIBA Council and the Nations and Regions Committee to achieve this in the very near future..

6. James Fischer

- There are certain things that are critical at this time such as exhibitions and digitalization of the Trust library. RIBA is looking to the USA to work as a partner.



- One issue is the validation of US schools. We are one of the few countries where the validation of accredited schools has not been maintained which is a great pity.
 - We have the opportunity of demonstrating that RIBA can lead with cultural innovations and education excellence to build toward improving the conditions of architectural practice.
 - We need to think in terms of how the US region can develop and promote our cultural resources.
7. Chad Overway response to Jonathan's request for initial impressions after first year of existence of San Francisco chapter.
- They've established goals, everyone pitched in pursuing venues, a core group of about six has developed. They've developed a process of decision making and functioning that seems to work.
 - They're concentrating on social events and educational events. They're tried to do things that are not typical of the AIA. For example they had a dinner for about 15 with invited guests who spoke. They made a little money but mainly it was an educational event for the members.
 - They would like to support an educational program similar to the Miami Dade project and believe that they will be able to come up with sponsors. There has been some interest by Gensler who have RIBA members at executive positions.
 - Jonathan stated that some of the older chapters are envious at the level of activity that San Francisco has had. We may have exhausted the charitable hospitality of the AIA Center for Architecture in New York, where for example an event can easily cost \$15,000 (with technical services, catering etc.) However, other sponsors, such as Hafele and UK Consulate, have been most generous in providing venues
 - We now have Paypal on our website thanks to Phil Fraser-Andrews, Chad and Tim Sudweeks.



- With respect to working together on sponsorships we need to share resources and coordinate so that we don't step on each other's toes. It's encouraging to see this energy.
8. General remarks.
- Niall noted that the LA chapter was the founding chapter.
 - We've now created a treasurer function. We need centralized bookkeeping and financial information because we are a 501(c)(3).
 - Phil Fraser Andrews and Tim Sudweeks achieved the addition of Paypal to our website.
 - Tim Clark was able to put together events in LA such as with artists and photographers. It's very difficult to pull together because it's so spread out but he was successful.
 - Next year's push will be to have more events in the other chapters using San Francisco's example.
 - Many thanks to Tim Sudweeks for maintaining the website.
 - We have new transparency in financial recordkeeping. Double signature on all checks.
 - Thanks to Joe Burns and Thornton Tomasetti for sponsorship of this evening's event.
 - Thanks also to John O'Meara of Hafele for their sponsorship.
 - Report on the Phoenix chapter: Phil Allsopp is trying to bring John Munier in with his network. They would like to be part of the public policy debate in Phoenix. There are real problems with the environment. RIBA would like to work with the mayor to work on rezoning. Arizona State University has an event called "Canalscape." There are 186 miles of canals which are not being used. They are working on getting the canals opened up.
9. Jonathan Wimpenny asked if there were questions.



- Rob Dennis (from Perkins and Will) said that he had been in London for 20 years. He volunteered to help start a Miami chapter. Jonathan suggested that he also speak with Mike Drake.
 - Ruth Reed asked that we let Chloe Sadler know when we are opening up new chapters. She agreed that validation of schools is a problem because of the incompatibility of European educational mandates which conflict with the US system and RIBA is locked into the EU criteria.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 6.00pm and all present were invited to join the UK Consulate reception in the Wolfsonian Fountain Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia G. Fischer