

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RIBA-USA MAY 13, 2011

Jonathan Wimpenny, President of RIBA-USA, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

1. **Secretary's Report.** Cynthia Fischer, Secretary of RIBA-USA, reported that the tax return required of non-profit corporations, Form 990, had been timely filed for fiscal year 2010. Further, the required annual report to the Charities Bureau of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was also filed on a timely basis.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Phil Allsopp delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Philip Fraser Andrews. He reported:

Funds in the corporate account had doubled in 2010.

Last year's major event was at the AGM in Miami, where an educational program was conducted with the Miami Dade School System, and awards were presented to winning participants at a reception held at the Wolfsonian Institute. Sponsors of the event were Thornton Tomasetti, Hafele, the RIBA Book Store, and the Wolfsonian Institute.

Last year's fund-raising was also up, and particular thanks go to Chad Overway for the fabulous job he is doing in San Francisco galvanizing local support.

We've also activated Paypal on the RIBA-USA website allowing for membership applications and sponsorship access.

In keeping with its mission, RIBA-USA will continue to deploy educational programs as well as the RIBA-USA student competition initiative.

3. **President's Report.** The President's Report was given by Jonathan Wimpenny.

He noted that today's attendance reflects that we are all part of the international community, and that 18% of RIBA membership is overseas.

Jonathan introduced the RIBA members standing for election:

James Fischer - currently serving as an international representative on the RIBA Council. During his tenure, James has worked to bring RIBA resources to its international constituency and to bring international resources to London. His term is ending, and he is standing again for one of the two international seats.

Dr. Goh Chong Chia from Singapore – his term as an international delegate to the Council is ending, and he is standing for the UIA presidency.

Nela De Zoysa from Sri Lanka – she is also standing for an international seat on the Council. She said that RIBA can be the gateway to the world, and she wants to promote the relationships with the AIA and Arcasia.

Jonathan thanked James Fischer and Chong Chia for their services as the international delegates to the RIBA Council, and acknowledged their tremendous amount of work over the past three years.

Jonathan then gave a brief description of his experience in the U.S.: He has worked for 25 years in the U.S. and came from a construction family in Yorkshire. His family worked in the company's quarries, and Jonathan was always drawn to drawing. From his father, he learned about partnership in the construction industry, and the importance of collaborating in teams. The profession needs to engage with the construction industry rather than set its self apart

In the RIBA, we welcome continuing education and teaching the craft of architecture. This has to happen in the industry. We need to train students who, particularly in this stringent economic environment, tend to be exploited. The Institute should bear in mind its obligation to the community, overseeing the students' continuing education, learning from them as well to ensure excellence in the future profession .

To this end, he noted that Phil Allsopp's program of competitions in the schools for students 16, 17 and 18 years old, to teach them what a career in architecture would be, is a goal of RIBA-USA. He was very pleased to report that one of the winning students of last year's competition in Miami has gone on to Columbia University.

The important influence and guidance we can offer to students cannot be overlooked even if the young student may choose another career. Jonathan recounted an anecdote about Frank Lloyd Wright, who once gave a prize to one of his students, and in his remarks, told the student that if he was going to become an architect, he would have to learn to speak better English. He did but chose another profession -- acting; his name was Anthony Quinn.

Jonathan noted that we have 500 to 600 members of RIBA in the U.S. It is a growing membership, and Chad Overway in San Francisco has had extraordinary results in bringing a younger American audience who had previously been unaware of the RIBA.

We've also opened a new chapter in Washington, DC and welcome Dr. Raj Barr who brings enormous experience and expertise particularly as the first person on the RIBA-USA Board to have served as Past President of the AIA.

Thanks to Phil Allsopp, whose position paper presented last year at the AGM pointed a way forward for the future. It has been a difficult year for RIBA and although we regret the demise of the RIBA Trust, we look forward to continuing Phil's RIBA-USA dialogue with Portland Place. We should carry the cultural vanguard and encourage US exhibitions to show the wide range of drawings and photographs in the RIBA members' collection.

The Palladio Exhibit was an enormous cultural success. These drawings belong to the members and should continue to be shared. Phil Allsopp has the expertise and will work with Portland Place to organize more exhibitions. This can only help the RIBA. For example, we have all of the Central Park photographs, which has the potential of great success in the U.S. and an opportunity to raise much needed funds for their conservation.

We must remember that RIBA is a membership organization run by its members, not a bureaucracy. The PowerPoint which has been running through the meeting demonstrates the amazing accomplishments and level of activity of RIBA-USA over the past ten years. All made possible by the local energies and dedication of its widespread chapter members.

With regard to dues from RIBA members resident in the US to the United Kingdom, some portion of them should be retained here. To quote Sunand Prasad, then President of RIBA, in his address to RIBA-USA at the AGM in Boston in 2009, ***“It is not sustainable that regions do not get some of their dues back. This should be our right. This will energize people to participate.”***

We look forward to further dialogue on this point with the RIBA.

As you know, in 1990, reciprocity between the U.S. and the UK was dropped. It’s been 20 years, and we are looking for a much more constructive approach from RIBA International in London.

Throughout the years, we’ve worked with the UK Trade and Investment. They’ve been of great support to RIBA-USA.

With that, Jonathan introduced Ruth Reed, President of RIBA, to bring us up to date on RIBA activities.

Ms. Reed said that she would like to clear up the idea that there had been any disasters in London. She said that former Presidents Sunand Prasad and Jack Pringle agreed with her that the silos created by splitting RIBA into Enterprises, Professional development and the Trust were inefficient.

We have a great staff, but we need to use that talent to the maximum benefit. We need to bring more benefits to members. Harry Rich, as the incoming Executive Director, was asked to look at the structure.

The problem with the structure separating the Trust as an independent entity was that it was being asked to promote assets without resources. A new entity, which is not a charity, has been created called the “British Architectural Trust.” There are other things we can do with assets. We can be sure that cultural outreach will utilize all resources.

“One RIBA” is the new banner.

Scotland and Wales have been competing for resources.

We are not separate regions; we are together on educational projects.

RIBA-USA is such a success because in a vast land area, we have been able to bring together members into one regional organization.

Since last year: there is a new government who is interested in our advice. She's been talking to them about planning. She believes she will have an opportunity to have genuine influence on policy.

She recently visited Sri Lanka and MIT in Boston. She's been invited to the reception for the Pritzker Prize.

We should be aware that no region received any funding. They do receive staff.

There is no critical mass anywhere in the world. We need a membership drive. She noted with regret that although RIBA-USA had requested membership materials for this event, none had arrived.

Regarding the U.S., it is difficult to provide staff for such a far flung organization. The memorandum of understanding which RIBA had provided and RIBA-USA had returned last year is currently under discussion.

There was a reciprocity agreement between AIA and RIBA with regard to providing status for cpd credits. The paperwork has been lost, and we will have to draft a new one. (James Fischer noted that Ian Pritchard should have a copy).

James also noted that there is an issue with regard to membership dues. The AIA splits dues between the local chapters and the national organization. Ruth Reed responded that we don't have this arrangement with any region. Dues provide 8 million pounds of a 38 million pound turnover on an annual basis. The Council decides how money is spent. James Fischer noted that to do a membership drive is difficult with this position. For example, San Francisco is asking what has been done on reciprocity. It is a problem that the EU only recognizes qualification in Europe.

Britain only recognizes Part 3 in the UK or the equivalent in the EU. RIBA has validated 100 schools outside of the UK. Would these students still have to take Part 3?

Ruth responded: The Architectural Registration Board in the UK doesn't recognize NCARB. The problem would be that it would have to enter into agreements with 50 states.

Adam Viorel Pantelimon noted that Quebec has a new agreement with France which could serve as a model.

Jonathan Wimpenny then thanked Ms. Reed and introduced James Fischer to explain the day's activities.

**4. James welcomed the group to a full day of continuing education programs.**

He stated that the reason it is important for architects to pay attention to sustainability and the dialogue has shifted from climate change concerns.

So we are all facing species loss. After the day of continuing education, there will be a reception this evening for the “Save a Billion Birds Fund.” He noted that one of the topics of the day would be how to prevent collisions. One billion birds are killed in the U.S. each year in collisions. So raising the awareness of architects through education and advocacy is one of his goals.

Unfortunately, some of the best LEED buildings are the biggest culprits with regard to bird collisions.

We are very fortunate to have the following supporters: RIBA, American Bird Conservancy, Mechoshades Systems, the Rooflight Company and Arnold Glass.

He hopes that RIBA can jump onto this issue as the AIA has not. It is part of our education mandate. Further, it is an international issue that follows migratory patterns.

He invites all present to join at the fundraiser at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, Jonathan Wimpenny invited attendees to remain for the continuing education programs as follows:

“Keep it Legal, Protected and Profitable”, 1 AIA CES, Cynthia Fischer, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, RIBA-USA Secretary.

“Birds and Architecture”, 2 AIA CES, Christine Sheppard, PhD, American Bird Conservancy.

Lunch graciously provided by the RoofLight Company.

“Day Lighting”, 1 AIA CES, William Maimann, Mechoshades Systems.

“Light From Above, Past, Present and Future”, 1 AIA CES, Val King and Paul Herbert, the RoofLight Company.

There was also continuous booth presentation by Arnold Glass.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia G. Fischer,

Secretary, RIBA-USA