Hello Eastern Illinois Chapter. I am dedicating this month’s President’s Message to one of the AIA/EIC’s founding members, Lou Narcisi, AIA. Lou recently passed away on October 2. His story is one that exemplifies hard work leading to success.

As an architect and business owner, it is motivating to see Lou’s success over the years with his firm, Interplan, LLC. Lou founded Interplan, LLC with fellow AIA/EIC member Ray Chocholek, AIA. They started as a local solution, and exploded to a nationwide operation. Through hard work and meticulous, quality design, Lou guided this expansion and reached levels of business and career success that all principal owners and architects strive for. And it all started with an idea to provide a unique solution for a weakness in the market.

On page three in this newsletter, you’ll find an article about Lou from his colleague and good friend, Steve Reardon, AIA. Steve states, “I enjoyed working on his projects as I could see that every line in his sketches related to every other line, for a cohesive solution to each design problem.” This really stuck with me, and here’s why... Lou’s career epitomizes the idea of finding solutions for each problem. From the ingenuity to start his own firm, to the attention-to-detail put into each design, Lou Narcisi, AIA...
President’s Message
...continued from page 1

was an inspiration, problem-solver and leader from the beginning. We could all apply aspects from Lou’s career and life into our own journey. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Narcisi family during this time.

One order of business – license renewal is next month. It seems crazy that November is nearly here! This is also a reminder to take care of your sexual harassment training prior to submitting for renewal.

I wish you all a prosperous, healthy fourth quarter of the year, and hope we will be able to gather again, in-person, soon.

Until next time,

Jose Pareja, AIA
EIC President

October 28  Details on page 5
Chapter Meeting

November 18
Chapter Meeting

December 6  Details next issue
Annual Party

Early due to Thanksgiving holiday
Louis Narcisi, AIA, In Memoriam
by Steve Reardon, AIA

AIA Eastern Illinois charter member, Lou Narcisi, AIA, passed away on October 2 of this year.

Lou grew up in Chicago Heights, was a graduate of Bloom High School, then received his Masters of Architecture from the University of Illinois. He was a United States Army veteran and a long-time resident of Hinsdale with Ann, his wife of fifty-five years.

He founded Interplan Practice Ltd. with chapter charter member and fellow University of Illinois graduate Ray Chocholek, AIA. In 1972 they bought the last remaining one-room “little red schoolhouse” in Cook County and renovated it into their Lemont offices. In 1984 the firm moved to Oakbrook Terrace for more spacious facilities, where Interplan LLC has grown into a large firm with offices in several states. Lou retired as Principal after thirty-five years.

I was an intern architect at Interplan Practice Ltd. in the early 1980’s and learned much from Lou about design and being a quality-oriented architect. Lou was a great teacher and it was at the University of Illinois at Chicago that I first met him in my second-year architectural design class. Lou was a favorite instructor for many of us, and it was my introduction to Interplan. A year after graduation, I happened to be at the first AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter’s Annual Meeting in 1978. There I met Terry Williams, AIA, an Associate of Interplan (also another chapter charter member), and I quickly made my application to work there. I consider myself fortunate to have worked under Lou and Ray’s tutelage, with substantial assistance from Terry and the other Associate, Craig Podalak, AIA.

Lou was an excellent designer, winning many chapter Distinguished Building Awards, and I enjoyed working on his projects as I could see that every line in his sketches related to every other line, for a cohesive solution to each design problem.

We looked forward to his Christmas cards, which were beautiful hand-drawn sketches of his time in Europe on a Ryerson Traveling Fellowship.

Lou was a quiet man with a dry sense of humor, and I never saw him lose his temper, except to say, "That will never do!", However, I remember a time he threatened to blow up a building, Fountainhead style, when the contractor completely ignored the alignment of design elements indicated on the drawings.

I was reminiscing with Dennis Cabala, Interplan LLC Director of Architecture/Chicago, about Lou's sense of design, and he reminded me that when we moved to Oakbrook Terrace, Lou had an intern go through the new facilities to adjust every cover-plate screw to a horizontal orientation. Now I can't look at randomly-placed screw heads without adjusting them!

We send our deepest sympathy to the Narcisi family.

Steve Reardon, AIA
Sponsorship Opportunities

As a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, our chapter depends on members and sponsors to meet our group expenses and achieve our goals in architecture and design. There are many ways to partner with us, such as advertising, allied membership, programs, dinners and other social events. For a complete list of opportunities to support our chapter, click here and visit our website!

https://aiaeic.org/Sponsorship_Opportunities
Presenter: Ben Franklin, VP of Technical Services

Program: Reducing Ready-Mix Carbon Emissions

Learning objectives:
1. Describe how the reduction of Portland cement in ready-mix concrete decreases carbon emissions and the global warming potential of building materials.
2. Understand how ready-mix producers utilize carbon sequestration technology to further reduce the cement content by introducing recycled CO2 into concrete.
3. Explain how the utilization of alternative fuels and sustainable modes of transportation reduces embodied carbon ratings.
4. Understand the importance of environmental product declarations (EPDs) in the ongoing effort to achieve net zero.

Sponsor: Ozinga
Established in 1928, Ozinga survived the Great Depression and World War II before becoming one of the first ready-mix providers in the region. For four generations, they have continuously expanded their product and service offerings to meet the needs of builders throughout Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and South Florida. Today they provide concrete, bulk materials, and energy solutions while offering transportation services through an extensive network of truck, rail, barge, and ship terminals. They believe their purpose is to make a positive impact on individuals, their families and the community for generations.

Location: On your device screen, wherever you are comfortable. The ZOOM Link, Meeting ID & Password will be emailed to registrants.

Time: 5:00 pm Board Meeting
7:00 pm Presentation

Cost: Free

Reservations by Monday, Oct. 26th
Click here to register online, or go to:
https://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=55
ZOOM Link, Meeting ID & Password will be emailed to registrants.
If you are unable to register online, contact Jonathan Murawski, AIA/EIC Program Coordinator at 815-806-0146 or j.murawski@rjaar-architects.com.
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Eastern Illinois Chapter
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