

- American
- Institute of
- Architects

AIA/EIC eastwards

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Oct. 2025
Issue 7.25
www.aiaeic.org

President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

The fall season is finally upon us. The leaves are starting to change color, the temperatures have turned chilly, and baseball in Chicago has come to an end for the season.

We are preparing for next year and are looking for candidates to join the board. Our board is working to provide the best member experience to everyone. This is an opportunity for members to exercise their leadership abilities. As a member of the board, you will have the ability to direct the activities of the chapter. As one of the volunteer-led chapters within the AIA, we rely on our members to do what staff does for other chapters. I like to think we do some things better than the staffed chapters, and we do it with a more personal touch.

Thanks to some changes at the national level, we are encouraged to broaden the range of activities that the chapter can offer. If you have



something that you are really passionate about, let us know and we can create something around it. Not every event or meeting that the chapter holds needs to be for continuing education credits. If you have something that you think will be of benefit to other architects or building professionals in the area, please reach out to someone on the board. We can make it happen.

Have a Happy Halloween.

*John F. Benware, Jr.
AIA, NCARB
EIC President*

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Oct. 29

Chapter Meeting

Program:

***Technical Advances in
Structural Insulated Sheathing***

Presenter:

Holly Hirsch

Sponsor:

***Performance Building
Solutions / DuPont***

See page 7 for registration.

AIA Illinois Conference

October 22-23, 2025



Make plans to connect with colleagues at the AIA Illinois conference on October 22-23 in Champaign! This year's conference will be a value-packed event, featuring dynamic keynote speakers and a variety of high-quality breakout sessions designed to keep you at the forefront of the industry.



Located in the same city as UIUC, where so many Illinois architects got their start, the conference will also provide a special opportunity to reconnect with old friends and former classmates. Additionally, all are encouraged to explore the conference's largest-ever sponsor expo, a perfect chance to network, discover new products, and meet with vendors.

Beyond the professional development, the conference is a fantastic way to socialize, build your network, and forge new connections in a relaxed and familiar setting.

Attendees can also opt into the Honor Awards reception, scheduled after the conclusion of the conference, where the best in architecture and service will be recognized.

Don't miss this chance to learn, grow, and celebrate architecture!

AIA Chicago
AIA Prairie Illinois
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AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter

Sign Up: www.tinyurl.com/2025AIAILConference



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AIA/EIC Chapter History

by Wayne E. Babiak, AIA



I plan to write more history articles for upcoming newsletters. Please email me (web44aia@comcast.net) with any historic information, to include photos, recollections and other items of Historic Chapter significance.

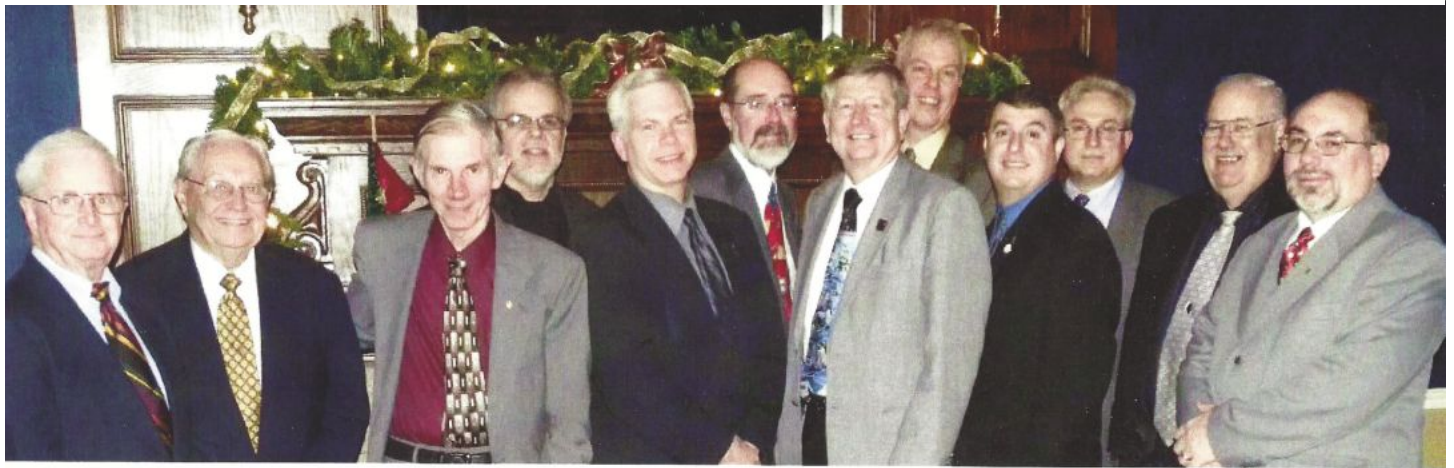
In the meantime, check out the photo below.... "A blast from the past". Sadly, some in the photo are deceased.

Raymond Brejcha AIA-2014

Phillip Radloff AIA-2020

Scott Seaton AIA-2022

Past AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter Presidents in attendance at the 2009 Annual Dinner



Scott Seaton (1996, 2003)	Raymond Brejcha (1966, 1978)	Wayne Babiak (1983)	George Cary (2005)	Steven Reardon (1988)	Philip Radloff (2009)	Robert Bohlmann (2007)	Randall Chapple (2004)	John Benware Jr. (2006)	Jim Prybys (2002)	Ed Lugowski (1977, 2008)	Paul Machalek (1992)
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Steve attended last year's September 2024 dinner meeting when he was in the area visiting. In the photo above L-R: Steve Reardon, Matthew Babiak, Wayne Babiak, Front: Ed Lugowski

A Project in the Works

by Wayne E. Babiak, AIA

One does not have to travel far to find significant architecture; it's right in our Chapter territory. For several years, Steve Reardon AIA-Emeritus has been researching and cataloging these buildings. *See the next page for Steve's elaboration on this project.*

Many of you know Steve; he was active in our Chapter prior to retiring from practice and moving out of state. However, his dedication continues. In recent months, I have been in contact with him as Steve has been updating this Guide to be circulated in the near future.* More information to follow! Thank you, Steve, for your efforts!

*It is in the format of an e-book. How this document will be shared is up to the EIC Board of Directors.

GUIDE TO
SIGNIFICANT
ARCHITECTURE
OF THE
CHICAGO SOUTH
SUBURBS

American Institute of Architects - Eastern Illinois Chapter
Edited by Steven M. Reardon, AIA Member Emeritus
Historic Resources Committee

SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURE of the CHICAGO SOUTH SUBURBS

by Steven M. Reardon, AIA Member Emeritus

Having lived on the "Sout' Side" of Chicago for most of my life, I was always aware that it was not considered the "preferred" location to live for most suburban Chicagoans. This was generally due to its blue-collar origins and the prevalence of much of Chicago's heavy industry, specifically the steel mills. However, it was never the cultural wasteland as it had been portrayed. In support of this premise, I became involved in the development of the Chicago Architecture Foundation's (CAF) "South of the City" bus tour, which ran for two consecutive years. Prior to that event, I had been the chair of the Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects Eastern Illinois Chapter (AIA/EIC), which charged us to photographically document architecturally significant structures in the Chapter's territory. These activities led to the preparation of this work.

While primarily an architectural documentary, information is included about the establishment and growth of the communities, where it supports the development of its architectural heritage. It is not intended to be a comprehensive history, and for that information, several fine works are listed in the Bibliography.



Can you identify this stunning example of the Art Deco style? Answer can be found on page 5.

I am forever grateful to the dedicated and enthusiastic people with whom I share credit for this work. The late George W. Terp, AIA, and Charles Gregersen, AIA, of the AIA/EIC were with the Historic Resources Committee since its inception and mentored me on the topic for years; George, because he lived through much of it, and Chuck, because of his depth of knowledge and passion for it. CAF member Katie Armstrong was pivotal to the development of the South of the City bus tour, and much of the regional historical information included is due to her research.

Others deserving credit are, but not limited to:

- Paul Sprague, University of Chicago, for his volumetric work "Historic Structures of Illinois" (the foundation for this work), also known as the "Illinois Historic Structures Survey"
- Jerry Anderson / Oak Lawn Public Library
- Gail Piernas-Davenport, CAF docent, author, and researcher for the South of the City tour
- Felix Candelaro / Blue Island Public Library
- Chicago Heights Public Library
- Matteson Public Library
- Wayne Babiak, AIA, for assistance photographing Lansing, South Holland, and parts of Lockport
- Ray Chocholek, AIA Member Emeritus, for pushing me to finally put this into document form
- Richard Witt, AIA, for assistance photographing Kankakee

I would especially like to thank my wife, Patricia, for putting up with many weekends of my being away doing the photography. Also, thanks to my children, Steven Jr. and Jennifer, who spent many of those weekends in the back of the car, entertaining themselves - rather well I might add - while their dad went chasing around to photograph more buildings.

*Steven M. Reardon
AIA Member Emeritus*

Chapter Corner

items of interest and notable notes



AIA/EIC CALENDAR

October

22-23 AIA Illinois Conference

Details and registration on page 2

29 Regular Meeting

@ Gatto's Tinley Park

November

19 Regular Meeting

@ Gatto's Tinley Park

December

7 Annual Holiday Meeting

Pictured on page 4:

Bloom Township High School 1930-31

Architect: Royer, Danely & Smith, Champaign, IL, additions by Schmidt, Garden & Erikson, 1956, 1976 North side of 10th St. on the NW corner at Riegel Rd.

This building is an archetype of American Art Deco, a style that developed in the U.S. out of the French movement. The six-story tower has extensive copper decorations under the windows, linear zig-zag moldings, and fancy grillwork at the doors. The Great Depression delayed finishing touches because many local banks and factories were forced to close. Principal Dr. R.C. Puckett enlisted the students' aid in moving equipment from the old building to the new school, thus saving taxpayer money. The two sculptures at the main entrance were done by Felix Schlag, designer of the original Jefferson nickel. Six fresco murals, entitled "Occupation Studies and Their Applications," were done by Edgar Britton as part of a public works program.



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Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR



*a look back at our September meeting
by Wayne Babiak, AIA*

Insulation and Cover Boards

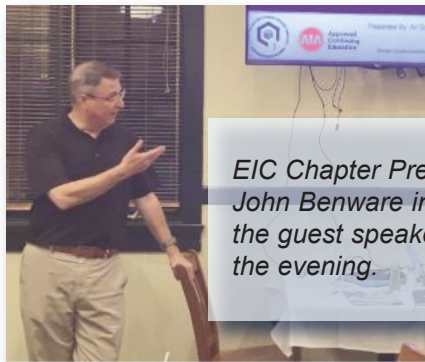
Presenter: Art Scheidecker - Owner, Managing Partner

Sponsor: Architectural Building Solutions / Johns Manville

A very informative presentation was given by Art Scheidecker and Jean Telander of Architectural Building Solutions. The presentation included discussion on the various types of roof insulation, cover boards, and the energy code.



Jean Telander and Art Scheidecker



EIC Chapter President John Benware introduces the guest speakers for the evening.

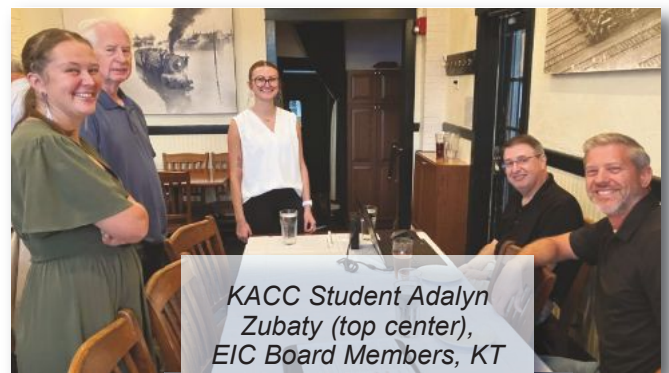
ASHRAE 90.1

- 8 Primary Climate Zones
 - Based on Degree Heating Days
 - R-value quantifies a material's resistance to thermally transmit
- Updated on a 3-year cycle
 - 2 years prior to IBC/IECC publication cycle

Art reviewed types of roof insulation products.



Art addressed questions from attendees.



KACC Student Adalyn Zubaty (top center), EIC Board Members, KT Walker, Scott Piper, John Benware, Gabe Hocking

Thanks to Architectural Building Solutions for sponsoring this evening's meeting and giving the presentation. <https://absreps.com/>

Photos and article by Wayne E. Babiak, AIA

Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, October 29

Program: *Technical Advances in Structural Insulated Sheathing (1 LU HSW)*

Presenter: Holly Hirsch

Program: Technical Advances in Structural Insulated Sheathing (1 LU/HSW)



This course aims to review various hybridized sheathing solutions and show how the integration of advanced technology has improved performance, capability, and sustainability of SIS.

- Objectives:**
- ♦ Identify the characteristics of various hybridized sheathing solutions that contribute to energy efficiency and reducing air loss.
 - ♦ Use SIS systems to assist project teams in meeting green building program goals and requirements.
 - ♦ Relay the benefits of fusion technology versus lamination/gluing.
 - ♦ Identify how fusion-based Magnesium Oxide SIS contributes to sustainability, constructibility, and versatility.

Sponsor: Performance Building Solutions / DuPont

Location: GATTO'S TINLEY PARK
8005 W. 183rd. St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

MEETING IN PERSON
Please register at right.

Time: 5:00 pm Board Meeting
6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner & Program Presentation

Cost: \$30.00 / AIA/EIC Member
\$35.00 / non-member

Reserve your spot!

Click here to register online,
or for directions and venue web-link go to:

<https://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=125>

If you are unable to register online,

contact **John Benware, Jr.**, AIA

at jfbjr@jfbjr-architect.com or

708-529-8346.

**Certificates will be e-mailed
to registrants after the seminar.**

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