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- Institute of
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AIA/EIC eastwinds

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

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President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

This is a short month for everyone in preparation for the holiday season. We have made it past Halloween, and Thanksgiving is on tap in a couple of weeks.

Speaking of the holidays, our Annual Holiday Meeting is coming up. This year, our celebration will be held at the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee. The house is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and we are happy to be able to celebrate in such a historic house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. We are limited in the number of tickets available for this year's event because of the size of the venue, so act quickly if you are interested. In addition to the food and drink, there will be opportunities for some up close and personal tours of the house by some experts. (page 2)

As we wrap up the year for the chapter, it is time to start planning for next year. The National level has changed some of the requirements for accreditation. They have reduced the continuing education requirements for chapters. This has opened up possi-



bilities for the chapter to offer a wide range of activities in addition to a dinner and vendor presentation. With that in mind, I would like to solicit any ideas from our members for next year's meetings. We are keeping our best events, like the annual golf outing and baseball outing, as well as our partnerships with Joliet Junior College. We want to add new events to expand our reach as a chapter.

So I hope to see as many of you as possible at the annual celebration. You can let me know your ideas for next while we share a cocktail.

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

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November 19 Chapter Meeting

Program:
***Innovative Applications of
Daylighting***

Presenter:
Miya Russell

Sponsor:
Kingspan Light + Air

See page 7 for registration.

2025 Annual Holiday Meeting

B. Harley Bradley House - Kankakee, IL



AIA/EIC
Annual Holiday
Meeting
Sunday
December 7
5:00-9:00

Don't miss this year's Holiday Meeting at the beautiful Bradley House in Kankakee. Seats are limited at \$60 each. This is a GREAT opportunity for sponsorships! Click here to find out more. <https://aiaaic.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=127...>



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Seth Michael ■ Scott Strnad ■ Andy Eck

Chapter Corner

items of interest and notable news



Looking Ahead

The 2026 Chicago White Sox game and tailgate outing will be extra enjoyable against the hometown rival Chicago Cubs! Tickets are in high demand, so will be limited for the May 15 game. ASSA ABLOY, who sponsors the party, has generously offered to subsidize our tickets. More details will be published in future "Eastwords."

Looking Back

Wayne Babiak is looking for historical information for "Eastwords" articles. If you have a "remember when..." contact Wayne at web44aia@comcast.net or give him a call at 708-989-6214.

Looking Around

AIA/EIC welcomes our newest chapter members!

- Kendra Daluga, Assoc. AIA
- Masa Iraqi, Assoc. AIA (Omat Construction)
- Mae Lopez, Assoc. AIA
- Armani Sanchez, Assoc. AIA (JMA Architects)
- Semaj Rodgers, Assoc. AIA (JMA Architects)
- Fiechel Marie Yee, Assoc. AIA



"Eastwords" is the monthly publication of the American Institute of Architects/ Eastern Illinois Chapter. Opinions expressed are those of the particular author and not necessarily those of AIA/EIC. For advertising information, contact Edvin Mertdogan, AIA at emertdogan@yahoo.com. Submit all articles to the editor, Roxanne Paukner, Hon. AIA, at rp.entasis@att.net.

AIA/EIC CALENDAR

November

19 Regular Meeting
@ Flossmoor Station (see pg 7)

December

7 Annual Holiday Meeting
Bradley House (see pg 2)

2026

January

28 Regular Meeting

February

25 Regular Meeting

May *Save the date!*

15 White Sox vs. Cubs summer outing

This just in...

We will NOT be holding elections this month, as has been our usual practice. Instead we are flowing through to a new election cycle in 2026, exactly when is still to be determined. Please consider how you would like to serve your chapter, and talk to any of our current officers for details on what is involved. They are listed on the last page, and at <https://aiaeic.org/board>.

Winner Winner...

The Eastern Illinois Chapter has a NEW Chapter Delegate to state board. Jacob Carlile, AIA will be representing us at the Illinois Council, replacing Jose Pareja, AIA as delegate. Our thanks to both men for their work on our behalf.

AIA Illinois Conference

by Edvin Mertdogan, AIA / EIC Treasurer



President John Benware Jr. and I attended the 2025 AIA Illinois Conference, held in October at the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana. Our Chapter partners with AIA Illinois to hold this conference. Thought-provoking discussions, immersive education, and networking opportunities are what it's about. Following are a few of my impressions from the event.

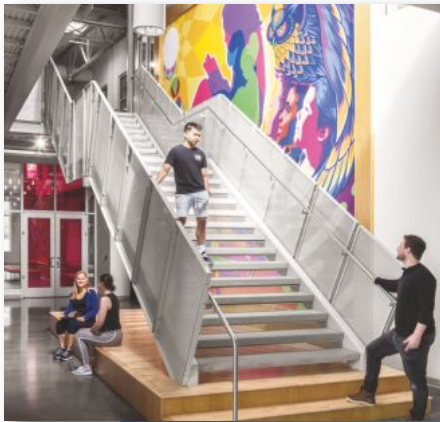
Pre-Conference Tour - Marten's Community Center: Design for Resilience

The architects that worked on this project gave tours of this multipurpose facility, made possible by a generous gift. Rainer Martens, founder of Human Kinetics, a publisher of health and physical activity books, articles, journals, videos, courses, and webinars, turned his vision into reality with patience and perseverance. Just as his company's products have helped people around the world live healthier, happier lives, Rainer and his wife Julie funded the center to improve the lives of area residents. Find out more here: <https://ratiodesign.com/project/martens-community-center/>

Opening Keynote: "Everything Dope About America Comes From Chicago, including Architecture!"



Shermann "Dilla" Thomas is a Chicago-based urban historian and social media personality known for creating viral videos about the city's history, particularly on TikTok. He kept my attention for this morning presentation with an eye-opening look into unique creations/refinements from Chicago.



The phrase, "Everything dope about America comes from Chicago" was popularized by this historian. Chicago's contribution to architecture and city planning is a specific example of its influence. The city is the


(continued on next page)


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AIA Illinois Conference

...continued



birthplace of the skyscraper and was a major center for the Chicago School of architecture. The Burnham Plan of Chicago also had a significant impact on modern city planning across the U.S. The phrase also acknowledges figures like Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's most famous architects and who is associated with the Prairie School of architecture, also developed in the Chicago area.

You can check out Dilla's show "You Don't Know Chi" at https://www.youtube.com/@6figga_dilla.

Designing for What's Already There: Architects as Advocates in Historic Downtown Revitalization

This seminar was pertinent to projects that I'm working on. "Designing for What's Already There: Architects as Advocates in Historic Downtown Revitalization" is the title of a presentation (rather than a stand alone, formal publication) by Quinn Adamowski (Manager, Landmarks Illinois) and Erik Leader (Director, Illinois Main Street, pictured above). The core message of their presentation was the significant positive impact that historic preservation and adaptive reuse can have on a community. They believe historic downtowns are bursting with

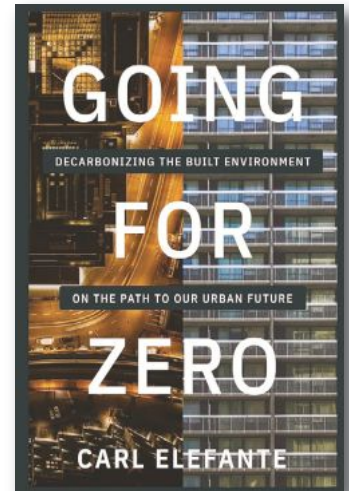


untapped potential, and architects are uniquely positioned to unlock it. So, let's get busy!

Going for Zero: Decarbonizing the Built Environment on the Path to Our Urban Future

Presenter Carl Elefante shared his experiences prioritizing stewardship and applying the lessons of built heritage for strong and abundant communities. The objective was to understand the importance of keeping and repurposing buildings to meet energy and climate targets and yield collateral social, economic, and environmental benefits. He has made his career and literally "wrote the book" on rescuing buildings from demolition and repurposing them.

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/carl-elefante-qa>



Progressive Preservation: When Accessibility, Sustainability, Preservation, and Modernization Combine

This was another program I attended, though my memory of it is fuzzy. One can only take in so much!

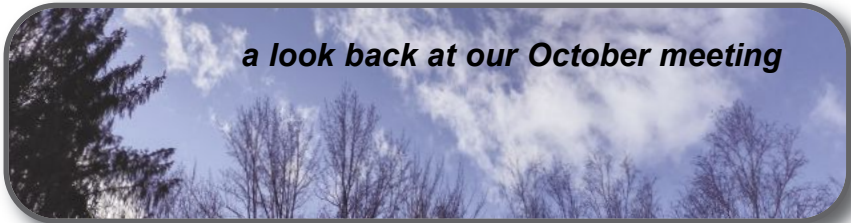
Despite that, all in all it was a worthwhile trip for the informative seminars and vendor offerings. I hope you all take advantage of these kinds of events that celebrate creativity, inspire collaboration, and champion the profound impact of architecture on our communities.

*Edvin Mertdogan, AIA
EIC Treasurer*



Rear View Mirror

BEAR VIEW MIRROR



a look back at our October meeting

Technical Advances in Structural Insulated Sheathing

Presenter: Holly Hirsch

Sponsor: Performance Building Solutions / DuPont

At the October regular meeting, held at Gatto's Tinley Park, chapter President John Benware, AIA gave an overview of the upcoming meetings as well as a recap of his experience at the AIA Illinois Conference one week earlier.

Our main presenter, Holly Hirsch of the Performance Building Solutions at DuPont, gave an insightful presentation on *Technical Advances in Structural Insulated Sheathing* during Wednesday evening's event. We thank her and also extend our appreciation to our evening's Host and Sponsor, DuPont/ Performance Building Solutions, for their generous support of this informative session. For information on their products, visit www.dupont.com/building/armorwall.html.



AIA/EIC President John Benware, Jr., new Associate member Semaj Rodgers, and Director Wayne Babiak.



Holly Hirsch and Scott Piper, AIA/EIC V.P.

Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, November 19

Program: Innovative Applications of Daylighting (1 LU/HSW)

Presenter: Miya N. Russell, LEED AP
Director of Sales - East

Program: Innovative Applications of Daylighting
(1 LU/HSW)

This presentation will explore the many benefits of various daylighting strategies and material options for successful project planning. By incorporating daylighting into projects, architects can create innovative environments that not only improve the health, safety and welfare of occupants, but can also meet sustainability goals for a brighter future.



Objectives:

1. Learn about the benefits of natural light, how it can improve occupant well being and meet sustainability goals of the building.
2. Examine how daylighting design strategies play a large role in successful projects.
3. Learn about different daylighting methods including wall systems, skylights, canopies and tubular daylighting devices.
4. Review glazing options in more detail, from glass to translucent polycarbonate multi-wall and fiberglass reinforced polymer panels.
5. See innovative project examples and unique designs utilizing these daylighting systems

Sponsor: Kingspan Light + Air
Lake Forest, IL 60045
www.kingspanlightandair.us

Location: FLOSSMOOR STATION
1035 Sterling Ave
Flossmoor, IL 60422

MEETING IN PERSON
Please register at right.

Time: 5:00 pm Board Meeting
6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner and 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://aiaaic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=126>

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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