

January 15, 2013

Your Executive Board has been active early in this New Year. Linda Boylan, Eastern Section President Elect, has collaborated with Jamie McKay of AIANC Triangle to help organize a leadership outreach program targeted to the development of young architects. It is funded through an AIA Emerging Professionals Grant and the AIANC Foundation, and is entitled “TEAM,” which stands for Training Emerging Architects through Mentorship.

In addition to myself, members of the AIANCES Executive Board attending this workshop include Sarah Afflerbach, Section President and Stephanie DeContreras, Section Executive Director. Twenty-four other participants gathered in the meeting room of the Center for Architecture and Design to discuss the profession, and the role of the young architect as an individual, a member of the architectural profession and as a leader within the community. Anne Doster and Nanci Appleman-Vassil facilitated the workshop by leading small groups through a series of exercises that helped participants identify the risks that young architects perceive, and to move the discussion beyond our individual comfort zones to transform those risks into opportunities for personal and professional enhancement. As architects, we are accustomed to working in groups or teams to solve problems. These are the very same skills that will help us persevere in a difficult economy as we seek to educate clients and the public of the value we bring to shaping the built landscape.

Questions and answers followed with a group of panelists who have had extensive experience in architecture, engineering and development. Joining us were Mary Ann Baldwin, David Diaz, Jeff Paine and Irvin Pearce. Of course, Jeff and Irv are professional colleagues affiliated with Duda Paine and Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee. Mary Ann Baldwin has previously been associated with a regional AE firm and is currently an elected member of the Raleigh City Council. David Diaz is the President and CEO of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, a non profit group actively involved in development initiatives. Each of these panelists shared their individual experiences in shaping their professional development, and reminisced about their transformations from young professionals to prominent members of the community.

At the end of the day, it was evident to all participants, both young architects and not so young architects, that the challenges we face day in and day out are very different. Despite this perception, the reality is that we all have very much in common and simply deal with the risks and opportunities in different ways as we gain professional experience.

Tripp Eure  
AIANCES Treasurer