LOUISIANA ARCHITECTS CELEBRATE DESIGN... AIA LA celebrated the best in architecture and design by hosting internationally recognized designers on March 25th at the Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge. Co-sponsored by the Louisiana Architectural Foundation, CELEBRATE ARCHITECTURE was attended by more than 300 AIA members from around the state. Shown from left are AIA LA leaders with the speakers: President Will Tregre, AIA, of New Orleans; CELEBRATE ARCHITECTURE Chairman Doug Ashe, FAIA, of Alexandria, LA; AIA LA Executive Director Lynn Robertson; Wendell Burnette, AIA, of Phoenix, AZ; Jennifer Luce, AIA, of San Diego, CA; and Jim Cutler, FAIA, of Bainbridge Island, Washington.

TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP PRESENTERS... 2008/2009 Traveling Fellowship recipients Benjamin Massey, LSU, and Kristina Bailey, graduate of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, gave presentations on their travel abroad during CELEBRATE ARCHITECTURE. The Traveling Fellowship was established to assist students in broadening their architectural education through travel studies. It is given by the Louisiana Architectural Foundation. Shown from left are: AIA Louisiana Executive Director Lynn Robertson; President Will Tregre, AIA, of New Orleans; and recipients Benjamin Massey and Kristina Bailey.

SPEAKERS SET FOR DESIGN CONFERENCE... AIA Louisiana and AIA Baton Rouge are combining forces to provide a host of great seminars and speakers for the annual Design Conference, set September 23-25 in Baton Rouge. Futurist David Zach will be the keynote speaker on Friday, September 24, and Tom Howorth, FAIA; who is the jury chair for the Awards competition, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, September 25. Shown at a recent conference planning session are, from left, Darby Clark, Day Waguespack, Gary Dunn, Phong Lee, and Steve Maher. Mark your calendar for the conference now and watch for more information coming soon!

Mark your calendar for the 2010 Design Conference, set Sept. 23-25
National Architecture Week

Focus on importance of quality design to society

By: Lynn Robertson, AIA LA Executive Director

National Architecture Week (April 11-17) was created by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to encourage a public dialogue about architecture and to bring attention to the role architects play as a force for positive change in our communities.

The event took place virtually on the AIA Architecture Week 2010 Facebook fan page so that people from all over the country could participate. This year’s theme was “Design Matters” because architecture is more than just the design of extravagant museums and upscale homes. Good architectural design has an extremely far reach and affects lives on a daily basis. It encompasses everything from a kitchen or bath remodeling job to 21st century schools that promote better learning environments to hospitals designed specifically to aid in patient healing to inspirational public buildings and monuments to overall community design that creates more vibrant, healthy and safe neighborhoods.

But there is another reason the role of architects is so important to our well being. Eco-friendly, sustainable design practices that can go a long way to mitigate dangerous greenhouse gas emissions that threaten our planet’s very existence.

Raise your hand if you know the biggest contributor of greenhouses gasses that lead to global warming. Cars? Exhaust from factories or industrial plants? Sure, those are obvious culprits. But they are both wrong answers. In fact, combined they don’t match the energy expended to construct heat, cool and light homes and buildings nationwide.

The results of a recent AIA voter poll survey* revealed that less than 10 percent of the population correctly identified the impact of the built environment on global warming. And while homeowners can take steps and make investments to make their residences more energy-efficient, there needs to be more incentives for developers and building owners.

“As architects, we recognize our crucial role in designing more energy efficient buildings that will pay dividends for decades to come,” says AIA Louisiana President Will Tregre, AIA. “During this legislative session, our Louisiana members are poised to work in conjunction with our state’s elected officials in pursuit of policy and regulatory changes that will result in the lasting legacy of green for future generations.”

The current economic landscape affords us the chance to create new models for how the built environment relates and improves our everyday lives, as well as our future existence. The energy-efficient retro-fitting of existing buildings, as well as the green development of new ones, will generate jobs for the building and construction industry and have a positive effect on generations to come.

* The survey was conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,000 voters in the United States between January 13-19, 2009. The Clarus Research Group developed the survey for the American Institute of Architects. The margin of error for the sample overall is +/-3.1%.
Briere, Waggonner named AIA Fellows

Two Louisiana architects have been named to the prestigious AIA College of Fellows, and will be honored at a ceremony at the AIA National Convention in Miami on June 11. They are Creed W. Brierre, FAIA, of Mathes Brierre Architects of New Orleans, and Joseph David Waggonner, FAIA of Waggonner and Ball Architects of New Orleans.

They were among 134 architects selected by the 2010 AIA Jury of Fellows for the honor. The Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of architects as individuals, but also their significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Congratulations Creed and David for this great honor!

Legislative Update

Iguanas, Catfish, Homebrew and Teacakes .... The Legislature is in Session

By Lynn Robertson
AIA LA Executive Director

The Louisiana Legislature convened on March 29th with over 2,000 bills introduced. The AIA Louisiana Legislative Committee is tracking 24 bills that could possibly affect the design and construction industry.

“AIA Louisiana will join with the engineering and medical communities by supporting expert reports in civil actions involving health and safety professionals,” said Legislative Chairman Steve Maher. Senate Bill 443 by Senator LaFleur would require an expert report in certain petitions for damages.

Other bills of AIA interest include HB 700 by Rep. Chris Hazel, which would exempt church camps from building code enforcement, HB 522 by Rep. Girod Jackson, which would extend the length of time for the utilization of design – build contracts in hurricane damaged areas and SB 220 by Senator Conrad Appel, which would limit the number of unit prices in lump sum contracts pursuant to the Public Bid Law. Finding a way to cut $319 million out of the current budget in the next several weeks is a top priority and will prove difficult. Gov. Jindal announced this week that he will oppose raising taxes to patch the budget deficit.

In other news:

SB 368 provides that sellers of iguanas must provide an English language brochure which states “that iguanas grow substantially in size and will be more difficult to care for.” SB 350 names the teacake as the state cookie, SB 145 defines “catfish” and HB 503, the Homebrew Beer Act, regulates homemade beer. To research current legislation go to http://www.legis.state.la.us/

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WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

AIA LA is initiating, with this issue, a shorter newsletter sent out monthly to facilitate better communication with members. We’d love to hear your feedback and suggestions. We also want to hear about any significant news and events of your company or ideas you may have for articles. Please e-mail us at lynnrobertson@aiala.com.