



AIA Arizona

A Component of the American Institute of Architects

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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

AIA ARIZONA'S ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE "The Next 50, a Discourse on Our Urban Landscape"

(Phoenix – July 30, 2009) -- AIA Arizona's 2009 State Conference will take place on August 27, 2009 from 7:00AM to 7:00PM at The Buttes Resort in Tempe, Arizona. Examining culture, economics, environment, land development practices, urban design and architecture, this conference will look at past and present trends that have influenced our desert urban environment while offering dialogue and ideas of a more sustainable and livable future.

Speakers & Topics:

Joel Garreau, Author of *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier* - The Future of Cities
For all of human history, our cities have been shaped by whatever was the state-of-the-art transportation device at the time. In the 21st century, information technology is reshaping the idea of "urban" and "urbane" faster and more profoundly even than did the automobile in the 20th century.

Alan Berger, Director of P-REX at MIT - Recent Waste Projects and Systemic Design
In this lecture, Systemic Design thinking and applications will be demonstrated through 4 projects undertaken by The Project For Reclamation Excellence, P-REX (www.theprex.net). These projects are of 4 scales: continental, regional, provincial/ city, and local. Lessons from these projects will initiate a wider discussion on relevant environmental issues in the American western desert landscape.

Darren Petrucci, AIA, Director of SALA, ASU - The Future of Graduate Education
This presentation will focus on the role of graduate architectural education in the Academy, Profession, and Community. It will look specifically at expanding the breadth of the profession through transdisciplinary experiences, concurrent degrees, and professional collaborations. Topics to be discussed include: Urbanism, Energy, and Healthcare.

Jan Cervelli, FASLA, FCELA, Dean of CALA, U of A - The Future of the Built Environment and Higher Education in Arizona and Beyond: Convergence and Divergence
Decreasing state support, increasing demands for access to the university, and increasing tuition and cost of education delivery will fundamentally change our higher education system. Dean Cervelli will discuss the convergence, divergence and potential implications for the design professions.

Reed Kroloff, Director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art - The Arizona School
The presentation will detail the emergence of a clear regional modernism in Arizona over the last two decades.

Ellen Dunham-Jones, AIA, Co-Author of Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs - Retrofitting Suburbia: the big design project for the next 50

The reproduction of suburbia has been the big design and development project for the last fifty years. Is today's recession just a pause in the process or will the new suburban demographics, rising transportation costs, and concerns over auto-dependency's impact on climate change, public health, and dependence on foreign oil reverse the direction of development? Ellen Dunham-Jones will argue that the big design and development project for the next fifty years will be the retrofitting of suburbia into more urban, more sustainable places.

Phil Gordon, Mayor of the City of Phoenix

As Mayor, Gordon lists his three priorities for the city as: Public Safety, Education and Jobs. He has already chalked up a tremendous record: Light Rail, ASU Downtown, a new downtown hotel, expansion of the Phoenix Convention Center and the passage of a \$878 million bond program.

For registration information and the conference schedule visit the following website: <http://aia-arizona.org/about-us/state-conference/>. If you would like headshots, biographies or promotional materials, contact Alexandra Evjen at 602-252-4200 or email alexandra@aia-arizona.org.

AIA members have a vested interest in their communities and how residents perceive the architecture profession. Local AIA chapters sponsor activities such as educational conferences and meetings, community projects, post-disaster and urban design workshops, licensing-exam preparation classes, building industry meetings, legislative workshops, design award programs, and community awareness campaigns.

AIA state components link local chapters into a supportive network, providing members the opportunity to make a significant difference for the profession. Many state components offer educational conferences, newsletters, and networking meetings. They also play an integral role in representing architecture issues before state legislatures and regulatory agencies and in keeping members informed about issues that directly affect their practice.

The national component of the AIA completes the picture, uniting local and state members in the common causes of Advocacy, Community, Knowledge, and Values through projects, programs, services, and resources at the national level.

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