

# PYLON

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JUNE 2016

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## 'UNDERSTANDING' SIGN OPENS IN BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK



Brooklyn's waterfront now has another large red neon sign to accompany the Jehovah Witnesses' iconic "Watchtower" emblem.

The newest addition, a 25-foot-tall, 360-degree rotating sculpture that reads "Understanding," is the latest work from London-based artist Martin Creed, and is now open to the public in Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6.

The exhibition will be on display through Oct. 23.

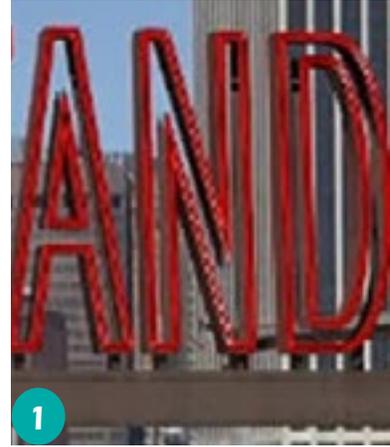
The sculpture construction is made out of individual steel letters that are supported by a steel beam attached to a post. The beam turns on a central axis at various speeds determined by a computerized program that the artist created. So it is considered art in motion.

The monument is the British artist's third and biggest large-scale rotating neon text sculpture to date.

*continued on page 3*

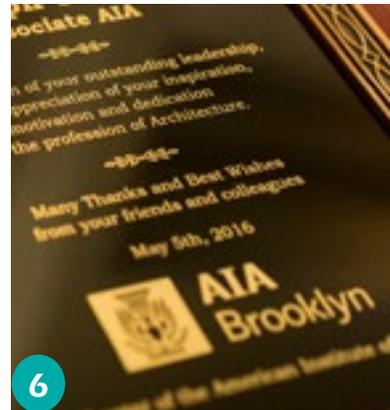
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ARCHITECTS  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION INC.**

Formed to raise funds for awarding architectural scholarships to qualified persons and to advance the architectural profession. All members that are in good standing of the AIA/Brooklyn are automatically members of the Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Foundation Inc.

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*Deadline for submission to the Pylon is the second Wednesday of each month.*

*Articles or notices may be submitted to the Editor by e-mail, fax or on disc.*

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## 'UNDERSTANDING' cont.

*continued from page 1*

From Pier 6, the luminous sign interacts with the city's skyline and is easily visible from both Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan. People traversing the Brooklyn Bridge and East River can also enjoy views of the installation.

The figure's stepped platform affords park visitors a place to sit, stand and look out at the waterfront.

"Martin Creed is a poet of the everyday," said Public Art Fund Director and Chief Curator Nicholas Baume in a recent press release. "His art confronts us with things we think we already know — inviting us to look at them afresh.

"'Understanding' is a simple word with complex meanings; we might, for example, show under-

standing on an emotional level, even while not understanding what somebody has said or done," Baume continued. "In this luminous and dynamic sculptural form, the word is isolated, monumental, and continually moving."

This project marks the second time that Creed has exhibited his sculptures in New York City. One of his most famous pieces, another neon text sculpture reading "Everything Is Going To Be Alright," appeared on the façade of the Hilton Times Square in 2000.

"Understanding" is the second temporary art installation that has recently made its debut in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Deborah Kass' yellow "OY/YO" sculpture opened last November and will remain on view through August. The sculpture says "OY" when looked at from Brooklyn, or "YO" if seen from Manhattan. **AIA**





## AIA NYS MEETING & LOBBY DAY

**May 2, 2016** - AIA NYS's Board of Directors' meeting highlights:

**Membership:** NYS has 5,793 Architect members, up 500 members from same time last year. 1,676 Associate members, up about 150. AIA Brooklyn Architect members increased from 180 to 269.

**Budget and Finance:** AIANYS's assets increased about 300K from the previous year.

**Investment Dollars:** The Board approved the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation not to make additional investments until market conditions improve.

**May 3, 2016 - LOBBY DAY:** Giuseppe Anzalone, David Flecha, John Hatheway, Susana Honig and Rickie James attended. We visited Brooklyn legislators and David visited Queen's. We met with: Senator Martin Golden, an aide to Senator Diane Savino, Senator Kevin Parker, Senator Daniel Squadron, an aide to Senator Simcha Felder and Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon.

This year's Legislative Initiatives: AIA Brooklyn pushed the underlined items below. All bills were conveyed to legislators.

### SUPPORT

**I. Alternative Project Delivery (Design-Build/Construction Manager at-Risk)**

**II. Due Process for Design Professionals (A6747/S3315)** – Padvan Repeal. This bill repeals Ch.542 of the Laws of 2007 which grants the Commissioner of the NY City DOB the sole discretion to revoke or suspend an architect's or engineer's filing privileges with the DOB, if the Commissioner determines that the architect or engineer knowingly or negligently filed a false statement. A. This law is unnecessary because the Commissioner always had the authority to revoke a professional certification privilege of an architect or engineer. B. Revocation of the professional certification privilege punishes bad practitioners who abuse the program. C. Additional punishment should be dealt with at the State-level, just like every other professional misconduct case.

**III. Design Liability Reform (A2545/S4931)** – Current law allows third parties to sue design professionals for damages resulting from a personal injury based on negligent design. The injured party

is afforded a three year statute of limitations, accruing at the time of injury. **A.** This bill would repeal the current three year statute of limitations and replace it with a ten year statute of repose, accruing after the completion of the project (for third party suits only). **B.** This bill affords an injured party one extra year to commence an action if the injury occurs in the tenth year after the completion of the project.

**IV. Qualifications-Based Selection (A5759-A/S4475-A)**

**V. Historic Preservation Tax Credit (A6670/S3631-B)**

**VI. Rehabilitation Tax Credits (A4371-A/S1295-A) (A4398-A/S1293-A)**

**VII. Emergency Responder Act (A6214-A/S4238-A)** – aka the Good Samaritan Act – This bill would provide licensed design professionals and others in the building and construction industry with liability protection for providing advice, professional services, labor and materials during a declared state of emergency. **A.** Architects have a statutory obligation with respect to "safeguarding of life, health, property, and public welfare," under Section 7301 of the Education Law. **B.** Architects and other design professionals are often called upon to assist their communities, states, and the nation in times of crisis. Their expertise is needed to provide structural, mechanical, electrical, or other design services to determine the integrity of structures, buildings, piping or other systems. **C.** Precedents – 30 states currently provide liability protection for design professionals and others in the construction industry during declared emergency. California and Texas provide immunity from liability in times of crisis. New Jersey, Massachusetts and Iowa passed a similar law two years ago.

### OPPOSE

**I. Interior Design Practice Expansion (A3446/S1137)** – This bill would amend the Education Law to expand the scope of practice for interior designers. It provides interior designers with the privileges reserved for licensed design professionals without a corresponding increase in education or experience.

**II. Professional Certification; License Suspension (A483)** – This bill would require the Board of Regents to consider violations of NY City's professional certification program as a violation leading to the suspension of an architect or engineer's professional license.

**III. Professional Certification; Prohibition (A.3741)** – This bill would require all city employees throughout the State to approve plans for new construction of any structure within its boundaries.

**IV. Construction Threshold for Design Services (A.1017/S.6605)** – This bill would increase the threshold for which professional design services of an architect are required from \$20,00 to \$50,000 for alterations to buildings/structures outside NYC. Applies to public and private projects.

Email Giuseppe Anzalone for further information which could not be for distribution or publishing.

- Giuseppe Anzalone, AIA  
AIA Brooklyn Past President  
Director AIA NYS

April 21, 2016

The meeting took place in the office of Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Ira Gluckman, AIA. Representing the DOB at that meeting were Mr. Gluckman, Borough Manager Carlos Pineiro, and Paul Chen, ZCS.

#### **AIA Question 1: Drop-off Baskets**

**Question:** *"Why is there a time deadline for the drop-off baskets?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Pineiro said that there would be no way that the Department would be able to meet the required "service level" if drop-offs were permitted all day long. He said that he'd speak to his supervisors (at 280 Broadway) to see if anything can be worked out. He understands the inconvenience this situation can cause us.

#### **AIA Question 2: TR-3s**

**Question:** *"Clarification is needed on the TR-3, Section 6, which requires that the Design Applicant review the TR-3 and state that all the information is correct. What happens when the Architect of Record filed only the OT Application and there are separate filings by a Professional Engineer for all the sub-structure and super-structure work? Who is then the "Design Applicant," the RA or the PE?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Gluckman's answer was that in cases such as this, where there are multiple filings for a job, the Architect of Record is responsible only for the TR-3 for the "OT" work. The P.E. who filed for the structural work will have to file his or her own TR-3s for that work.

#### **AIA Question 3: Temporary Certificates of Occupancy (TCOs)**

**Question:** *"Are TCO renewals good for a period of one year? If so, why does the Certificate of Occupancy Room staff require the Borough Commissioner's approval for TCO #4, which would be the last TCO issued for the one-year time period?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Gluckman's response was that the DOB's policy is to allow renewals of a 90-day TCO 3 times without seeing a Deputy Borough Commissioner or the Borough Commissioner. This is only possible when there are no "restrictions" or "conditions" on the TCO. An example of a "restriction" or a "condition" is if the DOB approves issuance of a 90-day TCO with the stipulation that there can be no renewal without a standpipe sign-off. Also, if the TCO is issued for fewer than 90 days, or if the one-year deadline has expired, there is no automatic renewal and the applicant must see a Deputy Borough Commissioner or the Borough Commissioner to request renewal of the TCO.

#### **AIA Question 4: Post-Approval Amendments (PAAs)**

**Question:** *"Is there a backlog on PAA submissions via email? Some take as long as two weeks or more to be processed."*

**Answer:** Mr. Pineiro explained he doesn't look at PAA applications for jobs that were filed at the HUB. He looks only at PAA applica-

tions for non-HUB jobs. We have to let him (Mr. Pineiro) know that a PAA application we are submitting by email is not for a HUB job so that he can have it processed promptly. He suggested that we include a note with our submission, addressed to him, that clearly points out that the PAA application is not for a job filed at the HUB.

#### **Additional Questions (from attendees) and Discussion**

##### **Attendee Question 1: Requests for Old Folders**

**Question:** *"Why do we often get no reply when we request an old folder for reference?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Pineiro explained that his staff is often overwhelmed with requests for folders. He said that in order to improve service he will require that along with a folder request, applicants must submit a letter stating precisely why the old folder is being requested, and that letter must be signed and sealed by the professional. This is because in his experience many folders that are requested are not really needed. He knows this because very often the requested folders are never even picked up by the professionals or expeditors who requested them after they are notified that the folders they asked for have become available. He feels that this is less likely to happen when the need for the folder is explained in writing, and after the architect or engineer personally signs and seals an explanatory letter along with the folder request. Searching for old folders is very labor-intensive and time-consuming for the DOB's staff. Folders should be requested only when there is a genuine need for them.

##### **Attendee Question 2: Retrieving Disapproved Job Folders**

**Question:** *"Why is it so difficult for us to retrieve our job folders after a plan examiner disapproves the job?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Pineiro told us that if an examiner disapproves a job the folder should be available to us in 48 hours. That's the DOB's "service level," and he (Mr. Pineiro) is obligated to meet that level. If that is not done, he asks that we email him to let him know, and he will personally intervene to have that folder made available to without further delays.

##### **Attendee Question 3: Seals & Signatures on DOB's Website**

**Question:** *"Can our seals and signatures be blocked on the DOB's 'virtual folders' the way contractors' 'tracking numbers' are blocked?"*

**Answer:** Mr. Gluckman stated that this is not possible. The seals and signatures have to be there for various legal reasons. Perhaps we can place a "watermark" or employ a similar technique such as a lightly-lined grid behind our seals and signatures on plans and application documents in order to make our seals and signatures more difficult for a forger to scan and use illegally. Mr. Gluckman said that he'd discuss this matter, and this problem in the case of verified cases of forgeries, with DOB staff at 180 Broadway.

- Jerry Goldstein, AIA



# 2016 AIA BROOKLYN SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



Scholarship President  
Sebastian D'Alessandro, AIA



AIA Brooklyn's President  
Glen Cutrona, AIA



A JUNE 2016 11:00 ON



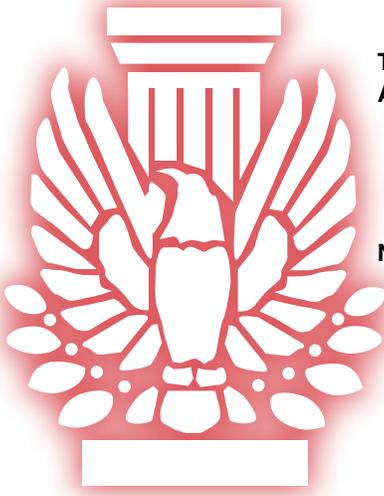
THIS YEARS HONOREES



Ann Falutico, RA, AIA  
Raymond T. Mellon, esq, honorary AIA  
Raymond J. Irrera, esq, honorary AIA  
Joseph Tooma, Assoc. AIA



## AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERS



### Three of Our Associate Members Are Newly Licensed:

Robert Cervillione, AIA  
John P Fox, AIA  
Elizabeth Roberts, AIA

### New Architect Members:

Lara Guerra, AIA  
Anton Kisselgoff, AIA  
Craig Konyk, AIA  
Roy Leone, AIA  
Yuri Miyamoto, AIA  
Lop Moy, AIA  
Harry Park, AIA  
Elizabeth Shipley, AIA  
Eric Silinsh, AIA  
Farzam Yazdenseta, AIA

### New Associate Members:

Noshin Apurba, Assoc AIA  
Carlo Bailey, Assoc AIA  
Migdalia Colon-Badillo, Assoc AIA  
Varvara Domnenko, Assoc AIA  
Berel Frost, Assoc AIA  
Talene Montgomery, Assoc AIA  
Jung Ho Shin, Assoc AIA  
Tarika Thienapirak, Assoc AIA

### First Time Attendees:

Arielle Lapp, Assoc. AIA  
of Doban Architecture  
Jawanza Nyahuma Assoc. AIA  
of IBTS  
Noshin Apurba, Assoc. AIA  
of Boulder, Pflugger Architecture  
Nicole Gangidino, Assoc. AIA  
of Boulder, Pflugger Architecture

## 2016-2019 AIA COMPONENT ACCREDITATION

**A**IA Brooklyn's status as an accredited component of the American Institute of Architects demonstrates our component's commitment to excellence in providing quality service for the members and communities we serve. AIA Brooklyn is helping the American Institute of Architects in laying the groundwork for a new AIA – a bold, nimble, and dynamic network of practitioners and professionals.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are scheduled at:

Committee Meetings: 5:30 PM  
 Cocktails: 5:30 PM  
 Dinner: 6:00 PM  
 Program: 7:00 PM

General Meeting  
**Wednesday,**  
 June 22

Topic:  
 Patricia Davis  
 from Innovative Dehumidifier  
 "Humidity Happens"

Borough Hall  
 Community Room, 1st floor  
 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Executive Meeting  
**Wednesday,**  
 June 1

AIA learning unit credit and certificates towards NYS mandatory continuing education will be given for each program.

**AIA Brooklyn Chapter website**

[www.AIABrooklyn.org](http://www.AIABrooklyn.org)

## LAST PRESENTER MONTH



Many thanks to last months presenter ...

*"Installation Best Practices"*

**Joseph Brower - Andersen Windows**

[www.AndersenWindows.com](http://www.AndersenWindows.com)

## 2016 AIA BLYN ARCHITECTS SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



spiring speeches.

The Biennial Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Dinner Dance was held on May 5th at the El Caribe Country Club, and once again, turned out to be a successful event with over 100 individuals in attendance to recognize this years' honorees, while at the same time supporting our fundraising event for the scholarship fund.

This years' honorees were:

- **Raymond J. Irrera, RA, AIA**  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*
- **Raymond Mellon, Esq. Honorary AIA**  
*Advancement of the Architectural Profession Award*
- **Ann Falutico, RA, AIA**  
*Distinguished Achievement Award*
- **Joseph Tooma, Assoc. AIA**  
*Distinguished Service Award*

The Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Foundation was formed to raise funds towards architectural scholarships to qualified students who attend the five (5) accredited Architectural Schools within the New York City's five Boroughs. The continued success and development of the Foundation could not be possible without the support and endless hours of organizing and dedication of the AIA members and sponsors, especially the officers and directors of the Foundation. The Foundation has awarded close to a quarter of a million dollars to deserving architectural students. With the success of this years' event, the Foundation will continue the worthy cause and awarding the future leaders of our profession.

If you wish to donate, please send payable to Brooklyn Scholarship Foundation Inc. and mail to 6913 20th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204.

- Sebastian D'Alessandro, RA, AIA  
 President, AIA Brooklyn  
 Architects Scholarship Foundation

It was a great evening, with tasty food, wonderful live music and of course, in-



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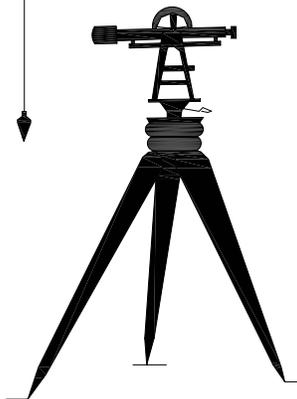
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Brooklyn Architects  
Scholarship Foundation

## P Y L O N NEWSLETTER



### UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

June 22, 2016  
July 20, 2016

## EVENTS CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

### BROOKLYN SEWERS: WHAT'S UP DOWN THERE?

*June 9, 2015 - May 29, 2016*

The creation of the Brooklyn sewer system through a historical look at four corners of Kings County: Flatlands, Bushwick, Coney Island and Fort Greene.  
[www.brooklynhistory.org/exhibitions](http://www.brooklynhistory.org/exhibitions)

### PERSON PLACE THING: JAN GEHL

*June 13, 2016*

*Van Alen Institute*

*30 West 22nd Street NY, NY 10010*

Over the course of his career, Danish architect and planner Jan Gehl has redefined the role of the architect in public life, provoking the profession to consider the act of design in public space. The bike and pedestrian pathways in New York City that Gehl pioneered have altered how cities around the world approach street design.

### TOUR OF WEAVING THE COURTYARD

*June 16, 2016, 6:30 - 7:45 pm*

*MoMA PS1 Courtyard,*

*22-25 Jackson Ave, Long Island City, NY.*

A private, after-hours tour of Weaving the Courtyard. Experience Weaving the Courtyard, a multi-colored, site-specific canopy of ropes that spans and shades the MoMA PS1 Courtyard.

### MID-SUMMER EVENT TO BOSTON

*July 16 - 17, 2016*

July 16:

Tour of Downtown Boston

July 17:

Architectural Boat Tour of Boston

Waterfront Tour of MIT (Cambridge)

Registration: [aiabrooklynmidsummer  
event2016.splashthat.com](http://aiabrooklynmidsummer.event2016.splashthat.com)

### 23ND ANNUAL AIA BROOKLYN CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

*Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016*

*Dyker Beach Golf Club*

*1030 86th Street & 7th Avenue*

Come Golf with Your Clients & Friends,

Join us for

Business Networking Luncheon

Email: [tga@tgarch.com](mailto:tga@tgarch.com)

### CSI METROPOLITAN NEW YORK CHAPTER EVENT

*Friday October 21, 2016*

*Metropolitan Pavilion*

*123 West 18th Street, 2nd floor  
New York, New York 10011*

(5) Architectural seminars approved for  
AIA CES credits

To register:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/metro-ny-csi-  
trade-and-education-show-october-21-  
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