AIA Regional and Urban Design Committee Newsletter

June 2023

A person with his arms crossed

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**A message from 2023 RUDC Chair Nathan Ogle, AIA**

AIA Leadership, Friends & Colleagues,

Urban Design has a stronger voice in our profession and Institute after a beautiful display of fellowship, collaborations, and conversations in-person at A'23 San Francisco.

Our RECEPTION brought colleagues from across California to New York, as far away as Portugal and Hong Kong, celebrating our Voices Across America and recognizing AIACA & AIA National Urban Design Excellence Award winners.

The sold-out FORUM demonstrated the challenge of change we face in our uncertain livable cities through topics of community wealth creation, recharging California and artificial intelligence impacts on the horizon. The discussions continued well beyond our allotted time slot.

I want to thank each of you for contributing to our success and all those who were able to attend this lifetime memory, creating a milestone for our committee in collaboration with AIA California and HCD (Marwah, Steve, Pete, Jason, & Rex).

See you next year at A'24 in Washington, DC.

Keep going strong!

Warm regards,

Nathan Ogle, AIA

Regional & Urban Design Knowledge Community Chair 2023

**RUDC panels**

AIA RUDC will bring four online panels with continuing education learning units in 2023. The first panel, “Regenerative Communities,” was held May 3, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT. Missed the presentation? Watch the recording on the AIAU platform: <https://aiau.aia.org/courses/regenerative-communities>. Look forward to our second panel about biophilic urbanism, which will be released to the AIAU platform in August 2023.

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**RUDC at A’23**

The Regional and Urban Design Knowledge Community was well represented at A’23. Leadership from the KC gathered at the evening reception and the A’23 forum “California Urbanism: A Resilient Journey.” Marwah Garib, AICP, Steven Wilson, AIA, Peter Darby, AIA, Jason Larrison, AIA, and Rex Cabaniss, AIA joined 2023 RUDC chair Nathan Ogle, AIA as they listened to local practitioners talk about their – and California’s – urbanism journey.

Gwynne Pugh, FAIA (partner at Urban Studio and chair emeritus at AIA California Urban Design

Committee) began by giving a background of California’s history, sharing that the state and its

resilience is simultaneously “chaos and opportunity”, as well as “piss and vinegar”. Karen Kubey, Assoc. AIA (Assistant Professor at University of Toronto) discussed the barriers that prevent aging in place and how to break through them as demonstrated by the Center for Architecture exhibition “Aging Against the Machine.” Michael Anderson AIA (Principal at Anderson Barker) talked about the “magic playbook” to accelerate generational wealth in the black and brown communities through transit-oriented development while getting Los Angeles ready for the Olympics. Christiana Kyrillou, AIA (Principal at Woods Bagot) presented concepts for greening California through the redevelopment of parking lots and gas stations. And Jared Zimmerman (Former Director of Design for the AI Products Team at Meta) showed us that the future of artificial intelligence is not to be feared but should be embraced as a tool that we can use to solve our future urban challenges.

These conversations will continue at the AIA RUDC Symposium in October and next year at A’24.

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**The RUDC reception was held in the historic Russ building on the first evening of the A’23 Conference. Halfway through the event, participants gathered in the conference room to learn more about the RUDC and future RUDC events – thank you to all RUDC Leadership, AIA Staff, and colleagues in helping to achieve a successful conference!**

**A group of people standing together

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**Gwynne Pugh, FAIA; Karen Kubey, Assoc. AIA; Jared Zimmerman; Nathan Ogle, AIA; Christian Kyrillou, AIA; Michael Anderson, AIA**

**A group of people posing for a photo

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**A'23 RECEPTION | Urban Design Voices Across America**

**A group of people sitting in chairs

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**A'23 FORUM | California Urbanism | A Resilient Journey**

**A group of people sitting on chairs

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**The RUDC Forum on the second day of the A’23 Conference attracted nearly 200 people from across the country. Nathan Ogle (chair) moderated a panel of five speakers covering California’s urbanism: past, present, and future.**

**Save the date for the 2023 RUDC Fall Symposium!**

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October 19-20, 2023, join us in Washington, DC at the District Architecture Center for a two-day symposium, exploring the emerging trends, theories, and technologies redefining regional and urban design. Day one kicks off with dynamic presentations and panels on critical themes. On day two, the conversation progresses to interactive on-site tours and workshops throughout DC. Dive into the future of design with us. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.rudc-symposium.com/>.

Symposium Themes

* Streets and public spaces in response to changing mobility, curb management, temporary urbanism, equity of public space, and new technologies in urban systems.
* The changing roles of downtowns, neighborhoods, and suburbs, including transforming single-purpose downtowns into mixed-use districts, shopping center redevelopment, housing densification, and the 15-minute city planning model.
* Creating healthy, sustainable, and resilient cities demonstrated through strategies and projects seeking to radically transform how ecological, social, and physical well-being is integrated into urban systems to benefit all communities.
* Emerging technologies that affect how we study research, design, and implement projects in cities, including how design professionals work, integrate new tools of ideation, and who has agency in design processes and shifts in the profession.

**State and Local RUDC Committees**

We have connected with dozens of individuals representing state and local RUDC committees, but if you wish to be included in future communications and the RUDC Network, please respond to our rolling data collection via this google form: <https://forms.gle/ZTxhHBaSGLSGvFEs8>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Scott Archer at sarcher@bbbarch.com.

State and local RUDC-related committees:

* AIA Austin – [Urban Design Committee](https://www.aiaaustin.org/committee/urban-design)
* AIA Baltimore – [Urban Design Committee](https://www.aiabaltimore.org/aia-baltimore/get-involved/committees/urban-design-committee/#:~:text=The%20Urban%20Design%20Committee%20aims,allied%20community%20and%20professional%20groups.)
* Boston Society of Architects – [Urban Design Committee](https://www.architects.org/knowledge-communities/urban-design-committee)
* AIA California – Urban Design Committee
* AIA Central Kentucky – Urban Design Committee
* AIA Cincinnati – [Urban Design Committee](http://www.aiacincinnati.org)
* AIA DC – [Urban Design Committee](https://www.aiadc.com/committee/urban-design-committee)
* AIA Detroit – [Urban Priorities Committee](https://aiadetroit.com/committee/upc/)
* AIA East Bay – [Regional & Urban Design Forum](https://aiaeb.org/regional-and-urban-design/)
* AIA Honolulu – [Regional and Urban Design Committee](https://www.aiahonolulu.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=143477&id=443232)
* AIA Houston – [Urban Design Committee](https://aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Urban-Design-Committee/3n/)
* AIA Indianapolis – Urban Design Committee
* AIA Los Angeles – [Urban Design Committee](https://www.aialosangeles.org/committees/urban-design-committee/#:~:text=The%20Urban%20Design%20Committee%20(UDC,of%20current%20urban%20design%20issues.)
* AIA Middle Tennessee – Regional and Urban Design
* AIA New York – [Planning & Urban Design Committee](https://www.aiany.org/committees/planning-urban-design/#:~:text=The%20AIA%20New%20York%20Planning,and%20advocate%20for%20livable%20neighborhoods.)
* AIA Oregon – [Urban Design Panel](https://www.aiaoregon.org/urbandesignpanel)
* AIA San Francisco – [Urban Design + Infrastructure Committee](https://aiasf.org/member-services/committees/urban/)
* AIA Seattle – Urban Design Forum
* AIA South Dakota – Design: South Dakota
* AIA Utah – Urban Design Committee

**Recent Regional and Urban Design News**

1. The Urban Belonging Project - <https://urbanbelonging.com/?utm_medium=website&utm_source=archdaily.com>
2. “A Defense of ‘La Sombrita,’ LA’s Much-Mocked Bus-Stop Shade”, Bloomberg News - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-05-25/the-most-hated-bus-stop-on-the-internet-doesn-t-deserve-your-scorn?utm_campaign=instagram-bio-link&utm_medium=social&utm_source=instagram&utm_content=citylab>
3. “Boston Takes on Its Rising Heat Problem”, The Dirt Blog, ASLA, <https://dirt.asla.org/2023/05/17/boston-takes-on-its-rising-heat-problem/>
4. “Why Union Square’s ‘every man for themselves’ approach no longer works”, SFGATE, <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/hayes-valley-thriving-union-square-struggling-18102986.php>
5. “The Future of Cities and Shared Mobility in India”, Medium, <https://medium.com/uber-under-the-hood/future-of-cities-and-shared-mobility-in-india-793d1947a90e>
6. “This little-known rule shapes parking in America. Cities are reversing it”, CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/20/business/parking-minimums-cars-transportation-urban-planning/index.html>
7. “15-minute city concept falsely compared to 'The Hunger Games' | Fact check”, USA Today, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2023/05/19/fact-check/70218922007/>
8. ‘To Save Downtowns, Destroy Them”, WIRED, <https://www.wired.com/story/plaintext-save-downtowns-destroy-them/>

**Engage with RUDC**

Interact with RUDC at our [LinkedIn group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9238022/).