

Public Interest Design

Questions + Answers from the Monday, October 21, 2031 Webinar

Q: Where exactly is the report on the aia website that the speaker has referenced?

Knowledge Communities (to Thomas Burns): Thomas: Bryan's report can be found at this link --> www.aia.org/aiaucmp/groups/aia/documents/document/aiab099531.pdf

Q: Increasing violence and terrorism in many of the countries that require services of Public Interest Architects stand in the way of interested people. What could be done to counteract this?

First it is important to realize that every public interest design project should be based in a local context to have a real answer. So there is no single answer for “violence and terrorism.” For a solution to emerge, there needs to have the local stakeholders engaged. If not, there is no real solution that will emerge (think of the nurses and the incubator for jaundice that was shown). That being said, there are many examples of how local design solutions have addresses such issues as violence and safety, such as the Bancroft School that was shown. I don’t know of any that directly address terrorism but I don’t know of any that have tried. One current effort by DeAnna Van Buren is looking at design and restorative justice. There are other initiatives such as the Fetzer Institute that are looking at examples of “love and forgiveness in the design professions.” So while it is not possible to answer this question in the abstract without specifics about what violence and terrorism are in a local context, there is enough ongoing effort to suggest it is possible if a local process occurs. As we show more and more projects that with the documented evidence that address more and more issues, we add more and more value of design for the public.

Q: Could we get Bryan Bell to come and speak at our AIA chapter?

Follow up: Our chapter is North-east Illinois chapter in the suburbs of Chicago.

Thanks for the interest. I will be speaking in Chicago on February 8th at the SAIC ballroom. I don’t have all the details yet but this might be an easy and cheap way for your members. (For further information, my direct email is bryan@designcorps.org.)

Q: Have you targeted retired architects who have combine practicing conventionally over the years while also doing pro bono work. In retirement the time is there to shift to PID.

Answered during the webinar.