

AIA Philadelphia Young Architect Presentation, October 6, 2011

The Fellows Steering Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter is pleased to be able to give this year's Young Architect Award to Michael Kelly, AIA, LEED AP. In the tradition of the American Institute of Architects, College of Fellows, our committee seeks to identify and recognize a young architect of exceptional achievement for past accomplishment and future promise. ●

Our committee, comprised of Richard Bartholomew, George Claflen, James Kruhly, John Lawson, Michael Prifti, Peter Piven, Peter Saylor, and myself, received nominations for some strong candidates but subsequently decided to recognize someone who has shown exemplary service and contributions to the profession for the past 12 years.

Michael's first experience with the AIA was as the Associate Director on the AIA Pennsylvania Board of Directors. As the voice of intern architects, he worked with the Board from 1999 to 2001 to include more events and offerings for emerging professionals across the Commonwealth. He was instrumental in developing a campaign to allow graduating students free Associate memberships in the AIA and also agreed to secure funding for future Associate Representatives to attend the AIA's Grass Roots Leadership Conference in Washington DC – an annual event that is still funded today.

From there, Michael went on to become the Regional Associate Director, in 2002-2004, to represent Pennsylvania at the national level. Consequently, he was invited to become one of 18 Associate Representatives from across the country to be part of the National Associates Committee which, in turn, lobbied to create a permanent Associate Representative position on the National AIA Board. This position was realized and it is still filled today.

At the same time, he also played a critical role in IDP undertakings, as he was appointed to the Internship Development Program Coordinating Committee whose mission was to improve that very program and to create a better learning environment for emerging architects.

In 2007 and 2008, Michael Kelly was again asked to represent AIA PA as the Regional Liaison to the Young Architects Forum. When his tenure ended, he worked with his successor to develop more programs and activities for both Associate members and Young Architects within our own local Chapter.

He is currently working with AIA Philadelphia as the Co-Chair to the Regional Architects Committee and has worked to enhance membership by expanding the Chapter's programs to members in the suburban areas of Philadelphia.

All of these accomplishments underscore Michael's devotion to advancing our profession. All of this, in addition to his career achievements at KCBA Architects since 2006; his involvement with mentoring students at CHAD; his service on the NCARB ARE Review Committee; as well as his public service as a member of the Chalfont Borough Planning Commission since 2009.

The list goes on, but we only have so much time on this agenda! Please join with me and my committee in applauding Michael Kelly as our Young Architect for 2011.