



Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects
2005 Annual Report

A Message from the Executive Vice President/CEO

For the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, 2005 was a banner year. Fully settled within its new home at the Virginia Center for Architecture, the Society welcomed proudly the first thousand visitors as the major sponsor of the museum's grand opening events, April 1-3, 2005. Society President Scott M. Spence, AIA, spoke at the opening ceremony of the long-standing partnership between the Society and the Foundation, recently recast as the Virginia Center for Architecture Foundation. And AIA President Douglas L. Steidl, FAIA, participated in the opening ceremony and congratulated the vision of his architecture colleagues in bringing the Center to fruition before bestowing a Presidential Citation, which read as follows:

*Celebrating the vision, passion
Dedication, and hard work of the
Public and Professional Partnership
that has created the*

Virginia Center for Architecture

*A milestone along the path
of a fifty-year journey,
the newly inaugurated Center
builds on the commitment of Virginia's citizens
to engage an ever-expanding community
in creative dialogue with the power of architecture,
and in so doing advances the values
of the Commonwealth's uniquely rich
design heritage as a source of inspiration
to fulfill the promise of an even richer tomorrow.*

Anchor tenant in John Russell Pope's Tudor Revival mansion, the Society has grown exponentially in both visibility and accessibility.

In its second year as the re-branded Architecture Exchange East (the Society's 18th year of providing a comprehensive conference), our major educational program continued to perform solidly as Virginia architects' preferred source for continuing education credit. Pritzker Architecture Prize winner for 2005 Thom Mayne, FAIA, captivated the capacity crowd at his keynote address.

The Society's communications and advocacy tools were also expanded during the year. *Inform* completed its 15th year of excellent coverage of architecture and design in our region. With the opening of the Center for Architecture, online communications were united as a new portal and website were introduced through the www.virginiaarchitecture.org address.

The Society's Government Affairs program continued its tradition of solid and responsive advocacy for the architecture profession. The Society's new "Citizen Architect" program was awarded an implementation grant of \$10,000 by the AIA in acknowledgement of its promise to expand the reach of architecture in public decision-making throughout the Commonwealth.

In 2005, with the re-structuring of the supplement firm dues program, the Society articulated more explicitly than in the past the relationship between the architecture firm, as an enterprise generating revenue by providing architecture services (whether by a single practitioner or by a firm of 50) and the heavily business-oriented government affairs program.

The Board of Directors, led by President-elect Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA, undertook a study of the Society's long-range plan and in a planning retreat in June 2005 made important revisions to the document that guides program development for the Society. The Board of Directors formally adopted the new plan at its September 2005 meeting.

The summary reports provided below give you a look at the year's individual programs. The Board of Directors has reviewed and accepted the report of the Society's auditors, Mitchell Wiggins and Company, CPA, of Richmond, which report provides the basis for the financial information presented here.

John W. Braymer, Ph.D., Hon. AIA
Executive Vice President/CEO

Architecture Exchange East

The Virginia Society AIA's expanded regional conference and expo, renamed Architecture Exchange East in 2004 when it was reconfigured, continued to build on nearly two decades of success. Held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center November 2-4, participants from 13 states and the District of Columbia attended the seminars, workshops, and expo. Of the Virginia Society AIA participants, 11 percent came from the Blue Ridge chapter, nine percent from Central Virginia, 18 percent from Northern Virginia, 19 percent from Hampton Roads, and 43 percent from the Richmond chapter (formerly James River). Scholarship funds allowed 87 Virginia Associate AIA members to attend ArchEx at no cost.

The conference program was comprised of 59 seminars and 4 workshops, offering a potential for 18 AIA/CES LUs. Seminar evaluations were high. Scoring on a five-point scale, participants agreed that the content was useful (average score: 4.14), and the presenters were strong (average score: 4.24). They indicated that the seminars exceeded their expectations (average score: 4) and 88 percent noted that they would like more education in the presented topic areas. One hundred twenty-six enrolled in the Wednesday workshops, rating both the usefulness of the content and quality of presenters highly (average scores: 4.43 and 4.56, respectively).

The Design Showcase again displayed work from mid-Atlantic firms in a centrally located aisle on the exhibit floor. Architects, landscape architects, and interior designers from seven states submitted work for the display.

Eight architecture schools in the region were invited to send students to the keynote and Thursday seminars and were provided a free booth for whatever public relations purpose they chose. Over 100 students attended at no cost and 5 schools took advantage of the free exhibit space. Faculty from six different regional architecture schools participated in a seminar noting changes in curricula and new undertakings.

Again, as part of a four-year agreement extending through 2006, the center of the exhibition floor space was dominated by a 14' by 20' timber-frame pergola designed and constructed by Dreaming Creek Timber Frame Homes, Inc. In addition, The Virginia Center for Architecture Museum Shop operated the conference bookstore and attracted a high volume of traffic throughout the show. The Art by Architects (& Friends) auction also drew lots of attention from Architecture Exchange East attendees. It continues to be a top attraction on the exhibit floor.

Communications

The statewide publication for distributing information to its members, *VSAIA News*, promoted and reported efforts and accomplishments in design, regulation, legislation, internship, continuing education, and other topics related to the work and practice of architects. Six issues, edited by Maggi Tinsley, included the following stories in 2005:

- Advocacy: 4 articles
- Government and Industry Affairs: 10 articles
- IDP and Interns: 2 articles
- Honors, design, and awards: 13 articles
- Continuing Education: 2 articles

- Documents and building code: 3 articles
- AIA, VSAIA, and VFA: 17 articles
- Architecture Exchange East: 7 articles

In addition to the newsletter, the Society made frequent use of its capacity for electronic communication, sending more timely messages to members via email throughout the year.

A new website made its debut in the summer, following the introduction of a site for the Virginia Center for Architecture. Its portal design was recommended by an advisory team comprised of members, marketing professionals, and Society staff. Much of the site is immediately updatable via a customized interface, allowing breaking news or the latest education offerings to be accessible right away.

Government and Industry Affairs

General Assembly

The 500-pound gorilla steamrolling its way through the General Assembly in 2005 was a proposal to allow Virginia's colleges and universities to choose virtual autonomy from the Commonwealth. One small portion of this law dealt with the procurement of professional services. The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) was able to adjust the language slightly to ensure that the state's procurement policies, including the qualifications-based selection process, would be retained in all procurement policies developed by the individual institutions that chose to make the break from tighter state control.

Other legislation strengthened the penalties for practicing architecture

without a license and adopted as a model for medical facilities the Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities issued by the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health. The JLC helped to defeat a bill that would have established Virginia as supporting an unproven energy and environmental design system. The system was said to be a competitor to LEED, the established standard used for more than a decade in Virginia and throughout the country by design professionals and contractors.

Society members working on the Joint Legislative Committee in 2005 were David Puckett, AIA (Vice President 2003-05), and Stephen Butler, AIA. Representing the JLC as legislative counsel were Reggie Jones, Esq., and Mark Pratt, Esq., of the law firm Williams Mullen. The Society's partners on the committee are members of the American Council of Engineering Companies/Virginia and the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers.

BCOM

Richard Sliwoski, PE, director of the Virginia Division of Engineering and Buildings, and a committee of six architects from throughout the state continued to build bridges between the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management and the profession. The committee expanded to include two professional engineers recommended by the American Council of Engineering Companies/Virginia and the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers.

Several committee members expressed their opinion that, in their experience, the process and the reviewers were becoming more reasonable. Some frustrations remain, primarily with code interpretations that were viewed as too conserva-

tive. Sliwoski reiterated his offer to be present at a review, saying, "If you want to resolve it, call me in." He also said he rules on reasonableness when there is a difference of interpretation. "I go to the commentary [published by the International Code Council]. If it seems reasonable, I'll accept it."

APELSCIDLA

The Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects expanded its scope through legislation to regulate the practice by photogrammatrists within the land surveyors section. The regulations will be adjusted to accommodate the new group, but the photogrammatrists will be represented within the three board seats allotted to the land surveyors.

Architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors developed consensus favoring mandatory continuing education for re-registration of licensees and tried to work through the Board for its implementation. The Board's administration and the administration of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation recommended the group make its presentation directly to the legislature in the 2006 General Assembly.

Building Code

In addition to updating the International Code Council's family of codes, Virginia initiated the new International Existing Building Code and incorporated it into Virginia's Uniform Statewide Building Code in 2005. The updates and the IEBC were implemented in November.

Adjustments to the IEBC recommended by Virginia have been reviewed favorably in other states. These states seem interested in

adopting Virginia's language and supporting changes to the model code when it is next revised. The code review team again was led by J. Kenneth Payne Jr., AIA, of Virginia Beach with support on individual studies or task forces by David Jones, AIA, of Roanoke, and John McGrann, AIA; Megan Shope, AIA; and James Snowa, AIA, all of Richmond.

Appointments

Governor Mark Warner re-appointed Jack Clark, AIA, to a second term on the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects.

In addition, several architects contributed literally hundreds of hours to various studies or committees for public agencies. Among those beginning or continuing their work in 2005 were:

- David Jones, AIA, on the Department of Housing and Community Development committee studying in-building communications
- John T. McGrann, Jr., AIA, on the Building Code Academy Advisory committee (second term)
- J. Kenneth Payne, Jr., AIA, on the Department of Housing and Community Development committee updating the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code
- Megan Shope, AIA, and Jim Snowa, AIA, on the fire separation distance study conducted by the Department of Housing and Community Development
- George Salinas, AIA, and Steve Weisensale, AIA, on the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design committee

Honor Awards

The eighth annual *Visions for Architecture* gala was held in the ballroom of the Greater Richmond Convention Center November 4. Guests enjoyed cocktails in the atrium, and dinner was enhanced by an address by National Public Radio commentator Susan Stamberg. Nearly 400 members of the design and construction industry and their guests celebrated the achievements of the 2005 honorees:

- *William C. Noland Medal*
Willard M. Scribner, FAIA
- *The T. David Fitz-Gibbon Architecture Firm Award*
LeMay Erickson Architects
- *Distinguished Achievement Award*
Wesley Page, AIA
Michael Stoneking, AIA
- *The Test of Time Award*
Scottsville Elementary School addition, VMDO Architects
- *Society Honors*
William Frazier
James Whiting
- *Honorary Membership*
Stephen A. Coor

Design Awards

The Awards for Excellence in Architecture program experienced another memorable year, with a broad range of high-quality projects selected for recognition by the jury. Some of the highlights for 2005:

- 130 submissions were received from firms across the state.
- Eight projects by architects in the region were selected for recognition by the Boston-based jury, which was comprised of William Rawn, FAIA, principal of William Rawn Associates, Architects; Kyu Sung Woo, FAIA, principal of Kyu Sung Woo Architects; and Jonathan Levi, FAIA, principal

of Jonathan Levi Architects. The winning projects varied widely from an elegant, steel and glass row house addition to an environmentally conscious elementary school on a sensitive suburban site.

- Awards were formally presented on November 4 during the eighth annual *Visions for Architecture* gala.

Virginia Society AIA Prize

Architecture students from the state's four university programs competed in a design charrette early in the year, working with a program created by Hampton University faculty. "Between Thresholds: Land and Sea, City and Ship" invited students to design a temporary structure, with ease of disassembly, to be located on the existing docking pier in Norfolk, and serving as the first/last threshold for arriving/departing cruise ship passengers. The goal was to achieve a maximum effect with minimum resources by providing a fitting entry/exit for the city of Norfolk pending the inauguration of a permanent cruise ship terminal in 2006.

Christine Buettner-Graefenhain, a graduate student at Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, received the 26th Virginia Society AIA Prize, an award of \$1,000. The jury described her design as "a poetic response to the site with enormous potential," and "a work which looks at the entire site to address new ways of circulating people," as well as an exploration of "natural and physical connections between land and water."

Inform Magazine

Overall economic activity in the construction market throughout the

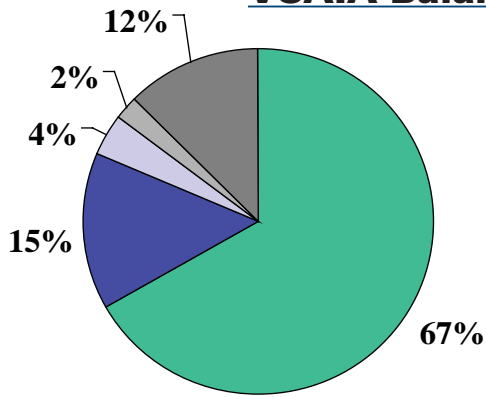
mid-Atlantic continued to support strong *Inform* magazine revenues, a record for the 15-year history of the magazine. Growth came not only from ad sales but also from new annual niche directories included in two issues and the regular "On the Boards" feature. Feature articles with product ties remain popular with material suppliers and have helped significantly in supporting *Inform* revenues.

Editorially, *Inform* continued to maintain its standard of excellence in editorial and print quality. Regular issues published during the year focused on health care design, primary and secondary schools, a review of Virginia architecture, and profiles of emerging firms. The second issue of the year also provided thorough coverage of the opening of the Virginia Center for Architecture, along with the story of the preservation of the historic mansion that houses the center. *Inform* also celebrated the 14th anniversary of its Inform Awards program, which is targeted to architects in the mid-Atlantic region and also attracts submissions from interior designers, landscape architects, and furniture designers.

Intern Development Program

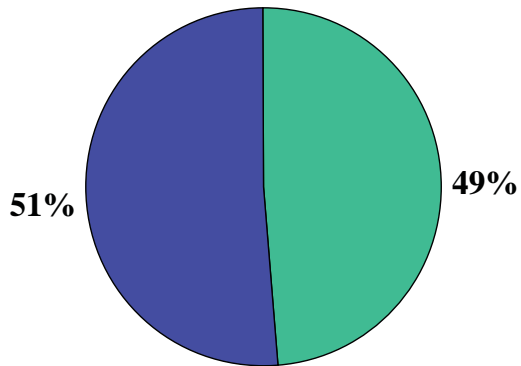
The highlight of the Intern Development Program's activities in Virginia was April's all-day session with Norman Dorf, nationally recognized speaker on preparing for the architectural registration exam. Approximately 45 emerging professionals attended the session. Other programs were developed and presented individually by the local chapters and their IDP coordinators.

VSAIA Balance Sheet, December 31, 2005 (Audited)



Assets: \$690,170

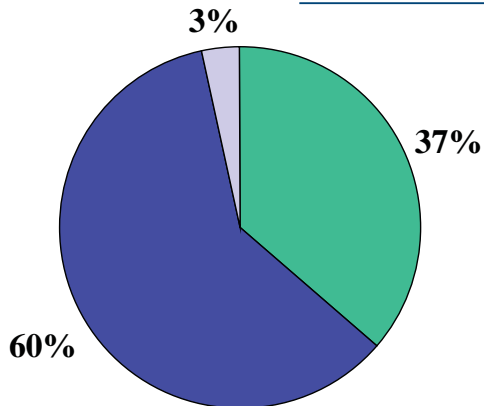
<i>Cash</i>	66.8%
<i>Accounts Receivable</i>	14.6%
<i>AIA Documents Inventory</i>	4.0%
<i>Prepaid Expenses</i>	2.3%
<i>Furniture & Fixtures, net</i>	12.3%



Liabilities and Net Assets: \$690,170

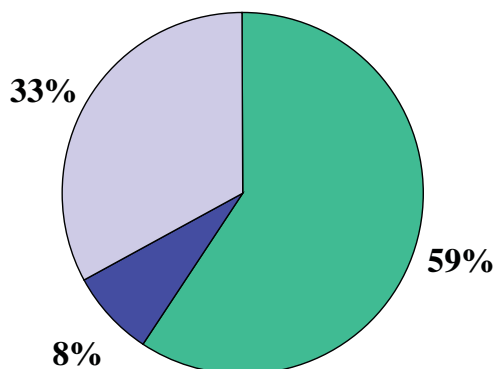
<i>Liabilities</i>	48.5%
<i>Accounts Payable</i>	13.3%
<i>Other Payables</i>	3.2%
<i>Deferred Revenue</i>	32.0%
<i>Net Assets</i>	51.5%

VSAIA 2005 Revenues and Expenses



Revenues: \$1,574,389

<i>Membership Dues</i>	36.5%
<i>Project Revenues</i>	60.3%
<i>ARCH EX</i>	27.8%
<i>Inform Magazine</i>	15.7%
<i>AIA Documents</i>	10.9%
<i>Prof. Development</i>	5.0%
<i>Member Services</i>	0.9%
<i>Other</i>	3.2%



Expenses: \$1,507,527

<i>Governance, Admin., Rent, Taxes</i>	33.1%
<i>Government Affairs</i>	7.6%
<i>Projects, Programs</i>	59.3%
<i>ARCH EX</i>	15.7%
<i>Inform Magazine</i>	21.1%
<i>AIA Documents</i>	6.7%
<i>Prof. Development</i>	5.3%
<i>Member Services</i>	9.4%
<i>Other Programs</i>	1.1%