

Minutes

**Toronto Society of Architects
May Meeting**
1 May, 2007 – 6:30pm to 8:30 pm
Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm Street

Present:

Aaron Vomberg	Garth Norbraten	Marjot Dunker
Antone Frisina	Ivana Gazic	Martin Baron
Antonio Gómez-Palacio	Jennifer Conron	Matthew Searle
Arik Rosatik	Jonathan King	Mike Thow
Bill Lobb	Kalina Serlin	Natasha Stamenkovic
Bindya Lad	Keith Stewart	Peter Gabor
Carlo Milessa	Kenn Coates	Phil Goodfellow
Danny Harvey	Klaus Dunker	Rosalie Dawson
David Sisam	Ladan Dana	Scott Sorli
Debbie Wadsworth	Larry Brydon	Susan Lewin
Elizabeth Jassem	Luigi Ferrara	Taraneh Meshkani
	Lyn Northey	

1. Introduction

- Antonio welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and ran through the evening's agenda.
- TSA executive present at the time were introduced and was followed by 'around the room' introductions.

2. Approval of April 2007 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the last meeting, held April 11th, 2007, were circulated.
- Scott motioned to approve the minutes, Susan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

3. TSA Initiatives

- Antonio noted that the initiatives were activities, events, etc., that are run by individuals who come to the TSA for support, which allows the organization to be a launching pad for ideas. He briefed everyone on the initiatives that the TSA were actively pursuing.

- **CANstruction:**

- Antonio advised that the CANstruction event was approaching, and a team had been formed. He explained that the event involved designing a sculpture to construct out of cans. The team would need to do fundraising to obtain the cans, after the event the cans would be donated to the food bank. Antonio noted that Antone is heading the team and should be contacted for more information (<http://www.canstruction.com/>).

- **fAd**

- Antonio reminded all that the May in Toronto is the Festival of Architecture and Design, and will include a large number of events of interest to TSA members. Some of the highlights include:
 - **'Toronto the Good' Party:** Antonio invited all to the 'Toronto the Good' party on May 15th that was being organized by ERA Architects, Spacing and Murmur, and sponsored by the TSA. He advised that they were looking for volunteers, and if anyone was interested that they should contact Michael or Phil.
 - **"Building Toronto's Green Future" Forum:** Antonio invited all to attend the Forum, and informed all that the agenda for the upcoming forum would include Doug Weber and David Sisam.
 - **Pecha Kucha:** Antonio encouraged everyone to attend the opening party for Doors Open Toronto, Pecha Kucha. He noted that 'pecha kucha' was a Japanese term that translated to chit-chat. It was also noted that the evening will feature the launch of the book Design Toronto.
 - **Doors Open:** Antonio noted that the theme for Doors Open this year is 'green buildings', which was in keeping with tonight's meeting's theme as well as the theme for the upcoming forum.
 - **'design matters' competition:** Antonio acknowledged that the TSA was celebrating its 125th anniversary and had launched the Design Matters Competition to celebrate the occasion, and generate imagery to note that design matters.
 - **'Twenty + Change' exhibit:** Antonio noted that the deadline for the exhibition was yesterday and that 40 submissions were received. An opening exhibition is slated for June 8th.

4. Current Affairs – green architecture

- Phil explained that given ever increasing interest in 'green themes', evident through events such as the Green Awards, and Green Living

Show, and this month's green theme for Doors Open, 'green architecture' was an appropriate topic for this TSA meeting.

- He noted the invited guests at the table with experience in green design:
 - **David Sisam**, principal at Montgomery Sisam Architects, who has been the principal architect for many buildings that deal with sustainability issues. He recently completed the Toronto Botanical Garden project which achieved a LEED silver standing;
 - **Keith Stewart**, employed at the Toronto Office of the World Wildlife Fund, which allows him to deal with many environmental issues that arise from the built environment; and,
 - **Larry Brydon**, Vice Chair of the Toronto Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), and a Senior Account Executive for the Ozz Corporation.

(a) What does it mean to be GREEN?

- The discussion started by grasping what it is meant to be green. A range of different ideas surfaced including: development standards; LEED: ASHRAE standards on mechanical systems; density; and, health. The Mayor's "green" initiatives (20 minute makeover, Green Development Standards) were noted.
- It was pointed out that sustainability is defined in a more holistic way. The definition of health from the World Health Organization (WHO) was also brought to everyone's attention; including the fact that the most important policy decisions effecting health, are not made by the Minister of Health. It was agreed that we need to think about how the built environment affects our health, and in doing so re-evaluate what we do, so that we can determine what sustainable living is.

(b) The Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC)

- The evolution of the CaGBC as well as the 'green' concept was presented by Larry Brydon. He noted that the CaGBC, and its members, have been part of the emergence of a sustainability movement in Toronto, by providing the idea with measurable points of reference. Larry noted that the CaGBC originally held design charettes in the early days and as they evolved were able to produce documents to provide context and options. Recent standards look at sustainability on a larger level such as neighbourhood design, by considering surrounding buildings, to maximize design potential.

- The organization is run by volunteers through various associations. Membership to the Toronto Chapter of the CaGBC is free this year; we encourage those of you who are interested in this field to join. For more information and membership forms visit: www.cagbc.org/

(c) LEEDing today for tomorrow

- Keith noted that in a universal environment we need to think about how community design. People are interested in global warming, but question what is being done. A year ago global warming was not an issue in the federal election.
- Keith advised that the WWF puts out an annual report. In 1984, we passed the earth's rate of renewal for replenishment. He pointed out that if everyone consumed in the same manner as Canadians, we would need four planets.
- It was noted that the efficient use of energy, increases the quality of life. As our non-renewable resources are being depleted we will need to look more at the sun, wind and water for energy. Technologies that utilize these earth energies should be integrated into our built environment when possible.
- It was agreed that government has a key leadership role to play, in setting the 'green' agenda, through the development of policies. Suggestions for leadership initiatives included:
 - Tax rebates for Green buildings;
 - Green Development Standards becoming mandatory for municipal buildings; and,
 - Toronto declaring itself a LEED city/environment.

It was noted that the Architect's Act states that 'we shall do no harm'. It was recognized that we need to be LEEDers; we need to think about the ramifications of our actions, on a much broader scale, and develop a whole systems thinking approach when we create our buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next TSA General Meeting will take place on Tuesday June 5, 2007, at 6:30 pm, at the Arts and Letters Club.