

## ***AIA Resolution***

### ***“A Call to Action”***

***Duo Dickinson – AIA, NCARB, CORA Sponsor***

***Based on “A CORA Position Paper” <http://coragroups.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=1087>***

***See running commentary at <http://coragroups.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=1088&start=0>***

**Whereas** we, the undersigned, believe that all architects, and the institutions that support, reflect and regulate the profession of architecture must acknowledge its present deteriorated state, and that there has been a long term drift of the profession away from social relevance and public credibility and the consequences of that drift have become critically evident in the present economic climate.

**And whereas** The present distressed state offers an opportunity to reform and renew the organizations and regulations that have not effectively responded to a deteriorating perception of our profession’s worth and effectiveness, and while institutions and organizations did not create the current conditions, we believe that the policies of the AIA, the curricula of architectural academia, the requirements for licensure, the regulations that define our practice and the editorial focus of the professional press can be changed to reverse the present course that has compromised our profession’s role in creating buildings of value on every level.

**And whereas** the act of licensure itself has become a test of perseverance rather than reflective of excellence, and the wide disparity among state requirements, especially with regard to continuing education, has complicated and compromised the ability of architects to be agents of safety, utility, and beauty in building design.

**And whereas** a parallel system of professional accreditation – LEED accreditation - has developed without being integrated with the licensure of architects.

**And whereas** all levels of government have created an ever-tightening web of regulatory oversight and sanctioning alternatives to the practice of architecture because of a growing perception of the incapacity of architects to provide holistic, relevant building design.

**Therefore**, the undersigned believe that there are new directions that will serve to re-establish our profession’s relevance, and believe the AIA’s support for the following resolutions will benefit the profession of architecture and the cause of building better buildings.

## **Resolved:**

- 1) The AIA support the position that architects be recognized by all levels of government as critical to the building regulatory approval process based on a national determination of clear legal status for all building professions including, but not limited to, the practices of architecture, landscape architecture, structural engineering, interior design, and residential design
- 2) The AIA support the position that all licensed architects should be conferred legal status equivalent to LEED accreditation as part of their licensure, with NCARB, NAAB, and the AIA working together to promote and provide equivalent sustainability standards independent of LEED accreditation
- 3) The AIA support the position that all institutions that support our profession, including the AIA and its local chapters, should recognize residential architecture as a unique discipline
- 4) The AIA support the position that the AIA National should re-allocate its national budget to facilitate regional gatherings, versus national, by streamlining its headquarters staff and downsizing its national committee structure.
- 5) The AIA support the position that alternative forms of practice integrating allied disciplines (e.g. landscape architecture, interior design, environmental engineering, and construction) should be encouraged in academia curricula and institutions that support our profession, such as the AIA
- 6) The AIA support the position that Continuing Education or Professional Practice Certification requirements should be administered only by institutions accredited to confer professional degrees in architecture or by the NCARB with consistent national standards applicable across all states, and that pro bono work, serving on volunteer civic boards, teaching, or mentoring be sanctioned alternatives for Continuing Education requirements for licensure.
- 7) The AIA support the position that the NAAB and ACSA should include enhanced requirements for base curriculum for school accreditation that includes enhanced environmental literacy and requires mentoring, internship and building experience of students with licensed architects in the tradition of apprenticeship before a professional degree is conferred.
- 8) The AIA should advocate for inclusive diversity in education curricula by the NAAB and all professional publication editorial policies.

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