The exact circumstances of Marcel Breuer being chosen to design this house for the Potter family are not entirely clear, but it is assumed there was a relationship established between architect and client in Cambridge some years earlier. By 1949 Breuer had moved from Boston to New York and had established his practice there, but was still interested enough in this commission to take it on from a distance.

Concurrent with its construction, Breuer had a full scale house that he designed installed in the courtyard of MOMA in New York, which elucidated many of the concepts at the heart of his residential work. He was starting to build an international reputation. Throughout his career, he maintained an interest in residential architecture, considering it a laboratory for concepts subsequently investigated at a larger scale in his public commissions. The Potter House fits into this pattern of experimentation.

A brief review of Breuer’s biography is a narrative of the strong influences reflected in all his work. Educated at the Bauhaus under Gropius, he returned there shortly after graduation—still in his early 20s—with the role of master of the woodworking shop. The robust quality of his architecture, strongly rooted in the material at hand, no doubt had its roots in that woodworking shop. During those years he produced his first pieces of tubular steel furniture which were received very favorably by the design elite, and proved him to be a serious designer. Later, he practiced in both London and Berlin before coming to the U.S. where he taught with Gropius at Harvard and collaborated with him on several projects before starting his own practice in 1941. His work always maintained a sense of Bauhaus clarity and reduction, even as he developed his own place within a de rigueur modernist vocabulary.

As with many brilliant architects who produced innovative work, it can be difficult in decades-later retrospect to recognize the uniqueness of the work. But in the house we have at hand here in Maine, even a brief examination will remind us of his contributions to an architectural vocabulary which influences us even today. The Potter House has many elements typical of his work, and exhibits both consistency and specificity, two conflicting concepts he masterfully integrated in his houses.

(Modernism in Maine continued on page 4)
President’s Report
by Carol Gillis, AIA

By now you may have heard of the rule changes recently implemented by the Maine State Board for Licensure of Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers. The Licensure Board sent an email on June 22, 2009, to all architects who had signed up for the Board’s listserve by that date, and an AIA Maine email message was sent to members on July 2nd.

This report is intended to provide more information about the rule changes, and to let you know about the communication that has taken place between AIA Maine and the Licensure Board since we learned about these changes in late June.

The rules include a new requirement for architects to display the legend “Maine Licensed Architect” in all advertising and promotional materials, business cards and correspondence effective June 3, 2009. There are also rule changes that clarify an existing statute related to qualifications for licensure based on education and/or experience, and the new rules eliminate the requirement that the Board interview applicants for licensure. See links below for more detail.


Background: AIA Maine, as part of the Architects/Engineers Legislative Task Force, monitors A/E-related legislation including any proposed changes to the Maine Architects’ Law. For example during 2007, the Legislature enacted legislation to amend the Maine Landscape Architects’ Law. The original language proposed would have negatively impacted architects, and AIA Maine successfully worked to correct the enacted version.

In addition to the legislative process, we have learned that the state licensing boards have the authority to develop rules through administrative procedures, which clarify or expand upon a statute already in place. Among other requirements, in order to implement new rules, the licensing boards are required to publish legal notices announcing the proposed rule changes, hold a public hearing and provide a public comment period. The Licensure Board met these requirements, and posted a notice about them on its Website, but the notices went undetected. The Board Administra-

(Continued on page 3)
More than 30 people attended AIA Maine’s June program on “Communicating Design through Graphic Media.” This was the Chapter’s first in the series of affordable and informative continuing education programs for 2009.

Our thanks go to presenters Margo Halverson, Lynn Ericson and Paul Gurney for a great session and for generously donating their time. We look forward to seeing improved graphic and web presentations as a result of information presented. Copies of DesignSense for Presentations (interactive CD by Margo Halverson) are available for order by email. If you would like any follow-up advice from the speakers, you can contact them at Margo_Halverson@margo.halverson@gmail.com/Website—www.alicedesign.com

Lynn Ericson and Paul Gurney—ericmitch@adelphia.net/Website—www.ericsonmitchell.com

Margo Halverson at the Design Program on June 4th. Photo courtesy of Susan Koch.

(President’s Report continued from page 2)  

or attempted to contact AIA by email prior to the public hearing, but the messages were not received, and AIA Maine had no input on the proposed rules.

Communication: On June 26 AIA Maine sent a letter to the Licensing Board requesting a moratorium for the implementation of the new rules to allow time for dialogue regarding cost/benefits and clarification regarding the execution of the new rules. The letter also stated the need for improved communication between the Board and AIA Maine with the hope of having a more collaborative relationship in the future. This letter, and the Board Administrator’s response, were part of the Board’s July 21st meeting agenda, and AIA Maine was invited to attend.

At that meeting I was given the opportunity to speak to the Board, and I re-stated the key points of the letter. First, requesting a moratorium to allow for further discussion/clarification of the new rules, and secondly, to explore how to improve communication.

The following is a summary of this discussion.

Regarding the new rules: The requirement to display the legend “Maine Licensed Architect” is intended to reduce unlicensed practice. In her letter the Administrator stated that “the legend will allow the public to easily identify a licensed professional architect from others who may promote their services under a heading of ‘architectural design’ for example.” Board members stated that the legend requirement will help them with enforcement of the existing law.

The Board stated that because the rules have been officially enacted, a moratorium on implementation is not possible. Members acknowledged that they have been receiving several questions, and they plan to post a “Frequently Asked Questions” page, with their responses, on the Board’s Website. Please direct your questions to architects.board@maine.gov.

Communication: A licensure board, because it is a regulatory body, needs to maintain a distance between itself and the profession being regulated. It is not allowed to show preferential treatment to professional organizations or individuals and has established strict guidelines regarding communication. Board members are not allowed to discuss board affairs except within an official board meeting. Any other communication to licensees and the public will be through one of the following:

- Notices posted on the Website of the Architects’ Licensure Board at www.maine.gov/pfr/professional licensing/professions/architects/index.htm

- Emails sent to licensees/public who have registered for the listserv (registration is available on the Website).

The Board meetings are open to the public, and meeting agendas and minutes are published on the Website.

AIA Maine, through the work of its Outreach Committee, has been increasing our efforts to educate the public about the value architects bring to residential and commercial buildings, emphasizing our role as a resource in sustainable design. The Licensure Board was invited to participate in this outreach and educational effort as well as to provide articles or notices in the AIA Maine newsletter. However, it declined noting its limited communication as noted above. The Board is supportive of AIA Maine providing information on licensure rules in its outreach effort and reporting on the proceedings of the Licensure Board meetings in its publications. The Board also invited AIA Maine to attend its meetings and was receptive to the suggestion that AIA Maine provide a brief report.

Where do we go from here?: An AIA Maine representative will attend future Licensure Board meetings, present an AIA Maine report and publish any Board items of interest in its publications.

We will explore how to include education about licensed architects within our public outreach efforts.

We have signed up for “Interested Party” designation, which will allow us to receive direct notice of any proposed rules in the future.

If you have suggestions for other ways to improve communication between AIA Maine and the Licensure Board, if you are interested in representing AIA Maine at future Board meetings, or if you are interested in participating in our Outreach Committee, please contact us!
The consistency comes as he repeats certain architectural devices on several projects, including this one. Like many of his houses of this period, it is a fairly simple wood structure that sits atop a stone wall which engages with a sloping site, and the materials and execution are similar to his other projects outside of Maine. The butterfly roof, the strong stone walls, the cadenced entrance sequence, the bi-nuclear plan concept, large planes of glazing and solid wall, the interest in simultaneous grounding and floating forms: they are all here.

We can see the specificity of Breuer's design solution by looking at just one of these devices: the stone wall. The site slopes up from the street, and Breuer uses the slope to maximum advantage by positioning a long stone wall parallel to the road. It is a dramatic gesture that creates a sectional solution: The U-shaped driveway comes up from the street and runs along the stone wall, under the living spaces above. This creates an earth-bound, sheltered arrival experience, and allows the main living spaces to hover comfortably above the street on the arrival side and spill out on grade on the back side. As one enters this space by car, there is a powerful contrast between the stone wall (with areas of exposed ledge) on the right, and the open side—supported by light columns—on the left.

This stone wall, however, has even more significance in the house. It imbues the house with a sense of earthiness that was rare for this generation of modernists. The Glass House and the Farnsworth House, constructed almost concurrently with the Potter House, use natural materials in a much more limited and controlled manner. The Potter House, as many Breuer's houses of the period, embraces the rough and organic quality of stone and contrasts its heaviness with the lightness of the wood structure above. The stone remains very much grounded to the earth, and the wood structure and planes of local white cedar float above.

Finally, the stone wall, despite the seeming simplicity of its gesture, sets up a datum on the site that allows for several complex relationships between interior and exterior. It has a different relationship to the wood structure on each of three sides: It follows the footprint of the house on one end, turns to create the aforementioned sheltered entrance sequence, and extends past the upper story on the other end, returning and engaging with the sloping grade. This extension of the wall into the landscape makes it feel independent of the wood structure above it—as if it were an archaeological ruin on which a new structure was placed. It also allows for a terrace garden at one end of the upper story of the house. The scale of the garden has been somewhat reduced by a later addition to that end of the house, but it still retains its feeling of independence.

The Potter House rarely appears in books on his work, and it's not clear why this is the case. Some sources suggest that Breuer did little construction administration on the house, and there is the possibility that the design was somewhat modified during construction without Breuer's approval. Apparently there were also conflicts around construction costs and water leaks, which may have damaged the relationship between client and architect. Nevertheless, almost 60 years on, the house tells its own stories, and still retains an experimental vitality that few houses of this age possess. Recently purchased by a new owner, it is being restored and renovated in a manner that respects its original concept and yet recognizes it as a family house as appropriate for life in 2009 as it was in 1949.

Budget Issues But No "Bail-out"

For the past many months, the economic downturn has caused everyone to review their budget, income and expenditure of funds. The Maine QBS Council faced these same issues at its 2009 quarterly meeting. Several years ago the Council decided the increased use of electronic communications had resulted in lower expenditures than those incurred during the first few years of the Maine QBS Program. As a result, the Council decided to slowly reduce the reserves accumulated from earlier years by lowering the annual assessment of the three sponsoring organizations by 50% and carefully watching the budget.

This plan was successful while at the same time, the Maine QBS Website grew in importance as the primary information distribution vehicle. The Maine QBS Council continued to purchase a booth at Maine Municipal Association’s (MMA) annual convention, and this event became the Council’s major expense.

Over several years the Council’s reserves were reduced as planned. Subsequently, the Council notified its sponsors that it would be necessary to restore the assessment to the earlier level if it were to continue the same level of services. However, some sponsoring organizations were having their own budget problems and could not afford to return to the original assessment level. This situation presented the Maine QBS Council with a dilemma—insist on the increase or reduce expenditures.

After careful consideration the Council decided to eliminate its booth at the MMA convention this year. Although the booth exposed municipal officials to Qualification Based Selection, it has not attracted the kind of traffic that justifies the expense of time and money. A large majority of attendees is not involved with the selection of design professionals. Even when convention goers visiting the booth expressed an interest in the QBS process, it was not because of future work. It was due to a bad experience using "price-based" selection. Visitors wished they had known about QBS for now they are living with their problems.

The Maine QBS Website continues to be the primary educational tool along with an occasional QBS presentation by your Facilitator. It is hoped that members of the sponsoring organizations—AIA Maine, ACEC of Maine and MeSPE—will continue to refer potential clients to the QBS Website or to the Facilitator when questions arise. Experience has shown that retaining a design professional based on their qualifications is much better than a "price-driven" selection process. However, we do need to be sure that those selecting designers fully understand the benefits of QUALIFICATIONS.

Visit the Maine QBS Program Website at www.meqbs.org.
The Bureau of General Service's Planning, Design & Construction Division Update

by Janet McLauglin, Assistant Director

We are delighted to announce that the 2009 Professional Services Prequalification list is up and running on our Website at www.maine.gov/bgs/constrpublic/prof_services_2009/PQ_disciplines.html. With 151 firms listed, this far surpasses the previous list. We anticipate that firms on the list will have some direct contact with state agencies on the smaller projects where BGS' Planning, Design & Construction Division (PDCD) is not directly involved in the selection process. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns about this procurement method, which is intended to maintain a Qualifications Based Selection approach, but seeks to expedite the process by eliminating interviews for small projects.

In July we welcomed Tammy Harrington to the Office Assistant II position at PDCD, so you will have one additional person here to assist with your questions.

For those of you selected to work with school units on the Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) funded projects and their applications to the Department of Education for the next major capital funding round, please call us for assistance in reviewing contract agreements and drawings and documents. QSCB is a program of the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (for information visit www.state.me.us/education/const/ffgrants.htm#QSCB). We are encouraged by this infusion of funding and look forward to continuing our ongoing partnership with you in bringing projects to fruition.

Our office is often asked when it will be adopting the new Life Safety Code 2009 edition. This question is difficult to answer. One of the issues we have to deal with is the adoption process, and that is not as easy as one might think. The total process takes upward to a year to complete and it may take longer if the Code has any changes in the sprinkler requirements. These changes must be reviewed by the Criminal Justice Committee and then go to the full Legislature for a vote. This is a new requirement since the adoption of the 2006 Life Safety Code.

As for the adoption of the 2009 Code, our office is working with the Technical Building Code & Standards Advisory Board to try to adopt this Code when the new building code is adopted. Since the Advisory Board is charged with code conflicts, it makes no sense to adopt one code and then turn around and change it again.

I will keep you posted on this, but it looks like the adoption of the new version of the Life Safety Code will be in the summer of 2010, which works with the adoption schedule for the building code.
Plan to attend Build Boston in November as nationally and internationally recognized industry leaders team up with the Northeast’s best to share their expertise in more than 200 workshops, sessions, symposiums and tours at the 25th annual Build Boston, November 18-20, 2009.

The professional development program focuses on a range of issues that are timely and of special interest to the building industry including energy, building technology, firm management and profitability, urban design, preservation, interior design and more.

Build Boston also features the largest design and construction industry exhibit hall in the Northeast. Visit more than 300 booths filled with the nation’s leading suppliers of building technologies, products and services while getting a glimpse at new products making their debut at the show.

For information go to [www.buildboston.com](http://www.buildboston.com).
AIA Maine Announces Fall Programs

Thursday, September 17, 2009
Jean Caroon, FAIA, LEED will present SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION AND RENOVATIONS: Greening Existing Buildings. Program topics will include sustainable technologies, metrics and building envelope upgrades.

Location: Abromson Center at USM in Portland.
Time: Registration and Continental Breakfast at 8:30AM and the Program will be 9AM-12 Noon.
Cost: Registration is $20 for AIA members, $25 for non-members and $10 for students.
Attendees will earn three (3) AIA Learning Units.
To register, visit www.aiamaine.org, and click on EVENTS.

Jean Caroon is a principal at Goody Clancy in Boston and leads the firm’s extensive preservation and renovation practice. She has received national recognition for her special expertise in applying sustainable design technology to historic buildings and is also a recognized expert in the design of accessibility solutions for historic buildings.

Thursday, October 15, 2009
Kevin Collins, Senior Vice President for Schinnerer, will present DON’T LET GREEN DESIGN CAUSE RED INK.

Location: Abromson Center at USM in Portland
Time: Registration and Continental Breakfast at 8:30AM and the Program will be 9AM-12 Noon.
Cost: Registration is $20 for AIA members, $25 for non-members and $10 for students.
Attendees will earn three (3) AIA Learning Units.
To register, visit www.aiamaine.org, and click on EVENTS.

Kevin Collins is a Senior VP with Victor O. Schinnerer & Co. and is a senior manager within its Construction Programs Group. He has been with Schinnerer for 19 years and has worked with A/E firms of all sizes. He also serves as a liaison to the AIA Trust.

AIA Maine’s Ideas Competition 2009
The Competition is open to architectural students, interns and professionals whose place of work or school is located in New England. The project is Community Waterside Facilities located in the Portland’s East End. For information go to www.aiamaine.org, and click on AWARDS.

Letter to the Editor:
Bangor Daily News, July 09

On Energy Efficiency
The economic downturn has been hard on many sectors in Maine, particularly within the design and construction industries. As projects have ground to a halt all over the state, work has slowed to the point that many of our colleagues in the architectural, engineering and construction communities have lost jobs and are struggling to make ends meet.

That’s why so many of us are grateful to members of the Legislature for listening to our concerns and responding with action, despite the tight budget constraints. The Maine Energy Housing and Economic Recovery Fund in LD1485 signed by the Governor on June 12 will help put our sector back to work, building 30 percent more energy-efficient affordable housing for Mainers of modest incomes.

The LD1485 initiative was championed by Senate President Libby Mitchell, Senator Phil Bartlett and House Speaker Hannah Pingree.

They should be commended for their leadership. It is also noteworthy that legislators on both sides of the aisle, including the members of the Joint Select Committee on Maine’s Energy Future, supported the bill.

Rather than waiting for others to help move our economy forward, the Legislature used some of the few resources at its disposal to simultaneously help create needed jobs, modestly priced housing and energy reduction. They deserve recognition and thanks for doing so.

Architects/Engineers Legislative Task Force Co-Chairs, Stephen B. Rich, AIA, and John R. Nelson

AIA Maine President
Carol Gillis, AIA
As the summer winds down, the University of Maine at Augusta’s AIAS Chapter is gearing up for an active year. Tours, guest speakers, contests and fundraising are all on the list of events planned for the 2009-10 year.

In an effort to stay active and connect with students and the general public this past summer, AIAS Maine spearheaded a community garden on Earth Day in conjunction with the Alumni Association, Go Global and Americorp. A wide variety of leaf and root vegetables rounded a vigorously growing plant bed. As students head back to campus this fall and see the garden for the first, we hope it will inspire participating in local, community-based initiatives.

As the UMA AIAS Chapter grows, the opportunity for involvement at the national level also increases. With generous support of organizations like AIA Maine, UMA was able to represent Maine for the second year in a row at the AIAS Grassroots Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Events like the "Mall Crawl," tour of national monuments, keynote lecture by Tom Kundig, FAIA, and the AIA Welcome BBQ were all wonderful ways to meet and speak with fellow students and design professionals. As a result of attending the Conference and expressing interest and concern for the non-traditional student body, I am eager to collaborate with AIAS in this and many ways during the school year.

Our Chapter is excited to once again partner with AIA Maine through its Outreach Committee and offer Brown Bag Lunches. These sessions include students, faculty and design professionals discussing current issues and interests. Also with the success of last spring’s Portland Day Trip, we will be adding a firm crawl to this year’s event. We look forward to these and other activities, and welcome you to visit our Website at www.mainearch.org.

AIA New England Conference

AIA New England is extending an invitation to its AIA Maine colleagues, spouses and friends to attend the annual AIA New England Conference in Portsmouth, October 2-4, 2009.

The theme for the weekend is Portsmouth: Past and Present. Portsmouth’s historical features as well as its current efforts to increase the overall sustainability of the community will be featured.

Although AIA New England conferences are small, past attendees give them high scores for educational value and all around enjoyment. This year’s Conference is planned to be a fully walkable event. Park your car and enjoy Portsmouth: Past and Present.

For Conference information, visit www.aianewengland.org and click on "Conference Details and Registration." You can also see the AIA NE award winning projects from the 2008 AIA NE Maine event.
Firms in the News

In July Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy in Augusta was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council as the first supermarket in the world to receive a LEED Platinum Certification. The project was designed by a national consulting team with WBRC Architects • Engineers as architect, structural engineer, mechanical engineer and electrical engineer of record. This project is also Maine’s first commercial building to receive the LEED Platinum Certification.

Fred Conlogue, Director, Design Services shares, “WBRC brought innovative design, knowledgeable technical assistance and practical experience to the table. The firm’s spirit of collaboration and attention to detail played a key role in our successful endeavor.”

Steve Rich, AIA, WBRC’s Project Architect noted that “Hannaford’s decision to target Platinum and its dedication to sustainability goals has been astounding. The entire team responded with enthusiasm and dedication. The result is an example that Maine and the nation can be proud.”

The supermarket’s 50,000 square foot building is designed to use about 50% less energy than a conventional building of the same size. Green/sustainable/LEED features include:

- A “Green Chill” refrigeration system that uses 50% less refrigerant gas than traditional systems.
- Freezer and refrigerated case doors that save energy and create warmer in-store temperatures for shoppers and workers.
- 750-foot-deep geothermal wells used to help regulate the building’s temperature and reduce energy consumption.
- Maine’s largest solar panel array to date.
- Daylighting skylights and windows for natural light. Lights that dim or turn on/off as needed, using sensor controls.
- 7,000 square feet of vegetated “green roof,” a mixture of native green/red sedums.
- Low-flow, dual-flush toilets, waterless urinals and low-flow faucets in restrooms, and ice-free cases in the seafood department that reduce water usage by 38%.
- Parking spaces close to the store entrance reserved for van pools and low-emission hybrid vehicles.
- An educational center in the store’s entrance lobby that highlights green and sustainable features in the building and site.

The Children’s Museum of New Hampshire has announced that it has been awarded the LEED Silver for New Construction Building by the U.S. Green Building Council. The Children’s Museum selected ARQ Architects of Kittery, Maine, to completely transform the City of Dover’s historic, 80-year-old armory into an imaginative space for learning.

“Creating an innovative and environmentally responsible building within a fixed budget was critical for the Museum project,” said Paul Bonacci, AIA, principal of ARQ Architects. “As architects, we are always asked to identify the additional cost of creating a LEED certified project. In this case sustainable concepts were incorporated into each building component. Making responsible choices while watching the bottom line kept this project affordable for the Museum as a non-profit organization.”

Other recent projects by ARQ Architects receiving LEED are the ASPCA (Animal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Administrative Offices in New York City and the Potter League for Animals in Middletown, Rhode Island. The ASPCA Offices received LEED Gold for Commercial Interiors for energy use, lighting, water and materials use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable building strategies. The project occupies approximately 25,000 square feet on the 7th floor of a 24-story building in the garment district. The Potter League for Animals also received LEED Gold for New Construction Building.
This season’s Architalx series at the Portland Museum of Art was one of the most successful in recent memory. A newly energized Board of Directors carefully vetted potential speakers not just for their work, but for their ability to engage an audience, and we think our extra efforts were rewarded. Tom Kundig, FAIA, wowed the crowd with exquisite Pacific Northwest architecture, Michael Van Valkenburg impressed with his engaging outdoor spaces, Charles Walker showed that engineers can be creative, and Blaine Brownell brought a fresh perspective to materials and research. Despite sunny spring weather, every lecture produced an overflow crowd.

To wrap up the season, a house and garden benefit dubbed “Passage to the Lake” was held at the Nomentana House in Stoneham, Maine. Designed by Michael Van Valkenbourgh Landscape Architects and Mack Scogin, Merrill Elam Architects, the opportunity to get a glimpse of this masterpiece on a perfect August day was an ideal way to end the season.

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Our goal is to ensure cost effective, high performance developments are the result of good integrated design, sound construction practices, and reduced operating expenses to exemplify the long term environmental commitment of our Clients.

Our work ranges from:
- LEED Consulting for projects such as:
  - The first LEED Platinum Grocery Store in the world, built by Hannaford in Augusta, Maine
  - The $9.4 billion CityCenter project in Las Vegas, NV, targeting Silver, and includes the Architects: Foster + Partners, Kohn Pederson Fox, Studio Daniel Libeskind, and Helmut Jahn
  - One of the first LEED Certified Ice Arenas, at Bowdoin College
  - The Harvard University 1 million sq.ft. Allston Science Complex by Behnisch & Behnisch
- Acting as the LEED for Homes Provider in Maine, and throughout New England
- Creating sustainable building guidelines for Jumeirah Garden City in Dubai, UAE
- Performing educational LEED workshops in Maine, Boston, China, London, and Dubai

Contact: Gunnar Hubbard, AIA, LEED AP  gunnar@fore-solutions.com
In January the 124th Legislature convened with an absolutely daunting task—the worst of economic times, cries for reform, pleas for stimulus investments and needs far outreaching resources. But to the lawmakers credit, they did not shrug their duties; members on both sides of the aisle rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Believe it or not, some significant things were accomplished, and we were able to advance many of our concerns while avoiding troublesome issues.

In March our 11th annual Legislative Breakfast was by far the most successful to date. More than 70 attendees were on hand including legislative leadership and legislators from all corners of the State. What we started that morning carried into the session. We presented strong cases for stimulus consideration, bond investments, energy policies and a can-do attitude for bipartisan cooperation. Five months later, some of what we helped get accomplished is as follows in the various legislative committees:

**Business, Research & Economic Development Committee**
LD440 An Act Regarding Exceptions to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. (Jim Pelsor, AIA, testified in opposition for AIA Maine) If passed, this bill would have exempted residential single family and two-unit homes to the list of structures exempted from the requirements of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). Bill was defeated in Committee.

LD652 An Act to Clarify the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. AIA Maine closely monitored the bill, which was amended and voted to become Public Law Chapter 261. It sets December 1, 2010, as the date by which municipalities over 2,000 residents must begin enforcement of the MUBEC. It sets December 1, 2010, as the date that MUBEC becomes the successor to all adopted building, energy and radon codes and standards. It sets December 1, 2010, as the effective date for code enforcement officers to be certified in MUBEC standards. And it charges the Tech Board to adopt MUBEC by June 1, 2010.

**The Special Committee on Maine’s Energy Future**
LD1485 An Act Regarding Maine’s Energy Future (formerly LD777 An Act to Create Jobs and Improve Energy Efficiency through the Transformation of Maine’s Housing Stock.) On behalf of AIA Maine, I testified in favor of this proposal. It includes support for new and renovated affordable multi-family housing, and weatherization of existing owner occupied housing stock. These programs are to be financed by $30M in FY 2009-10 revenue bonds and another $30M in 2010-11 revenue bonds. It is the largest single investment in affordable housing in the State’s history, and it is designed to bring back jobs into the design/construction industry while at the same time addressing long neglected social needs.

**Taxation Committee**
LD976 An Act to Provide Tax Relief (a Citizen’s Initiative). Although the bill was voted down, it will still go to referendum this November. TABOR II, as it is being called, would impose significant limitations on state and municipal governments. Brace yourselves for another bruising round of public debate and special interest lobbying...

LD1314 An Act to Reform and Lower Maine Taxes. This bill would place a sales tax on professional memberships such as AIA Maine. It was killed in Committee.

**Utilities & Energy Committee**
LD44 An Act to Require Transmission Lines to Be Placed Underground near Certain Facilities. AIA Maine monitored, and it became Public Law Chapter 309. The final language needs to be studied to see what permitting restrictions may have been added for certain facilities.

LD935 Resolve Regarding Building Energy Efficiency and Carbon Performance Ratings. AIA Maine monitored, and it became Public Law Chapter 134. It directs the PUC and stakeholders groups to develop or select a standardized rating system and reporting form for building energy efficiency and carbon performance; to take steps to encourage the use of the selected rating system and reporting form; and to develop a voluntary library of results.

In summary it was a very busy year. We tracked and evaluated about 92 bills that will, would or could affect what we do as architects. We won some, lost very few and had many carried over to next session. In other words we survived to fight another day. Thanks to all the members who helped, and in particular to Judy Harvie for her hard work.

Navigating the Economy

AIA

Resources and tools to weather the economic conditions.

www.aia.org/navigatingeconomy

Carol Gillis, AIA and Lynn Shaffer are at the Maine Preservation Green Rehab Conference co sponsored with AIA on May 22nd. Photo courtesy of Susan Koch.
Maine ACE Mentoring Program

by Program President, Gary Scott Frankel, AIA

I was first introduced to the ACE Mentoring Program while working as project manager on the Fort Lauderdale High School in Florida. Having been recruited by the structural consultant on the project, I quickly saw the Program’s benefits for both students and mentors.

ACE, an acronym for architecture, construction and engineering, was founded in New York in 1994 by a group of firms which recognized a growing need to recruit and interest new talent in a construction related career. Professionals within the organizing offices volunteered to mentor 90 students and introduce them to the various professionals involved in building projects and the role that each performed in planning, designing and constructing a project.

From its beginning ACE Mentoring has adopted the mission of increasing the awareness of high school students for career opportunities in architecture, construction, engineering and other construction related fields through mentoring; and to provide scholarships for participants. Today, the ACE is the construction industry’s fastest-growing mentoring program and is open to any high school student interested in learning more about a career in the building industry and its allied trades.

ACE is a unique partnership among industry professionals including architects, interior designers, engineers, contractors, construction managers, college and university representatives, all of whom work together to mentor student participants. Industry professionals volunteer to become mentors to students in order to introduce and encourage them to pursue studies and careers in a construction related field. In return the industry gets a much-needed boost of new talent.

Since its inception the ACE Mentor Program has grown into more that 80 cities from Florida to Alaska and Maine to Hawaii—and continues to grow. Thanks to the dedication of ACE’s volunteer mentors, the support of local schools, industry supporters and students, the Program has afforded many who might not have had an opportunity to explore their interest in a design/construction related field.

With the volunteers from WBRC Architects/Engineers and the Cianbro Corporation, the 2008-09 school year saw the first Maine ACE Program take place at Hampden Academy. Proudly, four students graduated and were awarded $2000 in scholarships. This first year was a huge success, and as a result, and with the help of Consigli Construction Co., ACE will be expanding into the Portland area during this upcoming 2009-10 school year.

WBRC’s Rob Beal, Associate AIA, works with Hampden Academy students Jon Haws (middle) and Coplin Fickett (right). Photo courtesy of Gary Frankel, AIA.

AIA Maine Welcomes...

Matthew Daughdrill, Associate AIA
Luckse Design
Gray

Michael Johanning, AIA
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