

EVENT E33 – ETHICS OF INFLUENCE

HOW TO ETHICALLY IMPACT PUBLIC POLICY

Some highlights of 80 years of MAA (Minnesota Architectural Association), MSA (Minnesota Society of Architects), MSAIA (Minnesota Society American Institute of Architects) and AIA Minnesota advocacy at the legislature.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS



1936

CONVENTION AT DULUTH SKETCH OF WHAT HAPPENED - Discussions pertaining to legislation, the registration act, practice, fees and ethics and the responsibility of the architect and his status in the present economic order.

1937

Two bills, SF 1219 and HF 1224 which if passed in their original forms would have voided the Registration Act....were also killed. These bills were sponsored by the State Department of Education in an attempt to legalize the practice which the Department has been following of furnishing plans and specifications to rural school districts.

1938

"A Tribute - Charles A. Hausler, who has served the State of Minnesota as a member of the State Senate for sixteen years, has decided not to be a candidate for reelection."

Governor Elmer Benson appoints a committee of MAA architects to investigate bidding irregularities at Bemidji State Teachers College, and lives to regret it.

1940

AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION AT LOUISVILLE "In the discussion of the value of the Institute, one point was brought out that would alone justify its existence and support all these years, namely, the income to the profession from CWA, HABS, HOLC, PWA, WPA, USHA, and others. Without the efforts of the Institute, it is probable that the architects would have small place in this picture."

Is Your Building Safe? "Minnesota is today one of the few states neither having a state building code nor having any enforcement agency having to do with the protection of the public in the construction of new buildings and the safety of existing buildings."

1945

Far reaching and important changes in the MN Registration Act.

1957

"Minnesota Code Report Submitted to Legislature"

1959

"Committee seeks Answers to Handicapped Persons' Problems in Architectural Design"

1962

Archaic \$250,000 state debt limit is cramping construction; MN launches unique study of architectural barriers

1965

"Statute of Limitations and Building Code Made Law in Minnesota"

1967

Barriers Award will be feature of the MSA Convention

1968

MSA's Delegation is Tops at Washington, DC Legislative Conference; 26 Minnesota architects and 5 PEs led 300 members

1971

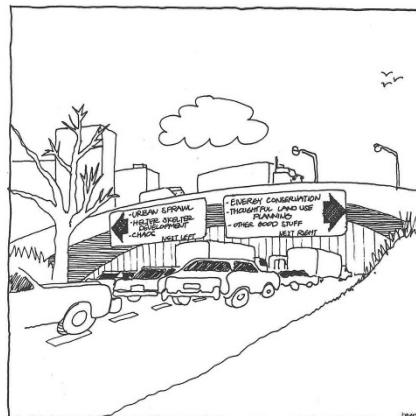
Minnesota's "Best" Architectural Barrier Law; "What is considered by many directly concerned with the problems of the handicapped as the best piece of legislation yet passed by any state legislature has been signed into Minnesota law." Wendell Anderson, Governor, Arne Carlson, principal House sponsor.

1972

New Guide for the Design and Construction of Schools in Minnesota... a new contract for architectural services has been prepared as well as a New Guide for the Design and Construction of Minnesota Schools."

1973

"The Minnesota Society of Architects has been historically concerned with the quality of the natural and built environment and, through its Legislative Committee, constantly monitors proposed legislation...The MSA believes that one of the foremost issues facing the legislature is the development of transit systems which will meet the needs of the 1980s and beyond...Within this framework we would advocate a single transpiration fund and would favor any reasonable proposal that would permit a portion of the dedicated gas-highway trust to be made available for other modes of transportation. On other pending legislation: Limitation on outdoor advertising – YES; Elimination of any visual signs of public utilities – YES; Experimental City – YES; 4% sales tax on professional services – NO; Public representation on state boards –YES; Frivolous suits legislation - YES"



ENERGY
CONSERVATION

1975

"It is the Legislature's duty to see that whatever services and goods are purchased by the State represent the best per dollar value possible. In this spirit the legislature last year established the Designer Selection Board to ensure that architectural consultants are selected on the basis of competence rather than political influence..."

1977

The Minnesota Supreme Court handed down a decision which negated the original intent of the Minnesota Statute of Limitations as it applies to architects, engineers and contractors. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING: That the language flaws in the present statute be corrected to ensure the original intent, that there be a 10-year statute of limitations...that we consider reducing the ten years to six years, as in our neighboring state of Wisconsin." - "A Statewide Uniform Building Code is Needed. Energy Conservation: Additional Dramatic Steps are Needed.

The Commission on Minnesota's Future, by Elizabeth Close, FAIA (member of the Commission) - "The Commission on Minnesota's Future was established by the Legislature in 1973. It was charged with developing a growth and development strategy for the State...Frances Naftalin, who along with Bruce McLaury co-chaired the Commission, put the problem in perspective at our last meeting: 'Nobody is an expert about the future.'..The Commission members all agreed that 'quality of life' was the overriding goal...As architects we have the responsibility to shape the future; let's be sure we don't muffle it."

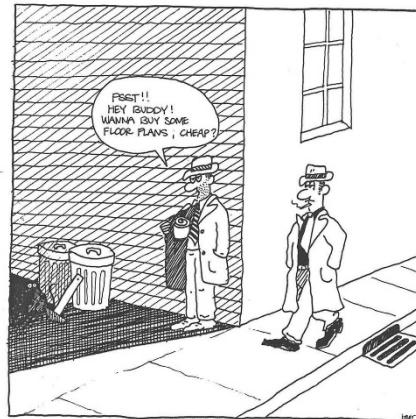
1980

Reinstated the Statutes of Limitation and Repose

1986-2014

Resisted the licensure of interior designers multiple times;

REGISTRATION
OF
DESIGN
PROFESSIONALS



1990-1996

Lobbied for bonding funds for College of Architecture Building Addition by holding legislative coffee parties at members' homes and offices across the state;

1992

Worked with Board of AEISLAGID to develop a Handbook for Building Officials to remind them of professional licensing laws, then proposed and passed legislation funding an investigator for the Board to enforce them.

1995

Testified before the Senate Transportation Committee in favor of construction of the Central Corridor LRT.

1996-2000

Defended the State Designer Selection Board against multiple assaults by University of Minnesota and MNSCU;

1997

Worked with a coalition of CEC/M, MSPE, the MN Bar, and the National Tort Reform Coalition to write and enact a Certificate of Merit statute, requiring certification of expert review in civil actions against architects, engineers, CPAs, attorneys, land surveyors and landscape architects.

1998

Clarified statute 16B.17 that was being misinterpreted by one state agency to require retainage on A/E contracts;

1998-2005

In alliance with AGC and CEC/M, wrote, lobbied for, and enacted a law allowing the use of design/build, CM-at-Risk and job-order contracting for state agencies, strengthening the State Designer Selection Board and requiring its use for such projects;

1999

Worked with CEC/M to write continuing education requirements for MN licensure into statute after the Board of AEISLAGID's rule-making process failed;

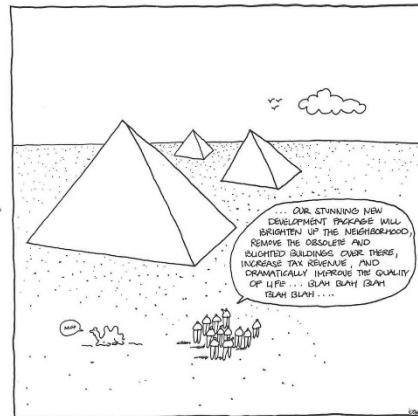
1973-2001

Along with the much stronger advertising and legal industries, opposed sales taxes on professional services, recently re-branded as business-to-business taxes;

2007-2013

The statue of repose was amended on the floor of the MN House with no public notice or hearing, and nobody noticed until the next year when the I-35w bridge collapsed and generated legal claims. When the dust cleared, literally, architects and engineers were left with perpetual liability once again; AIAMN worked with a coalition of other groups to fix repose one more time in 2013.

PIRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES



MEET YOUR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - "Every Architect should make it a point to become acquainted with his representative in the State Legislature and the State Senate before the opening of the legislature in January if possible. Later on when the Association's legislative program is presented to the legislature it will be of immeasurable value if your representative knows something about the organization back of the measures and the fact that the legislation which the Association is proposing is definitely in the public interest and something every legislator can be proud to support. So, in the interest of the public health and safety, the building industry as a whole and your own interests, get acquainted with the men elected in November." – Northwest Architect, Nov/Dec, 1938