



AIA Philadelphia Associates Committee

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects
1218 Arch Street · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Architecture Group Mentoring Program – Call for Participants

Hello,

AIA Philadelphia's Associates Committee is organizing Round #3 of the group-mentoring program for people in the architecture profession in Philadelphia. The purpose of the program is to create a dialogue between architects and aspiring architects to share career experiences and goals. It's an opportunity for mentoring-up and mentoring-down! If you've participated in this program in the past, we've got new meeting topics for you to avoid redundancy.

Each mentor group will have a college student, an intern architect, a recently licensed architect, and an experienced architect. The advantage of having one person from each level of experience is that sometimes a person needs to know about next steps for the next month or year, and sometimes a person needs advice on a five or ten year plan. Plus, those who have been in the field for many years can find out what's being taught in colleges. We had over 100 participants each in Round #1 and Round #2!

The program is a minimum total of three hours over three months. Each group should meet at least three times, averaging once a month, for an hour each time. You will decide with the members of your mentoring group if you want to meet in-person or via conference call.

The logistics:

- The program administrator randomly arranges the members in each group. If you participated in Round #1 or 2 of the program, you will not be with the same group members again.
- A group coordinator will be assigned for each group who will then contact the other members of the group to make convenient arrangements for each meeting.
- There is a separate attachment with suggested discussion topics for each meeting, but this is an informal program so they are just guidelines!
- Beginning **February 11th**, 2013, through **May 6th**, 2013, your group coordinator will contact you to set up your group's first in-person or conference call meeting.

If you would like to participate in this program, please email archmentoring.philly@gmail.com with the following information by **February 4th**:

For students: Name, email, University, year in school

For intern architects, New Architects, and Experienced Architects: Name, email, Firm Name (if applicable), years of experience, licensed/unlicensed

You do not have to be an AIA member to participate in this program! Please email archmentoring.philly@gmail.com if you have any questions before or during the program.

Please forward this program along to your coworkers and peers in the architecture profession in Philadelphia, including all universities and college programs in the area.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Bernstein, AIA, LEED AP+
Architecture Group Mentoring Program Chair

Erike De Veyra, Assoc. AIA
AIA Philadelphia Associate Committee Chair

E: archmentoring.philly@gmail.com

Architecture Group Mentoring Program Meeting Topics – Round 3

Meeting 1

Introductions – tell everyone about yourself. What brought you to Philadelphia?

Education experience: Where did you (do you) go to school?

How can the student and recent grad build a good and diverse portfolio while in school or while searching for a job?

Did you study abroad? Where?

Work experience – In what architecture firm(s) have you worked?

How far along are you with IDP? How can anyone in your group help or advise you to move along?

Discuss any questions/confusions about the IDP process (all participants)?

Optional Assignment: If you would like to review a page or two from your portfolio with your group, bring it in for Meeting #2.

Meeting 2

Discuss each other's sample portfolio pages.

Discuss any tips for portfolios/resumes/interviewing

What's your 5-year plan for your architecture career (all participants)?

Discuss differences between working large and small firms & firm structure.

Should you move around to different firms throughout your career? If so, how often?

How does your career change once you're licensed?

*What are pros and cons of starting your own firm?

*If you have experience in this area, please describe in detail

*How long to work under someone before starting your own practice?

*Discuss what you know about the business/financial side of architecture.

*What kinds of opportunities are available for professional/business development?

Assignment: be prepared to discuss at least one building/structure/artwork that inspires you. Either bring in or email at the time of your next meeting some photographs of these places/objects.

Meeting 3

Discuss the buildings/structures/artworks that inspire you.

What type of architecture do you want to practice?

Have you practiced more than one kind of architecture throughout your career?

Discuss the different kinds of practices and specialties that exist.

Share advice on which firms to apply to for this type of architecture.

*Discuss community and professional organizations and Pro Bono opportunities (i.e. local community boards, Community Design Collaborative, AIA, USGBC, etc).

*Discuss networking opportunities (through above listed organizations or other opportunities)?

What is your proudest moment as an architect (aside from getting your stamp) and why?

What about being an architect was surprising or different from what you expected?

** Indicates new meeting topics*