



# Russell A. Davidson, AIA

Candidate for AIA Vice President - 2012-2013

## Why?

Many have asked me why I would run for this office? I always follow through on projects and right now the AIA is in the middle of a transition process and I want to see it get done right. This transition presents a unique opportunity to transform the AIA from a good organization to a great one. During my service on the Board I have been a part of this evolution and I feel that I can be influential in bringing this change to a positive conclusion. I work at being thoughtful, concise and positive during Board discussions. I also find the process of listening to members concerns very enlightening and believe that I have effectively voiced the concerns of the practitioners who are the core of our profession.

## What difference will I make?

### Focus on Public Advocacy!

"A rising tide lifts all of the boats." If the many "publics" served by Architects better appreciate the full spectrum of professional service offered by our profession it will benefit practitioners, emerging professionals and non-traditional practitioners, as well as attract more diverse individuals into the field. Improved effectiveness of public advocacy efforts must be the core role of our professional association.

### One AIA - Local Components are most effective in servicing members.

AIA has an abundance of communication vehicles but is still not effectively engaging the membership in actual dialogue. While there are an abundance of resources available from the National Component, there is a serious lack of effective distribution of these resources to the local components. I will work to build a better distribution network so that the knowledge and support will be available to all members and staff at all levels of the AIA.



Image of a Pedro Guerrero photo I own entitled, "Picnic at Taliesin, Summer 1940" Frank Lloyd Wright refused to join the AIA. His reasons still resonate today and provide insight as to the full role of the AIA for many practicing architects. This was the central theme of my speech at Grassroots. "The value of architects and architecture should be the lens through which we view all that is important to our profession." "Architects matter every day to every one."

See the full speech at [AIA.org](http://AIA.org) or contact me and I'll send it to you.

## Commitment:

- I will show positive results by finding a balance between the "art" of the achievable right now and continuing to remain committed to the AIA's longer term goals.
- As a practicing architect I understand how the profession has lost ground over time and will work to re-establish the appropriate role of the Architect in the design and construction industry.
- As a leader at many levels of the AIA and treasurer of one of the largest regions, I understand that fiscal responsibility is a basic principle that must be understood by all leaders.
- AIA needs to do a better job for all of its members and I will pursue this mission with intelligence and a "sense of urgency" to show measurable improvement.

Write or call anytime: e-mail - [rdavidson@kgdarchitects.com](mailto:rdavidson@kgdarchitects.com), voice - 914.666.5900  
firm website - [kgdarchitects.com](http://kgdarchitects.com) (see reverse for more background info.)





## Practice:

President - KG&D Architects & Engineers PC, Mt. Kisco, NY

I joined this firm immediately after graduate school over 25 years ago starting as a draftsman. Since becoming a principal in 1994, the firm's revenues have grown tenfold and our current staff is 20. We do primarily publicly funded projects throughout our region completing over \$600 Million in construction value over the last 10 years. Two of our buildings were recently named among the top ten in our County. Our practice is focused on the planning and design of educational facilities. As a principal of the firm I often spend two to three nights a week at public meetings presenting projects for public approval. This experience provides a first hand understanding of what the public really understands about the value of architecture and architects and how to effectively transform that understanding. One example of this transformation is the Post Road school project pictured above, which was to be "value - engineered" to have few sustainable features. After several meetings with a challenging city-wide committee, all of the sustainable features were added back and the project was completed on time and under budget. Energy modeling, verified by utility bills, indicate that this building uses 65% less energy than the base case.



## AIA:

I joined the AIA when I became licensed and have served in the following positions:

- AIA Westchester / Mid-Hudson - Board Member
- AIA Westchester / Mid-Hudson - President - 2000
- AIA New York State - Board Member - 2001
- AIA New York State - Treasurer - 2002 - 2005
- AIA New York State - President - 2007
- AIA National - Regional Director, Member Board Advocacy Committee - 2008-2011

I first became active in the AIA due to an interest in public relations for practicing architects. Since then I have held a wide range of positions including managing the finances of the State organization, serving on a selection committee for our new Executive Director and as president during the first year of that transition. I worked very closely with other professional associations for years to affect reform to project delivery in the State. On the national advocacy committee I have led efforts for public engagement and now public policies. Awards include the AIANY DelGaudio award for public service and a National award for a government advocacy program in 2007 (pictured above).



## Personal:

B.A. degree from Union College in Architectural Aesthetics, a self designed program combining philosophy, art history, studio art & engineering. Masters in Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY. I live and work with my wife Susan, an interior designer, and have two daughters, Madeleine (studying classical guitar) and Eliza (studying classical ballet) in college. I have been remodeling or building my own homes for most of my life (built one, remodeled three and counting...). I enjoy golf, cycling, kayaking, reading and designing homes for relatives in the remainder of my time. The first home I designed was my parent's retirement home (elevation is in background and photo at right) on Lake George in the Adirondack

