AIANYS GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Timothy G. Boyland, AIA
- V.P. of Government Advocacy (2012/2013)
- Member, Government Advocacy Committee (2008 - )
A Collaboration of the AIA, The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, and local Elected Officials...

The Staten Island Waterfront Project:  
In collaboration with AIA Staten Island

The first R/UDAT in the City of New York

Timothy G. Boyland, AIA / Steering & Implementation Committee Member

Study aims to take advantage of Island's Shores

Staten Island has long failed to maximize the Island potential in its name, local business and community leaders agree. To find out how to best use its best resource - a little over 30 miles of coastline, including chunks of waterfront currently cut off by vacant industrial land or private streets - the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is turning now to a special design team from the Washington D.C.- based American Institute of Architects.

“One of the things the AIA provides is an unbiased opinion...it was the underutilized waterfront that really got the AIA's attention.”

Linda Baran, President and CEO
Staten Island Chamber of Commerce
Staten Island Growth Management Task Force (LDGM TF)

Borough-wide Planning Task Force with AIA Staten Island
Timothy G. Boyland / Task Force Member and Contributor

In July of 2003, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the formation of the Staten Island Growth Management Task Force. The Task Force, co-chaired by City Planning Director Amanda M. Burden and Borough President James Molinaro, was charged with examining issues of overbuilding and development, and identifying solutions, potential legislative changes, and strategic long-term planning initiatives to protect and enhance Staten Island’s quality of life.

In December 2003, the Task Force released its first recommendations for improving residential development on Staten Island, encouraging appropriate commercial development and identifying long-term planning needs. All three Staten Island community boards, the Borough Board and Borough President overwhelmingly supported the proposed changes and these new rules were enacted in 2004. For a number of years thereafter, City Planning continued to work with the Task Force and the Department of Buildings and proposed a series of zoning text and map amendments to implement additional Task Force recommendations for commercial and residential districts. All of these proposals have been adopted by the City.
Three days after Super Storm Sandy, a small group of local architects arrived at Staten Island’s Borough Hall to ask, “what can we do to assist?” On that Friday morning, and several days following, the architects, members of the local AIA Chapter, walked alongside City Inspectors as the daunting task of emergency building safety assessments was begun.

Moved by our experiences those first days following the storm, I and two colleagues, discussed the short term and long term planning needs of the devastated neighborhoods. Local government, unprepared for an event such as this, was mobilizing and responsive but not entirely effective. There was no script to follow. There was no discussion of comprehensive planning, at least not at that point. We recognized that the one component of disaster recovery that was not being discussed, and was unlikely to be for some time to come, was community participation in neighborhood planning.

Together we designed a program that would give voice to Staten Islanders in the reconstruction and future planning of their neighborhoods. The resulting program was called, Simagines: Planning for Recovery Program.

The purpose of the program was to develop a shared, unified, community vision of the future of Staten Island’s coastal communities in the aftermath of Sandy. In collaboration with AIA Staten Island and Hunter College, and with the assistance of AIA New York State, The Staten Island Foundation, The College of Staten Island, FEMA, and The American Planning Association, Simagines designed and began conducting a series of Planning and Reconstruction Workshops. These workshops brought Staten Islanders directly impacted by Super Storm Sandy, homeowners and renters, small business owners, and community leaders together in a collaborative environment focused on developing tangible, informed, plans for neighborhood recovery.

The program’s recommendations served to advise other planning initiatives, such as NY Rising, Build-it-Back and work being conducted by the Department of City Planning, with the goal of creating more resilient and sustainable coastal communities. Included among the recommendations are Impact Mitigation and Risk Reduction, Sustainable Regional Planning, Neighborhood Planning and Green Infrastructure, Site design and Coastal Zoning, New Housing Forms, Transportation Improvements and Education.
SiQuikStart: Post-Sandy Building Assessments (2012/2013)

Timothy G. Boyland, AIA: assigned to advise twenty households

In the weeks following Super Storm Sandy the office of Staten Island Borough President requested assistance from local AIA Architects to participate in a unique program designed to deliver professional guidance directly to hurricane-affected homeowners. The program, titled SiQuikStart, engaged the Architects to perform non-invasive assessments of the general physical condition of storm-damaged premises and advise impacted families and individual property owners on the process to recovery and reconstruction.

The reports produced were intended to serve as an initial conditions assessment and preliminary project forecast and Agency filing evaluation, to help homeowners identify the rules which are currently in place, and to assist in understanding the potential steps necessary to restore, repair, rebuild and/or reconstruct the subject, damaged property.

Resilient Neighborhoods Planning Study: East Shore

Assisted by AIA Staten Island
Timothy G. Boyland / Community Advisory Committee Member
TIMOTHY G. BOYLAND, A.I.A.

SAMPLE PROJECTS: CIVIC and PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

TIMOTHY G. Boyland, AIA / Working Group Member / Event Collaborator and Presenter

AIA Regional Recovery Working Group
AIA New York | AIA New Jersey | AIA Connecticut | AIA Rhode Island

Coastal Communities, Tools for Resilience

An Archtober program organized by:
Architecture for Humanity
AIA New York Chapter Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee
The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union

Post-Sandy: The Effect on the URBAN
Newark Symposium and Workshop

Stand Up!
How to Be a Part of the Solution after a Disaster
NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program
Timothy G. Boyland, AIA / Planning Committee Member

The goal of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Plan was to prepare the East and South Shores to better handle the impacts of severe storms and sea-level rise. The plan also aimed to build capacity within upland areas to ensure that all Staten Islanders are protected prior to, during, and following extreme weather events, and to strengthen the physical and social connections between the two. A thoughtful, cohesive plan identifying short, medium, and long-term strategies must be developed now in order to reduce future risk.

“The NY Rising Community Reconstruction program will empower localities to develop and implement recovery plans after the damage done by the devastating natural disasters to hit our state over the past two years...This program recognizes that New York’s effort to build back better must be a two pronged approach with the state not only leading critical infrastructure and broad investment strategies but also providing localities the resources they need to invest in their own future. When we are done, we will have risen to the challenge of making our great state not only more resistant to future storms, but stronger, more prosperous, and more prepared for years to come.”

- Andrew Cuomo, Governor

The Staten Island Community Planning Committee’s NY Rising Plan for the East and South Shores was recognized by the American Planning Association Award with an Award for Planning Excellence
An AIA Accredited Continuing Education Program
Cal OES Certified Trainer: Timothy G. Boyland, AIA

- Cal OES Certified SAP Trainer & Evaluator and NYS CEDAR Program Team Member
- Registered as a trainer with AIA National as part of the AIA’s State Disaster Assistance Program
- Part of a team that has trained hundreds of Architects, Engineers, and Code Officials in Post-Disaster Building Safety Assessment.

Training of Architects, Engineers, and Code Officials in Post-Disaster Safety Assessment - sponsored by AIANYS

Certified by The California Governor’s Office of Emergency

...Architects design environments that reduce harm and property damage, adapt to evolving conditions, and more readily, effectively and efficiently recover from adverse events. Additionally, the AIA supports member training and active involvement in disaster assistance efforts, providing valuable insights and aid to communities before, during, and after a destructive event.

AIA Position Statement on Resilience and Adaptation
The Role of Design Professionals Following a Declared Disaster

Response, Recovery and Resilience: Experiences in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy

An AIA Accredited Continuing Education Program

Course Originator & Presenter: Timothy G. Boyland, AIA

...a licensed architect with experience of professional practice spanning four decades. His expertise includes resilient building design, historic preservation, community revitalization and private land development, facilities planning, regulatory codes analysis, and post-disaster response and recovery.

The purpose of the program is to explore the various ways Architects, and other design professionals, served their communities in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. Lessons learned in the post-Sandy environment serve to inform future preparedness and resiliency, and inspire more effective and meaningful response the next time we find ourselves in a declared-disaster environment.

Learning Objectives:

- gain new insight into the impacts of Super Storm Sandy on communities in NYC and how design professionals have responded, including advocacy for liability protection
- be exposed to the process by which many design professionals assisted in the City’s development of new policies, procedures, codes, and zoning regulations in response to the disaster
- look at one case study where design professionals assisted neighborhood residents to voice their recommendations for rebuilding in their own communities – and how these recommendations informed governmental programs for rebuilding
- be introduced to the Cal OES (California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services) post-disaster Safety Assessment Program, review the primary components of the program, and explore how Architects and others can become engaged in post-disaster work
The Willowbrook Mile
A Community Planning Initiative assisted by AIA Staten Island

Timothy G. Boyland AIA, Concept Collaborator, Advisory and Planning Committee Member, Architect and Advocate

In the early 1970s, Willowbrook burst onto the national scene following a series of articles published by the Staten Island Advance detailing the deplorable conditions that Sen. Robert Kennedy compared to a “snake pit” following his 1965 visit to the institution.

Following the Geraldo Rivera, Eyewitness News exposé, residents and their families joined civil libertarians and mental health advocates in a lawsuit against the state “to prevent further deterioration and to establish that residents had a constitutional right to treatment,” according to The New York Times.

In April 1975, the Willowbrook Consent Judgment was signed, and it has been used since as a model throughout the United States and in many parts of the world. The closing of the Willowbrook State School in 1987 ushered in a new era for the way disabled people are treated, as they transitioned from isolation and institutionalization to integration into community residences across the State. New methodologies for addressing the needs of people with disabilities have been embraced locally, regionally, and nationally, sparked by the events that took place at and because of Willowbrook.

The Willowbrook Mile project is a collaboration among the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council, the College of Staten Island, the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities; and the Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center/Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. The shared vision for the former Willowbrook State School property is to create a pathway for everyone to share the history of the property that would be accomplished in an inclusive, productive, progressive, and creative manner within a community partnership.

The Willowbrook Mile uniquely creates an educational and fitness walking trail that connects the three neighboring properties. Reflection stations will be erected at sites along the pathway. The outdoor kiosks will be equipped with QAR scan code capability and contain audio, visual, and Braille signage components. At each station, visitors will be able to experience a particularly significant milestone in the history of the Willowbrook property.