

April 23, 2007

Dear Presidents:

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio. The next meeting of the Pan American Federation of Architect Associations, FPAA, will be held immediately before the AIA National Convention in San Antonio, May 1 and 2. We have seen an increase of participation markedly in the past two meetings and I know that San Antonio will continue the trend. I agree with the three discussion items for our meeting and I hope we at FPAA can add substance to the discussion.

1. Sustainable Design and Construction.

FPAA was a proud participant in signing of the 2005 Las Vegas Declaration. We have posted the declaration on our website and asked each member country to report, where applicable if they have specific activities that contribute to the dialogue. In general, our region has an acute awareness of climate changes, reducing carbon emissions, and our obligations to better care for our Environment. Often these discussions are linked to economic development, tourism, disparities in resources, and somewhat unique to the Americas, preservation of pre-Colombian, cultural heritage, as well as our Colonial and more recent patrimony. These desires can vary significantly among our countries in the Americas. To contribute additionally, we hope to issue our own parallel Declaration at the FPAA meeting and we expect to share it with you on Saturday.

2. Offshore Outsourcing.

Our region has members of our profession participating on both sides of the equation. In addition to the AIA initiative to study the practices, I will ask at our FPAA meeting if we can contribute to the discussion and to the database of information for each member country.

3. Mobility of Architects and WTO Commitments.

For the past few years, FPAA member countries have contributed to the development and dissemination of the UIA professional Practice Documents. Members ask for the latest news at each meeting. This will continue to be the case in San Antonio. The WTO aspect has been reported in our last meeting, but time did not allow for a thorough discussion. We expect to have time in San Antonio.

Serving as the FPAA President is a tremendous honor for me. Our profession is so dynamic and yet filled with people that care. I deeply appreciate working with you on these and other items.

See you next week.

Gabriel Durand-Hollis, FAIA
President FPAA