

Preparation for the Architect Registration Examination

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SUMMARY

AIA Miami has increased its associate membership and improved relations between local architecture schools through a new ARE preparatory program. The component developed a three-part preparatory program to facilitate emerging professionals maneuvering through the registration exam process.

A WIN-WIN PROGRAM ATTRACTS ASSOCIATES

AIA Miami has developed a unique, multifaceted program to help individuals prepare for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE)—a critical, and difficult, exam required for licensure to practice architecture in Florida (and many other states).

The program has three major components: semi-annual seminars, including a mock ARE, conducted by nationally recognized experts in graphics and structures; study groups supported by local architecture schools; and a resource center that includes a reference library, a computer, and a study area.

AIA Miami's program has benefited students, the AIA, and the architecture profession in many ways. More than 400 individuals have participated in the past six years, with an ARE pass rate of 90 percent. Associate membership in the component has increased from 14 to 81 as a direct result of the ARE preparation program. Many of the associates have since become full AIA members. In addition, AIA Miami has developed supportive partnerships with the architecture schools at the University of Miami and Florida International University.

The program is cost-effective and self-supporting. Seminar fees cover the \$10,000 annual cost, and extensive press coverage has attracted participants and eliminated the need to spend money on advertising.

IDENTIFYING A NEED

When he graduated from the University of Miami's School of Architecture, Virgilio Campaneria, Assoc. AIA, searched the state of Florida to find seminars,

study groups, or other resources to help him prepare for the ARE. He found none, so he turned to AIA Miami to help create resources for the many emerging architects who needed similar assistance. His tireless efforts, combined with the support of Mike Brazlavsky, executive director of AIA Miami, led to the creation of this innovative ARE preparation program.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

AIA Miami's goals were to create a program that would prepare individuals to take and pass the ARE, attract young architects to the AIA as associate members, recruit seminar leaders with outstanding credentials, help AIA increase the number of registered architects, and increase visibility and membership.

To further those goals, the leadership of AIA Miami

- Conducted research to identify presenters with outstanding credentials
- Recruited seminar presenters Norman K. Dorf, AIA, for graphics, and David Thaddeus, AIA, for structures
- Established partnerships with local architecture schools to provide space and materials for the ARE seminars and to involve students attending those schools
- Developed and conducted high-level seminars that resulted in a high pass rate among participants
- Promoted the ARE seminars and mock exams at the colleges and in the local news media
- Created study groups among the seminar participants
- Developed an ARE library and resource center with a dedicated computer
- Publicized the benefits of associate membership in the AIA to all who participated in the ARE programs

- Offered a discount to AIA Miami associates who participated in the seminars
- Created a stream of income to help build and develop the seminar program and resource center

REAPING RESULTS

Among more than 400 individuals from Florida, other states, and the Caribbean who have participated in the ARE seminars and mock exams, 90 percent have passed the ARE.

The ARE preparation program has led to a significant increase in associate members, many of whom go on to full AIA membership. ARE seminars have also increased the participation by emerging architects and student interns in AIA Miami events such as Architecture Week-Celebrate Architecture 2004.

Through this program, AIA Miami provides a valuable service to emerging architects and the profession. The program has generated positive news coverage for the component and fostered partnerships with schools of architecture—while providing an ongoing vehicle for attracting new members.

For More Information

Contact Lourdes Solera, AIA, at lsolera@mcharry.com or go to www.aiamiami.com.

RESOURCES

More Best Practices

The following AIA Best Practices provide additional information related to this topic:

- 22.02.01 AIA Houston Launches Regional Green Building Conference
- 22.02.02 ARE Success Teams
- 09.03.02 Mentoring Interns: A Firm Commitment

Feedback

The AIA welcomes member feedback on Best Practice articles. To provide feedback on this article, please contact bestpractices@aia.org.

Key Terms

- Leadership
- Associations
- Design associations
- Architectural associations
- The American Institute of Architects
- AIA components