



# e-news

## AIA LONG BEACH / SOUTH BAY

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June 2008

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### “Bright” Ideas at Our May Meeting

Members saw more than innovative lighting at the Lighting Design Alliance offices during our May program. LDA president Chip Israel has created a full-scale study in energy-efficient design that incorporates not only energy-saving lighting devices, but also passive solar strategies, reused and recycled materials, water-saving devices, and natural ventilation to reduce the need for HVAC. Thanks to Chip for sharing his vision with us!

### AIA National Convention

Several of your Board members cast their votes as your delegates during the AIA National Convention last month in Boston. In addition, they attended three keynote lectures that contained important messages for our profession.

The founder of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller, believes society is judged by how it treats its poorest citizens. He began by building just one house for one family and has since developed Habitat for Humanity into a worldwide enterprise. He challenges us to work toward a goal of providing housing for all our citizens.

A diverse panel of speakers discussed the best course of action for building in a post 9-11 world. Since it's impossible to design security measures for all possible contingencies, the panel recommends that architects create urban environments which foster an atmosphere of open communication and awareness among the people who live and work in them. This will enhance our security far more than trying to design living fortresses.

The closing speaker was Ambassador Andrew Young. In addition to sharing insights about his time with Martin Luther King, Jr. and as the US Ambassador to the United Nations, he spoke about the positive effect good architecture can have on the economy of a city. As Mayor of Atlanta, he worked with John Portman, FAIA, to turn his city into a major tourist destination. This in turn led to Atlanta's selection as host city of the 1996 Summer Olympics. The successes in Atlanta demonstrate the positive impact that thoughtful architecture can have on our society.

**Members First! ■ Promote Our Profession ■ Develop Tomorrow's Leaders**