January 29, 2009

Each year a Distinguished Alumni is honored at Commencement. This year I would like the committee to take note one such alumnus who has carried on with quiet dedication for decades at the BAC. He comes forward serves and retreats until called upon once again. And once again he stands up and volunteers for the BAC.

He has been at the BAC since 1959 and received his BAC certificate in 1970. He served as an Architectural Skills Instructor, 1970-1972, as a Design Studio Instructor, 1972-1974, a private tutor for a hearing impaired BAC student, 1974, he served on the original Alumni Association as Secretary, Vice President and President from 1974-1980. From 1976 through 1980 he served on the BAC Degree Granting Committee. He was the Alumni representative to the BAC Board of Directors and concurrently served as Chair of the Membership Committee, 1976-1980.

From 1972 to the present he served on the Honors and Awards Committee, a total of 36 years. He was a Thesis Advisor from 1974-1996 and a mentor to BAC students 1970-1998.

He received his B. Arch in 1983 from the BAC.

He chaired the House Committee 1990-1992 and was awarded Honorary Membership in the BAC in 1993. He served on the BAC Nominating Committee, 1994-1995, Chaired the 1992 Dean Cascieri 90th Birthday celebration at the BAC and was a charter member of the Cascieri Lectureship in the Humanities and served on the Cascieri Lectureship Committee from 1992-1995. Following this he served on EDCO 1996-1998.

He was elected a member of the Board of Overseers from 2004 to the present, a member of the Student Affairs Committee from 2006 to the present, a member of the Real Estate Committee 2007 to the present and was a member of the BAC Alumni Association Board of Directors 2002-2004 and remains a generous supporter of the BAC fund raising initiatives.

Professionally, Leo has spent his life in the corporate world working with major development and construction firms. His representative clients include John Hancock, Bay Bank, Shawmut Bank, Ciba Corning, Yankee Atomic Electric Company, TJX Companies, Thermo Electron, Kinney Parking Systems, CAN Insurance, USPS, HUD, GSA, Raytheon Engineers and Contractors and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to mention a few.

In addition to the BAC he is an adjunct professor at Massasoit Community College and has taught in the Continuing Ed program at Rhode Island School of Design.

His service to community: he was an original member of the Jamaica Plain Roxbury Southwest Corridor Committee, in 1971 a founding member of Urban Edge, Inc. and in 1981 a charter member of Boston Lions. From 1974 to 1978 he was an Associate member of the Walpole Zoning Board of Appeals, then serving as Chair of the Walpole Building Code Board of Appeals, was a professional
advisor to the Walpole High School Radio Station in 1984-1985. From 2004 to 2006 he co chaired the Walpole Municipal Facilities Study Committee and currently serves on the Town of Walpole’s Permanent Building Committee.

Based on his service to the BAC to her students and to his community I nominate Leo McCormack '70 as Distinguished Alumni 2009.

Bernie Goba '69
August 17, 2009

BAC Alumni Association
Honors and Awards Committee

Re: 2009 Distinguished Alumni in Practice

In putting forth the following nomination, I did some research on the nominee. He is in the class of 1970 and was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard in 1978. His work has spanned public housing planning to private multi family housing to individual homes in the Caribbean. As disparate as these projects may seem, that is public housing to single residences to Caribbean vacation homes his approach to each is a function of creative, thoughtful design.

His work in the United States includes program development, consensus building and master planning for three Hope VI developments. The John Henry Hale Home in Nashville, TN was his 3rd Hope VI project and included housing of 228 units.

Another Hope VI project was the John F. Kennedy Senior Housing, Cambridge, MA. here he planned and programmed and modified a single use building. The single use was changed to redesigned independent senior apartments on upper levels while providing assisted living units on the lower levels. At eh ground level he placed medical care, food service, meeting rooms and public spaces.

In New Haven, CT at Monterey Place he demolished 450 distressed housing units and replaced them with 565 new units of housing which added individual home ownership opportunities.

Houston Texas’ largest public housing development, known as Allen Parkway Village was scorned by its citizens as “what is wrong with public housing”. After much consensus building with tenants and public officials a new alternative emerged with family row housing and designated commercial/retail space within the development for the 500 units residing there. Park Allen Village is now pointed at with communal pride the Houston’s citizens and tenants.

Earlier in his work, Fidellis Way in Brighton, MA was upgraded and redesigned. His success received many plaudits including one from Boston Globe article which stated; “what Fidellis Way demonstrates is that even today’s public housing can be made attractive”.

In Indianapolis, Indiana he joint ventured with a local architect on two Hope VI projects, known as Concord Village and Eagle Creek. Due to there poor state he demolished both sites and rebuilt 170 units on the sites with an additional 70 off site units onm scattered sites.

The Knickerbocker, a 9 unit luxury condominium in Brookline reflects his strong sense of design. His residential work locally and in the Caribbean is site sensitive and designed with skill and restraint.
His work has been published in Architectural Record, Boston Globe, Builder Magazine, Caribbean Travel and Life, Metropolitan Home, Progressive Architecture and Space & Society.

He has received recognition and awards from The American Institute of Architects, The Boston Society of Architects, Urban Land Institute, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Cambridge, MA, The Precast Concrete Institute, the National Endowment for the Arts and The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

I am pleased to nominate Steve Tise class of 1970 of Tise Design Associates as the 2009 Distinguished Alumni in Practice.

Respectfully,

Bernard J. Goba "69