

## Swan Song

**Is it over? *Already?***

What a great run this year has been – and **what great people** I’ve had the privilege to work with. If I listed all those to whom I owe thanks here, it would fill the bulletin; so in the weeks ahead I’ll do my best to extend **gratitude** to the many who make the AIACV such a **vibrant and relevant organization**.

By now, you’ve heard a few of my **mantras** : *‘If you’re not in the room, you’re not in the deal’*; *“Run toward the fire”* ... you may have even been arm twisted in my zeal to **ACT**. I’d rather launch a dozen initiatives and have half fizzle, than wring my hands and wait for the right time and end a term at the helm with more of a *whimper* than a **bang**. In that light, the initiative of which I’m most proud turned out to be my very last ‘new launch’: the **AIACV Leadership Council**, the inaugural meeting of which occurred just a few days ago. In one room were gathered nearly half of all those who have EVER SERVED on the AIACV Board (the one qualification for membership other than past leadership service: to be breathing). The food, drink and camaraderie were great – but the heart of the evening was the brainstorming we did: who are we are; what are our strengths and weaknesses as a profession. We are, after all, **THE VOICE of the architectural profession**. I was personally blown away by what bubbled up in the comments – **NOT ONE** bit of angst about business, in spite the chaotic times we’re in. Instead, the discussion was about the core values that brought us to this profession in the first place – **the optimism that WE can make a difference** – in our region, in our environment, in mentoring and supporting the emerging leaders who will follow us. **In other words, more about shaping PATTERNS and RELATIONSHIPS than BUILDINGS. WOW!** It could not have been more inspirational!

As an organization, we have **NEVER BEEN MORE ACTIVE**. If anything, our plate is **OVERFULL**. Going forward given the business climate, we will likely have to focus our energy and time (our most scarce resources) for maximum effectiveness. Newly launched this year we have a **scholarship program**, a **Political Action Committee**, a dynamic **Design Review Task Force**, an evolving **Regional Forum**, the **Encounter Design** event and **Gratitude with Attitude** party; **Second Saturday** public events in our gallery; and a great **partnering** relationship with Sacramento. This is all in addition to our full plate of regular **building tours**, **continuing education** events, the ECOS partnered **Smart Growth Council**; and long active groups like **COTE**, **Design Awards**, **Code Conversation**, **Golf and Tennis**, **Sketch Safaris ... and more**. While handling all this in the last year, we also were able to put into place the first



redo of our **Bylaws** in decades (revolutions include public and allied members on our board, electronic voting, virtual meetings and more); manage the build out of our **new offices**, and expand our membership with a **membership drive**. To top it off, the AIACV also **re-engaged with AIA** at the state and national levels; in fact in the two years coming up we will have unprecedented representation on the AIACC executive committee including President Elect Nick Doucas - and my new role as VP of Communications and Public Affairs.



Taken all together, it's rather breathtaking. The theme that really ties all the energy and action together is our shared vision as an organization: to redefine our success as **relevancy – relevancy to our members, our allies, and the public at large.**

**I'll wrap up with the most important two words:  
THANK YOU!**

Mike Malinowski AIA

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PS: I'm not quite done yet ... as you may see these articles and more in months ahead:

**What Bugs Architects ...**

What might YOU add to this list?

**What's the Worst that could Happen?**

Things are not as bad as they feel

**Busting Silos**

The real and virtual separations that keep us from connecting

**A Radical Proposal: 123 toward a NEW AIA**

Most AIA benefits are local; dues should be too.

**Too Much Information**

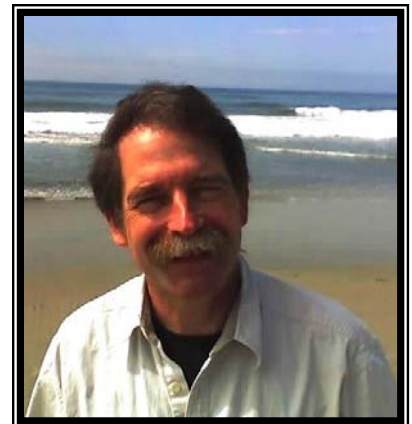
We are going down in saltwater ...drowning yet thirsty

**In Defense of Design**

Design rules lead to .... *mediocrity*

**Seasons of the Architect**

An Emotional Journey ... You've been on it too



...It's Not ... a Vacation