



AIA Pennsylvania

PALM: Promoting Advocacy & Licensure through Mentoring **Meeting Topics**

Meeting 1 - Past, Present Future

- Introductions – tell everyone about yourself. What brought you to this city?
- When did you decide to become an architect?
- Education experience: Where did you (do you) go to school? Did you study abroad? Where?
- Work experience – In what architecture firm(s) have you worked? Where are you working now?
- Discuss the licensure process, from AXP to how and when to take the AREs.
- Compare & Contrast ARE 5.0 & ARE 4.0.
- What's your 5-year plan for your architecture career?
- Discuss differences between working large and small firms & how firms are structured.
- Should you move around to different firms throughout your career? If so, how often? How does your career change once you're licensed?
- What's your 10-year plan for yourself, your firm, the profession? Discuss obstacles to overcome and suggest strategies to advance career.

Assignment: If you would like to review your resume & portfolio with your group, bring it in for Meeting 2.

Meeting 2 - Professional Development & Practice Management

- Review resume and portfolio. Discuss any tips for improvement.
- Discuss the interview process for new projects and new employees. Suggest critical questions to ask and answer.
- Discuss tips for successfully networking, advancing your career and how to take on new responsibilities at work.
- Discuss tips for giving productive criticism, managing projects and employees
- Discuss the differences between a Manager and a Leader.
- What are pros and cons of starting your own firm? If you have experience in this area, please describe in detail. How long should you work under someone before starting your own practice?
- How should one manage/operate a firm?
- Discuss what you know about the business/financial side of architecture. What kinds of opportunities are available for professional/business development?
- How do you expect your professional development to occur? How do you expect the profession to change?

Assignment: Be prepared to discuss at least one building/structure/artwork that inspires you. Either bring in some photographs of these places/objects. If you've done this in past years, make sure you have something new to share!

OR



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Assignment: Be prepared to discuss at least one key issue facing the architecture profession. How can advocacy by you and the AIA make a difference?

Meeting 3 - Design with Purpose. Architects & the Community

- Discuss the buildings/structures/artworks that inspire you (based on images you brought in).
- What type of architecture do you want to practice? Discuss the different kinds of practices and specialties that exist. Share advice on which firms to apply to for this type of architecture.
- Discuss community and professional organizations and Pro Bono opportunities (i.e. local community boards, Community Design Collaborative, AIA, USGBC, etc).
- How would you rank the importance of those organizations/certifications?
- Discuss networking opportunities (through above listed organizations or other opportunities)?
- How do you search for a Masters in Architecture program that's right for you?
- Discuss the key issue facing the architecture profession in your city, state or country.
- What is the value of AIA Membership?

Assignment: Now that you've completed your 3rd meeting, discuss the possibility of holding a 4th. Perhaps consider meeting at an upcoming event or at a place of architectural significance.

OR

Assignment: Recap a recent event you attend with your PALM group via email.

OR

Assignment: Post a group photo on social media! Don't forget to tag your AIA Chapter!

Additional Conversation Starters:

- Do you have a current design problem you'd like to discuss/ work through with your group?
- What current construction project in Pennsylvania/your area are you most excited to see completed? What feature of it will have the best impact on our city?
- Where is your next travel destination? Is the reason for travel a fun vacation or is there something about it you've always wanted to see, such as urban design, a building, a structure, artwork, or just to drive on the other side of the road? If there is one place you want to go to in your lifetime because of something you learned in school, where will it be (i.e. Notre Dame du Haut by Le Corbusier)?