



Boston Society of Architects

**BSA**

Annual report, 2010

## ***ANNUAL REPORT, 2010***

<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>PUBLIC OUTREACH</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>ADVOCACY</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>PRACTICE</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>PEOPLE</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>WHO WE ARE</i>	<i>19</i>



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On the cover: Cambridge Public Library,  
designed by William Rawn Associates,  
Architects with Ann Beha Architects,  
winner of the 2010 Harleston Parker Medal.  
Photograph by Robert Benson.

## LETTER FROM THE BSA PRESIDENT

{ Audrey O'Hagan AIA }

*In 2010, the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) laid the groundwork.*

*We dug in and spent the year working toward a new space, a new executive director, a new website.*

With the economy entering a slow recovery, we loaded up on professional skill-building opportunities, secured legal protections for architects' fees, kept our networks humming and held dues down for a third year in a row—an unprecedented effort to increase services even as revenue slackened. We took advantage of the economic conditions by securing a new space that will further our mission at a cost no more than currently incurred.



Thousands of hours were devoted to imagining and building better tools and services for our members, investing in the health and stability of the organization, and engaging a wider swath of the public. The momentum of innovation, our determined focus and the sheer excitement in designing "what if" pushed us through the lingering recession in 2010 and happily point to new horizons ahead.

At year-end, we are poised to share our community's passion and vitality with the public in unprecedented ways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Audrey O'Hagan".



Teams of all disciplines and experience levels tackled building challenges during the Common Build competition, part of the BSA's Common Boston festival in June. Photograph by Conor MacDonald.

## MEMBERSHIP

{ Our core community }

*"I'm a BSA success story!" BSA members drive our organization, bring programs to life, inspire our community and staff and take leadership in architecture and design across the Commonwealth.*

**Stronger together »** As a profession and community, we weather downturns and prepare for the growth ahead together. Many members found strength in the BSA in 2010.

With the completion of a few projects at design/build start-up Placetaylor, **VALERIE FONTANA ASSOC. AIA** found herself without much work. Newly relocated to Boston from San Diego, she quickly started putting down roots. She put her skills to work at The Green Roundtable/Nexus, which she found through the **BSA'S BUILDING INDUSTRY CLASSIFIEDS**. Her spare time was filled with planning Common Build, a design/build competition held during the **COMMON BOSTON** festival. Diligently maintaining her resume on the BSA website, she was contacted for a few interviews before meeting with architects at Carr, Lynch & Sandell, who needed to fill a position immediately. She accepted the job. Now, she's working on residential projects, including a mid-century cliffside retreat overlooking Boston Harbor, and continues to volunteer with Common Boston.



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**Classifieds and a strong network are just a few of the member services the BSA provides.**

*ArchitectureBoston* ARE Success Teams BSA ChapterLetter Continuing-education reporting  
*Homeowner's Project Handbook* Professional directories

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Find work at [architects.org/jobs](http://architects.org/jobs). Read more profiles at [architects.org/news](http://architects.org/news).

## MEMBERSHIP

{ By the numbers }

In 2010, BSA membership included approximately 3,800 public, professional and affiliate members. More than 2,300 BSA members are architects. Another 500 are associate members—professionals on the path to becoming licensed architects, or working as designers. Affiliate members include engineers, contractors, owners/clients, public officials, other allied professionals, students and other interested individuals.

<i><b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b></i>	<i><b>2008</b></i>	<i><b>2009</b></i>	<i><b>2010</b></i>
AIA/FAIA	2,127	2,073	1,998
Associate AIA	567	512	482
Emeritus	255	267	309
Professional affiliate	167	143	122
Corporate affiliate	1,032	871	725
Student affiliate	176	138	97
Subscriber	144	116	94
<b>Total individual members</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>3,827</b>

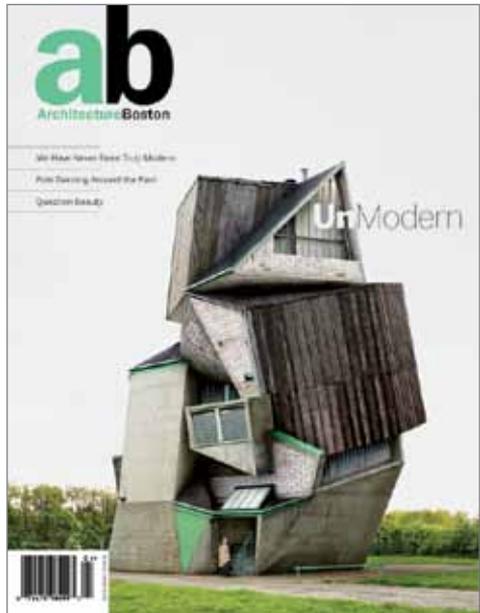
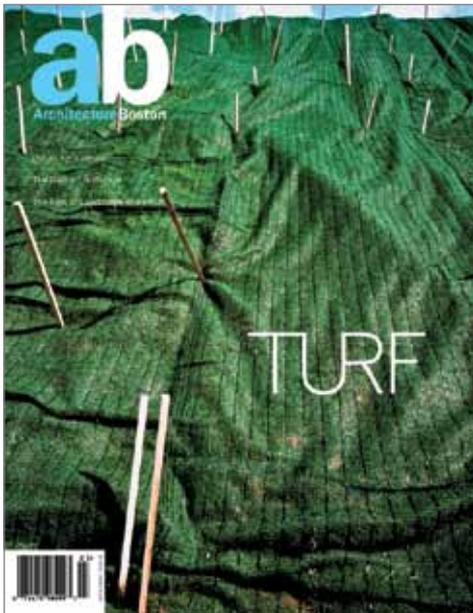
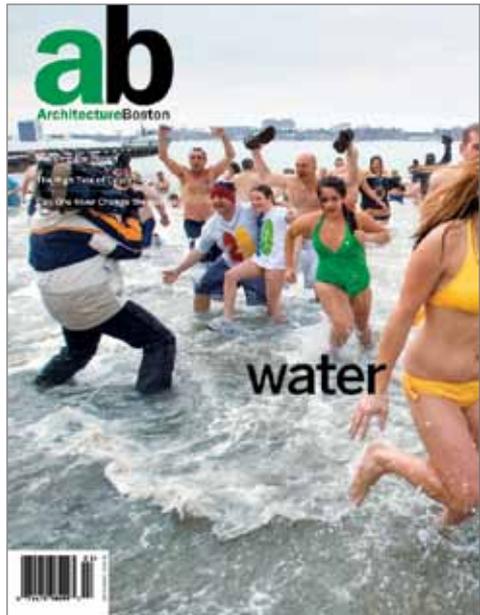
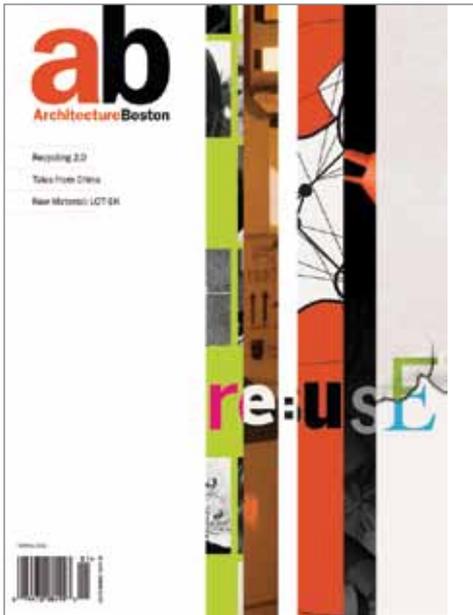
<i><b>FIRM MEMBERSHIP</b></i>	<i><b>2008</b></i>	<i><b>2009</b></i>	<i><b>2010</b></i>
Architecture firms	212	192	189
Sole practitioners	536	524	513
Corporate affiliate firms	172	144	133
<b>Total firm membership</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>835</b>

*THREE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN INDIVIDUALS*



*EIGHT HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE FIRMS*





## PUBLIC OUTREACH

{ Sharing our love of architecture }

*Key to the success of the profession is the public's love of architecture and design. In 2010, we laid the groundwork for a more outward-facing organization, improving our web presence, enriching public programs and planning for an expanded meeting and exhibit space at Atlantic Wharf.*

**A digital evolution »** The BSA has many thinkers among its ranks, and past president and **ARCHITECTUREBOSTON** editor **ELIZABETH S. PADJEN FAIA** has made a habit of cultivating, harvesting and sharing their best ideas. In 1998, she undertook the project of growing our organization's "ideas" magazine into the nationally respected publication it is today.

In 2009, Elizabeth and associate editor **GRETCHEN SCHNEIDER AIA, LEED AP** worked with BSA staff to establish a simple web presence. Digital readership grew exponentially, and with that encouragement, a more robust platform was developed in 2010. *ArchitectureBoston's* online features now draw as much attention as the print magazine.

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### **The BSA shared the significance of architecture with the public in 2010, in a variety of ways.**

Architects and Artists Collaborate Architecture Boat Tours Atlantic Wharf meeting and exhibition space BSA Lecture Series Common Boston Design awards programs New England Home Show BSA members' booth News, lecture series and committee videos, and social media

#### **Significant press mentions:**

*ArchDaily Architect Boston Business Journal Boston Globe Boston Herald Boston's Neighborhood News Boston Phoenix CommonWealth Chronicle The Daily Free Press Dwell Scientific American WBUR*

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Visit [architectureboston.com](http://architectureboston.com). View recent press at [architects.org/press](http://architects.org/press).



***SB 2512, An Act Relative to a Lien for Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors and Site Professionals.***

The Massachusetts mechanic's lien statute now allows licensed design professionals to lien property when the owner or developer fails to pay.

***HB 262, An Act Relative to the Certification of Interior Designers***

Any individual would have been entitled to use the title "certified interior designer" upon passing the National Council for Interior Design Qualification's examination. New statutes on the practice of interior design have been successfully opposed for more than 10 years.

***HB 2220 and HB 2221, Acts Relative to Automatic Sprinklers***

All Massachusetts dormitories as well as fraternity and sorority houses would have been required to install hard-wired smoke detectors in common hallway areas and subjected to sprinkler laws addressing lodging or boarding houses. We advocated these be mandated through the International Building Code instead.

***HB 525, An Act Prohibiting Bids from Certain Contractors to the Massachusetts School Building Authority***

Any school facility designer responsible for a "material flaw" within the first 10 years of use would have been prohibited from bidding on projects for 10 years with no legal address. The bill was overly broad and failed to define "material flaw" or take into account current dispute-resolution methods in use by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

***SB 247, An Act Relative to Projects Funded by the School Building Authority***

Error-and-omission insurance totaling a minimum of 50 percent of a project's estimated cost of construction, or larger amounts if required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, would have been required. BSA committees noted that it would be simply unattainable for the majority of design firms.

Photograph by Peter Vanderwarker.

## ADVOCACY

{ Ensuring quality architecture flourishes }

*The BSA works closely with our sister chapters to ensure we speak with one voice—through AIA Massachusetts—on matters relating to legislative advocacy.*

### **Protecting architects' livelihood » MIKE DAVIS FAIA, LEED AP**

is a dedicated advocate of excellence in the public realm. He is co-chair of the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Boston Civic Design Commission, has collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Energy and serves on the governor's Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force.



Mike became active in the **AIA MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT**

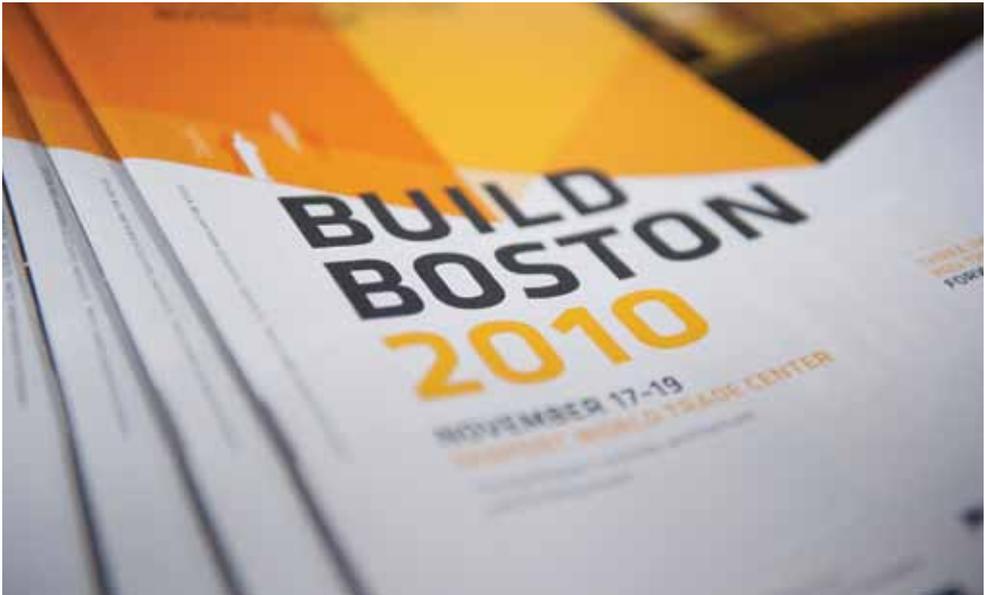
**AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** in 1998. In 2008, he became a co-chair. In 2007, committee members began advocating for a type of legal protection for architects' compensation that is common to many states. They worked with allied professions to build consensus and wide-based support for the bill. They reached out directly to legislators. Today, Massachusetts is among the 38 states in which architects' fees are legally protected through a mechanic's lien law, thanks to the dedication of members like Mike.

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**The mechanic's lien law extension demonstrates the work done on Beacon Hill on behalf of our profession.** In 2010, five bills were resolved favorably in Massachusetts. (See opposite.)

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Stay up-to-date with advocacy efforts online at [architects.org/advocacy](http://architects.org/advocacy).



At Build Boston, architects lead and attend seminars, exchange cutting-edge practices and renew personal connections. Photographs by Ben Gebo.

## PRACTICE

{ Sharing knowledge, innovation and inspiration }

*BSA programs build community, enrich our shared professional knowledge, promote excellence in design and fund programs and member services.*

### **Building on what we know » AISHA DENSMORE-BEY ASSOC.**

**AIA** reaches across disciplines every day—a requirement of many architectural careers. In museum and exhibit design, the needs of artists, historians and curators must all be considered.

In 2008, Aisha founded the **BSA MUSEUM AND EXHIBIT DESIGN COMMITTEE**, a forum which invites leaders in the profession to discuss the latest ideas and practices, and she took the opportunity to bring these topics to a broader audience by leading a seminar at **BUILD BOSTON** in 2010. Aisha invited a panel including architects and a noted curator to address museums in the digital age. Panelists dove deep, examining the mission of museums and the role of architects in crafting public image and interaction, in an effort to enrich our understanding of architects' role in fulfilling clients' goals.



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### **Build Boston is the largest practice-oriented event the BSA sponsors annually.**

Throughout 2010, hundreds of lectures, presentations, workshops and events addressed practice-based topics to extend the depth and breadth of our shared professional knowledge.

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View the complete list of BSA programs at [architects.org/programs](http://architects.org/programs).



The BSA supported the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston's 11th Annual Affordable Housing Development Competition (top). Loeb fellow Julie Campoli led a discussion about the benefits of density at the Design Speaks lecture series. Photographs by Conor MacDonald.

## PEOPLE

{ Connecting architects and industry professionals }

*Collaboration across our industry improves the quality of our work. Ideas flourish. New partnerships are formed, and innovation results. In 2010, the BSA supported 51 professional committees, networks and monthly roundtables, and offered programs that brought people together.*

**Planning for a greener tomorrow »** At Architerra, principal **DAN ARONS AIA, LEED AP** finesses buildings and communities into harmony with the environment, down to the smallest detail. Doing so also demands a big-picture perspective, so he knows partnership across the building industry is essential to a sustainable future.

When the **COMMITTEE ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY (CAS)** formed in 2009 to implement the board's sustainability position, Dan and 2009 BSA president James Batchelor FAIA took the lead. The **BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE NEW ENGLAND SYMPOSIUM** was one of their first initiatives. Focused on aligning environmental and economic sustainability, CAS partnered with the **BSA COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT** and the *Boston Business Journal* to involve allied professions, bringing broad participation by industry leaders. Architects, contractors, developers, engineers and owners came together, with architects leading the way toward a sustainable future.

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**The Building a More Sustainable New England symposium is one example of the BSA's efforts to support interdisciplinary collaboration.**

Brandeis University Common Boston Harvard GSD and the Loeb Fellowship Learning By Design Massachusetts Institute of Technology SHIFTboston Wentworth Institute of Technology

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Track the most recent efforts of BSA committees at [architects.org/committees](http://architects.org/committees).

## Income statement

<i>REVENUE</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Membership	\$ 2,068,791	\$ 2,071,286	\$ 1,907,268
Publications	835,536	438,910	278,488
Tradeshows	1,162,080	816,600	689,784
AIA Convention	1,599,902	-	-
Investments	132,111	22,518	238,723
Other activities	880,472	549,263	572,642
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,678,892</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,577</b>	<b>\$ 3,686,905</b>
<i>EXPENSES</i>			
Membership	55,493	61,755	57,875
Publications	960,062	665,931	592,477
Tradeshows	347,397	190,432	94,797
AIA Convention	1,125,502	-	-
Other activities	1,280,988	697,324	804,796
General and administrative	1,957,866	1,711,625	1,730,588
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,727,308</b>	<b>\$ 3,327,067</b>	<b>\$ 3,280,533</b>
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>\$ 951,584</b>	<b>\$ 571,510</b>	<b>\$ 406,372</b>
Depreciation	360,759	372,362	372,391
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 590,825</b>	<b>\$ 199,148</b>	<b>\$ 33,981</b>

An important note on these financial statements: A comparison of 2010 with 2008 may be misleading because 2008 included \$1.6 million in revenue and a surplus of more than \$470,000 from BSA activities related to the AIA National Convention held in Boston.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

{ ± }

*The BSA's financial health remained strong through 2010. Careful planning and consideration goes into each investment of member dues and program revenue.*

### Balance sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Current assets			
Cash and equivalents	\$ 104,810	\$ 455,651	\$ 273,522
Other current assets	1,082,277	883,505	1,107,235
Other assets			
Building and equipment	2,210,993	1,902,821	1,791,666
Reserves	4,059,107	4,371,355	4,218,493
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,457,187</b>	<b>\$ 7,613,332</b>	<b>\$ 7,390,916</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current liabilities	871,850	828,846	572,453
Long-term liabilities	-	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 871,850</b>	<b>\$ 828,846</b>	<b>\$ 572,453</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$ 6,585,337</b>	<b>\$ 6,784,486</b>	<b>\$ 6,818,463</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>\$ 7,457,187</b>	<b>\$ 7,613,332</b>	<b>\$ 7,390,916</b>



Höweler + Yoon Architecture's design for the new BSA headquarters at Atlantic Wharf. Rendering by Höweler + Yoon Architecture.

## WHO WE ARE

{ About the BSA }

*The BSA is a diverse, inclusive and active community led by a board of architects and industry professionals. The board advises 51 professional committees and employs a staff of 19 to fulfill the BSA's mission.*

**Ready to build » DAN PERRUZZI AIA** is busy in the Fort Point Channel these days. Two significant cultural assets making their homes in the neighborhood count him as a major contributor. Dan is a principal for the Tea Party Ships and Museum project, visible from Margulies Perruzzi Architects' Children's Wharf office. Across the channel, preparations for the city's first center for architecture and design are being made at the future BSA headquarters.



As chair of the **BSA'S ATLANTIC WHARF TASKFORCE** and a member of the client committee, Dan has been instrumental in ensuring that the proposal fit our needs. Enhanced member services and accessibility, better committee resources and increased program space are essential. The new center also takes the BSA's mission a step further: Through an exhibition venue welcoming the residents and visitors of Boston, the BSA will share our passion and promote the significance of architecture.

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**The move to Atlantic Wharf is one way members contribute guidance and vision to our community.** Commission of Architectural Design Commission of Building Technologies Commission of Communications and PR Commission of Education and Research Commission of Professional Communities Commission of Professional Practice Commission of Public Policy Commission of Urban Design

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Follow the development of the new BSA headquarters at [architects.org/bsahq](http://architects.org/bsahq).

**Mission statement**

*The Boston Society of Architects is committed to professional development for our members, advocacy on behalf of great design and sharing an appreciation for the built environment with the public at large.*

*Established in 1867, the BSA today consists of 4,000 members and produces a diverse array of programs and publications, including Build Boston and ArchitectureBoston.*

*As a chapter of the American Institute of Architects, we are a nonprofit, professional-service organization.*

### **Committees focused on the public**

Architecture for Humanity Boston  
Common Boston  
Placemaking Network  
Public Art Initiative  
Sustainability Education Committee  
Urban Design Committee  
Volunteer Corps  
YouthVisions Committee/KidsBuild!

### **Committees focused on advocacy**

Access Committee  
AIA Massachusetts Government Affairs  
Committee  
Codes Committee  
Housing Committee

### **Committees focused on projects**

Academy of Architecture for Justice  
BSA/SCUP College and University Roundtable  
Design for Aging Committee  
Healthcare Facilities Committee  
Historic Resources Committee  
Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art  
and Architecture  
Interior Architecture Committee  
K-12 Educational Facilities Committee  
Museum and Exhibit Design Committee  
Performing Arts Design Committee  
Residential Design Committee

### **Committees focused on practice**

Administration and HR Wizards  
Architectural Photography Network  
BSA/AGC/ABC Integrated Project Delivery Committee  
Building Enclosure Council  
Building Information Modeling Roundtable  
Building Systems Committee  
Committee on the Environment  
Construction Administration Roundtable  
DataCAD Boston Users Group  
Ethics Committee  
Finance Wizards  
Indoor Air Quality Committee  
Information Resource Wizards  
International Committee  
IT Wizards  
Marketing/PR Wizards  
SketchUp bootcamp  
Small Practices Network  
Vectorworks Users Group

### **Committees focused on people**

Alien Architects Roundtable  
Asian/Asian-American Designers Forum  
BosNOMA  
Cape and Islands Network  
Emerging Professionals Network  
Membership Enrichment Committee  
MetroWest Network  
Women in Design  
Women Principals Network

{ BSA board of directors, 2010–2011 }

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