

Dave Boswell, AScT Steps Down from AIBC Council

The following quote is from the July AIBC e-newsletter:

"David Boswell Building Designer, AScT, has resigned from his role as the Building Designer / Residential Designer Liaison to AIBC Council, effective July 18, 2013. In stepping down, Boswell noted that council's recent decision to amalgamate the associate categories of Architectural Technologist, Building Designer and Residential Designer into a single category (Architectural Technologist) effectively eliminated the need for a BD/RD liaison at the council table. Current Architectural Technologist Liaison Michael Currie has agreed to continue in that capacity."

The Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC) launched an initiative about 10 years ago to broaden the scope of the AIBC membership by incorporating building and residential designers. The genesis of this move was the proposed merger of APEGBC and ASTTBC... 1998 - 2004... yes it is that long ago!

ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, commented when he read of Boswell's resignation, "While ASTTBC was party to the initial discussions with AIBC, when the proposed merger came to an abrupt halt ASTTBC slowed its interest in embarking on a one act - one association model with AIBC. The primary concern at the time was uncertainty as to whether AIBC was ready to embrace with appropriate consideration and scope of practice the residential and building designers, and whether these technologists and technicians would be given parity of esteem within the AIBC shop." Leech said he has been in touch with Dave Boswell to extend his thanks for his service even though Leech / ASTTBC have not been supportive of the AIBC initiative. "Dave is a highly skilled professional who believed the world of designers could be better within the ranks of AIBC," said Leech. "I applaud his effort and huge commitment of time and expertise to this cause, even though it did not materialize."

Let's take a look at the history here... In the mid 2000's ASTTBC's designers, represented by the ASTTBC Building Designers Institute of BC (BDIBC), decided to pursue discussions with AIBC. An agreement was reached between the BDIBC Board and AIBC to pursue the idea of expanding AIBC membership to include designers. Another agreement between the BDIBC Board and ASTTBC Council defined the parameters for discussions between AIBC and BDIBC and placed ASTTBC outside of this formal dialogue.

Ultimately the AIBC Council decided to pursue an expanded membership. This decision, while launched with all good intention, soon slid into a 'dark place' for AIBC as Architects spoke up against various elements of the proposal, including the over-arching concern that the Architectural Profession would be 'watered down'.

ASTTBC has kept an eye on the developments, all along saying to ASTTBC members concerned as to what was going to happen in the future, that nothing is cast in stone and that the future is uncertain. During the exploration into a broader membership base, AIBC suffered push-back from AIBC members and as a result the AIBC Council has changed direction on a number of key issues including titles created for designers and the whole question of scope of practice. "On the matter or practice rights, the designers expected AIBC would deliver a recognized scope of practice that was within the competencies of building technologists and technicians," elaborated John Leech. "But this, too, came crashing down as AIBC members spoke out loudly at AIBC meetings and through other media to say 'NO' to the whole notion of allowing anyone other than Architects to assume responsibility for architectural / building design." The issue of practice rights for ASTTBC building and residential designers remain front and centre for ASTTBC advised John Leech.

AIBC is now moving to reducing 9 'Associate Member' categories down to 3, one of which is to be called 'Architectural Technologist'. This, too, will likely be problematic advised Leech who said that this term is in general use by many practitioners including technologists in industry, students, and as members of ASTTBC. "I cannot see how AIBC will be able to use this term in any exclusive manner. If AIBC proceeds, how would this term 'add value' for Architectural Technologists who are registered as an Associate of AIBC?" questions Leech. John went on to note that he has connected with AIBC to express this viewpoint and also asked to open a dialogue with AIBC on this as well as broader matters of mutual interest.