



**President**  
William A. Slight  
**Vice President**  
David C. Harvey  
**Secretary**  
Bruce A. T. Siska  
**Treasurer**  
Michael E. Brown  
**Past President**  
Ian D. McDonald

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2009

### **AIA-PECONIC CHAPTER OBJECTS TO CODE-MANDATED WINDOW PROTECTION**

The Peconic Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has asked New York State to remove from the State Building Code the requirement that windows be protected from wind-blown debris by plywood panels, hurricane shutters, or strengthened glass.

The AIA Chapter's letter warns that a real danger of loss of life during a fire or other emergency exists for occupants of buildings where plywood panels or hurricane shutters prevent views of trapped victims and where nearly unbreakable strengthened glass windows retard the entry of rescuers.

The warning is contained in a position paper submitted to the State that was prepared by the Codes Committee of AIA Peconic, the local chapter of the AIA serving the North and South Forks of Long Island, the only area in the State where, due to hurricane threats, these opening protection devices are required.

Protecting human life is the purpose of the Building Code, but the panels, shutters or strengthened glass are meant to defend building interiors instead. Because these protective devices defend the contents, the Chapter believes that the requirement

seems to be a gesture to the insurance industry that should be reflected in insurance rates rather than the Code.

The Peconic Chapter has asked for prompt reconsideration of and removal of this dangerous requirement before the next three year period of Building Code review.

A copy of the Chapter's recent letter, as well as their letter to the State which addresses other issues in the Code, can be found on the Chapter's website, <http://AIAPeconic.org>.

\* \* \* \* \*

For further information, contact:

Stephen A. Lesser AIA  
AIA-Peconic Chapter Codes Committee Chairman  
Tel: (631)329-5867  
Email: [salarchitect@aol.com](mailto:salarchitect@aol.com)