



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 31, 2009

AIA-PECONIC CHAPTER CALLS FOR REDUCING HURRICANE WIND ZONE DESIGNATION

The Peconic Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has petitioned State officials to reduce the 120 MPH wind zone designation for the East End of Long Island. AIA Peconic claims the current hurricane regulations exaggerate the threat posed by high winds and underestimate the true threat in our area, wind-driven *water*.

The Chapter argues that the State Building Code should be amended to define a Coastal Zone for the 120MPH threat to structures limited to the first half mile from the ocean, and to include structures within the second half mile only if they are unprotected. The prevalence of woods, hills or man-made structures in our area afford protection in high winds, but the current Building Code ignores these conditions, describing the East End as a broad, unified and wide open region.

While the Building Code overregulates in the area of wind protection, it provides little guidance to local municipalities, builders and architects regarding safeguarding against coastal surges, according to Stephen A. Lesser, the Chapter's Code Committee Chairman. AIA Peconic urges the development of Building Code guidelines to address this potent threat.

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