

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



September 14, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
United States of America
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

On behalf of the 69,000 members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), I would like to express our deepest concern and condolences regarding this week's tragic events at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. Our sympathies go out to those who have suffered loss. Despite the horrific nature of these events, the American people will persevere and our nation will remain strong.

The AIA offers our assistance and resources—where needed—to complement the current relief efforts. Because of their extensive training and experience, architects possess unique skills in building analysis/forensics and damage assessment to structures. Also, in the New York area, the AIA Disaster Response Corporation stands ready to provide technical assistance to complement the relief effort.

Architects play an important role in disaster response. Our AIA members have consistently taken a leading role in developing strategies to assist disaster-stricken areas. Architects help by assessing damage, arranging temporary relief, advising repair efforts, and rebuilding and reshaping communities. When a disaster strikes, architects not only play an important role in emergency relief, but long-term recovery as well, by offering guidance as a community rebuilds.

The AIA and its architect members are eager to lend assistance to our nation in this time of great need. We applaud your leadership during this difficult and trying time. We also appreciate your designating today a national day of prayer and remembrance. Our own staff joined the world in praying for peace and unity. The AIA awaits your call to serve. I can be reached at (202) 626-7310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman L. Koonce', written in a cursive style.

Norman L. Koonce, FAIA
Executive Vice President/CEO

cc: Department of State
Federal Emergency Management Agency
General Services Administration
United States Army Corps of Engineers