The AIACC has the timely but limited chance to shape the accessibility provisions of the 2013 California Building Code. As you are aware, accessibility compliance is one of the thorniest problems we face as practitioners. The Division of the State Architect (DSA) is seeking input on the format of these provisions, which will shape architectural practice in California for years to come, affecting how we make and defend our design decisions. Continue reading.

Metrics in Healthcare Architecture The healthcare industry is in crisis right now, and not just because of spiraling costs. Despite the Hippocratic principle to "first, do no harm," an enormous amount of harm occurs in healthcare facilities—misdiagnosis to medical errors to hospital-acquired infections. The growing evidence-based design movement seeks to identify and measure how the building environment can improve patient outcomes in healthcare environments. Continue reading.

2012 Fellows Announced
Each year, the AIA recognizes architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society by elevating them to the College of Fellows. This year 24 California members were were elevated to fellowship. To view list of fellows click here.

California Architectural Foundation Names New Executive Director
The California Architectural Foundation (CAF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Laird-Blanton, AIA, as its first Executive Director. A member of The American Institute of Architects, Anne brings to this position her skill, education, and training as a licensed architect coupled with over 15 years of volunteer experience at all levels of the AIA. Continue reading.
Life After Redevelopment
Redevelopment as we've known it really is dead in California. On December 20, the California Supreme Court upheld the legislature's elimination of redevelopment agencies - and struck down the option for the agencies to pay back a portion of their funding to continue to exist. [Continue reading]

Passings
Norma Merrick Sklarek, the first African American woman in the country to become a licensed architect, who's projects included Terminal 1 at the Los Angeles International Airport and the American Embassy in Tokyo, died Monday at her home in Pacific Palisades. She was 85. [Continue reading]