



March usually comes in like a Lion and exits like a Lamb. At LCI we have tried to mimic nature. Corporate members have received a slate of nominees for a new Board that the current Board is considering. While this has raised storm clouds, it also promises to dawn a new, bright day for LCI. As this new Board moves through the process, my prediction is that we will emerge by the end of March as a force, as the most meaningful “voice of lean” across all platforms of design, construction and operation in the industry. This is at the very heart of our mission—to be the catalyst of industry transformation. We’ll keep you apprised of developments as they, well, develop.

I had a great opportunity at the Lean Design Forum to sit down with the out-going co-editor of the LEAN CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL, Alan Mossman. Alan was a co-founder the Lean Construction Institute in the United Kingdom. While he is no longer directly active there (“I stepped back from being a Trustee because I wanted to focus on writing”), he has been a pillar of our community for more than a decade. He read architecture and business at University (translation: majored in architecture and business while he was in college) before he got involved with the work of W. Edward Deming and others.

Alan has been involved with lean and especially the Last Planner® for many years. He first used Last Planner in 2002 on a primary school construction project in Sheffield, England. Lean construction brought together Alan’s background in architecture with his interest in people--public involvement, organizational alignment and the work of Deming. He’s now beginning to use Last Planner in the design process and will continue his teaching, coaching and implementation of Last Planner and other lean techniques on projects he works on throughout Europe and Africa.

Alan and Tariq Abdelhamid initiated the JOURNAL in response to a request from Greg Howell that it “would be really useful if there was some sort of lean construction magazine.” Alan knew that Tariq, Greg and Glenn Ballard would be in favor of a very high quality, academic journal but he also wanted it to be “something that is accessible to practitioners.” Alan has maintained the voice of the practitioner during his entire tenure at the JOURNAL; in fact he characterizes his role “as standing in the place of the reflective practitioner.” True to his passion, he recently asked me to thank practitioners who have assisted him, as reviewers and especially those that have contributed articles to the JOURNAL.

Some part of his desire to move on is based on his own ennui with the routine but he also believes that he and Tariq have raised the level of the JOURNAL to an extent where LCI might now be able to attract even a professional staff to assist Tariq in carrying it forward. He’s proud of a number of accomplishments, including that he has been able to be the voice that urges the work to not be so American-centric. He stands on the outside of that movement with his “anti US pin to burst the bubble that lean is a particularly ‘American’ thing. He’s also very proud that



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he has carried the practitioner's viewpoint, that the JOURNAL should be and has been in English, that it uses the active voice and the first person, and that the product is written in an engaging way. A review of the most recent articles bears testimony to his success of his advocacy.

Alan, thanks for all you've done for us and keep in touch as you continue to move the ball forward. And practitioners out there—if you're interested in helping Tariq keep the quality intact, the production consistent and the JOURNAL moving forward please let us know. Alan will be forever in your debt.