

Architext

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AIA CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The Newsletter of AIA Central Pennsylvania



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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AIA Central Pennsylvania
A Chapter of The American
Institute of Architects
240 N. Third Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717.236.8969 Voice
717.236.5407 Fax
aiacpc@aiacentralpa.org



Mission Statement of the AIA

To advance the practice of Architecture.

2010 Board Directory

President

Christopher Dawson, AIA

Lecture Series Chairman
CDA, Chris Dawson Architect
234 Liberty Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 805-5090
Fax: (717) 230-9664
chrisdawson@hotmail.com

Vice President/Secretary

Richard A. Gribble, AIA

PEKALA Architecture + Design
203 Harris Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: (717) 571-5768
pekala.arch@gmail.com

Treasurer

R. Jeffrey Straub, AIA

Design Awards Chair
Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates Architects
401 East Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: (717) 458-0272
Fax: (717) 458-0349
jstraub@cra-architects.com

Immediate Past President

Matthew R. Luttrell, AIA

Professional Practice Chairman
AUM Architecture, LLC
2101 North Front Street
Building 1, Suite 100
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: (717) 236-2266
Fax: (717) 236-1655
matrl@aum-architecture.com

State Directors

Matthew R. Luttrell, AIA

Bruce R. Johnson, AIA

(2009-2011)
Murphy & Dittenhafer, Inc.
226 West Market Street
York, PA 17401-1008
Phone: (717) 848-8627
Fax: (717) 843-2449
brj@murphdittarch.com

Associate Members

Seth H. Wentz, Assoc. AIA

CDA, Chris Dawson Architect
234 Liberty Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 793-1579
Fax: (717) 230-9664
sethwentz@gmail.com

Kelsey Rhoads, Assoc. AIA

Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects
401 East Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: (717) 458-0272
Fax: (717) 458-0047
krhoads@cra-architects.com

Affiliate Member

Terri DiBacco

Premier Production Services
4650 Smith Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109-1525
Phone: (717) 541-4238
terri@jmmichaelbrill.com

Honorary Affiliate Member

Scott D. Butcher, CPSM

JDB Engineering, Inc.
3687 Concord Road
York, PA 17402
Phone: (717) 434-1543
Cell: (717) 676-2957
sbutcher@jdbec.com

At-Large Members

Frank E. Dittenhafer, II, FAIA

Murphy & Dittenhafer, Inc.
226 West Market Street
York, PA 17401-1008
Phone: (717) 848-8627
Fax: (717) 843-2449
fed@murphdittarch.com

Bret E. Peters, AIA

Government Affairs
Office for Planning and Architecture
234 Liberty Street
Harrisburg PA 17101
Phone: (717) 230-9660
Fax: (717) 230-9664
bep@oparchitecture.com

James R. Thompson, AIA

Hayes Large Architects
75 South Houcks Road, Ste. 300
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Phone: (717) 238-4795
Fax: (717) 238-4800
jrtompson@hayeslarge.com

Wendy H. Tippetts, AIA

Tippetts, Weaver & Architects, Inc.
137 North Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 394-0553
wtippetts@tippettsweaver.com

Holly Williams Leppo, AIA

SMB&R, Inc.
150 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 101
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: (717) 975-3620
hwleppo@smbr-inc.com

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Position Vacant

On The Cover:

Wily Theater
REX - Architecture
Dallas, TX



Armstrong Campus: Fall Lecture 2009
Lancaster, PA

A Year In Perspective

By Matthew R. Luttrell, AIA

As the 2009 President of AIA Central PA, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every member of our chapter for a successful and rewarding 2009. We celebrated our 100th anniversary, had lecturers in from around the world, awarded a \$10,000 dollar scholarship endowment, and recognized a truly exceptional architect and professional in our chapter. However, for many of us we are anxious to put 2009 behind us in hopes of a more vibrant professional climate in 2010 and beyond. By the middle of 2009 the challenging economic and professional climate became the overbearing theme for the year. I do not know of anyone who is not friends or acquaintances with someone who lost their employment. We cannot ignore or dismiss the magnitude of our current situation. However, each of us as individuals are responsible for how we view and respond to this/ our situation(s). As with many aspects of life, trials and tribulations often provide an opportunity to reevaluate and restructure those neglected portions of our professional and personnel lives. The question turns to what you choose to focus on. Do you focus on the constraints or the opportunities? Is it a beginning or an end?

Quite often with architecture, I find the most rewarding projects to be those with the most challenging and demanding programmatic constraints. These projects force us as architects/ individuals to reconsider, relearn and reprocess those elements that we previously comfortable with. As is often found, comfort turns to an unidentified complacency. And to my knowledge, complacency has never been identified as the reason for great achievement or even anything of notable consequence. As I noted previously, I am not attempting to dismiss or diminish the consequences of anyone's current situation. Instead I want to challenge and encourage each of us in developing and strengthening the elements, skills and relationships that will be the source of our future successes.

It is for this reason that I want to emphasis that there are numerous opportunities that are available through AIA. But of all the opportunities that are available, the single most important element of the local AIA are the relationships that you can build and strengthen. These relationships facilitate insights and access to many aspects of the profession that can only be maintained and fostered through the extensive network provided through AIA. Reach out and discover the opportunities that the AIA can provide for you.


A Year in Review:

In 2009 our Chapter celebrated its 100th anniversary with numerous activities and events. We hosted two spectacular lectures with Shigeru Ban, from Japan, and Julie Eizenberg, of Koning Eizenberg located in Santa Monica California.

We held our second Annual Conference and Expo which included: 1. A keynote presentation by Ken Frew, local historian and author; 2. The first annual Local Firm Lecture Series which included Frank Dittenhafer of Murphy Dittenhafer and Doug Rohrbaugh of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates, and 3. The first presentation of the Chapter's Distinguished Service Award to Harry R. Rutledge. The award was subsequently renamed the AIA Central Pennsylvania Harry R. Rutledge, FAIA, RIBA Distinguished Service Award. To close out the Conference and Expo a presentation of a \$10,000 endowment check was made to the Architectural Foundation of Central Pennsylvania for purposes of annual scholarships to students in need of financial assistance.

Also in celebration of our 100th anniversary we hosted The Art of Architecture event. The event was held at the Art Association of Harrisburg and included pieces from numerous local firms. During this event the Chapter was presented Proclamations from Mayor Reed and State Representative Sue Helms, both of whom were in attendance.

Finally, the chapter Design Awards once again provided an opportunity for clients and Chapter members to display and review many of the outstanding projects that have been completed by Chapter architects and firms.



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Kimball Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX: Louis Kahn



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Fax: (717) 481-8690

A Year of Thanks:

"Give Thanks!" Words to live by even in challenging times. In this case, I would like to give thanks and platitudes to a number of individuals who were responsible for the many great events that our Chapter had this year. In no particular order I would like to thank:

Each of our members for their participation, insights and membership.

Each vendor, affiliate and sponsor for your continued involvement, support and insights.

Each board member for their involvement, commitment and time.

Armstrong and Harrisburg Art Association for hosting our events.

Doug Rohrbaugh and Frank Dittenhafer for their presentations at the Conference and Expo.

Richard Gribble, Terri DiBacco, and Scott Butcher for organizing The Art of Architecture.

Chris Dawson for organizing the Lecture Series.

Frank Dittenhafer for serving for the past six years on the AIA PA board on behalf of AIA Central PA.

Jeff Straub, for another successful year of Design Awards.

Leah and Seth Wentz for organizing, publishing, and facilitating our transition to an electronic Chapter Newsletter.

Holly Williams Leppo and PPI for donating a complete library of ARE and LEED study guides to our newly formed study library.

Alyssa Wright and the AIA PA staff for administrative and organizational support.

To all of those I failed to properly thank, Thank You!

Sincerely,
Matthew R. Luttrell, AIA



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The Art of Architecture 1909 - 2009

By Richard A. Gribble, AIA

As part of the 1909-2009 Centennial Celebration for the American Institute of Architects Central Pennsylvania Chapter, an exhibition of architectural renderings were displayed at the art gallery's of the Art Association of Harrisburg from September 21 through the 25, 2009. The drawings and models were provided from active chapter members as well as from historical associations and private collections. Scott Butcher, of Historic York, provided renderings of York City Market from the office of John Augustus Dempwolf, one of our chapters founding members. Tim Smedick of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, and Tom Gilbert, AIA, were responsible for providing a collection of drawings from Lancaster's early 20th century master, architect Cassius Emlen Urban. Additional historical drawings, including work from the offices of Clayton Lappley and Charles Howard Lloyd, came from the collections of the Historic Harrisburg Association, and from Ken Frew and the Historical Society of Dauphin County. Hayes Large Architects opened their archives of historic drawings they obtained from the office of Lawrie and Green Architects. Robin and Jeb Stuart provided a drawing and historical model of their home which was design by architect Thomas Hamilton in the late 1920's. Dean Minick, provided work from his father's office, James Minick, AIA, and drawings were obtained from the current owner of a residence designed by Minick in Harrisburg. Active members also provided drawings and models from recent and current projects. Vern McKissick, AIA, provided a model of his design for an adaptive reuse project where he is converting a hospital into a new school in Reading PA. Rick LeBlanc, AIA, also provided drawings of his firm's designs for a new school in Camp Hill, PA. Frank Dittenhafer, Chris Dawson, Seth Wentz, Scott Shonk and I also provided drawings, renderings, and models of recent designs.

An opening reception was held on the September 21st. Following remarks from our chapter president, Matt Luttrell, AIA, Mayor Stephen Reed of the City of Harrisburg addressed the chapter and congratulated us on our 100th anniversary, as did State Representative Susan Helm. Harrisburg Historian Ken Frew also gave a brief lecture about his recently published book, "Building Harrisburg, The Architects and Builders 1719-1941", which was published with financial support from our chapter. The opening event was well attended by both AIA members and the general public. This event would not have been possible without the generous work of our volunteers, including Scott Butcher, Fran Harris, Brook Lauer, and Terrie Dibacco, as well as the support of our Board of Directors, and all of the efforts of the individuals and associations mentioned above, with a special thanks to the Art Association's Board Chair, Rick LeBlanc, AIA, President Carrie Wissler-Thomas, and Curator Terrie Tedeschi Hosey, who had the very challenging job of setting up the exhibition, and organizing it into a cohesive representation of the past 100 years of the AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter.



Matthew Luttrell, AIA (left) with Mayor Stephen Reed (right)

By Christopher Dawson, AIA

Our sponsors this year included:

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Photograph provided by Chris Dawson

we as architects relate to other disciplines. She shared very compelling images and stories about her Hancock Avenue Housing (an 11 year project duration), Melbourne University Competition (sophisticated proposal acutely tuned to its place within the campus), the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (a masterpiece of architecture in my opinion), and a very abstract proposal for the Venice Biennale (rediscovering a rich environment on the outskirts of Rome) amongst others.

Julie Eizenberg, AIA presented a lecture titled "Relationships" showing the work of her firm Koning Eizenberg Architecture. Armstrong World Industries was an exceptional host again and there was a very engaging social hour following the lecture.

Julie is a very approachable architect and she spoke to the need to consider not only the relationships our buildings have with their surroundings but also the way

We look forward to more intelligent and inspiring presentations in 2010. Thank you to all our sponsors and to those that took time out of their schedule to attend our lectures. I embrace Julie's message of reaching out to those beyond our profession and encourage everyone to invite friends and family to future lectures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions at 717.805.5090 or chrisdawson@hotmail.com



Hancock Avenue Housing, Los Angeles, CA



E. Fay Jones: Marty Leonard Chapel (detailed view), Fort Worth, TX

Lending Library Update

The Central PA AIA lending library has grown significantly since the last newsletter. Thanks to a significant donation from PPI Publications and Holly Williams Leppo, the lending library now includes ARE study materials and LEED exam study materials. After hearing the news that the chapter had purchased a full set of Kaplan ARE study guides Holly, one of the newest board members, asked PPI if they would be interested in donating a set of their own materials, also known as the Ballast study guides. Thanks to PPI, Holly's efforts, and the donation of her own study materials, the lending library now consists of two copies of the ARE Ballast study guides, a set of LEED exam study materials, and the Kaplan ARE study materials that the AIA Central PA chapter purchased. This is an impressive collection of materials and will be available for lending by Central PA members as of January 18th. I'm sure that I speak for all the associates in Central PA when I say thank you to PPI, Holly Williams Leppo, and to the Central PA AIA Board for making this library available to the associate members.

Call for Construction Tours

This past year has been tough for many firms in Central PA. One of the side affects of the economy is a noticeable decrease in the number of buildings under construction. This has adversely affected the number of construction tours that were

held for associates in 2009. We are hoping to solve that problem in 2010. If your firm has a project that is or will be under construction in 2010 and would be interested in hosting a construction tour please contact myself or Kelsey Rhoads. Preferred projects would be within the Central PA region, available for tour twice (early in construction, and close to final completion), and be projects that would be of interest and educational to the associates touring them. We thank you in advance for your support and help in finding good project candidates for construction tours.



Photographs of the Dallas, Fort Worth area were taken by Seth H. Wentz at the 2009 National Associate's Committee annual meeting.

MERIT AWARD

CODO

Lofts, Flats, Lifestyle
Project

Murphy & Dittenhafer
Architects
Architect

The CODO 241 LP, York,
Pennsylvania
Client



Corner View of CODO, York PA



Existing Interior of CODO



Circa 1900 Former Mercantile Building, York, PA

Jury Comments

As an un-built project submittal, the documentation of the project was very thorough and provided a complete explanation of context, materiality, scale, and design intent.

The re-use of the circa 1900 mercantile building as commercial space and urban lofts is historically sensitive while the modern additions provide lively streetscapes to a re-habilitating neighborhood. The design successfully subdivides the block into the appearance of multiple buildings and segregates the parking area from pedestrian view. The varying use of materials further help to delineate the new infill, while the use of repeating bays and restrained geometry respects the context of the historic mercantile building.

The street front residential units are loft style and with the use of large bays of curtain wall glazing, have direct connections to the urban surroundings. The project smartly plans to integrate sustainable technologies in the construction.

Overall the design is lively and successfully integrates the idea of work, live, and play into a single city block.

MERIT AWARD

Boonsboro
Community Library
Project

Murphy & Dittenhafer
Architects
Architect

Washington County
Free Library
Client

Jury Comments

The Jury feels that the pure regionalism and true understanding of vernacular context makes this project an award winner. The use of local materials and simple native forms help to make the Community Library embrace the valley landscape.

The interior space is inviting, warm, and affords views of the surrounding mountain range. The rustic yet refined finishes are left in their natural state, and the exposed composite trusses give the space a utilitarian, civic feel.

Through careful detailing and attention to materiality, the design maximizes the value of materials. The jury also appreciates the incorporation of sustainable technologies.



Main Reading Room, Exposed Wood Ceiling



Exterior at Night, Main Reading Room



Exterior, Children's Reading Room

CITATION AWARD

Immaculate
Conception Church
Project

Murphy & Dittenhafer
Architects
Architect

The Archdiocese of
Baltimore
Client



New Narthex



2008 Renovated Interior



Detail of Loft, New Narthex

Jury Comments

It is the opinion of the panel that this presentation displays exceptional interior renovation and restoration characteristics and should be recognized with a citation award. The panel agreed unanimously that this project exhibits a meticulous attention to the architectural detailing and intent that was originally conceived by Patrick Charles Keely a century ago. The process of peeling away of the previous renovation, reclaiming the original artistic splendor, while still adapting the space to meet the modern needs of the church is most impressive. The selection of the colors, the use of lighting, quality of craftsmanship demonstrated, as well as the careful integration of modern function is well performed. We agree with your description of the project and that you have adequately proven that ...“historic significance and change can be reconciled in a creative way.” Thank you!

Jury Comments

It is the opinion of the panel that this presentation displays exceptional interior design characteristics and should be recognized with a citation award. The panel agreed unanimously that this project demonstrates a playful integration of space, natural light, materials and function. It also finds a way to use the furnishings, mechanical, electrical, and functional aspects of the classroom to emphasize the spirit of the interior spaces and create a quality of “place” that the other submissions were unable to achieve.



Entrance to Sci Tech High, Harrisburg PA

CITATION AWARD

SciTech High School
Project

Murray Associates
Architects, P.C.
Architect

Harrisburg University
of Science and
Technology
Client



Atrium



Grand Stair

MERIT AWARD

York County School of
Technology
Project

Crabtree, Rohrbaugh &
Associates
Architect

York County School of
Technology
Client



Site Plan, showing existing and new



Twilight picture of main entry

Jury Comments

While resolving the integration of multiple, complex, program requirements; the new design successfully adjoins to the existing building with clear and informative circulation.

By using a combination of materials, floating canopies and layering the building envelope, the new student and visitor entries are inviting and warm. The brick planar forms are reminiscent of the original school building, while the curtain wall glazing and metal panels give the building a modern, technical appearance.

The new school wings are clad in metal panel which give the building a utilitarian and industrial appearance and yet upon closer examination; the detailing is precise and sophisticated.

The interior spaces are abundant with natural light, and the materials are durable, warm, and functional.

Special consideration was given to the project because of its incorporation of many differing technical career academies into one understandable and cohesive project.



Section through clerestory