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Fall 2010

AIA CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The Newsletter of AIA Central Pennsylvania



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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Harrisburg State Capital

Message from AIA Central PA President

By Chris Dawson, AIA

Members of our Chapter's Board of Directors were active in the AIA PA Annual State Conference again this year including active lobbying in Harrisburg for Architect's Day at the Capitol. Matt Luttrell and I met with Representative John Payne and had a lengthy and productive discussion with him. Representative Payne voted in favor of Incentives for Historic Preservation (I was disappointed to learn that Pennsylvania is one of only 8 states with no incentive program in place for private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings). He also voted against Licensing of Interior Designers. Matt Luttrell, Bret Peters, and I met with Senator Piccola's Legislative Director for a second year in a row because both Houses were in session during our visit and lobbied in support of AIA PA's Issue Briefs – see www.aiapa.org for issue briefs.

The AIA PA Annual Design Awards ceremony was inspiring and particularly the quote by Thomas Jefferson read by Jury Chairman Philip Enquist, "I prefer the dreams of the future to the histories of the past." The quote rang strongly a propos for me within the context

of the recent and current economic challenges. The highlight of the Annual Component Leadership Meeting was a panel discussion regarding proposed revisions to the state architects licensure act and regulations. Current Licensure Board President Harry Rutledge and Past President Dennis Connell answered questions regarding the Board's current efforts to


Message from AIA president continued page 3

Message from AIA Central PA President


(Continued from page 2)

update the State's Architects Licensure Act rooted in the sentiment that a stronger architectural profession equates to better protection for the public.


November we have our Fall Lecture on the 4th and our Annual Conference & Expo / Local Design Awards on the 8th (additional information on these events are within the newsletter). I encourage everyone to attend these events and reap the rewards of socializing with your peers, earning learning units, hearing national and local practitioners present the work of their firms, and celebrating the quality design work executed by our members, and many other things I won't list here.




Historic Renovation -
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My Footpath Interview

Source: www.myfootpath.com



The following interview with AIA CPA president Chris Dawson was recently posted on www.myfootpath.com. Chris Dawson has been an architect for 15 years, and he currently is the sole proprietor of the Chris Dawson Architect firm in Pennsylvania. He has designed a number of projects that have been recognized by The American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Architect Career Path

From an early age, Chris was inspired by architecture and knew that field was the one for him. "When I was very young," he recalls, "I would ride my bike to soccer practice. On the way, I always saw this unusual synagogue, which was designed by the dean at Syracuse University at that time, and I was amazed by it. I ended up getting my degree at Syracuse."

Experiences of an Architect

Chris earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University in New York, gaining experience wherever he could. "I did internships for professors and professionals at home over the summer when I could get them," he says.

Chris has worked in several architecture firms in his 15 years of experience, including Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects and Hammel Associates Architects. He currently is the sole proprietor of Chris Dawson Architect located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is affiliated with a number of architecture organizations, and he is the current president and board member of the Central Pennsylvania American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chapter.

Architecture Degree Programs

To obtain any kind of architecture job, you need at least a Bachelor's of Architecture, known as a B. Arch, which is different than a Bachelor's of Art or Science degree. (A B. Arch requires five years of study as opposed to the traditional four-year degree). In addition, aspiring architects then need to complete a three-year apprenticeship period. To succeed, students need plenty of experience to become recognized in the field and to help them stand out against stiff competition.

Architect Job Description

Chris is the sole proprietor of Chris Dawson Architect. He has designed many projects there, eight of which have been recognized by the AIA as Design Excellence Award Winners.

Architect Daily Routine

"There is no such thing as a normal day for architects," Chris explains. "One of the great things about architecture is that every day is different because each is dependent on the types of project you're working on and at what stage of development they are at.

"In summary, architects' daily responsibilities entail leading construction projects. We need to go about marketing ourselves



to land projects,” says Chris. “Once we land a project, we start by understanding the project site, context, and requirements (codes, budget, schedule, etc.), and then develop a conceptual design solution(s), typically in concert with the owner.”

“You then develop a preferred schematic design and a design development package,” he continues, “which starts to paint the picture of all that the project will entail. The next step would be to make construction documents which flesh out the project in its entirety and entails preparing a comprehensive set of drawings and specifications for a contractor to then build.”

“There would typically be a bidding and negotiating period with multiple contractors before the owner selects a contractor. The architect is then typically a representative for the owner during construction, ensuring that the construction is in line with the design intent and built to the appropriate standards.”

This is the normal route of an architect’s work, but the process can change depending on where and with whom the architect works.

“The architect is constantly coordinating with other parties to see a design through,” Chris adds. “such as civil engineers, structural engineers, specialty engineers, and contractors.”

Architect: Steps to Success

“A successful architect needs passion for his craft, and I think that goes for anything,” says Chris. “There are many different roles a successful architect can fill in the design and construction industry, so the specific personality traits vary.”

“If you want to be a design architect (as I am), you need to be strong creatively, persistent, patient, and a strong leader.”

“You could be an architect that has more of a specialty like focusing on construction administration or code issues or production drawings or an expert in curtain walls, and I think that each of those have a different set of traits.” “The common thread through all of them might be a deep-seeded concern for the built environment,” he adds.

Architect Job Opportunities

Due to the level of competition and the many years of work that go into earning a degree, architecture is a field that takes patience to break into. “It is a challenging profession,” Chris explains. “Even when I was in school, my freshman class started at about 120, and by the time I graduated, there were about 30 of us.” Economic crises can also make the job market unpredictable, as building and remodeling plans can be put on hold until conditions improve.

Favorite Part About an Architecture Career

“Designing,” says Chris. “I love designing something to solve a client’s problem, and I strive to always exceed my client’s expectations.”

An Architect’s Future Ambitions

Chris plans on continuing to grow his successful architectural practice.

Advice for Prospective Architects

“If you’re interested in pursuing architecture, dig into it,” Chris advises. “Go to an intro to architecture summer program (I went to Cornell’s as a high school junior) or enroll in a local ACE program (Architecture, Construction, & Engineering).

Lessons Learned by the Yeoman Architect

By James Mehaffey, AIA

I made an interesting find on a jobsite a little while ago. I discovered a Contractor's tool I had not seen before. I had often wondered how Contractors replicated the many curves that we, the designers, sweat and fret over on paper and in the computer. Radii sometimes are located twenty feet away, in the next room or even possibly the next floor level. What fabulous, computer guided set of French Curve tools the Contractor must require for such a task. I don't mean to expose the "man behind the curtain" or anything. But a broken pen taken from a bank, some electrical tape and a bent wire are used to create our graceful curves and detailing. Just goes to remind you that we do not control the means and methods of those performing the work.



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From top and left to right: Capitol Building Restoration, Whiteaker Center, Lancaster General Hospital, York County Administrative Center, The Reading Hospital for Post-Acute Rehabilitation

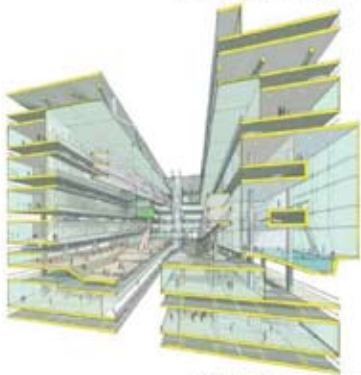
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The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Central PA is pleased to welcome **Paul M. Lewis, AIA** of LTL Architects, PLLC as he makes a presentation titled “Opportunistic Architecture” at the Armstrong World Industries Corporate Campus on **Thursday November 4, 2010**. Armstrong is located at 2500 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster. The lecture will begin at 7:00 pm and will be followed by a social hour in Armstrong’s Design Center.

Paul holds a Master of Architecture from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University. He is an Assistant Professor at Princeton University School of Architecture. He has also taught at Ohio State University, Barnard and Colombia Colleges, Parsons The New School of Design, and the Cooper Union. He is the recipient of the Mercedes T. Bass Rome Prize in Architecture from the American Academy in Rome. In addition he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Architectural League of New York.

Paul gave a brief presentation at the 2010 AIA National Convention in Miami touching on three speculative projects LTL has worked on over the last 10 years since being recognized as a Design Vanguard Firm by *Architectural Record* in 2000. The level of serious research contained in their projects promises an evening that will be thought provoking and could stimulate serious discussions about our built environment.

The AIA Central PA Lecture Series has had tremendous speakers in recent years, many of which have been tied to a prominent news story. Craig Dykers of Snohetta, our Spring Lecturer earlier this year, spoke days before it was announced that his firm had been selected to comprehensively redesign Times Square in New York City and also design an addition to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Shigeru Ban, who spoke in 2009, has made headlines in helping lead design efforts in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. Toshiko Mori, one of our 2008 speakers, received widespread attention for her Visitor’s Center at The Martin House in Buffalo, NY designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mr. Lewis will speak on the heels of LTL’s involvement in the “Rising Currents” exhibit at MoMA in New York (which is being exhibited from March 24, 2010 - October 11, 2010). The exhibit is the first architectural design based exhibition where MoMA commissioned all the work since 1967. Five teams of architects, landscape architects, and urban designers addressed one of the most urgent challenges facing the nation’s largest city: sea-level rise resulting from global climate change. The LTL scheme was creative and pregnant with exciting potential on how we might respond to such a dramatic change in our natural environment.

AIA Central PA welcomes the general public to join us on November 4th to hear Paul’s presentation. Register at www.acteva.co/go/aiacentralpa

Our lecture series would not be possible without the support of our sponsors:

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Central Pennsylvania Architects Foundation to award First Scholarship in 2011

By Frank E. Dittenhafer II, FAIA, LEED AP

The first annual Central PA Architects Foundation Fund Architecture Scholarship is scheduled to be awarded in the summer of 2011 to a student architect with present or former residency from one of the thirteen counties within the AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter Region (Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder and York).

The Central PA Architects Foundation (CPAF) has established this permanent restricted scholarship fund in conjunction with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) headquartered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania which will administer the Fund. The initial \$10,000 amount required to establish the Fund was raised over the past ten years through the AIA Central Pennsylvania Lecture Series, proceeds from other Chapter events, and annual fundraising sponsored by the Foundation Advisory Committee members comprised of Past-Presidents of the AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

To be eligible, student applicants must be currently enrolled in an architecture degree program: degree program: two year or four year undergraduate program, five year professional program, or graduate program leading to a Masters. Financial need, community involvement, volunteer activities, and examples of design work will also be considerations in the scholarship recipient selection process.

The first scholarship award in 2011 is expected to total \$1,000. Annual fundraising efforts by the Foundation Advisory Committee and AIA Central PA will continue – and will be targeted to match or exceed the anticipated scholarship award amounts to preserve and grow the initial \$10,000 endowment. Scholarship Application Forms may be submitted anytime after April 1, 2011 and prior to June 30, 2011 – with the award determination made by the CPAF Advisory Board and TFEC no later than August 15, 2011. Architecture Scholarship Application Forms will be available in 2011 through the TFEC and AIA Central PA Chapter websites.



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ACE Mentor Program - How Can You Help?

Meeting Space

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Publicity in Your Newsletter

Many organizations choose to help ACE by simply making their members aware of our program. Daily, weekly or monthly newsletters are a great way to do this without any added cost.

Website Links

Does your website have a resources page? Add a link to ACE.

Flyers, Posters and Other Marketing Materials

Keep our publications in your office and share it with friends and colleagues. Or better yet, place an ad and really get your name out in front of the industry.

Job Site Tours

One of the best experiences ACE students can have is to visit a real life job site and see workers in action. As a force in the construction community, you have access to very valuable information! Give us a heads up on project that might interest our students. If you and your members think it's cool, our students will too.

Attend Local Events

Every affiliate, large or small, has events to honor students. Because of the size and scope of ACE, the events are a great opportunity to network with your peers in the design/construction industry. And all the proceeds go to scholarships.

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Speaking of scholarships, supporting students as they move forward with careers in our industry is the key mission of ACE. Do you have an existing scholarship program? Earmark one for an ACE student in your region. It's the best way to ensure their future success and to guarantee they'll remember your organization!

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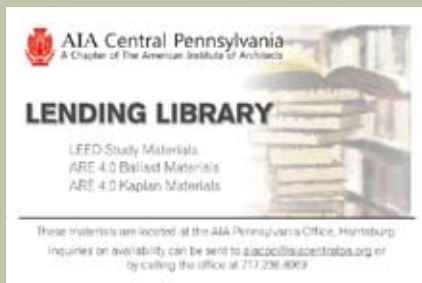
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A little over forty years ago, a phenomenon of broadcasting brilliance began glowing across our television screens depicting a rather unremarkable streetscape of brownstones and back alleys inhabited by a multicultural group of friendly neighbors, and their unusual non-human counterparts. Teaching lessons of cooperation, humility and friendship under the broader curriculum umbrella of grade school education, the inhabitants of Sesame Street have brought us other unplanned lessons in urban living and the life of the street.

Seeing the timeless children's show of Sesame Street as an allegory for idealized city life; we can still find valuable elements applicable to our town, our time and our circumstances.

On the foremost, the title of the show itself contains the singular element of the city construct so critical to its vitality and mere existence: the street. For without it, we clearly find no means of circulation, whether vehicular or pedestrian; but moreover, in its absence, the city lacks the connective tissue that binds the urban fabric together. Because it is on the street, and its sidewalks, where inhabitants encounter one another, begin conversations, develop relationships, and participate in each other's lives.

Again, recall the chance encounters portrayed in the Brooklyn borough inhabited by muppets and their gregarious human companions. On the front stoops of the brownstones and outside the neighborhood grocery, the sidewalks teem with life. The interstitial space of the city becomes the place where residents, business people and visitors conduct their collective lives. Connection occurs in these places when we afford them the opportunity and realize their potential.

Pulling from the inimitable writings of Jane Jacobs and her mid-last-century classic "The Death and Life of Great American Cities: "The tolerance, the room for great differences among neighbors... which are possible and normal in intensely urban life, but which are so foreign to suburbs and pseudosuburbs, are possible and normal only when streets of great cities have built-in equipment allowing strangers to dwell in peace together on civilized but essentially dignified and reserved terms. Lowly, unpurposeful and random as they may appear, sidewalk contacts are the small changes from which a city's wealth of public life may grow."

Fortunately, the streets and sidewalks of Lancaster are well "equipped" for dignified and purposeful urban living. More to the point, the activation of the sidewalk equips it for purpose greater than its mere utility as a pedestrian way.

Take note of North Prince Street during First Fridays as the most intense example. Not only is the sidewalk well served, but witness the effect the enlivened space has on the surrounding neighborhood, businesses and infrastructure. The entire social fabric of the community is strengthened through the chance encounters found there.



Central Market, Lancaster

On the other hand, call to mind the 300 block of North Queen Street on a given weekday, or the areas around Central Market on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays, or any number of sidewalks, side streets and alleys when the weather is favorable in the evenings. You are bound to find innumerable members of the Lancaster community sitting on front stoops, playing on city sidewalks and participating in their neighbors' lives.

Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center Achieves LEED® Gold Certification - Facility is the fourth of its kind in the Nation

YORK, Pennsylvania – July 22, 2010 – LSC Design, Inc. (LSC) is pleased to announce the achievement of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Gold certification for the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. LSC was the lead designer for this project, coordinating the services of more than 20 different professional firms. It is the first museum in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and only the fourth in the United States to receive LEED Gold certification, according to the latest data from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The facility is operated by the Gettysburg Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service and celebrated its grand opening in the fall of 2008.

The USGBC's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. Over 32,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising over 9.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center houses one of the largest collections of civil war memorabilia in the world within its 139,000 square feet. The building includes 20,000 square feet of permanent interpretive gallery space, two 180-seat state-of-the-art theatres, cafeteria and banquet style dining areas, a gift/book store, collection storage area, visitor center, and park and foundation offices. The facility is also home to America's largest painting, the historic Gettysburg Cyclorama. Exhibited for the first time in December 1884 and painted by Paul Dominique Philippoteaux, the painting was carefully restored and is now back to its original size, 377 feet long and 42 feet high.

"This facility needed to reinforce the sense of place already associated with the Gettysburg Battlefield grounds," said Project Architect and LSC President, Robert A. Kinsley, II, AIA. "The building needed to blend into the landscape so that it felt like something that had been there all along." For that reason, many of the LEED features of the building also focused on the historic and sensitive nature of the surrounding landscape.

"Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, USGBC. "The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come."

Some examples of the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center's environmentally responsible design include:

- Geothermal heating and cooling system, one of the largest on the East Coast, uses the earth's constant ground temperature to heat and cool the building. The system includes 207 wells drilled to an average depth of 550 feet



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- Native vegetation used in landscaping requires no irrigation
- Stream channel and wetland restoration bringing the site back to its original form
- Endangered grasses were harvested and transplanted during construction
- Insulated metal wall panels, typically used in cold storage warehouses, optimize energy performance and help maintain the constant temperature and humidity controls required to maintain the Cyclorama painting
- Underground storage tanks collect stormwater to reduce run-off
- Green energy credits were purchased so that a significant portion of the facility's power usage is generated from green sources
- Establishment of a facility-wide recycling program
- Landfill impact was reduced 75% by diverting metal, cardboard, and wood during construction waste to a recycling center
- Preferred parking spaces were designated for carpooling and low-emission vehicles
- Off-gassing was reduced or eliminated by selecting low-emitting materials such as carpet and vinyl flooring, adhesives and sealants, and paints and coatings

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2010 AIA Central PA Calendar

November

4	Lecture Series: Paul Lewis, LTL Architects, Armstrong Campus in Lancaster
8	Conference & Expo and Design Awards, Harrisburg
22	Ex Com Meeting
25-26	Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
30	Newsletter Content Due – Winter Edition

December

9	Associate Movie Night
11	Board Planning Meeting
23-24	Office Closed – Christmas Holidays

*Comments regarding
the AIA CPA
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The Young Architects Forum

By Tammie Fitzpatrick, AIA

The Young Architects Forum is working to grow a network of support and collaboration for Architects in our chapter licensed 10 years or less. We would like to reach out to those Associates who are completing to IDP and ARE and transitioning to registration, and invite you be a part of YAF activities.

YAF will be kicking off a Resume / Portfolio review service for Associates, architecture students, or those looking for or transitioning to a new job. If you're interested, email your resume and portfolio and we will match you with an elder Architect ready to share their knowledge and expertise on how to best present yourself on paper!

We're also looking for more "seasoned" Architects willing to review and critique to sharpen our resumes and portfolios. If you'd like to volunteer, please **contact Tammie Fitzpatrick at --- or Holly Williams Leppo at hwleppo@smbr-inc.com.**

YAF will also have a presence at the AIA Central PA Conference & Expo on Monday, November 8 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey. Don't forget to register! It's a full day of lectures and opportunities to earn continuing education credits, and in the evening, we will celebrate the innovation and creativity of local firms and projects at the Design Awards. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Young Architects to grow your networking group.

We also want to hear from you! Let us know your interests. We are currently throwing around the idea of an online book club. We, as Young Architects, are always looking for inspiring books to read. Tell us your favorites!

We look forward to seeing you at the Expo. Don't forget to register!

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2009 Design Awards

CITATION AWARD

Pennsylvania
Judicial Center
Project

VITETTA Group, Inc.
Architect

Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania-
Department of
General Services
Client



Jury Comments:

Building designed with a sense of permanence. The building is a strong addition to Judicial Architecture with a refined ability to relate to its historic context.



CITATION AWARD

The Gemini Classroom
Project

LSC Design, Inc.
Architect

Open Architecture
Network
Client



SIDE ELEVATION

The support clusters visually and literally minimize impact on the site.



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVES

Top: demonstrates the classroom's use. Notice the built-in polycarbonate shade and light wraps which respond to the openings in the far wall.

Bottom: demonstrates the flow from interior to exterior.



Jury Comments:

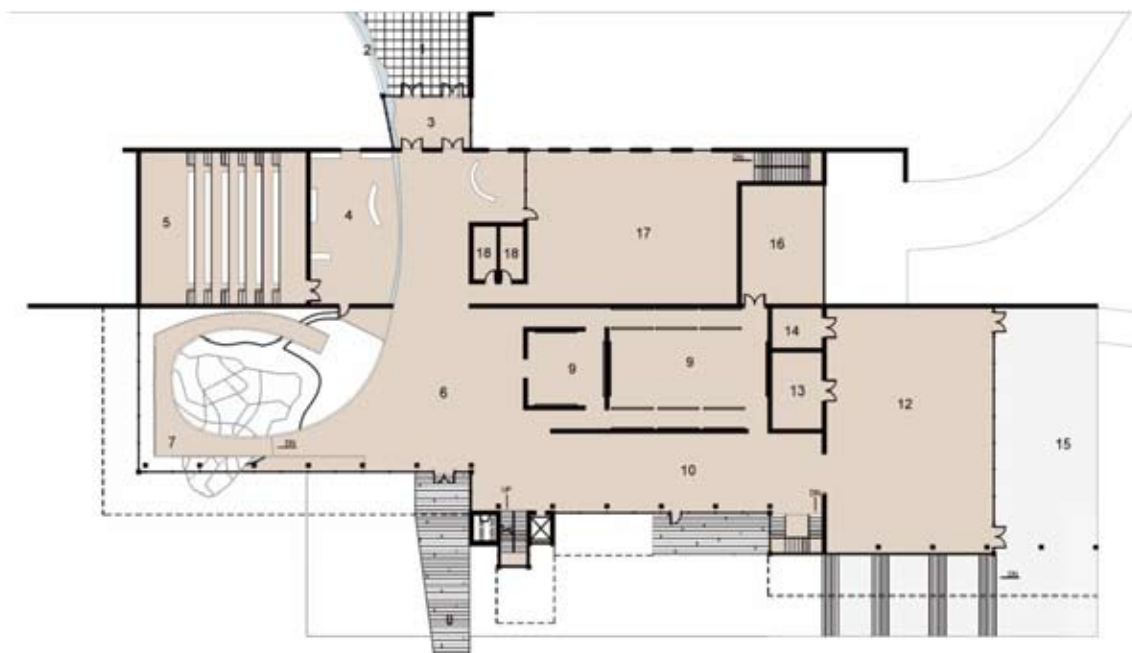
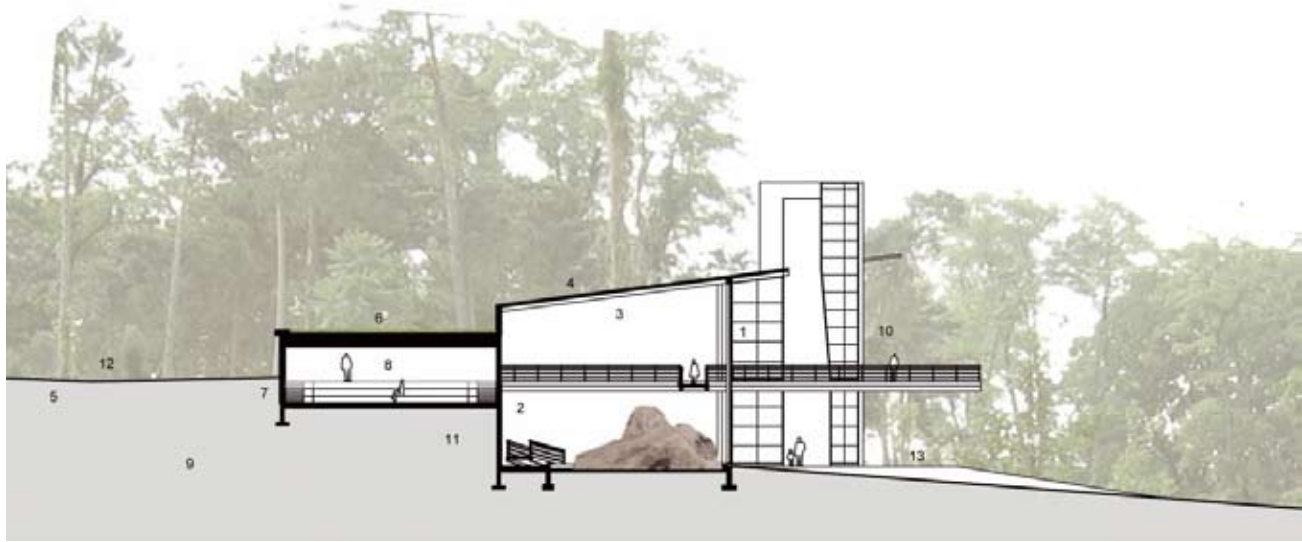
A well thought out approach to modular classroom architecture. The design was inventive and creative. The jury felt that it was the strongest presentation of all the entries. Lastly, what a thrill it would be to learn in this environment.



MERIT AWARD

Susquehanna Gateway
River Heritage Center
Project

Murphy & Dittenhafer
Architects
Architect



Jury Comments:

A well thought out and executed plan. The design evokes a contemplative place in nature in which the building defers to its setting. The jury was intrigued by the hand sketches and how the project may develop further.