

# Architext

Summer 2009

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](mailto:aiacpc@aiacentralpa.org)



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2101 North Front Street  
Building 1, Suite 100  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone: (717) 236-2266  
Fax: (717) 236-1655  
mattl@aum-architecture.com

### Vice President / Secretary **Christopher Dawson, AIA**

Lecture Series Chairman  
LSC Design, Inc.  
1110 East Princess Street  
York, PA 17403-2543  
Phone: (717) 845-8595  
Fax: (717) 845-8177  
cdawson@lscdesign.com

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

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

### State Directors

**Frank E. Dittenhafer, II, FAIA**  
(2007-2009)  
Murphy & Dittenhafer, Inc.  
226 West Market Street  
York, PA 17401-1008  
Phone: (717) 848-8627  
Fax: (717) 843-2449  
fed@murphdittarch.com

### 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**  
LSC Design, Inc.  
1110 East Princess Street  
York, PA 17403-2543  
Phone: (717) 845-8383  
Fax: (717) 845-8177  
swentz@lscdesign.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

**Joshua M. Carney, P.E.**  
Carney Engineering Group  
President  
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York, PA 17401  
Phone: (717) 815-8571  
Cell: (717) 968-4261  
www.carneyengineeringgroup.com

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terri@jmichaelbrill.com

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

### 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

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### Honorary Affiliate Member

Position Vacant

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**Scott Beisel**  
136 Walnut Street  
Mont Clare, PA 19453  
Phone: (484) 942-9477  
sdbiesel@stevenscollege.edu

### On The Cover:

*Jewish Contemporary Art Museum, San Francisco, CA*

## Pequea Valley School District: Paradise Elementary School

*Submitted by EI Associates*



*Paradise Elementary School- Paradise, Pennsylvania*

The Pequea Valley Board of Education commissioned a District Wide Feasibility Study of school facilities in 2005. As a result of this study it was recommended to either perform alterations and additions to two existing elementary schools or combine them into a new K-5 Elementary School. The District choose to consolidate and build one new school and create a comprehensive high performance building that was better able to prepare for future energy needs. This new building will allow for the efficient operation of multi-use and shared areas within the building; utilize one energy efficient HVAC system; and allow for more efficient bus transportation of the elementary students. The New Paradise Elementary School, built on the 17 acre site of the existing Paradise Elementary School, is designed to obtain LEED Gold Certification and is a focus of a Green Building Education Plan for the community. By achieving the LEED certification, the District sought to build a building that conserved land resources, optimized energy performance, reduced energy consumption and costs,

*See Pequea Valley, Page 3*

# Pequea Valley Continued

reduced water consumption, lessened storm water impact, and supported the regional economy by utilizing regional materials and resources.

The site design conserves land resources by utilizing an existing District property, following the slope of the existing topography, and preserving open space on site by building multiple floor levels. Shared core facilities are arranged to minimize circulation space and the classroom wing is oriented for optimal solar orientation.

To conserve and reduce energy consumption and costs, the District chose to install a ground source heat pump system with heat recovery for ventilation air systems and pursued other energy savings measures that allowed the school to achieve all 10 LEED Credits for Optimized Energy Performance.

Further energy saving features include: increased insulation in walls and roof; dimming ballast in all luminaries with daylight controls and occupancy sensors; monitoring software to continuously document energy loads; building orientation for optimal natural lighting; and high efficiency windows.

Water efficiency was another important consideration in the design of the new school. Utilizing rainwater harvesting, low consumption fixtures, waterless urinals, and recycled wastewater for irrigation, all 5 LEED points for water efficiency have been achieved. These include the credit for Innovative Wastewater Technologies, and an additional Innovation in Design credit for exceeding the established credits for Water Use Reduction. Measures have been taken to implement a storm water management plan that results in a 25% decrease in the rate and quantity of storm water runoff.

Additionally, over 30% of the materials used in construction were recycled, reducing the impacts resulting from extraction and processing of virgin materials. More than 40% of the materials were extracted, processed and manufactured regionally, which supports the use of indigenous resources and reduces the environmental impacts resulting from transportation. Low-emitting flooring, paints, composite wood, adhesives, and sealants are used throughout the building to improve air quality. The school will also be supporting alternative transportation by sizing the parking to meet the minimum zoning requirements, providing bicycle storage and showering facilities, and providing preferred parking for low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles.



## PROJECT PROFILE

Type of School:  
Elementary School

Grade Levels: K – 5

Area of Building:  
91,335 s.f. – New  
Construction

Cost Per Square Foot:  
\$193.50

Cost of Construction:  
\$17,673,718.92

Completion Date:  
December 2008

# AIA Lecture Series Update

By Chris Dawson, AIA



*Shigeru Ban Japan Pavillion,  
EXPO 2000. Hannover, Germany.  
Main exhibition space.*

In march we held our first local lecture event during the annual Architect's Expo. Doug Rohrbaugh led the presentation of the work of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates over the past twenty-five years as its grown to be the third largest architectural firm in the state. Frank Dittenhafer then provided insight into the themes of interest in the work of Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects.

In May, Shigeru Ban made a presentation entitled "Works & Humanitarian Activities" at the capitol theatre in York. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Engineering Society of York and was well attended. Shigeru revealed himself to have very discriminating taste and to be a talented exhibit curator, dedicated to

the craft of architecture, truly creative, and above all else an architect deeply concerned about his fellow man on a global scale.

Julie Eizenberg will make a presentation, "Relationships," for our fall lecture at the Armstrong Corporate Campus in Lancaster Thursday, October 1st at 7 pm. It is not too late to sponsor this year's lecture series and be recognized in the upcoming lecture series programs. Please see the sponsorship opportunities section of the AIA Central PA website for more information and the downloadable sponsorship form at [www.aiacentralpa.org](http://www.aiacentralpa.org).



*Shigera Ban's Paper Church,  
Kobe, Japan*

# Joy of Design Reaffirmed

By Chris Dawson, AIA

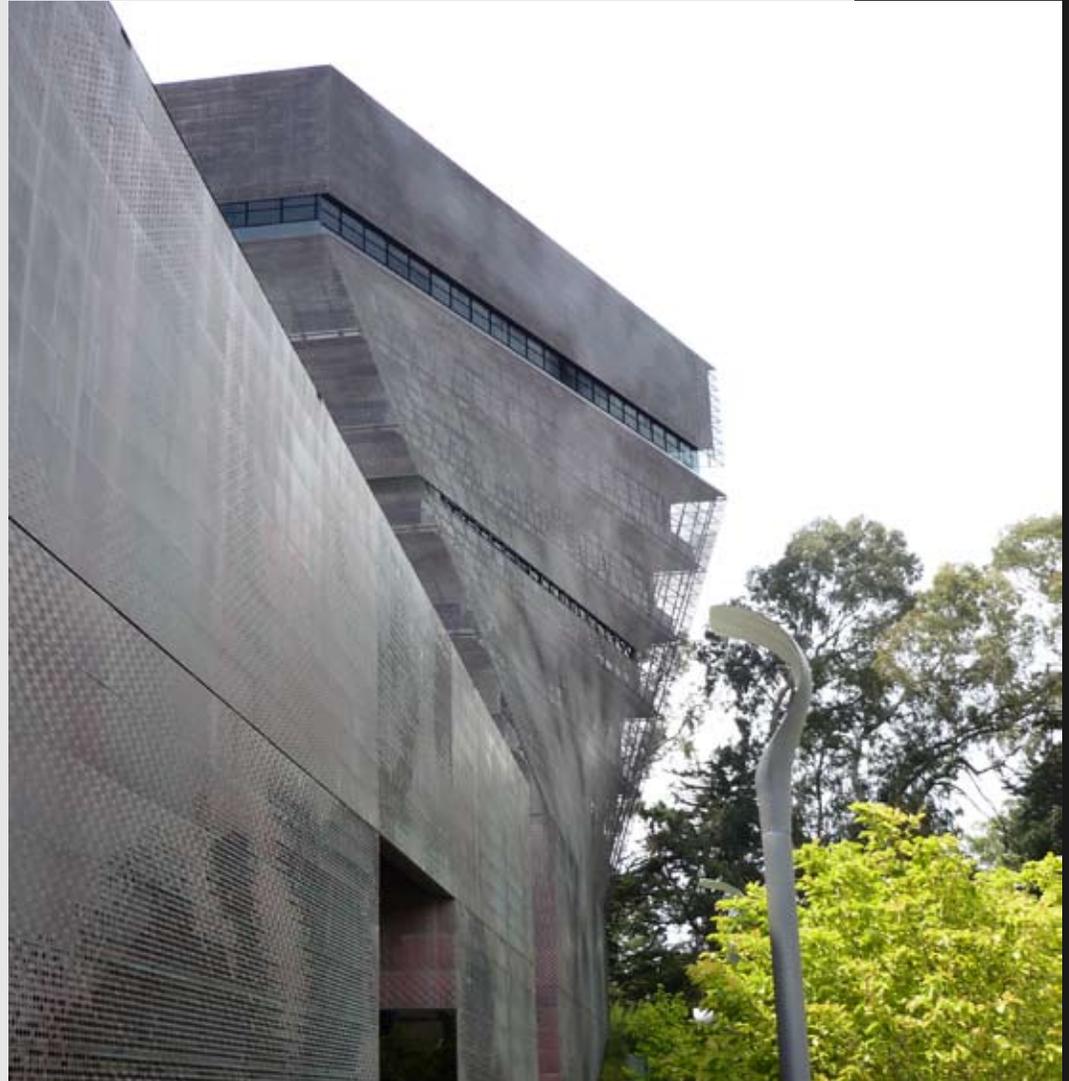
President Marvin Malecha closed the San Francisco AIA National Convention challenging everyone to tear down the walls of our profession and focus on the value of good ideas and relationships. He reminded us that at its core, architecture is a profession dedicated to design, a discussion of what is yet to be, and that there is a fundamental joy in conceiving the creation of something new.

The joy was evident in the De Young Museum's architectural surprises, in Julie Eizenberg's eyes when describing to me Stanley Saitowitz's recent synagogue, in discovering the quality of general workspace in the Morphosis Federal Building as Carol Ross Barney and I broke away from our guided tour, in Amale Andraos describing her global metropolis analysis with a sustainability lens titled forty-nine cities, and definitely in Craig Dykers presenting an alternative and more democratic vision for practicing architecture with a revealing look at the snohetta office culture.

The climax of the convention was the "Focus on Contemporary Architecture - Critical Opinions" presentation which saw twelve young architects take the stage for four minutes each. The ideas and work presented were exceptional across the board but the most notable presentations were: Sebastian Schmalings' understated way of emphasizing the need to craft physical models, Tom Kundig drawing new designs out of old technologies, Teddy Cruz fundamentally challenging conventional ideas about sustainability, density, and housing, Nader Tehrani's examination of construction means and methods as a springboard for rich design, and Lisa Iwamoto's architectural poetry.

Staying on for a few extra days to soak in San Francisco (it rained a good bit there) we explored the bay area further discovering exquisite wines, creative food, an inspiring coast line in Sonoma County, a rich collection of modern art not only at Sfmoma but also in local galleries, friendly people at almost every turn - Even on a two hour bus ride to get glimpses of the sprawling city that we would have otherwise missed out on altogether.

I find myself returning to Central Pennsylvania with an expanded list of architects to invite to lecture to our chapter, encouraged by the good work being done by aia members around the world, and a feeling of optimism by belonging to an organization thoroughly committed to improving our world by Advancing the Practice of Architecture.



*De Young Museum  
San Francisco, CA*

# LEED and Acoustics

By Christopher Brooks



*Census Bureau Headquarters – LEED Silver: Washington, DC*

**LEED** touches on nearly every aspect of a building, and so affects acoustics. Acoustic design affects many areas addressed by LEED. Yet LEED contains very little reference to acoustics, with the notable exception of the acoustics prerequisite for schools, for which US Green Building Council imported the ANSI 12.60 Standard for School Acoustics.

Let us discuss this relationship through each of the LEED categories, with a few illustrative examples.

## **Sustainable Sites**

A building's site affects noise levels inside; noise produced by a building affects its site, sometimes adversely (e.g. a train passing right by a school building). Fortunately, noise pollution (unlike other forms of pollution) disappears instantly when the source ceases. Noise is, nevertheless, pollution. One wonders why the Construction Activity Pollution Prevention prerequisite omits a requirement to control construction site noise. This section also contains discussion of green roofs, which can be applied towards several credits. Green roofs also offer acoustic benefits. They can help dampen the sound of rain on the roof, and their mass can help improve isolation from noise coming through the roof. Perhaps they should also be allowed to contribute toward indoor environmental quality credits in projects where these functions are important.

## **Water Efficiency**

There is not much interaction with acoustics in this section, though rain noise and the sound of flushing fixtures affect acoustics in noise-sensitive spaces like church sanctuaries and auditoria.

## **Energy & Atmosphere**

Mechanical and electrical equipment noise is a prime concern in architectural acoustics. This equipment can produce noise and vibration both in the surrounding environment, and within the interior of a building. Both require the establishment of appropriate criteria, and the design and construction of noise control measures. Some measures for reducing mechanical noise, such as longer duct runs, may increase energy consumption—a conflict with LEED that requires thoughtful design. On the other hand, some more environmentally friendly approaches to indoor air quality (such as passive ventilation) create opportunities for creative synergy between environmental and acoustic design.

See *LEED*, Page 10

# The "Architects Art" Show

## AIA Central PA Centennial Celebration 1909-2009

By Richard A. Gribble, AIA

As part of the 1909-2009 Centennial Celebration of the American Institute of Architects Central Pennsylvania Chapter, we are organizing an exhibition of work created by chapter members that reflect the artistic aspects of the architects profession. Architectural renderings, sketches, detailed drawings, and models, created with an artistic hand, and a high level of craftsmanship will be on exhibition at the Art Association of Harrisburg from September 21 through September 25 coinciding with Architects Day at the State Capitol Tuesday September 22. An opening event is planned for Monday September 21 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Art Association, and will include a lecture by Harrisburg historian Ken Frew. Ken's book, the Architects and Builders of Harrisburg will also be available for purchase. The exhibition will feature work by early members of the chapter, including York architect John Augustus Dempwolf, and Harrisburg architect Charles Howard Lloyd. Over a dozen other Central Chapter member architects will be featured in the show. We are asking our members to email digital copies of their most artistic work, renderings, and models, so that we may determine how much we can include in the show. Please include the overall size of the piece and your contact information. For more information, or to send a digital copy of your work, please contact AIA Central PA. There is no fee to be in the show, however space is limited.

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### AIA Central Pennsylvania

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

# AIA PA Offices Relocate



Effective August 1st, we will be relocating to the 12th floor of Historic Payne Shoemaker Building (pictured to the left), immediately across the street from the Capitol Building in downtown Harrisburg.

Murphy Dittenhafer is the architect of record.

The goal is for the renovation to be LEED Certified. The office will be customer-friendly for our code book and document sales. It will also have a large meeting room for seminars, meetings with policy-makers, and the briefing session for AIA Pennsylvania's annual Architects Day on the Hill.

## ARE 4.0 Lending Library

*By Seth H. Wentz, Assoc. AIA*

In an effort to better serve the associate members of Central PA and to support associates on the path to licensure, the AIA Central PA chapter has purchased a complete set of ARE 4.0 Kaplan study guides. The complete set includes study guides, question and answer books, practice tests, practice vignettes, and flashcards. We are currently in the process of setting up a lending library that will be free to use for any chapter member. The current plan is that they would be kept at the Harrisburg AIA office and lent to associates for a month at a time.

Eventually we would also like to start hosting study sessions provided that there is enough interest. The study sessions would be hosted by a professional in that section's field, or a chapter member who recently passed the section that is being studied. We would also like to start a network of Associates who are taking the exam. This network would put associates in contact with other associates who are studying for the same section, giving them the ability to connect with study partners and help each other through a section.

I want to personally thank the Central PA Board for approving the purchase of these expensive study materials and for allowing them to be accessed for free. I'm glad to know that our chapter is taking care of its associates by providing them with these resources.

# AIA Central PA Calendar

2009

September

- 2 Board Meeting
- 7 Office Closed – Labor Day
- 21-23 Architects Art Show at the Art Association of Harrisburg
- 21 Event (TBD) at the Art Association of Harrisburg
- 21-23 AIA Pennsylvania's Annual Conference
- 30 Ex Com Meeting

October

- 1 Lecture at Armstrong Corporate Campus
- 12 Office Closed – Columbus Day
- 15 Board Meeting
- 23 Design Awards

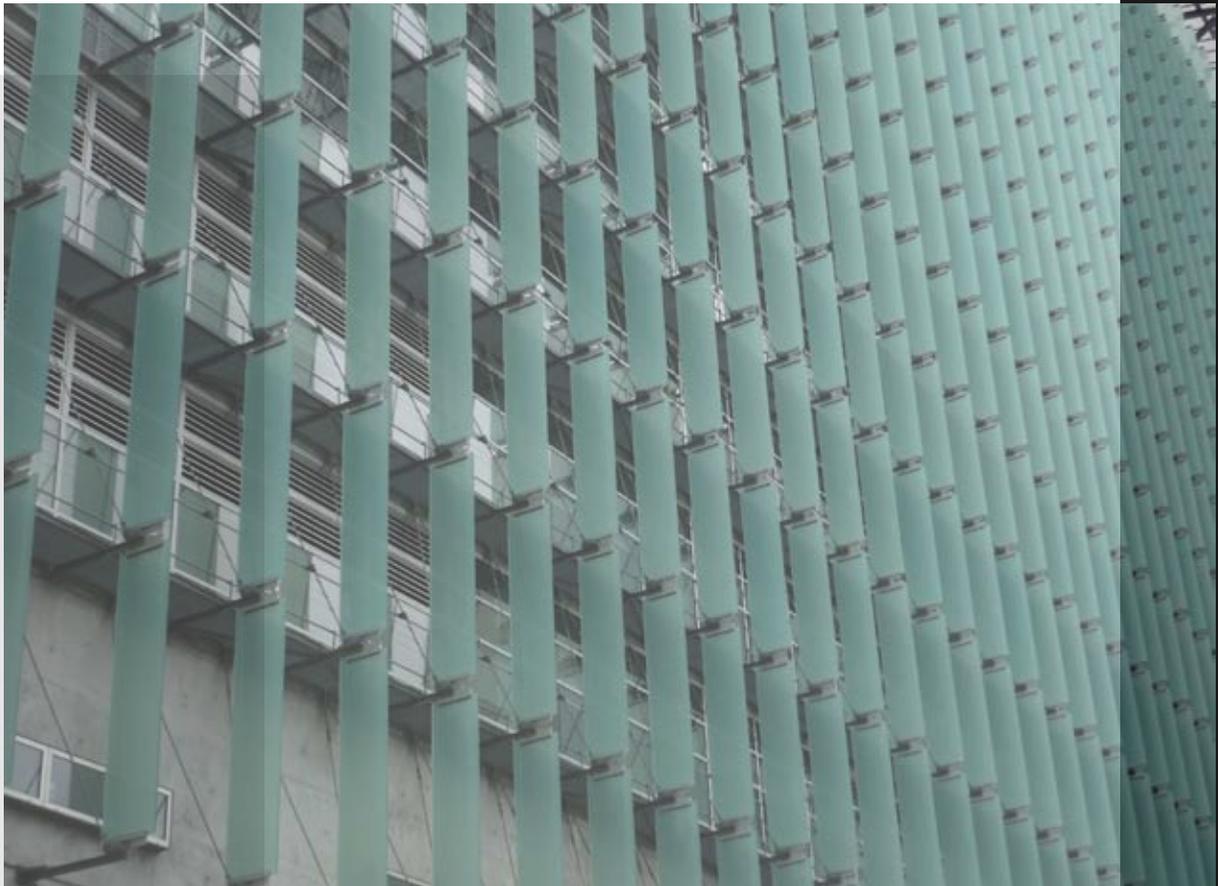
November

- 11-13 Green Build in Phoenix, AZ
- 18 Ex Com Meeting
- 26-27 Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 5 Board Planning Meeting
- 24-25 Office Closed – Christmas Holidays

*De Young Museum  
San Francisco, CA*



*Federal Building  
San Francisco, CA*



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### Materials & Resources

Materials affect acoustics by blocking, absorbing, transmitting and scattering sound. Some “acoustical” materials (such as acoustical tile) have a high percentage of recycled material. This offers another opportunity for synergy which requires knowledge of both LEED and acoustics to exploit.

### Indoor Environmental Quality

Background noise, speech privacy, and inappropriate reverberation strongly affect indoor environmental quality in any occupied building. The requirements for indoor environmental quality vary with a buildings program (and within that program). For example, lots of outdoor light would be appropriate in an office work area, but not in a recording studio control room. Some buildings (such as churches or concert halls) are designed to create exquisite indoor environmental quality to serve a specific program. Measures to improve indoor environmental quality by bringing in the outside world (such as increasing outdoor air, or providing more daylight) pose challenges for controlling noise from the outside world. The appropriated balance requires expertise and a sense of how acoustics fits in with all the other requirements of a building’s program.

### Innovation in Design

The sort of innovative thinking that is rewarded by the Innovation in Design credit is crucial in a collaborative design field like architectural acoustics. Acoustics interacts with every aspect of a building’s design, including (but not limited to) LEED requirements. The contract documents contain no separate “acoustics drawings.” Rather, acoustics must integrate respectfully with every other aspect

of a design—even in buildings or spaces where acoustics is a focus of the program. The necessary collaboration requires creativity, flexibility, and constant awareness of every other aspect of design—including LEED requirements.

#### Other issues

It is worth considering that many important architectural and acoustic issues are not addressed at all in LEED. It is entirely possible, for instance, to build a performance space with really dreadful acoustics, or an ugly, uninspired, poorly-functioning building and still achieve LEED platinum. LEED may contribute, but design is still paramount.

Christopher Brooks (LEED® AP and affiliate member of the AIA Central PA) is a Senior Consultant with Acoustic Dimensions, an architectural acoustics consulting firm with offices in New Rochelle New York, Dallas Texas, and Coventry England—and projects all around the world, including LEED projects both certified and in design. He welcomes questions about this article: [cbrooks@ad-ny.com](mailto:cbrooks@ad-ny.com).

# 2008 Design Awards

MERIT  
AWARD

## Jury Comments:

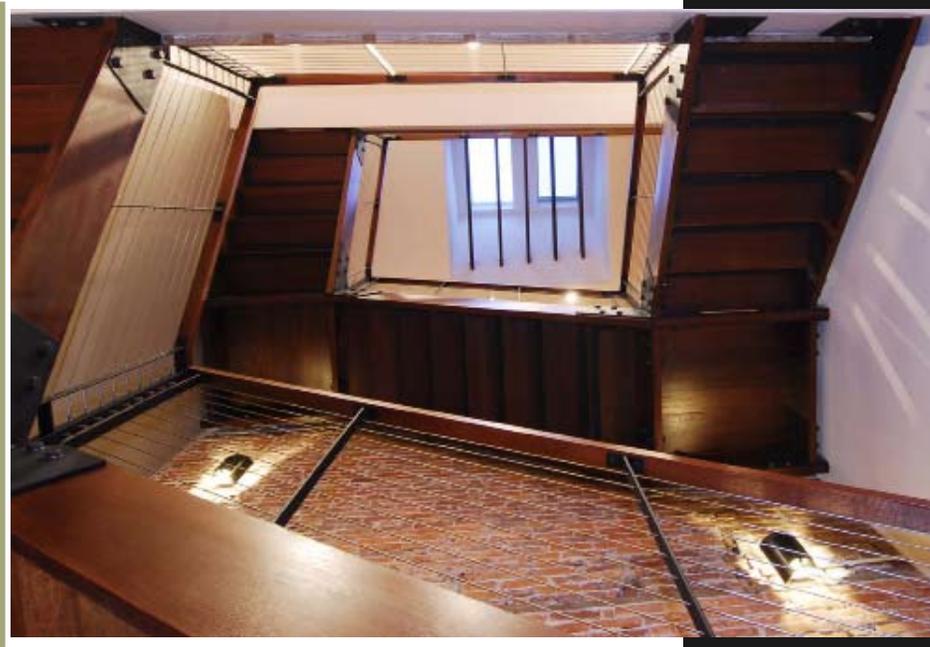
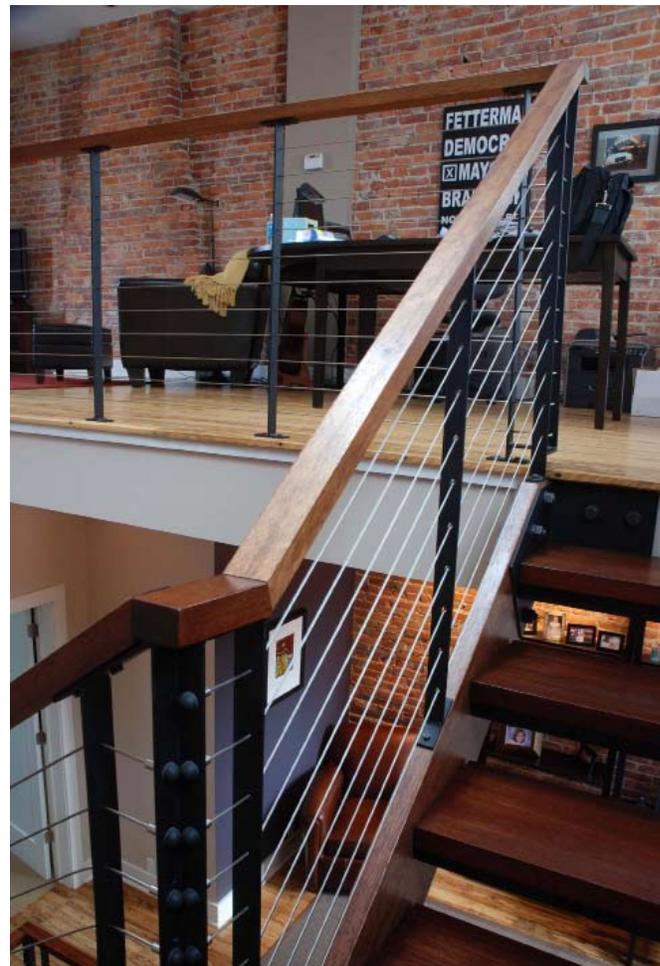
Although not a large project, the complexity and refined attention to detail in integrating a simple stair in this residence thoroughly impressed the jury. The industrial, yet elegant, stair is artfully constructed of solid mahogany, exposed steel, and cable rail. Careful execution of every connection and transition of the stair is evident. This unadorned centerpiece of the townhouse defines a wonderful structure for circulation and creates open, light filled spaces in what could be a dark town home. The Jury applauds the architect for using the stair as a catalyst for spatial design, a way to filter natural light into the town home, and using the circulation to order the spaces around it.



Fetterman  
Residence  
Project

McKissick Associates/  
Richard Gribble  
Architect

Greg & Christine  
Fetterman  
Client

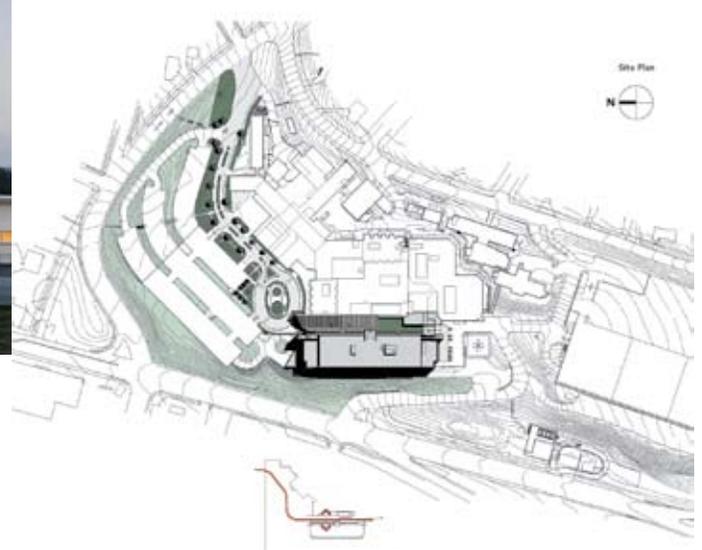


## HONOR AWARD

York Hospital Patient  
Care Tower  
Project

TRO Jung/Brannen  
Architect

WellSpan Health  
Client



### **Jury Comments:**

The entrance façade is nicely delineated with horizontal banding of polychromatic brick and architectural concrete and is accentuated with dramatic cantilevered entry canopies and proportional curtain wall glazing. As the base of the façade rotates around the drive court, the materials and language of the building change interacting with the topography and framework defined by the passing highway to the west. The western façade has a clean, simple, and modern appearance. The integration of sun-shading devices creates a light filigree of texture, enhanced by the simple geometry of the curtain wall glazing. The extended bays seem to float over the road embankment while anchored to the extended cardiovascular wing. The connection of the New Patient Unit is defined with a two story atrium whose structure successfully emulates an abstracted tree lined path. Exterior materials and filtered day-lighting continue into the atrium, connecting the exterior to the interior. The remaining interior finishes are clean and elegant. Reserved uses of color add life to the spaces. The plan is uncomplicated. Units of flexible pods provide clear delineation of patient areas and define intimate spaces within the larger whole.



## CITATION AWARD

Lower Allen  
Township  
Emergency &  
Municipal Services  
Center  
Project

Buchart Horn, Inc./  
BASCO Associates  
Architect

Lower Allen  
Township  
Client

### **Jury Comments:**

This building displays exceptional contextual character and should be recognized with a citation award. The panel agreed unanimously that this project demonstrates a careful and deliberate palette of form, massing and materials to follow the rich architectural integrity of the region. The project achieves a high level of success with its intent to minimally impact the site visually by breaking up the massing of the buildings, and using the gently sloping site to its advantage. The architectural detailing, variety of indigenous materials and natural colors celebrates the rich heritage of the region and creates an inviting look and (we assume) feel. The architecture expresses honest interpretation to solidly ground the building in Pennsylvania history and culture. The building looks like it was meant to be on that site all along.



## MERIT AWARD

Connellsville Area  
Career and  
Technical Center  
Project

Crabtree, Rohrbaugh  
& Associates  
Architect

Connellsville Area  
School District  
Client



### **Jury Comments:**

Quality imaging thoroughly describes this un-built project. With the use of color three dimensional renderings the architecture of the Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center is clearly understandable.

The plan is well resolved and provides clear circulation through seamless connections with the existing facility. Entry courts and private courtyards are provided to help give interior spaces connection to the outdoors.

The architecture of the new expansion is reflective of the existing buildings in materials and scale. The expansion also provides a contemporary image to the campus with the use of subtle planar shifts and the bold use of color. By lifting the roof with a soft curve the circulation corridors are illuminated with overhead clearstories. Overall the spaces are interactive and create an energetic learning environment for the students.



*Newsletter Design provided by  
Leah Wentz, leahwhln@yahoo.com*