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Spring 2010

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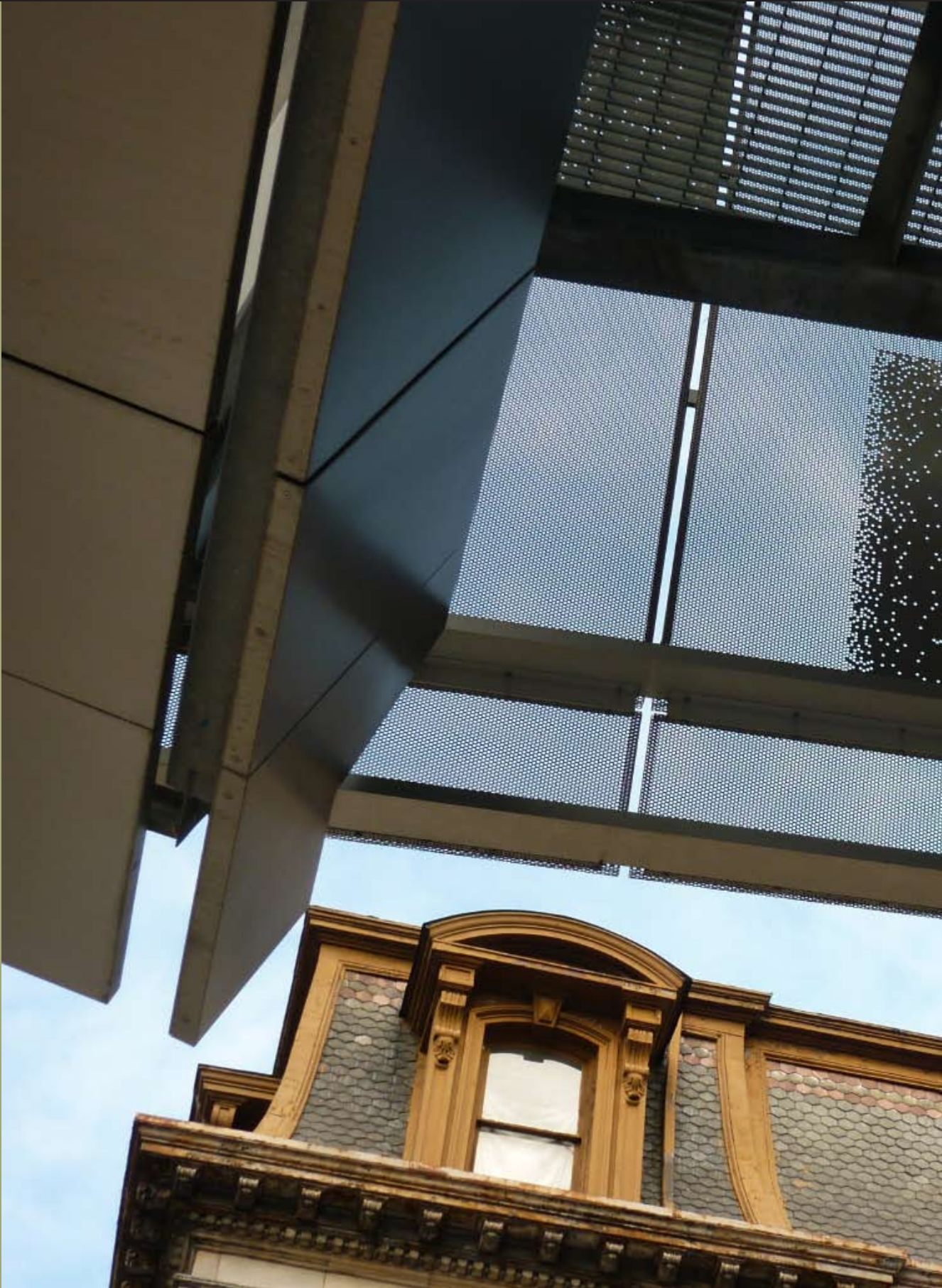
The Newsletter of AIA Central Pennsylvania



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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<http://archrecord.construction.com/>

Central PA AIA Planning Meeting for 2010

By Chris Dawson, AIA



2010 Central PA AIA Board
AIA office Harrisburg

On December 5th our Chapter's Board met for the Annual Planning Meeting. We reviewed how 2009 played out and what is in our best interests as we begin thinking about 2010. Thank you to all those on the Board that made a significant sacrifice by spending five hours of their time on a Saturday to add their voice to the AIA discussion at the local level (see group photo to the left). Welcome to our three new Board members: Scott Butcher, Wendy Tippetts, AIA & Holly Leppo, AIA.

As you are aware, the local chapter is an all-volunteer organization so we cannot cut staff like AIA National to cope with the financial challenges facing us. We, instead, are focusing on more efficient approaches to realize our events and ways to increase revenue. As Chairman of the Lecture Series, I will invite architects from NYC this year to speak in an effort to minimize travel expenses as well as increasing our admission prices. We are looking to combine the Annual Conference / Expo with the Design Awards program in an effort to incur less "overhead" costs for these events. We will also be reducing expenses for our executives while attending Grassroots and National Convention amongst other cost conscious moves.

Central PA AIA Planning continued page 3

I am proud to say that despite a revenue shortfall in 2009 we did not feel a negative impact on the offerings from our chapter thanks to solid planning over the previous few years – most significantly the adoption of a financial reserves policy three years ago which we are now drawing against. In 2009 our chapter celebrated its centennial with an Art of Architecture Show in September featuring examples of the artistic side of our profession by local practitioners over the past 100 years. We continued our support of scholarships for those studying architecture via the ACE Mentoring program and offered our best Annual Conference / Expo to date just to note a few items. I continue to be impressed by the breadth of events and issues our chapter tackles every year (only a few of which I've noted here) and I believe it is testament to the passion with which architects are engaged in the world.

We will continue to support efforts that resonate with our mission, “to advance the practice of architecture”, in 2010 as we will see the return of some evening continuing education programs and the establishment of a young architect's forum (Central PA YAF). We will be tuned into balancing our income and expenses but in a manner that allows us to continue to improve our core events. I encourage anyone on the fence about getting more involved in the AIA to jump in and contact me directly – we could use help with the Design Awards, the Annual Conference / Expo, as well as generating momentum with the young architect's forum.

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AIA Grassroots: 2010 Leadership & Legislative Conference Recap

By Chris Dawson, AIA

During the first week of February, I attended the annual AIA Grassroots conference in Washington, DC. Central PA was strongly represented by Wendy Tippetts, Central PA AIA Board of Directors Member, Seth Wentz, Central PA AIA Board of Directors Member and National Associates Committee rep for the Pennsylvania Area, and Eric McRoberts, Chairman of the Design for Aging Knowledge Community.

The theme for the conference this year was “design as inspiration, engagement, and collaboration.” It began with an inspirational piece of performance art called “Paintjam” where the artist Dan Dunn began painting on a very large black canvas with white paint in what appeared for the first three minutes or so to be totally random patterns. Ultimately you could begin to make out that it was a large portrait although it was being painted upside down! In the end he flips the canvas around and you can see that it's a portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright painted within the span of about five minutes. Clark Manus, the Grassroots 2010 Chair, noted that it was meant to be a metaphor for the power of architects to render meaning out of apparent chaos.



Grassroots
Washington, DC

We heard numerous presentations by congressional leaders in preparation for lobbying on Capitol Hill as well as a powerful presentation by Urban Policy Director Adolfo Carrion. He addressed not only the current administration's concern for thoughtful urban

development but also the challenges of responding to the natural disaster in Haiti and the architectural issues connected to rebuilding Haiti. Congress was busy on Thursday when we were lobbying so the representatives I had meetings with were on the floor of the House for voting but we had lengthy audiences with their staff and discussed the AIA's Rebuild & Renew: Blueprint for Long-Term Prosperity (see <http://www.aia.org/advocacy/federal/AIAB081324>). The Rebuild & Renew materials served as a framework within which Wendy and I shared with the staffers our experiences over the last year and then recommended supporting specific legislation.

I've attended grassroots for three years and each year the final day of the conference has invariably included powerful leadership speeches. This year included Dr. Richard Farson's presentation entitled "The Power of Design" and Puanani Burgess made one entitled "Building Beloved Communities" and both were greeted with standing ovations. Dr. Farson focused on "big issues" under a heading he termed meta design and urged architects to be actively engaged in re-thinking society's issues. Amongst other things he noted the distinction between a profession and a business, a problem and a predicament, and how integral failure is to success. Puanani Burgess was very colorful and told wonderful stories rooted in her Hawaiian culture that centered on the need to relate to and understand the people around us.

AIA Grassroots continued page 5



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We also discovered how ill prepared DC is for significant snowfall so our contingent was unable to head home until Sunday but I got to really know not only our group but also a handful of representatives from AIA Europe. I believe that not only has the recent economic challenges tested our country, communities, and area architectural practices but that it is testing the position of AIA as the leading professional organization. I feel it is important that we all are engaged with our professional society, the AIA, and ensure that it is positioning itself as a resource to our government and community leaders and reflecting the

concerns of its members. I also return from DC reassured that Central PA AIA as a mid-size component is offering tremendous value to our members without trying to bite-off more than a volunteer organization of our size can handle. We are ahead of the curve in terms of member retention compared to what AIA is seeing nationally and even in other parts of our state. All of this reflects positively on the active members in our chapter and I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all of those helping to make our events successful. Having been a member at-large occasionally attending events for my first ten years in the chapter, I encourage everyone to support our events by attending as many as possible and communicating your concerns to the chapter leadership.



AIA Central Pennsylvania
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LENDING LIBRARY

LEED Study Materials
ARE 4.0 Ballast Materials
ARE 4.0 Kaplan Materials

These materials are located at the AIA Pennsylvania Office, Harrisburg.
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AIA Central PA 2010 Spring Lecture

By Chris Dawson, AIA



Snøhetta's Alexandria Library, Egypt

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Craig E. Dykers, AIA (Senior Partner/Director, Snøhetta, Oslo/New York) will make a presentation titled "Snøhetta: Works" at 7pm on Thursday, June 3rd at the Capitol Theatre in York.

Snøhetta has been the recipient of the Aga Khan, Mies Van der Rohe and World Architecture Prizes. Dykers has worked on the design of several prominent cultural projects including the Alexandria Library in Egypt, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, and the National September 11 Memorial Museum at the World Trade Center site in New York City. Other projects include the Lillehammer Winter Olympics Art Museum and the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin.

Tickets

\$10 AIA members & students / \$20 general public
Pre-register at www.acteva.com/go/aiacentralpa

Drinks to follow the lecture in the Strand-Capitol Lobby

AIA Central Pennsylvania 10 Best Central PA Buildings

Voted by local AIA members

Rank and Building

1. State Capitol Building
2. Whitaker Center
3. West Manchester Twp. Bldg.
4. St. Patrick's Cathedral (Harrisburg)
5. Keystone Building
6. Lancaster Central Market
7. Harrisburg Train Shed
8. Susquehanna Art Museum
9. Hahn House (York)
10. Star Barn

Notes (Architect / Year)

- Joseph M. Huston / 1906
- Hardy Holtzman Pfeiffer Associates / 1999
- Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects / 2002
- Unknown / 1907
- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson / 2000
- James H. Warner/ 1889
- Unknown / 1887
- Alexander Design Studio / 2000
- John Dempwolf / 1918
- Daniel Reichert (Carpenter) / 1872



The State Capitol, Harrisburg



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In February, the AIA Central PA associate members held their first ARE study session. The session was well attended by approximately ten associate members. The group discussed the basics about the ARE format, the testing process, as well as specific criteria related to the Construction Documents and Services exam section.

The study sessions are on-going and occur on the last Monday of each month. Currently the sessions run as an individually motivated study group with some guidance from associates who have recently passed the section that is being studied. The sessions serve as a means to put associates in contact with others who are studying for the same section and answer each others' questions as well as the opportunity to share study notes and materials, lessons learned, and tips.

Upcoming sessions will be April 26th where the topics will be Schematic Design and Site Planning & Design, and May 24th which will review Structures. Associates who attend are encouraged to review at a minimum the NCARB study material available on the NCARB website (<http://ncarb.org/en/ARE/Preparing-for-the-ARE.aspx>) prior to each session and to come prepared to be an active participant of the study group.

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Lessons Learned by the Yeoman Architect: Here Comes The Sun

By James Mehaffey, AIA

I've had this one calculator since the late 1980's. It is lightweight, thin and has never malfunctioned in the twenty years I've carried it around. It does everything in need it to do, and several functions on it that I haven't used since I had a calculus class. Here's the kicker – I have never had to replace the battery. It is solar powered. Check that – it even works under a light bulb.

The solar cell on it is just a tad more than 1 square inch. The overall thickness of the entire housing is a quarter inch at its thickest. I've had this durable and dependable technology since the tenth grade, yet I still have to heat the water in my house with petroleum products. You would think that the implementation of this power would have advanced in this generation, but it seems to me that much of the solar energy hitting the earth is just plain wasted, short of the solar calculator on my desk. *Lessons Learned continued page 11*

I've often wondered about other kinds of wasted energy. What about the kinetic energy exerted at the gym? It seems that the treadmills and stair climbers could easily be harnessed to run the lights inside the facility. Where does all that energy go, other than being converted to heat, which makes the operator run their air conditioner more in the summers? There has been a renewed effort into placing buildings to passively exploit the energy of the sun, but when I was in school, many of us dismissed this as "hippie talk".

I am guessing that many people have seen the children's experiment where the chemical properties of the potato can be harnessed to run a small clock mechanism. Or how about placing a mint candy into a diet cola that produces a huge release of carbon dioxide (I guess this is not a great thing for the environment, but let's use it as an example). Having been raised in Lancaster County, I've learned not to waste things. I've got to think that there are more things we can do as the designers of the built environment that capture the spirit of my Casio Scientific Calculator.

*Lessons Learned
continued page 12*

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On a slightly off kilter note, I purchased a rotary mechanical calculator, “the Addometer”, which works only on the power of the user, from EBay. I had seen some of the more experienced guys using these in the office. These babies have the lifespan of a giant tortoise, and can add fractions much more quickly (than in my head, not by a tortoise – I don’t have any empirical data on the tortoise).



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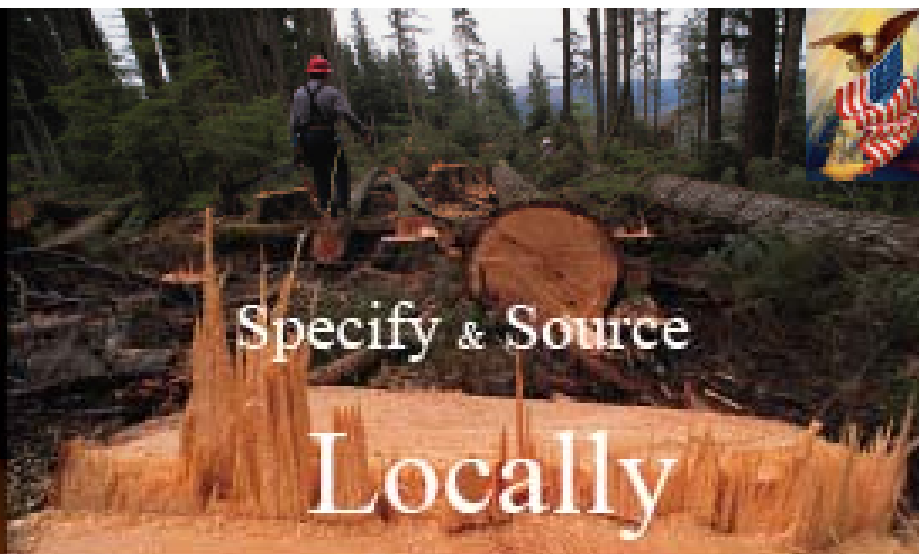
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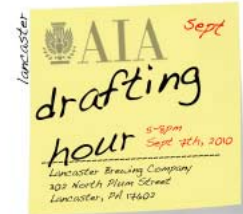
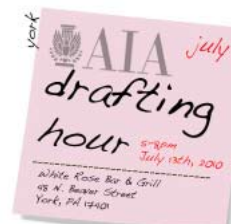
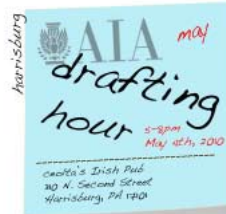
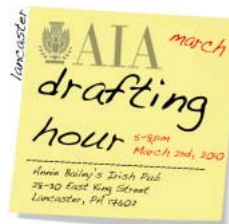
2010

AIA Central PA Calendar

April	26	ARE Study Session: Schematic Design, Site Planning & Design
May	20	Lecture Series
	24	ARE Study Session: Structures
	31	Office Closed – Memorial Day
June	3	Lecture Series - Snohetta: Works at Strand Capitol Theatre in York
	10-12	National Convention, Miami, FL
	TBD	Ex Com Meeting
	26	Board Meeting & Social
	28	ARE Study Session: Building Systems
	30	Newsletter Content Due – Summer Edition
July	5	Office Closed – Independence Day
	26	ARE Study Session: Construction Documents, Programming Planning & Practice
August	30	ARE Study Session: Building Design & Construction Systems, Schematic Design, Site Planning & Design
September	2	Ex Com Meeting
	6	Office Closed – Labor Day
	16	Board Meeting
	21-22	AIA Pennsylvania's Annual Conference
	30	Newsletter Content Due – Fall Edition
October	TBD	Board Meeting
	TBD	Conference & Expo and Design Awards
	11	Office Closed – Columbus Day
	25	ARE Study Session: Building Systems
November	TBD	Lecture Series, Lancaster
	TBD	Ex Com Meeting
	25-26	Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
	30	Newsletter Content Due – Winter Edition
December	TBD	Board Planning Meeting
	23-24	Office Closed – Christmas Holidays

Comments regarding the AIA CPA eNewsletter may be sent to our editor Dan Godfrey, AIA at dgodfrey@rlps.com

Come find out what's on tap at Drafting Hour Tuesdays..



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