



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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President's Message - Change is Inevitable

by Harrison F. Bink, AIA, President

The AIA National Convention was eventful. Congratulations to Jerry Roller, who won a one year Vice Presidential position with a theme of "Take Back Responsibility", suggestions of an accessible electronic knowledge database, communication both internal and external, and a responsible perspective on Speciality Certification.

Speciality Certification was heavily debated. Resolution 05-4 discouraging it was defeated. It seemed to be generally agreed that specialization by building type was not preferred, and recognition of specialized skills and training through continuing education was. The AIA needs to be part of the discussion, with continuing education as well as experience weighing-in equally.

Thom Mayne, as part of a distinguished panel, directly challenged all of us to 'change or die'. The panel's topic was Building Information Modeling, and they suggested, in no uncertain terms, that unless all firms integrate BIM cad approaches within three years, the firms will perish within ten years and that the practice of Architecture may cease to exist as well. Conversely, BIM may be instrumental in returning the profession to one of value and importance. Just a heads-up . . .

The Expo was huge, and included diverse information that only we could appreciate, from vacuum toilets to photovoltaic vision glass. Look forward to LA next year, and San Antonio for the Sesquicentennial!

Continued on page 3...



Harrison F. Bink

Look for "ARCHITEXT" Newsletter and Website Upgrades!

Looking to the future of information dispersal, your AIA Central Pennsylvania Board of Directors has voted to translate "ARCHITEXT" into an electronic format. While the printed version will still be distributed through the end of 2005, the transition to a web-based format is underway. This format will be integrated with our current website (www.aiacentralpa.org) and is slated to include a message board with each article for reader response.

We are making these changes, in part, to coincide with the Board's Media Relations Plan, which seeks to enhance public perception of architects and the practice of architecture, while promoting the idea that architects' opinions really do matter!

Stay tuned for these changes and send any comments or ideas to me (tpa@tpaarchitect.com).

Timothy P. Allen, AIA
Chair – Communications Committee
AIA Central Pennsylvania





Mission Statement of the AIA

To advance the practice of Architecture.

2005 Board Directory

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And to all you independent contractors out there, it seems from seminars on copyright law that you own the copyright on your work unless you are an employee. It is expensive to assert those rights in Federal court, however. (followed by the obligatory disclaimers of "not to be construed as legal advice, contact an attorney, etc.")

The closing with Santiago Calatrava was remarkable and inspiring!

On the local level, your AIA is looking for ways to implement "Leadership by Design" by Ambassador Richard Swett, FAIA, and energize members to participate in community interest areas and policy setting. Every opportunity and suggestion will be appreciated. To that end, the Communications Committee is moving forward on creating useful electronic communication, and will soon establish an interactive web Forum to exchange opinions and ideas. Until then, pick up the phone . . .

Carol Ross Barney, who spoke in our most recent lecture series held at the State House, was as remarkable for her pragmatism as her unique design skills and talents. Well attended, there was still room for more. Where were you?

Lastly, this is not your father's AIA (to Harry's chagrin). If you don't like it, work to change it.

We have a responsibility within our communities to return our profession to one of importance and substance. Have lunch with your Representative, talk to your County Commissioners, and venture to the other "shore" once in a while. □

Just my opinion.

Harrison F. Bink, AIA, President, Bink Architectural Partnership

2005 Central PA Calendar

Mon. July 4

Office Closed – Independence Day

Sat. July 16

Board Planning Retreat at Harrison's Home

Mon. September 5

Office Closed – Labor Day

Tues. September 6

Board Meeting, 6 pm at Wyndham Hotel

Wed. September 21

Quarterly Dinner Meeting, Harrisburg, PA

Mon. October 10

Office Closed – Columbus Day

Fri. October 28

PA State Conference & Leadership Meeting, State College, PA

Thurs. November 17

Quarterly Dinner Meeting, Lancaster, PA

Thurs. November 24-25

Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holidays

Sat. December 3

Board Planning Retreat

Fri. December 23-26

Office Closed – Christmas Holidays

Green School is a Good Neighbor

Wrightsville, PA – At the edge of this small historic town on the Susquehanna River is a neighborhood school that looks like it belongs – and it does. Wrightsville Elementary School is also one of a new breed of buildings in the U.S. that is designed according to “green” principals: easy on the environment, healthy for occupants, and ultimately, requiring less money to operate.

This environmentally friendly school places Eastern York School District among the national leaders in an emerging trend. “Green” design, also called “sustainable” or “high-performance,” embodies principles gaining importance as the U.S. enters an era of increasingly scarce energy resources.

The school is projected to consume 40% less natural gas and 25% less electricity than a building which meets the latest ASHRAE 90.1 energy efficiency standard. The school is testimony to what a visionary superintendent, board, and architect, working together, can do.

The school has been toured by educators and administrators from the region’s schools and colleges and acts as an educational tool in its own right.

A Collaborative Process

Randy Hudson, AIA, Design Partner for Hayes Large Architects, credits leadership from the Eastern York School Board and Administration. “The District knew it wanted a Green School but originally envisioned a brand-new building.”

The idea of a renovation, says Hudson, grew out of the design process.” As we interviewed the teachers, we found they loved their spacious older classrooms. When we saw that the classroom wing had east-west orientation – ideal for natural daylighting – that was the clincher. We reported back to the Board and asked ‘why not save this?’ The Board agreed – and by preserving part of the existing building, we conserved resources.”

The Board wanted to do the right thing environmentally. At the same time, this is a conservative region. “Knowing that some so-called green materials aren’t as durable as traditional ones, we didn’t want the building to have exotic features that called attention to themselves, or that might sacrifice durability and maintenance. And above all, whether we built new or remodeled, we didn’t want to be a guinea pig for untested systems,” said Hudson. The result is a reinvented school that seamlessly blends old and new, both inside and out.

Costs and Trends

The school, attended by 525 students, cost \$9.6 million, or \$120/square foot, compared with the \$127/square foot average for Pennsylvania school construction costs in 2001. Nevertheless, Hudson estimates Wrightsville cost about 5% more than conventional construction, even after trimming some features. “As green buildings become mainstream, initial costs will rival those of conventional construction. In fact, we already see certain materials, particularly interior materials, where green is the new standard.”

Wrightsville’s eco-friendliness is measured by its LEED Silver rating. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a non-profit group of architect, building-owner, builder and government representatives. As LEED becomes a recognized national standard, schools, universities and private developers are quickly incorporating its principles. During Wrightsville’s design in 2000-2003, there were two LEED-registered schools in Pennsylvania and ten nationwide.



"The result is a reinvented school that seamlessly blends old and new, both inside and out."



"In addition to the tangible savings from construction techniques, several green aspects create a friendly ambience slightly different from a conventional school."

By September of 2004, according to the USGBC, there were 93 LEED-registered school projects under design nationally.

An Efficient, Healthy Design

To qualify as LEED-certified, projects are evaluated in categories of Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality. Among Wrightsville's sustainable and energy – conserving features are:

- Re-use of a previously developed site and structure.
- Landscaping to reduce paved "heat islands."
- Low-flow fixtures and auto-control faucets that reduce annual water use approximately 34%
- Reduction of annual energy consumption over 30%.
- High-performance triple-glazed windows, eliminating the need for perimeter heating.
- Heat-recovery systems that recapture waste heat.
- Substitution of daylight for some artificial lighting.
- Reduction of construction waste.
- Use of over 50% of building materials containing high recycled content.
- Use of "duct socks" - fabric heating ducts in the gym and library distribute air more evenly than conventional metal duct work. "They can even be taken down and cleaned," says Hudson.

In addition to the tangible savings from construction techniques, several green aspects create a friendly ambience slightly different from a conventional school. As students and visitors enter the front door, they are struck by the brightness and openness of the lobby and adjacent library. Light colors decrease the need for artificial lighting. The building even smells fresh. "Low-VOC" paints, carpets and insulation reduce off-gassing of industrial components. Floors are linoleum, an "old-is-new" material whose bright colors and organic materials have made it popular again in green buildings.

Classrooms appear conventional; many of their innovations reveal themselves on closer inspection. Cabinets and counters, instead of being comprised of wood-based particleboard, are wheatboard, made of the chaff left behind from wheat harvesting. Ceilings are high-reflectance tiles. Lighting is controlled by automatic sensors that dim or turn off lights when rooms are unoccupied.

"We've been building energy-efficient structures for many years," says Hudson. "In fact, in Fulton County we're currently designing the first LEED-registered medical center in Pennsylvania. But Wrightsville really achieves a lot: cutting-edge architectural ideas in a traditional package, an attractive, healthy place to learn, and preservation of a community asset. As someone in the School District said, 'This school is all about being a good neighbor.' "

For more information: Randy Hudson, AIA
814.867.0860. □



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What Do Architects “Do”?

By Harry R. Rutledge, FAIA, RIBA

The practice of architecture is somewhat of a mystery to most people. When asked “What do architects do?” the most common response is “draw blueprints”. In fact the drawings are a graphic technical representation of an enormous amount of work necessary to convey the ideas of the architect to the client and builder. Using these documents, the builder constructs a building to meet the needs of the Owner as interpreted by the architect.

The architect is trained to solve practical problems of human habitation and how people use space. They are trained in technical issues of how materials and building products fit together. Whereas engineers are trained in the specifics of an individual engineering system, architects are trained to understand all the engineering systems and how to integrate them into a cohesive and well working building.

Thus, the creation of an architectural project is an intellectual exercise in problem solving which results in practical solutions to real life problems. There are four elements to the exercise: knowledge, interpretation, communication, and application.

Knowledge: Through education and experience, a body of knowledge and expertise is acquired. This consists of theoretical information, as well as practical, “real-world” knowledge of how the physical world operates. This knowledge becomes the basis of the resolution and solving of problems. It is not only the knowledge within the individual and architectural firm, but also knowledge in other institutions to which architects have access through computers, journals, research institutions and professional societies.

Interpretation: The dissemination of the knowledge and experience, with its interpretation into the application of that knowledge to a specific condition, is the primary problem-solving process. Due to the complexity of today’s buildings, this is almost always a group effort involving numerous design and engineering disciplines. Finding a solution to a problem is one aspect. More difficult is finding the solution which complies with all of the various regulations and requirements which are applicable to each individual problem, recognizing that these restrictions are different in each case, depending on location and issue. Compounding the complexity is that there are usually many more than just one solution, and any of them may be “correct”. Determining the solution which best meets the requirements is often a matter of deciding which functional requirements are most important.

Communication: The documents which record the solution in written and graphic form are often seen as the product of the design effort. It is these documents (drawings, specifications, and contracts) which provide



"Determining the solution which best meets the requirements is often a matter of deciding which functional requirements are most important."

information to the tradesmen and craftsmen who will build the building, thus implementing the intellectual design solution. It has been estimated that over 400,000 decisions have to be made in an \$8,000,000 building project. Each of these decisions requires communication. The documents which the builder sees represent only the final decisions and are a very small portion of the total documents which have been produced in the development of the design.

Application: The practical application of construction of the solution, the building, is the final end product which the public sees. By observing how the craftsmen and tradesmen actually build the solution, the architect has the opportunity not only to verify that it is being built as per the intended solution, but also to improve upon the solution under actual conditions. The architect also has the opportunity to learn from this application process so that he builds upon his body of knowledge for future projects. It is important for the client to understand that architecture has both exact and inexact elements. The theoretical calculations of loads and forces of the physical world are certainly calculable. However, they are all based upon theoretical models. In the "real world", there are physical forces which impact upon the practical solution which we are not able to include in the theoretical models.

The final result is that architects provide a level of expertise in problem resolution, and the body of knowledge, its interpretation, and the communication of a practical solution and the physical application of the solution are the basis of our service. It is an intellectual exercise which results in a "real world" solution. □

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The Controversy Column



"The concept is to have two authors, one for each side, though one could imagine one person arguing with himself; I do it all the time."

In the interests of "advancing the profession of architecture through effective public relations," we of the Communications Committee of the AIA Central PA are looking to highlight architecture by weighing in on local controversies.

Most local controversies involve architecture, either directly (The Mary Kay Mansion in Harrisburg, Convention Center/Hotel in Lancaster), or indirectly (Route 23 Lancaster County, Farm Preservation vs. Development). Although it would not be appropriate for the AIA Central PA to come down on one side or the other of most of these controversies, we believe that we can shed a little light, and perhaps earn the profession a little positive exposure.

We propose to offer for publication to the local newspapers a series of articles with the following elements:

- A short, clear paragraph stating the controversy,
- A column arguing one side,
- And an adjacent column arguing for the other side.

The concept is to have two authors, one for each side, though one could imagine one person arguing with himself; I do it all the time. We hope to be able to offer an on-going series of articles, perhaps one every three months.

Since both sides would be presented in as balanced a manner as possible, there should be no problem running this under the AIA Central PA banner. Our position is merely that these matters would benefit from some clear thought and an architectural perspective. (It might be beneficial for the writers to be from other localities to remove the problem of offending potential clients.)

We seek:

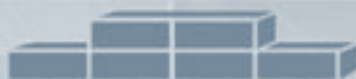
1. good potential issues,
2. people willing and able to write a good argument.

If you are interested, please send ideas to the Communications Committee c/o aiacpc@aiacentralpa.org.

We intend to promote these for publication in the local papers, but of course we can't guarantee. However, in any event, they will be published in this newsletter. □

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2005 Lecture And Product Expo

By Christopher Brooks

The 2005 Annual Lecture and Product Fair was held last night in the extraordinary Rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building. Several tours of the Capitol Building were given by Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper of Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee. During the Product Expo, the Lancaster Catholic High School Chamber Choir directed by Scott Drackley filled the reverberant rotunda with ravishing sounds, interspersed with

some solo Bach played by yours truly.

Carol Ross Barney, FAIA of Ross Barney + Jankowski Architects, Chicago, Illinois, gave the lecture, entitled "Beyond Metaphor." She based her talk around three projects: the U.S. Federal Building,

Oklahoma City, University of Minnesota Duluth Swenson Science Building, and the Ford Calumet Environmental Center. The first completed, the second almost complete, the third will never be built.

Although it is wonderful that architecture has become so prominent in the public imagination, Ms. Ross Barney encourages us to go deeper than the metaphors that might spark an idea for a building (a child releasing a bird, the up-raised arm of the Statue of Liberty---metaphors for two recent designs).

Much of Barney + Jankowski's work has been schools and other community projects. Their imaginative work within the tight confines of such projects should inspire us all to keep innovating, even when the constraints are tight and clients, perhaps, less imaginative than we are. Ms. Ross Barney made an interesting observation that she, too, was one of the clients for these local

community projects and had the right to push for quality. Student reviews of the Little Village Academy in Chicago superimposed on photos of the school shed light from the perspective of the users.

The Oklahoma City Federal Building grew out of the struggle to design an inviting, open building that would resist the sort of truck-bomb that took down its predecessor. The UMD Swenson Science Building design grew out of the client's desire to reflect the culture of the North Woods; and the architect's attempt to understand just what that meant. The discussion of this project focused on the investigation into the use of a local iron-ore rock for the exterior that turned out to be unfeasible. Ford Calumet Environmental Center building did grow out of a metaphor: a piece of the marsh displaced to form a building. But how to actually build such a concept? The thought and research that went into each of these projects continues to bear fruit in Ross Barney + Jankowski's strong, graceful and imaginative work.

Ms. Ross Barney made a point of the fact that she had designed the firm's website. Take a look and be inspired: www.rbjarchitects.com.

Christopher Brooks is principal consultant and owner of Orpheus Acoustics in Lancaster, PA. He is available at (717)-291-9123 - cnb@orpheus-acoustics.com - www.orpheus-acoustics.com. □



"The thought and research that went into each of these projects continues to bear fruit in Ross Barney + Jankowski's strong, graceful and imaginative work.."



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Chapter Moves Ahead With Foundation

By F. Joshua Millman, AIA, Immediate Past President



F. Joshua Millman

In 2004, the Chapter initiated the process to establish the "Central Pennsylvania Architects Foundation" to support the educational activities of the Chapter as well as being a conduit for funds to support architectural education in the community. In discussions with the local community foundation executives, this vision has expanded to include support of architectural school scholarships for local students and the use of the foundation to allow AIA members to receive the full tax benefits from performing pro bono work for charitable (501.c.3) organizations. The Chapter Board has given its approval and a means was identified that will allow donors to give to the Foundation through their local Harrisburg, York or Lancaster Foundation.



"The Chapter Board has given its approval and a means was identified that will allow donors to give to the Foundation through their local Harrisburg, York or Lancaster Foundation. "

On February 16, this venture was officially established and funded at the first meeting of its advisory committee. This committee is composed of active and emeritus former chapter presidents. The committee agreed to meet twice a year to set policy and authorize distributions from general funds.

In April and May there will be a series of three (3) receptions, one in each of the cities, to introduce the foundation to our members. Each meeting will focus on both how this will assist our Chapter in its programs and community outreach, and how this will facilitate tax credits for pro bono services.

F. Joshua Millman, AIA, Immediate Past President

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The Harrisburg Urban Studio Advances its Mission with Design Ideas for Harrisburg's South Allison Hill

By Timothy P. Allen, AIA, Chair, Communications Committee

The mission of the Harrisburg Urban Studio is to improve the quality of the urban built environment of Harrisburg and meet the economic and social development needs of its citizens through research, education, community-service, and innovative and sustainable design using a multi-disciplinary approach. The Urban Studio seeks to integrate design education and practice by partnerships between colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and the Greater Harrisburg community, emphasizing both learning and community-service, applying theory to real projects, and training citizen planners, architects, and landscape architects.

Initiated by Mayor Stephen R. Reed, the Harrisburg Urban Studio is modeled after The Rural Studio of Auburn University in Alabama. It is designed to expand the training of architectural students in various colleges around the state, by allowing them to actually build what they have designed. In building their designs, the students will be involved in reshaping blighted areas of the city, in improving the lives and well-being of Harrisburg's residents, and will gain valuable experience as they see a project move from conception through construction.

Last month, under the auspices of the Harrisburg Urban Studio, students from the Pennsylvania State University and Harrisburg Area Community College were given a taste of what urban design might look like. At a ceremony officially opening the Harrisburg Urban Studio inside the Harrisburg Transportation Center, 60 architecture students presented their designs for a mixed-use building for a vacant lot located at 1212 Market Street in Harrisburg. The designs were meant to present ideas for possible development of vacant lots throughout the City of Harrisburg. Developing such ideas, students were exposed to the realities, constraints, and opportunities associated with building in blighted communities. They were also encouraged, through this process, to develop a social conscience, which should accompany their designs as professionals in the future.

Though the Harrisburg Urban Studio is still in its infancy, strides are indeed being made to develop projects that will truly enhance the built environment, address the pressing needs of communities, and embrace the spirit of the Harrisburg Urban Studio. For more information about the Harrisburg Urban Studio, please visit our website at: <http://www.nichenews.com/urbanstudio>. □

Timothy P. Allen, AIA, Co-Chair, Architect Advisory Committee, Harrisburg Urban Studio

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