An Elegant Design Solution

By F. Joshua Millman, AIA, President

A great building design successfully addresses a multitude of issues. The same holds for a business solution. In both cases, the simpler the solution, the better. In the past few months the Central Pennsylvania Chapter Board has identified a new approach to financing its operations that offers the opportunity to also solve a variety of long standing concerns.

Based on a model proposed at AIA National’s Grassroots Conference in March 2004, the Chapter will be partnering with the Greater Harrisburg Foundation in developing a charitable affiliate. This will begin as a charitable project centered on the Annual Design Awards. As this initiative evolves into a foundation for the Chapter, it has the potential to introduce a significant source of non-dues revenue while increasing tax deductions for its members.

This charitable project will have the purpose of financing the Design Awards Program as a means to funding a scholarship program for AIA Central PA. Sponsors of the design awards will make their tax-deductible contributions to the project. (Note that this year AIA Central PA has outsourced the solicitation of corporate sponsorships to Harrisburg Magazine in conjunction with the media partnership.) Likewise, ticket sales will be tax deductible for all attendees. The net proceeds from the event will roll into a scholarship fund.

The next step is to create a self-directed foundation with the purpose of funding the charitable functions of the Chapter. This can include all educational and other outreach programs, such as lectures, forums and sponsoring programs in schools at all levels. Such programs can offer tax deductions to sponsors within the profession, its affiliates and corporate partners throughout the business community. Foundation funds can offset chapter staffing costs, possibly allowing Central PA to have its own full time staff support.

An additional benefit of having the foundation is to offer an avenue for AIA member firms to enjoy the tax benefits of pro bono work to charitable clients. Firms can direct their contributions to the foundation to these charities who can then use them to secure design services. The foundation will assure that the recipients are qualified charities, while providing the architectural firm with the appropriate documentation for tax accounting.

Establishing a functioning scholarship fund and a charitable foundation will require volunteer oversight. A separate board must be empanelled to assure that the foundation stays true to its mission. The Central PA...
# Mission Statement of the AIA

To advance the practice of Architecture.

## 2004 Board Directory

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Architectural Resources Inc.
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Board proposes that this foundation board be comprised of former chapter presidents. This is intended as an appropriate response to a desire to recognize the past contributions of the presidents, and allow them to maintain a degree of activity in the chapter following their service. Opening the foundation board and its committees to the dozens of practicing and retired former presidents also introduces a line of continuity within the chapter. Many of these former presidents are now heads of the largest architectural firms in Central Pennsylvania. A positive response to this call for assistance will provide Central PA with a renewed link to the larger firms who otherwise resist involvement in other chapter leadership opportunities.

Such a foundation model has an established record inside and outside the AIA. Many larger AIA chapters have relied upon their foundations for as much as half their revenue (and staffing). Corporations, universities and families have chosen this route to maximize the charitable opportunities available with the tax code. In Central Pennsylvania, the Greater Harrisburg Foundation has been a leader in facilitating the creation and management of these foundations.

Bringing the foundation model to Central Pennsylvania Chapter is an elegant design solution to diverse needs for funding educational events, staffing, community outreach, scholarships and establishing a role for the chapter’s former leadership. In the next few months leading up to the October Design Awards Program, more information on this opportunity will be provided to the membership.

Architectural Firm Hires Interior Designer

Angelique J. Miller has joined the Lebanon-based architectural firm of Kaylor Architects Inc. as their Interior Designer. She is responsible for creating and designing the interior spaces of building facilities, as well as furniture placement and finish/color selections for clients in the PA, MD, NJ and NY area.

Mrs. Miller brings a fresh perspective to helping clients with their interior design project needs through personal attention, resourcefulness and creating comfortable and inviting spaces that are functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Prior to joining Kaylor Architects, Angelique worked for a Philadelphia firm where she specialized in retail design and store planning and at a Harrisburg firm where she designed educational, corporate, and healthcare facilities. Angelique holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Philadelphia University.

She may be contacted at 717.867.4330.
At its 2003 Planning Meeting, the board of directors of AIA Central Pennsylvania charged the Communications Committee with developing and implementing a Media Relations Plan. Its purpose, among other things, is to promote the profession by helping to define and refine the role of architects in the eyes of the general public and to ensure an accurate understanding of the practice of architecture. While some suggest public perception is quite positive, we must realize that a positive public image does not necessarily reflect the reality and totality of what architects do and how we impact our environment in a positive way. To this end, the board has established a Media Relations Sub-Committee to investigate how the architect’s image is reflected back to the profession and how the public might be educated further on the deeper role architects play in our world.

As a sub-committee, we’ve met a couple of times this year and have developed a working mission statement, which is as follows: “To promote the profession of architecture through effective public relations”

Some of our initial goals include assisting in disseminating member press releases to media outlets, soliciting and promoting editorials and other articles to be distributed to Central PA newspapers, assembling a list of speakers on selected topics as a resource for community groups, and aligning AIA Central PA with the national AIA media relations agenda. We feel that the best way to ensure an accurate public image, and thus promote the profession, is to help create a forum for architects themselves to communicate more effectively with the public. We anticipate this will make the profession as a whole more visible and more accessible, as we take a proactive approach in crafting the kind of perception each of us feels most adequately reflects and promotes the profession in the twenty-first century. If we reach these goals, we will be on our way toward creating a synergistic relationship between the public and the profession of architecture as opposed to an adversarial or complacent one. 

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

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Acoustical Modeling
Christopher Brooks

I’ve used acoustical modeling for years in my practice, starting out with physical models, investigated with light and sound. For the last six years or so, I have been using the computer-modeling program EASE. Modeling is a powerful tool, increasingly powerful. Like all tools, it has its limitations.

Models serve several purposes:

• The process of building a three dimensional model of a room, gives me hands-on understanding of the room beyond what I get from looking at drawings.

• I use models for acoustical calculations, such as reverberation time, clarity, speech intelligibility, noise levels and loudspeaker coverage.

• Models allow me to visually inspect how sound behaves in the room, using ray tracing.

• Using auralization, I can listen to how model sound behaves in the model room.

All of these tools allow me to experiment with and compare options as I try to work out the best approach for each individual project.

Auralization

The ultimate goal of acoustical modeling is to model sound in the room so that you can hear it. A computer model can’t really allow you to hear how the finished room will actually sound. It is, after all, a model; and there are many important differences between real sound and modeled sound.

• Real sounds are pressure waves in air. Sound is modeled as rays or mirrored sources.

• Real sound bends around objects (diffraction). Work is being done on diffraction, but it is not fully incorporated into practice.

• Real surfaces diffuse and scatter sound. Although scattering is included in the model, good data on scattering is scarce.

• Real sources have dimensions. Model sources are points. A real orchestra, for instance, is spread out over a large plane and comprises many instruments, each with its particular directionality, and each moving around as it is being played. Model sources can be directional, but they can’t move about as real sound sources do.

Physical scale models have fewer of these limitations since they use real sound. However, physical models are vastly more expensive to build and test than computer models.

The limitations on computer modeling are being stretched by researchers in what is perhaps the hottest field in architectural acoustics. Of course the most that anyone can wish for would be equivalence between modeled sound and a recording of sound in a real space. That would be amazing, but of course nothing can compare with listening to real performers in a real space.

Isn’t that why we build them?

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

Buchanan Park

Along Buchanan Park,
While on my morning walk,
I was startled by a dark
And fleeting shape. A hawk
Swooped by to perch atop
A utility pole.
Attentively, I stopped
To contemplate this bold
Raptor survey his domain.
His acute eyes held sway
Over the park’s terrain
Searching for his prey.

So it was before
Parks, utility poles,
Before houses and, stores,
And lawns, and farms, and roads.

The hawk’s still stare reminds me
That time transcends mere history.

Christopher N. Brooks, April 2004
Clearview Elementary School in Hanover, PA, has achieved LEED™ Certification at the Gold Level, as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The school, designed by L. Robert Kimball & Associates, is the first LEED™ Certified school building in Pennsylvania, and one of only three K-12 school buildings nationwide to achieve certification at the gold level.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) rating system was designed by the USGBC to encourage the development of green sustainable buildings. Clearview Elementary School was evaluated according to strict standards that include site selection, water efficiency, energy consumption, materials and resource impacts, and indoor environmental quality.

The 43,000 square foot school, with a construction cost of $6.3 million, is located in the Hanover Public School District and was designed to accommodate 375 kindergarten through fourth grade students. Design features that contributed to Gold Level LEED™ Certification include passive solar strategies, daylighting for 77% of spaces, and views for 100% of spaces. The school also was designed to achieve 59% energy savings and to consume 39% less potable water than a typical school building of its size. Additionally, a ground source heat pump system was installed that uses the constant temperature of the earth to cool and heat the building, and more than 20% of construction materials, by cost, contained recycled content.

Clearview Elementary School has been the recipient of numerous honors for its design, including a design award from the AIA Central Pennsylvania, a 2003 PA Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence, and First Prize for “Places of Learning” from the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association 2003 design awards. The project also was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to represent the U.S. Team at the 2002 Sustainable Building Conference in Oslo, Norway, and then was featured on the cover of the May 2003 issue of School Planning & Management Magazine.

L. Robert Kimball & Associates is a full-service architecture and engineering firm recognized as a leader in high-performance green design. Kimball employs approximately 500 professionals in 15 regional offices throughout Pennsylvania and the eastern United States. For more information on Kimball, please visit www.lrkimball.com. For more information on the USGBC and LEED™ Certification visit www.usgbc.org.
Howard Tunnel Restoration Project Garners Multiple Awards

The York County Department of Parks and Recreation was recently informed that the restoration and rehabilitation of the Howard Tunnel along the York County Heritage Railtrail has received both statewide and local award recognition. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Preservation Pennsylvania honored the project with their 2004 Historic Preservation Award for Unique Structures at a ceremony and reception in Harrisburg. This is a statewide honor for the project. Historic York, Inc. also presented the County of York with their Preservation Award for projects completed in 2003 at their annual meeting. Howard Tunnel was one of many local restoration efforts recognized by the organization. President Commissioner Lori Mitrick and Tom Brant, Executive Director of York County Parks and Recreation accepted the awards. C.S. Davidson, Inc. was mentioned for its role as project engineer.

C.S. Davidson, Inc., with offices in York and Gettysburg, provides civil and structural engineering, municipal planning, survey, and construction inspection services. The firm, which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2003, has been rated as one of the Best Places to Work in PA for four consecutive years 2000-2003 by its employees and was selected by the York Chamber of Commerce as the 2002 Small Business of the Year.

Press Release

Congratulations to William F. Sauers, P.E. of C. S. Davidson, Inc for his placement onto the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Civil Engineering Technology- Industrial Advisory Committee which is comprised of Professionals from Governmental Agencies, the Construction Industry and Consulting Engineering practices. The purpose of the committee is to assist the University and its faculty in identifying trends and needs in industry and reviewing the curriculum so that graduates can enter the marketplace with the proper educational skills. Bill, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown’s Civil Engineering Technology Program, has been with C. S. Davidson, Inc. since 1988 and serves as Vice President of Structural Engineering Services. He also serves as an Advisory Council Board Member for Penn State University (Harrisburg Campus), Structural Design and Construction Engineering Technology. In 2002, Bill was honored with the PSPE Lincoln Chapter Engineer of the Year Award.
Elevator Lobbies—Again?

With the introduction of a new building code (IBC 2000), enclosed elevator lobbies will be required for some key occupancies. Fortunately, you have another option—the Smoke Guard® System. Comply with the new code without compromising your design.

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