# 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 1405 North Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17102-2634

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# AIA National Convention - San Diego, CA

Architez

Bruce Johnson, AIA, President

I was again privileged this spring to represent the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at the annual Convention. This year's convention ran from May 7 through 10, in sunny and warm San Diego...well not quite. The locals tried to convince us that the rather cool and sometimes rainy weather we experienced was not that unusual for the season, but I think they were just trying to compensate. It would take more than a bit of unusual weather to alter our opinion that San Diego is a great destination.



Bruce Johnson

Summer

San Diego was a superb venue for our national convention, with a capacious convention center large enough to accommodate groups twice our size, a variety of nearby hotel accommodations from old world elegance to cutting edge modern, and great shuttle and trolley



service. And if you were so inclined, most of the hotels were within pleasant walking distance. There were a variety of sites to see and explore, from the adjacent Gaslamp Quarter with its historic 19th century buildings and active ongoing adaptive re-use initiatives, to Coronado across the bay, to Old Town at the foot of the original Presidio and Mission San Diego just north of downtown. Louis Kahn's Saulk Institute and the Neurosciences Institute recently completed by Williams Tsien were a short ride north, in La Jolla. The host chapter party at the San Diego Zoo, and the southwestern twist on neoclassical "parkitecture" of the exhibition buildings in adjacent Balboa Park were also noteworthy.

Several experiences still stand out vividly. My wife carried on a conversation with a woman across the aisle for most of the flight out. They became such

fast friends that we ended up accompanying her and her local friends to a wonderful Mexican cantina restaurant in Old Town, for a very enjoyable first evening. It didn't hurt to get a bit of first-hand insider's guidance on experiencing the locale immediately upon arrival.

The following evening, we joined the other half of the central PA delegation (Josh Millman and wife Debbie) in a Dining By Design tour of the Gaslamp Quarter, enlivened by the animated antics of our tour guide, and architect, Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA. In addition to hosting us at his Gaslamp Quarter office, he also introduced us to the world's "coolest" oldtime hardware store and the new Padre's ballpark "addition" to the original timber framed Western Metals Warehouse. Well...they didn't quite get that one past the code officials. Nevertheless, Mr. Donaldson and his preservationist colleagues were able to convince the authorities having jurisdiction that the old historic structure, with



## **Mission Statement of the AIA**

## To advance the practice of Architecture.

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#### Continued from page 1...

an original floor load capacity of 400 lbs/sf, was substantial enough to be an integral piece of the ballpark. In fact the building's near corner defines the left field foul line! Dinner was in a former oyster bar, once frequented by Wyatt Earp, back in the bad old days when this was a much less reputable district known as Stingaree.

A tour of the Saulk Institute, coupled with a visit to the Neurosciences Institute, provided a remarkable opportunity to compare and contrast a signature work of the great Louis Kahn with work of present day talents, Williams Tsien, who presented their work as the theme presentation of the Opening General Session on Thursday morning. An



impassioned presentation by Daniel Libeskind of his design for the World Trade Center site was unquestionably the highlight of the week. Even the normally routine process of electing new national officers was electrified by a tie vote, and subsequent runoff election, for first vice president.

The theme of this year's convention was "Design Matters...poetry + proof." This convention was very well

organized and conducted around that theme, even to the point of initiating a study through the Neurosciences Institute to scientifically test the theory.

Next year's convention is in Chicago, cradle of American architectural style, home city of Louis Sullivan, Burnham and Root, and canvas for the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

See you there! 🗆

# 2003 Calendar

Tues. September 9Central PA Board Meeting6:00 p.m. HACC, Harrisburg, PA

Tues. September 16 Central PA Quarterly Dinner Meeting "Architectural Lighting and Design Concepts" 6:00 p.m. at HACC Harrisburg, PA

Fri. October 24 Central PA Design Awards Ceremony and Reception Zembo Temple, Harrisburg, PA

Sat. October 25 Central PA Annual Planning Retreat 8:30 a.m. at AIA Pennsylvania Harrisburg, PA

Tues. November 18 Central PA Quarterly Dinner Meeting 6:00 p.m. at HACC Harrisburg, PA

Fri. November 21 – Sat. Nov. 22 AIA Pennsylvania Annual Statewide Conference York, PA

## **Future Conventions**

June 10-12, 2004 AIA National Convention and Expo 2004 Chicago, IL

May 12-14, 2005 AIA National Convention and Expo 2005 Las Vegas, NV



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# **Upcoming Design Awards**



## **Ceremony and Reception**

Keith R. Hudson, AIA, Design Awards Chairman

The Annual Design Awards Banquet will be held this year on October 24th at the Zembo Temple at 3rd and Division Street in Harrisburg. An eclectic Moorish fantasy of colored tile and intricate sculptural relief, Zembo is the home of the local

sculptural relief, Zembo is the home of the local chapter of the Shriners and provides a memorable setting for feasting and conversation. The reception of distinctive food and beverages with live music will be followed by the Jury Chair presenting this year's award winners. Please join us in celebrating the year in Architecture and design.



Douglas Campbell, Assoc. AIA, Events Chairman

In great anticipation of this October's Annual Design Awards event, we are proud to announce this year's Call for Entries. Members will soon receive a formal invitation to submit works of outstanding merit to the 2003 Design Awards Jury. This year's jury chair and his jury bring exceptional credentials and experience to the process of selecting some of the area's finest architectural achievements for recognition and honor.



Projects may range in scale from campuses to door knobs. Awards will be given at the following levels: Honor, Merit, Citation, Small Project and Juror's Choice.

The format for submissions is similar to last year's: entries will be reviewed as  $8-1/2 \times 11$  binders. However, this year entrants may also submit a small, non-juried illustration board



as a companion piece to their entries. Deadlines for binders and boards may differ, so please pay close attention to the schedule. All of this and more will be detailed in the Call for Entries. Additional information can be viewed on the Chapter's website in mid-August.

Start now and be a part of what promises to be our best Awards Program ever.

AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter: Advancing the Practice of Architecture.

## **Media Partnership**

Craig Peiffer, Assoc. AIA

The AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter has chosen Benchmark Group Media/Harrisburg Magazine as our Media Sponsor for the October 2003 Design Awards Event. This partnership includes reserved advertising space to promote the Design Awards Event in the September and October issues of Harrisburg Magazine. The October issue will feature an article on our jury chairman. The November issue will recap the event and announce our 2003 Award Recipients.

In January 2004, Harrisburg Magazine will cover our 2003 Award Recipients in-depth. Furthermore, in March 2004, to coincide with the Pennsylvania Home Builders Show, Homes and Gardens of South Central PA (a Benchmark publication that is distributed as a section in Harrisburg Magazine as well as separately to a broader market) will cover the top-ranked 2003 Residential Award Submissions.





Complimentary copies of the January and March issues of Harrisburg Magazine will be provided to AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter Members. Additionally, complimentary issues of the overrun sections will be given to the featured firms. Copies of the March issue will be distributed at the Pennsylvania Home Builders Show from the AIA Central Pennsylvania Booth. All issues of Harrisburg Magazine/Homes and Gardens of South Central PA hit the newsstands one week prior to the issue month.

AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter Members have the opportunity to submit advertisements for any issue of Harrisburg Magazine and Homes and Gardens of South Central PA. More detailed information and package rates will be distributed in the following weeks. Interested persons should contact Rebekah Waddell at the AIA Central PA Chapter office, 717.236.4055. Advertisers for the March issue are encouraged to include a Home Builders Show booth number when applicable. Benchmark Media Group has generously offered discounted rates to all AIA Central PA Chapter Members, and will contribute 10% of the cost of all advertisements to the AIA Central PA Chapter. It is our hope to reinstate our annual scholarship program with a portion of these proceeds.  $\Box$ 

## Lancaster Firm Adds Graduate Architect

Hammel Associates Architects, LLC, (717) 393-3713

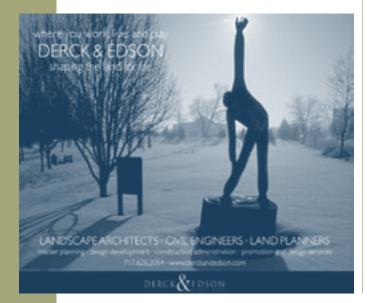
Hammel Associates Architects of Lancaster, PA is pleased to announce that Douglas M. Campbell, Assoc. AIA, has joined the firm as a Graduate Architect. Douglas serves as Chair of the Events Committee on the Board of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the AIA. Prior to joining Hammel Associates Architects, Douglas worked in Lancaster and New York City after receiving his M.Arch. from the University of Maryland in 1998.

## **Undertaking a More Active Role in Lobbying**

F. Josh Millman, AIA, Vice President

A key function of the American Institute of Architects is to influence the shaping of state and national policies and laws as they affect the practice of architecture. While this mission occupies more of the agenda of national and state components, in recent years the local chapter has increased its involvement with the following activities:

 Regular involvement in AIA Pennsylvania's Legislative Affairs Committee. Most recently, this committee has been working to influence the final implementation rules for the new Pennsylvania Uniform



Construction Code (UCC), and in proposing amendments to the architects licensing law to better define what an architect can do versus what an engineer can do, and to require continuing education credits for all licensed architects.

- Participation in the annual Pennsylvania Architects Day, meeting with the state senators and legislators whose districts are within Central Pennsylvania, and identifying our legislative priorities.
- Participation in annual AIA National Grassroots Conference, which also included meeting our state's senators and local congressmen and presenting legislative priorities and positions.

The latter meetings included an open invitation to have our congressmen come to meet with the architects back in their district. A letter followed this to each congressman. The first positive response was received from Congressman Tim Holden, who represents the district that includes Dauphin County. Congressman Holden will meet with the architects who live and/or work in his district on Monday, September 22 at lunchtime. The exact time and place will be confirmed once an approximate attendee list is established. Look for mailings on meetings with other congressman later in the fall.



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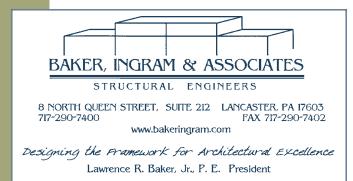


## **Proposed Change in Affiliate Member Structure**

F. Josh Millman, AIA, Vice President

A task force was convened this summer to revisit how the local chapter is serving its affiliate members, and how their membership can better benefit both the chapter and the affiliates. Affiliate members are typically those firms that provide services and products to architects and their projects, with a similar concern that practice of architecture be advanced to the benefit of its practitioners, vendors and the general community. This task force included AIA members, associates and affiliates. While the final recommendations of this task force will be published in September, the proposed initiatives will include:

 Affiliates will be approached just once a year with an opportunity for membership, advertising and sponsorship of AIA activities. These opportunities will be presented in a booklet each fall. The intent is to have the sponsorship and advertising commitments set before the affiliates finalize their promotion budgets for the upcoming year, and in time for the



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Central PA Territory Representative: Mark Frangakis 1-800-874-8870 ext 6720 MFrangakis@usg.com chapter to create an annual budget based on a predictable income from advertising and sponsorships.

- Advertising and sponsorships will be offered on an a-la-carte format rather than promoting packages at various cost levels. Sponsorships will include an affiliate membership.
- Affiliates (as well as all other AIA members) will be given the opportunity to sponsor quarterly educational meetings without having to develop a two hour educational presentation on their products or services. This will allow the chapter to engage lecturers on topics of educational interest, while giving credit to a sponsor.
- Affiliates (as well as all other AIA members) will be given the opportunity to co-sponsor project site and factory tours with the chapter. These tours could be for AIA members only or for the general public, but would have the AIA co-sponsorship as appropriate.
- Listings in the chapter's directory will be by firm name. Affiliates (as well as all other AIA members) will also have hot links on the chapter website to their websites.
- AIA's quarterly meeting will have a social hour prior to the meeting to allow regular and affiliate AIA members to meet informally. These meetings and other programs will also rotate between cities and days of the week.

The success of this new affiliates program has significant budgetary implications for the chapter. Increased income from memberships, advertising and sponsorship will defray more costs now carried by AIA member dues and individual event charges. The chapter will also be able to sponsor or cosponsor more events. Finally, any surplus cash flow can fund the chapter's reserve account and allow the chapter to re-establish scholarship and other community education outreach programs. Such charitable programs may in turn be a draw for more sponsorships.

## **Reflections on Sound Reflections**

Christopher Brooks, Orpheus Acoustics, (717) 291-9123, cnb@orpheus-acoustics.com

In my earlier writing, I have tended to downplay or oversimplify the nature of sound reflections in a room. Yet sound reflections define the acoustical character of a room.

To illustrate, think of a situation where there are almost no sound reflections: outdoors in an open field. Here the ability to hold a conversation falls off surprisingly quickly with distance. Even a single solid surface provides some additional acoustical support. After work has quieted down, we find that standing on a concrete slab outdoors provides a modicum of support. We can converse a little farther away.

In auditoriums, concert halls (and churches), clouds, shelves, and other deliberate shaping provide these useful early sound reflections. Multiple early sound reflections make it possible to be comfortably heard and understood in a hall at a distance that would be impossible outside in an open field. Early sound reflections are perceived as part of the sound of the source; they strengthen and also color the source.

Sound reflections that persist over time are called reverberation. Reverberation is heard as background, and is most audible in large halls. It is prized in great concert halls (and therefore included in all classical music recordings). The nature of reverberation varies a great deal from hall to hall. You might say that reverberation is halls acoustical signature.

Reverberation varies with frequency. For instance, a room built of massive materials with a lot of thin drapery will have ample lowfrequency reverberation, but little high-frequency reverberation. Conversely, a room with all gypsumboard surfaces will have scant low frequency reverberation, but much high-frequency reverberation. This explains the unpleasant "tinny" character of many modern church sanctuaries.

Small rooms tend to have high levels of reverberation that dies away quickly. Larger rooms have lower levels of reverberation that persists. High levels of reverberation can interfere with clarity. For music, the ideal is a moderate level of reverberation that persists for a long time so that we can hear and enjoy it, yet allows musical clarity.

Architext 8

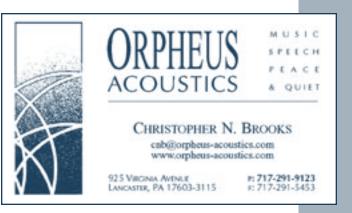
This is why a concert hall requires a certain amount volume (not too much; scale is critical).

Reverberation should be heard as coming from everywhere, in order to be heard as a pleasant background for music. A late sound reflection (or group of reflections) that comes from a clear location is called an echo. Echoes outdoors, or in non-critical spaces are interesting, fun. In a music hall echoes are a problem.

One approach to breaking up echoes is to use irregular-shaped surfaces-called "diffusion" for short. This was how public rooms used to be built by convention: one reason that older rooms tend to be acoustically better than newer ones. Because sound waves have dimension, diffusion too, is frequency dependent. A wall with 2" bumps is flat to any sound below approximately 1700 Hz. For diffusion to be effective it has to have a range of scale. Diffusion does two things: it increases the number of sound reflections, and conversely decreases their strength. Diffusion tends to hide acoustical blemishes such as echoes. By increasing the number of reflections of higher frequencies, it can temper the sound of a space by making higher frequency reflections travel further through the air, which absorbs higher frequencies.

Designing for the complex nature of sound reflections in a space is an art. Of course none of this is audible if the HVAC is covering it up.

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





# Allied Arts Fund and Custer Homes. Inc. Introduce ArtsHouse 2003

Leslie Amoros, Director of Development and Marketing, Custer Homes, (717) 233-1694

The Allied Arts Funds is teaming up with Custer Homes, Inc. (AIA Central PA Affiliate Member) to present ArtsHouse, a three-week, performancefilled event based in a contemporary home being built by Stan Custer Jr. in the new, upscale development of Sterling Glen, located just off Route 114 and Woods Drive in Silver Spring Township.

"The goal of ArtsHouse is to highlight arts and cultural organizations throughout Central



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Pennsylvania, as well as showcase the latest trends and technologies in new home construction," said Tom Philips, ArtsHouse Chair.

Custer Homes, Inc. and the Allied Arts Fund broke ground in April for the 2003 ArtsHouse. This 4,500 square foot home is currently under construction and will feature the finest materials with architecture inspired by designs found on Florida's Gulf Coast.

ArtsHouse will debut with a premiere event from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will continue each Thursday through Sunday from Oct. 2 - Oct. 19. Allied Arts Fund affiliates will present 48 performances. Cooking and decorating demonstrations are also scheduled.

Organizers hope to draw 10,000 people through the ArtsHouse. Proceeds from the event will benefit Allied Arts and its organizations. Tickets will be available beginning Sept. 1. For information about ArtsHouse, visit www.alliedartsfund.org or call Allied Arts at 717-233-1694.

## About Allied Arts

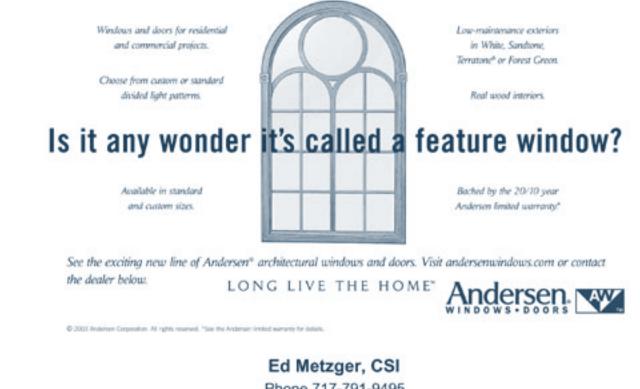
Established in 1985 by the business and cultural leaders of Central Pennsylvania, the Allied Arts Fund serves as the region's united fund for local arts and culture, as well as helps to develop and strengthen the arts community through its programs and services. Since its first campaign in 1986, the Allied Arts Fund has raised over \$11 million for the arts of Central Pennsylvania.

# "Architectural Lighting and Design Concepts" **September Quarterly Dinner Meeting**

Daniel P. Kreischer, AIA, Professional Practice Chairman



The third 2003 Quarterly Dinner Meeting will be held on September 16, 2003 at the Wildwood Conference Center at HACC. The evening will begin with a buffet dinner and a brief chapter meeting to update our members with recent and upcoming events. The program for the evening is entitled "Architectural Lighting Design and Concepts" and presented by CM Squared, Inc. Our speakers will be Craig Malesic, LC and Christian Malesic, Pres. & CEO of CM Squared. No element is more important to an architect than light. Light and the absence of light reveals shape, form, texture, and color, allowing the viewer to appreciate the space in its entire splendor. Essential lighting science and terminology will be reviewed, focusing on the application of lighting concepts for the built environment. Several elements will be explored: where lighting design fits in the big picture of architecture and construction, the use of layered lighting to create flexible inviting design, and the difference between visual comfort, visibility, and visual performance. You will gain a greater appreciation of the sensitive elements that must be balanced for good lighting design: Aesthetics vs. Functionality, Energy Efficiency vs. Quality, and Good Glare vs. Bad Glare. Program overview was provided by CM Squared, Inc.



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