



A Chapter of
The American
Institute of Architects

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AIA Central Pennsylvania

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President's Message

F. Joshua Millman, AIA



F. Joshua Millman

Welcome to the 2004 Edition of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the AIA. This is already proving to be a landmark edition, both by the execution of the ambitious goals set by the Board for this year, and by external factors that have brought unique opportunities for the Chapter. Happily, the Chapter's decision to maintain an active Board of twenty (20) members plus some new financial resources will allow us to respond well to the goals and the unexpected opportunities. The details:

At the Board's retreat last October, the following goals were set for 2004, along with the status to date:

- Develop and implement a media relations plan: Tim Allen's committee has begun to meet with a view toward more widely published accounts of the chapter's activities and to produce a column in local newspapers addressing architectural challenges being faced in Central Pennsylvania.
- Create a membership committee: Keith Hudson will be seeking to increase regular and associate membership through the new statewide membership initiative of new member fee discounts, while continuing with the chapter's last year initiative of increasing affiliate membership.
- Further Defining the Chapter Mission Statement.
- Design, implement and achieve a public forum or benefit: Frank Dittenhafer and David McInay are heading this effort.
- Meet financial budget and reserves.
- Have a purely social event: Doug Campbell and the Events Committee sponsored this event of February 20 at Bube's Brewery.
- Board transition/continuity plan.

The unexpected opportunities and challenges have included:

- Implementation of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code: This has already been presented to the membership in an administrative training session on February 4, and a technical session now scheduled for March 19.
- Sponsorship of "The Rural Studio" on WITF: This is a two hour program on April 7, followed by an on-air forum exploring how such a studio concept might be introduced in Central Pennsylvania.
- The upcoming November elections: These will offer an opportunity for the candidates to meet with their constituent architects in the informal roundtable discussions that were initiated last year.

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Mission Statement of the AIA

To advance the practice of Architecture.

2004 Board Directory

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- Expansion of our media partnership with Harrisburg Magazine. Their assistance in increasing sponsorships for the annual design awards may allow us to establish and fund a scholarship program for local college students seeking an architectural education.
- The AIA National Convention: The annual conference is in Chicago this June. The closeness to Central PA coupled with the excitement of the locale should allow us to have a large chapter delegation in attendance.

This is already a busier agenda than we planned. The chapter's successes of recent years and the development of a larger leadership cadre are a strong basis from which to undertake these challenges. I look to each of you to help in achieving at least one of these goals or opportunities. This is the best way for you to realize the value of your membership in AIA. □

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2004 Central PA Calendar

Thurs. May 13

AIA Central PA Board Meeting
6:30 PM at Hayes Large Architects, Harrisburg, PA

Thurs. May 20

Annual Lecture Series & Product Expo, Lancaster, PA

June 10-12

AIA National Convention and Expo, Chicago, IL

Thurs. June 17

Quarterly Dinner Meeting – Harrisburg, PA

Sat. July 17

AIA Central PA Board Summer Picnic and Meeting

Tues. September 14

AIA Central PA Board Meeting
6:30 PM at NuTec, York, PA

Wed. September 22

Quarterly Dinner Meeting – Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA

Fri. October 22

Annual Design Awards Ceremony and Reception, York, PA

Sat. November 13

AIA Central PA Board Planning Meeting
8:30 AM at AIA Offices, Harrisburg, PA

Wed. November 17

Quarterly Dinner Meeting – Harrisburg, PA



2004 Event News

*Bruce Johnson, AIA Professional Practice Chairman
Douglas Campbell, Assoc. AIA Events Chairman
Daniel Kreischer, AIA Home Builders Show Chairman*

Now that this publication has reached your desk, several of the 2004 events have already been recorded in the history books. Central Chapter sponsored an evening seminar at the Radisson Penn Harris, on February 4, dealing with particulars of the long awaited (and now only a few months away) implementation of Pennsylvania's statewide building code.

Our inaugural just-for-fun social, a "Medieval Feast" at Bube's Catacombs, was greatly enjoyed by the architects, affiliates and guests who found

their way to Mount Joy on Friday, February 20. Deep in the brewery's subterranean catacombs the revelers enjoyed a Medieval Feast with live – flesh and blood – entertainment. All in good fun, of course. The brewery is the nineteenth century work of German immigrant Alois Bube, and is the only "lager era" brewery left in the United States in its original, intact condition. After many years inactive, beer is again flowing at the brewery, and a visit to the historic complex is well worth the trip.

Likewise, the 2004 Harrisburg Home Show was well represented by those of you

who made sure show goers had an opportunity to speak with an architect about their plans and dreams. Sincere thanks to those of you who manned our booth during the show's run from February 27 through March 7.

Last, but certainly not least, on March 16 Chapter architects collected 2 AIA HSW credits and had an opportunity to mingle with our affiliates and associates during our first Quarterly Dinner/Seminar sponsored by RPG Diffusor Systems at the Yorktowne Hotel in downtown York. The seminar provided new information and insight into "Minimizing Acoustic Distortion in Critical Listening Spaces," and "The Next Generation of Acoustic Finishes, Shapes and Services."

In an effort to better serve our membership, venues for our quarterly seminars will continue to circulate between the three principal cities in our region. Current planning has the June and November seminars in Harrisburg, while September's is in Lancaster. With the imminent implementation of the new statewide building code, Central will be sponsoring additional training seminars aimed at positioning our membership to assume a strong leadership role in this endeavor. Stay tuned, and be sure to take advantage of the learning opportunities made available to you through your membership in AIA. □



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AIA National Grassroots Conference

Keith R. Hudson, AIA



Keith R. Hudson, AIA

Like the swallows of Capistrano, in the spring of every year flocks of architects converge on Washington, DC. They come to be briefed on legislative matters that will affect their chapters over the coming year; they come to meet and convene with officers from other chapters to discuss common issues and problems; and they come to meet their Senators and Congressman to make their voices heard.

This year Josh Millman, Harrison Bink and I drove down and joined over 200 other leaders and directors at the AIA Grassroots Conference on March 3rd to 6th. We had personal meetings during Advocacy Day with Congressman Tim Holden, and lengthy briefing with the staff aides for both Senator Specter and Congressman Platt. Currently several bills on the floor of the House and Senate could affect architects, including TEA-21: the Interstate Highway and Transit Bill. In addition, one tax bill promised tax relief to corporations if modified. In our meetings with all our elected officials, we stressed the importance of these changes to both our profession and to our State as well.

Grassroots also serves as a warm-up to the AI National Convention, this year to be held in June in Chicago. Since you cannot have a convention without speeches, there were brief speeches by all the candidates for AIA National office. Not all the speeches were by candidates, as this year we were privileged to have addressees as well by the head of the EPA and author Susan Suzanka, AIA, author of "The Not So Bug House". □

Annual Lecture Series & Product Expo

Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Thursday, May 20, 2004

**"Connections and Transformations:
Building on Campus"**

By: Robert Michael Kliment, FAIA

Robert Kliment, FAIA founded R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects with Frances Halsband, FAIA in 1972. Mr. Kliment holds a Bachelors of Arts and a Master of Architecture from Yale University. The work of the firm includes master planning and buildings for educational, public and corporate clients; historic preservation/adaptive reuse; interiors; and private residences. The firm has won several awards including the 1997 Architecture Firm Award, the 1998 Medal of Honor from the New York Chapter AIA and four Honor Awards for Excellence in Architectural Design from the American Institute of Architects. Projects that they have worked on include the Arcadia University Landman Library in Glenside, PA and Franklin & Marshall Roschel

Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, PA. His recent monograph, R. M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects: Selected and Current Works, will be available pre-purchase and signing at the event.

The product exposition prior to the lecture will again this year feature over 20 vendors set among hors d'oeuvres and libation stations. Each vendor has been guaranteed to have no competition in the exposition, and many will offer raffles as a means of added interest. Following the lecture, dessert will be served along with an opportunity to talk informally with the lecturer.

Also in keeping with tradition, there is no charge for this event to members of AIA Central Pennsylvania. Members of affiliated professional organizations will be charged \$25. AIA CES credits will be offered. The event starts at 5:00 PM, with a brief chapter business meeting and lecture commencing at about 7:30 PM. □

What the Heck is “Architecture” and What Does It Mean To Me?

By Hunter Johnson, AIA and Christopher Brooks

An architect is a man who wears very skinny glasses and is paid exorbitant fees to draw doodles on napkins and spout incomprehensible jargon—the end result being a large hunk of concrete whose transcendent beauty requires a PhD from MIT to appreciate.

We reluctantly admit the small (tiny, infinitesimal) grain of truth in this caricature. Fortunately, there is much more to this story of the world we have built for ourselves to live in.

In this column, we will explore contemporary challenges, successes, failures, and opportunities in the built environment, from an architectural perspective. We will ask questions, observe, experiment and gently prompt our readers to take a more active role in creating more beautiful, hospitable, and inspiring built environment. We will focus on the local, while keeping an eye on the big picture. In that spirit, let’s ask a few questions about our local built environment.

Suburban sprawl. If it is so bad, why do so many people move to suburbia? If cities are so wonderful, why do people leave? Or are they returning? And if so, why?

Urban Renewal was a planning disaster for nearly every city in the country. What have we learned from this mistake? What mistakes in planning are we making now that we will regret fifty years from now?

Farmland preservation. If we are able to feed ourselves well on fewer farms, why preserve farms? Or is there virtue to farmland that transcends food production. And if there is, who pays to preserve farms that can’t support themselves by farming,

and how much? Is there a better use for that money? What is the larger picture?

Steinman Park. This vest-pocket park is a jewel: well used, beautiful, peaceful, a real oasis in the heart of downtown Lancaster. Why does this park work, while Lancaster Square, a few blocks north, is nearly deserted?

Bike Paths. Do they encourage more people to bicycle? Is that a good thing? Are they really safer, or do they lull the bicyclist into risky inattention with seeming safety?

York’s Heritage Rail Trail County Park runs right through downtown York, and links with trails that allow people to walk or bicycle to Washington DC. How does this trail (and other such trails) affect the environments they link and through which they run?

The Lancaster Convention Center. Will it flourish? Will it turn out to be a white elephant? How will this huge project affect its smaller scale surroundings? Can the existing infrastructure support this endeavor? Why would conventioners come to downtown Lancaster in the first place?

Harrisburg was mentioned in a recent Architectural Record as a shining example of downtown revival. Mayor Reed used policies such as a reduced tax rate for developed versus undeveloped land. Can we learn something here? Mid-sized cities are perhaps the most salient example if under-utilized resources we have in this country.

These are all architectural questions because they transcend mere building. Central PA has plenty of mere building. We ask: “why build?”, “for what purpose?”, “to solve which problems?”—even “is it beautiful?”. We live in the freest, wealthiest, and arguably the most creative society in human history. Such a society is capable of creating a built environment vastly more functional and beautiful. We can do better.

Christopher Brooks is principal consultant and owner of Orpheus Acoustics www.orpheus-acoustics.com Hunter Johnson is a founding partner of the Award-winning firm TONO Architects: <http://www.tonoarchitects.com/>. Both firms contribute to the local built environment by locating their offices DOWNTOWN—thank you very much. □



New Firm Begins In Lancaster

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Joel K. Sims, AIA

A new architectural firm has opened in Lancaster. The owner, Joel K. Sims, AIA, started Sims Architects, Inc. Sims, a graduate of Clemson University, has over 18 years experience as an architect. As a specialist in educational planning and design, he is one of only 15 Recognized Educational Facility Planners in Pennsylvania. He is a frequent speaker at state and national conferences and has written articles for several publications. The firm provides consulting services on issues related to educational planning, Plancon submissions and educational specifications. □



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