

A Chapter of The
American Institute of
Architects

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President's Message

by Keith Hudson, AIA President, Board of Directors

Every summer our chapter sends a delegation to the AIA National Conference. We elect our new national officers, debate and set policy, and set a direction for how we see ourselves and how we will practice in coming years. Thousands of architects converge on a city, all wearing identical badges and all carrying identical briefcases. It is all very impressive. And every year the President returns and writes about the experience and how profound it was.

And that is EXACTLY why I am not writing about it.

We elected some outstanding officers- good and true, committed and diligent. Policy was set, and it was impressive to be tripping over architects everywhere all carrying sketchbooks, laptops and sporting Corbu glasses.



Hunter Johnson

But what was truly inspiring lay outside the hall.

On a quiet Saturday morning Hunter Johnson and I toured the new Disney Concert Hall and I was not only inspired I was truly humbled into awe. It exceeded the Exeter Library by Kahn, it overpowered Fallingwater, it actually surpassed the Salk Center - I was overpowered by this subtle and truly magnificent design that resonated on so many levels.

The magazines had indulged in so many glowing hyperboles that I had gone more out of obligation than curiosity- certainly the press had to be over-glowing in their praise. I had previously visited Eisenman's Wexner Center and found it poorly executed and detailed, construction tape and buckets catching rain water. Tour guides effusive with the criticism of a building scorned by a whole campus. Certainly I expected to find more buckets.

Continued on page 3.....



Hunter Johnson

Mission Statement of the AIA: **To advance the practice of Architecture.**

2006 Board Directory

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President's Message...continued from page 1

Disney was deserving of all its praise and glowing articles and the surprise- beyond the absence of buckets- was how much went unmentioned. I recalled no mention of how a route to the roof garden was choreographed- punctuated pauses set on staircases, with captured views out to the city framed by the stainless steel petals. How gray felt was ennobled on a donor wall by stainless steel letters incised into it. How staircases were used as vehicles to be seen and to see others. How ash wood members arcing into the lobby carried HVAC, lighting and other uses. What was inspiring was not any one of these- other buildings had explored these before- but that there were so many together working in concert and that every corner was studied. Upon reflection the best explanation I could offer was that every area, every corner was studied. There was not an element that was accidental - in this it seemed like the best of any European or Japanese building. Far too often we rush, we push out, we will “catch in the shop drawings”, and we just run out of time. This building, ten years in the Gehry office, did not get rushed out. They took their time.



Hunter Johnson

I had the privilege in school to study with Frank Gehry. I found him to be a modest, gentle and extremely kind instructor who mumbled his critiques and wore the same navy blue sports coat all semester- the coffee stain that was there on the first day remained till the final jury review (and may still be there on the lower left sleeve). But I was never in total awe of his work and unlike most of my fellow classmates I never sought a job with his firm.

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2006 Central PA Calendar

August

19 Board Meeting

September

4 Office Closed - Labor Day

21 Quarterly Dinner Meeting - Wyndham Harrisburg-
Hershey

October

9 Office Closed - Columbus Day

17 Board Meeting

November

8 Quarterly Dinner Meeting (location TBD)

14-15 AIA Pennsylvania Leadership Conference & PA
Board Meeting

17 Design Awards Gala - ABC, Harrisburg

23-24 Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holidays

December

2 Board Meeting

25-26 Office Closed - Christmas Holidays



Office Furniture - Supplies - Document Management

Legislative Report

by Harrison Bink, AIA

Our Government Affairs Committee is working on many issues that are critically important to the Profession of Architecture in Pennsylvania. But the breaking news is tax reform .

For political reasons, SSHB 39 has suddenly all but passed into law. The Governor is expected to sign the bill the week I write this article, creating modest property tax savings for some, while damaging the Commonwealth's public educational system for the next generation. Adding referendum requirements to school construction, for tax increases over the rate of inflation, sounds good (read: sells well to the taxpaying voters), while it ignores several critical realities.

§ Construction cost inflation is dramatically different than CPI. Last year Engineering News Record published that construction costs rose about 8.6%, and this year may result in 6%, due to China's boom, Katrina's damage, and metals speculation, to name a few. Basing school tax limitations on CPI steadily decreases a District's ability to maintain adequate facilities.

§ Pennsylvania's demographic skews to elderly, the second largest population in the US. Coupled with the flight of youth from our state, this demands that the majority of those without kids in school must vote to increase their own taxes because it's "the right thing to do." That is asking a lot from an historically self-serving and under-motivated electorate.

§ And if that wasn't enough reason to reconsider referendum, near sighted proponents have only to look beyond our borders to see how it has failed in Ohio and New Jersey! The article, on page 7, written last year by Doug Tilley, AIA of Bink Partnership, gives the background and comparison better than I.

As an advocate for public education, we must find ways to improve funding for successful programs, and better prepare the next generation for increasing global competition, not find new ways for sycophants to get elected.

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Design Awards - Renovated

by D. Hunter Johnson, AIA, NCARB

Everyone adores applause, enjoys a good ‘at a boy, and appreciates the proverbial pat on the back every once in a while. Certainly architects are no different and each fall we celebrate our collective and individual achievements at the American Institute of Architects Excellence in Design Awards ceremony. While the event hold a certain “je ne sais quoi” for the profession and our Chapter of the Institute, we have held it primarily in closed quarters and exclusive from the balance of the design, construction and engineering professions.

In the spirit of camaraderie and intent on broadening the relevance of architects and our work, this year’s program will incorporate new themes, expanded attendance and a bigger party!

As in previous iterations of the event, members of the Institute and this chapter are strongly encouraged to submit representations of their recently completed work for candidacy of award by a jury of out-of-state peer architects. Similarly, special recognition will be provided to exemplary projects during the evening Gala.

Unlike years preceding, new emphasis will be placed upon active and mutual participation by affiliate trade organizations, construction industry representatives, associated design professionals, and our clientele. Each of the aforementioned groups should have the opportunity to share in their contributions to notable works; and moreover, our profession benefits by their attendance, solidarity and enlightenment at the event.

Mark your calendars early and get involved. Invite clients, engineering professionals, designers, product representatives, and yes, contractors! We all benefit from their attendance.



Excellence in Design Awards

Gala

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Referendum - Friend or Foe of Education?

by Douglas C. Tilley, AIA,

As Pennsylvania wrestles with the idea of implementing a referendum process into its school funding, a review of the history, success, and/or failure of our neighboring states that have exercised referendums may be enlightening.

Pennsylvania is surrounded by referendum state neighbors, but perhaps the two most recent, and visibly active, examples of the impact referendums can have on school facilities include Ohio and New Jersey.

Pennsylvania's school enrollment in 2003 was approximately 1,817,200 students in 501 school districts. Comparatively, Ohio's enrollment was 1,791,223 students in 725 school districts, and New Jersey had an enrollment of 1,303,869 students in 615 school districts. Per Capita Personal Income for Pennsylvania was \$29,713, with Ohio and New Jersey at \$28,202 and \$37,609 respectively.

In 2003, the average spending per student within the entire United States was \$7,833. Pennsylvania spent \$8,329, Ohio spent \$7,611, and New Jersey spent \$11,119. The Educational Spending per Thousand Dollars of Income was an average of \$62 throughout the United States, while Pennsylvania was \$65, Ohio was \$63, and New Jersey was at \$58.

All in all, the three states appear to be not that dissimilar in terms of student population, number of districts, and spending. But that is where the similarity ends.

In a 1997 case, the Ohio State Supreme Court declared the entire K-12 educational system unconstitutional because students were not receiving the constitutionally guaranteed "thorough and efficient" public school education. A major deciding factor in the ruling was the condition of the school facilities themselves. Examples of deficient, decrepit facilities were demonstrated, including students with umbrellas inside the schools to ward off leaks, and libraries located in old coal bins. Student health and safety issues were also readily exhibited, including non-operating heating and cooling systems. Additionally, the Court observed that many of the poorer districts lacked "sufficient computers, computer labs, hands-on computer training, software and related supplies to properly serve the students' needs." This was after just 10 years under a referendum system.

New Jersey's Constitution also contains a provision requiring the state to establish a "thorough and efficient" system of public education. After 15 years in a referendum system of school funding approval, the State Supreme Court found in May of 1997 that the "deteriorating physical facilities relate to the State's educational obligation, and [the court has] noted that adequate physical facilities are an essential component of that constitutional mandate." The Court further expressed that the state "cannot expect disadvantaged children to learn when they are relegated to buildings that are unsafe and often incapable of housing the very programs needed to educate them."

The result was the formation of the *Abbott Districts*, so named after the constitutional case *Abbott vs. Burke*, and directed the Commissioner of Education to review, document, and "provide facilities for children... that are sufficient to enable these students to achieve the substantive standards that define a thorough and efficient education."

Continued on page 9.....

Architecture, Construction & Engineering Mentoring Program

by Josh Carney, P.E.

If you are like me, one of the most difficult things you do in the design business is find new talent. Which one of us doesn't know a fantastic student, creative and intelligent, who went down another career path because of a lack of knowledge about our business, or the perception of greener grass elsewhere? Unfortunately, in today's technology driven world, the construction and design business has a difficult task of marketing itself beside careers in computers and industry, and frankly has done a poor job of doing so thus far. What should we do? Wait until all of the design work has been farmed out and outsourced to the lowest cost operators? Doesn't really fit our roles as shapers of our environment, does it? The ACE Mentoring program (www.acementor.org) offers a unique opportunity to build excitement about the design and construction professions at a very early stage in students' minds, and also facilitates the school-to-work transition through internships and mentoring contacts.

The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of ACE was started two years ago in York, and is in the process of investigating expansion into Harrisburg, Hershey, and Lancaster. With support from leading firms in the York area, the program attracted 51 students from twelve school districts in the 2005-2006 program and hopes for even more next year.

In our first two years we have already seen many of our "graduates" successfully enter engineering and architecture programs and some have even starting working as interns in local companies. Some had already planned on these careers, many changed plans once they got a taste of the program. Many will become future employees of the participating firms because of this program and the contacts they have developed.

Sounds great, right? Well, if this is to keep rolling, we need your help. We have struggled to maintain architectural volunteers so far, and have been kept afloat by LSC Design and John Yoder at Cornerstone up until this point. Time commitments are manageable and amount to a couple of hours every other week. I am also asking you to consider supporting the program financially this year as well as we will be incorporated as a non-profit and would like to begin offering small scholarships to the most promising students.

As a wrap up, please consider a couple of things...In the "war" for talent, do you want to give competing firms an unfettered opportunity to reach students years before you do? Do you want to be part of shaping the future of our professions instead of being subject to the whims of the business and academic world? Please consider that ACE is the best opportunity you will get to both serve the future of the profession while developing the future of your own company. Please consider getting involved in some fashion for our 2006-2007 program year. For more information, please contact Josh Carney at C.S. Davidson Inc. jmc@csdavidson.com or via phone at 717-846-4805.

Intern Titling

Weary of the title "Intern Architect" or "Architectural Intern?" Well, there is a scorching debate between the AIA and NCARB to modify the title. Although we have graduated from Architecture School and maybe even completed IDP the title "architect" is reserved for those who completed the ARE. If you have a suggestion for an improved title please write to assocdir@aiapa.org.

Referendum - Friend or Foe of Education?

continued from page 7

In both New Jersey and Ohio, their State Supreme Courts had now ordered an improved and immediate system for funding school facility improvements, due to the negligent condition that both statewide systems had fallen into.

The result in New Jersey has been the Legislature passing a bill in 2002 which allowed the State to issue \$8.6 **billion** in bonds over the next ten years. Six billion dollars were designated for the Abbott districts and \$2.6 billion were designated for the other districts throughout the State. To date, the Abbott Districts have been approved for \$7.3 billion to complete major capital improvements to their school facilities. Furthermore, the court mandate requires that should the districts require more funding it shall be provided with no preset ceiling on spending. Those projects already designated to be completed by 2010 include 154 new school facilities, 56 total replacement facilities, and 205 addition and renovation projects.

The result in Ohio is similar, with the Ohio General Assembly passing in May of 2000 a 12 year program to address the facility needs. The approved plan calls for \$10 **billion** in State funding, and another \$13 **billion** in local funding.

In both of these referendum states, each State Supreme Court has ordered substantial investments into school facilities in order to provide a constitutionally mandated “thorough and efficient” public education system. In each case, the state legislatures have responded by creating new boards, commissions, or corporations charged with reviewing, developing, and overseeing the implementation and allocation of funds and facility improvements. In fact, both the Ohio School Facilities Commission and the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation have autonomous control over the planning and funding of all school facilities.

It has been argued that referendum gives control over spending to the voter; however, as demonstrated in these examples, the voters have actually lost all control over spending.

Everyone wants the best educational system they can get with the least tax impact, but is referendum really a friend, or foe, of education?

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Postcards from L.A.

by D. Hunter Johnson, AIA, NCARB

As a proud delegate from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter to the 2006 National Convention of the American Institute of Architect, I felt compelled and obligated to respectfully represent our membership, its collective voice and electoral presence. The least I could do was bring back a few photographs!



Walt Disney Concert Hall - Frank O. Gehry & Partners



Caltrans District 7 Headquarters - Morphosis



The Getty Center - Richard Meier & Partners



Our Lady of the Angels - Jose Raphael Moneo

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LECTURE 2006

AIA LECTURE 2006 & Product Expo

By Chris Dawson, AIA

Marlon Blackwell, AIA presented a lecture of his work including projects still in design and under construction. He grounded his work in the nature of Fayetteville, Arkansas and a belief that architecture can be rooted in the everyday and a search for marvelous ideas. Marlon provided insights into his award-winning series of houses designed in the '90's and his more recent designs of commercial, religious, and institutional projects.

The Product Expo included the following vendors: Andersen Windows, Assa Abloy Door Security Systems, Baker, Ingram & Associates, CENTRIA, CH Briggs / Dupont Surfaces, Conestoga Ceramic Tile Distributor, Inc., Diversified Lighting Associates, Fessenden Hall, Glen-Gery Corporation, Interface Flooring Systems, Inc., Lightstyles, Ltd. – Marvin Windows, Modernfold of Reading, Inc., New Holland Custom Woodwork, LTD, Synergis Technologies, and Whitemore Inc.

The Expo provided attendees the opportunity to interact with the vendor representatives in a casual atmosphere with catering by Wickey's and coffee by Sparky & Clark's prior to the Lecture. Marlon's presentation was littered with colorful stories and his interesting perspective of practicing architecture in a manner that challenges conventions.

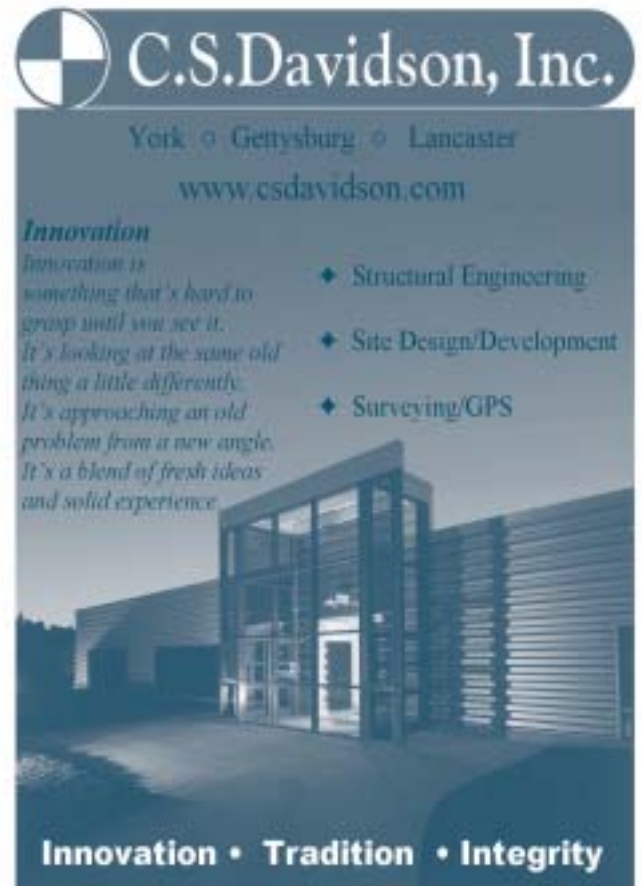
Looking ahead to future Lectures & Expos I welcome any suggestions for locations and speakers with the plan that we will be in or around Lancaster next year. I hope that we can entice more members to attend and ultimately benefit from being exposed to the work and insights of talented designers. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 717.815.8595 or cdawson@lscdesign.com.

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ARE Timing

Do you want to be able to take your Architect Registration Examination (ARE) parallel with obtaining IDP requirements? During a recent National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Annual meeting a vote was passed to allow portions of the ARE to be taken concurrent with IDP. This brings NCARB significantly closer to the AIA's Position Statement on ARE timing. AIA leadership will continue to work with NCARB in pursuit of broadening the NCARB position to fully align with AIA policy. There are now 8 US states (with Alabama being the most recent) which allow non-sequential taking of the ARE. Learn more at: www.aia.org/adv_st_are



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