# Architext Winter 2006

# AIA Central Pennsylvania

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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#### Murphy and Dittenhafer receive multiple rewards of recognition

# AIA Central Pennsylvania Chapter Excellence in Design - Gala

Friday, November 17th Appalachian Brewing Company, Harrisburg

Rejuvenated and well attended, this year's Excellence In Design Awards Gala by the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects commenced on Friday evening, November 17th at the Appalachian Brewing Company in downtown Harrisburg. With almost 100 design professionals, owner's representatives, students and industry professionals present, the evening boasted lively conversation, fine food and an atmosphere of camaraderie among peers.



OPA receives Merit recognition

Held in the Gallery room on the upper level with views of the Harrisburg skyline and illuminated Capitol dome beyond, the inspired night recognized the best efforts of our design community. Representative projects ranged in scale from contingued on page 10...

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# Mission Statement of the AIA:

### To advance the practice of Architecture.

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Position Vacant

Honorary Affiliate Member Position Vacant

Student Affiliate Member Position Vacant by Keith Hudson, AIA, Immediate Past President

In times of plenty, as our firms are successful and we rush in haste to adequately staff teams and just finish the project, it is far too easy to neglect the art of architecture in pursuit of only the business of architecture. By seeking to serve only our clients, we risk neglecting our other obligations- to our society, to our neighborhoods, and even to our employees and their families. But most tragically, we neglect our primary obligation to our profession.

Architecture, as a profession, is separated from a trade because it aspires to be more than just craft or a means to profit. As a profession, it must look beyond itself. Other professions demonstrate this directly- both the legal and medical professions in their oaths recognize that there are duties and obligations beyond the needs of the client or patient. Journalism is distinct

from literature in the same way- literature reaches beyond merely stating the facts through sentence structure and puctuation to resonate on another level. Architecture similarly ought to aspire to being more than mere shelter and a means of profit. Like Literature, it should aspire to be about more.

Recently, I toured two very distinct structures- the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Oklahoma City Memorial. Both are sincere structures that attempt to memorialize difficult and disturbing events. Both were the result of international competitions. Yet their aspirations are very different.

The Oklahoma City Memorial is a series of rooms and elements that attempt to bring meaning to a tragedy that almost defies understanding, but has now been eclipsed by later tragedies. In a post 9/11 world, the Oklahoma City bombing seems now more a historic footnote, but it scarred a whole city as deeply as the world trade center attacks affected New York City, and arguably shadows over Oklahoma City even more deeply today. The rooms of the Memorial are distinct and well scaled. Perhaps the most poignant is a field of empty chairs- eery and disturbing even if perhaps too literal. The Oklahoma City Memorial serves dutifully as a memorial, fulfilling its functions and role well, but it seems superficial- it does not transcend its purpose, or resonate at a deeper level. One is left wondering if it was even tried.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been awarded, celebrated, depicted and photographed so much it has become an icon. The field of names, so controversial continued on page 7...



www.beavertownblock.com

# Beers & Hoffman's Robert Beers Celebrates 50 Years in Architecture

by Douglas C. Tilley, AIA

Like the timeless parliamentary "Robert's Rules of Order", Robert Beers' lifetime rules were established at a young age and continue to this day. Bob's interest in architecture started in the early 1950's as a high school junior. He attended a career day where a man by the name of John Houghwout from Lewistown was one of the speakers. Haughwout was a well-known and accomplished architect who designed with the flare of Frank Lloyd Wright. Fascinated by what he heard that day, Bob introduced himself to Houghwout and spoke of his interest in architecture and drafting. Haughwout invited Bob to visit his office to see what architecture was all about! Before long, Bob was the first student to be chosen for his school's work co-op program. It was during this time that Bob designed a house for the Vo-Tech school and entered it in the Ford Motor Company Industrial Arts Award Program. His efforts earned him a certificate of merit, signed by Henry Ford II!

Upon graduation, in 1956, Bob interviewed with two architectural firms - Buchart Associates in York & Haak and Kaufman, a small firm in Myerstown. He chose the latter, in order to get a broader exposure, and started as a young draftsman for \$1/hour! After working with the firm for several years, he returned to study architecture under Haughwout. However, in 1961 when the economy slowed, Bob rejoined Haak & Kaufman in Myerstown. This was the start of a long and successful association. Bob would also soon be serving the Myerstown community as chairman of both the zoning hearing board and the planning commission.

In 1973 Bob became a registered architect and partner in the firm. The name was changed to Haak, Kaufman, Reese & Beers. Tragically, both Monroe Haak and Dale Kaufman passed away two short years later. Bob and Jim Reese continued the partnership for another 9 years until they each founded their own firm in 1982. Since that time, Bob's Lancaster based firm has designed numerous outstanding and award winning buildings. A Lebanon branch office, with architect Bob Hoffman at the helm, was opened in 1996. In 2002 the firm's name was changed to Beers & Hoffman, Ltd. Today the Lancaster and Lebanon offices are one of Central PA's most versatile - designing churches, retirement communities, medical, educational and office facilities of every kind. More than 300 churches have been designed by bob Beers over the past 50 years!

Bob's own home, which he designed in 1998, dramatically embodies his great love of architecture, and as a result has been featured in many magazines and newspapers. He has been married to Elaine for 50 years, is the father of three children, and has six grandchildren. A warm and outgoing man, Bob also enjoys family-like relationships with his staff just as he does at home. Another of Bob's lifetime interests is his passion for flying, and as a private pilot he has followed in the footsteps of his father.

When asked, "What is the best building you've designed?"

Bob's answer is, "the next!" This response reveals a great
deal about him; including his optimism, good humor and
boundless creativity. Bob is one of those special people

# **Acoustics and the Design Process**

by Christopher Brooks, Acousitic Dimensions

So, you've just received a signed contract to design a school, church, theatre, synagogue, conference center, office building, concert hall, amphitheater—some building with an assembly space component. Acoustics is one aspect of the program. How does it work with the rest of the design? Consider. There are no separate "acoustics drawings." Acoustics is affected by every aspect of the building, and so must be considered through the entire design process. How does the acoustics consultant work through this process?

#### **Programming**

During this phase, we learn from the client how acoustics fits into the program. Is it primary, as in a concert hall; or do we merely want to avoid complaints? What does the program call for? Excellent acoustics for organ is dismal acoustics for understanding Shakespeare. A clear understanding of the acoustic program for each space in the project enables us to describe acoustic requirements and to set appropriate criteria for room acoustics, noise levels, sound isolation, and audio/visual systems. This allows the architect to begin the creation of a budget that reflects the program's priorities.

The final product of this phase is an acoustics programming report, the foundation for acoustics design for the entire project. If cuts are considered later in the design process, this document will clarify and protect the program essentials.

#### **Schematic Design**

Schematic Design is when we start to put flesh on programming bones:

- Shaping of primary spaces such as sanctuaries or auditoria. (Contrary to common belief, room shape and volume are far more important in determining acoustic quality than room finishes.)
- Noise isolation constructions for walls, floor/ ceiling constructions, doors, windows, etc.
- Surface finishes, including flooring, wall and ceiling types and treatments.
- Detailed guidelines for control of HVAC and electrical noise, including locations for mechanical and electrical spaces and duct layout.

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# Shopping on eBay: Let the Buyer Beware

by Joel K. Sims, AIA

Upon starting my own architectural firm almost three years ago, I faced a challenge that is common among many new business owners: how to start a firm while keeping the initial costs under control. The solution I created was "Architecture According to eBay."

There can be many benefits to buying on eBay, including the convenience of shopping from the office and great prices (indeed, many items may be purchased from web vendors for a fraction of their retail cost). During the start-up phase of my firm, I purchased on eBay a workstation with lateral files, a Hewlett-Packard Company plotter, a color-laser printer, architectural books' flat files, and a plan rack.

There is, however, one potentially costly drawback to shopping on eBay; it is possible for a buyer, such as myself, unwittingly to purchase illegal items.

Case in point: while shopping on eBay, I came across a package of AutoCAD LT® software for sale from what seemed to be a reputable dealer. As it was a good price and something I needed for the office, I decided to purchase it.

Shortly after I received and installed the software, I was contacted by an attorney representing Autodesk, Inc. ("Autodesk"). After several conversations with Autodesk's outside counsel, one of which included the exchange of the software serial number, I was informed that the Autodesk License Compliance Department checked its database and confirmed that I was using an unauthorized copy of AutoCAD LT® software. Imagine my surprise!

I soon learned that attempted sales of AutoCAD LT® software by an individual or entity other than Autodesk or its approved resellers are unauthorized. As such, on a daily basis individuals may unknowingly purchase illegal software through online auctions.

It is eBay's policy to assist local law enforcement in every way possible in connection with any criminal charges filed against the seller of a fraudulent product. However, with the large number of users and the relative ease in creating new seller information, it is quite difficult to locate and apprehend these purveyors of fake products. As you can imagine, dialing 911 to report such a violation would most likely prove to be ineffective.

In the meantime, I had in my possession an unauthorized copy of Autodesk software that required a valid license in order for my firm to continue its use of the program. In addition to the money I had already spent on the illegal software, I paid a significant penalty to informally resolve the matter with Autodesk and, as part of the settlement, was granted a license to use an authorized package of AutoCAD LT® software.

Eventually, the seller's site was removed from eBay, but my money was never refunded. I imagine the seller is probably on some remote island basking in the sun and conducting sales transactions under another fictitious name.

There are some easy steps one may take before purchasing software online to confirm that the seller and the transaction are legitimate. For instance, prior to making any online software purchase, check to ensure that the seller is a reputable software dealer or reseller. Software publishers, such as Autodesk, often provide a list of authorized dealers and resellers on their web sites. Contact the publisher directly to inquire about the dealer or reseller's authorization to sell a specific software title. Before you make a purchase, familiarize yourself with the license agreement for the software in which you are interested. Some software licenses, such as Autodesk's, simply do not permit the transfer of a license. Take it from me, it is very disappointing to purchase a package of software only to learn that by doing so you are already in violation of that software's license agreement.

A friend recently asked: "So, has this experience soured you on eBay?" My response was "No." I still shop on eBay and other internet sites, but I'm more cautious. I don't buy software of any type, and I do not assume any Internet site is able to oversee completely the sale of products. Ultimately, when I look at the many interesting things I can purchase, the people that I meet and the ease with which I am able to buy, eBay is still a worthwhile and convenient place to shop. I simply have learned that the old adage remains surprisingly accurate:

President

Continued from page 3.

at the time in its dark finish and submergence into the ground, is instantly recognizable today. The design and parti are emblematic today, but it is often overlooked now how transforming the design was. Memorials are not seen the same. So many memorials before were pictorial or a series of vignettes in statues or landscaped rooms- they were monuments or objects. Many if not most of the entries in that competition were the same. But the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was perhaps the first non-monument memorial. More importantly, as the earnest student project of a 20 year old student (whose faculty advisor discouraged her from entering it!) it aspired to change the profession. And it has.

if a deal seems to good to be true, it probably is!



# **Membership Rising**

by F. Joshua Millman, AIA, Membership Chairman

The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of AIA has long enjoyed one of the highest percentages in the nation of local registered architects who are AIA members. This mark of excellence will not deter us from our efforts to seek new members and retain existing members.

But first, some statistics (as of October 10, 2006):

Total Licensed Members:	207
Net Increase in Licensed Members in 2006:	3
Total Associate Members:	63
Net Increase in Associate Members in 2006:	0
Total Affiliate Members:	29
Lapsed Members & Associates who have renewed in 2006:	6
Remaining Lapsed Members & Associates:	25

Strategies underway to attract new registered and associate members include:

- § Personal contacts to lapsed and unaffiliated licensed members by boards members who are acquainted with them.
- § Contact principals of larger firms to encourage them to have AIA membership as an employee benefit or requirement.
- § Convene a focus group of potential associate members to see what would interest them in joining AIA.
- § Have a reception for associate members and potential associate members, which would include a cost benefit presentation on membership.

Another effort in process is to attract many more affiliate members. The brochures are being updated and will be out to members by the end of the year as part of a campaign to sign up all those vendors who come by your office hoping you will spec their products. This is a great untapped resource of members ...and dues.



#### Acoustics

Continued from Page 7...

#### **Design Development**

During Design Development, the function of the acoustic consultant starts to shift from establishing an acoustic design towards shepherding this design through the rest of the process: developing the schematic design with products, systems, and constructions to achieve the design goals.

By this phase, the HVAC and electrical systems should be developing. The acoustics consultant helps to design these systems to noise criteria that have been determined by the program.

#### **Construction Documents**

By now, most acoustic issues should be fairly well settled, at least in concept. The basic concept is refined by the provision of such details as door types, sound-isolating constructions, sound-absorbing materials, acoustics-related product information and specifications.

The major function of the acoustics consultant during Construction Documents is to review drawings make sure that the concepts developed during the previous phases actually make it into the contract documents.

#### **Construction Administration**

Now that the design is in the construction documents, it must be built correctly to fulfill the program for which it was designed. Shop drawings and submittals of acoustic constructions need to be reviewed. Noise-isolation details such as penetrations, vibration isolation and wall constructions have to be inspected to make sure that they are built properly. Noise, speech intelligibility, noise

reduction, etc. should be measured to insure that the constructed building meets the established criteria. Finally, the user may need coaching in the use of some of the acoustic features (such as adjustable curtains) developed in the design.

If acoustics is an important aspect of a building's reason for being, it should be developed through every stage of design to properly integrate into the total design of the building.

Christopher Brooks is a Senior Acoustics Consultant with Acoustic Dimensions in New Rochelle New York.

Prior to Acoustic Dimensions, he was eleven years principal of Orpheus Acoustics, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He can be reached at cbrooks@acousticdimensions.com.

#### **Beers and Hoffman**

Continued from Page 6..

combining wonderful talent with the grace and dignity of a gentleman--a gentleman with the highest standards of order. After 50 years, Bob continues to work full time, (and then some!) doing what he loves best! His plane will be circling the field of architecture for years to come! A Selection of the Firm's Lancaster County Projects: Schreiber Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, Crooked Oak Office Building, Brightside Baptist Church, Garden Spot Village Retirement Community, Loeffler-Pitt Dental Associates, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lititz Public Library, Lititz Community Center, Luthercare: Luther Acres, Muhlenberg Town homes and Wellness Center, Trinity Evangelical Church, Keller Bros Ford, Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium, Ephrata Community Hospital, Bank of Lancaster County, The Medical Pavilion at the Heart of Lancaster Hospital, Lancaster General Hospital: Kissel

Hill Health Center.

Summer 2006 Beers & Hoffman Ltd. Architecture Inform

modest residential renovations to grand and meticulous historic preservation efforts. The exemplary work of Chapter firms stretched across the mid-Atlantic region including projects throughout Central Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. The typological variety testified to the diverse talents and broad influence of practices in the Chapter. Works included public schools and private institutions of higher learning, single and multi-family

housing projects, retail and hospitality designs, commercial and industrial construction, monuments and philanthropic ventures, as well as places of worship.

A jury of architects from the Southern Arizona Chapter provided independent review of the submitted entries including Jury Chair Susan Schaefer Kliman, PhD, AIA who spearheaded the effort. The Chapter extends it appreciation to our counterparts in the southwest for their volunteer service.

This year, the jury chose to recognize seven outstanding projects at three levels. Each of the exemplary projects will be showcased in upcoming issues of the *Architext* newsletter throughout 2007. At the highest level, the jury



Chapter members enjoy the fine food, festive beverages, and lively conversation at the Appalachian Brewing Company.

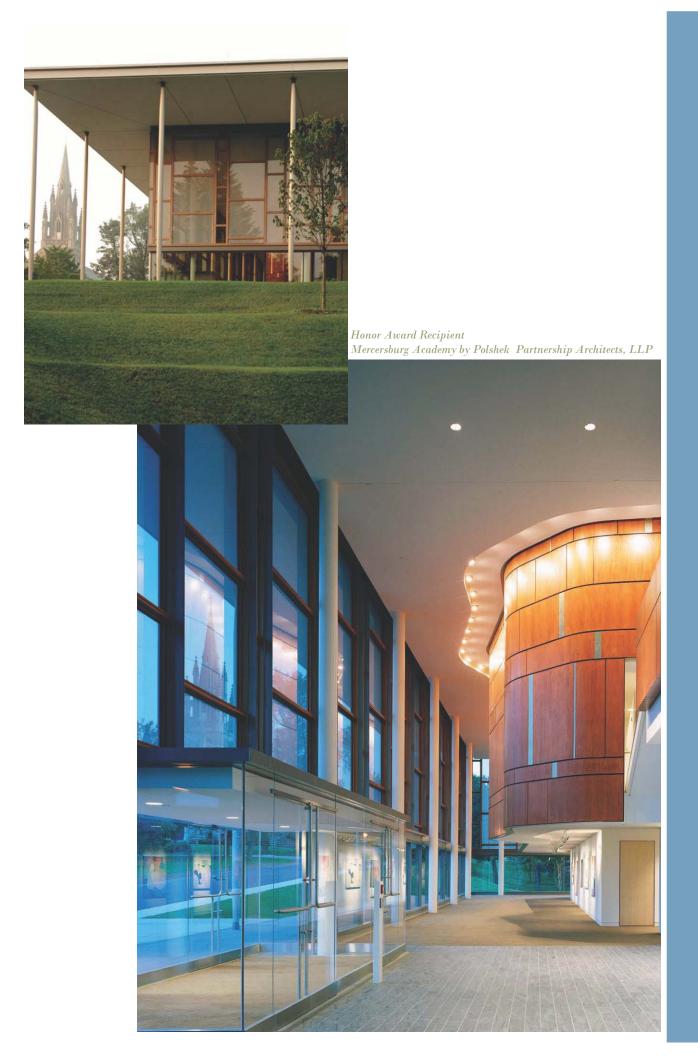


(left to right) Award recipients Matt Luttrell, AIA and Bruce Quigley, AIA peruse this year's entries at the Gala.

recognized Polshek Partnership Architects, LLP with the Honor Award for Excellent in Design for the new Burgin Center for the Arts at Mercersburg Academy. The Merit Award was provided to three firms for their efforts including Petersburg Commons "Green" Affordable Housing Development by Office For Planning and Architecture, Professional Office Renovation & Fit-out by AUM Architecture, LLC, and Tremond Grand by Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects. Additional Awards of Citation were granted to two of the Merit recipients including Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects' Hagerstown Education Center for the University System of Maryland and University of Baltimore's new Student Center, and

for AUM Architecture's renovation of a Private Residence.

Congratulations to each of the awards recipients and to all who participated in this year's successful program. Next year the Gala moves to York. Meanwhile, the Chapter's website provides additional information about this year's Gala, the recognized projects and events news. Please go to <a href="https://www.AIACentralPa.org">www.AIACentralPa.org</a> for more information.



#### **AIA Contract Documents**

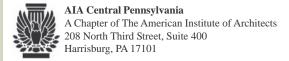
Did You Know???

Each time you purchase Contract Documents
through <a href="www.aia.org">www.aia.org</a>, a portion of the proceeds
is returned to and benefits this Chapter.
Thank you for purchasing the industry standard.



#### **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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