

## AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Interesting Design & Construction Challenges Discussed, Viewed*

### Chapter Members Tour PSU Millennium Science Building

At least once each year, the AIA Middle PA Chapter and the Pennsylvania Railroad Chapter of CSI hold a joint meeting. This year's get together included the opportunity to tour the Pennsylvania State University's Millennium Science Building. This technically challenging building contains 270,000 square feet of interior space on three floors.



◀ David Roland discusses Millennium Building prior to tour

The gathering was very fortunate to have as its guest Mr. David Roland, AIA JIA LEED AP, Project Director, from Rafael Vinoly Architects PC of New York. Mr. Roland worked on this project and was very informative when discussing the highly interesting and diverse challenges that the design and construction teams faced during the development process. The project began in 2006 with the master planning phase, which at that time, centered more around the life sciences. As the planning continued, the desire for scientists to work with other scientists emerged and the decision was made that the Millennium Science Building would house both Life Sciences AND Material Sciences — an increase in building square footage from 90,000 to approximately 290,000. This created very demanding requirements in many ways. Special requirements involving vibrations, acoustics at very low levels, electro-magnetic fields, and other influences that would cause disruptions of instruments had to be considered. There were major design investigations of flow and interconnections of two separate portions of the building having two separate entrances. A building requirement — *Quiet Rooms* — dictated that all be located at the lowest level with grade below for vibration isolation. Each room had to be acoustically and vibrationally separated as well. The building contains a large amount of concrete and all of the concrete was necessary to reduce vibration. The design team had to make sure that the vibrations being generated by the building itself, such as the elevator going up and down in its shaft or something as simple as opening a drawer, were taken into consideration and the affect to the quiet rooms.

As we began our tour, Jim Fenstermacher, Senior Project Manager with The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company,



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◀ Exterior of the soon to be completed Millennium Science Building

## AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

If you are using the U. S. Postal Service to Contact the AIA Middle PA Chapter, please use the following:

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## NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

**October 29, 2010**

Please contact Dee Columbus,  
Editor, [tdta2000@comcast.net](mailto:tdta2000@comcast.net)

## STAY CONNECTED

Please send new member information and any changes and/or additions in your contact information including email addresses to:

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## WWW.AIAMIDDLEPA.ORG

Please be sure to visit the AIA Middle PA Chapter website to view the following:

- Chapter Officers
- Calendars
- Newsletter Archive
- Executive Committee Minutes
- Membership Information
- AIA Links
- Sponsorship and Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

## Message From the President

Rick Cyman, AIA

In case you haven't heard, September 21<sup>st</sup> marks the date for the next Annual AIA PA Architect's Day and Awards Program, to be held at the State Capitol. This event provides an opportunity for each AIA member to visit with his or her State Representatives and Senators to discuss current legislative issues. In addition, there will be other chances for group discussions concerning State Government issues and other topics important to our profession and the Commonwealth. The day will conclude with a Design Awards Ceremony and Reception. Along with becoming informed about topics and legislation that are important to our profession, these activities also offer the opportunity to earn up to 5 CES credits. Please consider taking a day away from your typical work schedule to join your fellow architects at this yearly event. The deadline for registration is September 10, 2010.

In other news, our next Lunch and Learn program is planned for October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Sheetz Construction Office in Claysburg. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn up to 3 Continuing Education credits, enjoy a nice lunch and spend some time with colleagues. A flyer for this event will be forth coming.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the annual Chapter Picnic was held at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Robert Kimball. The event was well attended by our membership and the AIA PA Board.....all enjoyed a wonderful time. On behalf of the entire AIA Middle Chapter, I would like to extend our thanks to the Kimball Family for their hospitality and generous support of this event.

Enjoy the summer.

Regards, Rick

## AIA Associates Corner — 2010 Links

**Seth H. Wentz, Associate AIA**

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### *For the Good of the Order*

Comments on the Profession of Architecture by Tom Columbus Jr., AIA, LEED AP

### **YOUR SIX LINKS**

The longer I stay in this profession (which to me is life-long) the more I believe in Karinthy's 1929 hypothesis. His hypothesis is that it will take not more than five intermediaries to link each and every one of us to every soul on the planet. That is, one of your contacts knows a person who knows a person and so on. Numerous mathematical exercises, experiments, and studies collaborate this conjecture. Architects network in our profession and allied engineering fields, deal with clients, suppliers, vendors, and contractors daily. We create a reputation that becomes known in one way or another, "links" away from ourselves. We need to keep our best foot forward under all circumstances, as hard as it may be, in order to keep our links strong and reputable. It all comes back to each of us at some point in our careers and only helps in the next project.

## **YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM**

We are looking for a representative from the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter AIA to be a local liaison for the Young Architects Forum (YAF).

Young Architects ( 0 - 10 yrs. ) licensed have already been recruited from the Central, Eastern , Pittsburgh and the Philadelphia chapters.

If you are interested or may know of someone who is interested, please contact Denise Thompson by email ( DThompson@franciscauffman.com ) with your contact information. If you cannot fill this position but know someone that is interested, please forward that person's name and contact information.

AIAPA charter for YAF was approved by the State Board of Directors. Facebook page and Linked -In page are up and running. YAF National and the College of Fellows are developing a mentoring program. More to come as this develops.

## **Penn State College of Engineering**

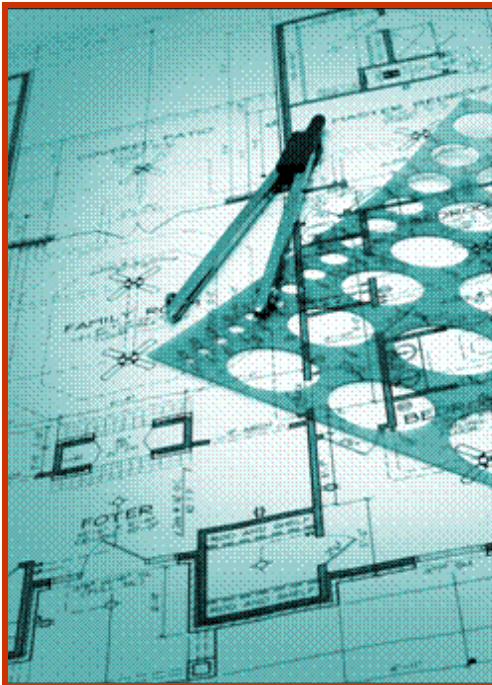


Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Henry Cisneros will give the keynote address at this fall's Hankin Distinguished Lecture. Cisneros, who served as head of HUD during the Clinton Administration, will discuss "The Nation's Cities and the American Future." The event is free and open to the public.

Hankin Distinguished Lecture

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 4:00pm

Boardroom, Nittany Lion Inn



## Greetings, AIA Middle PA Chapter!

As most of you may know, we have been working with Anne McGrath of *McGrath Consulting* to develop an AIA Affiliate Membership Brochure in order to reach out to our Consultants, Contractors and Business Associates.

Now that the brochure is complete, we are asking for your help to get the word out. Please forward the attached brochure to anyone whom you feel may be interested in becoming an Affiliate Member of our AIA Middle PA Chapter.

Thanks!

### Affiliates Bring New Perspectives to Chapter

Anne McGrath, McGrath Consulting

Earlier this year, the AIA-MPC relaunched its Affiliate membership program and attracted nearly a dozen new companies to the Chapter. The new affiliates represent several industries that support the architectural community, such as landscape design, engineering, office furniture and flooring.

Since January, 11 companies have joined as Affiliate members, including:

Architectural Testing – [www.archtest.com](http://www.archtest.com)  
Artistic Garden Design – [www.derekkalp.com](http://www.derekkalp.com)  
Avail Business Systems – [www.availbusinesssystems.com](http://www.availbusinesssystems.com)  
CAD Research – [www.cadresearch.net](http://www.cadresearch.net)  
Centre Hall Mason Supply – [www.centrehallmasonsupply.com](http://www.centrehallmasonsupply.com)  
Centria – [www.centria.com](http://www.centria.com)  
Fierst Distributing – [www.fierstdistributing.com](http://www.fierstdistributing.com)  
Green Collar Consultants – [www.greencollarconsultants.com](http://www.greencollarconsultants.com)  
Haworth, Inc. – [www.haworth.com](http://www.haworth.com)  
Modern Business Systems - [www.modernbusinesssystems.com](http://www.modernbusinesssystems.com)  
P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. – [www.lehmanengineers.com](http://www.lehmanengineers.com)

Re-introducing the affiliate program was one of 2010's strategic objectives for Chapter leadership, and it's now becoming a more integral part of chapter activities.

"The program is in its beginning stages," explained Rick Cyman, chapter president. "But it's starting to take root, with affiliates becoming more active in chapter meetings and getting to know our members a little better."

As Affiliate members, non-architectural companies are welcome to attend chapter meetings and other special events. They can submit articles to *MidPoints* that discuss their industry's impact on architects, and can take advantage of other chapter programs at a reduced cost.

"As architects, our affiliate members help keep us updated on new products and trends," continued Cyman. "At the same time, affiliates have the opportunity to strengthen their relationships with existing clients and get to know potential customers. It's a win-win situation."

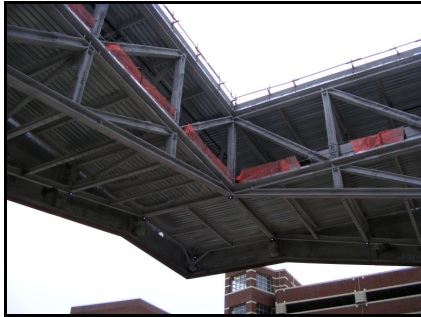
Non-architectural companies interested in affiliate membership can visit [www.middlepa.org](http://www.middlepa.org) for more information or to download an application. Membership fees are prorated on a quarterly basis.

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## Millenium Building Tour *(continued from Page 1)*

took over the duties to lead our group. He stated that the building cost is \$215 million — \$75 million from the PA Department of General Services and the balance being raised through bonds. The breakdown of the costs are: \$173 million for construction; \$13 million for FF & E; and the remainder for soft costs and contingencies. The project was bid in stages and was fast tracked with fast delivery of packages.

One of the highlights of the tour, in addition to viewing the construction of the quiet rooms which were built as a “room within a room” because of the isolation require-



▲ Cantilever portion of PSU Millennium Science Building

ment, was the cantilever portion of the building. This was an important design element to further isolate any vibration or other interference that could adversely impact the processes that will be taking place within the labs located in the building.

The meticulous study that was undertaken prior to the design of this building was a monumental task, but proved to be invaluable as the construction moves forward and all the complicated pieces come together.

## ***Klein Immergrun Again Sets Scene For Annual Picnic!***

The AIA Middle Pennsylvania Chapter held its annual picnic on a beautiful July evening at Klein Immergrun, summer home of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kimball. Members, guests, and friends began the evening with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres and stimulating conversation. This event always is a great chance to meet up with colleagues and discuss the happenings of the past year.

As the sun began to set, everyone settled down to enjoy a delicious dinner and dessert. We were very fortunate this year that several of our state AIA officials were able to join us. Mr. Steve Krug, President, AIA Pennsylvania, brought the members up to date on what is happening with the State Legislature. Carolyn Boyce, Executive Director of AIA Pennsylvania, reminded everyone that Architect's Day in Harrisburg, PA was on September 21, 2010. Finally, Mr. Rich DeYoung, Regional Director to AIA National, briefly reviewed what was happening on the National AIA front.



*Everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner and the surroundings of Mr. & Mrs. Kimball's Klein Immergrun*



*Vice President Dave Macharola welcomes members, friends, and guests to the 2010 Annual Picnic*

Last, but certainly not least, Brian Heritage, Immediate Past President of AIAS at Penn State University, discussed that organization's activities over the past year and thanked the Middle Chapter for its continued support.

The evening was a great success, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

## **Pa. permit extension law comes to builders' rescue**

by Natalie Kostelni Staff Writer, Philadelphia Business Journal

The Pennsylvania Permit Extension Act has been signed into law, giving residential and commercial developers a break as the economy slowly comes out of the recession.

The act will give developers who have already lined up just about any kind of state or local permit, whether it's building, water, sewer or road, until July 2, 2013, to break ground on a project or use that permit without having to secure a new one. Gov. Ed Rendell signed the act into law, which is a form of stimulating the state's economy.

The legislation is modeled after a law passed in New Jersey two years ago. In the case of Pennsylvania, if a permit was valid on Jan. 1, 2009, no matter when it expires, it is automatically extended.

"This is huge," said Michael Sklaroff, who chairs the real estate department at Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia and is chairman of the Development Workshop, a group of developers. Sklaroff has been working on trying to get something like this crafted and passed since 2008.

The law addresses several issues in an inactive climate for private development, Sklaroff said. It gives developers a cushion of time for the economy to pick up and support new construction. It will protect the value of development parcels and preserve the tax rates on those sites since approved land is taxed at a higher amount. It also assures sites will be shovel-ready when development financing returns, and helps the building trades have members at the ready to fill jobs when a project is kicked off. Lastly, the law also puts lenders and borrowers in a position where they don't have to re-classify loans made on stalled projects, Sklaroff said.

Opponents see things differently. Different permits expire at different times and during the period they are valid, they are protected from zoning, subdivision or other changes. Now, development projects would not be subject to new regulations, including planning or zoning changes that have been implemented between the time a permit was issued or expired. Some exceptions would apply to environmental regulations. Opponents also believe by extending the permits, sprawl will continue at a deleterious pre-housing bust pace, which isn't what many communities suffering from unfinished subdivisions, commercial vacancies, congested roads and little open space want.

Lou Biacchi, executive vice president at the Pennsylvania Homebuilders Association, isn't buying that.

"The developer or property owner at the initial point met all of the obligations and requirements of the law to get that approval and, through no fault of his own through this extraordinary recession, we felt this one-time extraordinary fix, through an extension, was logical on two levels," he said.

It saves property owners time and most of their money to re-apply for the permits and saves the municipal agency from re-reviewing the project, Biacchi said.

There are some fees associated with the extension. A permit holder will have to pay up to 25 percent of the original permit fee to the municipal government and 50 percent in Philadelphia. Biacchi didn't know how many projects the law will effect.

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