

## AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

### ANNUAL ASHRAE / AIA JOINT MEETING HELD

Members of both ASHRAE and the Middle PA Chapter AIA met recently at Marzoni's Restaurant in Altoona. Following Chris Conrad's brief introductions of ASHRAE officers and after a delicious dinner, the program was turned over to Mr. Michael Sobkowiak, Vice President, Knowledge Network for the Green Building Alliance. Mr. Sobkowiak discussed sustainable green buildings. GBA is working with school district boards as well as district superintendents to get them to buy into green buildings. He also announced that there will be a program at the Art Works in Johnstown on June 17 and one prior to that on June 7 at Carnegie-Mellon University.



Alan Traugott discussed Net Zero Buildings

Mr. Sobkowiak then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Alan Traugott, LEED AP BD+C, Managing Partner, CJL Engineering in Moon Township, PA. Mr. Traugott's top was Net Zero Buildings — The Living Building Challenge. The topic of his presentation was the new building on the Phipp's Conservatory Campus. The 20,000 square foot building has been certified LEED Platinum.

The discussion began with Mr. Traugott defining what a "net zero" building is. This concept centers on using as much renewable energy as possible without using fossil fuels. This includes doing simple things in existing buildings like increasing winterization and improved glazing. These steps would make the biggest impact. The subject of climate change and what was also discussed in great detail and how the various steps used in designing and operating a green building will help slow global warming that is happening now. Mr Traugott stated that by deciding to initiate building designs and systems now, we are saving our children and future generations from the cost of global warming.



ASHRAE and AIA Members in attendance at the annual joint event

In the Phipps Building, the integrated approach of architecture and engineering optimized the energy savings. R30 and R40 insulation was used in the roof. Day lighting studies were completed to limit lighting requirements and utilized LED bulbs. Geo Thermal HVAC systems with 14 geo thermal wells were also integrated into the building.

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## GRASSROOTS 2012

### AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

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

AIA Middle PA Chapter  
c/o Carmen Wyckoff, AIA LEED AP  
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Altoona, PA 16603

### NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

**June 29, 2012**

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 & Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

Grassroots this year occurred on March 7 and 8. Washington D.C. was no different than the rest of the Northeast with regards to climate, both days were unusually mild and jacket only type of weather.

Architects and architectural related personnel from across the Nation assembled in D.C. to advocate for Federal Government Bills that affect the well-being of not only architectural practice in America, but also the welfare of the public. As we all know, the welfare of the public in our designed buildings is something we study, train, and license to do in every State, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

Representing the AIA Middle Chapter this year, was our Vice-President, Tom Columbus Jr., AIA, LEED AP. The four points of advocacy Tom promoted on behalf of the Architects of the Middle Chapter and the Nation were the following:

#### 1. Removing Barriers to Private Sector Lending

The AIA supports HR 1356, the Capital Access for Main Street Act. This bipartisan legislation would help small community banks by allowing them to write off some debt over a longer period, freeing up more capital to lend for construction projects.

#### 2. Save Energy, Create Jobs

AIA believes Congress should incentivize energy efficient new construction and renovation of existing buildings. Since energy usage in buildings account for 70% of total energy consumption in the United States, saving energy saves building owners money which can be used for renovation and expansions. Current bipartisan efforts are underway to expand the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction, which the AIA supports.

#### 3. Help Small Businesses Thrive

Through surveys, the AIA has found out 95% of AIA member firms employ 50 or fewer people. Currently the SBA's definition of small businesses does not have any size standard (as illogical as this may sound). Bipartisan legislation has been introduced (H.R. 3987 the Small Business Act of 2012) ensures that SBA define a small business. The AIA supports this effort.

#### 4. Pass a Transportation Bill to Get our Communities Moving Again

The AIA believes transportation systems determine how the built environment will develop. The allocation of our federal transportation dollars has a major impact on the economic development of local communities and on the quality of life for their residents. The AIA supports any proposed bill reforming the federal transportation programs to maintain current funding, support all modes of transportation, and recognize the many long term benefits of such a program.

The above issues were reviewed by Tom with various Members of Congress or their aides, whose districts were part of the AIA Middle Chapter. The overall effort was well coordinated by AIA National and AIA Pennsylvania.

Tom Columbus Jr., AIA, LEED AP



Tom Columbus with  
Congressman Glenn "GT"  
Thompson, 5th District,  
Pennsylvania

## AIA Associates Corner — 2012 Links

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## ***For the Good of the Order***

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

Our Middle Chapter has a large number of small architectural firms. This is mainly due to the area our Chapter covers; primarily, small cities, towns and rural areas. The projects obtained in these areas are relatively small, thus not needing a large workforce to complete. One of the goals of Grassroots this year was to address small businesses, including architectural practices less than 50 employees. It was mind boggling to find out the Small Business Administration has no clear cut rule establishing what a small business is in terms of the numbers of employees. Therefore, any funding or tax credits can be applied for by any size firm of any type of business. So, why have a Small Business Administration? The AIA is lobbying to establish a small business as less than 50 people, which will help most of our Middle Chapter architectural businesses. Monitor the SBA web site for any developing news that affects your firm.

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## Joint Meeting *(Continued from Page 1)*

The bottom line for this building is that the budgeted energy use was 115,000 Khrs but the building will general 135,000 Khrs. The excess is used by other buildings on the campus. When utilizing integrated design, it is important to make sure that what you are doing is appropriate. If you can combine heat and power, efficiency goes from 30% to 70%, but you must have the right conditions.

This was an extremely interesting and informative presentation, and we thank ASHRAE for once again providing a very important program for this annual meeting.



AIAS Officers discuss their trip  
To Forum 2012  
Phoenix, Arizona

## PSU AIAS Gives Year in Review

A brief overview of the activities of the Penn State University's AIAS Chapter was given by the President of the Chapter. The very busy year has included a Mentoring Group in which students work with first year students to help them become acclimated to what is expected as they move through their classes. Other activities included a day-long charette; attendance at the AIA Middle PA Chapter Symposium; a hayride with landscape architecture students; and participation in THON. The students expect to continue the mentoring group; have an Olympic Day; a portfolio workshop with

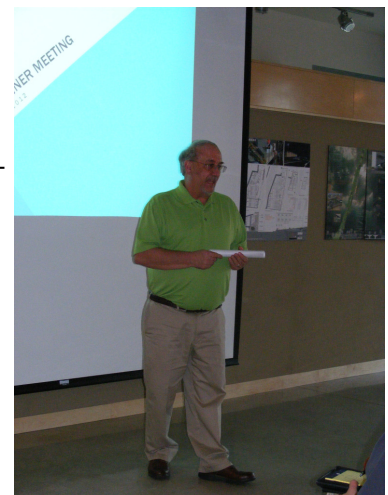
Harold Linton; Relay for Life; Spring Quad Conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; a construction site tour of the Human Development Center on campus; Beaux Arts Ball; and, finally, Freedom By Design in which a bathroom will be redesigned for someone who had a stroke.

Nine of the students also attended FORUM 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona at the end of 2011. A slide show of the sessions, tours, and other activities provided a great overview of their experiences while at Forum 2012. Some of the tours included Phoenix Stadium, Desert Botanical Gardens, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West.

Several lectures were also given that featured David Inabe who spoke on installations and non-permanent installations; Teddy Cruz who discussed public space and the human psyche; Jeffrey Potter, President, AIA; and David Zack, Futurist on what we need to evolve.

This meeting is always very interesting and encouraging to learn about all of the activities that these future architects are involved in and how they avail themselves of each new learning experience.

We'd also like to give a special thank you to Byron Singer of Centre Hall Mason Supply who sponsored the dinner for this meeting.



Dave Reasinger introduces  
the AIAS Student Program

## The Benefits of "Resilient" Flooring

### Hospitals, Schools and Retailers Adopt Anti-Bacterial Flooring

Shaw Hard Surface is committed to providing durable, stylish flooring products to the commercial marketplace. In addition to selling through the existing Shaw commercial brands, the hard surface division has teamed up with quality partners like Architectural Clay Products based in Pittsburgh, PA to become a single source provider of high performance resilient floor covering to our customers.

Few materials solve the needs of healthcare, education and retail store environments like resilient due to high performance, ease of maintenance and added anti-bacterial /fungal properties. The Shaw Hard Surface collection of products features a polish-optional finish that is reinforced with quartz crystals for enhanced scratch and wear resistance.

Since the 2009 legislation was passed\* announcing Medicaid and Medicare no longer cover the costs of secondary infections contracted during hospital stays, antimicrobial properties have become a valuable attribute for any flooring product installing into healthcare applications. Both our heterogeneous (Naturelife) and homogeneous (Biolife) sheet products have an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agent embedded into the construction to defend against and resist the propagation of harmful microbes. In addition, all Shaw Hard Surface resilient products are FloorScore certified for healthy indoor environments.

Shaw Hard Surface is continuing to add innovative, design-driven product lines in the resilient category as part of an ongoing initiative to be a more valuable supplier to the A&D, contractor, and end user communities. New product introductions in the luxury vinyl plank category will be launched this summer at Neocon 2012 in Chicago, IL.

For more information, please visit [www.shawhardsurface.com](http://www.shawhardsurface.com) or contact Duke Bope, Architectural Clay Products, at 412.322.0700.

\*<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/80074.php>

Submitted by Duke Bope, Architectural Clay Products

## Affiliates Bring Perspectives and Business Resources to AIA-MPC

### *Chapter Welcomes 10 New Affiliates for 2012*

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our 2012 affiliates, many whom have joined the chapter for the first time. They represent a wide range of products and services that serve our industry, and they're happy to talk with your and colleagues any time. Feel free to pick up the phone or drop them an email to welcome them to our ranks.

Our many thanks to our affiliates for their support. We look forward to seeing them at chapter events and working with them in the weeks and months to come!

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*(Continued . . . See Affiliates, Page 5)*



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## Beware of Privacy

### Washroom Toe Clearances in Handicap Stalls

In the past several years, there has been an increasing number of requests by building owners for more privacy in their public washrooms, especially in Class A and Trophy office buildings. Most manufacturers of toilet partitions can now offer stalls with no gaps between the components and tailer doors and divider panels. These extended doors and divider panels reduce the gap at the floor to 6" and, in some cases, to four inches.

Herein lies the problem. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires a 9" toe clearance in the handicap accessible stall. This means the door and divider panel in this stall must be mounted at least 9" off the finished floor. ADAAG eliminates this requirement if the depth of the stall is greater than 60 inches.

However, if the job is governed by ICC/ANSI code the requirements are more stringent. First, the 9" clearance must extend 6" out from the compartment. Second, the divider panel must always have this 9" clearance but the door does not if the stall is greater than 65" deep and a wall hung toilet is provided. If a floor mounted toilet is used, the stall has to be greater than 65" deep to eliminate the toe clearance requirement at the door. If the stall depth is greater than 66", there is no requirement at all for the toe clearances.

You will want to make sure your clients understand these requirements when they bring up the topic of more privacy in the public washroom.

For more information, contact Chris Scarpino or Mike Clancy at Architectural Resources at cscarpino@comcast.net or mclancy1@verizon.net. For more information on bathroom layout issues, take a look at the Bobrick "Barrier Free Washroom Guide" at [www.bobrick.com/Bobrick/BarrierFreeGuide/82455.pdf](http://www.bobrick.com/Bobrick/BarrierFreeGuide/82455.pdf).

## Affiliates *(Continued from Page 4)*

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