

## AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Presidential Estates / Neighborhood Character — Some of Convention's Diversity*

### AIA Convention Offers Tours and Continuing Education Opportunities

The 2012 AIA National Convention took place in our Nation's Capitol, Washington, DC. While many seminars and educational sessions occur during the convention, some of the more interesting opportunities that are presented to the attendees are the many tours of historic and interesting places within the area. We were fortunate to have attended three of these tours.



*Monticello*

The first was a bus trip that took us 2-1/2 hours from Washington to the estates of President Thomas Jefferson — Monticello, and President James Madison — Montpelier. Jefferson and Madison were very close friends, and Jefferson's influence was evident at the home of Madison.



*Side Walkway Over Stables*

Our first stop was at Monticello. Located outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, the home of our third President and author of the Declaration of Independence, is a large plantation covering 5,000 acres. Monticello is the only historic house in the U.S. on the United Nations' World Heritage List.

Although no photographs were permitted inside the mansion, the grounds offered a myriad of photo opportunities. From the exquisite architectural features and innovative methods and inventions, our two-hour visit quickly passed leaving much that must be explored on our next visit to this beautiful place.



*LEED Gold Green Roof at Welcome Center*

Not only did Jefferson's home provide many design elements that were surprising, but the Welcome Center also provided an intriguing space that is a LEED Gold building. A staff member discussed the many characteristics of the area that included a green roof (shown at left) that doubles as a courtyard for guests.

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Tours

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## NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

**August 31, 2012**

Please contact Dee Columbus,  
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## 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
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- Project Photos

## Nation's Capitol Hosts National AIA Convention Scenes from Convention Hall



## 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

NCARB is an ever-changing entity. For those of us who have been practicing for a while, our only interaction may be for license reciprocity in other States. The benefits of being certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards help tremendously when applying for reciprocity. However, unless you are familiar with an individual going through the IDP (Intern Development Program) of NCARB, you may not know that NCARB has again changed their hourly requirements of work practice for interns into three fields that are deemed required for competent practice of Architecture and which, in turn, qualify an individual to take the registration test. These requirements for competent practice were established by you, the current practitioners of Architecture through a 2007 survey given to registered architects throughout the nation. This is a good indication of us keeping a pulse on reality and passing this knowledge on to the next generation of architects to help them prepare and deal with the real world.



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## Convention *(Continued from Page 1)*



*Montpelier*

Our second stop was at the plantation of our fourth President and Father of our Constitution, James Madison's Montpelier. Situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it also became the home of Dolley Madison whose graciousness and hospitality inspired the term "First Lady".

Montpelier is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and operated by the Montpelier Foundation, Inc

Through the years, many additions were made to this historic home especially when it was owned by the DuPont family. The exterior was stuccoed and expanded to three

times its original size. The restoration of Montpelier began in 2001

with a comprehensive architectural study. Over the years, painstaking research and restoration has resulted in the mansion being returned to its original state.



*Gazebo at Montpelier*



*Eastern Market*

Our next tour was that of the Capitol District. One of Washington's oldest neighborhoods, our walking tour began at the Eastern Market and proceeded past beautiful homes,

the Marine Barracks — also known as "8th & I" — the oldest active Marine post, and ended at the former Navy Hospital that has been converted into a community center, The Hill Center. We learned about the evolution of the styles of homes built over the decades in this area and observed the beautiful architecture and deep history of this area.



*The Hill Center*

The National Academy of Sciences was our final tour. This beautiful building has been restored and additions have been incorporated to seamlessly create new needed usable space while restoring and preserving much of the original characteristics.

Our visit to Washington, DC was a fulfilling one indeed that only whet our appetite for more.



*Restored Carved Ceiling*



# New Energy Efficient Glass Choices Available To Architect Community

There are a lot of changes and new technologies in the architectural glass industry to address energy efficiency and sustainability solutions in new construction and retrofits. This includes everything from advanced architectural coated glass to the latest in advanced glazing solutions such as BIPV and dynamic glass.

As the nation moves to reduce its carbon footprint, innovative architects and building owners will look to advanced glazing systems that incorporate these technologies.

At the recent American Institute of Architects National Convention, Guardian Industries introduced two products that generated a lot of buzz among attendees.

**Guardian SunGuard** PVGU, powered by Pythagoras, combines Pythagoras Solar PVGU technology with SunGuard advanced architectural glass to create a building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) product. This replaces standard vision and spandrel glass or skylights with a building façade product that converts direct sunlight into energy.

**Guardian Industries** and **Soladigm**, a manufacturer of energy-efficient dynamic glass for buildings, are now working together to bring SunGuard EC to the commercial buildings sector.

Soladigm Dynamic Glass utilizes electrochromic technology to switch from clear to tinted on demand to control heat and glare in buildings while providing greater comfort, uninterrupted views and natural daylight.

Guardian SunGuard advanced architectural glass leads performance categories by delivering unprecedented solar control. Specifying SunGuard products can help building owners and architects receive LEED certification for their projects.

*For more information on these and all of the SunGuard advanced architectural glass products, visit **www.sunguardglass.com** or contact your Pennsylvania representative John T. Thompson at 412-389-4861, [jtthompson@guardian.com](mailto:jtthompson@guardian.com).*



## ***New PSU Department Head Announced***

### **Mehrdad Hadighi**

Department Head and Professor,  
Stuckeman Chair of Integrative Design



### **Education**

Mehrdad Hadighi completed his post-professional studies at Cornell University and holds a professional degree in architecture and a degree in studio art from the University of Maryland.

### **Research**

His scholarly work focuses on drawing parallels between 20th century art, theory and criticism and the constructive principles of architecture. Hadighi's premiated design competition entries include the Studentenheim + Bauernmarkt, Glockengasse, Public Space in the New American City, Atlanta, Berlin Alexanderplatz Design Competition, Austrian Cultural Institute in Manhattan, and the Peace Garden Design Competition.

### **Honors and Awards**

He has produced site specific installations for galleries in Washington, DC, Buffalo, Ithaca and New York City, and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Council on the Creative and Performing Arts. The Architectural League of New York selected Hadighi as one of the six notable "Young Architects" in their "Young Architects Forum" series.

Hadighi has been selected as one of "25 most intriguing, innovative and intrepid architects, from all over the world" by *Wallpaper\** magazine; and as one of "10 Young Firms Reshaping the Globe" by the *Architectural Record* magazine in their Design Vanguard issue. His work is the subject of a monograph by *SHARESTAN*, and his most recent work has been featured in the following books: *Conversions*; *Small Structures*, *Green Architecture*; *Xs Green: Big Ideas, Small Buildings*; *Extensions and Renovations*; *Up, Down, Across: Domestic Extensions*; *House Plus*, *New House Design*; and *Architecture In Detail*.

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## YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS MADE A DIFFERENCE

### Historic Tax Credit Established in Pennsylvania

On Saturday, June 30, Pennsylvania became the 30<sup>th</sup> state in the country to legislative a state historic tax credit when Governor Tom Corbett signed the FY 2013 Commonwealth Budget, thereby, establishing the Historic Preservation Incentive Act.

This program will offer a 25% state tax credit for the rehabilitation of qualified income producing buildings that are also using the federal tax credit. By leveraging the existing 20% federal tax credit with an additional 25% state credit, the program will help lure investment into Pennsylvania. Data show that states with state credits tend to have an advantage over states that do not have tax credits in attracting investment in historic rehabilitation.

"AIA Pennsylvania lobbied for 16 years to get this legislation passed", said Caroline Boyce, CAE, Executive Vice President of AIA Pennsylvania. "This is about jobs, economic development, neighborhood revitalization and vibrant strong communities. This is a victory for AIA PA's legislative advocacy program, and for the work of the Pennsylvania Architects PAC, which supports candidates who understand our issues. "

Betsy Masters, AIA, Chair of AIA Pennsylvania's Government Affairs Committee stated, "While this is a modest program initially with a \$3 million annual cap, we will be able to prove the effectiveness of the program and work to build it in the future. I thank each and every architect who helped us to push this across the finish line through their advocacy efforts and their contributions to the Pennsylvania Architects PAC." Both have established strong relationships with key Pennsylvania legislators that are going to be even more important in coming months as we advocate for important updates to the Architects Licensure Law.

Credit for moving this effort forward goes to Senator Lloyd Smucker, R-Lancaster, who introduced the legislation and continued championing it through the budget negotiations. Representative Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, advocated for this legislation in the House.


Implementation of the PA State Historic Tax Credits has been a top priority for AIA PA advocacy for many years. The credits will help encourage one area of architectural practice, and they will drive development and investment in communities throughout our state that might not be undertaken otherwise.

**What's Next?** The program is limited to \$3 million annually with an individual project cap of \$500,000. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Department of Economic Development will develop the program guidelines. The credit goes into effect July 1, 2012 but the first tax credits will not be issued until after July 1, 2013. Just like the federal program, this credit is issued after the project is completed. AIA Pennsylvania will be reporting more information as it becomes available.

Make a contribution to the Pennsylvania Architects PAC now so we can continue our successes for our in the state capitol: [www.paarchitectspac.org](http://www.paarchitectspac.org)



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