

AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

President Macharola Reflects on End of Year

Final Chapter Meeting Announced

Dear AIA Middle PA Chapter Members,

Once again the year is passing by and we are headed for the Holidays, meanwhile the planning of next years AIA activities must begin.

This is the year of elections for executive officers for the AIA middle PA chapter.

The executive committee officially has opened the nominations for offices. The nominations received so far are for President, Tom Columbus, Vice-President, Dave Albright, and we need nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, AIA PA Board Representative, Associate Board Member, and Board Member.

If you would like to make additional nominations for any of the executive committee of-fices, please present the name of the nominees' by December 1, 2012 so we can prepare the ballots, nominations may also be made at the meeting.

You may email the nominations to me at dmacharola@stiffler-mcgraw.com or any mem-ber of the executive committee.

If you haven't received the "save the date" electronic flyer for the Sheetz Center for Shwellness tour I have attached a copy.

This date is a great time to hold a General Membership meeting and the election of offi-cers.

A tentative schedule for this event follows:

3:00pm Executive Committee Meeting

4:30pm to 5:30pm Tour of the Shwellness Center

5:30pm to 6:00pm Dinner

6:00pm General Meeting and Election of Officers.

I look forward to the tour, and espe-cially seeing all of you at this event. I don't know about you, but I cer-tainly can use some Shwellness!

Sincerely,

David A. Macharola, AIA, NCARB,
CSI CDT



Save the Date

DEC 6, 2012



SHEETZ CENTER FOR
SHWELLNESS

Middle Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
Building Tour of the Sheetz Center for Shwellness,
Blair County's only LEED Certified Building
Dinner & AIA Middle Chapter Meeting,
with election of officers

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for 2012**

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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
P. O. Box 1784
Altoona, PA 16603

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

January 11, 2013

Please contact Dee Columbus,
Editor, 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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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

Department of Architecture Announces New Graduate Track

Penn State Department of Architecture, Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, is accepting applicants to its new professional Master of Architecture track.

The new Professional Master of Architecture track is designed for students with undergraduate baccalaureate degrees in fields other than architecture and for those holding a non-professional baccalaureate degree in architecture. The three-year (seven semester) program helps prepare students to become leaders in the profession of architecture. Students enroll in a two-year core curriculum that helps prepare them with techniques, principles, histories, theories, and technologies related to the discipline of architecture. In the final year of the program the students join the post-professional curriculum, where independent thinking and advanced research is the model.

The program is a companion to our 102-year-old accredited Bachelor of Architecture program and enjoys the curricular explorations and experiences that have gone into designing and maintaining a cutting-edge professional architectural education. We will enroll the inaugural cohort of students in fall 2013, and expect to have the program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

Reprinted from the Stuckeman News

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

An interesting statistic emerged recently with regards to consumer trends. It found when consumers are given the choice between a hand-made item and a million-made machine finished item, consumers are choosing the hand-made item (or items that have a short-run). This trend is being carried over in to the realm of interior designers and architectural finishes. As we all know, finishes are an important part of the architectural scope of work. The wow factor can make or break a project. Finish selections that humanize the design space tend to be more appealing to more people than those that do not. When you appeal to more of the population, this helps your survival rate. Of course there are other factors, but this is one factor you can control. Keep the vendors coming in to allow you to be enlightened to what is out there and use for your benefit and more importantly, for the benefit of your client.

Porcelain Panels Are Ideal Surfacing Material

There is a revolution occurring in the porcelain business as thinner, lighter and larger panels are redefining what we think of when we say porcelain. When porcelain first appeared in the mid 1980s, it didn't take long for ceramic tile to recede into a small segment of the tile market. Today porcelain is the standard when we think about tile.

Now porcelain is available as a surfacing material produced in large panels that typically measure 1 meter x 3 meters and only 3.5mm thick. The whole sheet weighs less than 52 pounds!

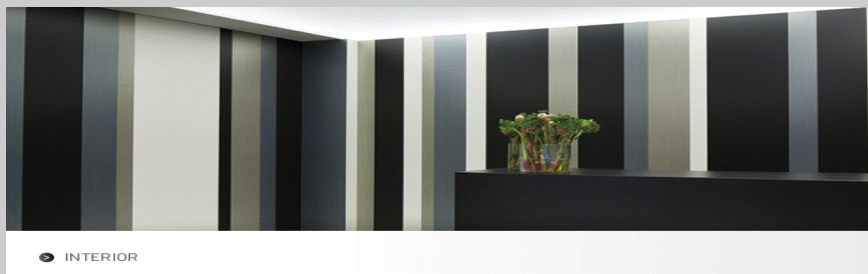
The possibilities are endless as the new panels can be used for covering or making building facades, walls, countertops, room panels, bathroom partitions, interior doors, furniture and cabinetry.

The properties of porcelain are well known and highly regarded in the building industry. Top properties include:

- Chemical resistant
- Wear resistant
- High flexural strength
- Frost resistant
- Fire resistant
- Hygienic surface
- Eco friendly-contains recycled content and can be recycled
- Resistant to UV fading
- Graffiti proof


When selecting porcelain panel supplier, it's important to consider stateside inventories so that your project can be finished on schedule, as well as the availability of technical help on the installation side. The tile contractor you use should be trained in the proper installation methods as well.

For more information, contact Jim Tasillo at jim@fierstdistributing.com. Jim has been in the tile and flooring business in Western Pennsylvania for over 30 years and is currently a practitioner of **Design Driven Distribution**. www.fierstdistributing.com



Porcelain panels like these are now being used for covering or making building facades, walls, countertops, room panels, bathroom partitions, interior doors, furniture and cabinetry. Visit www.fierstdistributing/tile_stone.html for more information.

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