The AIA National Convention 2016 was held in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, PA.

Those in attendance were able to attend classes, participate in many bus and walking tours (see article, “Sites on Two City Tours”, Page 5), and visit with vendors on the convention center’s floor. Here are a few photographs showing the variety of sources available to attendees.
President’s Message
June 3, 2016

Old House Fair

On April 29 I had the great pleasure of attending Day 1 of the Old House Fair that was hosted by the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Society in partnership with the American Philatelic Society and the Centre County Historical Society. The event was held at the historic Match Factory, which is being developed as the national headquarters for the Philatelic Society’s library. It’s really a magnificent series of spaces. Well worth the visit.

The program was well worth the time too. I want to thank the historical societies, especially Joseph Griffin, Committee Chair, for their forethought in reaching out to our chapter when they realized their speakers might appeal to our profession. And a huge thank you to Nate Hutchinson for taking over as our chapter CES Coordinator and getting the Day 1 sessions approved for a total of 4 HSW LUs. Much to my dismay though, I was the only chapter member that attended despite multiple notices to the membership.

Rick Hauser, AIA, presented a detailed and rather captivating lecture on his work in Perry, New York, rehabilitating historic structures for tax credits with a program he has developed and dubbed Mainstreet, LLC. He organizes LLCs with large membership groups (20–40) of local citizens that watched their tiny downtown deteriorate from builder-owner neglect to buy, restore, and utilize contributing buildings on the historic district. The large groups mean little investment and risk per member with a share of historic tax credits more useful to local families than large corporations. The impact on Perry and nearby Geneva is phenomenal. Local Bellefonte Attorney, Rodney Beard, outlined the process of forming large member LLCs to the eager crowd of local preservationists.

The keynote speaker that evening was Donovan Rypkema, a preservation advocate and economics professor at Penn. He presented statistical data from 5 communities throughout the country that showed the health and economic impact to the communities and residents in historic neighborhoods and districts compared to their cities as a whole. I know it sounds like a snoozer but he was an enthusiastic speaker that made the material compelling and inspiring.

Day 2 was a full slate of workshops and tours more suited for homeowners and those with a passion for historic Bellefonte. No LU’s made it less attractive for me but I understand it was well attended and received too.

I encouraged the societies to continue with these efforts and to keep us posted on future events.

David B. Albright, AIA, Architect

*****See additional article updated the Chapter Middle Chapter Accreditation News on Page 4, Middle PA Chapter Accreditation Update.
## GOOD OF THE ORDER

Going to the AIA Convention is always impressive. All the meetings, displays, classes, elections, discussions, speakers and continuing education classes and tours — to name a few items — boggles the mind. Philadelphia was no exception. It hit all cylinders. However, something you do not see classified and in the script is the opportunity to network with colleagues. Not particularly the ones you know, but new acquaintances gives you a good feeling when some aspect of architecture is discussed. You listen to your new found fellow architect and compare your notes in your mind with someone as passionate as you are with architecture. The solving of the design problem, the care taken for health, safety and welfare of the public, and the desire for the best aesthetics in design for an affordable price are a few of the common threads that bind us together, no matter what part of the country you are from.

Until next time,

Tom
Middle PA Chapter Accreditation Update

Core Member Services Update

Good news and bad on the chapter accreditation efforts I invested hours and days into this in December and January. The good news is we are an accredited chapter at this point. The bad news is we are on a 1-year probationary leash.

AIA national cited 3 points we need to address. I will likely issue something in more detail in the near future, but we will need to find ways to partner with AIA PA to help us provide services and meet core requirements that we’re simply not able to as an unstaffed chapter without a fixed office. The partnership with AIA PA will come at a cost, which is yet unknown. If we can’t demonstrate that we’ve fixed the issues by next January, and at a cost we can afford, we will lose our accreditation and no longer be a chapter.

More to come.

Architectural Registration Exam Study Materials in Need of a Home

We are thrilled to have this opportunity to congratulate Rebecca Griffith on becoming a registered architect!!! It is a grueling process that Rebecca has successfully completed. Again, CONGRATULATIONS!!!

With this happy event, we are now in search of a permanent repository for all of the study materials used in preparation for the architectural registration exam. These materials would not take up a great deal of room. All we would need is a shelf or corner of an office or storage area to accommodate a Bankers Box and 11x17 sets for paper vignette practice that won't fit in the box and a small bag with flashcards. If any member would have space at your firm to archive these materials so that they are available to our next registration candidate, please contact the editor of this newsletter, Dee Columbus at tdta2000@comcast.net. Thank you in advance.
One of the great opportunities afforded the attendees at the annual AIA National Convention are the tours that are offered. Not only are they interesting and informative, but many also allow participants to accumulate Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at the same time. At the National Convention held this year in the City of Philadelphia, PA, I was able to accompany my husband on two of the tours that he participated in.

The first was a tour of the construction site of the Museum of the American Revolution. Built on a site immediately adjacent to the National Park Service’s office headquarters in the City, this project confronted the designers with many challenges, not the least of which was the demolition of a portion of the NPS building while not adversely affecting the existing structure as well as dealing with Dock Creek that flows beneath the site.

When completed in the Spring of 2017, the Museum will consist of three floors: The Ground Floor with a gift shop, café, and theater; Second Floor including exhibits and Marquee Theater; and finally the Third Floor housing offices, board room, and event space. The basement level houses storage and exhibit prep areas.

Highlighting the many exhibits from the Revolutionary Era in the Museum is the tent of George Washington. This is the tent that was used as Washington’s headquarters at Valley Forge and other battle encampments. The tent will be displayed behind a 1” thick glass partition manufactured in Sweden. There will be a video screen in front of the glass which will tell the story of the tent. At its conclusion, the screen will be removed, and the tent will be illuminated briefly.

This was a very informative tour, and it is highly recommended that you make the trip back to Philadelphia to visit this Museum when it has opened.

Our second walking tour was of “Society Hill”. This area of Philadelphia was not populated by the rich and famous, but rather was the location of the headquarters of the Free Society of Traders which gave the area its name. Many of the homes date back to the 1700s but over the years has become and interesting mix of period and later eras of architecture combining single and multi-family residences, commercial buildings, as well as green spaces and connectivity.

Throughout Society Hill are many historic buildings such as St. Peter’s Church. The beautifully preserved interior still has the private seating areas which were constructed to help conserve heat during the winter when families would huddle together for warmth. Some even brought their dogs which would lay inside the enclosures. The worshippers would then tuck their feet under the dogs to keep their feet nice and toasty. We learned from our tour guide that this is where the saying “putting on the dog” originated. It’s amazing the interesting bits of trivia one can also learn on these amazing tours.

An excellent example of the green areas that we visited is Washington Square park. This lush area was actually a potters field in revolutionary times, where the poor and destitute, slaves, and even soldiers from both sides of the Revolution were buried. In addition, thousands of those who succumbed to the Yellow Fever were also buried in mass graves. Now, a refreshing respite in the middle of a bustling metropolis, it offers a quiet pace to rest and reflect.

I highly recommend these places of interest be placed on your “need to visit” list for the very near future.
Marzoni’s Restaurant Site of Get Together
Annual ASHRAE/AIA Meeting Held

That much anticipated time came around again when ASHRAE and the AIA Middle Chapter come together for a joint meeting. This year’s get together was at Marzoni’s Restaurant in Duncansville. Both organizations were very well represented, and the dinner was, as usual, exceptional.

Everyone had a great opportunity to catch up on projects and what has been going on in each respective firm. This meeting allows attendees to discuss the latest developments in design and technology.

There is also always an educational component to these annual get togethers that is of interest to both Engineers and Architects alike. The presenter this year was Mr. James P. Gleba, P.E., LEED, AP. Mr. Gleba is Vice President of Leach Wallace Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers of York, Pennsylvania. In addition to his design work, he also is very involved with the firm’s marketing and business development. The subject of Mr. Gleba’s presentation was Energy Reduction Strategies from a Health Care and Higher Education Perspective.

Statistics in the U.S. for energy use percentage for commercial buildings for heating and cooling is 41%. Of this, 57% is for HVAC and lighting systems. The EPA developed the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) to allow building owners now how they rate against other facilities. By determining how they rate against others, the owners can then devise a strategy to reduce their energy use.

The energy embargo of 1973 began the movement to save energy although many changes did not happen until 1999. ASHRAE Standard 90.1 of 2013 is a very stringent guide for energy reduction. Vision 2020 states that by 2030, all construction is to be "net zero" so that whatever the building uses in energy, that amount of energy must be generated on site and is either used on that site or is put back into the grid.

Mr. Gleba then ran through various scenarios and situations of energy use and loss in buildings and what systems may be utilized by either retrofitting existing buildings or including these systems in the new building design to achieve the energy savings that are now required and will continue to be in the future.

This was another very successful joint meeting, and all are enthusiastically encouraged to attend our future gatherings.
LUNCH WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Mark your calendars for July 13, 2016 for this outstanding opportunity to have lunch with young attendees of the Penn State University 14th annual Architecture / Landscape Architecture Summer Camp. This is a chance to share your experience, passion, expertise, and professional insight with high school students participating in the camp this July. Come and enjoy a specially prepared lunch and meet these future professionals small discussion groups.

If you are planning to attend “Lunch with a Professional”, please RSVP by July 1, 2016 to Kristy Catalano at kxb1@psu.edu; telephone (814) 863-7927 with how many people from your firm or organization will be attending.
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