

Newsletter of the AIA's Middle PA Chapter

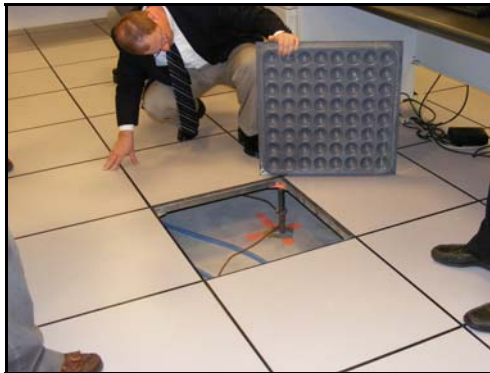
“SMART SOLUTIONS THROUGH RAISED FLOORING”

Dee Columbus, Editor

In March, the AIA Middle Chapter and the North Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute held a joint meeting at the Main Campus of Penn College in Williamsport, PA. After a very enjoyable dinner served by the College at LeJeune Chef Restaurant, CSI held a brief business meeting and welcomed the members of the Middle Chapter who were able to attend.

Following the meeting, Mr. Mark Bachelor, Access Flooring Manager for Smart Space Solutions, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland, was introduced. Mr. Bachelor presented an excellent program discussing the advantages of Raised Access Flooring in today's work place. Through illustrative slides and support information, the flexibility and portability of raised flooring was shown. In addition, there can be an impressive building cost savings resulting from reduced labor and material costs for items such as electrical, voice and data cable trays as well as HVAC installations. Cables can be run in the floor space without the trays. Additionally, the space can be used as the plenum eliminating the need for ducts. Maintenance has a much easier time to make changes, and owners realize operating savings with reduced energy costs.

Mr. Bachelor illustrated many other advantages, but being able to tour one of the computer labs in a Penn College classroom building allowed



those present to experience the environmental flexibility that this flooring system gives.

Webcast This Year's Focus

AIA / ASHRAE Annual Joint Meeting

Dee Columbus, Editor

The Middle Chapter participated in another joint meeting in 2008. Each year, the AIA Middle Chapter and the Johnstown ASHRAE chapter join forces for an educational meeting. This year, something a little different happened. On April 16, 2008, at the UPJ Living & Learning Center both organizations had an opportunity to participate in a live webcast on Integrated Building Design: Bringing the Pieces Together to Unleash the Power of Teamwork.

The intention of this broadcast/webcast from the studio of WETA Public Television in Washington, DC targeted professional involved in HVAC design, architecture, building contractors, and building owners.

Those attending this session were able to earn three (3) AIA Learning Units by completing a "Participant Reaction Form". As always, this was a very rewarding and worthwhile event shared by the two organizations.

◀ Good example of Raised Access Flooring in Computer Lab

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▲ Getting set up for the Webcast at UPJ's Living & Learning Center

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From the President's Desk

Brian Hayes, AIA

This newsletter issue was postponed until after the AIA National Convention so we could report on it. Thanks to several of our members who attended the conference and wrote articles on their experience. There is also information on the AIA website for all members to touch base on the recent happenings of the convention.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Habitat for Humanity is looking to partner with our chapter for assistance and that we will certainly consider the opportunity in the year ahead. Coincidentally or not, Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller was the 2008 AIA Convention's first keynote speaker.

The power of his talk was not about his own accomplishments of becoming a millionaire, but about the difference his mission made in the lives of others. By building houses for the poor, Mr. Fuller provided hope and opportunity to individuals, families and communities. And he is not an architect.

Heeding the theme of the convention, "We the People," our chapter will have to do its part to reach out. AIA President Marshall E. Purnell, FAIA pointedly asked at the convention, "Are we [architects] sought out by our neighbors as essential—*essential*, can't-do-without—to the solution of critical issues of public health, safety, and welfare?"

Habitat for Humanity is seeking AIA design expertise to fight NIMBYism often placed on Habitat homes. That sounds like "essential" calling. I hope we can answer.

Upcoming Event:

AIA Middle Chapter Annual Picnic

Friday, July 25, 2008

Mark your calendars now for the Annual AIA Middle Chapter Picnic. We will once again be able to enjoy the hospitality of the Kimball family and enjoy the very special ambiance of Klein Immergrun. Each year we are dazzled with the colorful flowers, beautiful countryside, and amazing home and patios. This is a great time to come together and enjoy great food, great drink, and great conversation. Come early and stay late. We'll see you at poolside!



AIA Associates Corner

Here are your links in 2008

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BUSINESS CENTS: occasional comments on the business of design

The Future. I was ushering at a high school career fair this Spring and happened to have a conversation with one of my neighbors who is a school counselor with a daughter in high school. She had talked to me about her daughter's interest in architecture and I was catching up on what had happened since the previous Summer. Her story was that they took a day and went to a nearby college for their College of Arts careers day for high school juniors. The daughter signed up for a morning visit with the Graphic Arts Department and an afternoon visit in the Architecture School. Mother and daughter met up at lunch and the student was all lit up over her experience with the graphics art faculty. She could really see herself with a career in graphic arts. The mother was able to attend the visit in the architecture department. Apparently it was deadly [i.e. boring] and left the daughter wondering why she ever thought that she might like architecture. The lesson is simple enough. When asked to explain our career in architecture, we need to put on a happy face. I don't mean that we should stretch the facts. But we all had a love of design and we need to convey that enthusiasm to any student who wants to listen. After all they are our future and without them our architecture will be outsourced from our country and maybe from our profession.

BUSINESS CENTS: a request by a student or civic group to host a shadowing day needs to be met with an enthusiast yes and the preparation needed to put on a good 'show'.

Good of the Order:

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

High profile Architect responsible for existing public building(s) and construction of new, resigns. Government Agency debating whether position requirement of registered architect or engineer should be kept for the post. Sound familiar? No, it is not a repeat of a past "Good of the Order" concerning the Architect of the Capitol, but rather, now applies to the City of New York's Building Commissioner. With the recent sad construction deaths (13 so far this year) the scapegoat has become current Building Commissioner, FAIA Patricia Lancaster. Up until recently she had been widely praised for reforming the City's Building Codes and improving the Department. The debate centers around the fundamental skills of an architect (building health safety and welfare, namely Codes and accessibility, historic preservation, energy use and sustainability) versus political savvy and forcing the owners and contractors to comply. We can only watch these battles and continual our grassroots group effort in supporting the basic ethics of architecture in any way we can.

OF LOBSTER, JAILS AND MASS TRANSIT

I just got back from the AIA Convention in Boston and would like to share a few experiences from my trip. I stayed at the Liberty Hotel, which is located near the St. Charles River and adjacent to fashionable Beacon Hill. A great location but, unfortunately, it was about 3-1/2 miles from the Convention Center. The Liberty Hotel building was originally a jail and was constructed in 1851. It was finely closed in the 1990's, sat vacant for a few years and opened as the Liberty Hotel in 2007. While making my daily visit to Clinks, the Hotel Bar, I learned that in the early years of the jail, the inmates were known to riot because they were served lobster too often each week. Believe it or not....lobster was so cheap and plentiful that it was considered food fit only for servants and prisoners. How things have changed.....

With gas nearing \$4 per gallon their mass transportation system was truly impressive. I purchased a weekly pass for \$14 that allowed me to go just about anywhere in the city utilizing their subway and bus system. The subway redline stopped next to my hotel, I would catch it each morning, take a short ride and transfer to an electric powered bus (silver line) that traveled through a tunnel and dropped you off a couple of blocks from the Convention Center. Door to door this excursion took about 20 minutes. I traveled all over town and actually got pretty proficient at using their transportation system. These folks really know how to build tunnels; from the "Big Dig" to the many subway tunnels, they move thousands of people, underground, 24/7. If I had to be a subterranean traveler every day I don't know if I would find it all that intriguing, but for a few days, it was pretty cool!

I came away from the trip with an impression that Boston has done an outstanding job combining the old with the new. The adapted reuse of the Liberty Hotel is just a small example of what you see around town. Everywhere you go in Boston you experience old landmarks and new landmarks living comfortably side-by-side. I learned that Boston has more architects and architectural students per capita than any other American city....I enjoyed spending a few days visiting their work.

Submitted by Rick Cyman, 1st Vice President
Rick Cyman

Keynote Speaker Gives Much to Ponder

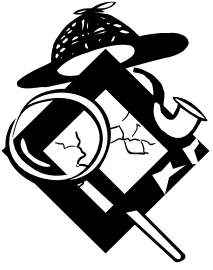
On Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, approximately 4000 attendees were introduced to Millard Fuller by Marshall Purnell FAIA, 2008 President of the American Institute of Architects. He was the first keynote speaker on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Millard's opening remarks were about his humble beginnings in Alabama where he became a young, self-made millionaire. He and a college friend began a marketing firm while still in school, selling things such as mistletoe and cookbooks. His mission statement was simply "Get rich." Even though the business prospered, his health, integrity, and his marriage to Linda suffered, prompting him to re-evaluate his values and direction.

(See Keynote, Page 5)



*Keynote speaker
Millard Fuller*



Forensic Architecture

ARCHITECTURE, AWRY EGOS, AND CORRECTABLE BUILDING INDUSTRY TERMINOLOGY

It is known that Architects have frequently said to prospective client board members that they, “built that college student union in 1997”. This statement is used often enough that the statement makes its way into industry media. We all know that, unless it is an actual design-build project, that this really isn’t true. Misguided egos contribute to the wrongness of the statement. The real culprit is not a clear idea of, what really goes on at a construction site.

Architects at a construction site daily, taking in a healthy dose of humility, wouldn’t be taking full credit for the actual construction of their designs so quickly, if at all.

What really is going on daily is that there is a group of men and women at work, committed to doing their best, having to understand and untangle the architect’s “intent” so that the building looks good, stands tall and doesn’t leak. In addition they work hard with the hope of sharing in the profit with their bosses.

The next time you are presenting one of your completed designs to a prospective client hopefully you can say that the contractor did an excellent job. The real underlying bragging is the fact that your drawings and specifications were so clear, complete, concise and correct that the contractor actually made a profit.

The real triumph for the architect is the contractor’s willingness to brag to a prospective client behind your back, “I’d work with that architect any day”.

Albert S. “Toby” Roberts, Jr. AIA CCS

The Middle Pa. Chapter AIA welcomes comments and questions regarding this and future “Forensic Architecture” articles. Please direct your thoughts to Toby at L. Robert Kimball and Associates, Ph. 814 472-7700 Ext.1342. Better yet, email Toby at tobyroberts@lrkimball.com.

KEYNOTE

Continued from Page 4

Upon reconciliation with his wife and a renewed commitment to being a Christian, he was able to move forward with the founding of Habitat for Humanity International in 1976. His leadership not only helped build affordable housing for families here in the US, but also extended these homes worldwide. In the year 2001, approximately 40,000 homes were built by Habitat for Humanity International that is active in 92 nations. In 2005 he and his wife left HFH and were instrumental in the founding of the Fuller Center for Housing.

We had the opportunity to listen to his inspirational talk and also attended his book signing for “The House that Love Built.” Let me encourage you to visit his website www.fullercenter.org. I believe you will find that site to be interesting and exciting.

*Submitted by Dave Reasinger
Assistant Treasurer*

CALENDAR

2008 Tentative Calendar

June

- 18 MPC AIA and PRC CSI Joint Meeting, **Lewis Katz Building (Dickinson Law School Building), Penn State University**; 6:00 p.m. Building Site Requirements — hard hats, long pants and substantial closed-toed shoes; Host: Mr. Jerry Shaheen, Project Manager, Gilbane Building Company

July

- 17 Annual Johnstown Chapter ASHRAE Golf Outing; Champion Lakes Golf Course; Reservations by Tuesday, July 8, 2008; Tim Sample — 814.266.3020
- 25 AIA Middle Chapter Annual Picnic, **Klein Immergrun**, Loretto, PA

Hey!! Let's Stay Connected!

Please remember to make sure that Dave Reasinger receives any changes and/or additions in your mailing address and contact information including email addresses. Also, please make sure that Dave receives information for new members in the Middle Chapter. **Thanks!**

DON'T FORGET!!!
Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is **June 27, 2008**
Send them to:
Dee Columbus at
tdta2000@comcast.net

CONVENTION NOTES FROM BOSTON

Five members from AIA Middle Pennsylvania made the trek to Boston for the 2008 National Convention. This was an enthusiastic group who took full advantage of the professional tours, continuing education seminars, general sessions and the exhibit floor.

You can get Continuing Education Units on the floor by attending and registering for at least four 15 minute educational events put on by the vendors. This year AIA instituted a validation process which requires members to take a four to six question test at the end of each session and to turn in their consolidated answer sheet before they left the convention. You need correct answers on at least 75% of the questions to get credit for each session. After four sessions you get one CEU and then .25 CEUs for each subsequent session. The process was easy and hassle free. I was impressed at how much the vendors have upgraded their presentations. I attended three sessions on Italian marble just because of the quality of the presenters. Other vendors had equally informative sessions.

So you can not only see a wide range of interesting products, but you can also learn something new about your craft.

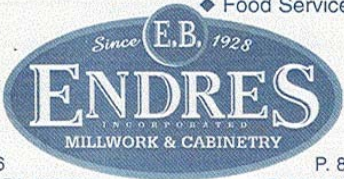
Next year the convention is in San Francisco followed by Miami, New Orleans and Washington, DC. Hope to see many of you at one or more of these future events. You will not be disappointed.

Submitted by J. Richard Fruth, Public Relations Officer

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Todd R. Speck
Vice-President

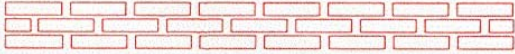
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