

The Annual Picnic

Dee Columbus, Editor

Beautiful sunshine, a lovely setting, good company, great food and drink... what more could the members and guest of the AIA Middle Pennsylvania Chapter have asked for? The 2008 annual picnic was a fantastic success that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Once again, Mr. & Mrs. L. Robert Kimball opened their lovely home at Klein Immergrun in Loretto, PA to the Middle Chapter. The peaceful and inspiring setting alone is often the reason people make the yearly visit to this event.

Brian Hayes, AIA Middle PA Chapter President welcomed everyone and thanked the Kimball's for their generosity and hospitality. He then introduced this year's special guest from AIA Pennsylvania: Caroline Boyce, Executive Director and Elmer B. Burger, President.

Both Caroline Boyce and Elmer Burger discussed the achievements of the AIA PA including the Political Action Committee's (PAC) work on behalf of the AIA and architectural and design professionals. The 2008 Legislative agenda includes: Sustainable Communities, Uniform Construction Code, Interior Designer Title and Practice, Separations, ARE Timing, Mandatory Continuing Education, and Sustainable Communities. More information is available at the AIA PA website, www.aiapa.org.

Both AIA PA leaders complimented the Middle Chapter's leadership and members on their accomplishments and continued efforts for the benefit and growth of the members and the Chapter.

Thank you to all who helped to organize and serve at the picnic to make it another job well done. A special thanks goes to Toby Roberts who usually leads the picnic effort. He is passing on the baton of this responsibility but the chapter is grateful for all of his past service.



◀ The architectural character of Klein Immergrun in Loretto, PA lures guests each July to the annual Middle PA Chapter picnic.

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Message to Non-members

Brian W. Hayes, AIA

Membership in the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter can help you add value to your practice or career. This is where you'll meet and develop lasting relationships with other architects and colleagues in our area, attend continuing education sessions and engage with our community through outreach programs. Being active locally is central to making the most of all that AIA membership offers.

One of the biggest yields from your investment in AIA membership is the power that comes from being plugged into a local, state and national network of over 83,000 AIA colleagues; like-minded men and women who are part of the vital professional community coming together to accomplish the important things that no single architect can do alone.



▲ Caroline Boyce, Executive Director and Elmer B. Burger, AIA PA President updates picnic audience on their efforts with the AIA.

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

October 24, 2008

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 and Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

Message From the President

Brian W. Hayes, AIA

The AIA is currently launching a recruiting campaign called "Architects in Action." AIA PA is the coordinator for our Chapter and a letter from respective Chapter presidents around the state will be sent out to non-members. We, the members of AIA, are the Architects in Action; "choosing to engage the breadth and depth of what it means to be an architect." Increased participation in our Chapter is certainly encouraged. I look forward to seeing if there is any response from the campaign and hopefully add a few more "voices" to the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter.

Here are some quotes from PA architects who believe membership is a valuable investment in their professional life:

"I depend on AIA as the prime source for all aspects of my professional life; Practice, Design, Public Advocacy, and the wealth of personal contacts. It has led me down many beneficial and productive paths." – Elmer B. Burger, II, AIA PA President, a member since 1984

"The AIA provides enormous support and current information for the day to day challenges of our architectural practice." – Frederick J. Fernsler, NCARB, AIA, a member since 1970 (Middle PA Chapter Past President)

I have found that our local chapter is comprised of members looking to give back more than they are looking to obtain benefits. Our chapter operates on volunteer work by a great group of people. But whether it is giving or receiving, the AIA is a good organization to be involved with as an architect.

Future architects are also set in action this time of year as students return to school. Good luck to all the architecture students soon to keep the architecture buildings on campus glowing at night.

Upcoming Event:

Dr. Chimay Anumba, PSU Department Head of Architectural Engineering



Tuesday, October 7, 2008

The Pennsylvania Railroad Chapter of CSI has invited the AIA Middle PA Chapter to join them to hear Dr. Chimay Anumba speak at the Bull Pen Restaurant in Tyrone, PA. Dr. Anumba came to Penn State from Loughborough University in the U.K.

Dinner is \$20 and will begin at 5:30pm. Further information will be announced by e-mail.

AIA Associates Corner — 2008 Links

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Business Cents - What can we learn from the Olympics?

Occasional comments on the business of design by J. Richard Fruth, AIA

The Beijing Olympics provided visual and sports excitement. From the Chinese gymnasts and divers, to the African distance runners, the swimmer Michael Phelps and to Usian Bolt the Jamaican sprinter, we were treated with athletic prowess at its best. I got thinking about the skills of these athletics and how it relates to working in our profession and thought there are some things that we can learn from the games.

First, the winners were highly skilled having studied and practiced their sport for years. This was brought out in the Phelps races where the commentators used underwater cameras to showcase the special techniques that gave Phelps that competitive edge. And of course technology was a factor in the swimming events with the new Speedo *Fastskin LZR RACER* suits that are designed to reduce water drag and increase swimming speeds.

Second, team members were selected with particular attention to what individual specialty they brought to the team. This could be seen in the makeup of the swimming, gymnastic and track & field teams where some athletes were selected because of a single event in which they excelled.

Third, the relay races showed that regardless of how good you are and how much you train, things happen and batons can be dropped. Checking the training and coaching for the relay races after the baton was dropped is an appropriate reaction to such mishaps; but we also need to remember that accidents are not planned and, well, sometimes things just happen.

Finally, there is the sheer joy of knowing that you are competing at your best. Usian Bolt was criticized by some for his 'showboating' during the race but I loved his sheer joy of running the race.

BUSINESS CENTS: How is your race? Are you competing at your best? Are you running the events in which you are most qualified? Have you studied and practiced your craft? Are you a team player? Are you having fun with it? And remember, even with the best preparation, things still happen.

For the Good of the Order

Comments on the Profession of Architecture by Tom Columbus, AIA

Just when you feel comfortable with the green building movement and doing good for mankind, along comes a seemingly inherent factor with green building design that may be another liability issue for architects. It seems there is a trend with the insurance companies to scrutinize an architect's portfolio more closely to ascertain if green building design is becoming more of a risk.

The thinking seems to center around the sustainable design features, the performance of the building systems, the employees work efficiency, and cost payback. All of which are closely interrelated aspects of the green building. In short, does the green building perform the way the architect said the design would do? It is important these design goals are accomplished and documented as well as possible, otherwise an irate client will be calling.

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

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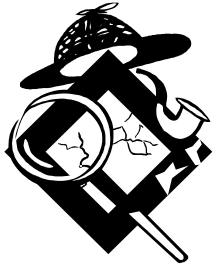
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Real “Value Engineering” - A Follow-Up to an Earlier Editorial on the Subject

Forensic Architecture by Albert S. “Toby” Roberts, Jr. AIA CCS

The, *Construction Dictionary by The Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter #98 of The National Association of Women in Construction*, (also the Publisher) 7th Ed, 1989 defines “Value Engineering” as: “A branch of engineering whose objective is to effect economy in the cost of constructing a project. Evaluating any object’s function and bettering the object in terms of dollars and functional objectives”.

Unfortunately today this phrase and the good and the absolute necessity of the work it represents are applied in an untimely fashion. The phrase is also misapplied to additional work made necessary by the inability of an Architect to keep their client’s project within the budget. What’s worse, when the phrase is first spoken after an over-budget bid opening, it may be misconstrued by the Owner as being over budget because of the, “engineering” word.

When an Architect’s design is over budget what you do is enter into, “contract negotiations” with the apparent low bidder to try to get the project back in budget.

There are not many design engineers practicing today who show and specify a hot water boiler in their construction documents by a manufacturer whose innards usually have to be replaced within 5 years, or who’s installing or servicing factory representative firm is slow to respond to notification of a warranty problem or whose practice is to gouge Owners. Engineers would not condone any of the above because they want to be invited back by Owners and Architects to design more projects.

Because of the Value Engineering they perform during design on each project they know what equipment will serve the Owner the best, for the longest time and, even if the original cost is higher. When pressed they stick by their value-engineered decisions they feel are in the Owner’s best interests for long term value.

The Architect and the Engineer need to provide the Owner the best for their money up front because the HVAC equipment belts, bearings, and boiler tubes will wear out long before the ceramic tile wears out on a toilet room floor.

How many Architects out there have ever talked an Engineer into changing a manufacturer’s equipment specification that is the-basis-of-design either before or after bidding to get the project within the budget?

Recommend that the Owner be educated beforehand about the possible need to negotiate with the apparent low bidder after bids are opened in order to obtain an executable contract for construction.

The AIA Middle PA Chapter welcomes comments and questions regarding this and future “Forensic Architecture” articles. Please direct your thoughts to Toby at L. Robert Kimball and Associates, 814.472.7700 Ext.1342 or toby.roberts@kimballcorp.com.

Seminar Postponed

Brian W. Hayes, AIA

The AIA Middle PA Chapter has been planning a hands-on fastener seminar through the Greater PA Regional Council of Carpenters. Mr. John Thomas, Coordinator and Instructor at the Gallitzin Training Center notified the Chapter that representatives from Hilti were not available for the scheduled date of September 10, 2008.

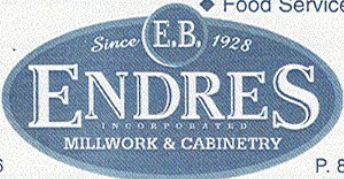
For the past two years, similar seminars at the Gallitzin Training Center have been successful and well received by our members. The AIA Middle PA Chapter will attempt to reschedule another date perhaps in October 2008.

The Chapter will send an e-mail announcement if the seminar can be re-scheduled.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Todd R. Speck
Vice-President

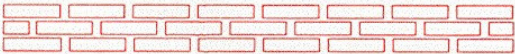
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