

Message From the President

Rick Cyman, AIA

I would like to start by saying thanks to all of you for giving me the chance to serve as this year's Chapter President; I appreciate the opportunity very much and am looking forward to the challenge. Since my involvement in our Chapter, I have developed new friendships, met numerous dedicated volunteers, and experienced many positive and beneficial meetings. One of my goals as Chapter President is to continue to provide this type of experience to all those members who choose to participate.

We just completed our yearly planning meeting and have our schedule jam-packed with interesting programs and events. Some highlights include:

- January 28th - Joint meeting with CSI and Penn State Students. The meeting will begin with the students giving a short presentation outlining their experiences at the SALA National Convention. Following this presentation will be dinner and a Professional Etiquette Seminar conducted by The Professional Edge. We are encouraging members to invite their wives, friends, and significant others to help support this event.
- At our March meeting, we plan to hold the First Annual Brueggebors Memorial Design Competition. This competition will take place at Penn College in Williamsport.
- Our April meeting will be held jointly with ASHRAE and will include a presentation from the Green Building Council on the 2009 LEED revisions.
- May 27th-28th - We will be touring the Weyerhaeuser Plant, which will include visits to their Truss Joists and OSB plants located in West Virginia. This trip will include an overnight stay and most of our trip expenses will be covered by the vendor.

- Once again, we will hold our annual picnic in July.
- Our October meeting will be held at the new Sheetz Bros. Kitchen and will include dinner, a presentation, and a tour of the new commissary.
- We plan to close the year with our bi-annual symposium. This year's venue will be held at the Penn Stater in State College on November 5, 2009. The theme will focus on sustainability.

In addition to these programs, we are assisting in the construction of a house in Bedford County for Habitat for Humanity. We are in the early stages of getting this project off the ground, but we do anticipate a couple of Saturday events during late spring and summer where AIA members can volunteer in the construction process.

In the first quarter of the year, we plan to send out a survey to measure how the membership feels about the value they receive from their local chapter and identify areas and opportunities for improvement. When the survey is completed, we will share the results in the newsletter and discuss possible changes to improve service to the membership.

Since our leadership team consists of all volunteers, we are always in need of a few more individuals to fill some of the rolls necessary to keep the chapter functioning at a high level. Currently we have a few positions open, so if you have been thinking about putting your foot in the water, this could be your chance.....interested? Just give me a call. Perhaps you could add "Chapter Participation" to your New Year's Resolution List.

Once again, many thanks for this opportunity. My wish to you all in 2009 is for friendship, good health, and prosperity. See you at the next meeting.

Regards,
Rick

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Mark Your Calendars
AIA Middle Chapter
Symposium

LEED 101 – Preparing any Design Project for LEED™ Certification

Opinions on the technical side of sustainable design and LEED™ certification by Jason Feidler, AIA, LEED AP

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

February 20, 2009

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

Occasionally, an Owner's decision to pursue LEED™ certification for their building does not manifest itself or become finalized until late in the design process or even after the start of construction activities. While the design professional cannot design LEED™ certification into every project, there are some initial steps that can be taken to prepare any project for the potential pursuit of that certification. These steps will undoubtedly minimize rework or redesign if a project eventually decides to pursue certification.

The USGBC currently has (12) ratings systems for LEED™ buildings. The most common of those systems, LEED NC™ (New Construction), has (8) mandatory requirements that are fairly consistent across the other ratings systems. Out of those (8), there are really only three or four that would be classified as above and beyond the scope of a 'traditional' building design.

Current LEED™ ratings systems mandate the implementation of an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan; designing to ASHRAE/ IESNA Standard 90.1-2004; meeting the requirements of ASHRAE 62.1-2004 for outdoor air ventilation rates; and eliminating CFC-based refrigerants in buildings. All four of these design items should already be accounted for in a 'traditional' building design and should require only minimal additional attention in specific reference to LEED™. The four remaining items, however, that should be addressed specifically in the early design phases of the project include the following:

The first required program item is a 'dedicated' recycling area. The LEED™ manual provides 'suggested' sizes for that space, but the definition of 'dedicated' and the enforcement of that suggested size are, at best, loose in their interpretation. My suggestion, as part of initial planning, is that a mechanical or loading area with an outside door and interior corridor access be oversized (by 200 square feet or so) to allow for that recycling area. Depending on how recycled materials are collected locally, that area may possibly be sited at an exterior building location. In general, if there is a recycling process in place, this prerequisite can be met.

The second potential LEED™ deal breaker is tobacco smoke control. If the Owner is adamant about smoking on site, the only two options you have are to establish an exterior smoking area (25'-0" away from entrances, operable windows, and air intakes) or to provide a dedicated negative-pressure room within the building – a programmatic concern.

The third and fourth required items deal with energy performance and testing. In a nutshell, a LEED™ building must beat ASHRAE/ IESNA energy performance standards by a minimum of 14% in new buildings or 7% in existing building renovations when compared against baseline ASHRAE standards. As future ASHRAE editions are published, this requirement will continue to become more difficult to achieve. In general terms, efficient building envelopes and heating and cooling and lighting systems will put you on the path to achieving this requirement. For its last requirement, LEED™ asks that the building's mechanical, lighting, and hot water systems be commissioned by an independent commissioning agent. At the very latest, that commissioning agent must be on

If the above items are given attention early in the design process, any design project will have the potential to meet the mandatory requirements of LEED™ certification.

AIA Associates Corner — 2009 Links

Seth H. Wentz, Associate AIA

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Position Open

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PA Associate Committee Member
der19@psu.edu

Arthur Sheffield

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Program (IDP)
idp@aia.org

For the Good of the Order

Comments on the Profession of Architecture by Tom Columbus Jr., AIA

As we all know, there is much anticipation in the Country and around the world for events set to transpire on January 20, 2009. The official inauguration of President-elect Obama is planned. He has promised the beginning of many changes throughout the Country to start that day. Of particular interest to architects is the planned influx of Federal dollars for infrastructure repair, an amount that could reach \$500 billion, depending on who you listen to in Washington. Infrastructure is broad in definition, but, in Federal Government eyes, includes schools, emergency centers, and transportation centers. It will be a while for the trickle down effect to architects to occur, but, our friends on Wall Street (those still around) have monitored a dramatic rise in construction and building supply companies' stock values soon after the election. Obviously, the people with money are banking on the infrastructure repair promise. You might want to dust off your old infrastructure project files and reference material . . . this promise might be about to begin.

Codewatch:

Will automatic Sprinklers be required for one- and two-family dwellings in Pennsylvania?

Comments on the Universal Construction Code by Dallas Miller, AIA

You may have missed the headlines coming from the Final Action Hearings for International Code Council this past October. The changes approved in these hearings will be part of the new 2009 International Construction Codes that you will be purchasing later this year.

The two biggest headlines of those hearings are that new townhouses are required to be protected by an automatic sprinkler system – AND beginning in January 1, 2011, all one- and two-family dwellings are also required to be protected by sprinklers. All of the other Residential Occupancies are already required to be sprinklered.

Back in Pennsylvania, Governor Rendell signed into law the bill that will create the UCC Advisory Council. The UCC Advisory Council will be a council of professionals (architects, engineers, code officials, contractors and home builders) who will review proposed legislation and render professional opinions on it. This will hopefully occur prior to the bill being introduced for the general assembly's consideration. The intent is to stop the tinkering of the Universal Construction Code by state legislators because of the lobbying by constituents.

The other task of the UCC Advisory Council is to review the new editions of the International Construction Code that are published every 3 years for changes that may be burdensome to the public and/or apply to conditions that are not of major consequence in Pennsylvania.

Now here is where the ICC headlines above on sprinklers and the formation of the UCC Advisory Board have become real interesting. The homebuilder associations (who have seats on the Advisory Board) have been campaigning against requiring sprinklers in one- and two-family residences. It is understandable that they have concerns about any additional cost for the construction of a house – particularly in this time of financial difficulties.

While plenty of national press coverage is given to the large number of deaths from fires in assembly occupancies (like the Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island), the real sad statistic is that 82% of all the civilian fire deaths in the United States occur from fires in the home, as reported by NFPA.

Save the Date!!

2009 Bi-Annual Symposium

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The Penn Stater

State College

Details on conference seminars, speakers and vendor opportunities are coming soon!

Questions?

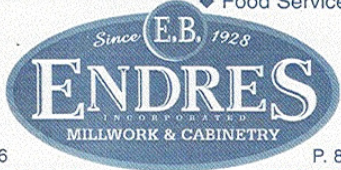
Contact Anne McGrath at annefmcgrath@verizon.net or 814.539.1317

See you in November!

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