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Newsletter of the AIA's Middle PA Chapter

Double Presentation Provides Twice the Information

Dee Columbus, Editor

Attorney Anthony S. Potter of Powell Trachtman Logan Carrle & Lombardo, P.C. Harrisburg, PA, was the guest presenter at the Middle Chapter's most recent general meeting. Tony's topic was a very current and important one. Every ten years, the AIA revises its family of documents used by AIA professionals. Tony systematically reviewed each of the document changes and highlighted how this change will effect our projects.

The most critical document was identified as "The Contract". Attorney Potter emphasized that this defines your duties and rights, your compensation, sets the "tone" for the relationship, and is the first line of defense in a dispute. Basic components are the scope of services, compensation, potential "pitfalls", and claim issues.

Overall, The AIA documents are the most widely used set of design and construction documents in the industry. AIA Document B101(2007) was developed for building design and construction contract administration of medium to large size projects (replaces AIA Doc B141, Parts 1 and 2, and B151. Special attention should be paid to Basic and Additional Services as well as the Schematic and Construction Documents Phase. This documents expresses and specific standard of care for the architect to provide services "consistent with the professional skill and care ordinarily provided by architects practicing in the same or similar locality under the same or similar circumstances.

Additional revisions were also made the following areas: Instruments of Service; Claims & Disputes; Dispute Resolution;



Consolidation of Arbitration; and the Statute of Limitations.

Many other changes were discussed and all are encouraged to review the latest revision in all the AIA family of documents.

Our program then turned to Joe Bevins, President of the Penn State AIAS Chapter and several members who attended the AIAS Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The students each described different aspects of the conference and discussed the various topics that were presented each day. In addition, tours of various areas and buildings in Milwaukee were available during Forum. These included historic theaters and portions of downtown Milwaukee. By experiencing this architecture, the students were cautioned to be aware for whom they are designing and for what the structure will be used.

Each student expressed that they received a great deal of direction, information, and valuable insight from the lectures, workshops, and tours — an experience that will further enhance their future careers in architecture.

■ Tony Potter addresses members during presentation

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▲ Joe Bevins and AIAS Members discuss the group's trip to Forum in Milwaukee, WI.

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From the President's Desk

Brian Hayes, AIA

The Officers met in February and as usual we had much to talk about. Here are a few items we accomplished and discussed:

- Our 2008 budget was reviewed and approved and will be sent to the membership by snail mail.
- Our newsletter editor, Dee Columbus, volunteered to manage our web site too. We appreciate her effort to take on the additional work and weave the newsletter and website together.
- Our next event will be a building tour on the Pennsylvania College of Technology campus in Williamsport. This is a joint meeting with the North Central Penn Chapter of CSI.
- Rick Cyman represented our chapter at Grassroots. We will be sending the AIA's Strategic Plan to our members by snail mail that was given out at Grassroots.
- Chapter professionals participated in a "Night with Pros" at Penn State to give architectural students and opportunity to ask questions from a panel of practitioners. The event was deemed a great success.
- The Chapter will be represented at the upcoming reception for the faculty, alumni, and friends of the Penn State Department of Architecture to meet the members of the accreditation body, NCAAB.
- We are looking into efforts to better maintain contact with affiliate members during non-Symposium years.
- Habitat for Humanity is looking to partner with our chapter for assistance. This is an opportunity that we will certainly consider in the year ahead.

Thanks again to everybody who volunteers their time and effort for the Chapter.

Upcoming Event:

National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts!!!

What a great opportunity has once again presented itself to those of us living on the east coast. The AIA National Convention is being held in Boston this spring. We are so close to this great event — certainly within driving distance.

For those of you who boarded our rental van and made the trip to Philadelphia a few years ago, I'm sure you would agree that being able to be at the Convention and take part in the various activities was certainly well worth the trip.

We'd like to once again have a group attend this year's Convention. If you'd like to be a part of it, please contact Dave Reasinger.

CONVENTION 2008
We the people
MAY 15 -17 BOSTON

AIA Associates Corner

Here are your links in 2008

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Penn State Professors Granted Leaves of Absence

The following professors have been granted Leaves of Absence from their duties at the Pennsylvania State University to pursue research and education:

- --Daniel E. Willis, department head and professor of architecture, to complete research for the book, "Architectural Craft in a Digital Age."
- -- Scott Wing, associate professor of architecture, to research design-build teaching methodologies at leading schools of architecture including Yale, Auburn, Kansas, Texas and Washington, with on-site study focusing on topics of sustainable design and prefabrication techniques.
- --Michael Horman, associate professor of architectural engineering, to study the project delivery of high performance "green" buildings in Australia at the Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia.

A New Year, a New Style

By Gisele Lewis and Brian Hayes



The Middle Pennsylvania chapter of the AIA is delighted to present a new format for its newsletter. Over the past few months, we have been working to create a more coherent layout and a fresh look that invites our readers to discover the latest architectural news from central Pennsylvania.

While there were many ideas flowing for new formats, there was but one suggestion for the name. Once mentioned by the chapter president, "MID-POINTS" became the one and only option to choose from. MID" stands for the name of our chapter, Middle Pennsylvania. It also recalls that our newsletter is published six times a year in the middle of Dec-Jan, Feb-Mar, Apr-May, Jun-Jul, Aug-Sep, and Oct-Nov, and is a middle ground for reporting on past events and announcing future happenings. "POINTS" represents the essential things of the newsletter, the aim or direction, our points of view, and occurrences up to a point.

Special thanks to Rick Cyman and the design team at Sheetz for donating time and effort to the design of our masthead. Thank you also to Dick Fruth, Brian Hayes and Dee Columbus for facilitating this process throughout last fall.

Our goal is to bring you an enjoyable, informative reading experience. We hope that you enjoy our new design!

AROUND MIDDLE PENNSYLVANIA

Richard Fruth, Public Relations Officer

- Randy Hudson, AIA, had his house outside State College and its 'green' design featured in the Winter 2007 issue of *GOOD LIFE IN HAPPY VALLEY* published by the Centre Daily Times. The article included an interview with Randy and photographs of the home that he designed in the early1990s and lives in today.
- LEED design and other green initiatives were featured in a November 21 letter to Penn State supporters who are members of the Universities' *PRESIDENT'S CLUB*. In the letter, President Graham Spanier explained how these initiatives are benefiting the University and the environment.
- LEARNING ARCHITECTURE. The Bedford County Visitors Bureau has produced a fold out color brochure on the architectural heritage of Bedford. It includes a walking tour of Bedford with some local history, architectural history and identification of styles of architecture. It can be picked up at visitor Information Booths and hospitality businesses in the Bedford Area. The cover has the title 'LEARNING ARCHITECTURE' and a picture of the front of the Richard Upjohn gothic revival architecture for St. James Episcopal Church in Bedford.
- A third house by Frank Lloyd Wright has been moved to Ohiopyle in Western Pennsylvania from Lisle, IL. The *BEAVER COUNTY TIMES* ran an article with photographs of the newest house which will be open as a bed and breakfast. The other two houses which are open for tours are Kentuck Knob and of course Fallingwater. The Duncan House is a prefabricated [c.1950s] Unsonian house, one of only nine that were built.

AIAS MEETS WITH AIA MPC AND CSI PRR

The local Chapter of AIAS hosted a "Meet the Pros Night" that was held on Saturday February 23, 2008 at the Pasquierilla Spiritual Center in the Garden Room located at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

The format of the meeting included a round table discussion between third and fourth year students and professionals from the local region and as far away as Pittsburgh.

Ten (10) professionals with a wide range of backgrounds and experience to include architects in industry, small firm practitioners, large firm practitioners, code advocacy,

service through AIA and green architecture fielded questions from approximately twenty five (25) students.

A steady dialog of questions and responses made for an enjoyable and informative experience for both the students and professionals.

Following the meeting a dinner was held at the Nittany Lion Inn at which time the discussions continued and planning occurred for future get together's.



Forensic Architecture

SHRINKAGE CRACKS IN CONCRETE SLABS

Albert S. "Toby" Roberts, Jr. AIA CCS

Recently, The Construction Specifications Institute's, "Construction Specifier" Magazine featured a cover article on leaving colored concrete exposed for interior finished floors. The photograph on the cover showed a lobby of a building with nice looking multi-colored shiny concrete flooring. There was a long noticeable jagged shrinkage crack visible in the photograph. A letter to the editor resulted in a phone call from the manufacturer/author who agreed that the crack was bad.

What's bad is that there is a mindset by most everybody in the industry including some architects and structural engineers accepting concrete shrinkage cracks as a "given" when using concrete.

Shrinkage cracks can be 100% avoided by properly specifying and showing concrete control joints, and making sure concrete is properly mixed, placed, and cured during construction.

Attached to this article is a photograph of shrinkage cracks in a building where architecture is studied.

The photo shows a shallow sawcut control joint that stopped before the adjacent wall due to the radius of the saw blade. The resulting random shrinkage crack viewed for the uncut 4 +/- inch distance to the wall is ugly.

This uncontrolled cracking could have been prevented during trowel finishing by installing a short length of "Zip Strip" to control shrinkage in a straight line. The "Zip Strip" line would be the beginning of the sawcut joint. Another preventative method would be to use a hand-held grinder with a small diameter blade. When the large-blade saw had to stop the hand-held grinder would get close enough to the wall to prevent the ugly random cracking.



▲ Cracking resulting from shallow sawcut control joint stopping short of wall

The length of this article is too short to go into more about shrinkage crack causes and preventative construction action. Please email the author anything that comes to mind on this subject as it is important enough to be continued.

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.

BUSINESS occasional comments on the business of design

PROJECT CLOSEOUT This is the third of three articles on my experience using a landscape contractor to update the plant material at my house.

I have found project closeouts to be one of the most difficult phases of the project. It seems that there is always a bill (to me) that is unpaid, contractor issues that don't get resolved in a timely fashion and paperwork that can't be completed despite my best efforts.

On our closeout, the owner of the business who had made the sale [see Oct-Nov 2007 issue] gave us a genuine 'thank you' for allowing him to do our proiect. I was bowled over!

Perhaps Donna and I were just better clients. We said 'forget about it' when the landscapers broke off a branch of one of our struggling rhododendrons and paid the check in full on the day that it was delivered. I don't think it was us, I believe it was the attitude of the owner.

When was the last time that you, in person, thanked your client at the end of the project for giving you the work? It is a simple gesture, even if there are open issues to resolve. A thank you makes the customer feel appreciated. And after all, unless you are independently wealthy, everything we build is entirely dependent on the customer giving us the job.

BUSINESS CENTS:

- ⇒ If you want to get that text job, thank the customer for the job you are finishing now.
- \Rightarrow It may be more effective if you give that thank you without asking for anything return in (including that next job).
- ⇒ You can always check back later and ask about other work.

HALF WAY THERE WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENCY TAX INCENTIVES

H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, would extend for several years the energy efficient commercial buildings tax deduction- an incentive the AIA worked to create in 2005, and other incentives that promote energy efficiency in buildings. Wow! – Somebody is listening to the AIA with regards to our dwindling resources and the green building movement! The tax incentives help the Owner's bottom line by conserving natural resources with building construction and can also be used as a prompt in convincing owners to move forward with green buildings. Now the catch, many Republicans, some Democrats, and the President oppose the bill because the incentives are paid for by rescinding tax breaks for oil and gas companies. What? Record profits are not enough? Profits in corporate America that were never seen before? Come on! The bill moves to the Senate now. Contact your Senator with your opinion!

CORRECTION to the Dec-Jan Newsletter

Dallas Miller's departure from the AIA Pennsylvania Board is not quite yet. He will be finishing a 3 year term this year and will step down at the end of 2008

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 April 25, 2008

CALENDAR

2008 Tentative Calendar

March

26 Joint CSI Northcentral Pennsyulvania Chapter, Raised Floor Systems, E. Williamsport Penn College; Ted Strosser and Robert Lash Coordinating

April

3 2008 Thomas C. Kavanagh Memorial Structural Engineering Lecture; 7:30 p.m. 129 Alumni Hall, HUB-Robeson Center, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Leslie E. Robertson, Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P.

Charles E. Brueggebors

(July 10, 1940 - February 27, 2008)

Charles E. Brueggebors, AIA, 67, of State College, died Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at Mt. Nittany Medical Center in State College.

He was born July 10, 1940 in Theills, NY, the son of the late Eric and Martha Lloyd Brueggebors. Charles graduated from Clifton High School in Clifton, NJ. In **1964, he graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Architecture degree.**

During the Viet Nam War, he served four and one half years in the United States Air Force, having been stationed in Thailand working with the Base Civil Engineers Office. He was honorably discharged in 1970, with the rank of Captain.

He began his professional career working with several architectural firms in Hartford, Connecticut and State College. In 1972, he joined Penn State University as a Project Engineer in the Office of Physical Plant. He went on to become the university architect responsible for campus master planning, building, and landscape design at all Penn State locations. Under his direction twenty-five master plans were completed with construction costs of over one billion dollars. He retired from Penn State in 1999 after twenty-seven and one half years of service.

Mr. Brueggebors was very community minded having served as the chairperson of the Centre Region Planning Commission, president of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, president of the Friends of the Palmer Art Museum, and serving as a board member of the Nittany Valley Symphony, the Centre County Historical Society, and the Clearwater Conservancy. His professional memberships included serving as president of the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and memberships in the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, the Association of University Architects, the International Facility Managers Association and the Urban Land Institute.

His time was extensively devoted to work and civic duties, but he managed to enjoy traveling, the fine and performing arts, reading and cooking. His cooking skills were put to use in the development of recipes for the Volumetrics Eating Plan.

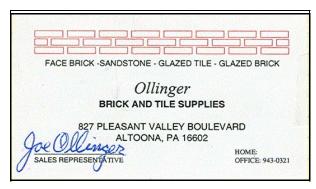
He is survived by one son Gregory E. Brueggebors and his companion Shawna Meschnark of Austin, TX; one granddaughter Gillian Maeve Brueggebors, one grandson, Konner Shaene Brueggebors of Austin, TX; and his ex wife Barbara E. Jordan of Austin, TX.

Mr. Brueggebors was a staunch supporter of the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter AIA and will be sorely missed by this organization and its members.

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