

AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

St. Louis 3 Catholic Cemetery

A Visit To A New Orleans “City Of The Dead”

As a non-professional attendee of the AIA National Conventions, some of the highlights for me are the tours that are offered during the event. The 2011 Convention offered a tour of the city which included one of the famous New Orleans cemeteries.

What an interesting, enlightening experience that tour turned out to be. Our tour guide, Ann, was a retired kindergarten teacher whose family have lived, died, and been buried in New Orleans for generations. She peppered her dialog of describing notable city landmarks with humor and little known facts. So, when our bus stopped in front of one of the three St. Louis Catholic cemeteries, I was anxious to experience this beautiful and serene place.



Although Catholic, anyone can and are buried here. The tombs are magnificent examples of craftsmanship through the centuries – many dating back hundreds of years. The various styles of tombs are represented with many examples of each – barrel vaulted, coping graves, parapet tomb, pediment tomb, society tomb, and temple and others. Families, groups, organizations, and individuals are buried in above-ground crypts that occupy in general no more space on the ground than a typical grave. However, many of the departed can be entombed within. Our group was very curious as to how this is accomplished. Ann was very knowledgeable and explained how this happens.

In general, the tomb is built with two shelves and a space at the back. When a person dies and is “buried”, the coffin – usually made of wood – is placed on one of the shelves. This coffin is not disturbed for one year and a day. This is the time it takes for the departed and the coffin to return to “dust”. If another person dies who is to be buried in the same tomb, that coffin is placed on the other shelf. When another burial is required, the ashes of the first person are pushed to the back of the tomb and fall into the space at the rear. If a death occurs during the “year and a day” time period, temporary resting places are available that can be used until the time period passes and that next person can be put in their final resting place.



Ann told us that from time to time, the tombs must be cleaned out. Present statutes require that the remains be placed in special body bags and then returned to the tomb. As you can see from the photos, this was an amazing and just a little strange place to visit. Our tour guide was tremendous and made a point to stress that the people of New Orleans treat their dead with extreme respect, honor, and love. Please take a few minutes to look at the photographs of St. Louis Cemetery. It was a city like no other!



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AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

If you are using the U. S. Postal Service to Contact the AIA Middle PA Chapter, please use the following:

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NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

August 26, 2011

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 & Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

FOOD, MUSIC, AND ARCHITECTURE



What are the first things that come to mind when you hear the city name of New Orleans? Music . . . Food . . . Architecture! What more could a visitor to this vibrant city want.

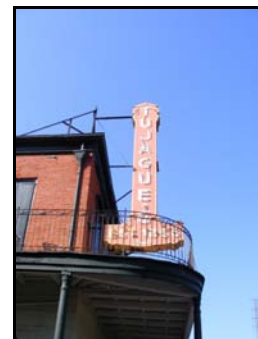
One of the tours offered by the organizers of the AIA National Convention was a walking tour of the great restaurants of the French Quarter. Who could resist an invitation to walk down Bourbon Street and tour the historic restaurants whose reputations are known worldwide.

Our tour guide was not originally from New Orleans, but had lived in cities in the USA known for fine dining. So, her knowledge was extensive and her opinion well received and spot on.

We began our tour at a small bakery where we had dessert first — Pralines. We then went across the street to Antoine's where our group sampled their famous gumbo. We continued on to Brennan's, famous for Bananas Foster, the Royal House Oyster Bar, Arnaud's, Tujaque's and more. We were treated to turtle soup, Shrimp Arnaud (known as shrimp remoulade in all other restaurants), Muffaletta sandwiches, Italian gelato, and roast beef. We also had a lesson in making an authentic roux. Every offering was better than the last and all wove a tapestry of culture and history that is New Orleans. And, always as we strolled through the French Quarter, we were serenaded by musicians on every corner.

This tour wasn't our only exploration of the eateries of the City. We, of course, had to sample beignets and café au lait at Café du Monde. What a great way to start your day. We also had dinner at Arnaud's in one of the 12 dining rooms that make up the restaurant that features white glove service and great New Orleans jazz. The following evening, a group of us had dinner at the Pelican Club which was sponsored by Powell Trachtman Logan Carrle & Lombardo. The Middle Chapter group had dinner on our final evening at the Convention at the Red Fin Restaurant. This colorful, loud, fun restaurant features giant hanging fish sculptures and super giant-sized oyster shell mirrors hanging at the bar. Featured dishes at the Red Fin are fresh seafood and a delicious double chocolate bread pudding.

So, the moral of this story is that what they say about the Creole and Cajun dishes is absolutely true — it's truly wonderful!



AIA Associates Corner — 2011 Links

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For the Good of the Order

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

TIME FOR THE SEARCH

With the multitude of on-line search engines and various hardbook directories available for the architect and engineer to use, it is sometimes overwhelming to search for the best

building component, material, or finish for a building project. The owner expects to have the best quality for the budget he/she allows. We as project managers must allow appropriate time for ourselves, or identified personnel, to find the best that does not exceed the budget within the allotted timeframe. As we all know, this is a tough juggling act. More times than not, we spend non-budget time (personal time) in researching and investigating to do a good job. In other words, our “Time for the Search” has expired, but we still want to do the best possible project for the client.

This personal time is usually unknown to the Owner, and if known, would be viewed as “part of your job”. It is refreshing to maintain our networking with our affiliate vendors and use their expertise in particular fields. Please keep this in mind when participating in our upcoming Symposium and talking to our network of vendors.

2011 Symposium

Trends and Innovations – Strategies for 2012 and Beyond

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center

Historic Downtown Johnstown

With an optional cocktail reception and dinner immediately following at the award-winning City View Restaurant, atop Johnstown's famed Inclined Plane.



Symposium Speakers Are Confirmed!

We're pleased to announce that our slate of presenters for the 2011 Symposium is ready and set to go! Our speakers will be sharing updates from the state, the business sector, the construction industry and the regulatory community.

- **Carole Aichele**, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of State
- **Maureen Guttman**, Executive Director, Governor's Green Government Council
- **Mario Zacharjasz**, Principal, PZS Architects and President, Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA
- **Irv Spoonhour**, ICC Master Code Professional, Approved Code Services, Inc.
- **Wayne Baumgardner and John Thompson**, Greater PA Regional Council of Carpenters

Bill Bates, Senior Vice President, Eat 'n Park, will also join us as our dinner speaker at the City View to provide perspectives on the greening of one of western Pennsylvania's most well-recognized restaurant businesses.

Be sure to check your in-boxes and your mailboxes for more updates!

Calling All Exhibitors!

We're adding new exhibitors every week! Be sure to look for these companies who have been the first to sign on:

- Fierst Distributing
- Keller Engineering
- Architectural Resources
- Avail Business Systems
- HF Lenz – **Luncheon Sponsor**
- Quality Stone Veneer
- Pella Windows
- GAF Industries
- Sherwin Williams
- Supply Source
- Fishman Flooring Solutions

(Continued . . . See "Symposium", Page 5)

Symposium (Continued from Page 4)

We thank them for their interest and support, and look forward to showcasing their products and services. If you know a company that would be interested in exhibiting at the Symposium, please forward their information to Anne McGrath at annefmcgrath@verizon.net or 814.539.1317. Thank you!

Exhibitor registration information, the booth layout and other pertinent information is available at www.aiamiddlepa.org

Anne McGrath, AIA Affiliate, Symposium Coordinator

Affiliate Corner

Variable Refrigerant Flow + New Construction = High Performance Buildings

What originally began in this region as a popular solution to retro-fit applications, Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) technology has recently been booming as a viable option in new construction projects. While there are many advantages to utilizing VRF in new construction projects, including quiet operation, zoned comfort, system simplicity, and aesthetics; we feel the energy efficiency and lower lifecycle costs are reason enough to choose this technology in new construction applications.

Comfort Supply, Inc. has been involved with Variable Refrigerant Flow HVAC systems since 2002. CSI was first introduced to the concept of VRF systems in 1993 when, as a large regional distributor of ductless mini-split systems, our company came into contact with variable refrigerant flow technology at the AHR Expo in Chicago, Illinois. Not long after that event, we were given the opportunity by Mitsubishi Electric to provide a prototype heat recovery system for a large mechanical contractor located in Pittsburgh, PA. Although our prototype system was powered by 50 cycle, we were quickly amazed by the flexibility, capability, and energy efficiency of variable refrigerant flow systems. Since that first install, CSI has been instrumental on over 475 VRF projects and are considered experts in the field of variable refrigerant flow design and application. We pride ourselves on our knowledge of this equipment and have incorporated a 'VRF Living Lab' at our facilities to effectively display and demonstrate the abilities of this revolutionary technology.

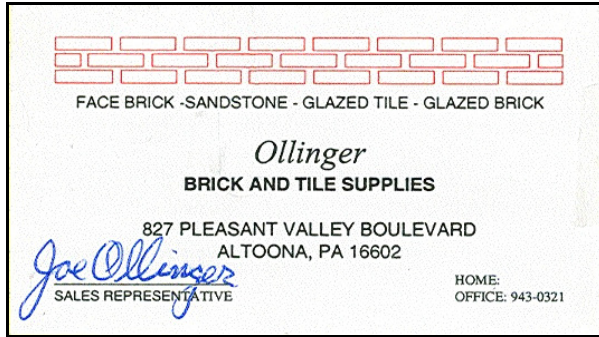
We have three recent VRF projects completed that we are very proud of; Bouquet Gardens at the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland (119 tons), the Altoona Water Authority (44 tons), and the new Butler Transit Authority (16 tons). These projects were all new construction and we are seeing great results from the VRF applications. As you can also see, VRF technology can be an option for large or small commercial applications; we work very hard to match all of our projects with the best suited VRF system to maximize efficiency and lifecycle costs.

DAVE HECKLER, PRESIDENT
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Sites of the 2011 AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS



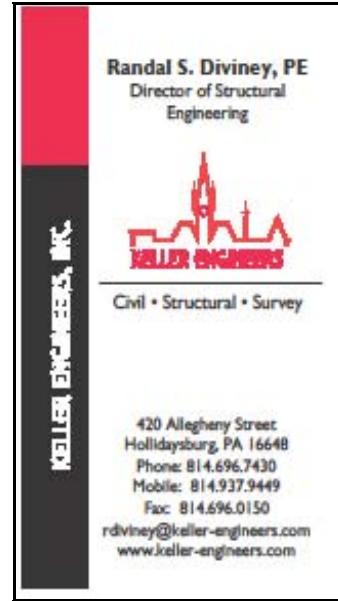
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