



AIA

Middle Pennsylvania

June / July 2007

2007 CONVENTION PERSPECTIVES

By Dick Fruth



Interior of energy efficient home on convention tour

For me, the AIA Convention is all about the tours and CEUs.

Convention 2007 had over 60 tours from 2 to 8 hours in length, earning you 2 to 6 learning units for each tour. We started, on Wednesday, with an all day tour of award winning/energy efficient homes in nearby Austin. The best stop was at an architect owned property where our

host gave us his list of lessons learned. One of his lessons was that using 'gray water' for your lawn and garden is not very efficient and besides the water stinks. Since we had considered using such a system 15 years ago, we found his experience enlightening and we were glad that we didn't put the system in our house. I also picked up some tips on the importance of 'right sizing' mechanical equipment to conserve energy use and have been able to use that in my occasional consulting work.

At a tour and lecture on the historical restoration of the San Fernando Cathedral, I heard about a breathable waterproofing product that can be used on masonry and can be tinted. I may be able to recommend the product to some Owners here in Pennsylvania.

At a museum tour, I stumbled across an exhibit of Lake/Flato and Overland Partners. Remembering that Overland was the design architect for Penn State's SALA, I immediately looked to see if that project was included in their portfolio and found it at the beginning of their exhibit.

At a tour of the early Spanish Missions on the San Antonio River we learned that you can't trust everything you see in restorations. Our National Park Service architect told us that much of the restoration/reconstruction work done in the first half of the 20th Century was based on supposition and has since been proven to be incorrect.

We finished our tours with a 'mandatory' barge tour of River Walk, which is a delightful public space. Led by local architects and a commercial guide we came to appreciate the engineering, landscape architecture and land use regulations that makes this public space work so well that it has become a national attraction.

Around San Antonio we were impressed with the efforts to make the center city pedestrian and visitor friendly. Cross walks are numerous and traffic laws respecting pedestrians are obeyed. Signage was good for both vehicular access and pedestrian access. We had no problem finding our way about town. Both the River Walk area and the streets are cleaned almost daily [we saw them cleaning on our morning walks to the Convention Center]. And in the core area near the Alamo, there are Tourist Bureau workers on the street ready to help you find what you are looking for.

As we were packing to come home, Donna said that she was sad to leave. She never says that, so San Antonio must be a pleasant attraction. Maybe I will see you next year in Boston at the 2008 Convention.



Dick Fruth and Dave Reasinger at reception for new AIA Fellows



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From the President's Desk

First Time at AIA Convention

Brian Hayes, AIA

This year was my first time at the AIA National Convention. While I was in San Antonio from May 2 to May 6, my clients and co-workers assumed I was on vacation. I would say it was more like an architect's retreat. The thousands of visiting architects with their name badges immediately begin finding the city's sense of place. Fingers inspect all kinds of indigenous materials and the eyes examine every detail high and low. And without doubt, the ears fill with opinions and critiques. Seminars, tours, lectures, AIA business, and a huge exposition complete the agenda. While there are plenty of opportunities for play and entertainment, shop talk is inescapable.

Continuing education credits abound with programs targeting all interests. Reminiscent of being back in a large lecture hall, an audience of inspired architects was given the "Nature Challenge" by David Suzuki as he passionately spoke about improving the planet by doing things as individuals: what we eat, where we live, how we move. Of the popular bus tours, we journeyed just outside the city limits to see the Government Canyon Visitor's Center with the designers from Lake Flato. The AIA Committee on the Environment awarded the structure as a Top Ten Green Project.

As President of the AIA chapter, I participated in the election of Marvin Malecha, FAIA as the Institute's 2009 president, Peter Arsenault, AIA and Clark Manus, FAIA as vice president and Hal Munger, FAIA as the Institute's treasurer beginning in 2007.

The exposition floor is the Sweet's catalogue come to life. Think of any product you use or are curious about and chances are it is there. Full size displays and demonstrations are on-going. A swipe of your convention card automatically sends the latest manufacturer's or vendor's data to your mailing address.

Of course, the convention experience is anchored by the hosting city. There was a booth in expo marketing the 2008 convention in Boston. Seeing Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art on the waterfront by Diller Scofidio + Renfro may alone be enough to make the venture, if not H.H. Richardson's Trinity Church - number 25 on the list of America's Favorite Architecture.

Registration for the 2008 Convention begins in December and hotel reservations already started. Please be advised that CEC programs sell out fast, especially the tours.



Middle Pennsylvania Chapter
ANNUAL PICNIC
Friday, July 13, 2007

Klein Immergrun, 439 Brick Road, Loretto, PA 814-472-7411

4:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Social
6:00 p.m. Dinner

\$25.00 per person (Guests Welcome)
to:
RSVP to David Reasinger
by 12:00 Noon
Monday, July 9, 2007
814.863.3868 (voice)
der19@psu.edu (email)



Please make checks payable
to:
AIA Middle PA Chapter
Mail to: David E. Reasinger
Assoc. AIA
Pennsylvania State University
113 Office of Physical Plant

WE'RE NOT IN MIDDLE PENNSYLVANIA

Everything is big in Texas. AIA Austin has 70 members with a full-time staff of three and operates out of a converted 1930s service station. AIA San Antonio is in the process of converting a former multi-story brewery into offices and conference center. That is what you can do when you live in a town of about 1.3 million people.

For perspective AIA Middle Pennsylvania has about 70 members with one very part time staff person to edit this newsletter.

Newsletter reconstruction

Over the past few months, a group of Middle Chapter members have met to explore re-vamping our newsletter. While the old format has held us in good stead, an update and new look will give a fresh perspective to our bi-monthly news and information.

AND you can have a part in this effort. We're searching for a name for the newsletter. If you think you have a good possibility, just send it along to our editor, Dee Columbus, at tdta2000@comcast.net



Symposium — Full Speed Ahead !!

Unless you are living under a rock, you should have seen the update mailings and the notices that have appeared in this Newsletter concerning the AIA Middle Chapter Symposium set to occur on October 25, 2007, in Johnstown Pa. We are finalizing an impressive roster of speakers whose topics will address our Green Building theme.

We are also in the process of obtaining commitments from various vendors for both booth displays and sponsorships (please continue to forward any possibilities to Anne McGrath, email: annefmcgrath@verizon.net). All signs point towards a very worthwhile day-long event.

See you there!

What: AIA-MPC Bi-Annual Symposium

When: Thursday, October 25, 2007

Where: Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center Downtown Johnstown

Questions or vendor leads?

Contact Anne McGrath at 814.539.1317 or annefmcgrath@aol.com.

2007 EDITION AIA CONVENTION NO DISAPPOINTMENT!!

I look forward to the annual AIA Conference each spring. This past Conference was my sixth, and I believe it was the most outstanding one by comparison. It certainly seemed to have the largest attendance.

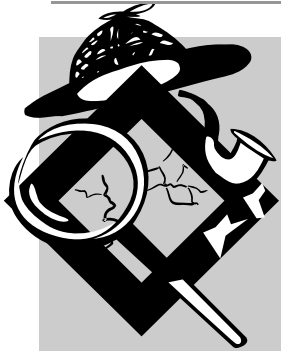
I hadn't been to San Antonio in 15 years so I really enjoyed seeing the city again. Obviously, the city has become much more developed since my last visit; but the Riverwalk seemed to have remained much the same. My wife and I enjoyed some wonderful southwest cuisine at some very nice restaurants located along the River. We enjoy drinking wine, and I would like to report we were able to navigate the riverwalk back to the hotel each night without inadvertently falling into the river. Sounds funny, I know, but the walk is extremely narrow and there is a tremendous amount of pedestrian traffic, especially late at night.

My main objective at the conference was to obtain enough continuing education credits to meet all my state and AIA requirements. I was able to obtain 18 hours and spend a few hours at the trade show. I really enjoyed the trade show, looking at the latest building products and technology intrigues me. The coolest new product I saw....The Toto Electric Commode, with a remote control too.... does everything to you but take your pants down. You should check this act out if you have a client that is interested in the ultimate experience in personal hygiene and pampering....it really puts on quite a show.

The conference was focused around the theme of sustainability and I thought that they did a very thorough job covering this topic. The final keynote speaker was the Honorable Al Gore. We waited in line about an hour to get into the full house. I was glad that Amy and I were able to find a seat on the far right side of the auditorium.

Next years conference is scheduled to take place in Boston, can't wait!

This article was written and submitted by Rick Cymon, Sheetz, First Vice President, AIA Middle Pennsylvania Chapter.



FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE

QUALITY WHEN DEALING WITH A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Most times, the Owners and Architects suffer when the quality of construction isn't being proactively controlled by a Construction Manager (CM). Construction Managers sell their "wares" to Owners based on timeliness and quality of the work.

When the work begins, CM's — whether at risk or not — have a hard time pressuring prime contractors and subcontractors to perform quality work when they know that they may be asking the same prime contractors and subcontractors for a hard dollar bid the next week for another project. This constitutes a serious conflict of interest; yet "we know quality better than Architects, after all we are the builders," is heard by many Owners.

Recently, a nationally known CM had all their on-site office help sweeping down a job before an Owner board visit because they were afraid to ask the companies doing the work to clean up. The Division One specifications written by the CM required each contractor to periodically clean up their own work areas.

When you know a CM has gotten onto your project, meet early on with the Owner and the CM to discuss and try to understand the CM contract with regard to who is really watching the quality of the work.

Notify the Owner immediately in writing of non-complying or poor quality work the first time you see it and every time there after.

When you are showing a prospective client your previous work, you want it all to look great and last great.

Respectfully Submitted.

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. 342. Better yet, email Toby at toby-roberts@lrkimball.com

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

There seems to be many hubbubs going on in the AIA about the next "Architect of the Capitol". Little did George M. White, FAIA, know his retirement from the position would cause such uproar within Congress and the architectural community. There seems to be a movement afoot to appoint an individual to the position who is not a registered architect. Congress and the AIA is determining the best route to go in being the "caretaker" of the Nation's premier buildings and grounds in Washington D.C. They are scrutinizing the prestigious position. Your voice can be heard by going to the AIA National Website and following the required prompts. Also, a note to your Congressman would also have the usual impact notes to Congressmen normally do.



New Stormwater Management Regulations Will Add to Project Costs

Some recent changes to stormwater management regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are having an effect on the issuance of NPDES permits. The results can mean increased costs for site development. Architects need to be familiar with these stormwater changes when determining overall project costs.

Application for a general NPDES permit must be made if a project proposes an earth disturbance of one to five acres with a point source discharge or if a project proposes an earth disturbance greater than five acres. A point source discharge is defined as a water conveyance from a pipe, channel, ditch, tunnel or conduit from which pollutants are, or may be discharged. Individual NPDES permits involve earth disturbance activities that are located within exceptional value or high quality watersheds, or in areas that have the potential for hazardous or toxic discharges.

The major components of an NPDES permit application include:

- Erosion and Sedimentation control plan
- Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan (PCSM)
- Thermal Impact Analysis
- Antidegradation Analysis
- Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Search

Changes to both the PCSM and the Thermal Impact Analysis sections will require more detailed reporting, design, and calculations, resulting in increased site development costs. The post construction details must show how the developer plans to infiltrate the increase in stormwater runoff that the new development will cause. The extra calculations and design will mean more field time for engineers, therefore adding to site development costs.

More attention is also being paid to the thermal impact of stormwater runoff. The temperature of a stream can become elevated if vegetation is removed at the construction site or when stormwater is exposed to higher surface temperatures (rooftops and pavement) during intense storm events. Increasing the number of trees planted around a stream or channel and decreasing the number of surface parking spaces can lower the stormwater temperature. However, be aware that many local ordinances require a specific number of parking spaces based on the type of building occupancy.

Project estimators should expect that stormwater infiltration design or thermal impact design will significantly increase a civil engineering firm's site development cost estimates compared to previous projects that might be similar in scope.

Your civil engineer will be able to answer more questions about the need for and the process for completing NPDES permit applications. They are the experts when it comes to dealing with the maze of regulations required by the DEP.

This article was written and submitted by Joe Brett from Paul C. Rizzo Associates, Engineers and Consultants, a civil engineering firm located in Johnstown, PA.



THINKING INSIDE THE BOX – Dues Paying Members

By Moses D. F. Ling, PE, RA

Look on the polo shirts we wear and notice the little designer or country club symbols. Look around on the streets and see BMW's, Mercedes and other prestigious name plates on automobiles we drive. Look at the front doors of some houses and you will see Amnesty International stickers. What do these symbols signify? Someone must have convictions or desires strong enough to have paid extra for the recognition.

Let me ask, then, how do we feel about Green designs? Is it worth paying extra for? Can we be dues paying members of a society of people friendly to the environment?

As this notion came to mind, I wondered why is it that when we present energy-saving design alternatives to owners, we don't ask how much they are willing to pay extra for their convictions. (I know the obvious answer.) But you see plaques on their wall supporting Special Olympics and other charitable causes. Ask them why they don't have a solar collector or photovoltaic panels on the roof. Is that symbol of our convictions, charity or market-recognition worth paying for? Is it not as valuable as being a sponsor of a program on a public broadcasting station?

Let me suggest that we add a line item to the economic analysis for green designs – "Membership Dues". That is right, membership in the global village carries a cost. The costs may not be immediately apparent. The costs may be borne by people in far away places. There is a cost of not being environmentally responsible. I am sure the industrialists of decades past thought the air, water and soil around their plants were free disposal sites. We now call them acid rain or Superfund sites.

The question being proposed is: Why have we not placed a penalty on passing the problem onto others? Is it too much to ask architects, building owners and other building professionals to consider their responsibilities to the global village?

On a more personal level, "Carbon Offsets" have been batted around as a way to pay for our sins. That is, pay someone to do something good to offset the carbon dioxide we put in the air. Some airlines have started to provide this option for us to serve penitence for the carbon created while we jet from place to place. Perhaps you will choose the Zero-Footprint option next time you fly. <http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/traveller/zfp.html> Before you get the idea buying carbon offsets is a great idea, check out the site "Cheat-neutral". I think their satirical view on the idea of paying for our transgressions is worth a look and contemplation. <http://www.cheatneutral.com/>

What do you think? Does it make sense to invest in the future of this planet by being proactive "Dues-paying Members"?

© Moses D. F. Ling is a Principal of Ling Partnership, State College, Pennsylvania and an Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering at Penn State University. The author appreciates comments. Address to: mling@lingpartnership.com

2007 Tentative Calendar

July

13 Annual Picnic: Loretto, PA,
Klein Immergrun

Sept

TBA Chapter Meeting: Flight 93 Memorial,
Somerset, PA (Seven Springs)
or Carpenters Union, Gallitzin, PA
Insulated Concrete Structures

Oct

25 2007 Symposium: Green Building Alliance,
Pasquerilla Conference Center, Johnstown,
PA

TBA PA Builds: Project Submissions

Nov

13-14 AIA PA: Leadership Conference &
Architect's Day, Harrisburg, PA

Nov/Dec

TBA PSU/AIAS – Lecture & Election of
Officers, Penn State University, SALA
Building

Dec

TBA Retreat: 2008 Planning Session

AIA Associates Corner

Here are your links in 2006

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Deadline for articles for the next
newsletter is August 24, 2007

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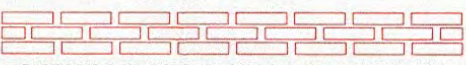
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