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northeastern pennsylvania

NEWS



Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter American Institute of Architects

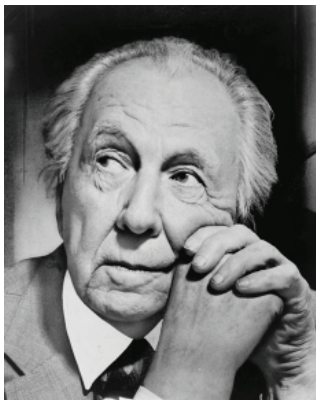
February 2009

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"All fine architectural values are human values, else not valuable."

Frank Lloyd Wright



Photograph courtesy of Google Images

President's Message

It is somewhat startling to note that we are already approaching the end of the first decade of the New Millennium. We do so amidst the unfortunate stresses of broad economic uncertainty, which are thankfully accompanied by various fortunate local developments affecting the future of the Northeast PA region.

One of these is the fact that new faces are appearing on the AIAPA Northeast Chapter Board of Directors. It is terrific to see more and more people genuinely interested in learning about, participating in, and getting to know their profession as well as their professional peers through the many avenues that the AIA makes available. Welcome one and all and may this trend continue for many years to come.

We also note several interesting events relating to the architectural community. The newly formed School of Architecture at Marywood University is swinging into place, most recently through ongoing renovations to what will become the facilities that house the school. These renovations are being done while carrying a commitment to achieving the LEED Gold level of the USGBC's LEED rating

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system. Marywood will be hosting a tour of the facilities for the AIAPA Northeastern Chapter program event on March 4th. An educational program describing 'chilled beam' technology will also be offered. Green construction benefits our environment, which means that when such initiatives are taken on by entities, such as Marywood University, we may all count ourselves as being among the beneficiaries.

In the same green vein, a joint effort by the AIA Northeastern Chapter and the American Society of Professional Engineers present the NEPA Green Exchange to be held at Luzerne County Community College on March 19, 2009. This one day event is intended for local homeowners, business owners, architects, and engineers alike. Attendees will be able to meet with and hear from vendors and speakers who represent regional government, area business people, and practitioners of green design. These people will be participating by speaking, offering seminars, and providing displays to promote what promises to be a stimulating exchange of information on green resources. Learn about and experience how state of the art green energy incentives, construction engineering products, and professional services are evolving. These changes affect how energy and resources are being utilized and conserved through what we build, in how we put it together, and in the ways in which we choose to live and work in our environment.

By: Avery Gretton, AIA President, NEPA AIA

NEPA Green Exchange Event Schedule



The NEPA Green Exchange – Schedule of Events (subject to change)

Time	Description	Topic
5:00	Joint AIA/PSPE Dinner	LEED Accreditation / Certification Information (1CEU)
6:00	Beginning Speakers	LCCC President, Introductory speaker Local Chamber of Commerce, Introductory speaker Eddie Pashinski, NEPA Green Exchange Keynote Speaker
6:45	Vendor Displays	
7:00	Breakout Session #1	Green Roof Systems PV / Hydronics Solar Panel Systems High Efficiency Lighting & Appliances, EPSCO Suppliers
7:00	Concurrent Ind.	Ben Franklin Technology Partners and SEF, Speakers
7:30	Vendor Displays	
7:45	Breakout Session #2	Environmental Acoustics / Recyclable Ceilings (1CEU) Lighting Controls / Daylighting Green Residential Homes Green Public Policy and Building Code
8:45	Vendor Displays	
9:00	Event Ends	

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Recap of the First AIA PA Board Meeting for 2009

Allen Mullins attended his first AIA PA Board meeting that began with an orientation of new members in Harrisburg. Caroline Boyce, Executive Director explained the responsibilities of board members and introduced staff-members, Rebekah Waddell, Fran Harris and Alyssa Wright and explained the structure of the staffed office. Fran Harris gave an enlighten overview of important legislation at the State Capital and encouraged individual membership for financial support of **AIA PA Political Action Committee (PAC)**.

The board meeting focused on the secretary and treasure's reports, 2009 budget, Presidents report, government affairs committee agenda and the proposed design of the AIA PA office plan for relocation.

A lengthy discussion was paid to "revenue protection and enhancement" because of the short fall in last years budget which resulted in the lack of sufficient attendance at scheduled AIA PA UCC seminars. Fortunately, the organization has backup funds that will cushion the resultant red ink. After a great deal of discussion, with many ideas expressed back and forth and thoughts about the rising cost in the 2009 budget, the board members passed the budget for 2009.

A preamble appeared on the meeting agenda, since Enron, tax-exempt organizations are required to pay attention to protection of conflicts of interest. *"It is the practice of the AIA Pennsylvania, A Society of The American Institute of Architects, and its members to comply strictly with all laws, including federal and state antitrust laws that apply to AIA Pennsylvania operations and activities. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws,"* AIA PA has developed conflict of interest policies, records retention, whistle-blower, conflict of interest and compensation of certain employees. Each AIA PA board member is required to prepare a Conflict of Interest form and file with AIA PA.

AIA Pennsylvania will be celebrating their 100th anniversary throughout 2009. An appointed Task Force will focus on planning the celebration during the Annual Conference/Architects Day/Awards Ceremony, September 21-23, 2009.

Fran Harris presented the 2009 Legislative Agenda. High priority being **Sustainable Communities**, advocating for high performance building standards for state-funded

buildings and shape guidelines, standards and programs for high performance buildings and energy efficiency in Act 1 2008. **Public Contracts**, support modernization of the Separations Act, support renewal of the School Mandate Waiver Program and oppose state school clearinghouse mandate legislation. Moreover, **Professional Practice**, oppose sales tax legislation that includes a tax on professional services, support Mandatory Continuing Education legislation for registered architects in PA and oppose interior design practice act and title registration.

Medium priority, **Uniform Construction Code (UCC)**, support implementation of UCC Review & Advisory Council, continue to participate in the UCC Collaborative to affect changes to administration of UCC, monitor UCC proposed amendments/changes and respond to specific bills that amend the code. **Professional Practice**, support ARE upon graduation and work with the Licensure Board on revisions to Architects Act & Regulations. In addition, **Sustainable Communities**, find sponsor to introduce Historic Preservation legislation that would provide incentives for residential and commercial historic rehabilitation in 2009-2010 session.

Low Priority, advocated on an as needed basis, **Professional Practice**, monitor A/E Board Joint Committee activities and **Public Contracts**, oppose new referenda and **Legislation will be monitored particularly concerning** economic development, brain drain, transportation, open space and zoning.

The meeting closed after the presentation of the proposed new office space design for AIA PA. The lease for new space is in negotiation by AIA PA. Architect, Frank E. Dittenhafer, II, FAIA explained the prepared design of the entire floor located in an office building across from the State Capitol building. The space and the design will provide the AIA PA with a more suitable space to work and host visiting members and associated business.

It was a great experience learning more about our state organization and meeting new members, renewing acquaintances with other members that I have crossed paths with at earlier AIA events.

By: Allen Mullins, AIA

From the pages of “The Charette”

Browse for yourself at:

www.library.cmu.edu/research/archarch/

• 80 YEARS AGO – February 1929 (Volume 9, No. 2)

The February 1929 issue of “The Charette” reflected the good times we now refer to as the “Roaring Twenties. This issue contained 32 pages (including covers), compared to only 10 pages which my previous article noted was the size of the September 1933 issue. The contents included 12 pages of advertisements, numerous articles on the activities of both the Pittsburgh Architectural Club (P.A.C.) and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA. Several pages were devoted to summaries of the January 1929 issues of the seven national architectural magazines; American Architect, Octagon (the Journal of the AIA), Architectural Record, Architectural Form, Architecture, Architect, and Pencil Points.

The major news event was the death of the current President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA, Thomas W. Ludlow AIA on 28 January 1929. Only 47 years

old, the New York born Mr. Ludlow had graduated from Columbia in 1903, received his masters degree in 1906, and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in the Sorbonne from 1906 to 1908. After returning to New York City, he taught at Columbia for 2 years, then at McGill, and in 1914 enlisted in the Canadian Army. After the “Great War” in 1919, he came to Pittsburgh to teach history and theory at Carnegie Institute of Technology, as well as establish the firm of Ludlow & Schwab.

• 70 YEARS AGO – February 1939 (Volume 19, No. 2)

With 12 pages of content “The Charette” is still describing the activities of both P.A.C. and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA. However it seems less a social magazine (an example: description of a New Year’s party in the February 1929 issue), but more educational. The lead article titled “Community Planning in Architecture Education” by Francis O’Conner Church, an instructor at Carnegie Institute of Technology; discussed the changes in “Modern” architecture education from the old Beaux Arts System.

A review of construction data supplied by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Buildings Inspection, shows that 1938 had the average number of monthly building permits and had increased nearly 10%.

• 60 YEARS AGO – February 1949 (Volume 29, No. 2)

“Pittsburgh’s Journal of Architecture” was in the forefront of Post-World War II enthusiasm with a cover photograph of a contemporary trellis detail from the Fowler Residence in Sewickley Heights, PA (John Pekruhn, Architect). Articles included the upcoming \$5,000,000 renovation of the Write House (headlines: “Delirium Truman”), the new Pittsburgh Building Code, a residential steel home franchise, and the upcoming \$15,000,000 construction program of the H.J. Heinz Co. which consisted of 4 new buildings by S.O.M.

Call it researcher’s surprise or coincidence, an article in the “Charette Vignette” column was on the busy life of recently retired architect Harvey Arthur Schwab AIA, the former partner of Thomas W. Ludlow AIA, whose death was announced in the February 1929 issue!

By: Carl J. Handman, AIA



AIA NEPA Associate News

Greetings once again, NEPA Associates! This update serves not only to inform our local Associates of some upcoming events and ideas, but also to reach out to our chapter board and our area firms to seek their support in the upcoming year.

As I converse bi-monthly with Associates from across the state, a common obstacle that most chapters experience is low Associate member attendance at events. Many chapters similar to ours in size have found that the best way to combat this problem is by reaching out to the chapter board and AIA members of area firms to request that they serve as our mentors, encouraging our attendance at AIA meetings and our involvement in the chapter. They should be supportive of our Associates events and engage in discussion and brainstorming with us as we plan our own events. So, attention chapter board members and others in our local AIA community: if you have staff working in your office who are eligible to become Associate members but are not, encourage them to fill out that paperwork, join and become involved! If you have staff in your office that is an Associate member but is absent from chapter meetings and events, bring them along with you to the events that you attend! There are others ways that you can help.....read on!

Hard Hat Tours:

Do you have an interesting local project that is under construction that you would love to show off? The Associates are looking for a chance to become acquainted while also satisfying some of those IDP credits. We are looking for a firm to volunteer a Project Architect/Manager to guide us around the construction site of their local architecture project on a "Hard Hat Tour." Explain the unique challenges of the design process, the interesting details, the innovative materials, etc. E.mail me at egoodling@borton-lawson.com with ideas.

ARE 4.0 Study Materials:

As part of their commitment to our Associate member's path to licensure, the PA Associates Committee has negotiated a deal with Kaplan to purchase the complete ARE 4.0 Study Library at a 20% discount. While this discount is helpful, the cost of the ARE library remains high, so we are seeking the assistance of local firms who are also committed to their Associate members to share the \$1,200.00 cost. Once purchased, the study guides will be available at a

central location between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre for sign out by Associates for their test preparation needs. Please contact me to discuss any ideas that you might have for sharing the ARE library or to pledge a contribution toward their purchase.

IDP Mentoring Needs

For Associates just beginning the IDP process, and even those right in the middle of it, a frequent challenge has been finding a mentor with whom you can discuss the licensure process and the future of your career. Several members of our local board have graciously agreed to make themselves available for mentoring opportunities. If you are looking for a willing and capable mentor, please e.mail me at egoodling@borton-lawson.com and I will put you in contact with a member of our board.

NEPA Welcomes a New Associate!

AIA NEPA and its Associates are pleased to welcome a new member to our chapter! Reginald Miller, of Willow Design in Scranton joins us as an Associate member. We look forward to meeting Reginald and seeing him become involved in our chapter.

By: Erin K. Goodling, Assoc. AIA & NEPA Representative



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AIA NEPA Tours Baut Studios: January 21, 2009

Since 1927, Baut Studios has crafted a wide range of ecclesiastical items, including traditional leaded stained glass, sculptures and statuary, aluminum window frames and doors, and their patented structural stained glass system. On Wednesday, January 21, 2009, a large turnout of AIA NEPA members was invited to tour their workshops and design studios in Swoyersville.

We gathered in the Baut Studios showroom. Many examples of their stained glass work and history were on display. Gerhardt Baut brought out a bronze bust of Pope John Paul II, and explained the moulding and casting process needed to produce it. Much of their sculptural castings are produced by the lost wax method by Italian craftsmen. He also talked about the construction of the Vietnam Veteran's memorial near the Luzerne County Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre. A great deal of research went into the development of the sculpture's finish, which was carefully treated with hydrogen sulfide gas to add a protective patina to the

surface of the bronze.

Baut Studios is the world's only manufacturer of structural stained glass, a product that they developed and patented. Structural stained glass is able to sustain higher wind loads and structural loads than traditional stained glass, and is less expensive to fabricate. It consists of stained glass sandwiched between aluminum sheets bonded with epoxy resin. The aluminum sheets are cut with a computer-controlled CNC router based on AutoCAD drawings. Despite all the technology, there is still a large amount of hand craftsmanship that goes into the production of each piece. Baut keeps 1,800 different types of stained glass on hand. Since a stained glass window is made up of many small panes of glass, all scraps of glass in the studio are retained and used, and nothing goes to waste.

Their windows are shipped all over the world, including Guam, Bosnia, and parts of Africa. The structural



Image of full-scale paper patterns in the design studio

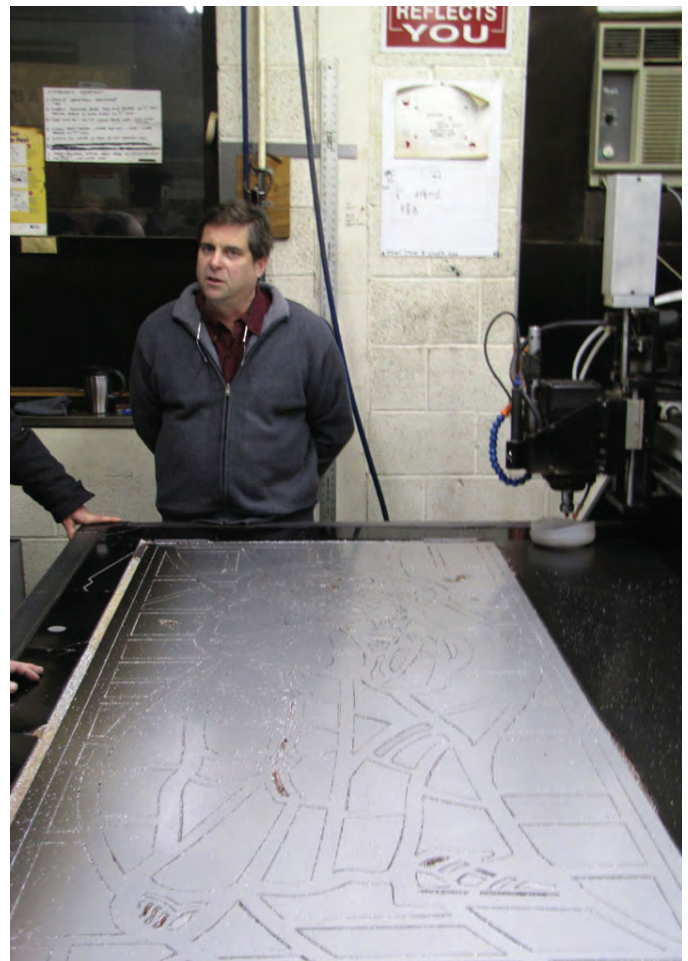


Image of Conrad Baut explaining the CNC router

Continued from page 6

stained glass windows travel well and are relatively easy to install. They can be installed by anyone familiar with standard window installation.

Their building has been added on to over time, and consists of many labyrinthine spaces and workshops. We were shown the Baut design studios, a high-bay space with many tall hand-drawn patterns hanging on the walls. There are also several fabrication areas for stained glass, aluminum windows and doors, sculptural construction and repair. When Baut couldn't find the right equipment, they constructed their own saws to cut materials such as marble and metals. With all their specialized equipment, spaces, and knowledge, there is hardly anything that Baut Studios cannot make.

Following the tour, members of AIA NEPA were treated to a dinner hosted by Baut Studios. AIA NEPA would like to thank the Baut family for a very interesting and informative tour of their facility.

By: Joshua Cowder

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Image of the Baut Family

Grassroots

The weight of political influence upon the profession could be felt well before this year's AIA Grassroots attendees met on Capitol Hill to persuade their congressional representatives of the AIA's strategy for rebuilding and renewing the nation's ailing built environment. The week began with the senate defeating a bill that would have slashed funding for green building development, a victory that elicited much enthusiasm from the design community. By weeks end, however, sixteen billion dollars dedicated for school construction was stripped from the new administration's economic stimulus package. Funds that were perceived by many to be essential to the survival of the design and construction industries in our current economic crisis.

In the opening plenary session, Congressman Earl Blumenhauer, an honorary AIA member, produced a useful outline for thinking about the challenges architects face under the oppressive threat of the crisis and the restoring a crumbling infrastructure. Design that can stall or reverse the spectre of climate change. The need to build livable communities that are responsive to people's changing needs. All these things represent professional obligations of the architect to the people, and moral obligations of the citizen-architect to civilization. Every one of them also required the political arm

of the AIA to secure resources embodied in the stimulus.

The Congressman enumerated how such funds ought to be distributed in one version of an ideal scenario; as investments in water and sewer infrastructure, broadband communications, building for transit, and reinvestment in the environment. On these points, I didn't disagree with him. All are worthwhile political commitments for the design professional. Something seemed to be missing from this familiar assessment though. It was missing from much of the dialogue that took place over the rest of the legislative conference as well. It only found expression at the peer group meeting the next day, among PA design professionals.

How do we, as members of the Pennsylvania chapters of the AIA, deploy either economic resources or political capital to make this much needed change, when we effectively have no regional planning? Through what channels can we implement any grand strategy, when these decisions are all made at the municipal level?

There is a dearth of professionals with planning credentials in our government, and the elective nature of

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Continued from page 8

planning in the commonwealth doesn't possess any real binding legislation compelling local ordinances to comply with state-wide plans. This is an effective obstacle to any needed strategy more complex than the extremely local. Protection of forests from intensive logging, establishment of wildlife corridors or large nature preserves for example. Or the steady deterioration of our historic buildings as plans for adaptive reuse of structures are arrested by antique building codes. Possessing the political will to intervene with design for the environment or urban centers means little without the ability to mobilize that will.

A model favoring insider deals over long term economic growth and environmental stewardship has been institutionalized by section 303c, absolving those in elected office from needing to reconcile development or rezoning with any existing municipal land use plans. Consequently, even while excess sewer capacity exists in aging urban areas, new public sewer utilities in the state are constantly opening new peripheral land to development. Remarking upon this national trend (wherein the government finances the building of endless suburbs at taxpayer expense) at the Green Infrastructure Panel Discussion, Paul Farmer of the

American Planning Association quipped the de facto federal policy on zoning and land use in the U.S. has been sprawl for some time.

Pennsylvania's ability to mobilize design professionals for needed change is seriously impeded by the hyper-localism of it's planning, and the compartmentalization of it's local governments, leading to local projects often in conflict with official policy. The number of competing powers has frustrated efforts to establish a singular state wide economic development plan.

These concerns found expression again, during the conferences citizen architects workshop, but the panel could offer no real strategy for overcoming these kinds of entrenched governmental barriers to good, comprehensive design. The political maneuvering of the national body of the AIA made evident that as politically engaged architects, members of the Pennsylvania chapters of the AIA are confronted by challenges possibly unique among their peers. And they must formulate unique strategies to overcome them.

By: Philip Durkin

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Featured Project: Autism Center at the Friendship House in Scranton PA

The Friendship House in Scranton PA is an establishment whose mission is to help children on a number of differing issues. Below is a caption from their website:

Each day in Pennsylvania, thousands of children struggle with emotional problems that keep them from laughing and learning as other children do, and the number is increasing.

Their situations include personal setbacks and family dilemmas that impact learning and social relationships.

Friendship House offers a full range of services for children with emotional difficulties, from infants to adolescents, and their families.

Helping children develop as self-fulfilled, caring individuals, ...helping families become centers of stability and guidance for children who depend on them.

Founded in 1871, as "The Home for Friendless Women and Children", Friendship House is among the oldest and largest children's mental health and child welfare organizations serving Eastern Pennsylvania.

Hemmler + Camayd Architects has been tasked

with helping this great organization deal with one of this country's growing epidemics: Autism. This disorder is receiving a lot of attention in the media and there is a good chance that each of you reading this article knows someone with the disorder.

Autism consists of a broad spectrum of disorders. The Nation Institute of Neurological Disorders states: 'Autism (sometimes called "classical autism") is the most common condition in a group of developmental disorders known as the autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Autism is characterized by impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual, repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests. Other ASDs include Asperger syndrome, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (usually referred to as PDD-NOS). Experts estimate that three to six children out of every 1,000 will have autism. Males are four times more likely to have autism than females.

The statistics are staggering. One in 150 children will receive a diagnosis and one in 100 boys will be diagnosed. With that in mind many social service agencies are seeking ways to deal with the influx of families and individuals needing help. The waiting lists are long and it is an extremely frustrating process to receive help.



View of Entrance

Continued from page 10

With all that in mind, the Autism Center at the Friendship House will establish a place for children that are on the autism disorder spectrum. The project consists of a renovation to an existing storage facility that is part of the administration building for the organization. The original schemes explored construction of a new facility but budget restrictions were going to inevitably limit the amount of program that could be built. The renovation of an existing 14,000 square foot under-utilized storage space was an easy choice to allow for more construction dollars to be put towards making spaces for children with the need. H+C worked closely with the autism staff as well as conducted research during the development of the design in order to best execute a project that addresses as many needs as possible.

The existing structure was cut into the side of a hill and to address the new entry, a (1) story volume was proposed to rise out of the existing roof to make way for a new entrance from a newly reconfigured parking lot. The parking lot is configured for cueing for student drop-off and spaces to accommodate the expanded use of the building.

The entrance volume consists of a glass tower that marks the entry and gives identity to the school and acts as the symbolic beacon as well with a covered drop off where all students are greeted by their teachers.

Upon entry, users will descend into the main floor and enter a reception area. Open and adjacent to the reception space is an area that is designated as a resource center. The resource center is a critical component as it will act as a public outreach. The hope is that the general public can use this as a means to help them figure out the process of getting help and understanding the required steps to acquire it.

A major challenge was the classroom layout relative to access to natural light. Six of the nine classrooms are buried in the middle of the existing building footprint. This need for natural light was addressed by cutting skylights into a roofed courtyard thus using it as an organizing principle to con-

figure the classroom layout in conjunction with the existing structural grid. All of the classrooms will have clerestory window bands that allow the natural light into each of the spaces. The clerestory windows also limit the view outward. This aspect helps to enable better inward focus on the child's task at hand. As part of the autism disorder, many contend with 'attention to task' abilities and while a large percentage of the classes are buried, they are not deprived of natural light. Each classroom will also have doors with one-way vision panels for parents/ guardians to observe their children's treatment and therapies from the corridor.

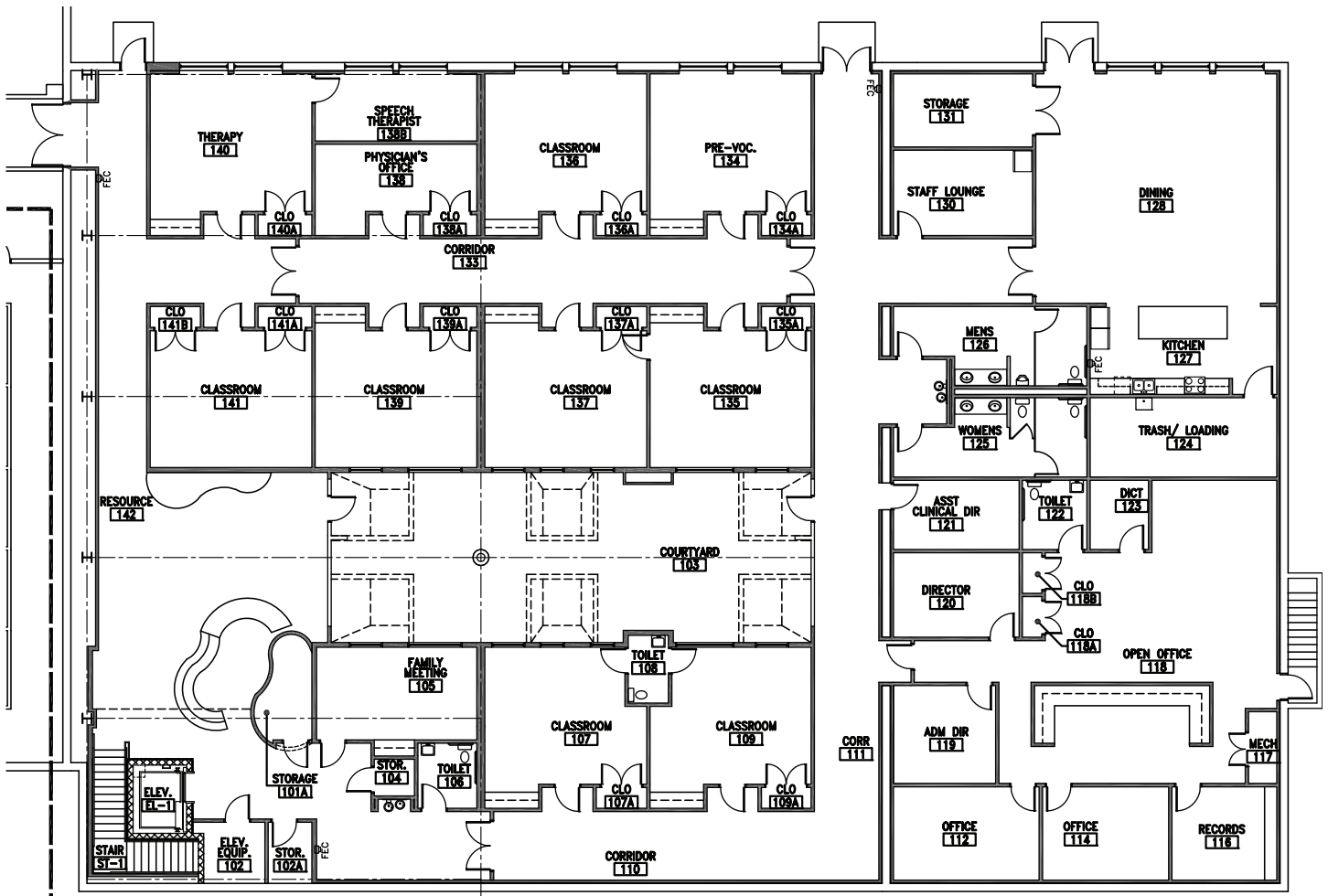
Classrooms are not typical in layout relative to mainstream schooling. Each child will have their own workspace (similar to a cubical) to help with their ability to focus and the student/ teacher ratio is 1 teacher to 2 students in the younger years. As the children age, the ratio changes to a 1 to 5 ratio.

Other features in the program are an indoor courtyard that serves as a year round play area where social and interaction skills can be developed as well as a place where decompression can occur, corridors wide enough for Big Wheels and a dining room with a full residential kitchen where children can learn to cook or work in a kitchen, and achieve a sense of independence and self reliance. The hope is that the courtyard becomes a recognizable node to foster engagement and activity participation.

While LEED goals are not a priority to achieve within the project, the use of environmentally friendly materials with low VOC content is important. The exact determination of the reasons behind what causes autism is still under research and there are a number of theories that exist. Some theories include toxins in the environment in combination with other elements may lead to a cause so the use of 'green' materials with a low VOC content throughout the interior is appropriate.

Other interior environment design features also attempt to create a framework that addresses issues that autistic children contend with including

Continued on page 13 with image on page 12



Main Floor Plan



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Continued from page 12

hyper-sensitivity on a number of sensory issues. Many autistic children are visually sensitive. A soft, playful color scheme throughout the spaces avoids any type of jarring imagery or hue and the fluorescent lights specified are equipped with ballasts that avoid flickering. 'Scary toilets' will not exist. Children with high sensitivity in their hearing are plagued with the sounds that are delivered from high volume flushes. The toilets that are specified have a 3" flush valve that creates a quicker and quieter flush and still be forceful. While there will be a day that these children will have to experience the 'scary toilet' elsewhere; they will not have to worry about the issue in the autism center where they can focus on other therapies.

Support spaces include offices that are strategically placed to create interaction between the administrators, therapists, staff and the children; work areas for the creation of projects for therapy and a place where staff can 'touch-down' briefly. Other spaces include a family conference room for

small seminars, meetings and a large dining room that has a full residential kitchen for children for learn to become self reliant and self sufficient. A child that can achieve self reliance can live a more independent life.

There are many challenges that individuals with autism face along with their families. These challenges include a broad range of issues that the autistic individual contends with including social/ interaction with peers, verbal communication skills, repetitive behavior patterns as well as receiving help and understanding where to find it. The Northeast Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Friendship House will address a number of the issues in a many ways thru the execution of their program by their dedicated staff and hopefully the architecture and the environment will create a framework that will support and reinforce their efforts.

By: Brian Doran, AIA

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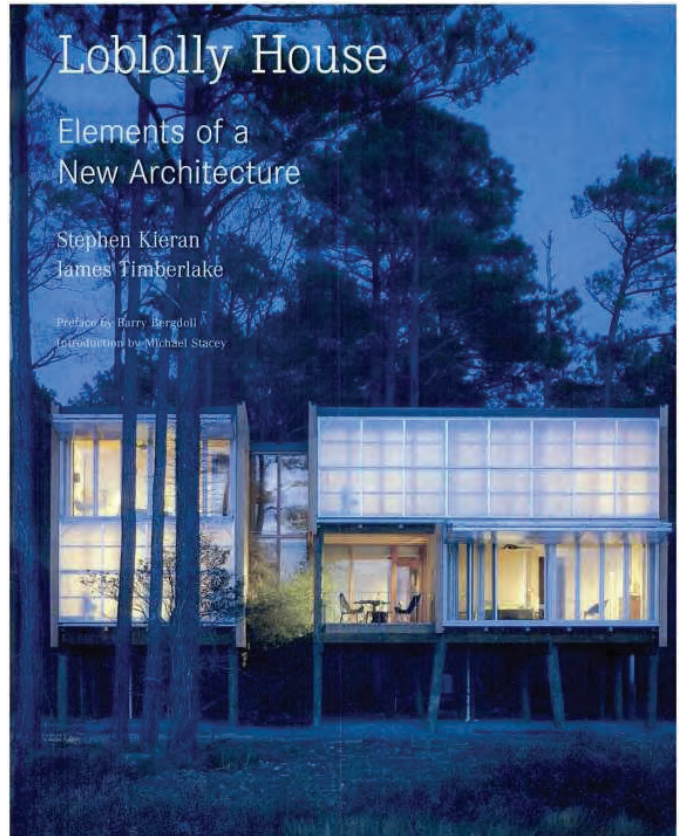
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AIA Scheduled Calendar of Events

- **March 4th** Marywood Architecture School site tour and presentation on Chilled Beam Cooling Technology (presentation RSVP only).
- **March 19th** NEPA Green Exchange: sustainability symposium. \$15 dinner buffet for all attending. Keynote speaker to be State Representative Ed Kuchinski.
- **April 23rd** Tour of Mohegan Sun Equestrian Facility and presentation by Mark Sobeck.
- **May** AIA Film (date and title to be determined)
- **June 27th** Tours of Ewing/Cole Offices and Citizen's Bank Park (Philadelphia Phillies Stadium). Date subject to change.
- **November** NEPA AIA Awards Banquet & AIA PA Leadership Conference in Harrisburg.

Recommended Reading



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