

AIA

northeastern pennsylvania NEWS



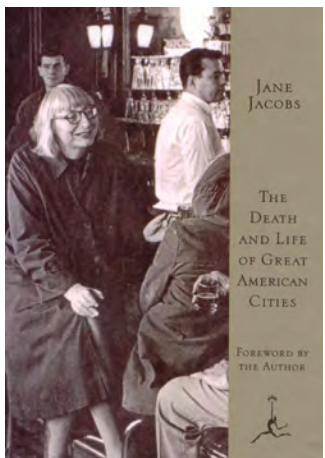
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter American Institute of Architects

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"There is a quality even meaner than outright ugliness or disorder, and this meaner quality is the dishonest mask of pretended order, achieved by ignoring or suppressing the real order that is struggling to exist and to be served."

Jane Jacobs – Renowned Urban Planner (born 1916) in Dunmore, PA



Photograph courtesy of Google Images

President's Message

June 2009

For one who was fortunate enough to attend the AIA National Convention in San Francisco this year, it is time to communicate the messages and observations that came across there.

The level of information technology integration that was displayed at the Convention was high. This was apparent in the live video feeds that were available on-line from the convention floor to members at home. (Selected seminar and keynote session video recordings are now available at www.aia.org for watching and obtaining on-line learning credits, through July.) Questions from the audience came to speakers via the internet as well as by Twitter. Of course, the vendor displays and products were state of the art as well.

As we see each day, sustainability continues to gain prominence in our profession as well as throughout our economy and culture. Therefore, it was appropriate that at the convention there were many seminars focused on sustainability. The pursuit and implementation of sustainability goals across the diverse, sociological, and economic landscapes of the planet were among some of the subjects addressed in the opening keynote session. While the USGBC through LEED has made tremendous strides toward popularizing and standardizing sustainability here in the United States, how does this happen, for example, in China, where culture and society are obviously modeled differently? Peter Head, Director of the Arup Consulting Group's newly integrated business of Planning and Integrated Urbanism, explained in his keynote session that it is being done there and elsewhere through an integrated set of goals and action plans; the process spans from the grass roots levels all the way to the top governmental and policy levels to define a practical, economically viable, and culturally accept-

able means of transition to sustainably based economies. Mr. Head is working on the creation and application of 'open architecture' development tools or 'kits of parts' that can be adapted and modeled to the complexities of various sociological situations in customized ways to achieve sustainable transitions around the world.

The concept of engaging the public at the grass roots and project appropriate levels to deliver an integrated suite of sustainability practices coordinated to realize global scale results was a recurring theme in the seminars attended. Certainly, this was seen to be happening in the San Francisco region as demonstrated by the level of awareness and participation that is occurring there in terms of recycling activities and the variety of new product offerings being promoted by businesses, government, and the various regional infrastructure providers. Sustainability messages and practices can be seen occurring everywhere from the streets of the city through to the surrounding agricultural regions, as well as, throughout print and broadcast media.

It was expressed at the convention that today's young professionals, for whom current economic contractions result in temporary rough starts in employment and career development paths, appear to be on the cusp of momentous opportunities in spearheading the historic changes in our planning and design models that are a necessity in moving sustainability forward. In the days to come, those who are just starting out may soon find that they have also become the envy of many an old timer.

By: Avery Gretton, AIA President, NEPA AIA

Marvin Windows Minnesota Tour 2009

Each year Marvin Windows, led by Marvin's Architectural Consultant, Michael Rosen, allows a select group of regional architects to attend a four-day training tour starting in Minneapolis and ending in their plant at Warroad, Minnesota. In April, four AIANEPA members, Chris Leone, Bill Jones, Rob Belardi and John Cowder, accepted their invitation along with two fellow architects, Kurt Ofer and Andy Alesia who reside near Cooperstown, New York. It was a great four days of friendship and informative tours. Minneapolis is an incredibly nice city with hundreds of connecting skywalks between buildings and if you ever visit, be sure to stop at the News Room Restaurant where the mens and womens restrooms share an interesting view (of each other)! A last minute trip to Hooter's at the Mall of America nearly cost Bill Jones (and the rest of us) his flight home... he was like OJ jumping the gates!

Introduction By: John Cowder, AIA

Bill Jones has put together a great photo-journal of the trip that he has graciously shared with us:

Saturday, 18 April, 2009:

Northwest Airlines 757 flight, 6:00am, from Scranton/W-B through Detroit to Minneapolis. Picked up John in Dunmore, met up with Chris and Rob in SWB airport, then met up with Mike, Kurt, and Andy in Detroit. Checked in at hotel- Le Bourget in Bloomington. Mike drove the rental van to Menomonie, Wisconsin for a tour of the Cardinal Glass plant. Lunch on route at Axel's Bonfire wood fire grille in Woodbury, Minnesota. Dinner that evening at Timber Lodge steak house in Bloomington.

Sunday, 19 April:

Breakfast at Perkins in Bloomington. Architectural tour of Minneapolis with Rachel, a local architect. The tour began with stops at Frank Lloyd Wright's Neils Residence near Cedar Lake, Charles Lazor's modular Flat Pak house, the Dayton Residence in the Uptown neighborhood. Next we visited Edward Larabee Barnes Walker Art Center, with an addition by Herzog and de Meuron, and the Walker's outdoor sculpture garden with the Oldenburg/ van Bruggen Spoonbridge and Cherry sculpture (the cherry was out for repairs) and Gehry's Standing Glass Fish.

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Gehry's Standing Glass Fish, Photo courtesy of Google Images



Minneapolis Central Library, Photo courtesy of Google Images

The tour continued downtown at Minneapolis Central Library by Cesar Pelli, Gunnar Birkerts Marquette Plaza, and Philip Johnson's IDS Center/ Crystal Court. Lunch at "The News" followed a walk through the city's downtown skyway system. Then we visited Jean Nouvel's Guthrie Theatre (with a panoramic view of the Mississippi River), and the University of Minnesota Campus, with Frank Gehry's Weisman Art Museum and Steven Holl's Architecture Building. After the tour, dinner was at the Twin Cities Grille in the Mall of America.

Monday, 20 April:

Light breakfast at hotel. Flew the Marvin Windows twin engine 20 person plane out of Signature Flight Services (who also handle the Minnesota Twins, Timberwolves, and U. of M. Golden Gophers) to Warroad, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. Checked in at the Can-Am motel. We were taken on a tour of the Marvin plant's wood processing section by Bob Rinehart, our guide for the plant tours. Lunch was at Marvin's Training Facility. An afternoon tour including the plant's Round Tops area was followed by dinner at the Patch restaurant. Evening's entertainment was at the Seven Clans Casino in Warroad.

Tuesday, 21 April:

Breakfast at Lakeview Restaurant on Lake of the Woods. This day's Marvin plant tour included the Casement, Double-Hung, Bay Windows, and Signature Products. The Marvin flight back to Minneapolis was followed by lunch at Hooters in the Mall of America and the Northwest Airlines DC-9 flight from Minneapolis through Detroit to Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre, arriving just after 11:00pm.

For more information, contact Michael Rosen at: michaelr@marvinny.com.



L to R: Mike Rosen, Bill Jones, Andy Alesia, Waitress, Chris Leone, Rob Belardi, Kurt Ofer, Photo courtesy of John Cowder

The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Codes

House Bill No. 1096, sponsored by Representative Ron Buxton (D-Dauphin County), authorizing the creation of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council was passed by the General Assembly and Pennsylvania Senate in October 2008.

The Review and Advisory Council consists of 19 members (who serve without pay) representing a variety of "interested parties" from across Pennsylvania, including:

- Architects
- Engineers
- General Contractors
- Modular Builders
- Code Officials
- Fire Inspectors
- Home Builders
- Municipal Officials

AIA PA was asked to nominate 2 of its members for each of the 2 council seats reserved for architects, a "non-residential architect" and a "residential architect." I received notice of my appointment as the "residential architect" by Governor Rendell for a 2-year term in February 2009. Appointed to the "non-residential architect" seat was Dallas L. Miller, AIA from Jersey Shore, PA. Also on the Council, filling the "mechanical engineer's" seat is A.J. Speicher, PE, a mechanical engineer at Borton-Lawson in Wilkes-Barre, as well as Kathryn Foray, a building code official residing in Scranton.

The initial charge of the Council was to review the proposed changes in the new 2009 series of the International Codes from the current 2006 series; decide on the appropriateness of these proposed changes on the

health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and make recommendations on these proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. A deadline of 1 May 2009 had been established.

After an initial organizational meeting early in March 2009, an aggressive schedule of 4 meetings in April 2009 was established. A total of 21 proposed code changes had been challenged by a collection of builders, contractors and realtors, who had requested that these 21 proposed changes be "excluded" from the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

The most controversial of the proposed changes was RB-64, which requires that an approved automatic fire sprinkler system be installed in new one and two family residences and townhouses. After much discussion, the council voted 11 to 5 to accept this proposal.

On 1 May 2009, Frank C. Thompson, Chair of the Review and Advisory Council wrote Ms. Sandy Vito, Secretary of the Department of Labor & Industry that "after extensive deliberation during the month of April, the Council determined that no provisions should be excluded from the proposed adoption (of the 2009 International Codes)."

The 2009 series of Codes will be processed by L & I and should be formally adopted later this year. As per the 2009 Codes, RB-64 (noted above) will not become official until 1 January 2011. *By: Carl J. Handman, AIA*

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Source:
Wikipedia.org

AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM 2009

AWARDS

Architectural Awards will be considered at the following levels:

An Award for Excellence will be given for the project that exemplifies the highest design quality at the Jury's discretion.

Honor Awards will be given for projects that exemplify a high design quality. Up to six (6) awards may be given.

An Award for Small Projects will be given to a project that demonstrates a high design quality within the context of limited resources.

CATEGORIES

Awards may be considered for:

Institutional Projects

Commercial Projects

Renovation Projects

Residential Projects

Un-built Projects (see below for parameters)

The Jury will determine the specific categories based on the nature of the projects submitted. As appropriate, the project categories may be judged according to project size and/or construction cost.

JURY

The Jury for the AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania Design Awards 2009 announcement is pending. Judging will take place at the discretion of the Jurors between **October 27th and November 9th**. *All submission binders will be available for viewing at the Awards Program.*

ELIGIBILITY

AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania member Firms and/or Architects are eligible to submit projects for which they are the Architect of Record.

Eligible projects for this year's program must have been completed after December 31, 2004. There are no geographic limits for these projects.

Projects that have previously received an AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania Award are not eligible for submission.

Un-built Design Award Parameters:

- 1) This is a separate category from the 'built/ complete' project submissions. Pending the entries, only one award can be issued if there is an entry worthy of awarding. Awarding shall be at the discretion of the jury.
- 2) The project must be one or more of following:
 - a) un-built terminated
 - b) un-built on hold
 - c) un-built on the boards
- 3) The un-built project shall be defined as follows:
 - a) a real project for a real client
 - b) a real project that is not a pure architectural exercise
 - c) a real project that is not a school related assignment
- 4) There shall be acknowledgement that the submission is for the 'un-built' category incorporated into the narrative/ project description requirement.

- 5) If a project is entered and wins, the project cannot be re-entered in the 'built/ completed' project category in future design award programs.
- 6) If the project is entered and does not win, it can be re-entered in future design award programs as either 'un-built' or 'built/ completed' category if it is constructed.
- 7) The format and requirements for the submission shall be similar to the 'built category'. The documentation will be in form of orthographic drawings, sketches, renderings and/ or photos of models.

The un-built entry/ entries that are entered shall count toward maximum (3) entries per entrant.

Number of Projects: Limited to three (3) entries per Firm.

SCHEDULE

Registration (via the *Entry Form & Fee* enclosed with this invitation) must be received no later than **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009**, c/o AIA NEPA, Brian D. Doran, AIA Hemmler + Camayd Architects 409 Lackawanna Avenue Suite 400 Scranton, PA 18503. Telephone: (570) 961-1302 x3018. *Please note that the Project Information Form, which is to be included with each submission binder, is attached to the Registration Form. You may reproduce the form as needed.*

Submissions are due no later than 4 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009**, c/o AIA NEPA, Brian D. Doran, AIA Hemmler + Camayd Architects 409 Lackawanna Avenue Suite 400 Scranton, PA 18503. Telephone: (570) 961-1302 x3018.

Awards Presentation will take place at the AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania Design Awards 2009 Program the evening of **Friday, November 13, 2009**, at the regularly scheduled chapter meeting. Location to be announced.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Anonymous, in a plain 9 by 12 inch, 3 ring binder. Each submission must include the following:

- A completed *Project Information Form* (which is enclosed with this invitation). The form shall be placed in an unmarked, sealed envelope inside the back of the binder.
- In a format that fits within the binder, provide adequate information to explain the project and design intention. This may include photographs, drawings and narrative, etc. All artwork shall be 8½ x 11 inch format.
- A compact disc with a minimum of three (3) digital scans of photographs, preferably 4 by 5 inches at 300 dpi. Files should be in JPEG format. Professional Photographic Services (PPS), (570) 824-1600, and Sam's Club Photo Centers provide scanning services. Photos for multiple entries may be provided on the same disc, and the disc must be labeled with the firm name and project name(s) and placed in an unmarked envelope inside the back of the binder. The Project Information Form and compact disc must be in separate envelopes.

REGISTRATION FEES

\$75.00 for First Entry.

\$50.00 for Each Additional Entry (up to 2.)

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2009 DESIGN AWARDS
Project Information Form

PROJECT NAME: _____

CLIENT: _____

PROJECT LOCATION: _____

PROJECT SIZE: _____

CONSTRUCTION COST: _____

COMPLETION DATE: _____

FIRM NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

FIRM ADDRESS: _____

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Check should be made out to AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mail this entry with check to:
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Registration Fees: \$75.00 for first entry, \$50.00 for each additional entry (up to 2.)

Entry Form and Fee must be received by Wednesday, October 14th, 2009

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The NEPA Green Exchange a Success

The NEPA Green Exchange was held at the Luzerne County Community College in March of this year. It was deemed to be a success by attracting close to 200 people. There were a variety of vendors displaying commercial and residential green products that included lighting, insulation, ceilings, air handling systems, concrete aggregate products, and more. The evening kicked off with a dinner that was well attended by engineering, architectural, and construction professionals. During the dinner there was a presentation on an AIA learning credit bearing program; describing how to become a LEED AP, as well as, providing details about the LEED rating system. After dinner the public arrived and listened to Eddie Day Pashinski, Luzerne County State Legislator, present a comprehensive outline of the programs and funds available through the State to promote sustainable business and consumer practices. Representative Pashinski's keynote address was followed by a three track series of seminars, covering a variety of topics intended to be of interest to residential homeowners, as well as, to commercial building / business owners. Some programs also provided AIA learning credits to attendees.

As a joint effort between the American Institute of Architects Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, as well as, with the vital support provided by the Luzerne County Community College, this was a team effort that entailed a good deal of thoughtful planning and effort. Members from all three organizations were instrumental in making this happen.

There was clearly demonstrated a strong resonance between the development of sustainable practices and the general community's desire to learn more and take action along these lines. The success of the NEPA Green Exchange appears to be founded in both the desire to conserve money and resources, as well as, to protect and improve on our built and natural environments. As a result, a similar event is planned for 2010.

By: Avery Gretton, AIA President, NEPA AIA

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Recommended Reading/Book Review

LOVING FRANK, A Novel by Nancy Horan
Ballantine Books, 2007, 377 Pages

I didn't plan on reading this short novel, but I had finished all of my "vacation fiction," and was left with a few more days and just back issues of Architectural Record to read! My wife's friend said she didn't like the beginning, and I thought I knew why – the author probably started with Mamah Cheney's tragic death. Yes, I could see that as a turn-off. As I said, I had just a few days and needed a pool/beach book, so I borrowed it.

Well, I was wrong; it didn't start out with the infamous Taliesin fire of August 1914. It does start with the Cheney's commissioning Frank Lloyd Wright to design their Oak Park Residence; fairly boring stuff to the non-architect. I suspect my wife's friend was looking for something racier.

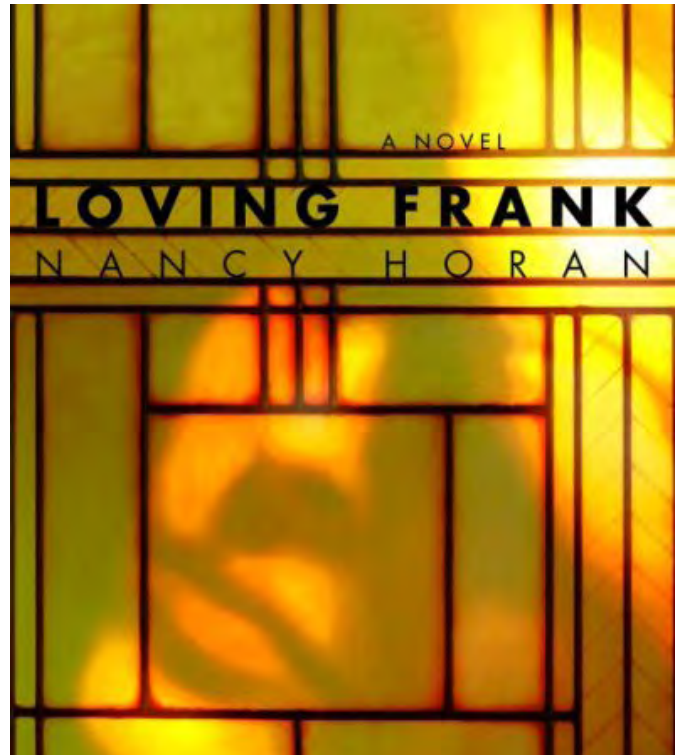
To be sure, Frank does bed the client, but, if this novel was a movie, it would receive a "G" rating. What interested me was the author's description of the Client/Architect relationship morphing into a Mistress/Architect relationship over a 10-year period.

The novel provides one with an interesting trip as an "Architectural Voyeur" through the trials and tribulations of FLW as he struggles to deal with his wife, who won't divorce him, his Mistress who has her own issues, to preserve his practice and then eventually, to travel to Berlin to oversee the publication of what we now

know as the Wasmuth Portfolio.


Yes, it's historical fiction, but one with an architectural twist; and except for the tragic ending, a fun and easy summer read, for this Architect at least.

By: Carl J. Handman, AIA




Photograph courtesy of Google Images

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AIA Scheduled Calendar of Events

- July Tours of Harvey's Lake Residences
(Tentative - Saturday 7/25).
- August "Green Roof" Program
- August Habitat for Humanity Volunteering
(3 weekends - see details to right)
- Sept Green Concrete Program
- October *possible:* BIU Code Presentation
on "Common Code Issues" or Home
Sprinkler Systems
- Nov 20th NEPA AIA Awards Banquet:
Starting 6pm @ Marywood University
NEPA AIA Awards 2009: Project
Information Form & Call for Entires
(please note: Jury to be announced)
- December Geisinger Medical Center HfAM Tour



Photograph courtesy of Google Images

Interested in making a difference? For the second year in a row, AIA NEPA is planning to volunteer for Habitat Humanity.

Date: August 8th, 15th, 22nd

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: 171 Stanton St, Wilkes-Barre, PA

To reserve a spot, contact: Tom Gercak @
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Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs Paddock Building Tour

Mark Sobeck, President of Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc., of Wilkes-Barre, hosted the April 23rd AIA meeting at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.


The meeting began with the tour after a brief mixer at the project site. Bob Becker, Project Manager for Mohegan Sun along with Michelle Ruddy, Race-track Manager for the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission, Mike Malinowski, MRM Construction (General Contractor for the project) and Allen Mullins presented a brief description of the project, the unique project schedule and construction delivery method.

Continuing with major upgrades to the recently opened Mohegan Sun Casino and Racetrack, C Allen Mullins, architect designed a 50,000 square foot paddock building for the 2009 race season. The size of the structure and proximity to the racetrack required both a specialized function and an aesthetically pleasing building while keeping to a modest budget. The solution is a modified pre-engineered building with attached ancillary CMU structures that accommodate the 144 horses for all 14 races. The facility also includes blacksmith, equipment rooms, testing

stalls, areas for the Pennsylvania Harness Racing commission, and an expanded office area. A large bank of clerestory windows provides daylight for the facility that includes a containment area for pre/post-race testing, driver's dressing rooms, offices, lounges, and a cafe. Interior colors enliven the space and designate functional zones that assist in coordinating activities and directing users to appropriate locations.

Following the building tour, a dinner of Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Sauce was served in the new "Party Room" in the original Casino building, followed by a Power Point Presentation entitled "Roof Failures and How to Avoid Them." Topics covered included: Codes, insulation, slopes, warranties, vapor barriers, wind uplift, FM, ANSI/SPRI, shingles, underlayment, leak detection, ventilation, single ply membranes, and coatings. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Winners of the Roofing Quiz received slot machine vouchers, compliments of Sobeck. The meeting concluded with many lively questions from the audience.

By: Allen Mullins, AIA



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Photograph courtesy of Josh Cowder



Photograph courtesy of Josh Cowder



Photograph courtesy of C. Allen Mullins Archchitect website

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Featured Project: Private Residence

PROJECT: Private Residence in Kent, CT

Design: 2005-2007

Completion: summer 2009

PROJECT TEAM:

Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson Architects

Consulting Engineers: ED Pons & Assoc.

PROGRAM:

A 2,300 square foot 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath custom home for a couple and their pets, designed to be mindful of sustainability while meeting their limited budget.

SITE:

The Owners previously purchased many acres of wooded mountain land near Kent, CT, and the house was placed on a small leveled out "terrace" overlooking the mountains on the border of New York State to the West. The house cantilevers off a concrete site wall, suspending the Owners sleeping area over the edge of the mountainside, and providing a unique isolated experience of the valley below. (see image to right)

MATERIALS:

- Southern Yellow Pine rafters and glulams - Galvanized metal shingles - Stacked Concrete fireplace - Cedar Siding - Bioshield Color Wood Stain - 3-Form resin panels - American Hydrotech Vegetated Roof - Maple Flooring

SOLUTION:

In response to the slope of the site provided, and the Owners desire to keep sustainability at the forefront of design decisions, the curved plan of the house was designed to reflect the terrain of the site, as well as to draw the inhabitants around from the entry area to the extraordinary view to the West. Most of the glazing in the house was placed on the South and West faces, consisting of sliding doors and operable windows low on the glass windowwalls, so that the western winds blowing up from the valley below could penetrate the building envelope and be pulled through the house to provide natural ventilation with limited use of A/C. Thin, long metal porch roofs provide shade and sun protection to the South, while assisting in the advantage of the natural ventilation strategy during all weather types. A vegetated roof is being installed on the main house roof area to help offset the heat island effect of the darker metal roof, as well as to help visually integrate the house with the site, as seen from the mountain above the house. The location of the windows not only provide natural ventilation, but also provide the Owners access to their amazing views at all times and from many vantage points.

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View from porch looking west; photograph courtesy of Nick Snyder, BCJ



Plan conveying natural ventilation; courtesy of Nick Snyder, BCJ




View of bedroom at west end; photograph courtesy of Nick Snyder, BCJ

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