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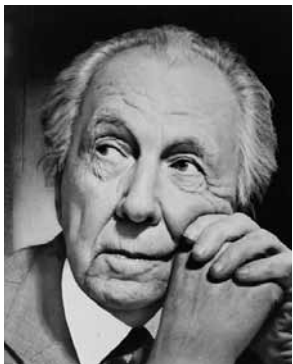
December 2010

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101 Things I Learned in Architecture School

"The good building is not one that hurts the landscape, but one which makes the landscape more beautiful than it was before the building was built."

-Frank Lloyd Wright



President's Message: The Future Of Our Profession

Although there are many threads in this discussion fabric, it seems quite a few architects believe our profession is quickly approaching a crossroads; accordingly, as a profession, we need to consider which path to take. The most common two topics are intrusion into the practice of architecture by other building professionals and a lack of respect for our profession from both the public and related building professions.

It is likely these topics are related. Over the last 35 – 40 years, our profession has abdicated much responsibility, occasionally at the urging of insurance and legal professionals. Let me offer an admittedly overly-simplified and brief history of the last 35 – 40 years of the profession and practice of architecture.

In the middle of the 20th century, an architect was the "go to" person to have a building designed and built. Consequently, our profession was publicly recognized as one of great importance-evidenced by Frank Lloyd Wright gracing the cover of Time Magazine. As buildings became more complex and construction means and methods became more complicated, architects gradually began to rely increasingly on consultants for assistance with the ever expanding complexity of a building. With the growing intricacy found in buildings, problems became more prevalent and ultimately insurance premiums and lawsuits grew. In an effort to reduce risk, insurance and legal professionals searched for ways architects could limit liability, and architects relied even more on consultants to reduce and spread liability for these complex entities known

as buildings. Unfortunately, the influence of some consultants eventually eclipsed services provided by architects – to the point where today, many architects find themselves justifying to clients why they should be selected in lieu of "consultants" for basic services such as site selection, programming, and pre-design

Fast forward to today. In an age when architects "review" shop drawings "for conformance with design intent" and construction managers recommend action on RFI's in writing to building owners, we as architects commiserate on the lack of respect we receive, and wonder why. We search for ways to gain respect, increase market share, and make the profession better. This begs the question - what is the future of our profession?

As we head into this holiday season I encourage all of us in Northeast PA to count our blessings and look toward the promise of the New Year. Our blessings may not be overly evident, but they are there – colleagues, family, fellowship, food, friends, fun, giving of ourselves, glad tidings, good cheer, helping those less fortunate, sharing whatever we can – and they allow us to be our best during the holiday season.

With the promise of the New Year comes opportunities for our profession to find the answers and decide which direction we should be heading as we go into the future.

I don't have the answers, but collectively we as architects will find them and I believe our profession will be better when we do -- let's enter the crossroads and find the best path for our future.

*Roger M. Williams, RA, AIA
President – AIA NEPA*

Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home

The Case for Home Fire Sprinklers

This document is to support the adoption of fire sprinkler requirements in new homes, to provide important information about home fire sprinklers, and to clarify key NFPA statistics that may have been used out of context by home fire sprinkler opponents.

Home fire is a major problem in the U.S.

Fire in the home poses one of the biggest threats to the people of your community. Nearly 3,000 people per year die in U.S. home fires. Most people do not believe that we are safe enough or that current death tolls from home fires are acceptable.

Smoke alarms and sprinklers both save lives from fire

Home fire sprinklers are a proven way to protect lives and property against fires at home. These life-saving systems respond quickly and effectively to the presence of a nearby fire. Sprinkler systems provide additional benefits, on top of the benefits already provided by smoke alarms.

- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50 percent.
- If you have a reported fire in your home, the risk of dying decreases by about 80 percent when sprinklers are present.

Beware misleading percentages on survival and death

Fire sprinkler opponents have been using a statistic of 99.45 percent to illustrate the effectiveness of smoke alarms in reducing home fire deaths. This NFPA statistic estimates the likelihood of surviving a home fire when a working smoke alarm is present. Taken completely out of context, a number like 99.45% sounds very high. But consider this:

- The total home fire death toll of roughly 3,000 deaths a year occurs in roughly 400,000 reported home fires a year. Therefore, the likelihood of surviving a home fire is over 99% without regard to the presence of smoke alarms or any other fire safety provisions. Does that mean 3,000 deaths are acceptable? Most people would say no.
- Each year, there are an estimated 37,000 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents and an estimated 6 million reported motor vehicle accidents. The likelihood of surviving a motor vehicle accident is 99.4%. Does that mean 37,000 deaths are acceptable? Most people would say no.
- Each year, 2.4 million people die of any cause in the country compared to a total U.S. resident population of 300 million. The likelihood of surviving every hazard, threat and illness for a year is 99.2%. Does that mean 2.4 million deaths are acceptable— that nothing at all should be done to protect Americans from anything, especially when technology exists that could save lives? Most people would say no.

Sprinklers do more than save lives

Sprinklers do more than save lives; they also protect property from destruction by fire. People in homes with sprinklers are protected against significant property loss—sprinklers reduce the average property loss by 71% per home fire.

The national consensus is in favor of sprinklers

All model safety codes now require the use of home fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes. These requirements offer the highest level of safety to protect the people of your community.

- Home sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce the heat, flames, and smoke from a fire, giving families valuable time to get to safety.
- Roughly 90% of the time, fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
- Each individual sprinkler is designed and calibrated to go off when it senses a significant heat change.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.
- In home fires deemed large enough to activate an operational sprinkler, wet-pipe sprinklers operated and were effective in 98% of reported fires.

Home fire sprinklers are cost effective.

A national perspective on the cost of installing residential fire sprinklers is examined in the report, Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment, released by the Fire Protection Research Foundation, an affiliate of NFPA. According to the report, the cost of installing sprinkler systems averaged **\$1.61 per sprinklered square foot**. This cost includes all costs to the builder associated with the system including design, installation, and other costs such as; permits, additional equipment, increased tap and water meter fees – to the extent that they apply.

*provided by Aus Marburger
from Fire Protection Industries, Inc.*



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photo from AIA NEPA Annual Dinner courtesy of Josh Cowder

Home Fire Sprinkler Systems: Separating Fact from Fiction

This fact sheet was prepared by the nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, Inc. (HFSC), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

HFSC is the only national, non-commercial organization working exclusively to educate the public about the life-saving value of installed residential fire sprinkler systems. HFSC develops a wide range of fire safety educational materials for consumers, members of the homebuilding industry, insurance and real estate professionals, and for the fire service to use in local educational outreach. All materials are provided at no charge and are available via HFSC's Web site: HomeFireSprinkler.org.

Home Fires: No Strategy Has as Much Documented Life Safety Effectiveness as Fire Sprinklers

The fire problem in the U.S. is overwhelmingly a home fire problem. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), homes account for about 80% of all fire deaths in a typical year and more than 95% of all deaths in structure fires in a typical year. Quite clearly, any improvements in overall fire safety must be improvements in home fire safety, and no strategy has as much documented life safety effectiveness as fire sprinklers. For the most current national home fire data, please visit NFPA.org.

Homes Burn, Whether New or Old

Few fatal home fires involve installed features of homes. Instead, they usually involve the actions and errors of the occupants in combination with the flaws and vulnerabilities of products brought into the home.

Fires Today “Burn Faster and Kill Quicker”

New homes benefit from fire sprinkler protection as much as older homes. Research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has shown that home fires become deadly in as few as three minutes. “Fires today seem to burn faster and kill quicker, because the contents of modern homes (such as furnishings) can burn faster and more intensely,” says NIST Researcher Richard Bukowski.

New and old homes alike are filled with these newer contents and furnishings, which provide less margin for success for smoke alarms and add to the need for fire sprinklers.

To see how a home fire sprinkler system works, visit the United States Fire Administration (USFA) Web site

and view NIST/USFA video clips of a typical home Christmas tree fire with and without fire sprinkler protection:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/dsn/dry_tree.shtm

Important Information about Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms provide valuable early warning in dwellings. HFSC recommends that every home have working smoke alarms installed on each level. For smoke alarms to be effective, occupants must react quickly and escape immediately. Every household should hold regular fire drills to practice how to properly respond to a fire alarm. Many high-risk populations – infants, children, people with disabilities, older adults – can have difficulty hearing and waking to smoke alarms, and difficulty reacting quickly and effectively enough for safe escape. Their lives depend on stopping the fire early in its development. Their lives depend on fire sprinklers.

Fire Sprinklers Make Up for Human Error

Fire sprinklers provide a level of protection that no other fire protection technology can offer. Like smoke alarms, sprinklers detect a fire; but they do even more. Fire sprinklers immediately respond to a fire while it is still small, controlling the spread of deadly heat, flames and toxic smoke. Fire sprinklers are effective whether or not the occupants have appropriately responded to the smoke alarm. Fire sprinklers make up for human error, and they provide a lifesaving cushion for a time-consuming escape.

How Fire Sprinklers Work

In most settings where there is a municipal water supply, sprinklers operate off the household water main. When the water supply is a well, or there is not enough water pressure, a holding tank is used. Sprinklers are linked by a network of piping, typically hidden behind walls and ceilings. The high temperature of an early-stage fire (135°-165°F) will cause the sprinkler to activate. Only heat initiates the sprinkler. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will operate, spraying water directly on the flames. This quick action controls or extinguishes the flames (often before the fire department arrives). Fire sprinklers slow the spread of deadly heat and toxic smoke and provide occupants with more time to safely escape.

Smoke Cannot and Will Not Cause a Fire Sprinkler to Operate

Fire sprinklers respond only to the high temperature of flames. Unlike interconnected smoke alarms (if one signals, they all signal), fire sprinklers activate independently. In a survey of home fires*, 90% of the time a single sprinkler was sufficient to control the fire. Despite the fictional special effects commonly seen in action movies, fire sprinklers do not spray water all at once. They do not operate in response to smoke, burned toast, cooking vapors, steam, an activating smoke alarm, or anything other than high heat.

Home Fire Sprinklers Are Simple to Maintain

Home fire sprinkler systems require very little maintenance. In fact, the sprinklers themselves require nothing more than an occasional look to ensure that nothing is hanging from them, or blocking them. Valves should be similarly checked to ensure they are turned on. The sprinkler system flow switch and water flow alarms should be tested about once a year – a simple test that can be done by the homeowner or a contractor.

Fire Sprinklers Are a Smart Investment for Developers

A national 2008 report from the Fire Protection Research Foundation found that the average cost to builders to install sprinklers in new homes was \$1.61 per square foot. Reduced labor costs and trade-up incentives have made fire sprinklers a valuable way for homebuilders to protect their bottom line. Options vary, but typical trade ups for a sprinklered residential development or sub-division include street width reduction, additional units, and increased hydrant spacing.

Fire Sprinklers Are a Smart Investment for Homeowners

Installing fire sprinklers in a new home is equivalent to installing solid-surface counter tops or other similar upgrades. The sprinkler system is paid for over the life of a mortgage, just as is the electrical or plumbing system. A national poll conducted by Harris Interactive® showed that two-thirds (69%) of U.S. homeowners say having a fire sprinkler system increases a home's value.

Read "Home Fire Sprinklers Score 'A' in NIST Cost-Benefit Study":

http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/techbeat/tb2007_1011.htm#sprinklers

The Home Insurance Industry Encourages Sprinkler Installations

The insurance industry banks on the fact that having installed fire sprinklers not only protects against fire injuries and deaths; they also protect against fire damage. As an incentive for customers, insurance companies offer discounts ranging from 5% to 30% off the fire portion of homeowner premiums. HFSC urges consumers to shop around for the best insurance discount.

* Scottsdale, AZ 15-year Report

Home Fire Safety Resources

Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition:

www.homefiresprinkler.org

Home Safety Council: www.homesafetycouncil.org

National Fire Protection Association: www.nfpa.org

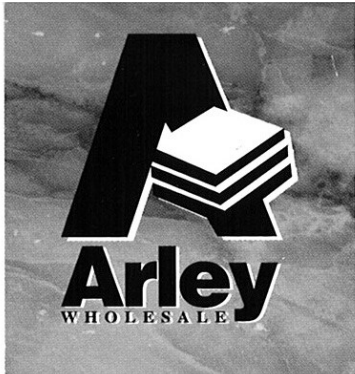
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.:

www.ul.com/consumers/

U.S. Fire Administration: www.usfa.dhs.gov

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2011 Tours and Events

2011 is upon us, and the AIA NEPA has begun planning for regional project tours for the coming year, including the NEPA Center for Independent Living in Scranton (designed by Hemmler + Camayd Architects) and the Historic Restoration and Interior Renovation of the Hawley Silk Mill (designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson). Please keep your eye on the calendar and join us for these educational tours of our local architect's work.

by Nick Snyder, AIA



Hawley Silk Mill photo courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson



Hawley Silk Mill photo courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

AIA Scheduled Calendar of Events



Cocoon at Hawley Silk Mill photo courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

<p>January Tour of NEPA Center for Independent Living in Scranton Tentative Date: January 19th</p> <p>February possible: Presentation by Team IMI</p> <p>March Government Affairs Presentation by Robert Keaton, AIA PA Gov't Affairs Representative Date/Location: T.B.D.</p> <p>April possible: Tour of Geisinger Dallas Clinic</p> <p>May possible: Tour of Hawley Silk Mill in Hawley, PA / Energy Incentives Presentation</p> <p>June possible: Tour of Western Wayne Elementary School</p> <p>August possible: Tour of Residence</p> <p>November Annual AIA NEPA Banquet with Bi-Annual Awards Presentation</p>

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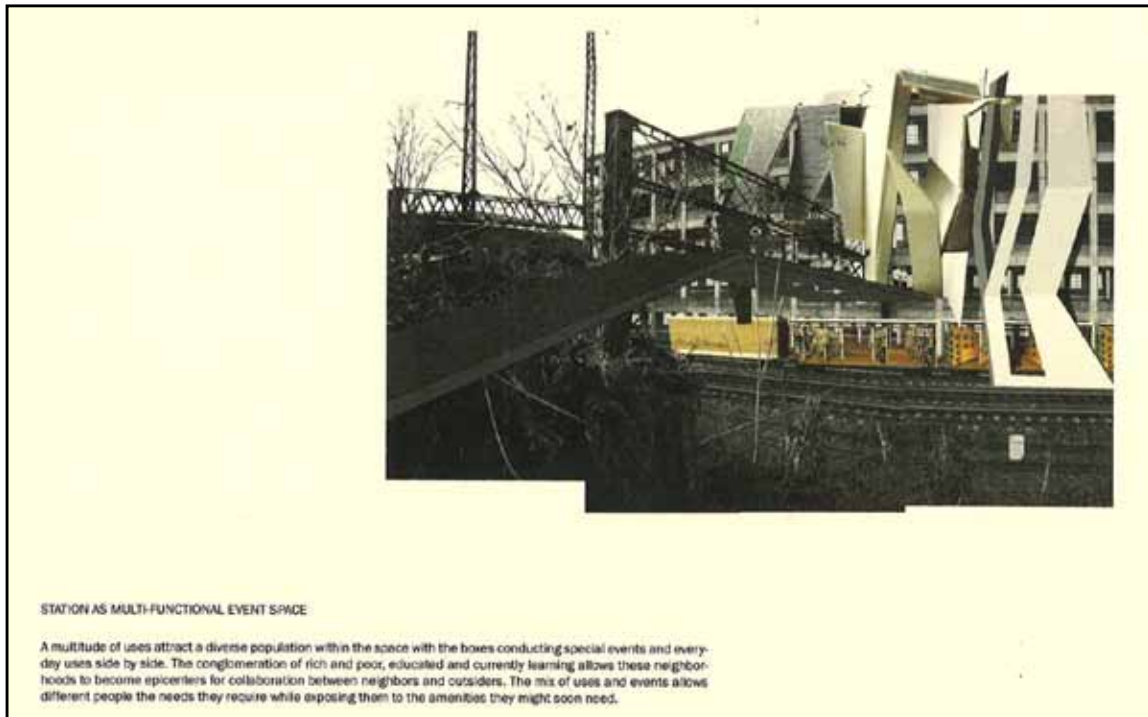


Student Scholarship Recipients Work Unveiled

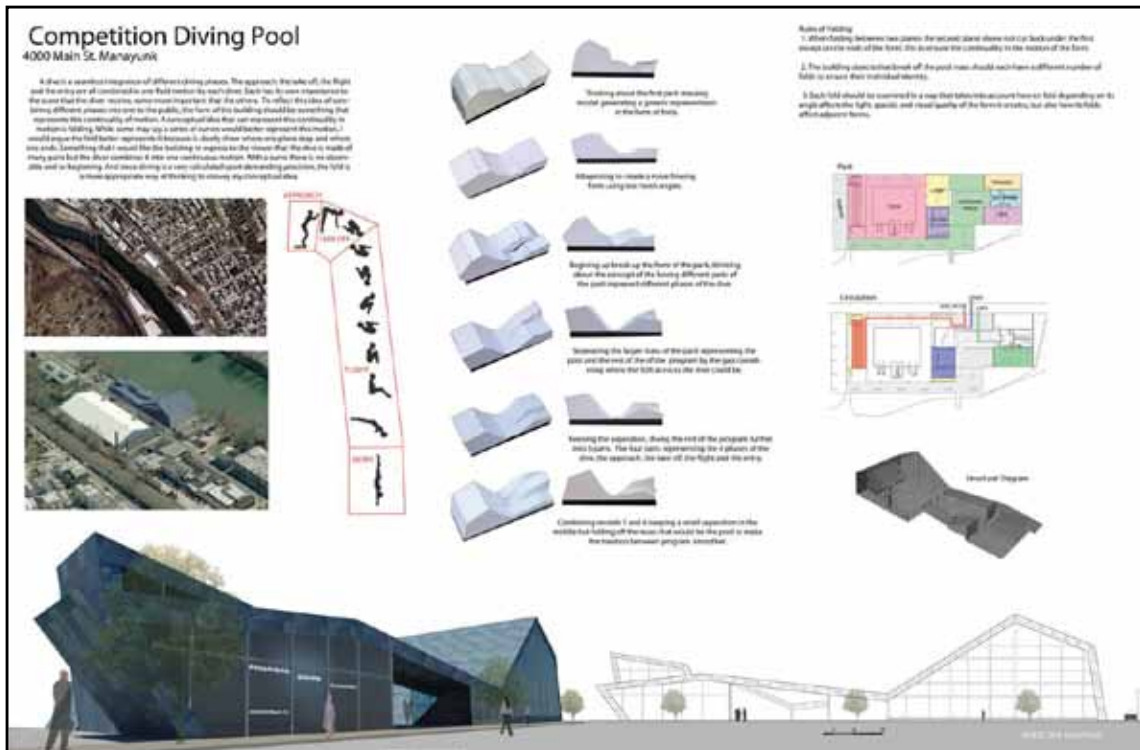
Each year the NEPA AIA awards a select number of scholarships to college students seeking a degree in the field of Architecture whom grew up in the area or are attending a local school. This year some of the work of the scholarship recipients was presented at the AIA NEPA Annual Banquet that was held at the Huntsville Golf Club in November. The images presented were a small representation of the exemplary work provided in the students' portfolios; and

the quality of the students' work continues to exemplify the talent that many of our local students display in their academic work. The AIA NEPA looks forward to the continued support of our local students through these scholarships and continues to explore ways of expanding this successful venture.

by Nick Snyder, AIA

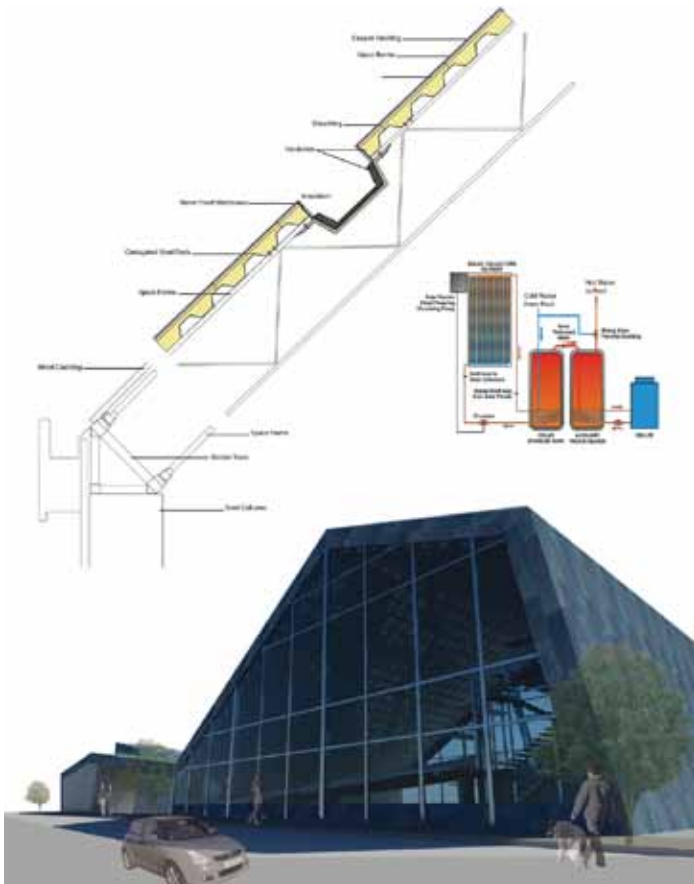


Scholarship Recipient: Timothy Nawrocky

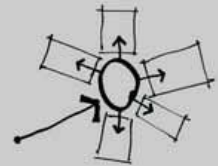


Scholarship Recipient: Christopher Lee

Recommended Reading



Scholarship Recipient: Christopher Lee



101 Things I Learned in Architecture School

Matthew Frederick

“101 Things I Learned in Architecture School”
by Matthew Frederick

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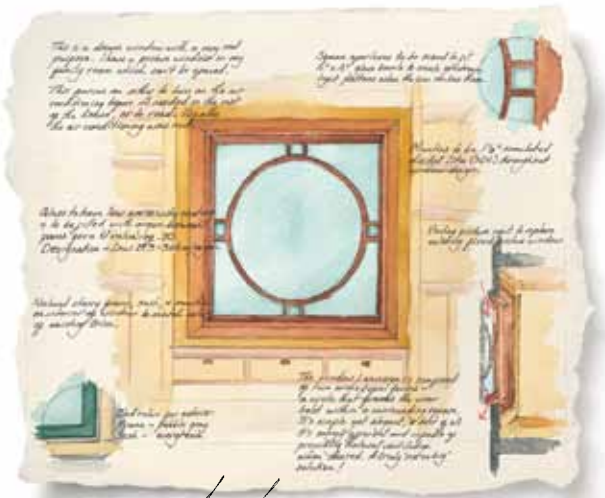
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 Our Project Profile Library features complete case studies with project photography and information specific to each application.

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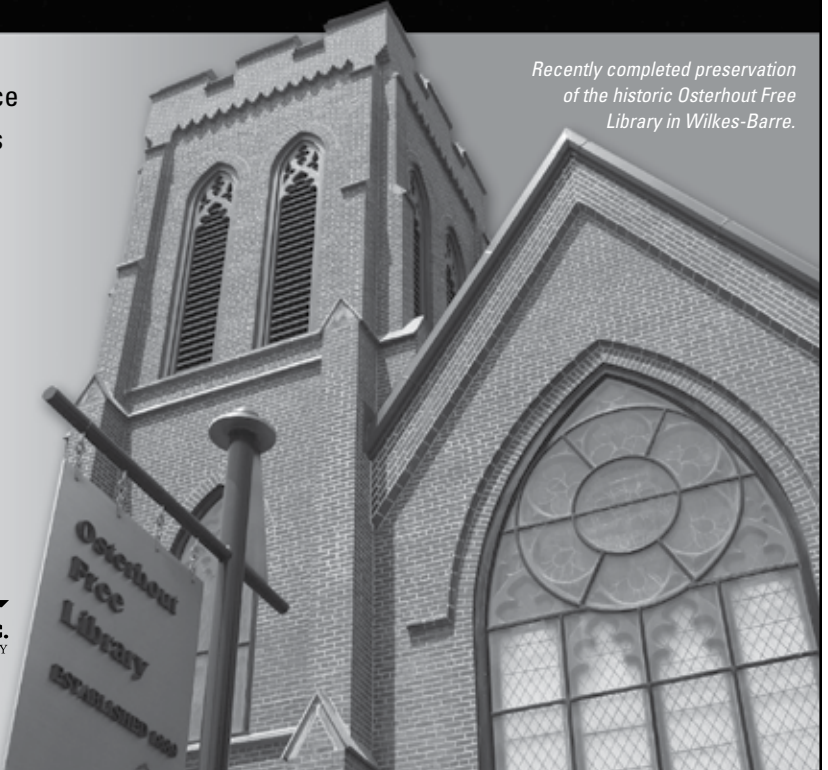
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