



# AIA Northern Virginia News

July / August 2010

Volume XLVI, Issue 4

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## Be Inspired



photo by Kathryn A. Brown

Room with a view: guests of the 2010 Design Awards Gala enjoy cocktails overlooking the city

by Scott Matties, AIA, LEED® AP  
AIA Northern Virginia Design Awards Chair

Having completed my second year as Chair of the Design Awards Program, I am inspired. Those who attended the Design Awards Gala on June 6 received a double dose of inspiration.

The Waterview Conference Center, high above Rosslyn in Arlington, offers the best views of the Washington skyline that our region has to offer. Our evening was made more dramatic by a weather front earlier in the day (and a tornado watch!) that produced a striking mix of blue sky, white and gray clouds and intense bursts of sunlight that made the monuments glow as if on stage. We experienced a true

*continues on page 10*

## Samaha Associates Takes Top Prize in International Canstruction® Competition

by Debbie Burns  
AIA Northern Virginia Executive Director

Samaha Associates' ORANGE you glad you CAN help e-LEMON-ate hunger? earned top prize in the 2010 International Canstruction Competition.

Their rendition of a giant orange and lemon was constructed of 3,696 cans of chili, tuna and peanut butter. Selected as Jurors' Favorite from among hundreds of submissions from 140 cities worldwide, the jury recognized the striking structure, noting that the "design was crisp and clean, exploding with freshness and realism."

Samaha Associates, PC of Fairfax, has been an avid participant in Canstruction for many years. In their project description, the team said, "This year our design was inspired by the emotion felt from helping others - glad! Like our design, great things can be achieved if we contribute one piece at a time. Through our design we hope to inspire others in making community service a fun, positive experience, fruitful to the peace of mind."

This is the first time in the seven-year history of the AIA Northern Virginia Canstruction Competition that one of our participants was recognized with an

*continues on page 6*



photo courtesy of Samaha Associates

## President's Letter

### Sticky / Sweet

by Carol Rickard-Brideau, AIA, LEED® AP  
AIA Northern Virginia President

As we enter the dog days of a typical Mid-Atlantic summer, where the ability to cut the humidity in the steamy, sticky summer air with a knife is tempered only by the benefit of traffic reduced by summer vacation, I have vowed never to talk smack about Washington's sultry summers again. I have visited Miami in June.

The National Convention this year in Miami was quite well attended, with naïve travelers from all over the country - obviously with no prior experience of true, relentless, unforgiving heat and humidity - and expert presenters from all over the country, including our own chapter. The 2010 Topaz Award for Architectural Education was awarded to Michael Graves, FAIA, who joins the company of previous honorees Vincent Scully, Kenneth Frampton and fellow New York Five modernist, John Hedjuk. Even though wheelchair bound for almost a decade due to a bacterial infection, there was a comforting continuity - whether a fan or not - in seeing an architectural lion still engaged, now designing for health-care environments, and still intellectually voracious.

Paul Goldberger, the pre-eminent architectural critic for the New York Times, was in attendance signing copies of his excellent new book, *Why Architecture Matters*, as was Peter Bohlin, FAIA, the Gold Medal recipient for this year. Indeed, there may be an essay in my future about standing in line, prior to having an author inscribe their latest book, and deciding what one will say in the 15 second interval before pen is put to paper, and one is spit out the other side of the signing line. A perfunctory, "Thank you," or something more presumably profound like, "When I started my career 25 years ago, my fellow students and I copied your drawing style, but later internalized it, digested it and reiterated it in a way that brought a new understanding to our designs?"

On the heels of convention, our Traveling Happy Hour in Leesburg was a fantastic success, with upwards of 40 members attending. Old college friends reconnected (both looked fabulous), people compared notes on the economy (slowly getting better, but still uneven), and one recent graduate may have even landed a job during the evening (way to go!). There was even interest in starting another Small Firms Roundtable in the Leesburg area - we'll publish more about that to our west county members in the future as we get it up and running. Our next Traveling Happy Hour will be in the Tysons Corner area, in the third quarter of this year, and our hope is to pull members from both sides of Tysons to top our attendance at the Leesburg Happy Hour. There is certainly strength in numbers!

Also be sure to pencil in our next PK Night, tentatively set for Tuesday, September 21st. It is sure to continue the momentum and excitement of our first event, this past spring. Enjoy the warmth of the summer sun, and the bounty of fresh garden tomatoes it will usher forth!



## AIA Northern Virginia News

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

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## Lunch Seminars

Our Lunch Series offers two related, but separate seminars, back to back every other month. These seminars provide the opportunity to earn 2 learning units. Of course, if time only allows you to attend one of the seminars, that is fine. You will be able to get individual credit for each seminar so you can choose to attend either one or both. Locations for our Lunch Series will rotate to make it easier for more members to attend.

The first presentation is held from 11:00a - noon. There will then be a 15 minute break to get lunch, which will be provided and can be eaten during the second presentation which runs from 12:15p - 1:15p.

AIA members attend free of charge, non-members are \$20. Space is limited and registration is required. Please e-mail your registration request to [reservations@aianova.org](mailto:reservations@aianova.org).

**Wednesday, September 15, 11:00a - 1:15p**, location to be determined.

### First Presentation: **The House as a System**

Discuss how the building enclosure components – specifically the air barrier layer and insulation layers – work most efficiently together to keep the exterior environment “out,” and the interior environment “in.” Discussion will also be on the practical aspects of the HVAC system relating to the enclosure.

### Second Presentation: **Building Analysis – Does Your House Suck?**

You create homes to be built and enjoyed by people and families for generations. Your design will be resisting the building site, the elements, the building materials & systems within, and the occupants. There are ways to observe, measure and quantify how your home will perform against these odds. Does your house suck? Find out what tools and technology are used to determine your home’s performance.

Presented by George Fritz, COO, Horizon Builders. Each presentation offers 1 AIA/CES LU.

This information is a public service announcement. No fees were paid to print this information and the chapter receives no income from these events.

## 2009 IRC Significant Changes

**Thursday, July 20, 8:45a - 4:15p**, Dewberry, 8401 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax

This 6-hour seminar reviews and analyses selected significant changes from the 2006 IRC to the 2009 IRC. It familiarizes building officials, fire officials,

plans examiners, inspectors and design professionals with many of the significant changes in the 2009 IRC. Assists code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred, and more importantly, understanding the reason behind the change.

The seminar focuses on those code changes selected due to their frequency of application, special significance or change in application. Upon completion, participants will be better able to apply the provisions of the 2009 IRC and identify the areas in which the 2009 IRC has changed from the 2006 IRC.

This seminar is organized by Virginia Society/AIA and will be held at Dewberry, 8401 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. 6 HSW learning units will be offered. \$170 members, \$230 non-members, including breakfast and lunch. To register visit:

[http://www.virginiaarchitecture.org/vsaia\\_education.html](http://www.virginiaarchitecture.org/vsaia_education.html).

**Virginia Society** AIA

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Anna Barbour Nolan, AIA  
*Young Architects Forum*



## Area Youth Center Earns LEED® Platinum Designation

by Sonia Jarboe, Assoc. AIA, LEED® AP  
Chair, Women in Architecture Committee

Last fall the city of Gaithersburg opened its doors to a new LEED Platinum Youth Center, the Gaithersburg Youth Center in Olde Towne, designed by the Alexandria firm Maginniss + del Ninno Architects. Sustainable strategies used by the design team include vegetated roofs, photovoltaic panels, ground source geothermal heat pump heating & cooling system, and daylight harvesting.

The 6,500 square foot \$3.75 million facility provides afterschool, weekend and summer opportunities for middle school and high school students. The facility includes a state-of-the-art audio/video studio as well as a computer lab, tutoring program, arts and crafts and many other activities.

AIA NOVA Women in Architecture Committee and Virginia Society WiD are hosting a tour of the Center, led by Theresa del Ninno, AIA, on July 31st at 10:00a. The Center is located at 301 Teachers Way in downtown Gaithersburg, Maryland. All are welcome to attend this free tour, but registration is required. If

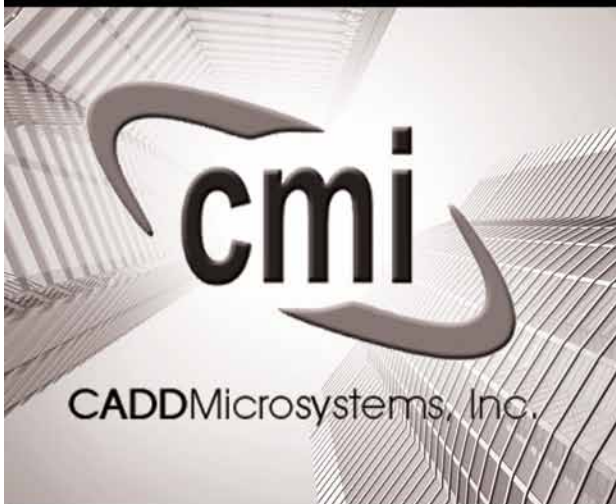
interested, please email [reservations@aianova.org](mailto:reservations@aianova.org). 1.5 AIA/CES HSW/SD learning units are available for the tour.

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photo by Eric Taylor, Assoc. AIA

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# Architect Escapes Indemnity Claim Based on ADA and FHA

by Timothy R. Hughes, Esq., LEED® AP  
AIA Northern Virginia Legal Columnist

A recent decision from the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit may change the landscape of claim against architects under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Fair Housing Act (FHA). The case, Equal Rights Center and Archstone v. Niles Bolton Associates, basically ruled that a developer was not entitled to recover its claims against the architect for a failure of a multi-family project to meet ADA and FHA requirements.

ADA and FHA claims have a long history at this point, particularly since the 1991 passage of the ADA. After a huge wave of litigation, often spawned in the arena design and construction area, ADA claims seemed to die down for a while. We have heard and seen ADA and FHA complaints have a huge spike over the last several years, in particular with large scale multi-family developers.

Owner/developers rely in large part on their design consultants for advice and direction in this arena. Many architectural agreements include broad form requirements for certifications of compliance from their design professionals accompanied by equally broad indemnification provisions if something goes wrong. In the Archstone case, Archstone faced a number of complaints on 71 buildings, including 15 buildings designed by Niles Bolton. Archstone settled those issues and then sought to recover expenses associated with the consent decree from its architect. Archstone's claims included express indemnity, implied indemnity, breach of contract, and negligence.

During three years of litigation and discovery, Archstone resisted disclosing how it allocated the consent decree repairs and expenses across the various properties. Archstone claimed it had no such duty and was entitled to recover all expenses for the 15 Niles Bolton buildings from the architect based on its indemnification style claims. The court agreed and granted Archstone a protective order from having to disclose that information. That resistance may have been a big mistake. The trial court held, and the appeals court ultimately agreed, that permitting pure indemnification under any theory was "antithetical to the purposes of the FHA and ADA." According to the court, allowing indemnification would permit Archstone to shift its entire responsibility for federal violations and undermine the preventative aspects of ADA and FHA. As the court stated:

Allowing an owner to completely insulate itself from liability for an ADA and FHA violation through contract diminishes its incentive to ensure compliance with discrimination laws. If a developer of apartment housing, who concededly has a non-delegable duty to comply with the ADA and FHA, can be indemnified under state law for its ADA and FHA violations, then the developer will not be accountable for discriminatory practices in building apartment housing.

As such, federal law preempted not only the pure indemnification claims, but also even the state law breach of contract and negligence claims of Archstone because it sought to recover all costs and expenses.

This may be a case of Archstone going too far by asking for the whole nut. It is tempting to do so at least in the alternative, but by asking for only 100% of the claim and not including a request for damages directly caused by proven negligence, Archstone may have unwittingly taken a big risk. That risk appears compounded by its resistance to producing allocation information along with the likely credibility gap that disclosure may be demonstrated.

Certification and indemnification provisions have become relatively standard; while they may facially impose tremendous risk on design professionals, there is the chance that they can in fact go too far and thus eliminate exposure under some limited circumstances. It is difficult to gauge the impact of this case without seeing it develop over time. If the court's limit its impact to only cases where the plaintiff tries to pass through 100% of all of the damages to the design professional, then more limited claims and narrowly drafted indemnity provisions will easily avoid this hurdle. On the other hand, if the court extends this ruling to cases where owners and developers seek less than all the damages, this case could turn ADA and FHA litigation upside down and place tremendous risk and exposure on the owners and developers. In the wake of extensive ADA advocacy related efforts, look for this topic to continue to percolate over the next several years.

*Timothy R. Hughes is Of Counsel to the Arlington, Virginia law firm of Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C. and a LEED Accredited Professional. He is Lead Editor of the firm's blog which is located at <http://www.valanduseconstructionlaw.com> and may be reached at [thughes@beankinney.com](mailto:thughes@beankinney.com) or by phone at (703) 525-4000.*



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# Samaha Associates Takes Top Prize in International Canstruction® Competition

*continued from page 1*

International Award. The Samaha structure was also selected as Jurors' Favorite by our local jury.

While Canstruction is a design/build competition, it is also a community service project. At the end of our event, all the canned food used in the structures is donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). AFAC's mission is to provide supplemental groceries to Arlington residents who cannot afford to purchase sufficient food to meet their basic needs. Our Canstruction event has become one of the single largest food drives benefiting AFAC. This year's competition resulted in 10,801 pounds of food to stock AFAC's shelves.

F. Thomas Lee, AIA, Principal at Samaha, said the team feels strongly about participating, despite the difficult economy, because they believe in AFAC's mission and they enjoy the competition as a team building opportunity for the firm. This attitude reflects the commitment architects have made to build and support their community, and their determination to have fun doing it.

Congratulations to the Samaha team: Ken Cahoon, Tom Lee, AIA, Paul Falkenbury, AIA, William Santer, AIA, Chris Wilson, Amy McCarty, Holli McKinley, Claudio Oddo, Randy Morrison, Lorna Saria, Omari Davis, Steve Hughes, Huijin Hwang, Ye Su, Melissa Webster and Cesar Liendo.

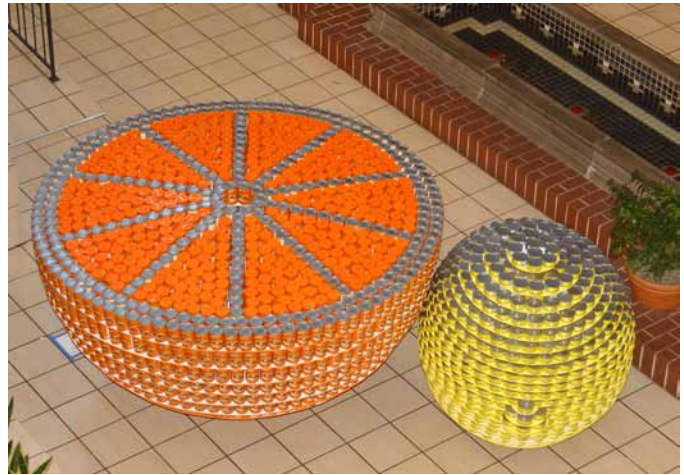


photo by JD Boswell



The jury for the International Competition included: Randy Lavigne, AIA, Executive Director of the AIA Las Vegas; David Baird, AIA, Director of the UNLV School of Architecture; David Spero, Executive Chef of Tableau at Wynn Hotel; Kent Barber, PE, SE, Structural Engineer of LR Consulting Engineers; Roy Burson, AIA, Partner in Charge of JVC Architects; and Sean Coulter, AIA, Partner Pugsley, Simpson & Coulter Associates.

The AIA Northern Virginia jury, comprised of Chapter members, included: Scott Matties, AIA with Cunningham | Quill Architects, Edward Weaver, AIA, with AECOM and Jean O'Toole, AIA, with Leo A Daly Architects.

We greatly appreciate all the teams who participated in our 2010 Canstruction event:

- Jurors' Favorite - ORANGE you glad you CAN help e-LEMON-ate hunger?  
*Samaha Associates, P.C.*
- Structural Ingenuity - Experience Another Dimension  
*Perkins Eastman | Geier Brown Renfrow*
- Best Use of Labels - Help Us Send Hunger UP, Up and Away!  
*MTFA Architecture | Jack Bays, Inc.*
- Best Meal - iCan  
*Jacobs*
- Honorable Mention - Canzoni: Sticking it to Hunger  
*Wisniewski Blair & Associates, Ltd. (WBA)*
- Honorable Mention - Blasting Hunger!  
*The Cangeiners - Students from Northern Virginia*


Canstruction® is a national community service project of the design and construction industry under the auspices of the Society for Design Administration. The International Competition winners were selected during the Society's annual convention in Las Vegas. To view all the 2010 International Competition winners, visit the Canstruction® website at <http://www.canstruction.org/>.



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## Small Firms Committee Schedules Two Events in July

by Matthew Guenther, AIA  
Chair, Small Firms Committee

### Panel Discussion: Starting & Managing A Small Firm

Advice, guidance, suggestions—and a word of caution, too—will be presented in an informal panel discussion for AIA members who are interested in starting a small firm. With a panel of “veterans” providing opinions and insight, the conversation will address general topics and specific issues related to the creation and management of a new architectural practice. Questions from the audience will be encouraged and participants will also be asked to suggest topics for future Small Firms programs.

The panel discussion will be held at the Washington Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC) on Tuesday, July 13th, 6:30p-8:00p. Each participant will receive 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. The WAAC is located at 1001 Prince Street in Alexandria—just a few steps from the Chapter House.

To participate in the panel discussion, please make a reservation by sending an email to [reservations@aianova.org](mailto:reservations@aianova.org). Please include your AIA member number when requesting a reservation. \$7.00 per person for pizza will be collected at the door.

### Seminar Series: High Performance Houses - Options for the Building Envelope

This program is the first in a continuing series of seminars that will be hosted jointly by TW Perry (Building Supply Company) and the Small Firms Committee. This seminar series will feature four AIA approved presentations focusing on various components of the building envelope in wood-framed residential structures. Seminars will include:

- Mineral Wool Insulation: Sustainable Solutions for Thermal, Fire, and Sound Control (Presented by Roxul)
- Managing Moisture and Solving Water Intrusion Problems (Presented by Tyvek)
- Clearing the Fog: Water, Air and Vapor Management in Today's Wall and Roof Assemblies (Presented by Huber Engineered Woods)
- Efficient and Sustainable Design Using Insulated Sheathings (Presented by Dow Building Solutions)

In addition to the seminar presenters, a representative from TW Perry will also be available for consultation on their complete line of building supplies including an extensive list of green materials and products.

The seminars will be held at ITT Technical Institute on Friday, July 23rd, 10:00a-2:30p. The cost is \$20.00 for AIA members and \$40.00 for non-members and each participant will receive 4 hours of HSW/SD continuing education credits. A complimentary lunch will be provided by TW Perry and the companies presenting the seminars.

The ITT Technical Institute is located at 7300 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, VA and free parking is available. A map and driving directions are available at [www.itt-tech.edu](http://www.itt-tech.edu). ITT Technical Institute has generously donated classroom space for this program.

Pre-paid registration is required to participate in this seminar series. For registration and payment information, visit the Chapter website at:

<http://www.aianova.org/eventPop.php?eventID=397>.

### Volunteers Needed for Architecture Guidebook for Northern Virginia

A committee is compiling information for a guidebook to architecture in Northern Virginia. If you have any building suggestions or would like to help with this project, please contact Valerie Hassett at [studio@valeriehassett.com](mailto:studio@valeriehassett.com).

*Save the Date*

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## GREENspace Product Spotlight: Shoes on Shoes at the AIA National Convention

by Jon Penndorf, AIA, LEED® AP  
Project Manager, Lessard Group Inc.

One of the hundreds of exhibitors at the AIA National Convention in Miami this past June was Nike Grind. We all know Nike as a brand name synonymous with running shoes and basketball sneakers, but flooring? As I came to find out, athletic shoes play a starring role in their rubber flooring products as well.

Nike Grind started as a company in 1990, and recently relocated their U.S. recycling and production facilities to Memphis, Tennessee. They opened another plant in 2005 in Belgium. The concept is quite simple: Nike Grind accepts used athletic shoes (of any brand, not just Nike) for complete recycling into flooring products through the Reuse-A-Shoe program.

The shoes are dissected into three major components for recycling: the outsole is ground up and added to rubber for gym floor tiles, outdoor playground surfacing, and running track surfaces; the midsole is crushed up to make Nike Grind Foam, used in surfacing outdoor sport courts; and the fabric upper portion of the shoes is ground up for use in the creation of under-floor cushioning for basketball courts. While other materials must be added to the shoe parts to create the flooring, the entire shoe is recycled. To date, over 25,000,000 pairs of shoes have been collected for recycling into flooring.

The "other materials" are selected to be as green as possible as

well. For example, Training Ground - the interlocking tile flooring system best used in gyms and weight rooms - is composed of about 25% recycled shoe rubber and 65% rubber recycled from other sources.

Nike has also been introducing recycled content from Nike Grind into athletic shoes as well. The sole of your next pair of Air Jordan's may be composed of recycled sneaker rubber.

Nike Grind and the Reuse-A-Shoe program accept donations of used shoes at many Nike retail stores, but you can also mail used shoes to the program. Special collection drives can also be set up as community service projects. More information about donating shoes or specifying their products can be found at:

<http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/>.

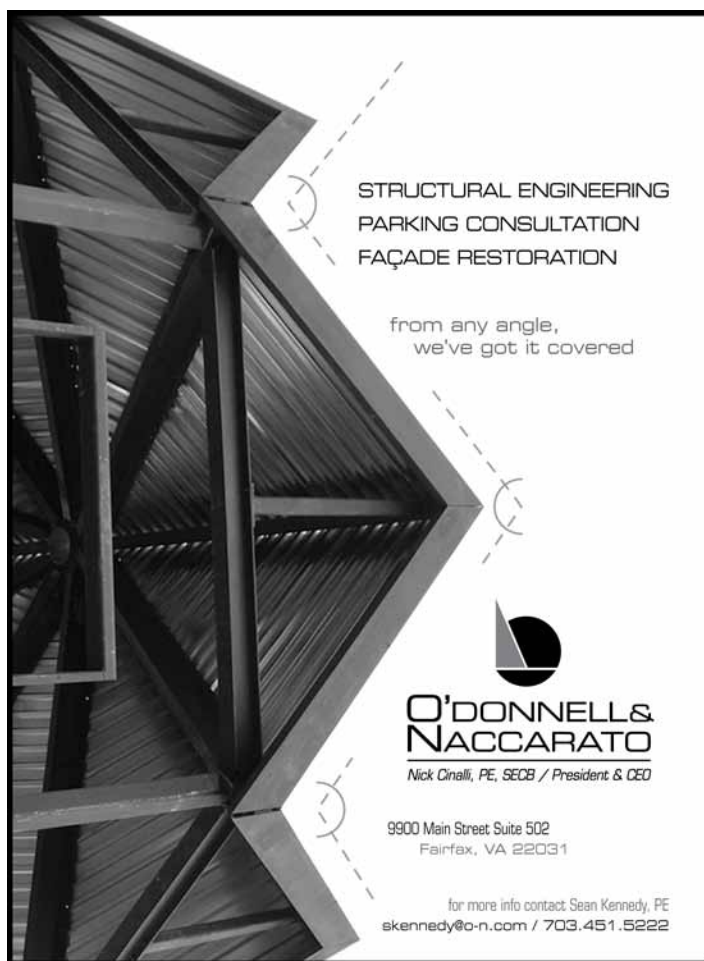
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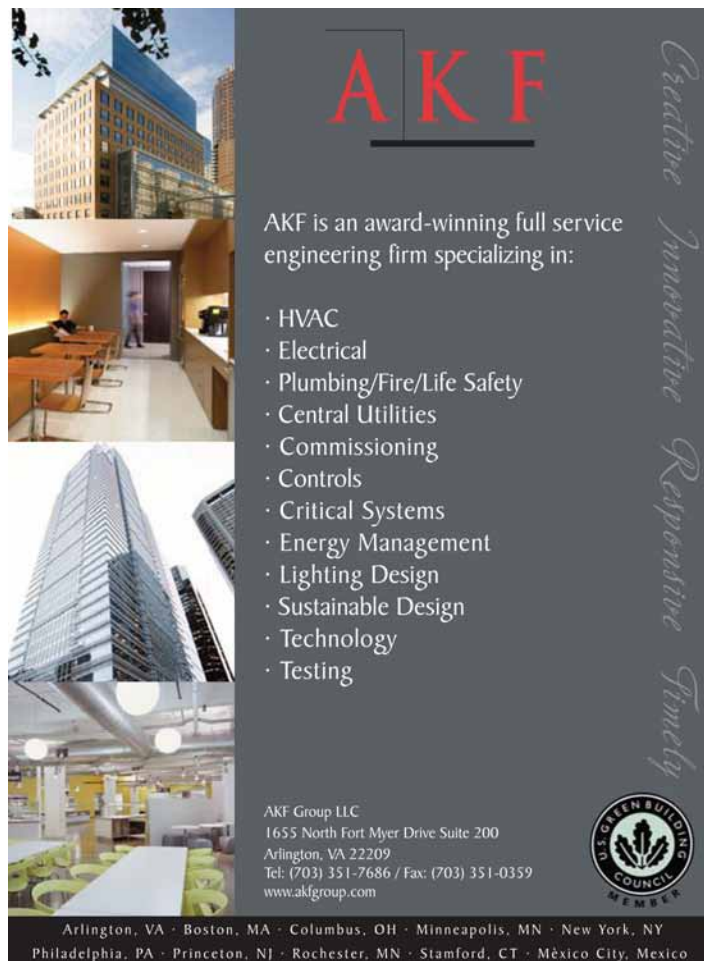
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## Get to know our sponsors

HITT Contracting Inc. has graciously offered us the use of their new headquarters for our September 13 Chapter board meeting. The highlight of the evening is a tour of their new four-story, 147,000sf, LEED® Silver building.

HITT's new home expresses their commitment to sustainable construction and includes low-flow water fixtures, white roof membrane to reflect light and heat, high efficiency HVAC equipment and on-site amenities like a fitness center, café and salon.

One AIA/CES HSW/SD learning unit is available for the tour. Reservations are not necessary.

**September 13, 2010**  
**HITT Contracting**  
2900 Fairview Park Drive  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
<http://www.hitt-gc.com/>

4:30p Board Meeting - 6:00p Office Tour

design DC 2010

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC

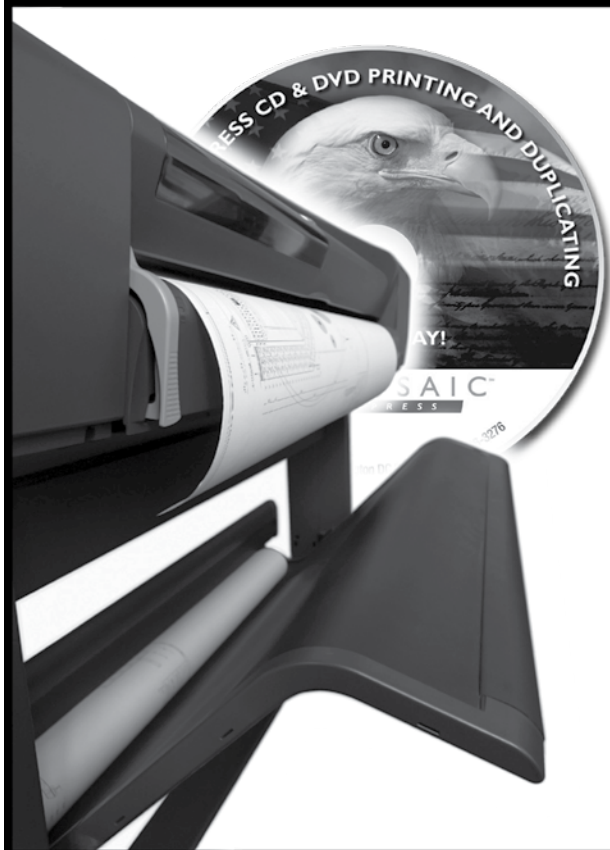
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# Design Awards 2010

*continued from page 1*

panorama that captured the city from the Jefferson Memorial to Chain Bridge and the highlands beyond – The National Cathedral, Fort Reno, the National Shrine and more and more and more.

Please visit and be inspired.

**Thank you to our exceptional jurors from the Boston area:**

Peter Kuttner, FAIA, Cambridge Seven Associates  
Maryann Thompson, FAIA, Maryann Thompson Architects  
Mark Hutker, AIA, Hutker Architects  
Clifford Gayley, AIA LEED® AP, William Rawn Associates



award of excellence

## ENVISION DESIGN

U.S. Green Building Council Headquarters

What a remarkably appropriate backdrop to recognize the design excellence of our Chapter. Fifteen awards were conferred this year to a diverse slice of our membership, from the largest to smallest firms for projects comprising the breadth of our profession. Awards were given for spaces to live, work, learn and worship in locations that are urban, rural and in-between, for designs that are modern, historic and historically modern.



award of excellence

## DAVID JAMESON ARCHITECT

Record House Revisited

So, though one of my own projects, near and dear to my heart, received a unanimous chorus of “no’s” from the jury, I am inspired. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is fertile ground for the best in design and we should all be proud.

We all owe a special debt of gratitude to our Sponsors for the Awards Gala this year. In these economic times it is no less inspiring to not only have our old friends stand by us, but to have made some new friends as well. The on-line Winners’ Gallery (wonderfully rendered by Matt Shuba) can be viewed at:

[www.aianova.org/DA10](http://www.aianova.org/DA10)



award of excellence

## DIVISION1 ARCHITECTS

The Lacey

**Thanks also to the Design Awards Committee:**

Scott Matties, AIA, LEED® AP, Chair  
J Paul Lewis AIA, Co-Chair  
Andrew Kroh, AIA  
Robyne Hamilton  
Matt Shuba  
Debbie Burns  
Lorin Boswell

Thank you also to Paul Herrick, AIA and John Thomann, AIA with Gensler for offering a tour of the space for our guests and to Lorin Boswell, Rachel Williams, Taylor Clark, Anna Barbour Nolan, AIA, and John Nolan, AIA for all their help at the gala.



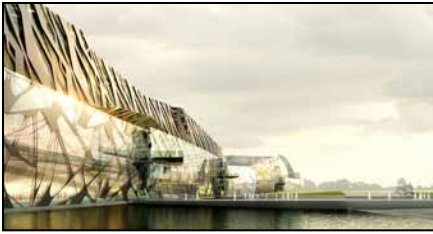
award of excellence

## SMITHGROUP

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center



## awards of merit



**Little**  
Xinjiang Conference  
Center

**Reader & Swartz  
Architects, PC**  
Stoney Meadows



**Geier Brown  
Renfrow Architects**  
Lab School Library

**Muse Architects**  
James Muldoon River  
Center at St. Mary's  
College of Maryland



**SmithGroup**  
New York Law School

**Robert M. Gurney,  
FAIA Architect**  
Watergate Apartment



**Division1 Architects**  
Harris Residence

## Thank you to our Design Award Sponsors who contributed so generously to the event:

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Gensler  
Philips Lightolier

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Lewicki Estimating Services, Inc.  
Kathryn Brown, Photographer

## jurors' special citations

*(below, clockwise from top left)*

**Muse Architects** - Historic Vacluse

**Envision Design** - Society for Neuroscience Headquarters

**Kerns Group Architects, PC** - St. Agnes Catholic Church

**Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect** - Lorber Tarler Residence



## Photo Credits

*First column, top to bottom:* Eric Laignel, Paul Warchol Photography. *Second column:* Debi Fox Photography, Alan Karchmer. *Third column:* Rendering courtesy of Little, photo by architect, Gunnar Westerlind, Paul Burk Photography, Esto Photographics, Paul Warchol Photography, Debi Fox Photography. *Above, clockwise from top left:* Erik Kvalsvik, Eric Laignel, Michael Dersin, Paul Warchol Photography.



## National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds

*Seeking the public's creative input to shape history at the heart of the National Mall*

An independent group of university professors, architects and designers, and civic leaders, partnering with The George Washington University, have come together to launch a National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds (WAMO) in fall 2010.

According to Competition Steering Committee Chair James Clark, AIA, an AIA Northern Virginia Chapter member, excitement is being generated for the competition, and has attracted a distinguished panel of jurors. "We are delighted to have enthusiastic support from prestigious organizations like George Washington University and expect to receive hundreds of exciting ideas from students, professionals, and others who have a profound interest in the future of this symbolic focal point in our nation's capital."

The idea for this Competition came out of a realization that while the Washington Monument continues as the defining feature of the Washington, D.C. skyline -- and the centerpiece of the nation's most symbolic public open space -- at ground level its vast open space remains unfinished.

While recent work on this cultural landscape by the Olin Studio has brought an unprecedented level of elegance, security and accessibility to the space, Competition leaders ask: "How can this landscape continue to tell our uniquely American story into the future?"

The Competition also hopes to heighten public interest in George Washington, the Revolution and other chapters in the larger American story, as well as the role of the Washington Monument grounds in the civic life of our democracy.

A panel of distinguished American designers and planners at the beginning of the last century recommended a vision for the entire Mall, including these grounds that they regarded as the "gem of the Mall system." Their plans were never fully realized. The Competition is not intended to develop plans for the Monument grounds but rather to invite the public to provide creative ideas as to how the area might be shaped to better suit the needs of the American people in the 21st Century.

This summer the first "webinar" on the history of the Washington Monument grounds within the larger history of the National Mall will be available on the WAMO website. It will educate and help to stimulate ideas by competition entrants. Registration ends October 31, 2010 and the first stage of the Competition will close in December 2010. The final stage concludes by the end of summer 2011 with a public exhibit of winning ideas in Washington D.C. For more information, including how to register and participate in the Competition, visit:

[www.wamocompetition.org](http://www.wamocompetition.org).

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Nov. 3-5, 2010  
Richmond, Va.

## Architecture in the Schools Needs Volunteers for Fall Semester

Architecture in the Schools is an award-winning K-12 curriculum-enrichment program that brings design professionals into the classroom one hour a week for eight weeks. The fall 2010 program begins with a training session September 11th. AIS classes are scheduled for the week of September 27th through November 15th culminating in an exhibit of final projects in January.

If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact Beth Judy with the Washington Architectural Foundation at (202) 667-5444 or [bjudy@wafonline.org](mailto:bjudy@wafonline.org).

Volunteers are needed in both Virginia and DC schools:

McKinley ES, Arlington  
4th Grade Art

Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria,  
9-12 Grade Design, Multimedia  
+ Web technologies

Rose Hill ES, Alexandria  
4th grade Art and Social Studies

Emery Education Campus, 1720 1st St., NE  
6-8 Grade Math

Ideal Academy PCS, 6130 N. Capitol St., NW  
7th Grade Math + Reading

Jefferson Middle School, 801 7th St., SW  
6th Grade Interdisciplinary

Malcolm X ES, 1351 Alabama Ave., SE  
STEM

Patterson ES, 4399 S. Capitol Ter., SW  
4th Grade Interdisciplinary

Ronald Brown MS, 419 18th St., SE  
6th Grade Math + Reading

Savoy ES, 2400 Shannon Pl., SE  
5th Grade Interdisciplinary

Stanton ES, 2701 Naylor Rd., SE  
Math + Science

Stuart Hobson + Peabody, 425 C St., NE  
Interdisciplinary/School Modernization

Takoma Educational Center, 7010 Piney  
Branch Rd., NW  
Art Classes

MC Terrell, 3301 Wheeler Rd., SE  
5th Grade Interdisciplinary

Thurgood Marshall ES, 3100 Ft. Lincoln Dr., NE  
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## Collaborative Market -- Virginia Tech Studies the Del Ray Farmers' Market

by Camilo Llorens Bearman, AIA, LEED® AP  
Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, LLC



In Alexandria, the Del Ray Farmers' Market corner lot seems like 'the little corner that could.' This 0.2 acre site is used by the community for much needed parking, a Metrobus stop, a garden, and has a few site amenities like picnic tables and signs describing Del Ray history. On the weekends, however, it blossoms into a farmers' market featuring regionally grown produce and locally baked goods, such as empanadas almost as good as the ones my grandmother made. Yet, despite its rich program, the corner's physical state is not much more than a disparate grouping of site amenities.

Last summer I gathered a small group of residents to discuss the site's past and current usage and kick around possible ideas for improvement. The resultant question was not "What should this site become?" -- because it is already very special -- but "How can this corner better express its true nature: a place of civic pride at the geographical and symbolic heart of Del Ray?" After this initial informal discussion, we decided that a better understanding of the community's perceptions about the site was needed. The Washington Alexandria Architecture Consortium, an extension of Virginia Tech in Old Town Alexandria, agreed to study the problem and a core group of Architecture and Landscape Architecture students, both graduate and undergraduate, signed on to help as an Independent Study Course for credit.

As a fall semester project for the students, it was an excellent peek into collaborative public processes. Instead of directly jumping into designing, the first half of the semester was dedicated to discussing, researching and understanding the site and its users.

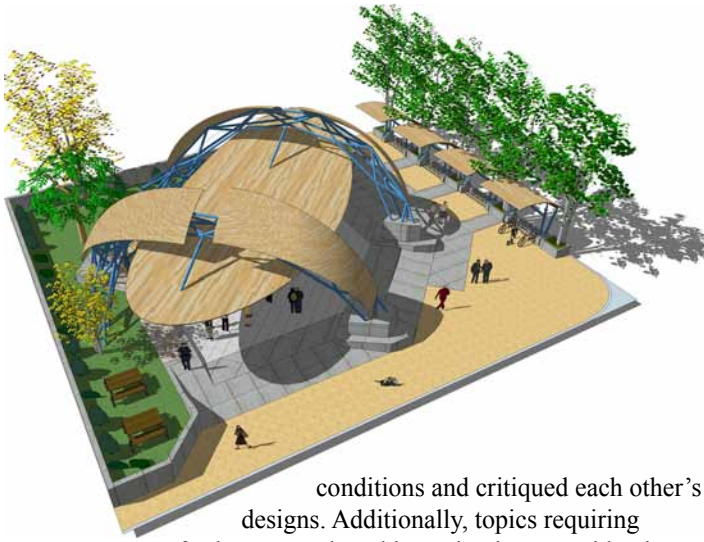
The students conducted on-site interviews with people at the market; met with representatives of the farmers' market, the local business association and local gardeners; and even discussed the role of public art with a local artist, Matthew Harwood -- who is a graduate of the architecture school, an artist at the Torpedo Factory and a leader of Alexandria's Commission for the Arts' Public Art Committee. One of the highlights of the semester -- because it was wholly different from normal school work -- was a meeting with city representatives of Planning and Zoning, Building and Fire Code, and Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities. Only after having gained insight into the community's needs, both from the residents and the administrators, did the students start designing.



The design process focused on strict adherence to incorporating the program requirements expressed by the community. Students continued collaborating, both among themselves and with my office, Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, which hosted bi-weekly discussion sessions and pin-ups. At these sessions, students sought to understand the community's desires, analyzed site







myth that the general public is indifferent or hostile to design. On the contrary, this served as first hand experience for the students to infuse conceptual designs with valuable meaning and a sense of place. The designs were presented to the community at a local meet and greet event and were on display at A Show of Hands, a business in the heart of Del Ray. Received enthusiastically by the public, they have sparked a conversation about design possibilities for the Farmers' Market. And, best of all, the public art committee for the district has adopted the idea and intends to move the project forward. To see more images of the project, please visit:


[www.gbrarch.com/farmersmarket.htm](http://www.gbrarch.com/farmersmarket.htm).

conditions and critiqued each other's designs. Additionally, topics requiring further research and investigation were identified and assigned, and the discoveries were shared with everyone and incorporated into the designs. Ultimately, the concepts drew largely from the following influences:

- The industrial, railroading past of Del Ray (Potomac West)
- The current vibrant, colorful and artistic streetscape and vibe
- The open air market building type and the idea of local resource harvesting
- The celebratory nature of a community pavilion

The end result proved successful and enriching for the students and the community. The collaborative public process helped dispel the






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## From VSAIA / Virginia Center for Architecture

### Off the Wall: Intersections of Art and Architecture Through August 29

Explore the relationship between art and place and see how that relationship has changed dramatically over the past 40 years. Opening reception is on June 17, 5:30-7:30p. Register by calling (804) 644-3041, ext. 100 or by email to [aliguori@aiava.org](mailto:aliguori@aiava.org).

### Dominion Exhibition Series presents American Ruins September 9-November 28

Explore the relationship between art and place and see how that relationship has changed dramatically over the past 40 years. Opening reception is on June 17, 5:30-7:30p. Register by calling (804) 644-3041, ext. 100 or by email to [aliguori@aiava.org](mailto:aliguori@aiava.org).

### Awakening the Bauhaus: Innovation through the Integration of Art, Craft and Technology August 5, 6:00-7:00p.

Join Tektonics, a firm featured in Off the Wall: Intersections Between Art + Architecture, for a discussion on projects reflecting the collaboration between artists, designers and craftsmen. \$5; free for members. Register online at <http://ga6.org/vca/events/bauhaus/details.tcl> or call (804) 644-3041 x100.

### Contemporary Art + Architecture in the Classroom August 11, 9:00a-noon.

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### Rhode Island Station

#### Lessard Group

Lessard Group's design for the Rhode Island Metro Station Mixed-Use Development in Washington, DC has officially started construction with a groundbreaking ceremony held on May 18, 2010. The ceremony was attended by Washington, DC's Mayor Adrian Fenty.

The project is a \$107 million transit-oriented development that combines 274 Class A apartments with 70,000 SF of ground-floor shops and restaurants, and a new metro commuter garage on an 8.5-acre site adjacent to the existing metro station.

This transit-oriented project has been recognized for its smart growth and green design, including immediate access to public transportation, innovative shared parking, walkability and connectivity, a green roof, and energy-efficient systems and building materials.

It is the first private project in the nation to combine FHA financing – typically used for multi-family – with the U.S. Treasury's New Markets Tax Credits that typically are used for non-residential applications. A smorgasbord of financing tools were used: an FHA mortgage on the entire property through the HUD 220 program, New Markets Tax Credits on the entire property, a payment in lieu of taxes, and also private sponsor equity from the developer.

Championed by Mayor Fenty and the District of Columbia City Council, Rhode Island Station is a public-private partnership being developed by Bethesda-based Urban Atlantic and Baltimore-based A&R Development Corp. The general contractor is Bozzuto Construction.





## Professional Practice

**Now What? From Associate to AIA** - Our Chapter's ARE Prep Seminars conclude on July 21 with a new session on transitioning from intern to architect. This session will be held on July 21, from 6:30-8:30p at AECOM in Arlington. For additional information, visit the Chapter website's ARE page:

[http://www.aianova.org/prof\\_are.php](http://www.aianova.org/prof_are.php)

**AIA CES Discovery Launches in October** - AIA CES Discovery is AIA's new Learning Management System, which will assume CES records management from the University of Oklahoma in October. The system will be completely web-based and will offer a single point of contact for AIA CES needs, on-demand credit updates and transcript access, easier self-reporting, customized course searches, the ability to submit course evaluations online and centralized data administration. Additional information may be found on the AIA website:

<http://www.aia.org/education/ces/AIAB083306>

Questions can be directed to [ces@aia.org](mailto:ces@aia.org).

**Free Membership for New Grads** - As a 2010 graduate from an accredited school of architecture, you can receive a free AIA membership at the Associate level for both National and AIA Northern Virginia through December 31, 2011. Signing up couldn't be simpler. Just download your membership application at [www.aia.org/join\\_grad](http://www.aia.org/join_grad) to get started. Use promotional code "NewGrad10." Provide a copy of your diploma when you submit your application. Benefits include:

- IDP support, including help finding IDP coordinators and mentors
- ARE study resources
- AIA Career Center help in finding professional opportunities
- The online Emerging Professional's Companion
- Subscriptions to several newsletters and magazines
- National Associate Committee programs, activities and resources
- AIA Member Communities to help you network and share your interests
- State and local AIA events, activities, support and networking

**AIA Contract Documents New Release** - Documents version 4.3 was released in June. The documents include two new IPD agreements that complete the set of IPD agreements for the SPE family and a new Pro Bono agreement that will be available for free on AIA Documents-on-Demand. Information is available here:

<http://www.aia.org/contractdocs/AIAB083050>.

**The AIA Trust is once again offering a comprehensive health insurance program** for AIA employee groups. There are flexible plans including PPO and consumer-directed plans, as well as options such as health savings accounts and pharmacy benefits. For additional information, visit the AIA Trust website here:

<http://www.theaiatrust.com/hc.php>.

## FYI

**Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA** (AIA Blue Ridge Chapter) was elected 2011-12 Institute Secretary at the AIA Convention in Miami. Known to many Virginia architects, Helene has served in numerous leadership positions in the AIA, including president of AIA Blue Ridge and Virginia Society. She has also been a member of the AIA National Board, serving as vice president in 2000. Additionally, for the last ten years Helene has held a number of leadership posts as a staff member at AIA Headquarters. A 1981 graduate of Virginia Tech, Helene is currently the principal of **The Plum Studio**, which she founded in 2009.

**The Lukmire Partnership** was awarded a contract to design a new Plum Gar Neighborhood Recreation Center in Germantown, MD. Plans call for the current building to be rebuilt as an environmentally friendly structure that is more than twice the size of the existing facility, designed to achieve a Silver LEED® rating.

**Davis Carter Scott** has been awarded the 2010 Bronze Award by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of IIDA for their design of Hollingsworth LLP, a DC law firm. The award-winning design, created by a team led by **Lena Scott** and **Christine Garrity, IIDA**, embodies the themes of strength, integrity and longevity, contrasted with contemporary concepts of innovation and modernism.

**MulvannyG2 Architecture** won one of only five awards bestowed by the International Council of Shopping Centers for their Future Image Architecture Competition which asked firms to speculate "big box" store design 50 years from now. MulvannyG2's ReStart, ReConnect, ReVive, ReTurn, ReClaim, ReEnvision, won in the Green category for an entry that offers a six-step sustainable strategy for adapting abandoned large format stores into new uses.

**MulvannyG2** also announces the addition of Senior Associate **Robert McClennan, AIA**. Robert is a certified Construction Document Technologist and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland's School of Real Estate Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received a BArch from the University of Virginia and a MArch from the University of Maryland, earning the AIA's Henry Adams Medal in 2001, which recognizes a program's top-ranking graduate student.

**Perkins+Will** announces its Arlington Free Clinic project has been awarded a trio of firsts - becoming the first LEED Gold Certified Free Clinic in Virginia, as well as the nation, and the first LEED Gold healthcare facility in Arlington County. The project team focused on one shared vision: to design and construct a clinic through open, honest collaboration that was efficiently planned, completed within a modest budget, utilizing recycled, regional, renewable and non-toxic materials to create a space that inspires healing.

The Thurmont Regional Library in Frederick County, MD, designed by **PSA-Dewberry**, has been recognized with a 2010 Award of Excellence for Best Institutional Facility by the MD/

DC Chapter of NAIOP. The new building highlights the rural community's agricultural heritage and uses local sustainable materials. PSA-Dewberry is also working on a major expansion and renovation at the Glen Allen Library in Richmond. Set for completion this fall, the project will be the first LEED® building for the Henrico County Public Library System.

**Clark Nexsen Architecture & Engineering** celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. To commemorate this occasion, the firm hosted a reception on June 24 where the firm was recognized by the USGBC for achieving LEED Gold Certification for the design and construction of their DC offices. The firm also introduced their 90 Days to our 90th Anniversary campaign, which celebrates the firm's innovative milestones along with DC's rich architectural history.

**Clark Nexsen** also announces that the firm has been awarded the first-ever Excellence in Construction Information Award (Innovation category) from CSI and SCIP for their original sustainable design document, An Approach to Systems. Under the leadership of **David Keith**, Director of Architecture, Clark Nexsen's team of student interns created the document for a specific project, but it is now used as a resource for projects firm-wide.

**Lew Brode, PE, LEED AP BD+C**, Senior Vice President/Branch Manager of **GPI / Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.**, was named one of 2010 Consulting-Specifying Engineers 40 Under 40 Winners. Lew was selected as one of 40 most up-and-coming engineers nationwide under the age of 40. Lew leads his team emphasizing the importance of balancing responsiveness and flexibility with excellence in engineering design.

**John J. Bisch**, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, has been promoted to Principal at **Hickok Cole Architects**. John works closely with every project team, while simultaneously managing the daily operations of the firm.

**O'Donnell & Naccarato** was recognized by the Delaware Valley Association of Structural Engineers with their 2010 Outstanding Project Award for the University Medical Center of Princeton currently under construction in Plainsboro, NJ. The new hospital, designed by joint venture architects HOK and RMJM, utilizes the latest innovations in the design of healthcare facilities.

## Membership Update

### New Members

Param Vir Bedi, AIA  
Patrick J. Casey, AIA, Studio PCA  
Aiheidan Rouzi, Assoc. AIA, Greenwich Architects  
Joseph Michael Sullivan, Assoc. AIA, The Law Offices of Joseph M. Sullivan, P.C.

### Returning Member

Michael S. Ghorbanian, AIA, Architectural Design Studio

### Transfer In

Susana Kyrgos, Assoc. AIA, HDR-CUH2A, from AIA UK

### Upgrade to Architect

Joanna R. Borowska, AIA, Davis Carter Scott, Ltd.

## Calendar

### July

- 10 ARE - Schematic Design
- 12 Board Meeting, AIA Headquarters, 4:30p
- 13 Starting & Managing a Small Firm, 6:30p
- 20 2009 IRC Significant Changes, 8:45a
- 21 ARE - Now What?
- 21 Women in Architecture Happy Hour
- 23 High Performance Houses, 10:00a

### August

- 3-5 DesignDC
- 18 Women in Architecture Happy Hour

### September

- 13 Board Meeting, 4:30p
- 13 Tour of HITT Contracting, 6:00p
- 15 Lunch Series

### October

- 11 Board Meeting, 4:30p
- 19 Annual Dinner & Honors Celebration

### November

- 3-5 ArchEx, Richmond
- 8 Board Meeting, 4:30p
- 13 Board Retreat
- 17 Lunch Series

### December

- 13 Board Meeting, 4:30p

For additional details and updated event listings, please visit:

[www.aianova.org](http://www.aianova.org)

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RTKL Associates, Inc.  
Setty & Associates  
VELUX Skylights, Sun Tunnels, and Solar Hot Water  
VHB/Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
Waterworks