What do you think, when you think green?

Shades of Green

I'm very Green, I travel around in my own house.

Our annual Leagueline members issue.

www.alnnj.org
It is hard to believe we are at the fourth quarter already; hopefully all of you took time to get away for a few weeks this summer and enjoy the weather. The highlight of the third quarter was our Ninth Annual Golf Outing held at Apple Ridge Country Club. For those of you who missed out, the rain just missed us; in fact it stopped drizzling only hours before our shotgun start. The sun came out and it turned out to be a beautiful day at an equally beautiful course. The food and venue proved perfect, and we are looking forward to returning to Apple Ridge again next year. Please remember to thank all of our vendors who helped to make this event possible. In particular, a special thanks to Ellen and Donna from Pella who helped everything run smoothly at the registration desk and managed to bring in our highest 50/50 raffle in history.

In August we had our monthly meeting at the Flat Rock Nature Preserve in Englewood with Gene Murphy from Promedia as our guest speaker. Fay put together a great Chinese dinner for the event in honor of the Olympics. We also held a special event, a hardhat tour of Xanadu. Unfortunately due to site constraints, we had to limit the event to only a handful of members. But for those who were able to make it, it was a memorable event. Thanks to Manny and Turner for allowing us access to this site and I would encourage those of you who weren’t able to join us, to check out the photos http://flickr.com/groups/alnnj.

Our September event was held at Van Dyk Assisted Living Facility. Designed by, LAN Associates, President Ken Karle, AIA, PE was on hand to describe the design process and general principles behind successful Alzheimer and assisted living units. Our keynote speaker was Tom Ward from Finelite, a lighting company in California. In accordance with our sustainable theme this year, he spoke about sustainable lighting for today’s offices. Finelite is undergoing further product research with their task lighting workstation solutions. Several of our members will be working with them to provide client locations to test their lighting solutions and provide product feedback.

We have three exciting events coming up to round out the year. I would encourage those of you we haven’t seen this year, to come join us. On October 16th we have guest lecturer Douglas Casper coming to speak on Sustainable Communities and Fay is planning an Oktoberfest to celebrate the event. Only a few days later, Joe David is organizing another not-to-be-missed walking tour of New York City. This one is entitled, “From Battery Park City to Gansevoort Market”. In November we are very excited to have received confirmation that Chuck Hoberman will be coming to speak. Mr. Hoberman is internationally known for his transformable structures. Through his products, patents and structures, Hoberman demonstrates how objects can be foldable, retractable and shape-shifting. This event will be our Arthur Davis Lecture and our Annual Spouse Night.

As we close out the year, don’t forget to mark your calendar for our upcoming Installation Dinner on Saturday, January 17th. It will be a time to reflect on the year, and wish good luck to our incoming president Frank Cunha. Kevin Gore is organizing the event and the details are being kept top secret. I am confident it will be an amazing event.

A special thanks to Fay our 4Q editor, for doing an excellent job as always on this issue. We hope you enjoy Shades of Green and hope to see you soon.

Kim V. Vierheilig, AIA
AIA-ALNNJ President 2008
Shades of Green

The 4Q issue of Leagueline is the ALNNJ membership’s opportunity to participate with colleagues in creating a design statement of relevance to our profession and our lives. The subjects of focus have varied from “What Are Our Passions”, “What We Do” – twice (personal and professional), “What and How We See” (visual images and their import to us). GREEN has become the word of the decade if not the new millennium. Its meaning has evolved from a word whose original meaning was a color (and still valid as such) to one which connoted inexperience, environs, nausea (all color bound) the very broad meaning which is probably foremost in peoples’ minds today (again, still color bound). The 2008 4Q issue is to be an exploration of what GREEN means to us. It is meant to coax out the particular and perhaps completely idiosyncratic meanings of the word that our members have/hold. We all know the general; now let us think briefly or in depth about what GREEN can mean to us. Be it a personal reiteration of a broadly know or held concept, or a very intimate item, event, place or idea which comes to mind, share with us to create a patchwork of this incredibly meaning-full word, GREEN.

As a child, “green architecture” literally meant the modest home my parents purchased two years before my birth. It was the home I grew up in, in which I sketched buildings and cities on every scrap of paper I could find. This prompted my father to predict I would one day be an architect, long before I knew what “Green Architecture” would come to mean.

Paul S. Bryan
LAN Associates

When I think of green, I think of a green garden roof. Green Paks™ modules are movable, repositionable, flexible, and truly sustainable.

The attached photo is of a 2 year old project in mid-town Manhattan.

More info at www.greenvroofblocks.com

Doug Schanz
Cambridge Products Group LLC.
I would like to send in this little item which I built two years ago from discarded wood pallets. Shown in the photo are two white benches located on my outdoor patio in Edgewater. However, you very closely at the white bench shown you may see the profile of a wooden pallet which is cut in two, reassembled and reconfigured with additional salvaged pieces. Each bench platform is connected to four legs with 16-4 inch carriage bolts, washers and nuts. A few applications of an oil based paint known as Kilz prevents further degradation from all year round exposure to the elements. Additionally, I have used this very same type of salvaged wood to build many pieces of interior furniture (sofas, end tables, coffee tables and wine racks). They were published many years ago in Better Homes and Gardens.

Richard Bettini, Associate AIA

Every time my family and I spend time enjoying the clean outdoors, I am grateful for the opportunity. This summer, the beaches of LBI were especially clean and clear, thanks to greater efforts to avoid medical waste and other contaminants of our coast. To me, green means modeling a lifestyle for my family that demonstrates a thoughtfulness to our community, our neighbors and our planet. I get scared thinking about what the earth might be like for my children, and their children, and so on. THANKS WALL-E! Every little step we can take each day works toward the effort of reversing the damage we may have already created through ignorance or selfishness. Hopefully, through these efforts towards change, the next generation will behave responsibly as their natural, everyday behavior, rather than needing “remember” to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Stacey Ruhle Kliesch, AIA

Typically “green” is thought of in regards to architecture as LEED certified buildings and/or new building products that are manufactured using less resources or of recycled materials. Something maybe not thought of which I’m involved in and is certainly “green” are the many environmental organizations listed below that fight every day for open space, our environment, sustainability, trees, animals, etc. Please look into these groups and consider helping them. Most if not all of them keep you well informed as to what they do and why it’s important.

Natural Resources Defense Council
Arbor Day Foundation
E Defense
National Parks Association
The Wilderness Society
Earthjustice
Defenders of Wildlife
Sierra Club
Audubon

John Beyer Fitzgerald, Associate AIA
Scott F. Lurie, Architect

Green is designing a great addition to a home – instead of knocking down and building new!

Malka van Bemmelen, Architect, AIA

What do I think of, when I think Green?

I think of the green movement in architecture and construction. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to be very involved in the green movement.

I feel that we are now in the second wave of the green movement. The first wave focused on educating ourselves and the public on the effects of global warming and climate change and then showing how building design can help address those issues while, at the same time, making buildings cost less to operate and create a healthier, more productive work environment. During the first wave we researched and found that high performance, healthier buildings do not cost much more to build – if the process was started early and integrated well.

The second wave of green focuses mostly on energy efficiency, including better envelope and daylighting design. Enough doubt has been cast in the minds of the public that climate change actually exists or that we can do anything about it, that most people are not focused on addressing this problem directly. My hope is that the climate change issue will come back even stronger, when less deniable evidence is made available. Hopefully it is not too late to do something about it.

Patrick LaCorte, AIA
Principal
DMR Architects
This project is a renovation of the original Hostess Cupcake Factory in Hoboken. The building's shell was preserved and restored the interior was gut renovated for commercial retail use. The total floor area is 36,000 SF. This building has a new intensive "Green Roof". The owner is Larry Bijou and the contractor was DelSano Contracting, completed 2007.

Dean Marchetto, AIA, PP, CNU
Dean Marchetto Architects PC

This really innovative recycle station in the Cafe of the ECHO Lake Champlain Museum in Burlington Vermont teaches as well as serves.

Fay W. Logan, AIA
SNS Architects & Engineers, PC

"Green is dining – Outstanding in the Field, on local organic foods with 150 of your best new friends."
East End Community Organic Farm – East Hampton
Helen M. Logan, AIA
SNS Architects & Engineers, PC

"Everything Old is New Again!"
Joseph A. Bianco, AIA

Often we try too hard, when the "shades of green" is right out of my window.
Ben P. Lee, AIA, Partner
NK Architects

This image represents to me what being 'green' is all about...a respect for nature.
The lighthouse is the Curtis Light at Camden Maine.
Anthony Iovino, AIA, LEED
Arcari + Iovino Architects PC

"The USA has the best wind in the world.
Sometimes we try too hard, when the "shades of green" is right out of my window.

Ben P. Lee, AIA, Partner
NK Architects

The last week of August, I was one of 50,000 people attending an annual event called “Burning Man” which takes place in Black Rock City, a desert in Nevada. There I learned and lived the Leave No Trace principle which is to minimize your impact on the natural environment. At this event, known for innovative self-expression, each person strives to conserve and reduce consumption; avoid even the minutia of litter on the pristine desert; use renewable energy sources to power campsites, art, and vehicles; be a good neighbor; and give back to ones’ environment.

The principles of Leave No Trace are to avoid degradation of the land, however participants are encouraged to extend this principle beyond the Playa to achieve self-reliance and personal responsibility in everyday life.

We as leaders of the Design Community can extend the Leave No Trace concepts into our life and our work by encouraging environmental awareness through the use of new methods and technology which are environmentally viable.

Joyce Raspa-Gore, AIA

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) independent certification process is a stringent oversight program of forest management and environmental practices. It ensures that wood raw material used in the manufacture of wood products and paper, originates from well-managed certified forests, is legally logged, and not from protected forest areas.

FSC Chain of Custody certification means that a product that carries the FSC label is made of pulp or paper that has passed through a complete 'chain of custody'. From a FSC Certified forest to an FSC Certified paper manufacturer, merchant and printer. The intent of the FSC system is to enlighten corporations and the public as to their responsibility to eliminate habitat destruction, water pollution, displacement of indigenous peoples, and violence against people and wildlife that often accompanies logging.

FSC Certified paper products and FSC Certified printers maintain the Chain of Custody to clearly and accurately promote environmental best practices. Support sustainable design and inspire others to do the same. More information is available at www.fsc.org

A note from your graphic designer Bruce Zahor
I am often asked by my students in my “Green Practices” class and by other practitioners “what makes a firm green?” While there are many answers, Jason F. McLennan, writing in “The Philosophy of Sustainable Design” laid out what I think is an easy to understand (and follow) road map that includes five basic phases: The Brown-Green Phase, The Light Green Phase, The Green-Green Phase, The Dark Green Phase and The Living Green Phase.

The first phase - Brown-Green - is a firm that has no interest in going green. These firms will continue the status quo and not grasp the enormity of the opportunity that sustainable design offers us both in business and personal reward. The second phase - Light Green - is a firm that is starting to learn the buzzwords or jargon. These firms are starting to think about green issues; perhaps they’ve read a few articles and some energetic people in the firm are interested, but they have not really done anything except talk about it. In the third phase - Green-Green - the firm is beginning to have an interest and wanting to know more information about the technologies and starting to seek and identify with clients who want their projects to be sustainable. The will to change has manifested itself in developing responsive strategies on a small scale. The fourth phase - Dark Green - will begin when the firm starts to incorporate holistic design principles into the practice of architecture from bottom to top. In the fifth phase - Living Green - firms will have designed or built green sustainable projects and will share the problems and successes with their community.

Dr. Jonathan Johnson of the University of Arkansas has pointed out that anything as hot as “sustainability” currently is, will of course have a bit of faddishness about it. But in reality, there are very real reasons to believe that there is an essential validity to the subject. Looking at trends in supply/demand and issues associated with energy and other resource depletion point to the need for concerted stewardship of the environment and conscious resource conservation.

Being a green firm has rewards both on a personal level as well as on a business opportunity level. According to Johnson, “Companies that intelligently incorporate sustainability into their strategies-versus those that manage it as just another function-generate returns on both sides of their ledger”.

It is interesting, and on point, to consider that there is more than one side to our ledger. In fact all of the various systems used to measure high performance building — including, but not limited to LEED, Green Globes and SPIRIT — incorporate the Three E’s; Ecology, Economy, Equity. Each is emphasized to some extent in each principle, standard or rating system, and each also impacts more than our financial bottom line.

Suzanne Sowinski, AIA, LEED-AP is the Director of Sustainable Strategies at Sowinski Sullivan Architects, PC in Sparta and a member of the faculty of the Sustainable Design Program at the Boston Architectural College.
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Dan Fiedler
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Annual Golf Outing a Big Success

On July 14, 2008 The Architect’s League held its Ninth Annual Golf Outing at the Apple Ridge Country Club in Mahwah, NJ. We had a huge number of both architects and vendors turn out for the event – 112 golfers in total. The event was able to raise over $7,500 dollars of money for League Scholarships. The golf committee would like to thank all those members and vendors who attended and supported the event. Hope to see all of you next year.

A special thanks to the following vendors:

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Cocktail Hour: Microdesk

T-shirt: Michael Halebian, Office Furniture Partnership, National Gypsum, International Masonry Institute, Promedia, Masonry Contractors of NJ
Xanadu Tour
The Meadowlands, August 2008

In August the League held a special event, a hardhat tour of Xanadu. Unfortunately due to site constraints, we had to limit the event to only a handful of members. But for those who were able to make it, it was a memorable event. Thanks to Manny and Turner for allowing us access to this site and I would encourage those of you who weren’t able to join us, to check out the photos http://flickr.com/groups/alnnj.

Renewable Energy & HS Design Competition
Englewood, June 2008

The architect's League held its June event at the Crowne Plaza in Englewood, N.J. We would like to thank the evening’s cocktail sponsor Corporate Facilities Incorporated for their generosity. As part of the evening’s events the winners of the Spring 2008 High School Design Competition were announced. Jeremy Vine and Angelo Agrifile of West Essex Regional High School were awarded certificates and prizes. Their entry was chosen by Architects League members who voted among the four top finalists at the ALNNJ May Meeting at Becton Dickinson.

The speaker for the evening was Jose Alcala from Renewable Energy Laboratory (RELAB). RELAB is an interdisciplinary consulting firm specializing in the design and research of on-site energy harvesting systems for the urban environment. RELAB’s focus is in the integration of solar electric, solar thermal and wind generation into the architecture of the building where skin, form and material are optimized to be both performative and aesthetic.

Concept of Network Design
Flat Rock, August 2008

The Architect’s League held its August meeting at Flat Rock Brook Nature Preserve. The speaker for the evening was Gene Murphy from Promedia. Founded in 1992, Promedia Technology Services, Inc. is a premier regional network integrator, Promedia provides a range of increasingly complex network integration, engineering and installation services, principally to elementary, secondary schools as well as State and Local government offices in New Jersey. The lecture explained the core concepts of network design as it pertains to the installation of data, wireless and physical security networks. Additionally, it covered the various components required for the successful installation of data, wireless and physical security systems.
John Robert “Bob” Gilchrist, AIA 1924 - 2008

It is with our deepest sadness we note the passing of one of our members, John Robert “Bob” Gilchrist: September 26, 1924 - August 22, 2008. On behalf of the Board we extend our prayers and condolences to John's family and friends.

Raised in Cootseyville NJ, graduate of Ft Lee High School, served in WWII aboard the destroyer USS Ullman fighting in the South Pacific. Received a Bachelors of Architectural Engineering from Catholic University and a Masters of Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

He practiced architecture in his own firms John Robert Gilchrist AIA and The Gilchrist Partnership AIA from 1955 through his retirement in 1981, and was responsible for over one thousand projects including many notable churches, schools, office buildings and other structures throughout New Jersey. St. Elizabeth RC Church in Wyckoff, the Brookside School in Allendale, Bergen Technical Schools in Paramus, International Crossroads in Mahwah, and Continental Plaza Office Buildings in Hackensack are some examples.

Bob was a long time member of the American Institute of Architects, the NJ Society of Architects and the Architects League of Northern New Jersey. He served on the New Jersey Society of Architects Board of Directors 1975 through 1982, serving as president in 1978. He was the originating chairman of the Public Relations Committee, founded the Spring Continuing Education program which was held at Princeton University, ran the annual NJSA golf outing, and the Beaux Arts Ball which served as a fund raiser for the NJIT School of Architecture.

He is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Bergenfield.

He was married to Margaret Julien Gilchrist, and together they raised three sons, John, Robert and Thomas, in the house he designed and built in Upper Saddle River, NJ. They retired to Long Beach Island, and later moved to Palm City, FL.

He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 58 years, sons John of Upper Saddle River and Tom of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and his sister Miriam Blades. John is an architect with his own firm in Montvale, NJ. John is married to Angela Palazzo MD and they have two sons, Will, a sophomore at The University of Massachusetts, and Andy, a freshman at Stevens Technical Institute. Tom is an architect in Colorado. He is married to Stacy Kuciejski Gilchrist and they have a daughter Lila, 5, and a son Olsen, 1. Son Robert, an interior designer, passed away in 1991.
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