Emerging Professionals

Emerging Technologies
It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the 2010 President of the Architects League. With my team of highly dedicated Officers and Trustees it has been a truly great year. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment and service to our organization. Together we have provided the membership a wealth of outstanding programs throughout the year. We have supported rising architectural students by providing scholarships to three college students. We have reached out to the National Association of Minority Architects, and other organizations, in an effort to increase and show our support for diversity in the profession. We have maintained a high level of communication with our members through both the outstanding Leagueline quarterly publication and regular electronic communications. We have had many interesting and educational speakers and presentations at meetings to advance professional development while meeting our educational requirements. We have continued the success of the Golf Outing and the Trade Show through member and sponsor participation.

All of these events take planning and organization. I urge each of you to volunteer your service to the Architects League — in some way. By offering your assistance on a committee or with an event, and by securing vendor and sponsor participation and support at our events - it will ensure the League’s success in the coming year. I guarantee that you will receive great personal reward from your involvement while advancing the Architectural Profession.

In closing, please join me in welcoming the incoming President, Ben Lee, AIA and the 2011 Officers and Trustees. With your support, I am sure Ben and his team will lead the Architects League to new levels of success. Thank you.

Joyce Raspa, AIA, Esq.
AIA-ALNNJ President 2010

During my 35+ year career in Architecture, I have seen our profession erode over time. In many circumstances, we have become a commodity, a profession that is struggling to survive, especially in this economic recession.

It is essential that we gain control and transform the image of our profession. Fundamentally architecture is still a well-respected profession. It is our responsibility to develop leadership, knowledge base, specialization, innovation and be an advocate for our profession.

I believe AIA is an organization that can provide us with the resources to build a sound foundation for our professional practice; a foundation that will enable us to be the leader, the innovator, the designer, the specialist, the problem solver, because architecture is the profession that is responsible for the built environment. We have the ability to guide the future design of a sustainable and livable environment to improve the quality of our lives.

It will be an honor for me to serve you as the President of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey. I will make sure our voice will be heard at the State and National levels.

Very truly yours,

Ben P. Lee, AIA
AIA-ALNNJ President 2011

“I believe AIA is an organization that can provide us with the resources to build a sound foundation for our professional practice”
FROM THE EDITOR:

At the dawn of a New Year, we tend to look toward the future and consider our fate. What will the future bring, and where do we go from here? In this 1Q 2011 edition of Leagueline we examine two components that directly impact the future of our Profession: Emerging Professionals and Emerging Technologies.

Broadly defined, the term “Emerging Professionals” refers to architecture students, interns, and registered architects licensed less than a decade. “Emerging Technologies” refers to the ever-expanding array of CAD software, 3D modeling, rendering, and BIM software that are transforming the ways in which architects do business. While there is no crystal ball to definitively reveal what lies ahead, this quarter’s Leagueline features two articles that offer a glimpse toward where the Profession may be headed.

In this issue, architect John M. Scott, League Trustee and Chairperson of the Emerging Professionals committee, details his experience regarding technology’s impact on the role of the Architect. He describes his initial resistance to, then ultimate embrace of, technology’s increasing influence on the profession, without abandoning “old school” values integral to the essence of building design. Michael Corrente, instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) explains the impact technology has had on the design school curriculum and outlines the challenges facing today’s design students as they enter into the workforce.

While we can’t predict what the future may hold, one thing is certain: our profession will continue to evolve. Emerging Professionals and Emerging Technologies will play a major role in that evolution.

Paul S. Bryan, AIA
1Q 11 Editor
pb@lan-nj.com

Emerging Professionals/
Emerging Technologies

By John M. Scott, AIA

Like most architects, I have had a passion to draw and design for as long as I can remember. My interest in architecture took off in early high school, when I elected to take my first course in technical drafting. Sitting at the tilted drafting table felt pretty comfortable, using the T-square, protractor, compass, electric eraser and mechanical lead pencils… brushing the eraser dust off the vellum and re-taping the corners with drafting dots. During my history and biology classes I would often doodle my ideas on paper, then spend hours in the drafting room transforming my freestyle sketches into hard-lined drawings, often staying late after school to continue developing my designs. No other class in high school ever captured my interest to this level. I decided to pursue this as my future occupation.

The following year, AutoCAD was introduced on a pair of computers in the drafting room. I recall thinking, What could be the fun in that? I’m sticking with the paper and pencils. Even as AutoCAD drafting became increasingly popular among several of my peers, I felt the desire to hold on to the “altruistic” form of architectural drafting. The idea of relinquishing my familiar drafting tools and working in a virtual format didn’t sit well with me, as I perceived modern technology as a departure from the traditional hands-on approach to design. Little did I know at the time that computer-aided design was rapidly becoming the industry standard for architects. I fought against it for much too long.

Entering my first year at the Roger Williams University School of Architecture, I was told the curriculum had just been revised to include 2 semesters of CAD drafting as mandatory courses for all freshman students (these classes were previously offered as electives). So I conceded, and learned the fundamentals of AutoCAD and 3D Studio simply to fulfill the basic requirements for these classes. Learning this new platform was intimidating at first, not to mention frustrating. I had no intention of continuing to develop my skills with these programs afterwards. Once I had completed these courses, I reverted back to the old-fashioned method of drafting in the Design Studio for the next several years.

A summer internship following my 4th year of college was a sudden awakening. Less than a week into the job, my manager was sadly disappointed when he realized how limited my proficiency in AutoCAD really was. He would say, “I’m writing a letter to your school and telling them they need to do a better job teaching you kids CAD.” It wasn’t so much my school’s fault; it was my own. Because of my love for hand-drafting – and also because of my stubbornness – I hadn’t applied what I had learned since my freshman year classes. Fortunately, the company kept me on board for the entire summer and my manager was patient enough to teach me how to use AutoCAD in a professional office. That summer I not only re-learned the basic fundamentals of AutoCAD drafting, but I also learned how to apply many additional functions of AutoCAD to prepare complete sets of construction documents. I finally recognized the great benefits of using CAD software as opposed to drafting by hand. The hours that could be saved, the precision and accuracy of detail, the ability to coordinate and reference multiple drawings, and the ease of making revisions to drawings were all major advantages that impacted my point of view. I finally appreciated the value of working in this format.

“I finally recognized the great benefits of using CAD software”

As I became more proficient working with AutoCAD, I became even more gratifying than the old-fashioned method was. In the years that followed I grew increasingly more interested as I embraced the changing technologies of computer-aided design tools.

Today’s emerging professionals are considered to be at a tremendous advantage due to the latest tools and resources available. The technology of our profession is advancing at an unprecedented pace. This generation of recent graduates and aspiring architects is among the first to have been engaged with computers since early childhood. Similar to learning a foreign language, the earlier a person begins to develop their competence with any software, the more adept and fluent he or she will become. We ought to encourage today’s architecture students and young designers to take full advantage of the opportunity to develop their skills in these areas, which will prove to be extremely valuable as they enter the workforce.

Many colleges and universities today are teaching architecture students the latest software applications, which go far beyond the basic wire-frame AutoCAD drafting systems. Utilizing current BIM software, the designer is able to visualize, simulate, and analyze real-world performance of a project, and develop complete sets of design and construction documents with a higher degree of coordination, fewer
“Today’s emerging professionals are considered to be at a tremendous advantage due to the latest tools and resources available”

discrepancies and less redundancy. The designer is capable of producing superior graphic presentations with advanced 3-D renderings and realistic animations, often making it difficult to distinguish a digitally-generated image from a true photograph. With proficiency in these applications, today’s emerging professionals are able to bring an immense value to our offices and a new set of skills, which had never before existed in the history of our profession.

As we continue to embrace these emerging technologies, we must always remember that these advances are, in fact, simply “tools” to assist the designer. The intent of these programs is essentially to help make our jobs easier and improve the quality of our work. These tools should not, and cannot, ever replace our intuition. Computer skills are no match for our brain skills. Regardless of the program that is utilized, it is always a human being who inputs the information; and whether produced by hand or via the latest software applications, the renderings and construction documents are ultimately only as good as the ingenuity of the designer him/herself.

I seriously doubt that any of us grew up with an aspiration to one day be an expert CAD technician. First and foremost, we are design professionals. While we make use of the resources available, we must not allow ourselves to be overly preoccupied with current technology to the point that our conscience is absorbed and our ability to think for ourselves is overtaken. I still believe that an architect’s greatest talent is the ability to translate concepts and ideas freehand onto paper. As we are encouraging this generation of emerging professionals to develop their competence with computer-aided design tools, we also must remind them to never lose sight of what motivated them to pursue architecture in the first place – their passion to draw and design. Advise them to carry a pencil and sketchbook with them everywhere they go, and remind them of the importance of developing their ideas freehand before employing the use of design software. We must also be reminded ourselves, that although we live in a computer-savvy age, we should never be afraid to go “back to the drawing board”.

John M. Scott, AIA is a Trustee for the Architects League and is Chairperson of the Emerging Professionals Committee. Email: jmscott@edificedesign.net www.edificedesign.net

The Impact of Emerging Technology on Education and the Profession

by Michael J. Corrente, M. Arch.

For a few decades now, digital technologies have transformed both architectural education as well as the architectural design profession. The implementation of digital technologies in daily practice is shaping, not only how firms visualize or produce their design proposals, but they are also having an effect on the role that architects play in creating our built environment. Computers offer a wide range of options in how we creatively communicate our designs to the public, our clients and governing agencies. As such, designers are offered the opportunity to choose the medium in which they convey the intent of a design. The analog techniques that came to dominate the long history of architectural communication and representation are quickly being replaced by digital methods that within even the next few generations, will most likely encounter an equally drastic paradigm shift. Admittedly, these drastic changes are speculative, but given the likelihood that these shifts will occur, how will the architectural profession adapt and what effect will this have on the future of design education?

I believe that the prospects made possible by these technological changes will offer the next generation of architects the opportunity to gain an experience that Alfredo Andia alludes to as a secondary plane of “professional culture” (Andia, 2002). Essentially the next generation of architects will practice in a way that more inclusively combines aspects of design, material fabrication and construction. This will require a lot more “partners,” which in turn places a big premium on leadership skills (Cramer and Simpson, 2007). With the design field shifting into a more team-based approach to projects and the impact of digital technologies, designers will need to take the lead and place a value on this skill set. Additionally, the use of BIM type software will cause a reduction in contracts for services, due mostly to the speed at which construction documents can be produced. BIM records and stores building information that in the past could only be obtained by commissioning architects to perform feasibility studies and field verification.

The designer who is a “solitary, head-in-the-cloud visionary, existing mostly in a dream world of their own imagining, neither particularly practical nor overly interested in meeting schedules or budgets” is a thing of the past (Cramer and Simpson, 2007). Designers will be even more responsible, especially to their clients, for making sure every component of a project is correct. This may seem grim, but the use of BIM software, if used properly, will not only be a source of generating aesthetic scenarios, but whole project solutions. Design analysis software is available that simulates the performance of a project within the context of its environment, thus allowing complete control and performance monitoring of a project before it is built. The role of the designer becomes the controller of modeling and product data inputted into the entire project; this then becomes the value component for designers. Consequently, this will put higher demands on consultants who want to be part of a design team. They will need to be versed in BIM software and have a thorough understanding of documentation through a 3d modeling platform.

Due to the extensive use of digital technologies in every part of our lives, it is changing not only the profession but also how educators incorporate these tools into the design curriculum. In the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, it is our belief that we must prepare our students to be comfortable with various technologies and software so that they enter the profession with a broad skill set, allowing them to
perform at a high level of competency. We have begun to incorporate digital media and modeling technologies in the early stages of a student’s education. Pedagogically, we are exposing them to multiple methods of visualization techniques to design and illustrate their projects.

In the past years, the curriculum separated the use of computers primarily in technology-based courses from others. These courses were usually held in separate computer labs which isolated students from their studio space. The computer became a tool disjointed from the process of design: it was an external element that impeded the design process (Kalisperis, 1994). Our school now requires all students to have a laptop computer, with appropriate software, by the second year of their studies. This provides us an opportunity to have students constantly work in digital format and apply the use of the software to the design process. It allows us to teach the students basic components of software packages as it applies to design, graphics, and modeling. By doing this, students explore the software further on their own while being able to produce the necessary visualizations to communicate their design intent.

To take the implementation of digital technologies further, we at UNLV are using the resources of our school’s Simulation Lab. The lab provides us with 2D and 3D fabrication machines. Since our students are already simulating their designs in 3D, they can use the digital files to produce real scaled model versions throughout their design process. We require our students to make several versions of their designs with the fabrication machines so that they can quickly produce concepts, manipulate them by hand, re-evaluate, revise their digital file, and then produce additional concepts. This allows us to constantly review and consider several design options at one time. It also helps to reduce the production time needed for student presentations because students are able to create visualizations directly from their digital 3D models.

By taking the above steps, we feel our program can provide an education for future designers in a rapidly changing profession. By adding a digital component to a majority of the entire curriculum, we are embracing the advantages, and frankly disadvantages, of current technologies. The students are building an arsenal of digital competence, developing the ability to work in large and small groups, and are gaining comfort and adaptability in using digital technologies. It’s important to note, we have not completely abandoned the teaching of analog techniques. The early part of a student’s career is exposed to achieving the necessary hand drawing and modeling skills to be used throughout their scholarly and professional paths. By providing an education based on both of these skill sets, analog and digital, we feel it will provide a confident student equipped to transition into the profession.

BIM technology will continue to change the role of the architect and the way in which we educate future designers. The next generation of architects will need not only design talent but social, management, and leadership skills. All of these traits will make for a much more accountable and adaptable designer in the near and distant future.

Michael J. Corrente, M. Arch.
Faculty-Landscape Architecture and Planning Program, Coordinator-Simulation Lab, Principal Investigator-U.I.M. (Laboratory for Innovative Media Explorations)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Cited Works:

Michael Corrente teaches computer technology courses and the Urban Design studio for the Landscape Architecture and Planning program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, focusing on the implementation of digital visualization and modeling techniques in higher education, and is former owner of a consulting firm.
michael.corrente@unlv.edu

FOR MORE ON EMERGING PROFESSIONALS...
The July 30, 2010 edition of AIArchitect featured a Special Report: “Emerging Professionals — A Diverse Group Defined by Common Needs” by Kevin Fitzgerald, AIA, Director of the AIA Center for Emerging Professionals (CEP). Some interesting points from the article include:

♣ Age range: 18 – 38 years, but may also include second-career architects in their forties and fifties.
♣ Working Style: Technological revolutions, including social media web sites, have helped make Emerging Professionals “especially adroit in their ability to adapt... They’re getting things built, physically and in cyberspace.”
♣ AIA Engagement: AIA has established the National Associates Committee (NAC) and Young Architects Forum (YAF) to address issues concerning Emerging Professionals. Many components have established mentorship and leadership programs that the CEP is working to highlight.
♣ On the Recession: A recent AIA/NCARB study reveals that of the more than 25% of Emerging Professionals that have been laid off, most see it as a “temporary setback”. 83% of Emerging Professionals still plan to get licensed.

The full text of Mr. Fitzgerald’s article is available online at: http://www.aia.org/practicing/AIAB085554

“BIM technology will continue to change the role of the architect and the way in which we educate future designers”
The annual special member meeting was held on Thursday, November 18th starting in the main waiting room and on the original concourse designed to accommodate 20,000 people, at the Hoboken Ferry Terminal. A tour was given by Kevin Sommers, P.E. of KSI Professional Engineers and Alan Kranz, a NJ Transit representative, immediately followed by a delicious dinner at the newly renovated, world famous Clam Broth House.

At the meeting, members approved the 2011 Slate of Officers and Trustees, and there was a presentation of our ALNNJ Scholarship Awards, followed by a lecture about current Hoboken projects during dinner by Elizabeth Vandor, PP, AICP.

Very special thanks to Rosanne Weber and Cindy Napp at KSI P.E. for all their coordination efforts for this event.
New Codes Adopted in New Jersey

On September 7, 2010, several new codes were adopted for use in NJ including:
- International Residential Code New Jersey edition 2009
- National Standard Plumbing Code 2009
- International Energy Conservation Code 2009
- International Mechanical Code 2009
- International Fuel Gas Code 2009

To learn more visit the NJ Department of Community Affairs website:
http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/codreg/

ALNNJ 2011 BUDGET
Report from Treasurer, Ruth A. Bussacco, AIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Property $2,000</td>
<td>Web Hosting $300.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegliante Award 300.</td>
<td>League Office 500.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Scholarship 1,000.</td>
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<td>Arthur L. Davis Lecture 300</td>
<td>Accounting Fees 650.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues 18,000.</td>
<td>Public Relations –</td>
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<tr>
<td>League Advertisements 14,000</td>
<td>Misc. Committee (food/drink) 200.</td>
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<td>Platinum Sponsorship 5,000.</td>
<td>National Convention (1 person) 2,700.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Sponsorship 3,000.</td>
<td>Tristate AC NJ 1,100.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver Sponsorship 3,000.</td>
<td>Grassroots (2 persons) 2,600.</td>
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<td>Bronze Sponsorship 1,500.</td>
<td>Vegliante Award 500.</td>
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<td>Dinner Meeting Sponsor 2,000</td>
<td>Arthur L. Davis Lecture 1,500.</td>
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<td>Scholarship 7,500.</td>
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<td>Special Events/Tours 400.</td>
<td>Leagueline 24,000.</td>
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<td>Installation Dinner 15,000.</td>
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<td>Trade Show 18,000.</td>
<td>Installation Dinner 17,000.</td>
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<td>Dinner Meetings 25,000.</td>
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<td>Bank Charges 200.</td>
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<td>Golf Outing 22,000.</td>
<td>Golf Outing 26,000.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Income $110,960.  Total Expense $110,960.

Leagueline
The Quarterly Newsletter of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey

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Advances in technology have radically changed the ways in which we administer and perform our work. As professionals, we are right to embrace those technologies that increase our efficiency and production capacity while paying attention to their inherent risks. Given the pace of business today, the tendency to save time and money by skimming over or neglecting a seemingly inconsequential step poses increasingly negative consequences. In spite of this pressure we remain committed to the fundamentals of strong leadership, good communication, quality design and appropriate planning; the core concepts of what we call Intelligent Construction.

― Aaron French
Project Manager

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Tuxedo Park Autumn House Tour
October 23, 2010

October 23 the Historical Society of Tuxedo Park hosted 20 members and friends of the ALNNJ for the 2010 Autumn House Tour. Deborah Harmon – Exec. Director arranged a great day starting with our transportation via TP School Bus (driven by headmaster James Burger himself) which brought us to: a presentation on TP history by Chris Sonne, author of Tuxedo Park – The Historic Houses, an incredible luncheon and tour of the exclusive Tuxedo Club, visits to the TP School and two private residences in this world-famous gated planned community which was the exclusive retreat of the New York “upper crust” during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. The weather and foliage could not have been more accommodating! Special thanks to our house hosts, Chris Sonne and Alexander Salm. And yes, the man’s formal wear is named for the Place.

“Zoning Ridiculousness”
October 21, 2010

The October 21st Members Meeting “Zoning Ridiculousness” was held at the Clinton Inn and was attended by over 80 members. Jerry Eben, AIA; Michael Kates, Esq. (Land Use Attorney); Frank Mottola (Zoning Officer Tenafly); Mike Dipple (Civil Engineer); and Frank Mileto, AIA / Professional Planner participated in a lively roundtable discussion on one of the four AIA NJ Mega Issues: “Zoning Ridiculousness” focusing on a discussion of regional zoning in lieu of individual town to town zoning.
**New Members**

The League is pleased to announce their newest members:

- Natalia Arciszewski, Associate AIA
- Christopher S. Bondur, Associate AIA
- Kevin L. Bray, Associate AIA
- Robert De Pippa, AIA
- Kevin L. Daye, Associate AIA
- Christopher S. Borduin, Associate AIA
- Natalia Arciszewski, Associate AIA

**Milestones**

Robert (Bob) Austin, 60, of Englewood, passed away on Friday, October 29, 2010. Robert was a longtime resident of Bergen County, NJ and a former Allied Member of the Architects League. He was also the former president of Roofers Supplies/Atlantic Group.

Robert was a longtime resident of Bergen County, NJ and a former Allied Member of the Architects League. He was also the former president of Roofers Supplies/Atlantic Group.

**Recommendation:**

**Hoboken Food Tour**

Bring your appetite and your walking shoes as you take a behind-the-scenes-tour in historic Hoboken, New Jersey of the most authentic Italian gourmet food...

**Recommendation:**

**Red Bull Arena**

Visit the beautiful new Red Bull Arena, the state-of-the-art soccer specific facility located in Harrison NJ.

Red Bull Arena

Visit the beautiful new Red Bull Arena, the state-of-the-art soccer specific facility located in Harrison NJ.

**Events**

- **January 2011**
  - **Feb 13**
    - Visit the beautiful new Red Bull Arena, the state-of-the-art soccer specific facility located in Harrison NJ.
  - **Jan 19**
    - President's Day
  - **Jan 21**
    - ALNNJ Membership & Dinner Meeting: Business Development
  - **Jan 29**
    - The Dog Whisperer – Cesar Millan
  - **Feb 13**
    - The Four Tops and Temptations
  - **Feb 15**
    - ALNNJ Membership & Dinner Meeting: Business Development
  - **Feb 24**
    - The Dog Whisperer – Cesar Millan
  - **Mar 17**
    - ALNNJ Membership & Dinner Meeting: Business Development

**Leagueline 1Q 2011**

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey
Announcing A Revolutionary Concept In PL Insurance For NJ Architects: A Choice.

When it comes to professional liability insurance, about the only choice available for architects has been "take it or leave it." With limited options available it’s no wonder so many architects overpay for the coverage they know they need. Or worse, leave themselves exposed because adequate coverage is simply unaffordable.

But there is an alternative, Blue-chip professional liability coverage from a company that knows the profession. Since 1923, Fenner & Esler has been delivering the right amount of coverage and value to professionals and firms of all sizes. We're industry leaders in providing customized coverage plans for design professionals and related companies. We represent numerous "A" rated carriers and can provide coverage that's customized, competitive-and flexible.

Even if you're in the middle of a multi-year policy, we'd be happy to provide a quote on the exact coverage you need.

Now there's only one choice for you to worry about: will you be contacting us by phone, fax or e-mail?

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