

# SARASCOPE



Shelter Box Report

San Diego, CA - 2011 Conference

2011 Celebration of Architecture Calendar

# President's Message



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**Winter!!!** It should be over soon and spring is just around the corner. Our Midwest and eastern seaboard members have been having a wonderful time with some of the worst weather in a long time. The wonderful marmot [ Ground Hog ] Punxsutawney Phil, popped out of his incarceration and did not see his shadow and there in predicted spring would be early this year? And I have some swamp land in Florida!..... We all sympathize with everyone who has had a very cold winter.

Your national board met in Orlando, Florida on January 15th 2011 and enjoyed a good attendance and a good meeting right in the airport Hyatt hotel. The board is working on a number of issues to improve communications with our membership and offer more electronic tools for communication. Eric Kleinstauber and Michael Lindsey from the Florida Council provided a wonderful dinner and wine venue Saturday night in downtown Orlando. Our next board meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri on May 21, 2011 and if you can attend, I would like to invite you to the city of St Louis, it will be a great time and we are planning to visit the Arch on Friday 20th.

Our Regent-at-Large, John Di Benedetto, FARA was able to attend ShelterBox workshop in Washington DC on February 4th and his report is included in this issue of SARAScope.

Coming back to our SARA Philosophy's to: Influence governmental agencies on vital legislative and regulatory actions affecting the profession, building and construction.

This is a subject that is very close to my heart personally for a number of reasons. I live and practice in California, one of the most officious states with more layers of government rules and regulations, agencies and overview, review, design review boards, community planning groups [ advisory and otherwise politically significant ] and then there is the Coastal Commission, and we still have not gotten to the Building Permit or process to securing a building permit.

On the subject of government, the State of California Architects Board decided this year starting in February, to terminate the requirement of an Oral Exam by a committee of three [ 3 ] licensed architects. After successfully passing the normal five part exam, the candidates will now take a Supplemental Examination [ CSE ] Overview that will ensure "they are able to demonstrate minimum standards of competency and necessary architectural knowledge and skills to respond to the unique requirements and conditions of California"

So back to the philosophy of Architects helping Architects [ notice how I got that in ] to influence government, legislative and regulatory agencies. We as architects have more exposure to the governmental process because of our direct interaction with all of the mentioned above in the forefront and first phases of any type of project.

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**SARA  
NATIONAL**  
HEADQUARTERS

**From the Executive Director**

Meet with the National Board in St. Louis, Missouri during our May 21st National Board meeting. The Hilton Hotel downtown near the Arch will be the location for this event. Visit our website for more details on this and other events happening in 2011 at [www.sara-national.org](http://www.sara-national.org).

**Please join us in welcoming the following new members to SARA. . . .**

**Professional Members**

**Michael J. Lopac**, Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

**Congratulations** to Ryan P. Scipione, M.J. Macaluso & Associates, New York, New York on recently becoming a licensed architect.

**Welcome back** to Elliott Vilkas, Elliott Vilkas, RA, New York, New York

**Associate Member**

**Mark L. Bailey, Jr.**, Building Restoration Corporation, Roseville, Minnesota

One of my firm's attributes is success at getting projects approved, so the client can go to the next phase with what ever their goals or direction may be. This has become an art and skill that we have found easy to teach to our team and a natural process that is more people to people, and knowing or studying the particular personality that the City, government or agency may have or emulate.

Architects are natural advocates for all things and issues that affect our industry. We are well educated in building materials, technology, energy conservation, sustainability and most importantly we have the talent to put all these opportunities into a three dimensional object that may enclose space in a creatively artistic form.


Who is better suited for understanding all the building codes, regulations and special requirements that influence the creative artistic forms than an Architect? Some of our members sit on boards and national committees for many of the codes and regulations that influence our work and stifle our creative

process. Some volunteer to sit as member of redevelopment agencies, planning commission and design review boards.

What better time than now to get involved with your community, city, county, or agency and make a difference. Participate in helping make the rules and regulations better for our profession and the process of the built environment. There are a number of major issues facing our industry and its vitality, energy, transportation and natural resources to name a few. Architects understand the basic issues better than anyone.....Get Involved.

Now for those of you who have been reading this issue and all the others since my presidency, I would like to hear from you on this subject or any subject. Since I have had the honor of being president of this great Society, I have been unable to get anyone to respond to my continual request to have people email or write to me or to SARAScope. We welcome your opinions and comments. ■

*John M. Maple, FARA*

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### BOARD MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2011

Board Meetings, Council Activities, Design Award Programs, Continuing Education Seminars and much more – don't miss out on any of these events! Membership invoices for 2008 have been mailed out – there are a few members who have not yet sent in their payment for 2007 membership dues – this will be reflected on the 2008 invoice.

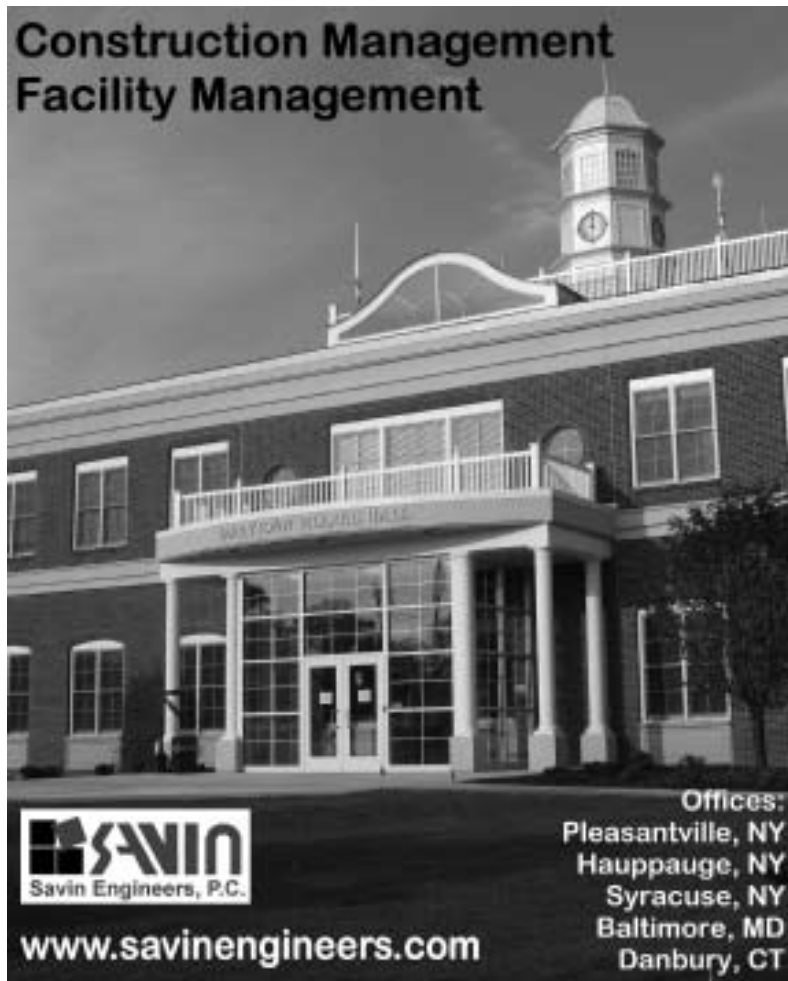
**May 21, 2011:** *St. Louis, MO*  
Hilton Hotel

**October 13-15, 2011:** *San Diego, CA*  
Mark Your Calendars Now to participate in our October 13-15, 2011 National Conference at the Westin GasLamp Hotel, San Diego, California...

#### NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE

Our Society's website [www.sara-national.org](http://www.sara-national.org) has recently been transferred to a newer faster server and our Member database is up and running. Anyone looking for an architect can search our Members by Name, Company Name, City, State, or Project Type. Only your contact information including your company's website will appear. Please, at your earliest opportunity, check your information for accuracy, especially Project Type and the States you're registered or licensed in. Call or email Cathie Moscato with any new information or corrections that need to be revised.

Watch for upcoming newsletters with profiles of our member firms, affiliate members, sponsors and SARAScope advertisers. Please let us know of any information or related links you'd like to see posted. ■



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#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SARA is considering producing and distributing SARAScope in an electronic format and to ensure that we have your current and correct email address we are asking you to contact the National office by phone or email to update our records. Please take a few minutes and either call 888-385-7272, leave your name and email address or send it to [cmoscato@sara-national.org](mailto:cmoscato@sara-national.org). Your membership record will be updated accordingly. Thank you for your time and cooperation with this request. ■

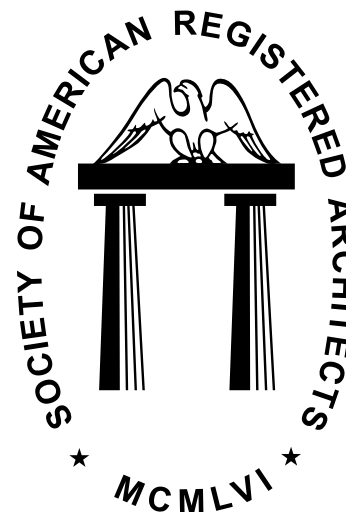
The **PA Council** has a number of events already scheduled for 2011 including a Meet and Mingle event February 18th at Sapphire Bar in Manayunk, PA; a day trip on May 7th to the recently restored Trenton Bath House designed by Louis Kahn in Trenton, NJ. Other events include a roundtable discussion moderated by a local Code Official to discuss minor changes to the way we document projects to facilitate the code review process; an overnight trip to Buffalo, NY to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House Complex; a CEU Seminar with content focused on reviewing major changes to the recently adopted ADA Accessibility Guidelines, ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009, and a CEU Seminar with "Green Law Attorney" to discuss legal issues associates with Owner/Architect agreements for "Green" projects. ■

The **California Council** has a Group on LinkedIn. If you'd like to join the group to discuss issues and topics of interest you can access the site through the <http://www.linkedin.com/home> link. Ken Hess, FARA is the manager of the site.

New legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger requires that all California architects complete coursework on disabled access requirements. Senate Bill (SB1608) also requires that licensees provide the California Architects Board documentation from the course provider s a condition of license renewal. A copy of the form showing the information you need to obtain is available on the California Architects Board website. Generally we will be required to take 5 hours of coursework for a two-year registration cycle. Other courses may become available on-line to

help fulfill this requirement. The following links to online continuing education credits for accessibility are available.

<http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/AIAcourse/menu.htm> and <http://www.architectscs.com> ■



After being postponed due to weather, the **MN Council** January Holiday gathering was a great time with lots of laughs and talk about past SARA events. It was well attended for the small council. The event started out with a brief MN Council Board meeting. During the meeting, the year's board meetings were set and Mark Bailey was appointed by the board to fill the vacant director position. After the meeting, dinner was served and the members took this time to catch up with old friends and new member Michael Lopac was welcomed to the council. The next meeting is schedule for March 25, 2011 at the office of Mark Bailey - Building Restoration Corporation. The meeting will consist of lunch, seminar and board meeting. ■



## COUNCIL NEWS

BIENNALE – O Orlando, Florida, submitted by **Florida Council** Walter Geiger, one of the founders of Biennale O.

### **Vision I: Master/Plan: Visionary Architects and Their Utopian Worlds Biennale O**

The exhibition was presented in the George D. and Harriett Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, Gallery B from the September 9th to December 23rd, 2010. Six internationally recognized visionary Architects/Architectural firms were featured.

The participating architects were Michael Graves, Michael Graves & Associates; Paolo Soleri/Arcosanti; Chad Oppenheim, Oppenheim Architecture & Design; Adrian Smith & Gordon Gill, Adrian Smith & Gordon Gill Architecture Adrian

Smith & Gordon Gill, Adrian Smith & Gordon Gill Architecture LLP; Morris Adjmi (protégé of Aldo Rossi), Morris Adjmi Architects; Geoffrey Warner, Alchemy Architects.

Each architect's selected project(s) were exhibited in variable mediums of drawings, physical Marquette, video presentations, professional photographs and objects of art.

In November successful discussions with the Cornell Fine Arts Museum to be the venue and patron for other exhibitions dealing with the issues of architecture and design took place. To quote Mark Cosgrove, one of the founders of Biennale O, "that was one of our prime objectives, to keep the "dialogue", "conversation", going on what good architecture can mean to a community". ■

shelter  
**BOX**

DISASTER  
RELIEF

What Would  
**YOUR FAMILY**  
Need After a Disaster?



## SHELTER BOX USA

WINTER WORKSHOP 2011  
WASHINGTON, DC

by: **John J. DiBenedetto**, FARA

**At the** request of President John Maple, I was pleased to attend the Shelter Box USA Workshop on February 4 & 5 in Washington DC as a representative of SARA.

Shelter Box International (SBI) was founded in 2000 by Tom Henderson of the United Kingdom. He was relaxing in front of the TV watching a news report of deficient Humanitarian relief efforts in a disaster site somewhere in the world. He was incredulous that in that moment in time, such services were so ineffective. He thought about how he would respond if he were responsible for this work. He went to a hardware store and purchased basic ingredients that he thought victims of a natural disaster would need. He assembled the first Shelter Box in his garage. Eleven years later, he heads a most effective worldwide humanitarian organization. He achieved this in part thru extraordinary networking with organizations across the globe and a special alliance with Rotary International, as well as his belief that failure is not an option.

Since that first day, Shelter Box has responded to 130 disasters around the world in 70 countries and has brought relief to over 70 million people. Shelter Box International's 5-year plan is to be the World leader in disaster relief with the highest quality of goods & services.

You may remember, at the 2010 SARA National Conference in Philadelphia, SARA entered into a Strategic Alliance Partnership with Shelter Box International. Both organizations saw a synergy and opportunity to assist each other in their missions.

Representatives from the U.K., founder Tom Henderson among them, presented inspired presentations looking back at their ten-year history and looking ahead to their immediate and long-range future. The new five-year plan includes the provision of 500,000 Shelter Boxes a year. I am also gratified to share that the Society of American Registered Architects is prominently displayed in their power point presentations as a Strategic Alliance partner.

In 2010, Shelter Box International responded to 25 disaster sites around the world.

The Haiti earthquake is the worst disaster in modern times and left two million residents without hope or dignity. The Port-Au-Prince, Jaomel and Leogane region of the country was destroyed in 90 seconds. It left 250,000 people dead, 300,000 injured and 1.5 million people homeless. Shelter Box International had a Response Team mobilized twelve minutes after news of the quake was broadcast and has, to date, provided 35,000 boxes and 90,000 tents. A hundred thousand

more are needed but not available. SBI needs help!

The information shared in the various presentations and stories from the Shelter Box Reps & Response Team Members is impressive and moving. In addition, SBI prides itself in operating this vast organization with less than ten percent of all donations in Administration expenses. Victims of disasters receive over ninety percent of SBI's resources. No other Humanitarian organization that I know of, can boast that fact.

Volunteers are the heart & soul of Shelter Box International. Those involved with Shelter Box USA, serve as Representatives that share the mission & solicit financial support in their communities from coast to coast, presently in 46 states. Training as a Rep requires an interview process followed by a three-hour training by a Response Team Member.

The Response Team Members (SRT) are those gritty individuals who fly into a disaster area and plant their boots at ground zero when most people are leaving the area. They deal with local governments, if still in operation, clear the Boxes thru customs, secure

a command post, secure a storage site and begin to organize the distribution of Shelter Boxes. There are never enough Boxes!

Imagine the challenge of leaving the comfort of your warm, toasty home and arranging air transportation to a foreign country and the middle of a disaster site. One of the stories I heard was of a Denver woman who could get no closer than a few hundred miles from the site in Chile. She and her team members (usually four people) flew to Santiago, boarded a public bus, and 72 hours later, reached the site to begin their mission. That was when they began their 12 to 15 days of continuous challenges and plans that change at a moments notice. Most times, they report the absence of basic government services and support systems. They impress me as the commandos of the relief corps. Each Team deployment lasts about two weeks after which they are relieved by another Response Team. As challenging as this appears to be all of the Response Team Members report their experiences as life changing and they yearn to return to another deployment.

Training for the SRT is selective and arduous. It begins with a resume & interview process. If selected, the

candidate enters a three-day training in Sarasota Florida. If successful, they enter nine-day training in the U.K. SRT's are not for the feint of heart.

As Strategic Alliance Partners with SBI, SARA members have the opportunity to bring their skills to the partnership and illustrate our special qualities. Some of us may be interested in becoming a Rep or even apply to the SRT program. Alternatively, we may choose to explore the Shelter Box Area Leadership Team (SALT) program. We might allocate a portion of the annual budget to sponsor one Shelter Box a year and request each council to match that commitment. There may be other creative ideas that will occur to you. The President and Executive Board welcome all of your suggestions.

In conclusion, I found the Shelter Box family very much like the SARA family in their hospitality, camaraderie and lethal focus on accomplishing their mission. This grass roots group redefines itself during continuous growth without compromising their integrity or quality of services.

I was overwhelmingly impressed with the people, the stories and the organization. For more information, visit [www.shelterboxusa.org](http://www.shelterboxusa.org). ■



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# THE 1099 BILL OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

**The** health care reform bill passed last year included a new paperwork requirement that has little to do with health care but will dramatically increase paperwork burdens on businesses. The provision states that, starting in 2012, all business payments or purchases over \$600 will need to be accompanied by a Form 1099 filing.

This means that small firms and businesses must obtain the taxpayer ID number, or even the Social Security number, of the individual or corporation to which they are making payment at the time of the transaction, or face IRS penalties. These new 1099 filing requirements disproportionately affect smaller firms, which face mounting fees for tax preparation, or even penalties for non-compliance.

The provision's backers say it will increase compliance with tax laws, but a recent report by the IRS' own Office of the Taxpayer Advocate states that "the new reporting burden, particularly as it falls on small businesses, may turn out to be disproportionate as compared with any resulting improvement in tax compliance." (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/nta2011objectivesfinal..pdf>)

This provision was inserted into the health reform bill without hearings or debate, but now you have a chance to help eliminate it.

The Senate voted on February 2 to repeal this requirement. Now, contact your U.S. House representative to ask them to follow the Senate and repeal this burdensome provision. ■

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## USGBC Recognizes IECC, IGCC for Contributions to Energy Efficiency

Last year was a huge milestone for building energy efficiency and state and national codes. According to the US Green Building Council, after more than 40 years of modest improvements in building energy efficiency, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) helped to achieve a 30-percent efficiency improvement, and a first in the nation green building code - the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) - was unveiled.

It's easy to argue that these efficiency improvements (which are mirrored in comparable efficiency improvements in residential building energy codes) are a product of the natural course of time. But these leaps would have never come to be without the huge groundswell of support from energy efficiency advocates across the country, the organizations coordinating their efforts, and above all a growing vision that we can do better: A lot better.

*Jeremy Sigmon, LEED® AP BD+C - Manager, Building Codes Advocacy  
U.S. Green Building Council*

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## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**LA's SCI-Arc** has a new Undergraduate Chair, John Enright, principle of SARA member firm, **Griffin Enright Architects**. He has been a professor at SCI-Arc since the 1980's and his move to Undergraduate Chair will mean pushing the school's focus on digital fabrication further, so that it better integrates with structural and environmental systems. He also hopes to better bridge the separation between fields of study. "That's the next challenge with education: how do we apply that three dimensional thinking which our students are so good at and apply it across disciplines for a more integrated and robust architecture?" said Enright (reprinted from The Architects Newspaper, 1/11/11 edition)

Congratulations to **Fuller & D'Angelo P.C. Architects and Planners**, Elmsford, New York on their 40th Anniversary. The firm has been a member of SARA since 1967.



# San Diego, California

SARA National Conference - October 13-15, 2011



Framed by 70 miles of Pacific coastline and scenic mountain ranges San Diego, the nation's eighth-largest city, features an impressive array of meeting and event venues and a centrally located airport. Beyond being a great meeting destination, San Diego's friendly locals, idyllic climate and scenic beauty boost the ambiance free of charge, while a fun-loving and optimistic vibe creates an environment that will inspire engage and energize both planners and attendees alike.

San Diego will be host to SARA's 55th National Conference, October 13th-15th. Each SARAScope issue up to and including the September/October issue will be filled with tempting pieces of information to encourage you to join us for this exciting event.

Those of you that spent any time in the company of our past national president, Mike Jones, will recall his never-ending promotion of his hometown, the beautiful city of San Diego, the "perfect" climate and continual sunshine. Average temperature is 70's daytime / 60's evening.

The Conference Committee has been busy with the preliminary planning of the Seminars, Tours, Banquets and several surprise events you won't want to miss!

# 2011

## Celebration of Architecture and Design Calendar

### NEW YORK COUNCIL

- February 28th Extended deadline for Declaration of Intent Forms and Submittals
- June 28th Celebration of Architecture and Design Awards Banquet

### PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL

- May 27th Declaration of Intent Forms due
- July 1st Entry Submittals received
- September 22 Celebration of Architecture and Design Awards Banquet

### NATIONAL DESIGN PROGRAM

- August 1st Declaration of Intent Forms due
- August 6th Entry Submittals received
- October 14th Celebration of Architecture and Design Awards Banquet



Mark Your Calendars To  
Get Your Submissions In  
For The Celebration!!

AMERICAN REGISTERED ARCHITECTS  
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# How To Enter A Design Award Program

by: **Lawrence A. Robbins**,  
AIA, FARA, NCARB, *Retired*

**How** many times have you completed a building project that you were really proud of and thought that it deserved some publicity and accolades from your peers? Your client was extremely pleased with your efforts and loved the design. An Awards Program comes along that is easy to enter, economical, and has minimal submission requirements. All you need are images of the completed project and a simple project description. You wait until the last minute, but you do enter, only to find out that it did not win.

The winning submissions are announced and publicized and you begin comparing your work with those winners, inwardly believing that your design was just as good! You tell yourself that something is wrong! All sorts of ideas come in to your mind as to the reasons that your project was not selected. Thoughts like: the jury's design philosophy was different than yours, their project was too small, or even that the decision makers never understood the total project or its attributes.

You spent time, money and you swear never to enter again. Why? Most architects have a difficult time

accepting rejection of their talent and work and they do not want to experience it again, especially when they are extremely proud of their efforts. They had invested a great deal of time and "sweat" to create a design they feel has gone even beyond the needs or requirements of the client.

The following comments are some insights that may be helpful to those architects who believe in their abilities but have never been successful in "winning" a Design Awards Program. I hope it will also help a younger generation of architects who are trying to get their practice established and to achieve a new respect from their peers.

## **The Project**

The most important question an architect must consider when he or she wants to submit a project in a Design Awards Program is why it should be selected for an award in the first place? Is it any good? What is unique about it?

Sit down with an objective architect, maybe a friend or a member of your office who has no personal investment in the project, and

determine what makes it worthy for consideration. Try to determine its merits or attributes and look at the project objectively in the following ways.

- Its social significance
- Budgetary constraints
- New aesthetics/architectural vocabulary
- Unique building type
- New use of materials
- Environmental compatibility
- Special detailing
- Emotional response to user
- Special design concept

Once its merits are established, confirmed and you are committed to its success then a Submission Package procedure should be organized that can best display the project's merits.

#### The Submission

Start early so that you have time to "think the project through" and tie up all the loose ends. Most submissions require 10 to 20 images and a project description. Since the images are the basis of selection by the jury, they are the most significant. Most Awards Programs show the images of every submission all at once and rule out the non-winners immediately. The jurors may look at 600 images all at one sitting. Therefore, your project's best chance of winning depends on insuring that it has every chance to continue to remain in the running.

#### The "Do's"

- Select only the very best images and only those that display the merits of the project. A marginal quality image should be eliminated.
- Act like a film director. Arrange the images in a sequence that best show the project's strengths. Try to tell a story with that sequence that opens with and impact, creates a flow of information and excitement, and ends with a full climax.
- Look at each image very carefully, cropping out all elements that hurt the submission (telephone poles, cars, signs, etc.). Study the composition

of each image, confirming its own aesthetic value and its qualities and then compare it to all the others. A bad image or ugly detail can reduce your chance of success.

- Black and white images of the floor plans are difficult to read and understand in a short time. Use color and good graphics to emphasize what should be important to the jury.
- Once you have selected all the images, go thorough them again "rehearsing the script." Compare each image with the others and study the sequence carefully, eliminating any image that does not help the project. Architects generally "talk too much" and try to show everything. If you do this the jury will lose interest! One bad shot or detail can affect the jury. Go for maximum impact.
- The quality of the images is critical and the most important if winning is the goal. If you photograph your own work, remember to "follow the sun" and be aware of how light, shade and shadow can enhance your building. Photographs of interesting details, carefully placed, are excellent supplements.

• Review buildings that are published and photographed in architectural magazines. Look at those projects that you may not like, but study how they are presented. You can learn a lot about getting the "most mileage" out of an average design. Think back to your school days: "presentation is half the battle!"

• For interior shots, a professional photographer is your best option. They have the proper equipment and a greater knowledge of interior light. However, you should discuss the shot to be taken by him to insure that it is a coordinated element of your script.

• A project description should be short, concise, and coordinated with all the images. It should explain the design concept, special program, functional requirements, and most importantly, "what makes the project an award winner?" Reduce the number of "flowering adjectives" and remember you are talking to architects, speak their language and be direct. Describe what each image is supposed to demonstrate and the reason it is included.



### The "Don'ts"

- Do not enter more than one project in a category. You are then competing against yourself.
- Do not "pack the submission." The more images you submit, the greater chance that the jury will see something they do not like, and then pass on the submittal. Remember, "Less is more!"
- Do not submit images of working drawings. It just confuses the jury. They never take the time to understand the documents anyway. It also shows that you did not take the time to simplify the plans and sections for them.
- Do not submit black and white material. Most submissions are in color and your entry will have to compete with them.
- Do not "jump around" in the image sequence. Follow an order that best describes and accentuates the entry's best features.

In summary, entering a Design Awards Program can be a very rewarding experience. The process helps an architect, even if the submittal does not win. It allows an architect to improve public relations, marketing skills and to plan ahead for potential publicity of current work. He or she always has the original submission that can be re-

entered in other Awards Programs or used in developing a firm brochure. The material can also be used for publications or display panels when necessary.

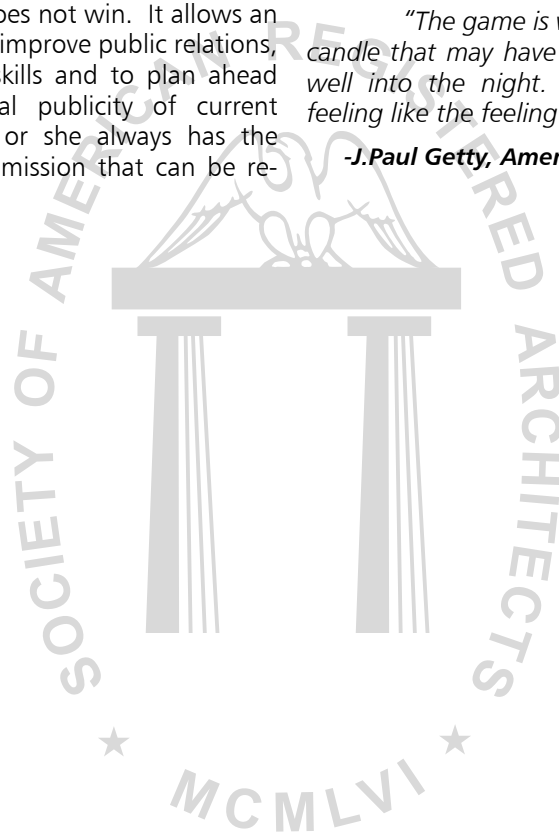
The most important concept that an Award Program creates is a positive attitude of an architect's ability and his or her quest for doing outstanding work. It increases office morale and it rejuvenates a commitment to architecture and personal growth. It allows an architect to take pride in his or her efforts and to realize that it is more than just a job. What is really important is not winning, but the process of entering. If approached with this attitude, every architect can be a winner!

Editorial Note: Mr. Robbins is a past National President of SARA and has served as Chairman of several National Design Award Programs as well as California Design Programs. When he has not served as Chairman or member of a jury, he has been extremely successful in entering and having his projects win awards.

An added thought for you while working on your submission...

*"The game is well worth the candle that may have to be burned well into the night. There is no feeling like the feeling of success."*

**-J.Paul Getty, American Financier**



# RSMMeans detects a speed-up in construction material prices

03/07/2011 by Alex Carrick, RCD Chief Economist

According to RSMMeans' Construction Cost Index (CCI), which is based on an average of 30 major American cities, the expense of building in January 2011 increased 2.3% versus January 2010. The composite index gain was comprised of materials at +1.8% and labor at +2.9%.

More recent evidence suggests the materials side of building costs is heating up. The latest quarter-to-quarter gain in the overall index, October 2010 to January 2011, was +3.7% annualized. But it was saved from a faster advance by a labor component that slowed to +1.9% annualized. Moving in the opposite direction, materials prices speeded up considerably to +5.6% quarter to quarter annualized. The cause was the revival in international commodity prices.

To calculate the CCI, Means combines nine different types of buildings in a composite model. The structure types provide strong representation from the mainly non-residential building segment of the market. Included are a factory, parking garage, store, office building, town hall, hotel, school and hospital. A low-rise apartment building contributes a residential aspect.

With respect to material inputs, some of the largest year-over-year cost changes came in concrete reinforcing (+10.9%), metal joists and decking (+5.5%) and tile and terrazzo (+6.4%).

Emphasis shifted in the latest quarter-to-quarter changes. Site and infrastructure preparation and demolition was +8.4% annualized; structural metal framing, +4.8%; metal joists and decking, +5.0%; glazing and curtain wall +3.9%; and fire protection, plumbing and HVAC +19.7%.

Higher prices for metals (e.g., copper at a record) are working their way downstream. Most important – due to oil's usage in so many stages of the construction process – has been the jump in the world price of crude with the addition of a \$10 to \$15 USD per barrel risk premium.

There has been a substantial fall-out from Libya descending into chaos and regimes in other MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) nations facing unrest and challenges. Supply disruptions from Algeria, Oman, Iran or even Saudi Arabia would shock oil prices much higher.

For materials not as vulnerable to geopolitical conflict or separated from the emerging nations' effect, change has been either more moderate or in the opposite direction. For example, quarter-to-quarter concrete forming prices in the latest period were -9.3%

annualized; precast concrete, -9.7%; plaster and gypsum board, -14.7%; and ceilings and acoustic treatment, -4.9%.

In the U.S., the cities with the highest construction costs relative to the country as a whole are mainly the biggest centers, including most-expensive New York, followed by San Francisco, Oakland, Boston and Chicago. The cities where it is relatively inexpensive to build are mainly in the south. Tennessee, Texas and Florida provide the bulk of the lowest-cost urban areas. ■



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## Meet Architect Barbie



**Barbie** has been a doctor, a dentist, a vet and a racecar driver, but now the iconic doll that has inspired and entertained little girls for generations takes on the job of architect. Mattel Inc., has announced plans for Architect Barbie -- complete with hard hat and blueprints -- to be the latest addition to its "Barbie I Can Be..." line of dolls.

Slated for release this summer, Mattel will spotlight architecture as its "Career of the Year" for the Barbie line and hopes to educate and encourage girls to consider architecture when thinking about what their jobs could be as adults. "For more than 50 years Barbie has served as a reflection of fashion, culture and aspiration to girls of all ages," says Mattel spokesperson Michelle Chidoni. "Barbie inspires girls to try on different careers, encouraging them to play out their dreams and explore the world and all of its possibilities without ever having to leave home. We believe role-playing with Barbie leads to real life opportunities, and are very proud to introduce I Can Be...Architect Barbie as our 2011 career of the year." Barbie has more than 125 careers on her resume, and each year Mattel looks to expand that number with roles that are both aspirational and culturally relevant.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for little girls to see how they can

influence their environment and dream about becoming an architect and shaping their community," says Kelly Hayes McAlonie, AIA, LEED AP, an Associate Director of the Capital Planning Group at the University at Buffalo. "Pop culture influences our career decisions and Barbie, for little girls, is an important influence." The fact that this is occurring on the 125th anniversary of women in architecture makes this event even more special." Louise Bethune, FAIA, was admitted to the Western Association of Architects in November, 1885.

Hayes McAlonie and Despina Stratigakos, Assoc. AIA, an internationally recognized historian and professor in the Architecture Department at the University of Buffalo, consulted with Mattel as they created Architect Barbie. Stratigakos has encouraged Mattel to consider architecture as a field for Barbie since it first announced the possibility in 2002.

"This not only recognizes the generations of women that have been in this field, but it taps into the imagination of little girls for what is possible. I'm hoping it gets girls to start thinking about the things they could be building," says Stratigakos, who has been published widely on the history of women in architecture, including her award-winning book, *A Women's Berlin: Building the*

Modern City (2008), the story of a forgotten metropolis designed by and for women.

"It's great that Mattel is recognizing the importance and continued emergence of women in our field," says AIA President Clark Manus, FAIA. "Moreover, Architect Barbie presents a wonderful opportunity to reach out to young girls at an important, early stage in their lives and let them imagine for themselves all of the great career aspects that go with being an architect."

Hayes McAlonie and Stratigakos wrote a letter to Mattel a year ago advocating for Architect Barbie. Last July, the toy giant contacted them

and said it planned to move forward and asked for their help in ensuring the doll's accuracy.

Mattel says it created Architect Barbie so girls can imagine designing their own dream house. In its marketing messaging for the doll, Mattel calls Barbie "ready to tackle the daily responsibilities of a real architect in or out of the office."

Architect Barbie will wear a blue and pink dress depicting a city skyline. She also wears black boots and a short black jacket. She carries a pink tube with blueprints over one shoulder. Mattel calls the outfit "symmetrically stylish with bold colors and clean lines." ■



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# I Heard A Rumor.....

by Kimberly Paarlberg - Senior Staff Architect - ICC eNews

**The** U.S. Department of Justice has adopted the 2004 ADA/ABA Accessibility Guidelines and, with a few minor revisions, has renamed it the 2010 Standard for Accessible Design. Starting March 15, when a building is constructed new or being altered there is the alternative of using either the 1991 or 1994 ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) or the 2010 ADA Standard for compliance. After March 15, 2012, the 2010 Standard will be the required.

The rumor that I had heard, unfortunately, from several different "informed" sources is that all elements that are not compliant with the new standard must be retrofit by March 15, 2012. That is not the case, however. The use of the term "safe harbor" is causing confusion.

What "safe harbor" means is that elements that were covered in the 1991 ADAAG or the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and were built compliant, can stay that way even if the provisions in the 2010 ADA Standard may be different. The most common and obvious application of this will probably be single occupant bathrooms. The 2010 ADA standard requires a clear floor space next to the water closet, while the 1991 ADAAG and UFAS allow for the lavatory to overlap that space. The intent of the new provisions is to allow space for a side transfer to the water closet. The 2010 ADA Standard allows for the door to swing into the bathroom as long as there is a clear floor space past the swing of the door, so that a person can enter the room, shut the door and then maneuver. The 1991 ADAAG and UFAS do not allow the door to swing over the clear floor

space for any of the fixtures. While 2010 ADA standard still requires this in multi-stall bathrooms, it is not required for single occupant bathrooms. Once you shut the door in a single occupant bathroom, you can lock it so someone else will not enter and possibly hit you with the door. (The DOJ has done a wonderful service by offering a section by section comparison, including bathroom configuration comparisons in Appendix B to part 36. It is well worth a visit.)

When "safe harbor" is not applicable to items covered in the 1991 ADAAG is when the building is undergoing an alteration or is new construction. For example, if you alter the bathrooms or build new bathrooms, they must comply with the 2010 ADA Standard. In existing buildings, altering the bathrooms may be part of improving the accessible route for primary function spaces.

There are several areas in the 2010 ADA Standard regulations that are not covered in the 1994 ADAAG, mainly residential and recreational. Although these items are not covered by the "safe harbor" provisions, it is not intended to require immediate mandatory compliance with the new provisions. For example: If my school has a swimming pool, as a Title II entity I am obligated to continually look at program access for classes/activities offered in the pool. (Any Title III building needs to maintain barrier removal.) If I have program access, I do not have to do anything. If I do not have program access and I decide to perform alterations to fix that, or if I just make alterations to the pool, I must follow the new requirements for pools in the 2010 ADA Standard. If I build a new pool, I must follow the new requirements

for pools in the 2010 Standard. For swimming pools there a different entry options offered, such as zero level entry, transfer steps, ramps or mechanical chair lifts. The number of entry points and options depends on the pool size and the type of pool. Large swimming pools may require two entry points, while lazy river pools may only need one entry point. Pools that are catchments for slides are exempted from providing accessible entry points: for that matter, water slides and diving boards are also exempted from accessibility.

These are just simple examples and I am sure there are a lot of "what ifs" that are not addressed, but there is not a mandate to totally retrofit by March 15, 2012. The idea is that over time existing buildings will become as accessible as technically feasible. With an aging population that is where the largest market will be, so take advantage of those alterations, additions and new construction to make buildings more accessible for everyone.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division has posted a new technical assistance document, ADA 2010 Revised Requirements: Effective Date, Compliance Date on its website. The document is available in HTML format and in PDF format.

On another note, the Code Council is very proud that the International Building Code (IBC) is referenced in the 2010 ADA Standard for accessible means of egress. Also, the 2010 ADA Standard and the IBC and ICC A117.1 are extensively coordinated. Coordination of the requirements in the codes and the federal accessibility provisions makes compliance easier for architects and contractors. After all, we are all aiming for the same goal. ■





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