AIA FLINT CHAPTER

Newsletter

April 2014 Edition

AIA Flint Design Awards Reception

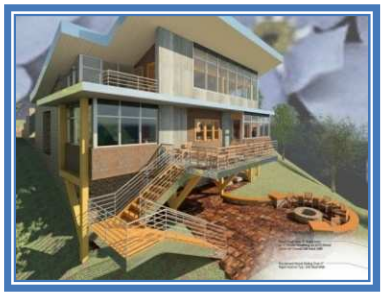
AIA Flint members, guests and library patrons gathered in the main reading room of the Flint Public Library on Tuesday, March 11 to admire the work of local architects. Entries from last year's AIA Flint Design Awards were on display at the library throughout the month of March. Please be on the lookout for the next Design Awards Program, it is wonderful opportunity to share your projects with other design professionals and show the general public the impact that local architects have.





Local Architecture Grad Wins Competition





Article excerpted from MLIVE piece by Sarah Schuch, February 11, 2014

GRAND BLANC, MI – A design for an Alaskan house made of wood, stone, a vegetated roof and walls that resembles bark have earned a Baker College grad first place in an online architecture contest.

Joshua Steere, 25, of Grand Blanc said he thought about how the sun would shine through the house during different times of the day throughout the 10 week design process.

Going up against 18 other architects from around the world, Steere's design for the 2,500-square-foot energy efficient home won him $1,200 and a chance for his ideas to become reality one day.

The contest was held through Arcbazar, an online architectural design company based in Boston.

Steere, who graduated Baker in 2012 and recently began working for Squires Architectural Group in Howell, said the contest was a great way to be creative with his skills. He did for the first time when he was in college.

Steere gives credit to his success to his education at Baker College. There he was part of the American Institute of Architects for Students.

One professor said he wasn't surprised to see Steere do well on a contest.

"As a student I found him very, very focused, self-motivated, result-oriented, also has very, very effective communication skills, leadership skills and he's a critical thinking and technology savvy," said Athanas Manyama, associate professor in the architectural technology program at Baker College. "When he was here his leadership skills showed up very, very obviously among his student especially when they were working on community projects. He showed a lot of initiative in the design process."

"I like shaping the built environment. I don't think a building is just four walls and a roof. It's a space you get to occupy," Steere said. "You get to form the experience for the people that are going to be in that space."

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Submit articles or news items to lisad@njb-architects.com

Coming Events…

Vendor Luncheons
Our standing meeting date is the third Thursday of each month at Baker College of Flint's Technology Building unless an alternate date and location are announced.

April 17, 2014 – David Stack from Northern Window, LLC will provide a CEU seminar at noon.

May 15, 2014 – TBD

June 19, 2014 - Old Castle Masonry

June 26-28, 2014
The AIA National Convention in Chicago Illinois.

August 1, 2014
AIA Flint Annual Golf Outing at the Coyote Preserve in Fenton.

October 17, 2014
AIA Michigan's Annual Meeting at the Flint Institute of Arts

Citizen Architects

Several AIA Flint Members are serving their communities on local boards and commissions as elected officers and appointed members. We would like to commend the following members for their efforts in service to our communities:

Jeff Bennett, AIA
Grand Blanc Board of Appeals

Terry Gill, AIA
Village of Otter Lake, Trustee
Village of Otter Lake Planning Commission

David McLane, AIA
City of Brighton: Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Construction Board of Appeals, International Property Management Code Board of Appeals

Jackie Hoist, AIA
Davison Township Planning Commission
State of Michigan: BCC Ad Hoc Committee, BFS Ad hoc committee, Governor's Office of Regulatory Reinvention Permit and Licensing Review Committee

AIA Flint Receives Grants

AIA Flint has been awarded a $1,000 matching grant from the American Institute of Architects in Washington DC to fund our Scholarship Award for the upcoming year This funding, along with funds raised during the annual Golf Outing, will allow the AIA Flint Chapter to support local architecture students with at least $2,000 in scholarships for the 2014-15 school year.

AIA Flint has been awarded a $1,000 grant from the Michigan Architectural Foundation. The grant will be used to create video "shorts" as a suppliment the Chapter's Flint Guide to Architecture. The videos will be made in conjunction with the Flushing High School Video Production Class and will be made available as a smart-phone link and on the Chapter's website.

Member Highlights

News from Around the Chapter…

Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects has a new website, www.sfarch.us & an iphone app, SFArch. Download it for free at the apple app store. Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects received a community service award from the Michigan Recreation & Park Association for design work on behalf of Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation.

AIA National Committee Appointments

Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, Assoc. AIA, appointed to the Practice & Prosperity Committee.

Kurt Neiswender, AIA, appointed to the Resolutions Committee.

New Firms

H2A Architects

was established in Davison, Michigan by **Jacqueline Hoist, AIA** and **George Ananich, AIA** They can be reached at 810.412.5640 or george@h2aarchitects.net. Their website is www.h2aarchitects.net.

Architective

was recently established in Flint, Michigan by **David Bennett, AIA, NCARB**. David is a graduate of the University of Michigan BS Arch '99 and M Arch '01. Architective specializes in residential and light commercial projects. Architective's new website is currently under construction, but in the near future you can find it at www.Architective-MI.com. Phone: (810) 516-2479 Email: ArchitectiveMI@gmail.com

AIA FLINT Emerging Professionals Published in CONNECTION

YAF YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM
MENTORSHIP | LEADERSHIP | FELLOWSHIP

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ARTICLE **INFORMATICS**

PASSIVE HOUSE

THE CRAFT OF NEXT GENERATION RESIDENTIAL TECHNOLOGY

Like Steve Jobs, the mastermind visionary behind the infectious gadgets that stand as digital proxy to our everyday realities, **architects are inventors** -- as such, the technologies of our built environment are as impactful to the general public as those gadgets that have become so intimately-tied to our modern way of living.

At its core, the everyday practice of architecture is about devising solutions and enhancing existing techniques to improve the human habitat. The trick, as with those aforementioned gadgets, is how to create spaces that similarly reach into our beings and affect the intangible portions of our human experience.

Buildings should function with the ease of an iPad, look cool and simply work well. In the context of the residential housing market, this functionality isn't rocket science -- it's a subtle craft that outperforms current industry codes and standards to achieve Passive House standards -- it's super insulated and properly ventilated, with each and every home that rolls off the design production line.

How this is done is not mystical -- it's a matter of simple objectives and software utilized as another tool in our architectural arsenal to develop buildings that improve the quality of life by quantifying comfort and personal health.

The primary software for this movement is Passive House Planning Package – PHPP for short, and it does a miraculous job of quantifying the once thought unquantifiable. Take for example a comparison between PHPP and the likes of RES Check, the current standard for code compliance + 2009 IECC requirement interface. In the specific category for envelope inputs, RES Check requires only R-value and gross area of the surface being defined.

Looking strictly at R-values, PHPP breaks the value into three distinct categories: 1. Surface Film Resistance values, 2. Individual R-value per-inch properties separated by material (most insulated assemblies are comprised of mutliple materials after all), and 3. Percentage of framing or structural material that effectively discounts the R-value for each individual material. What you end up with then, when using PHPP for Passive House modeling, is a conservatively planned assembly with defined values for the exact components in the constructed assembly.

To conclude the comparison, and in regards to the envelope assembly area inputs, PHPP utilizes both gross and net dimensions to calculate the interior volume or air for mechanical performance; applying more specificity than other such softwares.

While a complete description of PHPP would take hours, this short comparison begins to describe an energy modeling method that, through more comprehensive quantification, can reduce the errors between a simulation model and what is ultimately constructed; and, as evidence quantifies, providing for a truly 90% better-than-code performance that Passive House is known for.

Utilizing software to analyze the thermal comfort and physical performance of the building envelope is nothing new, but its employment in the design and construction of buildings is where we cross from the math and science to the intangibles of personal experience, desired comfort and health requirements become measurable criteria for our industry.

If we are to meet the ambitious requirements of AIA's 2030 Commitment, we need to start pushing past the bar of our current energy codes. Let's face it, codes are nowhere near on track to meet Net Zero Energy by 2030. Passive House, on the other hand, is at the 80% level when referencing the goals for 2030 Challenge. Therefore we need to take it upon ourselves to be the leaders of the built environment; and with the types of technology described in this article, we have the ability to do so.



Kurt Neiswender, AIA

Neiswender is a Project Architect at Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects in Flint Michigan and holds the position of 2013-2014 AIA Young Architect Regional Director - Michigan and 2014-2015 AIA Flint Chapter Director.



Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, Associate AIA

Seyburn is a Project Designer at Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects in Flint Michigan and holds the position of 2013-2014 AIA Michigan Associate Director to the National Associates Committee (NAC).

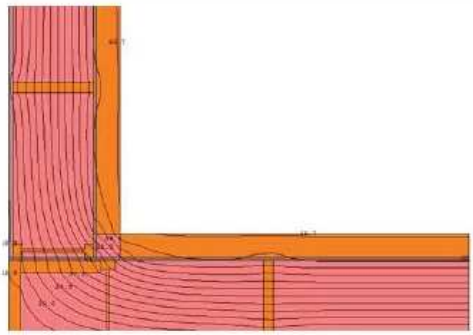


Bill McDonald

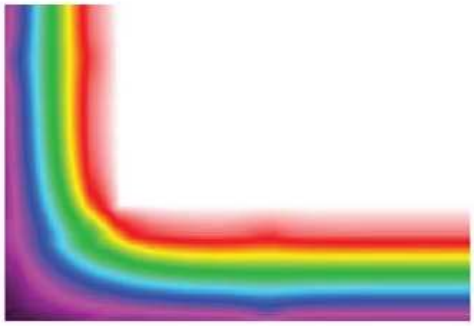
McDonald is manager and part owner of newly formed Phoenix Home Performance, specializing in Passive House consulting and is current president of the Michigan Passive House Alliance.

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AIA's 2030 Commitment does vary slightly from the 2030 Challenge. It does not require firm's to meet net zero by 2030, it is more of an open source database of how our designs are performing, a tool to encourage architects and clients to continue to improve our built environment.

In the ever advancing society that we live in, we as architects, cannot do everything. Nor do we need too. With new delivery models like integrated project delivery, architects can build diversely talented teams that work together to develop excellent high performing buildings at every scale -- much like a conductor guides an orchestra to create beautiful symphonies.

For the design shown in this article, for instance, our office has worked very closely with co-author, Bill McDonald, CPHC, to develop the Phoenix Haus design from architecture-to-performance without sacrificing either. Without this type of collaboration, the project would have suffered from a unnecessarily protracted timeline and the risk of not meeting stringent US Passive House standards. Working in this fashion, our combined team developed a design from concept to building permit within weeks of project commencement; and, by the time you read this article, we will have started construction on Michigan's first Passive House certified under the Passive House Institute United States (PHIUS)!

While this is a fact that we can be very proud of, the more important point is that by utilizing PHPP to inform our design, we can confidently assure the client that their project is not only one of the highest performing homes in the country, but that it also meets all of their space and comfort needs -- this is our utmost goal, to provide the client with an excellent building that will last many generations. ■



Buildings should function with the ease of an iPad, look cool and simply work well.

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TO READ THE FULL PUBLICATION GO TO:

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WHAT IS **YAF?**

The **Young Architects Forum** (YAF)

A program of the American Institute of Architects and is organized to address issues of particular importance to recently licensed architects.