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The Maine Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

Philip M. Isaacson Awarded 2010 Maine Prize for Architecture

by Carol A. Wilson, FAIA

Philip Isaacson has been the art and architecture critic for the *Maine Sunday Telegram* for 45 years. Fifty years ago he built a modern house in Lewiston, Maine. He approached architect Jose Luis Sert to design the house. Although Sert was interested, with Isaacson's shoestring budget, Sert eventually sent Isaacson to architect F. Frederick Bruck who accepted the commission. A lifelong friendship ensued. Isaacson has painstakingly cared for the house for these 50 years, and the house remains in splendid condition. A model and photographs of the house

were included in storefront for architecture maine's exhibition "maine modern: 50-years of modern architecture in maine" and featured in the October 10th anniversary issue of *dwell* magazine. Isaacson's personal love and appreciation of modernism have carried the torch for at least 50 years.


Isaacson received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Bates College and an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Bowdoin College. He is currently a member of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and a Trustee of the Lewiston Public Library. He is a Mainer who has taken risks. He has absorbed the knowledge of building; he is a writer, an attorney and a preservationist. Phil has shown how one person can have great influence in the lives of many.

The 2010 nominees for the Maine Prize were Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Architalx, Peter Forbes, FAIA, Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., Philip M. Isaacson, Henry L. Cobb, FAIA, and Roger Richmond, Professor of Architecture, Founder of the Department of Architecture, University of Maine at Augusta.

The Maine Prize for Architecture is a biennial award that acknowledges an architect, an individual or an organiza-



Isaacson receives Maine Prize for Architecture. Photo courtesy of Carol A. Wilson Architect.

tion that has added significantly to the legacy of Maine building and to the Maine community in the belief that architecture plays a meaningful part in our lives. The recipient of the award receives the Maine Prize silver medallion and \$10,000. Additional information regarding the Maine Prize for Architecture and biographies of the jurors, visit www.storefrontforarchitecture.org. 

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President's Report


by Scott Brown, AIA

Without a doubt 2011 promises to be every bit as challenging as the year we just experienced. Although there are some positive signs for hope in the national economic recovery, our Maine economy continues to struggle with very slow improvement. Making things more interesting, we have a state government that has just experienced historic leadership changes with major budget gaps to solve in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile AIA Maine is poised for another strong and promising year thanks in part to the hard work of our Board of Directors and staff. I want to thank outgoing President Carol Gillis, AIA, for her outstanding leadership during the past two years. It has been a privilege to work with Carol, and I have been extremely impressed with her commitment, dedication and her many accomplishments. I also thank the 2010 Executive Committee, Board, Executive Director Susan Koch and Communications Director Judy Harvie, Hon. AIA Maine, for developing and recommending a manageable budget, a strong slate of Directors and providing much optimism and energy for a bright and exciting 2011.

The beginning of a new year also signifies changes to our Board of Directors. As incoming President, I extend a warm welcome to new board members Gunnar Hubbard, AIA, Stephen Rich, AIA, Scott Simons, AIA, Rob Tillotson, AIA, Kimberly Tuttle, Associate AIA and Shannon Gebo, UMA AIA Student Chapter. While it is exciting to welcome the new, it is also difficult to say good bye to our "retiring" Directors. Members deciding to step down this year include Dean Bingham, AIA, Carol De Tine, AIA, Shirley Holt, AIA, Bruce Norelius, AIA, and UMA AIA Student Chapter representative Jaclyn Vassallo. Their contributions are far too numerous for me to mention in this Report, but on behalf of the Board I thank them wholeheartedly for their service, hard work and contributions to AIA Maine.

Late in 2010 then President Carol Gillis and I led a strategic planning session with the Board of Directors where we reviewed our Chapter's mission, vision and goals, and how we can best meet those goals (credible voice, authoritative source, increased member value) in 2011 and beyond. Discussions supported the continuation of meeting Chapter goals through the existing committee structure that was put into place several years ago under the leadership of Carol De Tine. AIA Maine standing committees including Design, Outreach, Committee on the Environment (COTE), Programs and Legislative Affairs have been assigned chairpersons who are already scheduling meetings and events to match the 2011 goals. In addition the Board would like to build upon its recent success of arranging building tours and informational sessions of completed projects by our members where lessons learned can be explained, innovations can be shared and the high quality work by members can be celebrated and promoted.

An organization is only as strong as its membership, and I, therefore, strongly encourage you to get involved and be an active AIA Maine member. This is a great time to join a committee, attend a program, participate in an event and share your ideas on how AIA Maine can become an even stronger Chapter. I look forward to hearing from you. 



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The Bureau of General Services Planning, Design & Construction Division's Update


by Joe Ostwald, Director

In your organization as well as in mine, a change of administration is upon us. As I write this Update, Maine's new governor takes office with a fresh look at how state government should do business. AIA Maine also has a new leader and others stepping up in 2011. I offer my sincere best wishes to all.

This Bureau of General Services Planning, Design & Construction Division (PDCD) is still hoping for permission to restore three positions vacant since March 2010; however, we are committed to keeping our effort and standards at a high level regardless of staff count. We stand at four architects and engineers, including myself, and have been moving projects to the best of our abilities. We know that filling the three vacancies will enable us to optimally serve the design and construction community, state agencies and the people of Maine. Hopefully, you will be seeing advertisements for the positions in 2011. As the job qualifications are now constructed, we will have the opportunity to hire either the best qualified Maine architect or Maine professional engineer for each position.

In the meantime we are preparing to refresh our Professional Services Prequalification List this spring. As many of you know, this is a listing of 150 firms that have received a preliminary recognition of qualification to provide services in one or more of 30 disciplines. The architects, engineers and other professionals on the list are made available to state agencies for an abbreviated procurement process that allows direct selection for projects where the fee is less than \$25,000. You may view this list on our Website at www.maine.gov/bgs/constrpublic/prof_services_2009/PQ_disciplines.htm.

Every two years (statutory maximum duration), PDCD solicits applications, researches and evaluates the qualifications submitted, manages the communications about the process and ultimately publishes the list. For our office this is a large human resource commitment (another reason to look for those new hires). We are looking for ways to update this list more frequently and with less intensive staff time (a web-based application database, for example). Your comments are welcome.

Wishing everyone the best of luck in the new year. 

MorrisSwitzer-Environments for Health has announced its project Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH) Medical Center, located in Plattsburgh, New York, was voted Best in Category for Lobby/Reception Area by the readers of *Healthcare Design*. The jury, appointed by The Center for Health Design, reviewed contest submissions, narrowing the projects down to the Top Five. The December 2010 issue of *Healthcare Design* "Remodel/Renovation" highlights CVPH with before and after photos, submitted stories, and comments from the jury and readers. Architectural firm MorrisSwitzer-Environments for Health has offices in Portland, Maine, Williston, Vermont and Boston, Massachusetts. 



Upcoming Events

February 9

AIA Film Night at the Bangor Public Library Lecture Hall
Architectural Photographer Robert Darby followed by the film "Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman"
Free and open to the public

February 11

AIA Maine Co-Sponsors Program with Maine Indoor Air Quality
Augusta Civic Center
Registration at www.maineindoorair.org

February 17

Jesse Thompson, AIA, with Kaplan Thompson Architects will present "Passivhaus and Net-Zero: Economical Carbon Reduction Principles"
8AM-9:30AM, Freeport Public Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport
No cost/no registration is necessary. CE credit available.

March 17

Judy Johnson, AIA, with Harriman Architects + Engineers, will present "One Firm's Journey to Meeting the 2030 Challenge and the AIA 2030 Commitment"
8AM-9:30AM, Auburn Business Park, 46 Harriman Drive, Auburn
No cost/no registration is necessary. CE credit available.

March 31, April 7, April 14, April 21, April 28

Architalx Lecture Series
Portland Museum of Art, 6PM
www.Architalx.org

April 7

Annual Design & Construction Legislative Breakfast
7AM, Senator Inn
Augusta

Passivhaus Performance and the Design/Build Solution

by Matthew O'Malia, AIA

GO Logic is an innovative, design/build partnership between builder Alan Gibson and myself, architect Matt O'Malia. The firm is oriented primarily toward answering the question common to most people who live in the challenging climate of northern New England: How to build in a harsh climate gracefully, affordably and comfortably without a cumbersome heating bill and an ever expanding carbon debt? GO Logic has found part of the solution in the forward thinking philosophy proposed by the Passive House Institute, a 30-year-old building science organization located in Darmstadt, Germany, and the rest of the solution through the benefit of joining forces as a design/build project delivery team.

The Passive House approach to the design and construction of buildings is to create an extremely well insulated and air sealed shell, to a level that reduces the projected heating load of the building by 90% from code compliant construction. The benefit of reducing a building's space heating demand by this margin is obviously a significant reduction in long-term energy consumption and operational costs for the building, but also an important first-cost trade off, as the investment in the improved building shell allows the conventional heating system to be removed. Given Maine's extreme climate and resulting space heating costs for standard built buildings, the financial advantage of the Passive House approach is amplified in the long-term.

While the benefit of Passive House level performance is clear for environmental and life-cycle cost reasons, the construction cost for this exceptional level of energy performance will determine its acceptance in this country, and specifically in Maine. Based on GO Logic's current project load, if the cost of building to Passive House level of energy performance is comparable to standard construction, Passive House structures will be in high demand.

The affordability question was the inspiration for GO Logic as we began planning The GO Home, a 1500-square-foot, prototype home, with the goal of becoming Passive House certified (the first in Maine, and only the 13th in the United States), LEED Platinum with construction costs comparable to standard contractor built homes. In June 2010 GO Logic reached its goals with the completion of The GO Home, and in doing so, significantly raised the bar for excellent energy performance



Passivhaus Performance and the Design/Build Solution. Making super energy efficiency affordable in Maine. Photo courtesy of Trent Bell.

at low construction costs in the state. The GO Home's design, form, detailing and construction costs are a direct result of a productive design/build collaboration. The GO Home has a simple peaked roof form that echoes the surrounding vernacular architecture enough to seem like it belongs there without affectation or trying to look like anything more than a dignified rural home. This impression is gently reinforced by the artful landscape created by Ann Kearsley, Landscape Architect, of Portland. Inside the home there are high ceilings, exposed local timbers and large windows, which make the modest footprint feel generous.

The GO Home's space heating requirements represent a 90% reduction in the ongoing energy/carbon usage from code compliant construction, thus setting the stage for leveraging its renewable energy systems on the roof to their best advantage. The result is a grid-tied, net-zero home on an annual basis. Bruce Snider, a Belfast architectural writer, has distilled the equation for GO Logic's construction priorities best: "Proper solar orientation, fanatical air sealing, reduced thermal bridging, and ultra-high-performance German windows help the building meet (its) annual energy consumption goal..." *residential architect*. Needless to say the construction of The GO Home is a significant departure from standard residential construction practice, which was required to achieve the Passive House level of energy performance at affordable costs. This fact, if any, was the most compelling reason for the design/build collaboration.


I studied architecture in Germany and worked for firms in Maine, Frankfurt and New York before joining Alan Gibson to begin GO Logic. Energy conscious design, never having foundered in Germany dur-

ing the 80s as it did in the U.S. permeated my experience. Working with higher energy efficiency standards in buildings and components, especially windows, informed my preference for materials, systems and details. These influences and my spare minimalist aesthetic gives GO Logic projects clean lines and unencumbered style to complement the energy performance profile.

Builder Alan Gibson has built homes in the Belfast area for more than 18 years. He has incorporated new elements into the homes he builds to improve the shell, reduce energy consumption and to leverage solar energy opportunities at each site.

Our design/build model has been a productive way to contribute the best of our abilities to each project and to eliminate some of the typical costs of designing and building in the traditional model, which can put the architect and builder against one another. The largest benefit of the design/build project delivery structure is the tight and efficient feedback loops from the construction site back into the design studio, allowing for learning and developing on an ever expanding knowledge base with each consecutive project.

The Passive House Standard is a clear, strict and important energy performance benchmark to work towards, but it is only part of the solution. The rest lies in the means and methods which architects and builders develop in cooperation to achieve this standard, and like all things "green," the solution needs to be local.

(Editor's Note: If you would like to profile your firm in AIA Maine NEWS, please contact Judith Harvie at jharvie@road-runner.com) 

by Richard Eustis, PE, FCSI, CCCA
Maine QBS Facilitator

Maine QBS Website


The Maine QBS Council has maintained a Website for more than 10 years as a way to assist public owners and design professionals to understand the reasons for selecting design professionals based on qualifications rather than low bid. Last fall the original Website was completely redesigned and expanded to comply with new World Wide Web Standards and to make the site more user-friendly while keeping necessary information for project committees to make good decisions in the selection of design professionals.

Although public construction may be down due to the current economic climate, we can look forward to a higher level of design and construction activity in the future. This time of limited activity is a good time to plan for the future so we are prepared for better times; a time to learn the benefits of using Qualification Based Selection (QBS) when selecting firms to provide services not only for design, but any other professional service where "Qualifications" should be the primary selection criteria.

The basic principle of QBS is that the client is better served when the qualifications of the service provider are matched to specific services that are required to be provided. Each project has different requirements, and each owner has different expectations. There may be different services that are needed and different time schedules to be met. Each project faces its own set of legal or regulatory requirements that change from time to time. Green is becoming a big factor for many, but the question then becomes what shade of green as there are many. The issue for the owner is finding the service provider that generates the highest level of confidence in the owner's mind. Most unexpected issues can be avoided if there is a strong belief the team consists of the right players.

The new Website provides some features that did not exist previously, including links to a few other state QBS Websites. Even though most states have a QBS Program, not all have an easily identifiable QBS site. This list will be expanded as other sites are identified.

Time will tell. Although we know how many visit the Website, it is difficult to know if the site provided the answers the visitors were seeking. If there are Website issues that need to be addressed, we hope to get feedback from all who visit. If members from our sponsoring organizations—AIA Maine, ACEC of Maine and the Maine Society for Professional Engineers have suggestions or comments, we hope they will either send to their respective QBS Council representatives or directly to me. Does this Website help improve the process of selecting those that are to provide a professional service? If you have comments or suggestions, please let us know.

For more information about the Maine QBS Program, visit the QBS Website at www.meqbs.org or contact the Maine QBS Facilitator Dick Eustis, PE, 35 Pride Street, Old Town, ME 04468 (telephone 207.827.2238 or email eustis@infionline.net). 



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Fire Marshal's Corner

by Richard McCarthy, Senior Plans Examiner

Members of our office staff are often asked how to handle multiple occupancies. In past code editions, it was fairly easy that you provided a one-hour fire rated separation between any different occupancy. The 2006 edition of the NFPA 101 Chapter 6 has two options for multiple occupancies. You can either provide separation between occupancy types as required in 6.1.14.4.1 and consider the occupancies as separate, or you can consider the occupancy to be mixed and follow the more restrictive parts of the occupancy chapters that cover the different occupancy types. This gives the design professional some additional latitude when it comes to a multiple occupancy building. The code requires that where exit access from one occupancy traverses another occupancy type, you must treat the building as mixed. All this information is located in Chapter 6 of the Life Safety Code. Any questions on how to treat a multiple occupancy can be forwarded to our office. 

Architalx 2011 Lecture Series

by Nathaniel Cram, Architalx Board Member

Architalx is excited to announce the stimulating lineup for the 2011 season! Beginning March 31st, you are invited to join us at the Portland Museum of Art for five evenings of contemporary architecture and design. This year's selection of up-and-coming designers includes a diversity of architects and landscape architects from Europe and the U.S. who work in a wide range of scales. From furniture making to urban design, each speaker has a tremendous depth of talent and passion which we look forward to seeing and hearing.

Lectures begin at 6PM
Doors open at 5:30PM
Portland Museum of Art, Congress Square, Portland
Tickets available online at www.Architalx.org

Thursday, March 31

Alan Organschi, Architect and Principal, Gray Organschi Architecture, New Haven, CT

In buildings for both private clients and emergent community institutions, Alan Organschi has explored the intersection of environmental constraint, social need and available resources to produce architecture that is environmentally sensitive and culturally and physically durable. A trained cabinet-maker and builder as well as a teacher, Organschi has developed a practice and a pedagogy that seeks to link broad based conceptions of architectural space, form and program to the physical means and methods of producing them. He is the founding principal of the fabrication and construction company JIG Design Build, an offshoot of his work at Gray Organschi Architecture. Gray Organschi's work has received numerous awards, and he teaches and lectures frequently.

Thursday, April 7

Andrew Freear, Director, Rural Studio, Auburn University, Newbern, AL

After the untimely death of Samuel Mockbee in 2001, Andrew Freear became Director of the Rural Studio, which was created to "simultaneously demystify modern architecture and expose architecture students to extreme poverty in their own backyard." The Studio challenges students in their design-build studios "to take something ordinary and elevate it to something extraordinary." His work at the Rural Studio has been published in numerous periodicals and in two books. Freear has designed, supervised and built Rural Studio exhibits in Chicago, Cincinnati, Vienna, Austria, Barcelona, Spain, at the 2002 Whitney Biennial in New York and at the 2005 Bienal de São Paulo of Architecture in Brazil.

Thursday, April 14

Thomas Christoffersen, Architect and Partner at BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhagen, Denmark

Thomas Christoffersen began his collaboration with Bjarke Ingels in 2001 and has worked on every notable project from the VM Houses to one of their most recent and global developments, Astana National Library. Other accomplishments include the design for Iceland's National Bank and Stavanger Concert House in Norway. BIG is a Copenhagen-based group of architects, designers and thinkers operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, research and development.

BIG has created a reputation for completing buildings that are as programmatically and technically innovative as they are cost and resource conscious. In their architectural production, they demonstrate a high sensitivity to the particular demands of site context and program.


Thursday, April 21

Anouk Vogel, Landscape Architect, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Anouk Vogel studied landscape architecture at the Metropolitan University in Manchester, England. She has lived in the U.S., Switzerland, England, Germany and the Netherlands. In 2007, after having worked for West 8, Bureau B+B, and Petra Blaisse, she founded her own practice for landscape architecture and design in Amsterdam. Her work spans gardens, temporary installations, buildings, interiors and street furniture. She is the winner of several international competitions among which is the competition to design furniture for Amsterdam's most famous city park, the Vondelpark. Teaching experience includes the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture and the Design Academy of Eindhoven. In addition to her projects, Vogel is regularly invited to give lectures and write articles on the international level.

Thursday, April 28

Diana Balmori, Landscape Architect and Principal, Balmori Associates, New York, NY

Diana Balmori, founding principal of Balmori Associates, brings a breadth of experience in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, ecology, architectural history and sustainability to her New York-based landscape urban design office. Recognized internationally, Balmori has been honored by numerous institutions, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Institute of Architects. In 2006 she was appointed a Senior Fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. Balmori is serving her second term on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. A design educator as well as practitioner, Balmori holds a joint appointment with the Yale School of Architecture and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. 



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AIA Maine 2011 Slate of Offices and Board Members

The following slate of officers and directors was voted at December's annual meeting:

President, Scott Brown, AIA, Augusta
Vice President, Judy Johnson, AIA, Portland
Secretary, Daelynn Elizabeth, AIA, Portland
Treasurer, John Morris, AIA, Camden
Directors:

Stephen Blatt, AIA, Portland
John Charette, AIA, Portland
Gunnar Hubbard, AIA, Portland
James Pelsor, AIA, Augusta
Stephen Rich, AIA, Bangor
Noel Rollins, AIA, Portland
Scott Simons, AIA, Portland
Jesse Thompson, AIA, Portland
Robert Tillotson, AIA, Biddeford
Kimberly Tuttle, Associate AIA, Boothbay

Outgoing President Carol Gillis, AIA, will serve as Immediate Past President and UMA AIAS Chapter Co-Presidents Tyler Brown and Shannon Gebo will serve as ex-officio board members. Much appreciation goes to retiring board members Dean Bingham, AIA, Carol De Tine, AIA, Shirley Holt, AIA, and Bruce Norelius, AIA, for their contributions and accomplishments.

Profile: New Members

Gunnar Hubbard, AIA, LEED Accredited Professional, and LEED™ Faculty®, is the founder and principal of Fore Solutions—an international green building consulting firm located in Portland, Maine. Gunnar is a leading authority on sustainable design, and for more than 25 years he has worked to further the cause of environmentally conscious, innovative design and construction. His projects include MGM MIRAGE CityCenter complex in Las Vegas—one of the largest LEED certified developments in the United States, Hannaford's Augusta LEED for Retail Platinum Store, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Bosarge Education Center targeting Net-Zero and LEED Platinum. He collaborates with many Maine based firms, as well as with many internationally renowned architectural firms such as Kohn Pederson Fox, Foster and Partners, Murphy/Jahn and Behnisch Architekten. He received a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon and co-founded McCoppin Studios, a San Francisco-based firm specializing in environmentally responsible design. He was a research scholar at Rocky Mountain Institute and was the Executive Director of the Yestermorrow Design/Build School.


Scott Simons, AIA, is the founder and principal of Scott Simons Architects (SSA), a 10-person architectural and planning group. Scott's commitment to designing buildings of exceptional beauty and substance underscores all of SSA's projects. His drive to find the best possible solutions energizes the studio and makes the design process a dynamic experience for clients.



Gathering for the annual meeting (upper left to right) outgoing President Carol Gillis and Incoming President Scott Brown. New Board members (left to right) Kim Tuttle and Rob Tillotson. Photo courtesy of Judith Harvie.

SSA has won numerous design awards for both residential and institutional projects. He is a founding member of the Portland Society of Architects and recently completed a three-year term as its President. Scott is an avid skier and is trying to complete a challenge his son, Will, recently gave him to “ski those 16 ski areas you have always wanted to ski, Dad.” This year's targets are Mont Ste. Anne and Verbier.

Rob Tillotson, AIA, LEED AP, PE, is President of Oak Point Associates - Architects, Engineers and Planners with offices in Biddeford, Maine, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. As an architect and professional engineer, he is a strong advocate of integrating designers from all related professions into the design process. His primary focus is the sustainable educational facility. His facilities have included the LEED Silver Foster Center for Student Innovation at UMaine and four recently designed LEED registered public schools. He lives in Arundel with his wife and two-year-old son. Rob is an avid skier and pilot and enjoys traveling to places of architectural and natural interest.

Kimberly Tuttle, Associate AIA, was born and raised in Lewiston, Maine. Having a huge interest in LEGO's as a child, as well as joining her dad outside on his various carpentry projects around the house, mini tool belt and all, it was quite clear what career path she should take. In high school she took an introduction to CADD at Lewiston Regional Technical Center, signed up for the two-year-course in her junior and senior years participating in Vocational Industrial Clubs of America and competed in the National Competition in Kansas City, Missouri. Kim graduated from Norwich University's five-year program (a member of AIAS) and received her Masters of Architecture with a minor in art. With degree in hand, she moved to Camden to work at John Morris Architects, where she interned during college. She currently works for Knickerbocker Group in Boothbay and is heading the design for the new Rangeley Center for Arts, a building dedicated to the presentation and performance of the local arts. She is involved with Mid-Coast Habitat for Humanity and is business manager and secretary for Down East Singers. 

The 125th Maine Legislature

by Judith Harvie, Hon AIA Maine


Let the records show that this is the first time since the mid-1960s that the capitol has gone red—Republican in the Governor's office, a Republican Senate and a Republican House. It will be an interesting and challenging session. The priority of this new administration will be to streamline business development by trimming or eliminating state rules and regulations.

The first Legislative Document (LD) of concern this session is LD43 An Act To Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) sponsored by Rep. Lance Harvell of Farmington. Reliable sources say that inspectors are objecting to the training time requirements and that insurance coverage is difficult to find. There is a good chance that third-party inspection will be put on hold for two or three years. Suffice it to say, AIA Maine opposes LD43 and will be calling on members for a grassroots effort to save the law. At the time of this writing, a work session has not been scheduled.

Although not yet printed, we have been told that an LD dealing with stock school

plans is in the works. AIA Maine has opposed this concept in the past and will again. The creation of a stakeholders group to identify areas of cost cutting may result from this initiative. There is also a reduction in the school construction debt limit as proposed in Governor LePage's supplemental budget as noted in LD100.

AIA Maine members participating on the Chapter's 2011 Legislative Affairs Committee will be Chairman Jim Pel-sor, AIA, Steve Blatt, AIA, Scott Brown, AIA, Judy Johnson, AIA, Steve Rich, AIA, and alternate John Morris, AIA. These members will also represent AIA Maine on the Architects/Engineers Legislative Task Force, which is made up of representatives from the following statewide organizations: ACEC of Maine, American Society of Civil Engineers Maine Section, Maine Society of Landscape Architects, Maine Society of Professional Engineers and Structural Engineers Association of Maine, along with AIA Maine.

The weekly legislative status chart as published by the Architects/Engineers Legislative Task Force can be viewed at www.aiamaine.org under Resources. Also a copy of LD43 Repeal of MUBEC is attached at http://www.mainelegisla-ture.org/legis/bills/bills_125th/billp-dfs/HP003601.pdf. 



Recipient of AIA Maine's Lifetime Achievement Award John D. Morris II, AIA, whose efforts spanning 35 years of outstanding service to the Chapter as president, treasurer, member of various committees, including co-chairing the AIA New England Regional Conference, legislative activist and mentor to numerous architects has made a lasting contribution to the Maine architectural community.

This award was presented to John at AIA Maine's December Annual Meeting. Past recipients include Gridley Barrows, FAIA and Wilbur Ingalls, AIA.

Photo courtesy of Josh Morris. 

TEN TIMES A YEAR

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Each month, *Maine Home+Design* showcases the depth of talent that defines our state's community of incredibly talented architects. From tastefully designed small spaces to grand constructions of breathtaking beauty—we stand in awe of the discoveries we've made and are able to share with our readers.

We're proud to be your champions and supporters.

We're prouder still to be the only magazine in Maine that is so closely aligned with the AIA.

Maine Home
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The Green Column

by John Gordon, AIA

Fifty-seven percent of the electricity generated in the United States comes from coal-fired power plants, which are responsible for 93% of the sulfur dioxide, 80% of the nitrogen oxide emissions and 73% of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere from electricity generators (Source: Power Scorecard). In contrast solar electric panels will contribute 0% to the above categories and will generate electricity with no maintenance for 40-50 years!

SOLAR PV SYSTEM

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) grid-tied systems have become more common and more affordable. The basic components include the PV modules and solar electric inverter. PV modules consist of either crystalline modules or thin-film (amorphous) modules. Both types produce DC electricity when exposed to light. The highest performing, commercially available crystalline PV cells operate at about 20% efficiency. Thin-film, or amorphous modules can be integrated into roofing tiles or applied to metal roofing in thin peel-and-stick sheets making them less intrusive architecturally. However, amorphous PV films operate at only about 10% efficiency. The DC power generated by a PV array is routed through an electronic inverter that converts the DC power to AC for use by the building occupants or fed into the power grid.

PERFORMANCE

- Crystalline PV arrays have a peak rating of 10-12 watts per square foot. Amorphous PV arrays have a peak rating of 5-6 watts per square foot.
- Each Kilowatt of installed grid-tied solar power will produce roughly 1400 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity per year in Maine.
- Each Kilowatt of installed grid-tied PV will reduce carbon emissions by 1700 pounds of CO₂ per year, while also removing 2.6 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 1.4 pounds of nitrous oxide emissions.
- The technology has a long life. Solar electric panels are typically warranted for 25 years and have an expected useful life of 40-50 years with minimal maintenance.

NET-METERING

Net-metering has been a regulation in Maine since 1987. It compels utilities to offer two-way electricity meters to customers with renewable energy systems. Net excess generation (NEG) is credited to the following month for up to 12 months; after the end of a 12-month period, any remaining NEG is granted to the utility with no compensation for the customer.

The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) system is a PV subsidy developed for use in Germany. Feed-in Tariffs provide a payment system that compensates owners of renewable energy systems who produce more power than they use. The rates paid to the producers of renewable electricity are at above-retail rates and include long-term contracts. The FIT is a newish notion in the U.S. Vermont, California, Oregon and Hawaii have adopted various FIT regulations. In 2009 a legislative attempt to implement a FIT closely modeled after the German law failed in the Maine Legislature.

COSTS

In Maine residential solar electric installations are eligible for a 30% federal tax credit (no upper limit) and a \$2000 cash rebate from Efficiency Maine. A 30% federal tax credit is also available for businesses. The Section 48 business solar investment tax credit of 30% of the installed cost of "solar energy property" is available until the end of 2016 and has no upper limit. Solar property is also eligible for a five-year accelerated depreciation allowance. And, commercial installations in Maine are eligible for a \$2000 cash rebate from Efficiency Maine (energy audit required).

In Maine, when accounting for the existing incentives, a 5 KW solar PV system can produce an effective cost of electricity of \$0.102 per kWh. When compared to a current grid supplied electricity rate in Maine of \$0.16 per kWh, the operating savings can be significant. Keep in mind that the \$0.102 per kWh rate is for the lifetime of the system. If we compare to grid supplied electricity rates and adjust for an annual increase of 2.5%, then the savings can mount at a significant rate. However, simple payback calculations using available incentives and favorable supply rates remain very long, 20-25 years!

If we consider Return On Investment (ROI), then some energy experts believe that investments in PV makes sense. For your highly responsible investment, you can get a non-volatile, tax-free rate of return of 2% or 3%. And, when considering the available federal tax credit and state rebates, a PV system can have a 20-year payback resulting in a 5% rate of return. As grid power becomes more expensive over time, the economic return on PV can realize significant improvement. Given that our power grid is in need of significant upgrades (with associated significant costs!), one certainty is that grid supplied power rates will increase.

WHY DO IT?

Most energy consultants agree that on-site renewable energy is not a prerequisite for sustainable design and construction. Efficiency must always be the first priority. This includes conservation through lifestyle and use habits. It also includes thorough attention to the building envelope. Many energy-efficiency measures have a much faster payback rate than PV, including compact fluorescent lights, efficient appliances, air sealing and extra insulation. However, three primary compelling reasons drive the installation of solar PV—environmental concerns, green bragging rights and worries about future electricity rate increases. A final consideration likely lies in our societal need to address the sustainable needs of our planet in a timely manner. We are in such a deep hole on carbon that we must not only conserve, but also seek and utilize alternatives to fossil fuels. As such, renewable energy production is a key factor. ■



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AIA Maine to Co-Sponsor Indoor Air Quality Program

February 11, 2011, Augusta Civic Center

Each year the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (MIAQ) hosts an all-day program balancing energy efficiency with healthy indoor air quality in Maine homes, schools and office buildings.

The program topics for this year include:

- **Determining Dew Point in Wall Systems**
Kristofer Anderson, PE, KG Anderson, Bath, ME
- **Addressing IAQ in Net-Zero Energy Design for Commercial Buildings**
Michael Pulaski, Fore Solutions, Portland, and Scott Simons, AIA, Scott Simons Architects, Portland, ME
- **The New EPA Protocols for Indoor Air Quality During Home Energy Retrofits**
Ellen Tohn, Tohn Environmental Strategies, Wayland, MA
- **Healthy Air & Deep Energy Savings**
Curry Caputo, Sustainable Structures, Whitefield, ME
- **Practical Application of ASHRAE 62.2 in Existing Homes**
Rick Karg, RJ Karg Associates, Bethel, ME

For more information and registration, visit www.maineindoorair.org. AIA Maine members can register at the MIAQC member rate. The registration code for AIA Maine members is AIA11. This can be used with the online registration option. If registering by mail or fax, AIA members should note their AIA membership and pay the MIAQC rate. 



ACE Mentoring Turns Three

by Gary Frankel, AIA, Team Leader, Hampden Academy
Senior Architect WBRC Architects • Engineers


ACE is the place to be if you are a high school student interested in a career in the design construction industry. ACE (Architecture Construction Engineering) was created to help high school students achieve their career goals through a mentoring process carried out during their high school experience. The ACE Mentoring Program of Maine is now in its third year with three teams in three cities involving approximately 20 students. Word of the opportunity, which ACE provides to high school students in terms of the exposure, experience, education and the potential for scholarships toward higher education, is spreading throughout the state.

The goal of the ACE Mentoring Program is to reach as many high school students as possible and to expose them to the daily experience of working in the building industry in order to help prepare them for the challenges which await them. This is accomplished by introducing students to practicing design, construction and engineering professionals who share their knowledge and experience with the students at biweekly sessions throughout the school year. In addition students undertake a design project in which they learn about the interaction of the construction team members, which comprise the overall design team contributing their expertise to the project. Through this process, students gain valuable insight into how the built environment is created.

The intent of the program is to bring new talent into the industry to help meet the demands of an ever increasing marketplace and infrastructure fueled by a growing populace and economy. By doing so ACE does far more than help students on their way to professional success. ACE Mentoring, and programs like it, provide a very valuable learning experience at virtually no cost to the school systems in which they operate.

In her book, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, Hillary Rodham Clinton presented her vision for American children. She focused on the impact individuals and groups outside the family have, for better or worse, on a child's well-being, and advocates a society which meets all of a child's needs. ACE is such an outside group, focusing solely on high school students. In doing so ACE Mentoring is not only making an investment in the student's future, but in the future and well-being of society as a whole.

The reality is that the United States has fallen to "average" in international education rankings as stated in a report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, reported by Karin Zeitvogel, AFP (Agence France-Presse) in a December 7, 2010 article. As the educational system falls behind in its efforts to provide a viable and valuable education, whatever the cause, it increasingly falls to groups outside the family to pick up where the schools leave off to help ensure a stable society, economic growth and continued opportunity for those interested in taking advantage of it.

I hope you will take a moment to discover more about the ACE Mentoring Program by visiting our Website at www.acementor.org. Learn about how you can become a volunteer mentor and/or supporter of the program. Education is the key to a successful economic future, and it is up to all citizens to ensure a good education. 



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UMA AIAS Chapter

by Tyler Brown, UMA AIA Student Chapter President

Last fall the AIAS at the University of Maine at Augusta celebrated several new landmarks for both the Chapter and the Architecture Program. With renovations underway at the recently acquired Gannett Building in Augusta's downtown, this spring will see a new home for UMA's architectural students. Along with dedicated studio spaces on the fourth floor for the juniors and seniors, the freshman and sophomores will hold class in the second floor studio at the same time. This will be the first time that all of the architecture studios will be held on the same day, creating an atmosphere to encourage cooperation and networking amongst the students.

In October the Chapter held its second UMA Design Clinic, an event which invited the general public to UMA for a free consultation with an architect. The AIAS was fortunate enough to have many Maine architects including several AIA Maine members who donated their time to participate in this event. The visiting clients included members from the community along with students of a local adult education program. Architecture students, both AIAS members and non-members, were able to meet with the architects and clients to showcase some of their current design work and speak about their program experiences. The UMA Design Clinic will continue to be a valued event for our Chapter and continue to grow when the program settles into its new home in downtown Augusta on the banks of the Kennebec River.

The AIAS welcomed AIAS National Vice President Danielle McDonough to UMA in November. While at UMA VP McDonough met with Architecture Program Coordinator Rob Sherman, AIA, and several AIAS officers. During her tour of the campus, she had the opportunity to visit a second year studio and discuss the curriculum with students and faculty. The VP also visited our new Augusta building and enjoyed seeing the beginning stages of our new home. She was elated with our presence in a historic downtown, the opportunity for students to become involved with the community and the creation of a great atmosphere for studying architecture. 

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