



# Maine News

11 | 2011  
november

volume 165

The Maine Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

## What's in the Green Builder's Toolbox?

by Gunnar Hubbard, AIA, LEED® Faculty™ and Amy Hatta

As green building consultants, we can be confused with architects who design green buildings. While many of us at Fore Solutions are architects, and in this role have designed buildings, we typically work with architects as our clients or partners and offer a different but complementary set of tools on a green building project. One of our most valuable and distinctive tools is the Integrative Design Approach, which involves front-loading the building process with lots of dialogue among team members and environmental analysis so that the end result is a high performing building with impressive cost savings.

A quick way to remember what is involved in this approach is by the 3Es—Everybody, Everything and Early. We bring Everybody to the table who is involved in making decisions about the project, look at Everything that is practical to discuss and examine in each phase and start implementing the approach as Early as possible for best results.



Currently under construction—the University of Massachusetts Medical School Albert Sherman Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. Photo courtesy of Fore Solutions.

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Ideally, if time and budget allow, the Integrative Design Approach involves several steps beginning with a charrette with the entire team and owner that is about creating alignment and defining metrics for success. The deliverables from this interactive workshop may include goals for energy and water use performance, aesthetics and building function. It is during this early charrette that we start to mesh the sustainability piece with the overall design process, with the purpose of avoiding the inefficiencies and costs of having to re-do design work when a sustainability goal is in conflict with the original design. To cite a recent example, we don't want to find later in the process that the design cannot achieve the desired level of LEED rating because it does not have the targeted site credits incorporated in the design—then it's back to the drawing board!

Best practice for the Integrative Design Approach is to follow this initial charrette with analysis of the site, and energy analysis for good orientation and percent glazing. We were recently hired to facilitate a pre-design charrette for a large multi-building and multi-use development in Portland. Before the actual workshop,

*(What's in the Green Builder's Toolbox...continued on page 4)*

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## President's Report

by Scott Brown, AIA



At a 2007 Board of Directors retreat, led by then president Carol De Tine, AIA, I became curious about demographic information regarding Maine licensed architects. Since then I have on several occasions requested and analyzed data bases for the Maine State Licensure Board, AIA National and AIA Maine. Using some simple data sorts and data cross referencing, I have been able to extract some interesting information that I have graphed, charted and shared with others. I hope you find it interesting too.

The first slide (Figure 1, see page 3) shows that there are currently a total of 1,521 architects registered in Maine. These architects reside in 46 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico along with Maine, which has 417 resident, registered architects. States with the largest number of registered architects in Maine include Massachusetts (330), New York (100) and New Hampshire (77). The chart shows that over a recent 10 year period the number of Maine registered architects grew by almost 20% while the state's population only increased slightly over 3% during that same period.

The second slide (Figure 2, see page 3) illustrates by decade the age of the 417 resident, registered Maine architects along with the male/female percentage by decade. As you can see, we are a male dominated group (84% in total) with an average age of about 57 years. The female population, which is 16% of the total resident Maine architects is a younger statistical group than their male counterparts. It was a bit of a surprise to me to see the number of Maine resident architects that are in their 70s, 80s and 90s that maintain their registration. A good thing I trust.

In terms of location, over 47% of Maine resident, registered architects live in Cumberland County with another 33% living in Androscoggin, Hancock, Knox and York counties. The remaining 20% is spread across the rest of the counties.

When I compared the demographics of AIA Maine members to the Maine resident, registered architects, the numbers and percentages were very similar (age, location and gender). These findings were the reason that I wanted to share this data with our membership. The average age of Maine architects is increasing, and there are not a sufficient number of young architects entering the profession to offset the older population. AIA Maine has expressed concern over our increasingly older population and lack of young architects to the AIA. We have also exchanged concerns with AIA New England as this issue is clearly on its radar as well. We have found that we are not alone; and in fact, this is a significant issue across the country. The aging population concern is forcing AIA to review and possibly revise the criteria around Emeritus membership. There are also ongoing discussions that focus on the rigors of the licensing process, and its impact on recent graduates. It's good to know AIA Maine is not experiencing this trend alone, and we will work with AIA National as we move forward. ■

## Upcoming Events

**November–December**  
AIA Maine Annual Meeting  
Watch for Details

**November 1**  
Distribute Call for Entries  
AIA Maine Design Awards 2012

**November 3**  
5PM–7PM  
UMA's AIA Student Chapter Design Clinic  
Gannett Building  
331 Water Street, Augusta

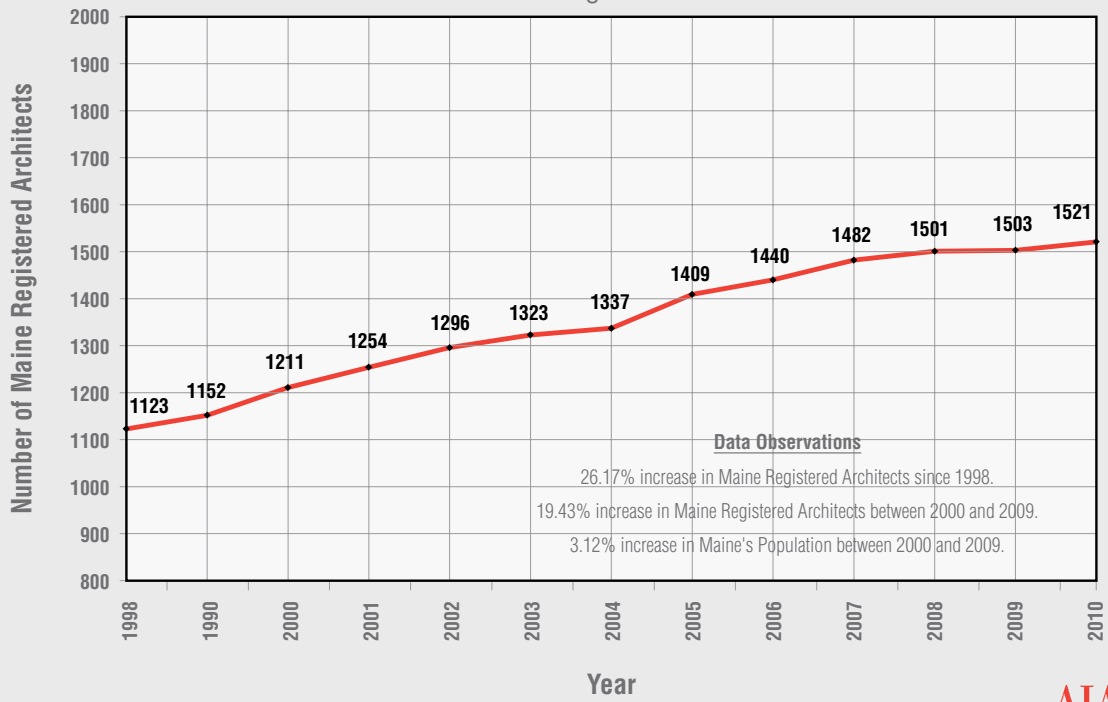
**November 4**  
storefront for architecture maine  
490 Congress Street, Portland  
To host Haystack's Architecture, Vision and Legacy  
November 4–December 10, 2011  
Thursday–Saturday, 2PM–6PM  
Gallery Talk by Haystack Director Stuart Kestenbaum  
November 4 at 6PM  
[info@storefrontforarchitecture.org](mailto:info@storefrontforarchitecture.org)

**November 16–18**  
Build Boston  
Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA  
[www.buildboston.com](http://www.buildboston.com)

**December 31**  
Last Day for Reduced Design Awards 2012  
Entry Fee

**January 4**  
Second Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature

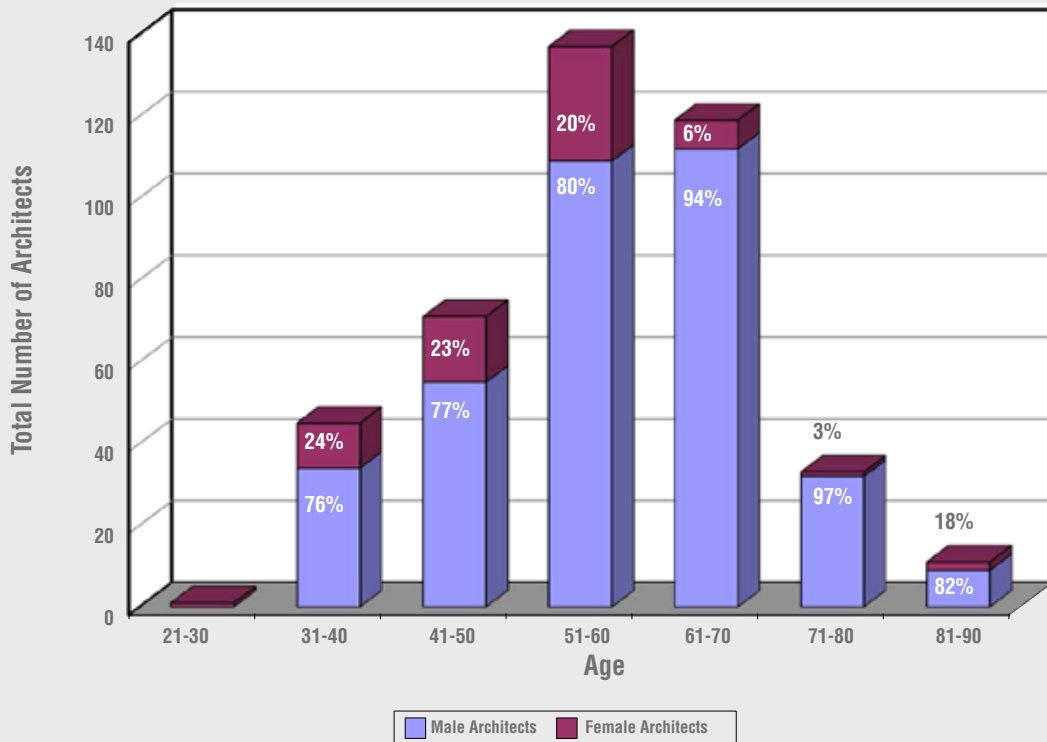
Registered Architects In Maine 1998-2010  
Figure 1



**Note:** Data provided by Maine Board of Architects, Landscape and Interior Designers. May 2010 data spreadsheet.

**AIA Maine**  
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

Registered Architects In Maine — Age  
Figure 2



**AIA Maine**  
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

(What's in the Green Builder's...continued from page 1)

we conducted in-depth climate analysis on the site to help the team discuss ways to orient the buildings for the provision of comfortable outdoor spaces that would be warmed by the sun and protected from the wind. Designing for outdoor "rooms" is always a challenge in Maine and was especially difficult for this windy site. The early analysis not only helped to identify best orientation for comfort, but also had implications for building energy use. We looked at placing storage facilities on the windward side to act as "walls" and thus decrease energy need for heating the main buildings. Asking these questions also provided an opportunity for innovation; for this project, open grid pavers that could be placed over grass could provide for a functional outdoor space that could be both park and parking. This analysis showed the potential for a pedestrian mall that has since been incorporated into the architect's plan.

A second charrette sometimes follows analysis of the site that involves the exploration and development of several concepts for building orientation. An example comes from our work as LEED consultants and Energy Analysts on the University of Massachusetts Albert Sherman Center project. This is a new 500,000-square-foot biomedical research facility in Worcester that will house laboratories, an auditorium, teaching areas, a library, conference space and offices for 100 faculty. The architect is ARC/Architectural Resources of Cambridge. It was during this conceptual design phase that front-loading the sustainability piece achieved cost savings.

Fore Solutions facilitates a charrette at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens for the LEED Platinum and Net Zero-target Bosarge Family Education Center. Photo courtesy of Fore Solutions.

Two different building orientations were to be presented to the client—one along a N-S axis which was aligned with all the existing campus buildings and another that had good northern and southern exposure, but involved a more complicated building design. We found that this second orientation could provide great natural light for the laboratories on the north side and also had the potential for appropriate daylighting for the offices on the southern side with sun shades that could reflect the summertime rays yet allow for warmth and light in the winter. We conducted a thermal analysis that showed that the second orientation would have a cooling load that would be 16 percent less than the other orientation. Our clients told us that this discovery was one of the key selling points to the UMass, and the building being constructed is located along the second orientation for this reason.

The Integrative Design Approach can also involve additional charrettes that allow the team to explore building form, turning each potential form to its highest efficiency. This is where the client would typically make a decision to pursue a particular path. The last charrette drills down in greater detail on building form and examines the program to maximize daylighting. This can involve building an energy model and doing daylight analysis.

Throughout the Integrative Design Approach process, we are constantly looking at cost and have found that it is during these early phases of the project where the rubber hits the road. For example if the green building consultant

working closely with the team and owner can determine what would make for a very good building envelope, mechanical systems can be designed smaller to save money in construction costs as well as operational costs in the long term.

This approach—the hammer and nails in our green building consultants' toolbox—has been tested all over the world with good results—from the Museum for the Built Environment in Saudi Arabia with FxFowle, to the Bosarge Education Center at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens with Scott Simons Architects and Maclay Architects.

An ANSI standard on Integrated Design guides practitioners towards the best outcomes. Fore Solutions helped to develop this standard, and are currently teaching the next generation of architects about this approach at Cornell University, and other practitioners through our on-line college credit course available through Red Vector. ■

## AIA Maine Design Awards 2012

by Scott Simons, AIA, Program Chair

The 2012 Design Awards Committee met again in September to plan for next May's event. Our goal is to attract 100 entries to honor AIA Maine's 100<sup>th</sup> celebratory anniversary year.

To encourage more entries the Committee will be reducing the entry fee to \$100 for all entries received before December 31, 2011. Submissions will be electronic instead of the traditional 20" x 20" printed format, which we hope will encourage more entries by making it easier and less costly for architects to submit their work.

The Committee plans to meet monthly to finalize the location for the event and begin organizing for the fundraising effort. As noted last summer, Julia Snow, FAIA, has agreed to chair the award jury and will be selecting two or three other colleagues to help her make the awards selections. ■



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

## The Other Side of the Story


In the September issue of *AIA Maine News*, we discussed the need for a better understanding of the value of QBS to clients, but this may be only part of the story. As there are two sides to every story, what is the other side of the value of QBS story?

It is relatively easy to demonstrate and explain the value of the QBS process to knowledgeable clients and to public officials that have an understanding of what design professionals do to transform a "good idea" into the expected facility, while meeting all of the budget and time constraints as well as building code, ADA and energy efficiency requirements. But what about clients that are not knowledgeable of the services that are normally provided or the process that is normally used to bring the "good idea" into reality? Even the best of intentions and the appropriate use of QBS may not overcome some very basic lack of understanding on the part of the client.

From my experience few members of building committees on publicly-financed projects are selected based on their knowledge of the design or construction process. They are selected because they are influential community leaders. Their service on the building committee is frequently to give the local taxpayers confidence that their interests are being considered and protected. Most building committee members get high marks for serving in this capacity, and the taxpayers have a sense of confidence in the process.

However, the QBS process which is dependent upon a clear understanding of qualifications may suffer if the design firm and the client are not speaking the same language, or one is using terminology that is not fully understood by the other. We all use acronyms or phrases that are understood by those in our own fields, but may not be understood by those in a different profession. I used to become upset when my computer would freeze and my IT guy would come in and quickly fix the problem, and then explain what had gone wrong using tech terms that I did not understand. I did not ask for an explanation as I knew that the explanation would include many more terms that I did not understand, so I quit only to repeat the problem again a few weeks later.

As design professionals making presentations to clients on the firm's qualifications, do we consider the knowledge and understanding of the design process by the committee that is holding the interview? Even the best presentation may not be successful if it is not understood. Communication has two parts—not only must the message be sent, it also has to be understood. A misunderstood message may be of less value than no message. Unfortunately, low bids are easy to understand, but understanding qualifications is more difficult. If a good presentation is not well received, this may be the other side of the story.

For more information about the Maine QBS Program, visit the QBS Website at [www.meqbs.org](http://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](mailto:eustis@infionline.net)). 



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## Fire Marshal's Corner

by Richard McCarthy, Senior Plans Examiner

There is a lot going on in our office, and I have been asked to give you an update. As you may know, I am a member of the Technical Code Board that administers the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). Lately there have been several changes to MUBEC, and with some impact on design professionals.

As of September 28, 2011, MUBEC enforcement is only mandatory in municipalities with a population of over 4,000. Towns with a population of less than 4,000 have the following options: adopt MUBEC; adopt just the building code section; adopt the energy code section; or choose to have no code. This means that Maine no longer has a mandatory statewide code, which is the result of legislative action last spring.

MUBEC is still administered under the Bureau of Building Codes and Standards. However, there has not been a director since January, and our office has been asked to assist until the legislature has time to decide which department will ultimately house the code. Consequently, I am acting director until the 2012 legislative session adjourns. 

# The Green Column

by John Gordon, AIA

## Haystack Considered

In mid-September I attended a two-day symposium at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts entitled Vision & Legacy: The Haystack Campus at 50. This Green Column will explore the sustainable qualities of Haystack as observed and learned. The “green” exploration of this 50-year-old campus will be conducted within the framework of a current green building rating system, LEED-NC 2009 program.

First, a few facts about Haystack:

- From Haystack’s Website: “Haystack Mountain School of Crafts is an international craft school located on the Atlantic Ocean in Deer Isle, Maine. The school offers intensive studio-based workshops in a variety of craft media including clay, glass, metals, paper, blacksmithing, weaving, woodworking and more. Programs range from short workshops to two-week sessions and anyone may participate, from beginners to advanced professionals.”
- Designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, FAIA.
- Original structures built in 1960 and school opened in 1961 at a cost of about \$5 per square foot. Additions and upgrades have continued since.
- Awarded the AIA Twenty-Five-Year Award in 1994 in recognition of the school’s design excellence. AIA described it as “an early and profound example of the fruitful and liberating fusion of the vernacular building traditions with the rationality and discipline of modern architecture.”
- Added to the National Register of Historic Places as a building of national significance in 2006.

My thoughts are organized within the six primary LEED categories.

**Sustainable Sites:** When reviewing the available sustainable sites (SS) credit, I quickly learned we are in trouble. One perceived weakness with the LEED rating system is its seeming bias against rural sites. Given that Haystack is located in a remote area, many SS credits are not attainable, specifically those addressing Development Density & Community Connectivity, Public Transportation, etc. However, Haystack excels at protecting habitat and maximizing open space. Architect Barnes delicately situated the small, wood-framed structures as they cascade their way down the slope toward the Atlantic Ocean. Perhaps one of Haystack’s most sustainable site-related features is this. If we were to remove the buildings and give Mother Nature 25 years, I’m not sure we would know the place ever existed.

**Water Efficiency:** Upon arrival at Haystack, emphasis on water efficiency was made immediately apparent by our host Stuart Kestenbaum, Haystack Director. Water is a valuable commodity. Due to very limited access to fresh water, Haystack’s potable water is mostly provided by desalinated sea water. As such, the cost of providing water is extremely high and water conservation is an absolute. I’m not aware to what extent Haystack has upgraded its water systems to include features like low-flow shower heads and faucets, dual-flush toilets, rainwater-harvesting system, etc. Perhaps Haystack



Haystack at 50. Photos courtesy of John Gordon, AIA.

could benefit from the use of a gray-water system for some of its non-potable water needs? Nonetheless, I do think Haystack would fare well in obtaining Water Efficient credits such as Water Use Reduction and Water Efficient Landscaping.

**Energy & Atmosphere:** Again, limited opportunity for Haystack to earn credits here. Fundamental and Enhanced Refrigerant Management may apply to the coolers and freezers at the kitchen. Optimize Energy Performance could be an attainable credit. It appears as though Haystack electricity consumption at the rustic residential cabins could be very low. However, Haystack likely uses a fair amount of energy in support of its programs that include blacksmithing, clay (kilns), glass and metals. Desalinating sea water can also consume a lot of energy. The full-service dining hall kitchen consumes a fair amount of energy when providing three meals per day. Possibilities for improvement in energy performance could include onsite renewables. Solar thermal (hot water) and solar PV (electric) could have a reasonable payback depending upon total consumption. But, given Haystack’s seasonal use, solar PV could generate electricity year round. So in the winter when Haystack’s electricity consumption is very low, a properly sized PV array could offset much of the utility provided electricity. Wind power could be another renewable energy option depending upon available wind—a potential upside to Haystack’s oceanfront location. Measurement & Verification through the use of electric and water metering for separate buildings/functions could promote conservation. Another possible energy-related improvement could be the purchase of green power.

**Materials & Resources:** Per LEED, the primary focus of materials & resources is the selection/use of sustainable materials and construction waste management. I can only speculate as to what construction waste management efforts were employed 50 years ago. However, I do think Haystack fares well in its use of sustainable materials. All structures employ simple, wood-framed construction. Interior finishes are exposed, rough studs and board sheathing. Some of the original lumber was cut from trees felled onsite. Perhaps Haystack’s strength in sustainable materials is the relative ease with which repairs can be made. Granted, it is a double-edge sword. The all wood construction requires ongoing upkeep, repair and maintenance. But, this work can be accomplished with simple materials and methods. Haystack’s durability is not wholly a function of the durability of its materials, but rather the ready and common availability

(The Green Column...continued on page 7)

of its material (wood) and simplicity of its structures. Not only are the materials rapidly renewable, but the buildings are too! Overall the combined effect has been a campus of buildings that has changed very little in its 50 years of service. When reviewing various "then" and "now" photos, the only apparent difference is the size and quantity of trees.

**Indoor Environmental Quality:** The critical components of indoor environmental quality are indoor air quality, thermal comfort, lighting and acoustics. Indoor air quality is likely very good given the open nature of Haystack's buildings. Cabins do not have an active ventilation system, nor is it needed. Operable windows and a general "leaky" construction type suffice. Given the seasonal use of Haystack, thermal comfort varies. Proximity to the ocean helps to temper the environment. The buildings do not contain heating or cooling equipment. The Haystack prep sheet includes advice to bring clothing for a temperature range of 40 to 90 degrees. Lighting, one of Barnes' primary design features, emphasizes daylighting. Studios with high, north-facing windows grab abundant light. The cabins have ribbon windows facing the ocean for view and high, peaked windows on the sides. Artificial light is needed only for evening activities. So, overall, Haystack would likely harvest sufficient LEED credits for Low-Emitting Materials, Controllability of Systems, Thermal Comfort and especially Daylight & Views.


**Innovation in Design:** This category exists to reward projects that go above and beyond what a credit requires or that incorporate a strategy that is not addressed by any prerequisite or credit. If we think of Haystack within the context of its time

(ca. 1960) then it would likely qualify for many credits. When thinking of Haystack within the context of today's LEED credits, it could qualify for credits in Education Program, Green Cleaning, and, perhaps, Exemplary Performance in Water Efficiency.

Overall Haystack appears to be fairly compliant with LEED. If Haystack were built today and pursued LEED certification, it would easily garner Gold and with the addition of some of the above-mentioned "improvements" reach Platinum. But, I'm glad we cannot go there. The strength of Edward Larrabee Barnes' design is indeed its Vision & Legacy. Further, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts' commitment to maintaining and promoting that Vision & Legacy is perhaps the most sustainable feature.

If you have not visited Haystack, you should.

**Haystack Resources:**

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts-[www.haystack-mtn.org](http://www.haystack-mtn.org)  
List of AIA Twenty-Five Year Award recipients-[www.aia.org/practicing/awards/AIAS075247](http://www.aia.org/practicing/awards/AIAS075247)  
*Vision & Legacy, Celebrating the Architecture of Haystack-2011*, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts  
*Edward Larrabee Barnes, Architect-1994*, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. 

## TEN TIMES A YEAR

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- AIA Maine Executive Director Susan Koch has been appointed by AIA President Clark Manus, FAIA, to serve as a member of the 2012 AIA Associates Award Jury. The Associates Award Jury is comprised of a diverse group of five AIA members and/or other stakeholders, appointed by the President, who are advocates for emerging professionals. Jury members shall include a Young Architect member and an Associate member. Other jury members may include a member of the Institute's Board of Directors, a member of the Council of Architectural Component Executives, a member of the AIA College of Fellows, or such individuals as the President may appoint. The Associates Award is given to Associate members who best exemplify the highest qualities of leadership and have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their component's or region's membership, in the community, in professional organizations and/or in the design and construction industries.
- Marvin Windows and Doors has announced the winners of the 2011 myMarvin Architect's Challenge. This select group was judged to be the best of many residential and commercial entrants that used Marvin products in their projects. Three of the 11 winning entries originated from architects in A.W. Hastings' territory. Award winners included "White Mountain View" designed by AIA Maine architect Jesse Thompson, AIA, of Kaplan Thomas Architects, Portland. This house in Sweden, Maine, hugs the tree line of an historic pasture and captures dramatic views of Mt. Washington to the west. Working within a modest budget, Thompson used local wood and high quality thermal insulation to create a contemporary feel on a classic style building, while meeting sustainability goals. The house sits over a two stall horse barn and features a steeply pitched gable roof, double hung windows and cedar shingles and clapboard that work within the classic Maine archetype. Contest judge Carson Looney, FAIA, noted that the house

was "among the highest rated entries, simply beautiful, honest and functional; inside and out." The two other projects were The Overlook House by Marcus Gleysteen of Gleysteen Studio of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and "Off-Campus residences, Mayo Smith House, Seelye House, Hitchcock House" at Amherst College by New York architect James McKinney of Sacco+McKinney Architects.

- With assistance from the University of Maine Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC), AIA Maine Associate member, designer and inventor Charles Earley has redesigned the clothespin for commercialization. Earley, who is a project manager with Lewis & Malm Architecture in Bucksport, refers to his round, three-inch-diameter device as EKLIPSE. Working with UMaine's AMC, he tried many materials on his circular design before deciding on polycarbonate ABS composite. EKLIPSE was submitted to the University of Maine School of Law's Maine Patent Program and was cleared for the next step—U.S. Patent Office. Earley says he was pleased working with the University in creating and completing EKLIPSE along with the agreement to protect his intellectual property rights. You can reach Earley at 207.659.6683.
- Dean Bingham, AIA, was featured in the September issue of *ARCHITECT*, the magazine of the AIA, in a Q & A article about running a side business of chocolate making to his practice of architecture. In case you missed it, you can visit "Career Sampler" at <http://www.architectmagazine.com/business/career-sampler.aspx?cid=ANW:092211:JUMP> 



Tuscany. Sketch courtesy of Rob Whitten, AIA.



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## ARE & IDP Updates

by Kimberly Tuttle, Associate AIA  
Maine IDP Coordinator

The Intern Development Program (IDP) Coordinator's Chicago Conference in late July was a hit! With more than 150 coordinators throughout the country, lots of information and lots of welcoming advice, AIA Maine is looking for individuals in firms of any size to help grow the Auxiliary Coordinators positions. These coordinators report to the State Coordinator, and are basically helpful in getting the word out regarding IDP news, options for interns who are looking to gain IDP credit, or having fun meeting and greeting throughout the year; plus the potential of attending the 2012 Conference in Chicago.

We are also seeking architects, designers, interns and students who would like to be a part of our mentor program. This is a forum where people can ask any architectural questions whether it be about opening your own practice, advice on studying for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE), student project critiques or architects looking for interns. Anyone interested is welcome to become a part of this discussion. If you are interested, please contact me at [ARESuccessMaine@gmail.com](mailto:ARESuccessMaine@gmail.com). 



IDP Coordinator's Conference July 2011. Contributed photo.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 myMARVIN ARCHITECT CHALLENGE WINNERS



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Tuscany. Sketch courtesy of Rob Whitten, AIA.

# ¿Cuba? Si!

by Cynthia Howard, AIA

In 2010 I had the good fortune to travel to Cuba on a Women's Construction Brigade (sort of a Cuban "Habitat for Humanity"), and in 2011 with the San Francisco group Global Exchange, [www.globalexchange.org/tours](http://www.globalexchange.org/tours), on a research trip to Cuba expressly for architects, preservationists and planners. Given the U.S. embargo against this Caribbean country just 90 miles off Florida, and the attendant lack of information about the island, I had little knowledge of Cuba.

I knew that Havana was a very old city, and that it had been the jewel of the Spanish empire in the colonial period. Thus a large service-oriented, multi-cultural trading settlement grew up there. And prior to the Revolution in '59, the city was a glamorous playground for the wealthy and famous. I was sure there would be fascinating things to discover for an architect/preservation planner visiting Cuba's capitol city and was curious to see Havana for myself.

What an astonishing place it is! Beautifully restored buildings spanning architectural styles from over four centuries of history and development. Narrow streets of gorgeous, often arcaded, façades with ornate details and balconies and grand-scale doors and windows; the whole made intimate by the glimpses one has into the interior sun-washed courtyards where everyday activities of neighborhood life and commerce still occur. (In socialist Cuba restoration has occurred without gentrification, so far.)

Picturesque plazas with cobblestone streets, lined with ancient churches

and fine restaurants, often filled with groups of school children, families, and the always-present Cuban dogs. And of course, the pre-1959 American cars which everyone associates with Cuba. (Astonishingly, these old cars represent about one in five vehicles on the road. There are also bicycles, smaller pedal and gas-powered vehicles, horse-drawn carriages and many walkers. It is the ultimate pedestrian-friendly city.)

The rest of the world, including half a million Canadians who visit yearly, considers Old Havana to be the "best preserved colonial city in the Americas." Old Havana has been declared a World Heritage Site by U.N.E.S.C.O., the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

It will surprise most, and gladden preservationists, to know that with the establishment of the Republic of Cuba in 1959 one of the first acts of Fidel Castro was to empower the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana with the task of preservation of the colonial built heritage of Cuba. And later in the 1970s, the Office was granted extraordinary rights, enabling it to become a developer, not just a protector, of the city. The Office of the Historian of the City of Havana was granted the power to impose taxes and raise funds, including foreign investments with all profits to be reinvested in the ongoing restoration work. Today the Office develops, designs, owns, builds and operates hotels, restaurants and museums. It has established a school to educate a specialized new workforce of over 10,000 artisans and architects needed for the work.



Havana. Photo courtesy of Cynthia Howard, AIA.

To discover this world-class city is joy enough but to have had the chance to learn more about how they have done it (with the opportunity to talk directly with architects guiding the work) has deepened my appreciation for Cubans and Cuba. As Mario Coyula, one of the architects guiding this process has said, there are continuing hard challenges trying to balance the pros and cons of tourism for Cuba.

"On the one hand, tourism can attract new investment and income that will help to improve the living standard of the city's residents. On the other hand, large-scale construction just for tourists can overwhelm the local built environment, and encourage Cubans to see tourists not as fellow human beings but just as an economic resource—almost the way the hungry man in the old Charlie Chaplin film saw everyone around him as a roast chicken..."

Preservation in Cuba is a fascinating story, an example of value to the rest of the world and still unfolding. With the Obama administration's recent loosening of travel restrictions to encourage educational and cultural exchanges, there are more opportunities than ever to visit Cuba. Michael Moore and I encourage you to go. **M**

## AIA National 2012 Membership Early Renewal Incentive

AIA members who renew their dues by December 31, 2011, will be entered into a drawing for a new iPad 2 and will receive a coupon code for one free CEU through AIA Virtual Convention that can be used by the end of January 2012. **M**

# First and Last Impression

by Jill Simpson, AIA  
Alpha One Access Design Specialist

For any building that requires users to drive to it, the parking lot is often the first and last impression one has. For people with disabilities, the design of accessible parking spaces is often the indication of how welcome they are to the facility.

Well designed accessible parking goes beyond the required access aisle and sign requirements. Coordinating the location of the accessible parking spaces and aisles with the building entrance as part of the integrated design process will benefit all users and can enhance the overall impression of the building. Having the shortest accessible route on the site between the entry and the parking will also help to minimize winter maintenance. It is not uncommon during a Maine winter to see accessible parking spaces located in the corner of the lot being used for snow storage reducing the number of accessible spaces available.

Planning for and identifying other site furniture that is required of the building program is also important as building owners often place benches, trash cans or bike racks in the accessible route creating obstacles for all users.

With the Public Rights-of-Way (PROW) guide currently available for public comment, there are many different examples of how to achieve accessible parking on tight streets and sites. Added PROW comments from designers and users of accessible parking will hopefully enable better parking for everyone in the future. **M**

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# Vision and Legacy: The Haystack Campus at 50

by Morris Hancock, AIA

Monday, 19 September 2011, was a perfect Maine late-summer day, temperature in the 70s and not a cloud in the sky. It was in these conditions that 42 lucky participants had the opportunity to travel by car or by sailboat along the Maine coast to Deer Isle arriving at the magnificent campus of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. The purpose of our journey was to spend 24 hours living on campus to see how well Edward Larrabee Barnes' school has stood the test of time.

We were enthusiastically welcomed by Haystack Director Stuart Kestenbaum who gave us a brief history of the school and its move to Deer Isle before affording us an opportunity to introduce ourselves with a few images of our work. Following this session, a talk by Philip Isaacson focused on the significance of Barnes' design in Maine architectural history, as well as that of another work of Barnes'—the Gustave Hecksher house. These two works epitomize beautifully the union of traditional Maine construction with the elegantly distilled simplicity of modernism.

The later afternoon brought a chance to feel how the campus works as longtime Haystack instructor Jamie Johnston led us through a couple of collaborative studio-based design activities. Dinner followed and then a delightful presentation by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien highlighting their recent work and its influences. Later a drive to Deer Isle village to see an exhibit, curated by Carol Wilson, FAIA, of drawings, photographs and models of significant modern structures including Haystack.

On the second day, we were treated to a talk by noted textile designer and honorary Haystack Board Chairman Jack Lenor Larsen on the selection of Haystack architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, creating the campus and helping the grounds of the School grow for more than 50 years.



Legendary textile designer Jack Lenor Larsen addresses the Haystack gathering. Photo courtesy of Susan Koch.

After a closing discussion based on the future direction of Maine architecture, we marveled how easily the grand stair and its attendant peaked shingled sheds have adapted to the needs of five decades of continued use. All together the time spent at Haystack gave us a rare opportunity to really become familiar with this landmark building. **M**

# Maine Uniform Building & Energy Code (MUBEC) at the Local Level


by James Pelsor, AIA, Co-Chair AIA Maine Legislative Affairs

Consumers Union, a national consumer advocacy group, is beginning a campaign to raise awareness of energy codes and assist with in-state efforts to advance building codes in small towns with a population under 4,000 people. These are the towns (about 40% of Maine communities) which the recent Maine legislature exempted from the IBC and energy code compliance. The perception was that compliance with MUBEC would be a burden on builders and towns.

Maine is one of the states where Consumers Union has grants to help support this effort. This is a good opportunity for AIA Maine to participate with Consumers Union, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and GrowSmart along with U.S. Building Council and the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Each of these organizations will welcome any support from AIA Maine.

Consumers Union has completed some interesting survey reports and has developed a set of materials concerning public expectations.

Please visit <http://www.consumersunion.org/energy/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Energy-Code-Survey.pdf>.

Participants from each of these groups are working to gather support for MUBEC in key Maine communities. AIA Maine by increased local adoption and expanded code coverage statewide, and increased support and momentum for building codes in general. The emphasis is on consumer awareness of energy conservation and safety at the municipal level. With this education it is hoped that every Maine town will adopt the MUBEC family of codes. 



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# AIA Maine Extends Appreciation to its Allied Members

The AIA Maine Allied Member category was created at the State level to promote communication among those individuals in the design, construction and commercial community. It is open to engineers, planners, landscape architects, contractors, artists and vendors as well as those in government, education, journalism, manufacturing and other fields associated with architecture. Allied members are associated with AIA Maine, but are not members of AIA National.

The Chapter would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the following Allied members for their continued support.

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