

COLUMNS

The Newsletter of the American Institute of Architects, Arkansas Chapter Summer 2009



Central Section Golf
AIA Arkansas Central Section members hit the golf course on June 12. Article on Page 5.

From the President

Changes, Notes, Updates ...

AIA ARKANSAS PRESIDENT WALLIE SPRICK

The 87th Arkansas General Assembly ended with a few changes affecting our profession. The State Board of Architects now has a new name and make up: Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers.

The board has added representatives from the landscape and interior design professions and will oversee all three disciplines.

The legislature also authorized the Energy Office to require any city or county that issues building permits for new construction to adopt the 2004 Arkansas Energy Code for New Construction. The Energy Office of the Department of Economic Development has become the enforcement agency charged with implementing the 2004 Energy Code. Also the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming may have some positive effect on our built environment.

The 2009 National Convention, held in San Francisco, featured hundreds of lectures, seminars, presentations and tours. The vendor exhibition halls were filled with the latest products and technologies from around the world. AIA National was well represented with booths offering services for members looking for job opportunities, the newest AIA documents, insurance and much more.

The University of Arkansas Alumni Reception at the National

Convention was a joint effort between AIA Arkansas and the U of A Fayetteville. It gave Arkansas alumni from across the country the opportunity to connect with classmates. Honored at the reception were two AIA Arkansas members who were elevated to the College of Fellows – Jack See Jr., FAIA, CEFPI, and Marlon Blackwell, FAIA. (Photo on Page 2.)

Congratulations go out to Tim de Noble, who is leaving his position at the U of A to become dean of Kansas State University's College of Architecture, Planning and Design. Tim, we will miss you and wish you the best!

Your AIA has been very active these last few months. The AIA/AGC Committee has met with members of the AGC to discuss the 2007 AIA documents. The AIA Legislative Committee continues to track activity on the national level and a task force has been organized to monitor the U of A design professional selection process.

The Convention Committee is hard at work finalizing the details for the upcoming event. The speakers' schedules, vendors' expo and the social activities are falling into place, which should make this year's convention another educational and inspiring experience for all who attend.

Remember to mark your calendar and be in Hot Springs Oct. 22-24. Registration information will be sent out to all members very soon.

Don't forget to visit the National AIA Web site at www.aia.org to see what AIA has to offer its members.

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Wilcox Group Receives National IDP Award

Firm's Internship Program Recognized for Commitment to Mentoring

The Wilcox Group's commitment to mentoring was recognized with one of the top awards given by the national Intern Development Program Advisory Committee (IDPAC). The Little Rock-based firm is one of only two firms in the country to receive the 2008-2009 Intern Development Program Outstanding Firm Award, given by IDPAC, which is comprised of the American Institute of Architects, among other groups.

The award recognizes firms that have gone above and beyond the baseline criteria for an Intern Development Program. Firms are judged based on their mentoring, supervising, training opportunities and commitment to IDP.

"This is such an honor for our firm and our interns," said Steve Kinzler, chief executive officer of The Wilcox Group. "As part of our program, our interns are encouraged to work closely with project architects, consultants and contractors to begin projects from their conception and through completion. Through this process, interns are ensured of learning every aspect of the 16 training areas and core competencies outlined by the IDP."

The 2009 jury included representatives from the various organizations participating in the IDPAC, including AIA, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, American Institute of Architecture Students, Association of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the Society for Design Administration.

The Intern Development Program started in 1976

as a pilot program developed by the AIA and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to ensure the continued support of interns by the changing profession of architecture.

IDP is a profession-wide, comprehensive training program that is focused on the professional development of architectural interns. Through a series of required activities, IDP enables participants to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that form the core competencies related to successful architectural practice. IDP is structured in a way that effectively responds to the training needs of architectural interns by providing a wide range of resources, established progressive benchmarks, advice and mentor guidance throughout the extensive internship process.

"Our partners and licensed architects work closely with our interns to integrate them into every aspect of a design project," Kinzler said. "We believe in the power of mentoring and hope by actively engaging with each of our interns that we help them successfully prepare to sit for our industry's intensive licensing exam process. It's our hope that our interns will continue the cycle and actively seek mentoring relationships once they become licensed."

Architectural firms interested in learning more about becoming an IDP-friendly firm can contact Candi Adams, the state's IDP coordinator and a licensed architect with The Wilcox Group, at (501) 666-4546 or cadams@thewilcoxgroup.com.

New Fellows

Jack See Jr. (left), FAIA, CEFPI, and Marlon Blackwell, FAIA, were inducted into the prestigious AIA College of Fellows at the 2009 AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in San Francisco. This honor is awarded to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession.





The Inskip MINI Cooper Dealership

Rhode Island Project Earns Recognition For Benton Firm

The Inskip MINI Cooper Dealership in Warwick, R.I. – designed by the Benton architectural firm of Black, Corley, Owens and Hughes, P.A. and completed in May 2007 – was recently recognized by the New England Edition of *Real Estate and Construction Review* magazine as one of the top projects in New England.

The building had to be placed on a very constricted site, in among nine other dealerships also designed by Black, Corley, Owens & Hughes, P.A. The building was designed to have as small a footprint as possible while still maintaining a strong street presence as well as ample display space on the showroom floor.

The exterior has a very sleek “jewel box” appearance, clad completely in black, with bright neon color accents and features.

There is an elevated display platform on one corner of the building that features a full-size fiberglass model of a MINI Cooper.

The same scheme was carried into the interior, with the bright colors accenting the colors of the display vehicles.



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2009 ARKANSAS AIA CONVENTION | HOT SPRINGS | OCTOBER 22 -24 | FEATURED SPEAKERS



Blackwell Wins Regional Honors for Renovation Projects

Jennings, McKee Receive Merit Award for Work on Anthony Chapel at Garvan Gardens

Marlon Blackwell, a professor at the Fay Jones School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas and a principal at the Marlon Blackwell Architect firm in Fayetteville, has won two honor awards from the Gulf States Regional division of the American Institute of Architects.

The Maurice Jennings and David McKee Architects firm of Fayetteville received a Merit Award for its work on the Anthony Chapel at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs.

Blackwell was honored for reinventing the Fulbright Building, a beloved mid-century modern landmark in Fayetteville, and for transforming a historic hardware store into the Gentry Public Library.

“These sort of projects make you focus on the details because the form is already established,” Marlon Blackwell said. “You develop elements like doors, windows and stairs, and they really pay off.”

Case in point: the cayenne-colored stair that punctuates the façade of the Fulbright building, an outdated library facility that Blackwell retooled into a suite of offices organized around interior courtyards. He replaced a brick curtain wall system that was peeling away from the structure with a variegated shell of transparent and translucent glass, and cut light wells into the building to illuminate the once gloomy first floor. His favorite feature is an acoustical shroud designed to absorb sound in the building’s long, narrow conference room. Analyzed and refined acoustically by School of Architecture professor Tahar Messadi and built in situ by artists Bill Ward and Eugene Sargent, the black-zinc-clad figure hovers above the conference table, suggestive of a boat hull or perhaps a primordial sea creature. The Fulbright Building was featured in the June issue of *Architectural Record*.

It took seven years, a millage and rebidding the project four times to realize Blackwell’s vision for the Gentry Public Library on a tight budget of \$108 per square foot. The former hardware store has morphed

into a sleek hybrid of old and new that has helped revitalize downtown Gentry, with almost 80 percent of the town’s population enrolled as members of the library. Designers have responded to Blackwell’s artful use of glazing to open the library to the street and showcase historic artifacts and- his painstaking preservation of the building’s brick shell, pressed tin ceiling and heartwood pine floors.

The project was featured in *Architectural Record* and in the “Design 100” issue of *Metropolitan Home*. The Gentry Library previously won a 2008 honor award from the Arkansas chapter of the AIA and a 2009 National Library Design Award from the AIA and the American Library Association/Library Administration and Management Association. The Gentry library is the first community library in Arkansas to win state, regional and national design honors.

Marlon Blackwell has won 38 state, regional, national and international design awards since 1998.

“I’m very proud of this most recent recognition for Marlon Blackwell,” said Jeff Shannon, dean of the Fay Jones School of Architecture. “It’s a tremendous benefit for our students to study under him and learn from his work. These awards help spread the word of the quality of our school.”

Jennings and McKee were honored for their work on the Anthony Chapel, a chapel for the botanical gardens at Garvan Gardens. The chapel provides a venue for weddings, musical performances and special events. A glass infill in all exterior walls permits a transparency that allows the chapel to become one with its surroundings.

Jurors called the chapel “beautiful” and a “well-executed building.”

Of the 117 entries from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, jurors issued 12 awards in the Gulf States Region competition. David Baird, AIA, of Baton Rouge presided as awards chair.



At the Fay Jones School Ceremonies

Don Edmondson (left) and Glenn N. Sink, AIA, visit during the activities in April at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in which the School of Architecture was renamed in honor of the late Fay Jones, FAIA. The naming of the school was made possible by a multi-million-dollar gift by Edmondson and his wife, Ellen, who were former clients of Jones. The Edmondsons, of Forrest City, have contributed nearly \$12 million over the years to the school, which is now known as the Fay Jones School of Architecture.

Golfers Raise Over \$1,100 for Food Bank

June 12 marked the 20th consecutive year for the Central Section Annual Golf Tournament. This year's turnout was even larger than recent years with 40 two-man teams participating. Innerplan Office Interiors, an AIA Silver Ribbon Co-Sponsor, was the major sponsor along with many vendors and suppliers.

The weather was sunny, warm and humid at the Country Club of Arkansas in Maumelle, much better than the thunderstorms that delayed the event last year. All of the teams completed the round, ate lunch, picked up give-away prizes and applauded the winner before threatening weather moved through the area later in the afternoon.

Once again a special thanks to Chris Cerrato, Jim Narup and all the staff at Innerplan who gathered prizes, stuffed the goodie bags, registered players, drove the drink carts, manned the putting contest and made sure everything went smoothly. The mulligan sales raised more than \$1,100 for the Arkansas Food Bank Network. This organization stocks food pantries in counties all across the state.

We want to thank the Allied members who donated items for the Tournament – Innerplan Office Interiors, Acme Brick, Nabholz Construction, Southern Reprographics, Inc. Curtis Stout, BPI Arkansas and Sherwin Williams Company. Also many thanks to all of the vendors that donated items for the goodie bags and prizes at the tournament.

Congratulations to all the winners in each flight as well as the give-away prize winners.

First Flight:

First place – Grant Jordon and Ritchie Brown

Second place – David Angel and Tom Koller

Third place – Jimmy Alessi and Eldon Bock

Second Flight:

First place – Dan Beranek and Tom Fennell

Second place – Charlie Boyd and Paul Barber

Third place – Thad Kelly and Randy Murphy

Third Flight:

First place – Bob Morris and Tim Walbert

Second place – Jim Yeary and

Ellen Yeary

Third place – Chris Cerrato and

Chad Young

Longest Drive:

On Hole #1 – Tom Koller

On Hole #18 – Dan Beranek

Closest to Pin:

On Hole #6 – Joe Johnson

On Hole #15 – Bryce Switzer

Putting Contest:

Jack See



Putting Champ Jack See



Bob Morris (left) and Tim Yelvington



Tough day at the course: You should see where Randy Orr's ball landed!

News in Brief

Three at Cromwell Earn LEED Accreditation

Cromwell Architects Engineers has announced three new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professionals. Brooke Barnill, EI, an intern engineer, W. Thomas Moore, AIA, a registered architect, and Allison Vandever, Assoc. AIA, an intern architect, have all demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and the LEED Rating System. Cromwell now has 17 LEED APs.

CSI Chapter to Host Leadership Meeting

The Little Rock Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) will be the host chapter for the 2009 Gulf States Region Leadership Meeting to be held Aug. 7-8 at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock.

This meeting is conducted each year to bring the officers and active committee members from throughout the Region (16 Chapters from five states) together in one location and to provide leadership, management and committee/position specific training. This training is considered to be of paramount importance to the continued forward movement of not only the local chapters of the Gulf States Region, but the Institute as well.

When asked if there was anything the local community could do to help in this endeavor, Billy J. Mathis, CSI, CDT, chairman of the Leadership Meeting Committee, advised that the Little Rock Chapter was looking to provide the arriving membership with a unique Arkansas experience. He was looking to dispel the myths out there that Little Rock is the quaint, quiet town where they roll back the sidewalks in the evening. The Little Rock Chapter is looking for sponsors and for donations of items to be used as door prizes, small gifts

and goodies that could be placed in the 150 or so welcome bags to be handed out to all attendees, and ideas of places close to the Double-Tree where the members could go to get the "Arkansas experience."

If anyone would like to assist in this, please contact Mathis (501) 758-7443 or Michelle Christen, FCSI, CCCA, at (501) 666-6776.

WD&D Promotes Three Staff Members

Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc., is pleased to announce the promotions of three staff members in its Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas offices.

Christie King, AIA, has been promoted to senior associate at the Northwest Arkansas office. She joined WD&D in 2003, and her background as a licensed architect includes an emphasis on construction documents, design development and historic preservation.

Cindy White, CIT, of the Little Rock office, has been promoted to associate. She joined the firm in 2004 and is a contract administrator. She is also a board member for the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

Shirley Westmoreland, office manager for the Northwest Arkansas office, has also been promoted to associate. She joined WD&D in 2001.

Magazine Seeks Award Contest Entries

South Central Construction magazine has issued a call for entries for its Best of 2009 Awards Competition.

The annual awards program is dedicated to honoring the best projects and the companies that designed and built them in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi or Tennessee. Projects must have been completed between Sept. 1, 2008, and Aug. 31, 2009. Online entries may be submitted by any of the firms working

on the project, including owners, architects, engineers, contractors and subcontractors.

An independent jury made up of industry leaders in real estate, design and construction will judge the projects in 20 categories. Winners will be honored at separate awards banquets Dec. 3 in Baton Rouge and Dec. 10 in Memphis. Winning entries will also be featured in the December issue of *South Central Construction*.

Top category winners will move on to compete in the 2009 Best of the Best Awards, McGraw-Hill Construction's national competition. Best of the Best winners will be profiled in *Engineering News-Record*, reaching more than 150,000 design and construction professionals.

There is no entry fee, and the deadline for entries is Aug. 26. Go to this Web site to access entry information: www.formrouter.net/forms@ENR/2009/index.htm.

Questions? Contact Sam Barnes, senior editor, at (800) 786-8980, ext. 20.

McGraw-Hill-Dodge Reopens Plan Room

The McGraw-Hill Construction-Dodge Division reopened its F.W. Dodge Plan Room on May 14 at 815 Main St. in Little Rock. For more information, contact Maria Williams by phone at (501) 372-1705 or by fax at (501) 372-1625.

Attention Interns: NCARB Goes Paperless

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) will not accept paper employment verifications (Form 123) from interns in the Intern Development Program postmarked on or after July 1, 2009.

All interns will be required to use the online electronic Experience Verification Reporting (e-EVR) system to document their IDP experience after this date.



Scott Hood in his new Smart Car.

Crafton Tull Sparks Recognizes Employees

Crafton Tull Sparks reports these recent achievements by employees:

John Krentz, P.E., passed the Arkansas professional engineer exam. He serves as project engineer in the firm's civil engineering department.

Ira Wimer, AIA, relocated from the firm's Rogers office to the Russellville office to serve as an architectural project manager.

Brandon Vick, I.A., intern architect, John Krentz, P.E., project engineer in the civil department in the firm's Russellville office, and Chris Johnson, E.I., civil engineer in the Rogers office, have all received LEED accreditation.

Crafton Tull Sparks offered a fuel efficient car as an employee incentive for passing the LEED exam. Employees that passed the LEED accreditation test administered by the U.S. Green Building Council were eligible for winning a 2008 Smart Car, compliments of Crafton Tull Sparks. The company kicked off "Take the LEED: Get Smart with Crafton Tull Sparks" program on Earth Day. Scott Hood, P.E., a civil engineer in Rogers, won the vehicle during a company-wide staff meeting.

"It is great to work for a company that not only encourages their employees to grow professionally, but in addition finds creative ways to reward them," Hood said. "Having the company pay the exam fee and giving a bonus for passing



Northwest Section Helps Seven Hills Homeless Center

From left, Robert H. Kelly, AIA, and David McKee, AIA, representing the Northwest Arkansas Section of AIA present a check from the Northwest Chapter to Jon Woodward, executive director of Seven Hills Homeless Center, and Karen Gray, a vice president with Arvest who is on the Seven Hills board. Northwest Arkansas members thought it important to give to the Seven Hills Homeless Shelter particularly during a down economy.

was incentive enough, but winning the Smart Car is an exciting reward."

Viridian Hires Former Beebe Staffer Member

Viridian has recently hired J.D. Lowery as sustainability project manager. Lowery served as special policy assistant for Gov. Mike Beebe on sustainability and environmental issues.

A graduate of the University of

Arkansas and the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, Lowery, a Maumelle native, worked with the Clinton Foundation's Clinton Climate Initiative and C40 Cities in Melbourne, Australia, in 2008.

The firm also recently hired Gustavo Perez-Sandi as an energy engineer. A native of Leon, Mexico, Gustavo has studied engineering in both Mexico and the U.S. and received his BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2008. He previously worked for Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria, Ill., and the University of Arkansas.



Lowery

Viridian Highlighted In Pew Clean Energy Report on Economy

Gov. Mike Beebe, representatives from Pew Charitable Trusts and Viridian founding partner Chris Ladner led a press conference call on June 24 highlighting the positive growth of “green” jobs in Arkansas. Viridian is one of several Arkansas businesses highlighted in the Pew Charitable Trusts’ recent report “The Clean Energy Economy: Empowering Jobs, Businesses and Investments Across America.”

Jobs in Arkansas’ clean energy economy grew more than twice as fast than overall jobs between 1998 and 2007, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts in the most detailed look yet at this sector. In this report, Pew developed a clear, data-driven definition of the clean energy economy and conducted the first-ever hard count across all 50 states of the actual jobs, companies and venture capital investments that supply the growing market demand for environmentally friendly products and services.

Pew’s analysis found that between 1998 and 2007, jobs in Arkansas’ clean energy economy grew at a rate of 7.8 percent, while overall Arkansas jobs grew by 3.5 percent. Arkansas was part of a national trend that saw job growth in the clean energy economy outperforming overall job growth in 38 states and the District of Columbia over the same period. Nationally, jobs in the clean energy economy grew at a rate of 9.1 percent while total jobs grew by only 3.7 percent, between 1998 and 2007.

As an Arkansas clean energy economy business, Viridian hailed the study.

“It allows our clients to realize that sustainable buildings just make sense,” Ladner said. “The environment, employee health and financial performance are not mutually exclusive. Seeing the transition of our clients from being skeptically curious to being wholly invested in green buildings has been a great success. We are also proud that our employees dedicate a significant amount of their time on sustainable initiatives that support non-profit organizations and the community.”

“**Arkansas’ clean energy economy** is just getting started,” said Donald Richardson, Arkansas representative for the Pew Environment Group. “But between 1998 and 2007, jobs in the state’s clean energy economy grew twice as fast as in the economy overall. The Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program has offered millions to businesses to spur investment.”

“We are proud to see our efforts in clean-energy

development place us among the nation’s leaders in this important industry,” Beebe said. “Our continued work in smart-grid technology, nanotechnology, windmill manufacturing and biomass development will all contribute to further growth in the clean-energy sector and create much-needed jobs for Arkansans.”

In 2007, there were nearly 4,600 jobs in Arkansas’ clean energy economy. Unlike previous studies of the so-called “green economy,” Pew’s numbers are a hard count of actual jobs, businesses and investments and do not rely on estimates, multipliers or projections. The report finds that the emerging clean energy economy is creating well-paying jobs in every state for people of all skill levels and educational backgrounds. Included in Pew’s definition are jobs as diverse as engineers, plumbers, administrative assistants, construction workers, machine setters, marketing consultants, teachers and many others with annual incomes ranging from \$21,000 to \$111,000.

The private sector views the clean energy economy as a significant and expanding market opportunity. Venture capital investment in clean technology in Arkansas totaled nearly \$23 million over the past three years.

Federal and state lawmakers, too, see the sector as helping to spur America’s economic recovery and protect the environment. Arkansas’ clean energy economy will receive a boost from the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which allocates nearly \$85 billion nationwide in direct spending and tax incentives for energy- and transportation-related programs. Arkansas provides financial incentives for clean energy – offering low-interest loans to small businesses to institute pollution prevention and waste reduction measures.

Pew’s definition of the clean energy economy is based on previous research and input from nationally recognized environmental scientists and economists, including an advisory panel convened to help guide the study.

According to Pew, “a clean energy economy generates jobs, businesses and investments while expanding clean energy production, increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, and conserving water and other natural resources.” It comprises five categories: (1) clean energy, (2) energy efficiency, (3) environmentally friendly production, (4) conservation and pollution mitigation and (5) training and support.

“There is bipartisan support and a growing market demand for transitioning to the clean energy economy,” said Phyllis Cuttino, director, U.S. Global Warming Campaign, at the Pew Environment Group.

The complete study is available online at www.pewtrusts.org/cleanenergyeconomy.

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Tyson Honored With Hog Statue at U of A

Don Tyson of Springdale-based Tyson Foods has been honored with a statue of a hog outside the John W. Tyson Poultry Science Building at the University of Arkansas, home of the Razorbacks, according to press reports.

The statue was a gift from Paul Young III, who is the son of the late architect Paul Young Jr. University Chancellor G. David Gearhart said the dedication ceremony brought together two families — the Youngs and the Tysons — who have played a major role in the development of Northwest Arkansas. Paul Young Jr. helped design five Arkansas state parks, while Tyson Foods is the world's largest meat producer.

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Wade Lunday

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Nettleton Concrete, Inc.

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(See Blue on Page 12)

Blue Ribbon Partners

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They Said It...

“We will recover from this recession. But it will take time, it will take patience and it will take an understanding that when we all work together — when each of us looks beyond our own short-term interests to the wider set of obligations we have to each other — that’s when we succeed.”

— **President Obama**

“Jarius has a good burst going to get it. I’ll throw it to him if he wants it. You’ve got to feed the beast.”

— **Quarterback Ryan Mallett** on his fondness for finding receiver Jarius Wright with the deep ball during the Arkansas Razorbacks’ spring football practice.

Integrating A/V Technology – Who’s Your Expert?

By David E. Crook

The audio visual (A/V) equipment integration industry has evolved quite a bit from the days of the portable slide show and overhead projectors and PA speakers on portable carts. None of the various media technologies of that day were interconnected or networked compared to today and hardly any were permanently installed or integrated into the building or a particular room.

The late '80s gave us fax machines, PCs with PowerPoint software and LCD projectors with electric screens. Decent audio conferencing came about as the decade turned over. The late '90s ushered in flat screen displays and tolerable video conferencing.

With smaller projectors and lighter displays, in-ceiling speakers and touch panel control systems, came the need for more permanent installations. Manufacturers began to listen slowly but surely and a handful of A/V technology began to include built-in control ports and standard audio, video, and computing cabling protocols. This improving standardization meant that some of the new A/V technology allowed for connection into broader projects and markets like building sound, television, computing, telephone and networking.

Many years ago, your A/V installation expert was the geek at your office or a salesperson down at the local stereo store.

His/her integration knowledge was self-taught and product training came from experience in the field... and by trail and error. During these times, many architects worked with engineers, contractors and “techies” to manually integrate technology products into their buildings, classrooms, conference rooms, etc. The resulting A/V environments were often lacking continuity and, at best, were precarious to operate. The problem was, various professions were relying on each other to pick up the “technology slack” including the architectural industry.

A lot has changed. As multimedia A/V and communication products have advanced and matured so have the level of integration expertise and the need for certification and industry standards and practices. **InfoComm International** and **CEDIA** are professional trade associations working to this end.

For example, InfoComm International is working to standardize the interaction of audiovisual devices

with the people that use these systems and the professionals that design and install them. Currently there are four “Performance Standards” initiatives in place. To quote the professional organization, the standards are “...fundamental design criteria and engineering practices that are used as the basis to create quality audiovisual systems.” Furthermore, “...the program is designed to: 1) provide industry output standards that audiovisual professionals can build their systems to; 2) provide customers (i.e. architects) with clear and reliable industry standards.”

InfoComm International is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Standards Developing Organization (SDO).

Danger, Will Robinson!! No different from the MEP trades and the installation experience of these vital building structure firms, the design and integration of A/V and communications technology packages are key components to your multimedia environ-

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Golf Tournament
October 21, 2009

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Northwest Arkansas Business Investor Purchases Innerplan

Innerplan, a leading contract office furniture dealer based in Maumelle and an AIA Arkansas Silver Ribbon Co-Sponsor, came under new ownership June 30, with company founder and chairman Jim Narup remaining on the company's board of directors.

Roger McMennamy, a longtime Northwest Arkansas resident and business executive, closed on the purchase of Innerplan on that date and immediately began serving as the company's new chairman, president and chief executive officer. His son, Tim McMennamy, also an investor in the new purchase, will serve as vice president of Innerplan, overseeing financial, information technology and human resource functions for the company.

Although retiring, Narup will remain on Innerplan's Board of Directors to provide industry knowledge, customer relations and business acumen that derive from his years of leading Innerplan. Longtime Innerplan managers Chris Cerrato, vice president of sales and marketing, and Karen Dorris, vice president of operations, will remain with the company.

"Innerplan just celebrated our 30th anniversary in business at the end of May," Narup said. "We have had an amazing 30 years serving clients all across the Southwest. With this great run, it was time for me to retire and pass the torch on to other capable hands. Roger McMennamy and his family hold

the same business values that I do and plan to continue the growth Innerplan has enjoyed over recent years. I look forward to working with them as a member of their board, providing counsel and guidance on the fast-growing contract furniture industry."

Roger McMennamy brings years of experience running a variety of businesses to the Innerplan team. He served as president and chief executive officer of Auto Master for four years until his retirement in December 2007. He started with the company as managing director in 1998.

During that same time, McMennamy served as president, CEO and dealer of Daryl Hickman Chevrolet. For the nine years prior to that, he worked with Cooper Communities, Inc., serving as president and CEO for seven of those years.

He has served as chief financial officer for four companies, two of which have been publicly traded. McMennamy earned his master's in business administration from the University of Texas and is a certified public accountant.

"I have always managed with a 'do-the-right-thing' philosophy," McMennamy said. "The only way for any business to thrive is by providing exceptional service to our customers. Innerplan has a proven track record of putting the customer first. We will continue to make that our first priority, while looking to distribute the highest quality furniture products on the market."

In his role as vice president for finance, information technology and human resources, Tim McMennamy will replace Rick Cobb, who is retiring. McMennamy has served as a principal of CFO Network, overseeing business development for the firm and providing financial consulting to clients since 2008.

Prior to that, he served as director of solutions operations for Technisource. He has also worked as chief financial analyst for Herrington, Inc., and worked for Alltel Information Services in several capacities for six years.

McMennamy earned his master's of business administration from Vanderbilt University and has two bachelor's degrees from Southern Methodist University.

Innerplan, which has 24 employees, will continue to serve as a preferred dealer for Haworth, Inc., one of the country's largest office furniture manufacturers based in Holland, Mich. The company has been awarded Haworth's top honor, the President's Circle Award (top 30 dealers in North America), multiple times.

Innerplan works closely with clients to design and install office environments of all types and sizes. Computer-aided design allows the Innerplan team to specify office layouts with specific furnishings and accessories. The company specializes in serving government, healthcare and education segments along with serving corporate clients across the Mid-South.

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ments and building projects. From corporate conference and training rooms to classrooms and gymnasiums, from churches to custom residences, having your project designed and installed by an InfoComm (commercial) or CEDIA (custom residential) certified professional(s) is critical to your

success and the success of your firm.

Regardless of market, in these times of "21st Century Technology," a satisfied end-user of integrated audiovisual systems (your client) most probably operates these systems based around and involving CTS and CEDIA certified professionals.

Make sure your next project uses an experienced and certified

custom A/V integration firm.

(David E. Crook, a CTS and CEDIA designer and installer and 18-year veteran of the audio, video and computing industry, currently works at Curtis Stout A/V in Little Rock, an AIA Arkansas Silver Ribbon Co-Sponsor. Curtis Stout A/V, a division of Curtis H Stout, is a commercial audiovisual design and installation contractor servicing Arkansas and throughout the U.S.)