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The New Athenaeum

Since the advent of the Internet, pundits have predicted the demise of the book. Thrilled with the fast and virtual, people everywhere stampeded private Internet servers in the rush to gather information on-line. Bibliophiles quaked at the thought of life without words on paper. Architects wondered whether brick-and-mortar libraries would turn—literally and figuratively—to dust.

As the Harry Potter craze confirms, however, children and adults alike still crave the singular, tactile experience of reading a book. Similarly, the current national boom in library construction indicates our high-tech civilization still believes in the library's intrinsic value as a community and cultural icon.

Twenty-first-century libraries, as well as schools, no longer exist simply to disseminate knowledge, however. As this issue's Practice column points out, communities are requesting new schools that support contemporary teaching methods, promote advanced standards in health and safety, incorporate state-of-the-art technology and serve a variety of neighborhood needs including library access.

It's a tall order. How might architects reinterpret our schools and libraries to reflect diverse programs that range from one person in a corner reading a book to large groups tackling a multimedia project? From individuals interacting with a cyber-community to real-time neighborhood gatherings? From students engaged in scholarship to families enjoying open swim?

As you'll read in this issue of the magazine, Minnesota architects are embracing the challenge by designing lively, even breathtaking buildings that support complex, multipurpose programs. While technology is ever-present, so are books. And the architects' earthy palette of building materials—wood, brick and glass—is rendered in exquisite detail. The light-filled, wood-paneled reading rooms featured on these pages certainly make an afternoon of study a pleasant prospect.

If it weren't for laptop computers, we might even feel transported to the 19th century, when subscription libraries were called Athenaeum. While this archaic Greek term describes a building or room in which books and periodicals are kept, it also evokes the presence of a school in which a variety of scholarly, artistic and scientific activities occur. Experiencing how architects have interpreted this past to meet our present needs doesn't require a vast leap of the imagination.

Just as our virtual horizons for information gathering are expanding, so our love of books is being renewed. As much as we still require solitary time for study and contemplation, so too our needs for interpersonal exchange and community interaction are on the rise.

By tailoring timeless design to the ever-evolving demands of 21st-century society, Minnesota architects are enhancing our ideas of learning with buildings that enrich our communities and our lives.

Camille LeFevre
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More than a million bricks laid in a series of unique patterns, textures and colors make the Veterans Administration Health Care Facility in Detroit, Michigan, a striking example of masonry design by architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates. But masonry was chosen for more than its beauty and flexibility of design. Buildings built of masonry by skilled union craftworkers will outperform, outshine and outlast any others. Add to that the speed and efficiency of union masonry contractors, and you have a prescription for health care facilities that satisfies any schedule and budget. We’re The International Masonry Institute, and we’d like to help you design and construct the best buildings on earth. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.imiweb.org, or call us toll free at 1-800-IMH-0988 for design, technical and construction consultation.

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Honor Awards

Four projects won AIA Minnesota Honor Awards during the architectural association's annual convention and products show in November 2000. The winners, chosen from 98 submissions by firms from throughout the state, were selected by Andrea Clark Brown, AIA, principal, Andrea Clark Brown Architects PA, Naples, Florida; William J. Hartman, AIA, vice president and director of design, Gensler, Detroit; and Enrique Norten, Hon. FAIA, founder, TEN Arquitectos, Mexico City. The jurors also cited one Divine Detail Award. Expanded coverage of the four Honor Award-winning projects will appear in the March/April 2001 issue of Architecture Minnesota.

25-Year Award

Recognizing the importance of multifamily housing and the attention to detail this type of architecture requires, this year's jurors bestowed the 25-Year Award on Essex Square Apartments, Bloomington, designed in 1962 by Leonard Parker, FAIA, and Austin Vitols, The Leonard Parker Associates, Architects, Minneapolis. The award recognizes buildings completed at least 25 but not more than 50 years ago. Jurors were Tim Carl, AIA, associate vice president, Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Minneapolis; John Cuningham, FAIA, principal, Cuningham Group, Minneapolis; and Bill Beyer, FAIA, principal, Stageberg Beyer Sachs, Inc., Minneapolis.

Charged with designing an economical, aesthetically pleasing housing complex on a flat suburban site, the architects sited six, 24-unit buildings around an outdoor area that includes a pool and landscaped knolls. Each building also has a semi-private courtyard separated from the central public space. Each 1- or 2-bedroom unit has a recessed, partially screened deck.

Citing the project's siding, fascia board and semi-enclosed decks, the jurors called the housing complex "a good example of well-done, affordable detail completed with loving care." The jurors were also impressed by the site plan, pool and now-mature landscaping. "The building is surely a good neighbor," the jurors concluded, "and still a desirable place to live."
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During AIA Minnesota’s recent convention, past president Linda McCracken-Hunt queried members about this year’s AIA Minnesota Gold Medal recipient, John Rauma, FAIA. “We selected John for the Gold Medal this year because of exemplary service in three facets of his career,” she explains. “He is not only an award-winning architect, but also has been an educator and an architectural advisor to the public.” But, adds McCracken-Hunt, she wanted to learn more about Rauma from members themselves, many of whom were once his students at the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

“What really impressed me was how uniform the responses were,” McCracken-Hunt says. “Members described John as ‘articulate,’ ‘quintessential,’ ‘well-rounded’ and ‘erudite.’ He’s an extremely intelligent man, yet he’s also a gracious gentleman. He listens thoughtfully and thinks before he answers, usually responding with something quite profound.”

Rauma, for instance, was thesis chair for John Yust, who practices architecture in St. Paul. “John was a great critic because he listened carefully and looked carefully,” Yust recalls. “He also always had wonderful things to express about your work that you would think about not just then, but for years afterward.”

For Rauma, who taught for 46 years and practiced slightly longer, teaching and practice were “part and parcel of the same activity,” he says. The “third leg of the stool,” as he calls it, or community service, can happen on a variety of levels. “But ultimately,” he says, “all architects are involved in the making of community, even if they’re doing it building by building. There isn’t a project that can be built without full sensitivity and awareness of its context.”

From 1983 to 1999, Rauma was an architectural advisor to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board in St. Paul. The position involved reviewing and overseeing any architectural activity proposed around the Capitol. Val Michelson, FAIA, who served with Rauma on the Capitol Planning Board, says, “John always knew in what context he was working and had the ability to create something appropriate for that context. His attention to detail, precision and finesse are seldom found elsewhere.”

Rauma received degrees in architecture from the University of Minnesota and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before becoming licensed in 1958. He worked with various architectural firms before establishing his own Minneapolis practice in 1989 and won numerous Honor Awards for his work. Notable projects include the school of architecture building, Wiley Hall and Middlebrook Hall at the University of Minnesota; the United States Embassy in Helsinki, Finland; St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis and Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville; and the common-section bridges in the Capitol area over I-94 in St. Paul.

At the same time, Rauma taught at CALA and directed the graduate program in architecture there for many years. As a teacher, Michelson says, one of Rauma’s gifts is his ability to “impress upon his students an organized approach to architecture. He also has an ability to express things that are basically inexpressible about architecture by finding words to describe how you are dealing not only with function but with art.”

In 1971, Rauma was elected to join the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. Receiving the Gold Medal this year, he says, “is an unexpected, important and distinguished honor. I find, on reflecting upon previous recipients, to be singularly honored to be one of a succession of people I’ve long admired.”
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Architecture on Film

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION HERZOG & DE MEURON: IN PROCESS**, the Walker Art Center is screening three films in January that approach the subject of architecture in intriguing, often humorous ways. The trilogy kicks off on Thursday, January 11, with the documentary, *Concert of Wills: Making the Getty Center*, directed by Susan Froemke, Bob Eisenhardt and Albert Maysles. The directors originally intended to simply record the architectural and building process for the Getty Center in Los Angeles. But conflict ensued as architect Richard Meier’s plans collided with artist-garden designer Robert Irwin’s intentions, and other Getty principals and the surrounding community jumped into the fray.

In *Lost Highway*, director David Lynch (of *Blue Velvet* and “Twin Peaks” fame) creates a surreal world in which the environment (interiors, design and architecture) contributes to the schizophrenic mood of the film. At the same time, Lynch uses narrative and time to create a maze of alienation to investigate the unexplainable mechanisms of the subconscious. The film shows Thursday, January 18.

The series concludes on Thursday, January 25, with French director Jacques Tati’s classic, *Playtime*. In this film, Mr. Hulot and a group of American tourists explore Paris in the 1960s. The film set itself, a massive construction on the outskirts of the city, was so large it became a tourist attraction for as long as it remained standing, earning the name “Tati-ville.”

All films are free and begin at 7:00 p.m.

Promoting Preservation

**THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Minnesota’s historic resources, gave eight preservation awards in 2000 that reflect the diversity of historic preservation in Minnesota. The winners are:

- Rathskeller/cafeteria, Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul.
  Restoration by Miller•Dunwiddie•Architects, Inc., Minneapolis.
- Warren Heen Memorial: Hillcrest School, Renville County.
  Restoration and community effort by Renville County.
- Moore Block, Pipestone.
  Restoration by Friends of the Museum Partnership.
- Carnegie Library, Little Falls.
  Renovation by Miller•Dunwiddie•Architects, Inc., Minneapolis.
- Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes.
  Restoration by Baker Hogan Houx, Perham.
- Bruentrup Heritage Farm, Maplewood.
  Special nomination for preservation to Maplewood Area Historical Society with McDonald & Mack Architects, Ltd., Minneapolis.
- Tower View Estate: Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Red Wing.
  Restoration, renovation and rehabilitation by various contractors for Anderson Center.
- Wanda Gag Home, New Ulm.
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Young Architects Awarded

FIVE MEMBERS OF AIA MINNESOTA
who have been licensed for less than 10 years received a 2000 Young Architect Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership in service to the profession, the community, design, planning and/or education:

CHRISTINE ALBERTSSON, AIA, Christine Albertsson Architecture, Minneapolis, won an AIA Minnesota Honor Award in 1999 for a private cabin while working for Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd., Minneapolis (see Architecture Minnesota, March/April 2000). She is also an adjunct professor in the University of Minnesota’s College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, has been a member of the Minnesota Design Team, and has volunteered for the AIA St. Paul Unauthorized Design Charette and Habitat for Humanity, among other organizations.

ROBERT GERLOFF, AIA, Robert Gerloff Residential Architects, Minneapolis, has made significant strides in educating the public about architecture through his numerous magazine articles and three published planbooks: The Longfellow Planbook: Remodeling Plans for Bungalows and Other Small Urban Homes, Cape Cods & Ramblers: Remodeling Plans for Post WWI Houses and Fridley Housing Replacement Program: A Patternbook for New Homes. He is also a member of the Architecture Minnesota Publications Committee.

PATRICIA J. FITZGERALD, AIA, senior associate, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd., Minneapolis, is the youngest candidate ever to be offered partnership in her firm. She has expertise in library and historical renovation, and won a Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Award in 1998 for Hosmer Library. She also has worked on many of the firm’s diverse, award-winning projects and was recognized as a 2000 City Business “40 Under 40” honoree.

JEFF KAGERMEIER, AIA, Kagermeier Skaar Asleson Architects, Inc., Mankato, is also Mayor of the City of Mankato (see Architecture Minnesota, July/August 2000). His record of community and political service is extensive. He has been commissioner of the Mankato Housing and Redevelopment Authority, a member of the Mankato Downtown Infrastructure Committee and president of the Mankato Rotary Club.

JEAN LARSON, AIA, principal, Rehkamp Larson Architecture, Inc., Minneapolis, has been recognized for her passion for “creating spaces, solving problems, and making enriching places for people to pass their lives day in and day out.” Her work has appeared in such publications as LIFE, Architecture Minnesota, US News & World Report and Residential Architect.

INSIDER LINGO

Bubble Diagram

Fun with bubbles—not the clown or the soapy bath type, but the architectural diagram—is a fast way to get conceptual ideas down on paper. Think of your grade-school map of the solar system, with the sun central, planets orbiting around it and moons circling the planets. Similarly, the bubble diagram proposes an arrangement of spaces—in an abstract, relational way—to set in motion the design of an environment or structure.

Bubble diagrams drawn by landscape architects may show shrubbery, gardens, gazebos and borders. Architects may show seating, offices, closets joined by hallways or walkways in their bubble diagrams. Often created as a method of quick communication, architects’ bubble drawings may first appear on cocktail napkins or scrap paper. Of course, bubbles are circular in nature, but square “bubbles” can also land on paper and in many cases are linked to show their relationship.

Bubble diagrams simply put the abstract and intangible on paper. Popping into architectural parlance about the time of the Industrial Revolution, quick-and-easy bubble diagrams still help architects commit to memory large amounts of information while establishing a starting point for a project. Gina Greene
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Lake Street
Downtown Wayzata

BY ROBERT ROSCOE

In the mid-1860s, the Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad decided to build a rail bed several miles west of the Mississippi River to transport lumber into the settlement of Saint Anthony. When the trackage neared a small inlet at the northeastern edge of a large lake, known today as Lake Minnetonka, the railroad operators saw scenic potential in the scalloped lakeshore.

In August 1868, the railroad arrived in Wayzata, a small village named for two American Indian words meaning “the murmuring of pines” and “god of the north.” The village quickly expanded into a wealthy resort town. Gigantic hotels, whose size and sumptuousness rivaled notable resorts in New England, attracted well-heeled tourists from the East Coast and Europe who disembarked at Wayzata’s elegant Great Northern Depot.

In the early 20th century, those lakeshore hotels declined in popularity as highway travel disbursed tourists to Minnesota’s further reaches. Wayzata had become, however, a permanent summer colony for prominent Minneapolis citizens, who built extensive yachting and golf facilities and large summer homes in the area.

A string of shops along Wayzata’s main thoroughfare, Lake Street, offered sailing equipment, sports supplies and other merchandise to summer residents and visitors. These wood-frame and brick-front buildings were 1- and 2-stories high, usually housed one or two businesses, and featured ornamental flourishes that were maintained through successive ownerships for most of the 20th century.

In the last decade, however, long-time Lake Minnetonka residents and frequent visitors have observed a disquieting change. Many of Wayzata’s cute storefront shops have disappeared, replaced by bigger commercial structures. Not that there is anything wrong with that (to quote the television show “Seinfeld”) if such buildings are sited along highway frontage roads or in office parks.

But these buildings are destroying the unique character of a retail district that took advantage of a remarkable natural setting. Today Wayzata is similar to many small towns throughout America that used to be distinctive places to live, but are now changing from “Our Town” to “Anyplace USA.”

Some years ago, Wayzata government leaders noticed developers were purchasing a number of small lots, tearing down the existing structures, then combining the lots into one in order to build a larger structure. The practice occurred in the retail district, as well as in residential neighborhoods. The City responded by enacting a lot-combination ordinance that requires a formal review of applications for lot combinations.

The City also created a comprehensive guide to development, the Wayzata Design Guidelines, in collaboration with BRW, Inc. Components of this plan—incorporated into Wayzata’s zoning code—guide land use, landscape standards and façade-design review, and define massing, scale and building heights. The plan’s overall goal is to maintain Wayzata’s small-scale built environment while regulating new development.

“It’s important to make Lake Street inviting for pedestrians,” says Sarah Smith, City planner, Wayzata. Thus, the plan requires that commercial buildings dedicate 50 percent of the first floor to retail space. “In retrospect, it’s a bit baffling that something so obvious as mandating retail space in street-front development took a long time to figure out,” says Barry Petit, partner, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd., Minneapolis, and Mayor of Wayzata.

“But those of us who serve on the City’s planning commission are volunteers, so the response process is often longer.”

With the guidelines, he adds, “we can set design standards that complement Lake Street’s traditional storefronts.” In fact, all

Continued on page 48
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Su Blumentals, FAIA

Member involvement, especially on legislative matters, is the message of AIA Minnesota’s new president

BY CAMILLE LEFEVRE

With her oversize glasses, hair gathered into a bun and handcrafted earrings, Su Blumentals, FAIA, projects an aura of down-to-earth congeniality that contrasts with the toughness of her convictions. As a woman in a largely male-dominated profession, she’s earned respect and honors for her advocacy on behalf of the architectural profession. It’s time, she says, that more members of AIA Minnesota start protecting their profession, as well.

Blumentals was one of two women in her graduating class at the University of Minnesota’s School of Architecture in 1959. She was the third woman registered as an architect in Minnesota in 1969. In 1976, she and her husband, Janis Blumentals, AIA, established their architectural practice in Brooklyn Center. Over the years, Blumentals/Architecture, Inc., has left its mark on more than 750 projects in 19 states, with a roster that includes medical, retail and recreational facilities; office, hospitality and industrial buildings; banks, housing and the firm’s offices at the Earle Brown Heritage Center.

In 1991, then-Governor Arne Carlson appointed Blumentals to the Minnesota Board of Registration, which is charged with licensing architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects and geoscience professionals, and certifying interior designers. She was the Board’s first professional woman appointee.

For eight years, Blumentals drove an effort to reestablish the importance of architecture in the Board’s deliberations. In doing so, she contributed significantly to all functions of the Board: examination, licensure, enforcement and communication. During her tenure, she also fostered a stronger working relationship between the Board and AIA Minnesota, demonstrating how two groups can champion their beliefs without compromising their missions.

In 2001, when nearly 50 percent of architecture students are women, Blumentals will be AIA Minnesota’s third woman president. Architecture Minnesota talked with Blumentals about the need for AIA members to advocate for the profession while becoming more approachable to the public.

What is your primary goal for AIA Minnesota in 2001?

2001 is the year our membership must become more active on behalf of AIA Minnesota and the profession. We need every member to help get out the message about what architects do and the importance of our expertise, why we are licensed and how that is beneficial to the public. What AIA Minnesota members initiate and become involved in this year will set the course for the next generation of AIA Minnesota. It will be a very busy year and could be a very political year.

Why is 2001 so critical? What is at stake?

Many issues may come before the Minnesota Legislature that could have profound effects on the profession. For instance, there is a strong possibility that the Governor or the Legislature will initiate a proposal to tax architectural services, which would place Minnesota professionals at a disadvantage when competing against out-of-state architects.

There is also the possibility of legislation that would further chip away at the practice of architecture by relaxing the minimum qualifications for licensure. We should oppose any

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Extranet Exchange
As extranets propose to revolutionize architectural practice, architects need to determine standards and protocol

By Phillip Glenn Koski, Assoc. AIA

As technological advances continue to transform the architectural profession, the “extranet” is one of the most recent developments promising to overhaul project-communication practices. Variously called a “business-partner network” or “project Website,” the extranet proposes to replace architects’ traditional paper trail with a real-time, interactive and cyber-mediated knowledge stream.

Extranet sites are private, secure, project-specific computer networks that connect business partners through the Web. While similar to a corporate intranet, an extranet site can be accessed by any project participant with a personal computer and a Web browser. Within the context of the construction industry, an extranet site is an electronic space where architects, engineers, clients, owners, consultants and subcontractors can convene, transact information, discuss matters and document developments integral to the building process.

Short on flashy graphics and animated gimmicks, extranet sites are serious, roll-up-your-sleeves workplaces that draw yawns from fun-seeking Web surfers. In bare-bones fashion, extranet sites are attempting to supplant the inefficiencies of the real world. They are a virtual conference room, workroom and archive combined.

While extranet-site features vary between commercially available packages, basic services include: posting and storage of design and construction documents; the ability to review documents; a method for feedback; and a system to notify interested parties when comments or changes have been made. As the nascent extranet industry evolves with unsettling speed, new features are popping up all the time.

Because contractors and owners currently dictate the majority of extranet use, it’s not surprising that the most proudly touted innovations are geared to the construction-administration phase: change-order logs, on-site Webcams, online red-lining, electronic submittals, bid solicitation, schedule and budget management, and progress reporting.

Extranet-service providers and boosters alike claim communication is more efficient through an extranet than by such conventional means as face-to-face meetings, teleconferencing, faxes and e-mail. As Robert Majteles, chair of the newly formed service provider Citadon told WIRED magazine, “We can take something that used to take two or three weeks and do it in a day.”

Meanwhile, Charlie Kuffner, senior vice president, Swinerton & Walberg Co., San Francisco, told Engineering News-Record that on a recent project he calculated a financial return on extranet investment at 6,900 percent, much of it directly

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School Days

Architects are designing new schools to function as community centers, reflect contemporary teaching methods, address demands for technology, and meet increased standards in health and safety

BY FRANK JOSSI

Once constructed solely for the education of children, schools today serve a much wider function in communities. The buildings have become beacons for adult learners, for community groups requiring meeting space and for neighbors who use the gym for exercise. At the same time, architects are also designing schools for new learning environments in which break-out areas for small-group projects are the norm and making room for technology is a requirement. Adding to these design challenges are demands that schools be environmentally sustainable, safer and have better air quality than ever before.

The new schools certainly look more interesting than those built in the 1970s and ’80s. They often have handsome exteriors, wider windows, brighter corridors, and the kind of blonde wood commonly seen in retail establishments or advertising agencies. The notion of a school as a dreary, institutional structure has given way to a colorful, airy, inviting place—at least in some neighborhoods.

“The more attractive a school the more likely its design had input from the neighborhood,” says Edward Kodet, Jr., FAIA, president, Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd., Minneapolis. In the Twin Cities, and especially Minneapolis, local governmental bodies have decreed that neighborhoods voice their needs before a school—or commercial structure, for that matter—is built.

“Neighborhood involvement creates a much higher standard of architecture,” Kodet says. “Residents tell you they expect a good building that will have a pleasing aesthetic.” For schools in the Whittier and Jordan areas of Minneapolis, Kodet worked with school and neighborhood representatives, as well as the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, which wanted to use classrooms and media centers in both buildings for evening activities. In fact, at Whittier School for the Arts, the Park Board built a gym and agreed to share it with the school (see page 38).

Also at Whittier school, Kodet answered the neighborhood’s parking concerns by making the first floor of the building a parking area with the school sited on the two floors above it. Similarly, the Jordan neighborhood asked for and received office space for various nonprofits working in the community.

In smaller Minnesota towns, the desire for a school that can serve the community is just as strong. “In a lot of towns, the school is the single largest building and the most expensive,” says Gary Nyberg, AIA, principal, Smiley, Glotter, Nyberg Architects, Minneapolis, which has designed many schools in rural Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“Small communities want their schools to be open to everyone,” he adds. In the evenings, people enter the building to attend meetings or adult-education courses, or to work out in gyms and weight rooms.

The coexistence of government and nonprofit agencies in schools represents another burgeoning trend, which may have reached its apex in Winona, where the community’s Rollingstone Elementary School serves as City Hall, says Nyberg, whose firm designed the structure. The music room becomes the City Council’s chamber at night, while senior citizens invade the art room for their classes and townspeople use the gym. The school’s library serves as the community’s library, too.

In some Twin Cities schools—such as Arlington High School in St. Paul and Whittier School for the Arts in Minneapolis—full-service health-care clinics have become a staple since many parents may not have health insurance or access to medical facilities for their children. “Many uninsured families can use these health facilities as their primary clinic,” Kodet says.

The health of schools themselves comes into play when school districts begin remodeling older structures, says David Paepel, AIA, principal, Perkins & Will, Minneapolis, which has worked with Mounds View and other districts on remodeling

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The Emperor hurried home. Tonight they would be playing the Eroica.
Sour Notes

BY BILL BEYER, FAIA

 Architects are always “kicking the tires” on buildings. We spend every waking minute assessing the built environment, but sometimes closer looks leave a bad taste. On long-anticipated visits to heavily hyped buildings, our expectations can be dashed by misuse, poor maintenance, thoughtless details or other false notes that never make the glossy magazine spreads and can spoil our aesthetic feast.

At the end of my first visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., for instance, after reflecting on a ghastly exhibit labeled “The Murder of the Handicapped,” I followed a power cord duct-taped to the marble floor to a temporary lift for transporting people with disabilities down to the rooms below. The irony was painful and unnecessary. This design gaffe, several years after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, could have been easily and seamlessly fixed with simple, elegant ramps.

In Paris, many years earlier, I entered the Pompidou Center for the first time with eager anticipation. While riding the tubular outboard escalator to the top of the building, I gagged at an odor coming from the finned-tube radiator along the outer wall. This exposed heater had become the world’s largest ashtray, emitting a stench that was revolting.

On another ramble to a city of architectural interest, I searched out the new Chicago Public Library, winner of a major design competition and widely acclaimed for its historicist verve. At the building’s massive, battered granite base I noted the huge stone slabs were separated by soft caulk joints rather than muscular mortar. Carl Sandburg’s “City of Broad Shoulders” would be chagrined to be tagged the “City of Wimpy Masonry.” To make things worse, I later learned the library is reviled by librarians for its total lack of function.

Some places elevate such sour notes to higher registers. When House & Garden, which features interiors of wretchedly expensive excess, asked writer Fran Lebowitz what design theme she’d choose for an apartment, her response was, “Can I use actual piles of cash?” That may be the only design concept left untried in Las Vegas, should Lebowitz decide to relocate there, where architectural vagaries are almost beyond comment and everything is ersatz but money.

There’s some imagination at work in Frank Gehry’s new Experience Music Project in Seattle, although the building resembles a gilded coprolite. Apparently client Paul Allen’s only instruction was “make it swoopy,” but at a construction cost of $800 per square foot for the empty container and that much more for the exhibits, EMP’s relevance to the real world is doubtful. Maybe in a few hundred years the undue hoopla over this rich man’s indulgence will be vindicated: Taj Ma-Paul, anyone?

Adept at kicking the tires on buildings, we’ve trained ourselves to expect all architecture—especially the over-hyped—to save the world. We shouldn’t; it can’t. Hardly a building exists without flaws. But in considering such details, philosophical quarrels with masonry detailing and architectural excess pale next to the marginalizing of people with disabilities and the failure to meet the basic needs of building occupants. What we choose to hold up as great design cannot afford those kinds of betrayals.

“A single word often betrays a great design.”

— Jean Racine
Embedded in a residential neighborhood on a forested hillside overlooking Lake Superior, the University of Minnesota Duluth campus has long been a paragon of functionalism. In 1951, then-University advisory architect Winston A. Close, FAIA, completed a Master Plan focused on two primary objectives: creating a compact, 3-tiered campus stepped into the hill and overlooking the great lake; and connecting classroom and administration buildings, sports facilities, even housing via enclosed corridors to make Duluth’s harsh winters bearable for students, staff and faculty.

Over the years, as enrollment and academic programs grew, more buildings were attached to the campus “box-car style,” says Kenneth Johnson, AIA, design principal, Stanius Johnson Architects, Duluth. “The University kept adding undistinguished, rectangular-shaped buildings one after another, all...
connected by interior corridors without natural light or views of the lake.” While this arrangement kept students from having to brave the elements, many complained they felt inside “one big megabuilding” instead of on a college campus.

In the 1990s, the University of Minnesota regents began studying UMD’s Master Plan, updating it in 1995 and 2000 with help from Thomas Oslund, FASLA, principal, oslund.and.assoc., Minneapolis (formerly of Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Minneapolis). The most recent Master Plan emphasizes several key concepts, including: designating sites for new housing, academic and sports facilities; retaining a central academic core; creating new, visible entrances at three major points on campus; and reclaiming such nearby natural amenities as lake views and ponds.

The Master Plan had another objective, as well. “This campus is very comfortable for the consumer, so it clearly has form and function,” explains Kathryn A. Martin, chancellor, UMD. “But it was keenly missing an aesthetic, particularly at points of entry.” Defining an aesthetic needed to happen not simply through the construction of well-designed buildings, Martin adds, but by maximizing views of Lake Superior, as well as Rock Hill and Bagley Nature Area at the campus’s northern edge.

The University acted swiftly to meet all of these objectives by focusing on the life-blood of an academic village: the library. “If the library is the heart and soul of a campus, we needed a transplant,” Martin says. The new building, designed by Stanius Johnson with Stageberg Beyer Sachs, Inc., Minneapolis, opened in November 2000 to the acclaim of regents, Duluthians, students, staff and faculty alike.

Sheathed in red brick, the 136,000-square-foot library makes a dignified architectural statement. The first campus building to break the box-car mold, the stand-alone library displays four distinctly different sides. At the same time, this design demonstrates the architects’ concern with efficiency. “We simply took the basic rectangular form and added a curvilinear reading room on the north and a rotunda on the northeast side to add interest to the massing,” Johnson explains.

The rotunda, in fact, has become UMD’s new landmark. At night, the rotunda’s illuminated dome, like a Lake Superior lighthouse, acts as a beacon drawing people to the northeast side of the campus. Symbolizing guidance, the light of learning and the central importance of a campus library, the glowing dome also hints at the enlightened design within the building.

Inside the rotunda, two of UMD’s internal campus concourses meet the library’s external building entrance in a single point of entry. Students and patrons then enter the library’s round 2-story circulation area with maple paneling, curved maple circulation...
desks and Arts-and-Crafts-style detailing. An abstract clock of maple and Ely greenstone, designed by Brian Morse of Stanius Johnson, adorns a wall. Underfoot an inlaid brass ring decorates the floor. Overhead is another domed ceiling hung with a signature chandelier by renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly.

Walking through the circulation area to the north patrons pass by maple Arts-and-Crafts-style work tables; some with built-in portals for students’ laptop computers, others with computers ready for use. Even the book stacks, with their curved maple tops, show the architects’ attention to detail. On the north side of the building is the first of two curvilinear, maple-paneled, 2-story reading rooms with views of Bagley Nature Center and Rock Hill. Built-in maple shelves display books. Students sprawl in comfortable chairs and gather at study tables.

Adjacent to the main circulation area is a semi-circular stairway, lit via skylight. Inlaid brass coins and ribbons “flow” down the steps. The stairs lead to more stacks, study areas and the rotunda reading rooms with views of Lake Superior. “These are serene spaces for study and contemplation,” Johnson says of the library’s four spacious reading rooms.

“The focus on this campus has always been the functional, useable and inexpensive,” Martin says. So the introduction of a new building like the library—with its exquisite interior detailing, up-to-the-minute technology—was an important step. The library features two, spectacular, 2-story reading rooms on its north side, with filtered light, maple paneling and built-in shelves (above). On the building’s northeast side, the rotunda also includes two, 2-story reading rooms with views of Lake Superior (below). From below, the rotunda’s golden-star lattice houses the skylight that, when illuminated at night, acts as the college’s symbolic beacon (opposite top). The library’s circulation area showcases a chandelier by glass artist Dale Chihuly (opposite below).
and economical design—"expands the perspectives of students, faculty and residents," Martin continues. "They begin to pay more attention to the beauty of their surroundings and the space in which they're learning."

Another high-profile building on the boards will further advance this mission. In October 2000, UMD broke ground for a new music-performance lab, the Weber Music Hall, designed by Cesar Pelli, FAIA, with Stansius Johnson as architect of record. The stunning, glass-clad ovoid building will perch on the southeast side of Ordean Court, creating a second dramatic entrance for the campus.

While outsiders may not associate UMD with a music program, Martin cites the college's recent choral performances at Carnegie Hall. "What's been missing from the program," she says, "is a high-level performance space to give the music program an identity." The 350- to 375-seat hall will feature technology that allows concerts to be viewed via Website and gives students the opportunity to record their own electronic portfolios.

A building like Weber Music Hall "also reflects a different level of thinking about a discipline," Martin adds. "When the quality of space in which our students perform reflects the quality of the performance, this raises and elevates the perception of what we do. Our goal is for the same to be true with the proposed new science laboratory building: the aesthetics and the laboratory space will motivate elevated performance."

Currently in predesign, the new science laboratory will be sited on the south side of campus, to create a third dramatic public entrance. Like the library and music hall, the science building demonstrates how UMD is "looking at how new technologies such as Web access will support and enhance traditional core-education models, which involve a faculty member in a classroom with a group of students," Martin says.

Also on the Master Plan agenda is a new Bulldog Sports Center, additional student housing, the reshaping of the Ring Road that circles the campus, and reinforcing and ex-
tending the campus's courtyard system to enhance views. The Plan also calls for re-claiming and uncovering streams, drainage paths, holding ponds and rock outcappings; and linking Rock Hill and Bagley Nature Area more completely to the campus.

The Master Plan describes itself as "a living document—a forum for open and inclusive discussion and a means of making visionary, yet practical and cost-effective decisions on physical changes to the campus." Lest anyone forget about the importance of design in forging UMD's changing aesthetic, Martin is ready with her defense. "With our Master Plan we're using design to improve our relationships with students, which will in turn elevate the quality of our educational process," Martin says. "The issue is not that our students do not have the potential; it's that we have not provided the physical support they require to truly explore excellence in education. Design teaches us how important that is. If you do not have the physical design to support your aspirations and concepts, your end result is unlikely to work either aesthetically or functionally."

Library
University of Minnesota Duluth
Duluth, Minnesota
Stanius Johnson Architects, Duluth

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Overall-building legend
1. Circulation
2. Shelving
3. Staff offices
4. Storage
5. Staff areas
6. Display area/information
7. On-line catalog computer stations
8. Adaptive equipment rooms
9. Audio-visual equipment rooms
10. Photocopy center
11. Digital-media instruction areas
12. Information-instruction classroom
13. Multimedia laboratory
14. Reading area
15. Collections (bookstacks)
Imagine you are four years old. Your parents are enthusiastic about a new preschool and are trying to get you excited, too. “It’s like a big cabin, right next to a nature center,” they gush. “You can watch butterflies through binoculars, go maple syruping, learn about beekeeping, play with farm animals.” Right, you think. You’re worried about leaving your parents and the comforts of home for some strange, out-of-the-way place.

But the next day you see the homey fieldstone-and-timber building. It is like a giant cabin. You pass through the open arms of a sculpture on the sidewalk, before entering the building through a kids-size front door. Straight ahead is a large playroom with windows overlooking the backyard pond.

As your parents check in at the reception area, you sit patiently at a little built-in desk. On either side of you are classrooms, each with its own colored light and leaf symbol on the door—yellow is oak, green is spruce, pink is willow. You know right away which classroom is yours.

As your parents leave, your teacher takes you to the “good-bye” window (you saw it when you came into the building: a bay window with a peaked roof like a witch’s hat). You squeeze yourself into a lookout and wave your parents off to work. Your adventure at Dodge Nature Preschool, located at the edge of Dodge Nature Center and Farm in West St. Paul, has begun.

Dodge Nature Preschool is Minnesota’s first nature-center-based preschool, and one of only six such schools in the country. A private part-day preschool for children ages 3 to kindergarten, Dodge Nature Preschool offers classes two, three or five days a week. Its mission, according to promotional materials, “is to provide a premiere quality early childhood environment which meets children’s developmental needs while...”
initiating them into a life-long, meaningful relationship with the natural world."

Completed in September 2000, the 8,600-square-foot school includes three classrooms, a reception area, teachers’ lounge, large-muscle playroom, "get-well" room and private teacher offices. Classroom activities are augmented with trips to Dodge Nature Center's barn, apiary, aviary, marshes, prairies and woods.

"The Dodge Nature Preschool Board of Directors really wanted the kids to feel at home, to help with the separation anxiety these young children can experience," says Janis LaDouceur, AIA, principal, Barbour/LaDouceur Architects, LLC, Minneapolis. "Research shows that kids associate certain images with home: a chimney, a pitched roof, a welcoming entrance. Our ‘cabin-in-the-woods’ concept incorporates these metaphors into the Dodge Nature Center setting."

The preschool also needed to fit in with several generations of farm buildings at the 320-acre nature center, including a recently constructed barn designed by Barbour/LaDouceur. So the architects decided an Edwin Lundie-style country manor—with a fieldstone-and-shingle exterior—would be an appropriate template.

Inside the single-story building, the architects paid exquisite attention to detail. Above hardwood floors (made of lumber from renewable-growth forests) are vaulted ceilings with massive timber trusses. Nature-themed Arts-and-Crafts-style fixtures and furnishings are used throughout the building. Cherry-stained maple and birch built-in shelves, window seats and doors; child-size nooks and cubbies; slate floors etched with images of bear paws, horses, leaves and fish; a child-high animal freize above the wainscoting; and a variety of window heights and textures encourage children to feel at home and to explore.

Similarly, each of the three classrooms—with their vaulted wood ceilings, built-in shelves and linoleum floors—include a variety of flexible learning spaces. Children have the option of working quietly or noisily, alone or as a group. And while they might experience privacy as they work on a project in one corner of the room, their teacher can still observe them.
The architects paid close attention to detail, using nature-themed Arts-and-Crafts-style fixtures and furnishings even in classrooms (above and opposite). Built-in shelves, child-high window sills and child-size nooks encourage children to feel at home and explore (top right).

“Teachers and curriculum are only two facets of education,” says Julie Powers, director, Dodge Nature Preschool. “The classroom is the third teacher. So it has to be flexible to encourage children’s knowledge and understanding.” Each classroom includes a sunroom where the children can build with wood blocks, a kitchen for cooking projects, a project sink with running water and a bathroom with child-size facilities. Ample storage is provided because preschool teachers “need an unbelievable number of props,” Powers says.

In-floor radiant heat makes winter sit-down projects comfortable (heat also blown in from above keeps room temperatures balanced). The wood ceilings are acoustically backed to moderate noise levels. And each classroom has a door that leads directly outside to the butterfly garden, sand box, walking trails and tricycle paths.

Aesthetics, Powers says, “set the tone for the curriculum. Children need to be in a beautiful place, especially at a nature center. So many preschools are Disneyland cute or cartoonish. That approach doesn’t develop or extend a child’s aesthetic sense. So, for me, that meant this building had to have lots of light, natural wood and interesting things to look at like the beamed ceilings and wainscoting.”

Already, children from throughout the Twin Cities metro area attend Dodge Nature Preschool. Their half days are filled with outdoor exploration and indoor play, natural-science experiments and art projects, block building and apple picking. In fact, time flies until mom or dad picks them up for home. Brimming with accounts of the day’s adventures, children might even hear their parents say, “I wish I were four again, so I could go to this school, too.”

Dodge Nature Preschool
Dodge Nature Center, West St. Paul
Barbour/LaDoucer Architect, LLC, Minneapolis
House Rules

Albert Lea High School, organized under the “house” concept, addresses the community’s 21st-century educational goals

By Bette Hammel

Throughout Minnesota, school districts have found that many schools built during the 1950s are unable to meet the demands of 21st-century educational goals. Albert Lea was one such district.

Three years ago, residents voted to replace the existing downtown high school, a cast-in-concrete building with several zig-zag additions. Not only was the structure economically unfeasible to renovate, it could not be reconfigured to fit today’s high-tech educational standards.

Fortunately the school district owned land at the edge of town—where its football field is located—and designated that area the site of its new high school. Following many meetings attended by educators, City officials and parents, the project team from DLR Group, Minneapolis, established design goals and site agreements.

“Not only was the challenge to develop a space that is viable as a teaching tool,” says Jonathan Crump, AIA, principal, DLR Group, “but preserving the natural landscape, which overlooks an existing retention pond, was also key.”

To retain use of the playing fields through two years of construction, the architects wrapped the building around the hillside overlooking the pond, saving many trees in the process. The 2-story building fans out from a central core to 270,000 square feet. Since the major part of the exterior façade is precast concrete—chosen for scheduling and economic reasons—the architects skillfully employed ample glass and face-brick veneer to break up the massing.

The front entrance is particularly distinctive. Here, several brick columns stop short of the roof. The gap, bridged by V-shaped steel brackets, “makes you feel as though the wood structure is floating above you,” Crump explains.

Like other new schools throughout the state, the new Albert Lea High School, which opened in November 2000, includes several community
rooms, classrooms and computer-based technical/lecture labs in addition to a swimming pool, library, cafeteria, gym and media center. Designed for 1,200 students, grades 9–12, the school is organized under the “house” concept, in which classrooms and study spaces are grouped into curriculum- or grade-based areas called houses.

Albert Lea High School’s five houses are currently curriculum based, but school administrators can change to grade-based instruction in the future if they wish. Within each house are spaces that stretch into common areas that can be used for break-out study groups, team teaching or large-group projects.

Such single-story functions as the food commons, technology department and building support are located on the school’s upper level (built into the hillside). At the center of the school is a 2-level media center, furnished with the latest in computer technology and a skylight system designed to help eliminate glare.

Albert Lea High School students also share learning resources with Riverland Community College, located just behind the school and across the street. A paved sidewalk links the college and high school so both student bodies can take advantage of each school’s facilities.

“People in Albert Lea are excited by the high school’s design,” says David Prescott, superintendent of schools. “For a conservative city it’s eye-catching, but not too far out. And it’s really a community asset because it was designed with all of us in mind.”

Albert Lea High School
Albert Lea, Minnesota
DLR Group, Minneapolis
School Pride

A south-Minneapolis community invests in a K-5 school that's become a neighborhood landmark  

By Joel Hoekstra

Whittier Elementary School for the Arts, a 121,000-square-foot facility for students K-5 in south Minneapolis, is no plain Jane. From the dark-red metal roof, to the patterned-brick exterior near the north entry, to the pivoted bay windows along the east side, the structure is undeniably handsome.

"We wanted to reflect the character of the neighborhood in its school—the pitched roofs of the houses, the brick of nearby apartment buildings," explains Edward Kodet, Jr., FAIA, Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd., Minneapolis, who designed the 3-story school. In this regard, the school certainly serves one of its main functions: to be an active and symbolic center of the Whittier neighborhood.

But the challenges of the project, completed in 1998, weren't merely aesthetic. For one thing, the building program included a health-care facility for the neighborhood, parking on school property and the need to join the new school to an existing park building with a gym complex that could serve both school and community. Stakeholders involved in the planning process, in addition to Minneapolis Public Schools, included the Whittier neighborhood, Minneapolis Community Development Agency, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, school administrators, students and staff, as well as the design team. And the site allocated for the building? A narrow half-block abutting Whittier Park.
The project team met every challenge through a combination of design savvy and consensus building. They tucked the parking area underneath the long, tall building on the ground level. On the first and second levels of the school, five classroom clusters are supported by common meeting areas, which Kodet named “kivas” after the gathering spaces of American Indian tribes in the Southwest. The new building merges seamlessly with the preexisting gym facility. And the media center, with its maple paneling, ceiling detail and bay-window reading area, is a warm inviting space that fosters quiet, study and contemplation.

There’s more. Taking concerns about indoor-air quality seriously, school-district officials, Kodet and the American Lung Association collaborated to create a “healthy” school complete with state-of-the-art technology for air filtering, humidity and air exchange. The project team limited the use of carpet, which can harbor dust and mold. Wherever possible, they eliminated adhesives and other off-gassing products. They placed building systems inside the school’s “attic” created by the pitched roof, instead of outside the building, for easy access to all mechanical, electrical and architectural systems.

Concern for community, health and learning are well-represented in Whittier’s new school, which has become a source of pride and activity for the neighborhood. In fact, the complex program and collaborative design approach was so successful, says Clyde Kane, manager of design and construction, Minneapolis Public Schools, that “all of our new schools have incorporated all or most of what was designed specifically for Whittier. That school is now our criteria for schools we build in the future.”

Whittier Elementary School for the Arts, Minneapolis
Kodet Architectural Group, Ltd., Minneapolis
BOOK lovers recognize the ceiling's dramatic wood curve, punctuated by arching Art Moderne-style beams, as pages of an open book, arcing and flattening as they unfurl from the spine. Other users of the new public Inver Glen Library in Inver Grove Heights see the underside of a wooden boat. Noting the interior's blonde wood and clean lines, some patrons recall the work of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto.

Whatever the association, the effect is the same: people in Dakota County are impressed with their 12,000-square-foot library, which opened in March 2000. "The Dakota County Library Board wanted something that would delight people," says Paul Neuhaus, AIA, associate, The Leonard Parker Associates, Architects, Inc., Minneapolis. (One of the firm's specialties is libraries; it completed the Heritage Library in Lakeville, also in Dakota County, in February 2000.)

"Libraries today compete with so many other forms of entertainment—with television, computers, videos, even Barnes & Noble," Neuhaus continues. "The Library Board said, 'We want people to visit our library and stay for a while.'"

In fact, the Board expressed a strong preference for a wood ceiling, recognizing its welcoming appeal, says Bill Asp, director, Dakota County Libraries. "There's a value in creating spaces that people enjoy coming to, as they're likely to stay or return another time." To draw people into the library and keep them there, Neuhaus used an abundance of wood, natural light and an inviting aesthetic.
Patrons enter through the main door on the building's west side and get a taste of the library's sumptuous wood interior: the underside of the entry canopy is lined with cedar. After walking through a vestibule with restrooms and a phone, visitors enter a low-ceilinged circulation area, then pass into the spacious reading and reference room.

Here, blonde birch furniture and detailing correspond to the hemlock ceiling's golden hue, while curves in the furniture and reference desk complement the dramatic arch overhead. In a library of this size, Asp says, everyone must do their best to keep spaces open and uncluttered. As the architects refined design lines, library staff learned to rely
on electronic reference materials to eliminate space that otherwise would have been needed for encyclopedias and multivolume reference works.

The sloping ceiling, Neuhaus says, also allowed him to create a variety of spaces within the library. Opposite the circulation desk is a glass-walled room housing computers for use by classes or individual library patrons. Study rooms outfitted with work surfaces, electrical outlets and phone jacks also serve the needs of technology-minded users.

The children's area contains a custom-designed, miniature "tree house" in a minimalist grove of painted-wood "trees." "This corner is probably the biggest hit of the library," Neuhaus says. "Kids pull their parents back to this area to play again and again."

The building, sited on seven acres between Simley High School and Inver Hills Community College, looks out on a pine-covered hill to the east. Studying the property long before construction was underway, Neuhaus identified this woodland view as one of the site's main features. As such, the library makes extensive use of glass to frame the hill and allow natural light to enter the building. In fact, glass is used throughout the library—sometimes in soaring 22-foot-
The dramatic ceiling, with its golden arches (right), allowed Neuhaus to create a variety of interior spaces, including a central reference area (opposite), and a children's reading and play space complete with minimalist "trees" (above).

high spans, other times in low horizontal bands.

The library's exterior design is largely an interplay between glass and red brick. "I wanted the monolithic brick forms to contrast with the transparent glass," Neuhaus says, "in order to communicate the library's two main program functions—a public area and a more private area for staff—in terms of mass and volume." From nearly every angle, however, the building's gray metal roofs dominate the exterior. While a smaller curved roof demarcates the lobby, the main roof gestures toward the hill, its shape suggesting the vaulted space within.

But while the library's homey interior conjures images of book pages and wooden boats, the roof's arc is far more cool and contemporary. Libraries are no longer just about books. They're increasingly places for community meetings, information gathering, social interaction and technological communication. That roof curve, it could be said, indicates the wave of the future.

Inver Glen Library
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota
The Leonard Parker Associates, Architects, Inc., Minneapolis
Prelude to a Play

Designed as a welcoming gesture, theater lobbies set the stage for performances audiences are waiting to see

By William Randall Beard

Mention the name of any well-known theater company in the Twin Cities and, usually, several things come to mind: the type of work the troupe does, the space in which it performs and the building in which it's housed. The latter, in fact, can be critical. Most people so identify a theater company with its edifice that the lack of a permanent home hinders a small company from establishing an identity.

But another area of the theater, located just inside the building and outside the performance space, also makes a significant impression: the theater lobby. Designed as a welcoming gesture or overture, it sets the tone for the performances audiences are waiting to see. As a prelude to a play, it introduces a company and its aesthetic to theater goers.

The most elegant theater lobby in the Twin Cities is in St. Paul's Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, designed by Benjamin Thompson & Associates, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The lobby's dominant visual element—a grand, curving, 2-story staircase—gives the space an unmatched feeling of gentility and gentle movement that readies audiences for such class acts as the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Schubert Club, Minnesota Opera and touring Broadway shows.

All of the lobby's design details—from a patterned carpet of deep blue against red-brick walls, to contemporary brass stair railings, crystal
sconces and an abundance of wood—combine to create an atmosphere of warm sophistication. The 3-story window wall overlooking Rice Park extends the gesture, creating a view that’s captivating from inside and out.

The Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University of Minnesota’s West Bank campus, designed by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Minneapolis, attempts to create a comparable atmosphere. As audiences gather before performances by University of Minnesota music groups, the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota or Plymouth Music Series, the lobby’s curved window wall provides spectacular views of the Mississippi River and East Bank campus.

But this is the Ordway with an inferiority complex. The lobby is far too small for the size of the hall: an audience filling only half of the auditorium overwhelms the lobby space. It’s difficult to enjoy the view when one feels crammed with all of humanity into the equivalent of a glass cage.

In the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, designed by Miller Hanson Westerbeck Berger, Inc., Minneapolis, and home of the radio program “A Prairie Home Companion,” the lobby inspires similar feelings of claustrophobia. On the plus side, the space is modeled after the graceful lobbies of British theaters. Blonde wood, antique brass, decorative arches and moldings in two shades of blue give the lobby charm to spare. Narrow stairways with rest rooms off the upper landings impart a quaint, old-world feel.

But the space is too fractured to facilitate easy movement. With the box office in a separate room, and the lobby divided into a front concession

Continued on page 70
The school's cacophony of textures, colors, materials and forms is evident in a courtyard where the plastic-arts school's wall of volcanic rock and fence of yellow cylinders contrasts with the purple administrative tower (left) and the glass-clad dance school across the way (above).

Mexico City's Performing Architecture

On the former back lot of Churubusco Film Studios in Mexico City, the Centro Nacional de las Artes (known as CENART) teaches students, grade school through college, about form and function on a daily basis. Completed in 1994, the school boasts six theaters, open-air performance spaces, several libraries, art-research centers and a central administrative building.

What makes the school a living lesson in art and architecture, however, are five distinct school buildings—one each for dance, music, plastic arts, film and theater—designed by different architects. Together these buildings stimulate creative cross-fertilization among the budding musicians, screenwriters, actors, dancers, sculptors, painters and multimedia artists enrolled in the school, while providing a vibrant context in which to learn about and practice art.

Such architectural elements as patios, corridors, stairways, windows, cupolas and barrel vaults reappear throughout the buildings. Textures vary dramatically to include glass, concrete, steel, aluminum, baked tile and volcanic rock. Cubes, curves, cylinders and triangles are among the buildings' many forms. Colors range from burnt orange, deep purple and mustard yellow to stark black and white.

Ricardo Legorreta, Hon. FAIA, was in charge of the overall project and designed two structures: the central administrative building with its double tower and the school of plastic arts. In his work, Legorreta uses elements of traditional Mexican architecture that harken back to the 16th and 17th centuries. At that time, education often occurred in monasteries and convents, whose architecture featured long corridors opening onto patios and courtyards. Legorreta recreates the meditative calm of these spaces in the administrative building's corridor. Besides linking the individual schools, the corridor is lined with book, art-material and dance-supply stores, as well as wide ledges for sitting and socializing.
In the plastic-arts school, Legorreta evokes Mexico's ancient past with volcanic-rock walls and pre-Hispanic sculptures. But his juxtapositions of rugged black rock and flat mustard-colored walls sporting geometric cutouts seem intended to pique the imaginations of young artists. Paint spatters next to the blue-tiled cupolas on the school's roof indicate students use every square foot of the building.

At the far end of the campus the music school, designed by Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon, glows like a bright, white jewel—an effect produced by marble aggregates embedded in hand-chisled white concrete. Adjacent to the school's entrance is the music auditorium, a massive cube of the same white concrete topped with a sharply angled roof.

The glass-clad, seemingly free-floating dance school, designed by Luis Vicente Flores Suarez, contrasts with the massive solidity of Legorreta's administrative building across from it. And the glass and metal-framed cylindrical tower at one end of the dance school reaches skyward like a dancer's arms.

The Teatro de las Artes, designed by Alfonso Lopez Baz and Javier Calleja, has a double row of Classic-style metal pillars that define either side of the glass-fronted building. Anchoring the opposite end of the complex is the theater-school building and performance space designed by Enrique Norten, Hon. FAIA, who reinterpreted via his post-modern sensibility many of the architectural elements in the other buildings.

The influence of such varied architecture will likely manifest itself in the work of current and future generations of Mexican artists trained at CENART. Without a doubt, however, students are engaged and challenged by their brick-and-mortar teachers at every glance.
endangered
Continued from page 15

new construction and renovation projects must pass a City-mandated design review in order to obtain a building permit. Photographs that demonstrate appropriate materials, colors and details are included in the guidelines and “these visual explanations often work for us better than words,” Petit says.

For some shop owners on Lake Street, however, design criteria is less of an issue than the ever-increasing rents. Steve Behling, proprietor of a sailing-equipment shop located in a small, turn-of-the-century storefront on the east end of the downtown retail district, says franchise stores on the west end of Lake Street drive up the rents, which smaller stores can’t afford.

Bob Cramer, manager of a clothing store for 20 years, questions the long-term effect of retail-chain stores on the town. “The independent-store merchants who live in the community know the needs and the pleasures of the people who live here,” he says. “Do the cookie-cutter chains know? Not really. These chains have been part of the American economic cycle, but people are starting to get bored with the large malls. We need more human stuff around here, like those weird coffee places college students set up.”

Currently, no conventional historic-preservation component advocates for, or mandates, the saving of wood-frame storefronts like those in downtown Wayzata. No building can last forever. Structures built for less than monumental purposes have even shorter lifespans. However, as much as historic preservation’s principal duty is to guard important structures of the past, its duty is not simply architectural taxidermy.

Historic preservation’s overarching purpose is to set a preservation course for the future. At the beginning of this century, it’s heartening to see Wayzata’s civic leaders providing the City with design guidelines for new forms that can replace old ones with sensitivity to scale and a sense of place. AM
interview
Continued from page 17

effort to dilute the present definition of
design responsibility because it will de-
crease the licensed architect's ability to
protect the public. Here's why.

Architects are presently the only de-
sign profession that is trained, tested and
licensed to coordinate all procedures in-
volved in the design and construction of
buildings. If legislation fragments re-
sponsibility for the building-design
process to include lesser-trained profes-
sionals, the public can be misled about
the competence of our profession versus
the other design professions.

Last year, for example, legislation was
introduced to eliminate licensure for all
professions currently regulated by the
Minnesota Board of Registration. Such a
measure would, in essence, decree that
anyone can design anything. The client
would be responsible for determining if
someone is knowledgeable enough to do
their project and there would be no as-
surance for the public about someone's
credentials. Think about that the next
time you are on the 46th floor of the
IDS building. Licensure is necessary be-
cause it demonstrates professional com-
petence while protecting the public.

Architects often complain about how
the practice of architecture keeps
shrinking, but we let other groups like
engineers, interior designers, construc-
tion managers and management consul-
tants chip away at our scope of practice.
If we don't step in and protect our pro-
ession—and by extension, the public—
they'll continue to chip away.

So depending on what the Legislature
does this year, there could be a lot of
things happening. The membership of
AIA Minnesota needs to be aware that
such issues exist. Consequently, we
need our membership to be politically
active and talking with their legislators
to preserve the protections to the public
provided for in the present law.

Have you found that legislators are
much like the public at large in that
they don't really comprehend what arch-
itects do?

Yes. We find that legislators, as well as
the general public, really don't under-
stand what architects do, nor do they
understand much of the vocabulary we
use. We have to get past that. The only
way we will be able to take our message
about the value and expertise of our pro-
ession forward is to successfully com-
unicate what we do.

What are some good ways to do that?
We have to speak in terms that everyone
understands; get rid of the jargon, the
architecture-speak, so the public feels
we're reachable. Too often we come
across as creating an us-versus-them sit-
uation, as opposed to a position where
we're all working together. We need to
have a greater understanding of our

Continued on page 51
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Has the increase of women in the profession changed it at all? I think women are humanizing it because we’re integrating family back into the profession. In a majority of families, it is the woman who balances work, family and household responsibilities. The working world has finally recognized that people do not have to be “niched,” and can be successful professionals and parents at the same time. When it was strictly a male-only field—not only architecture but the entire professional community—there was little consideration for one’s family in your professional life. When I started practicing architecture, women had to make a choice between profession and family.

It’s wonderful to see that people have grown to recognize that you don’t need to choose one over the other. Women on construction sites aren’t an issue anymore. When I first started working, the whole office went out one day to tour a job site. The next week we got a bill from the contractor for $10,000 for work stoppage because a woman was on the site. Times have changed.

How do you propose to get AIA members more involved in the organization this year?
It’s been 10 years since we asked our membership about their needs and expectations, so AIA Minnesota has initiated a membership survey. We know the workplace, business climate and methods of practice have changed. We want to make any changes necessary to bring our organization in line with the membership’s expectations. So architects can start their new involvement in 2001 by participating in the survey.

Next we need them to become more involved in a public way, in a political way. Our membership really has the destiny of AIA Minnesota and the architectural profession in its hands. If our membership doesn’t become involved in working for the profession someone else will, and we may not like the results. AM
technology
Continued from page 19

related to project-schedule accelerations and the resulting reduction in interest payments by the owner.

Such claims are exceptional. Like any e-commerce innovation, an extranet's success depends on the people working on it. According to Tom Kouri, architect and systems manager, RSP Architects, Minneapolis, an extranet's success is directly related to the investment in or commitment of project-team members.

"Extranets demand buy-in from each person working on the project, and owner and contractor buy-in is critical," he says. In short, extranet success depends on its use as the exclusive means of communication, not merely the primary means.

An additional barrier to an extranet's success is that few architectural project teams use all of a site's features. The goal of extranet-service providers is to have all project communications related to a building's design, construction, maintenance and demolition managed through a single, virtual information clearinghouse. Yet architects are hesitant to embrace this vision outright.

"In general, technology is in advance of people's comfort level," Kouri says.

This uneasiness with new technology may be founded on broader questions of accountability, authorship and liability. Extranets permit all parties to contribute to the decision-making process in a concurrent, round-the-clock time frame, which gives rise to a number of practical and ethical questions: Does an instantaneously delivered question, such as a Request For Information, deserve an instant answer? If a general contractor hosts a project Website, are they also entitled to use information kept in the project archive on other projects, such as an architect's standard details?

If contractors or owners are given the right to red-line construction drawings, who ensures those changes are made accurately, that they meet building codes or that they conform to budgetary guidelines? If owners assume red-lining authority, thereby directing changes in construction drawings directly to draftspersons, does architecture degenerate to that of a professional drafting service?

In time, such questions will be answered. Through the sheer force of its efficacy, speed and convenience, the extranet is proving indispensable to the projects and clients that use it. At the same time, it is unshing the traditional relationships that have historically governed the design and construction of buildings. As building-design knowledge is increasingly transferred through extranets as digitized facts, architects face a threat to their long-standing position as keepers of building expertise.

On the other hand, the architect's potential role as chief administrator of project communications poses the greatest opportunity. This shift from placing value on the storage of knowledge to the exchange of knowledge has been underway for decades in all areas of computerized society.

In 1979, French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard was perhaps the first to comment intelligently on the trend, claiming in his seminal work *The Postmodern Condition*, "Knowledge is and will be produced in order to be sold, it is and will be consumed in order to be valorized in a production. In both cases the goal is exchange. Knowledge ceases to be an end in itself, it loses its 'use-value'."

In short, Lyotard predicted that knowledge keepers and knowledge producers would eventually work for the knowledge exchanger. But this is only the end result. The more interesting and far-reaching concept underlying his statement is this: holding knowledge no longer has value; dispersing it does.

In terms of the extranet, architects are well positioned to help determine the standards and protocols that eventually take hold. As with computer-aided-drafting (CAD) technologies 15 and 20 years ago, the field of extranet providers will dwindle from hundreds to a handful in a matter of months, with one or two establishing the standards for the entire industry.

Unless architects make a concerted effort to shape the flow of knowledge via the extranet, they risk sublimation of the entire profession to that of mere information processors. With strategic and dedicated leadership, however, architects can use the extranet to reshape not only their own profession, but the entire construction industry. AM
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projects and additions to schools. After the federal government lowered indoor-air-quality standards in the late 1970s and '80s in response to the energy crisis of the time, Paepke explains, higher carbon-dioxide levels and mold appeared in many aging schools. The push for better indoor air has propelled several bond referenda for improving schools. At the same time, architects are specifying state-of-the-art equipment that improves indoor-air quality.

Another change driving the design of new schools (and new additions), instigated in part by the Profile of Learning, is a switch from traditional lecture-and-listen classrooms—where the teacher always stands at the front of the class—to a configuration that focuses on small groups and areas for students to work collaboratively on projects.

To meet this need, Nyberg says, many architects plan for both larger classrooms and wider hallways, from which classes can spill into a new room. With the growing emphasis on team teaching, the extra room allows teachers to split classes into smaller units and place them in different areas, such as a breakout room or a study area in the hallway. Student and teacher input was incorporated into the design of a room at Jordan dubbed the "big messy." Larger than a traditional classroom, the big messy combines an art-resources lab with a technology/science center where students working on projects in different disciplines have immediate access to various information sources.

Another trend in school architecture has been the "house" concept, in which classrooms are grouped around a common area and students stay in the same group most of the day rather than trudging from class to class, explains Jonathan Crump, AIA, principal, DLR Group, Minneapolis. While in some schools houses are organized by subject matter, other schools group them by grade. Teachers work together in teams under the house structure, more commonly seen in middle and high schools than elementary schools, he says. Students spend an entire day in their "house," shifting occasionally between classrooms.

Another area of explosive growth in school design is driven by technology. While computer labs still exist for training students, architects now have to provide access to the Internet and other online resources in individual classrooms. And even that may be passé soon. Paepke recently worked on a school in which he deployed wireless transmitters throughout the structure, allowing teachers to move their laptops around a classroom or into common areas within a 300-foot radius of the transmitters.

Just as technology is dictating the need for new access to technology, shootings at high schools throughout the country have resulted in more stringent safety measures. Architects now specify doors that teachers can lock from the inside. They locate such public areas as cafeteria, gym and media center near the school's main entrance, so security guards can check in all guests, monitor areas and cut off access to unused classrooms.

In the Jordan school, Kodet adds, he placed the media center on the second floor where it overlooks a park with a troubled past. Since the room is occupied days and nights, plenty of people have a view of the park, and the mere presence of light and activity dissuades children from loitering there.

Instead, they might be inside the school surfing the Internet or waiting to meet their parents after basketball practice. They might peer in on a group of adult learners or overhear community groups discussing a proposed initiative. In any case, as new schools become the 21st-century nexus for community, the old school of straight-line hallways with rows of classrooms may be a thing of the past.

"Children are our future," the saying goes. For many communities, it seems, so are their schools.
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  St. Paul, MN 55106
  Tel: 651/771-2222
  Fax: 651/778-3911
  E-mail: gschneiderham@atkinsbenham.com
  Web: www.atkinsbenham.com
  Established 1909
  Other Offices: Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OK; St. Louis, MO; Phoenix, AZ; Houston and Dallas, TX; Atlanta, GA; Bella Vista, AR; Detroit, MI
  - Bill Allison PE
  - Larry Roach PE
  - Ken Nelson PE
  - Lance Benham PE
  - Terry Heims AIA
  - Rick Knutson PE
  - Firm Personnel by Discipline
    - Civil Engineers 55
    - Structural Engineers 55
    - Mechanical Engineers 88
    - Electrical Engineers 59
    - Other Engineers 55
    - Architects 66
    - Other Professional 98
    - Technical (CADD/ Drafting Personnel) 121
    - Administrative 71
    - Total 680
  - Headquartered in Oklahoma City, Atkins Benham is an integrated architectural, engineering, procurement and construction firm that provides facility planning, design and construction services to clients worldwide. Atkins Benham is ranked in the top 100 in size nationally by Engineering News Record magazine and annually performs planning and design for projects with a construction value in excess of $1 billion. With approximately 900 employees in the US, Atkins Benham is a comprehensive service firm with all principal disciplines of architecture and engineering “in house”, as well as construction management.
  - 3M Alliance Contract, St. Paul, MN and Nationally; Target Stores, Nationally; Glenayre Electronics, Inc., Quincy, IL; Midwest Express Airlines, Milwaukee, WI; Federal Urban Campus, Oklahoma City, OK; Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM
BKV is a full-service architectural and engineering firm providing services to municipal, educational, residential, corporate, public and private clients. Engineering services include structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and building commissioning.

- Marquette Branch Banks, Various Locations; Kinney & Lange Law Office, Minneapolis, MN; City of Maple Grove City Hall, Maple Grove, MN; Hermantown Fire and Police Facility, Hermantown, MN; Anoka County Library, Anoka, MN; Eagle Crest Dementia Center, Roseville, MN.

- David Braslau Associates, Inc.
  1313 5th Street SE, Ste. 322
  Minneapolis, MN 55414
  Tel: 612/331-4571
  Fax: 612/331-4572
  E-mail: david@braslau.com
  Web: www.braslau.com
  Established 1971
  Dr. David Braslau
  — Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Acoustical Engineers 1
  Other Professional/Technical 1
  Administrative 1
  Total 3
  —
  Architectural and performance space acoustics, building and partition noise isolation, environmental noise control, exterior facade attenuation for aircraft and other sources, sound system design, industrial noise control, acoustic and noise measurements, control of vibration, blasting and small arms ranges, land use compatibility, environmental assessments, impact statements and indirect source permits.

- Federal District Court (acoustics), Miami, FL; SuperValu Perishable Center (noise control), Hopkins, MN; Lower Brule Council Chamber (acoustics), Lower Brule, SD; Fellowship Baptist Church (acoustics), Minneapolis, MN; DM&E Railroad Noise/Vibration Assessment, Mankato, MN.

- Buildings Consulting Group, Inc.
  2817 Anthony Lane South, Ste. 201
  Minneapolis, MN 55418
  Tel: 612/789-6696
  Fax: 612/789-6397
  E-mail: lng@bcgmn.com
  Web: www.bcgmn.com
  Established 1994
  — Lewis Y. Ng
  — Keith A. Pashina
  — Louis K. Ho
  — Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Structural Engineers 6
  Technical 3
  Administrative 2
  Total 11
  —
  Continued on next column

- Cain Ouse Associates Inc.
  1310 East Highway 96
  White Bear Lake, MN 55110
  Tel: 651/426-9549
  Fax: 651/426-5048
  E-mail: jacain@cainouse.com
  Established 1983
  —
  Jay J. Cain
  — Wallace M. Ouse
  — Scott D. Thomas
  —
  Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Mechanical Engineers 4
  Electrical Engineers 1
  Technical 6
  Administrative 2
  Total 13
  —
  Mechanical and electrical consulting engineering services to the construction industry. Clients include Architects, Owners, Contractors, and other engineers. Project types are diverse including, but not limited to, education, office, industrial, housing, entertainment, recreation, and exterior lighting facilities for both the public and private sectors.

- City of Minneapolis Multiphase Public Works Facilities
  Minneapolis, MN; Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN; New High School, River Falls, WI; IRA Civic Center and Ice Arena, Grand Rapids, MN; Transit Shelter/Layover Facility, Columbia Heights, MN; Arden Hills City Hall, Arden Hills, MN.
Complete structural engineering services for commercial/retail, office/warehouse, academic, industrial, governmental, medical, health, housing, religious and parking facilities. With expertise in steel, concrete, masonry and wood, DBM has engineered new construction, additions and renovations/restorations on over 5,000 projects in 22 states.

- Green Bay West High School Addition, Green Bay, WI; Long Prairie Hospital Addition, Long Prairie, MN; Aldarra Golf Clubhouse, Seattle, WA; New Public School, Tomahawk, WI; Renaissance on the River Townhomes, Minneapolis, MN; Chanhasen Housing Development, Chanhasen, MN

DLR Group has been providing exceptional engineering and design services since its inception in 1966. As a full-service architectural and engineering (mechanical, electrical, structural, civil and communications) firm, we are a national leader in the design of corporate, industrial, educational, sports, justice and associated building systems.

- Amazon.com Office Facility, Seattle, WA; VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN; Remidji High School, Bemidji, MN; Albert Lea High School, Albert Lea, MN

Dolejs Associates Inc.
1624 N. Riverfront Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
Tel: 507/625-7869
Fax: 507/388-9225
E-mail: dolejs@mic.net
Established 1977
Other Offices: Burnsville, MN
Tel: 952/435-6790
Fax: 507/388-9225

- Joseph M. Dolejs
  PE
- David A. Kroells
  PE
- Chris Dolejs
  PE
- Mike Dolejs
  PE
- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Civil Engineers 3
  Mechanical Engineers 9
  Administrative 1.5
  Total 14

Dolejs Associates provides Mechanical and Electrical Design Services for the building industry. An experienced and stable staff provides expertise in the HVAC, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Temperature Control, Lighting Power, Communication and Life Safety Systems. Recent projects include schools, restaurants, athletic facilities, motels, engineered housing, churches, ADA and energy conservation retrofits.

- Waseca Junior High School
  Waseca, MN; Math and Science Building, Bethany College, Mankato, MN; Hilton Inn, Shoreview, MN; Hosanna Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN; Mankato City Hall, Mankato, MN; Library, North Mankato, MN

DPRa Incorporated
332 Minnesota Street, Ste. E-1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Tel: 651/227-6500
Fax: 651/227-5522
Web: www.dpра.com
Established 1961
Other Offices: Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Manhattan, KS; Milwaukee, WI; Oak Ridge, TN; Princeton, NJ; Rosslyn, VA

- Christopher J. Lough
  PE
- Martin D. Bonnell
  PE
- Steven C. Heikila
  PE
- Robert J. Wahlstrom
  PE, PG

Carol L. Sarnat

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 7
Mechanical Engineers 1
Other Engineers 5
Other Professionals 7
Technical 1
Administrative 4
Total 25

Since 1961, DPRa Incorporated's St. Paul office has been a leading provider of environmental consulting and engineering services to developers, lenders, contractors and attorneys. DPRa's services include civil, environmental and geological engineering, site assessment, investigation and clean-up, storage tank management, geotechnical investigation, and geological and hydro-geological assessments.

- Contaminated Site Redevelopment, former industrial property, Downtown St. Paul, MN; Geotechnical Survey for proposed U.S. Postal facility, Hudson, WI; Environmental Assessment/Subsurface Investigation, Roseville, MN; Environmental Due Diligence, commercial and industrial properties, National and International Locations; Soil and Groundwater Remediation, former bulk chemical and petroleum storage facility.
DUNHAM ASSOCIATES, INC.
8200 Normandale Blvd., #500
Minneapolis, MN 55437
Tel: 952/820-1400
Fax: 952/820-2760
E-mail: info@dunhamassociates.com
Web: www.dunhamassociates.com
Established 1960
—
Kathleen Kolbeck PE
Dale Holland PE
Jay Rohkohl PE
Mark Sigel PE
Paul Thompson SE, PE
Gregory Maetas
Greg Kostad PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 15
Mechanical Engineers 66
Electrical Engineers 48
Other Professional 5
Technical 21
Administrative 24
Total 180
—
While our core services are to provide mechanical, electrical and structural consulting engineering services, we have developed teams of specialists in lighting design, fire protection, building code consulting and indoor air quality (IAQ). Our IAQ expertise includes thermal displacement ventilation and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) modeling.

Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Expansion; Blue Cross-Blue Shield MN, Eagan, MN; University of Minnesota: Fairview Southdale in Edina, MN and Fairview Ridges in Burnsville, MN; Public Schools of Elk River and Mounds View, MN; Mystic Lake Casino Expansion, Prior Lake, MN

ELLERBE BECKET
800 LaSalle Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2014
Tel: 612/376-2000
MN: 612/376-2271
Fax: 612/376-2271
E-mail: info@ellerbebeck.com
Web: www.ellerbebeck.com
Established 1909
Other Offices: Kansas City, MO;
Phoenix, AZ; San Francisco, CA;
Seattle, WA; Washington, DC;
Cairo, Egypt; Dubai, UAE; Seoul,
Korea; Moscow, RUS; Greenville,
SC; Wakefield, England (joint venture with DLA)
—
Bob Degenhardt PE
Randi Wood PE
Robert Brown PE
Tom Grogan PE
Jay Rudberg PE
Al Wenzel PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 5
Structural Engineers 31
Mechanical Engineers 81
Electrical Engineers 88
Architects 359
Construction Professionals 52
Technical 19
Administrative 101
Total 736
—
Ellerbe Beck offers civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering services with a full complement of registered professional engineers in each discipline. This team has a wealth of experience in designing modern, efficient and reliable engineered systems for a broad range of new construction and renovation projects.

Allina Health System, Woodbury Ambulatory Care Center, Woodbury, MN; Target Technology Center, Minneapolis, MN; Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN; Mayo Clinic Gonda Building, Rochester, MN; U.S. Bancorp Center, Minneapolis, MN; E*TRADE Regional Operations Center, Atlanta, GA

ERICKSEN ELLISON AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
2635 University Ave. W., Ste. 201-S
St. Paul, MN 55114
Tel: 651/251-7570
Fax: 651/251-7578
Established 1985
Other Office: Portland, OR
—
Alfred "Bud" Erickson PE
Thomas E. Amundson PE
James D. Roed PE
Robert A. Curtis PE
William T. Buller PE
Michael A. DeSutter PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 17
Technical 14
Administrative 3
Total 34
—
ER provides full service structural engineering for corporate, educational, computer centers, R/D laboratories, commercial/retail, health care, sports-related and aircraft maintenance and hangar facilities; feasibility studies and forensic engineering; prototypical retail applications and detailing for Precast fabricators.

Foster, Jacobs & Johnson, Inc.
345 Canal Park Drive, Ste. 200
Duluth, MN 55802
Tel: 218/722-3060
Fax: 218/722-1931
E-mail: mail@fjj.com
Established 1922
—
James R. Johnson PE
Charles F. Jacobs PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 6
Electrical Engineers 5
Technical 2
Administrative 2
Total 15
—
Full service mechanical and electrical consulting services, including design and preparation of contract documents for fire protection, plumbing, HVAC, controls, lighting, power distribution, communications and life safety systems and construction administration. We offer computer-aided selection of M/E equipment and generate drawings using AutoCad with "Softdesk" building services.

Biosolids Management Facility-WLSSD, Duluth, MN; Cass Lake -Bena Middle School, Cass Lake, MN; Douglas County Maintenance Facility, Hawthorne, WI; Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Baudette, MN; Student Housing, Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College, Cloquet, MN; Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, MN

Molecular Cellular Biology Building, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Riverbend Commons Housing and Parking, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; North Memorial Medical Center Office Building, Robbinsdale, MN; Regions Hospital I 2000 Expansion, St. Paul, MN; Lawson Commons, Downtown St. Paul, MN; Target Retail and Office Complex on Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN; Piper Jaffrey Tower, Minneapolis, MN

Erickson Roed & Associates, Inc.
2550 University Ave. W., Ste. 201-S
St. Paul, MN 55114
Tel: 651/251-7570
Fax: 651/251-7578
 Established 1985
Other Office: Portland, OR
—
Alfred "Bud" Erickson PE
Thomas E. Amundson PE
James D. Roed PE
Robert A. Curtis PE
William T. Buller PE
Michael A. DeSutter PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 17
Technical 14
Administrative 3
Total 34
—
ER provides full service structural engineering for corporate, educational, computer centers, R/D laboratories, commercial/retail, health care, sports-related and aircraft maintenance and hangar facilities; feasibility studies and forensic engineering; prototypical retail applications and detailing for Precast fabricators.

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Mechanical, electrical and facility management engineering services for educational, commercial, institutional, health care and correctional facilities. Mechanical services include HVAC and plumbing design, and ventilation audits, commissioning and remedial system modification to improve indoor air quality. Electrical services include design for power distribution, lighting, fire alarms, security systems and technology infrastructure.

- Bloomington Schools Remodeling and Additions, Bloomington, MN; Stillwater Schools Infrastructure Studies and Improvements, Stillwater, MN; Anoka-Hennepin Technical College HVAC Upgrade, Anoka, MN; Hubbard Broadcasting Remodeling Upgrades, St. Paul, MN; Osceola Medical Center, Osceola, WI; Holy Family Hospital and Clinic, New Richmond, WI

Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc.

1201 Harmon Place
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Tel: 612/337-4100
Fax: 612/332-9013
E-mail: info@hga.com
Web: www.hga.com
Established 1953
Other Offices: Rochester, MN; Milwaukee, WI; Sacramento, CA

- Chuck Cappellini
  Keirmol Olson
  Dave Galey
  Kenny Horns
  Leigh Harrison
  Yan Shagalov

- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Architecture (Design and Planning) 242
  Civil Engineering 9
  Structural Engineering 34
  Mechanical Engineering 61
  Electrical Engineering 37
  Industrial Engineering 3
  Other Engineers 15
  Other Professionals 23
  Management and Support Staff 106
  Total Staff (4 offices) 562

- HGA has engineering expertise in the design of a broad range of facility types. In addition to traditional HVAC, structural and electrical systems, HGA specializes in clean environments, industrial processes, central plants, utility infrastructure, condition surveys, property evaluations, telecommunication networks, specialty lighting and parking structures. HGA engineers serve as both prime consultants and sub-consultants.

ADC Telecommunications, Eden Prairie, MN; 3M, St. Paul, MN; Medtronic Corporate Offices, Fridley, MN; Gateway: North Sioux City, IA; Sioux Falls, SD; Hampton, VA; Salt Lake City, UT; Polar Fab, Bloomington, MN; Carlton College, Northfield, MN; St. Cloud Hospital, St. Cloud, MN

Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc.

1983 Sloan Place, Ste. 3
St. Paul, MN 55117
Tel: 651/771-0880
Fax: 651/771-0878
E-mail: kfi@kfi-eng.com
Established 1996

- William J. Karges, Jr.
  James A. Faulconbridge

- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Mechanical Engineers 10
  Electrical Engineers 1
  Chemical Engineers 1
  Other Professional 4
  Administrative 5
  Total 31

Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. (KFI) is a unique engineering firm which specializes in owner direct contracts and engineered design build projects. We are a firm of engineers, designers, professional estimators, and commissioning specialists registered in 49 states and the District of Columbia. KFI provides consulting engineering and construction management services for industrial, institutional, healthcare and commercial organizations. KFI clients rely on this unique combination of skills and experience to address issues of constructability, phasing, maintenance and operations early in the design stage, conserving time and resources.

- Reactor Piping, Borden Chemical, Louisville, KY; Minnesota Veterans Home, Infrastructure Improvements, Hastings, MN; New Vegetable Oil Refinery, Hastings, MN; Robbinsdale School District 281, Ventilation Systems; Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Bloomington, MN; Industrial Ventilation Systems, 3M Company, Cottage Grove, MN

Larson Engineering of Minnesota

3524 Labore Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Tel: 651/481-9120
Fax: 651/481-9201
E-mail: Lee@larsonengr.com
Web: www.larsonengr.com
Established 1979
Other Offices: Naperville, IL; Appleton, WI; Norcross, GA; Hazelwood, MO; Phoenix, AZ

- Lee Granquist
- Kesh Ramduler
- Henry Voth

- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Civil Engineers 10
  Structural Engineers 21
  Technical 6
  Administrative 6
  Total 40

Larson Engineering of Minnesota offers engineering services in both STRUCTURAL (including architectural, curtain wall and industrial), and CIVIL (including pavement management and athletic facilities).

- STRUCTURAL: Perkins Hill Elementary School, Minneapolis, MN; St. Henry’s Catholic Church, Monticello, MN; Midwest Wireless, Mankato, MN; Holiday Inn Express, St. Cloud, MN; Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA (CW); Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (CW); The Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA (CW); Hawkins Chemical, St. Paul, MN CIVIL: Shumberland Stores, Multiple Locations; Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park, MN (Pavement)

Continued on next column
LIESCH ASSOCIATES, INC.
13400 15th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55441
Tel: 763/559-1423
Fax: 763/559-2202
E-mail: holly.benson@liesch.com
Web: www.liesch.com
Established 1968
Other Offices: Madison, WI; Scottsdale, AZ

—
Brian Liesch
Kenneth P. Olson
Hal Summitt
John C. Liehter
Jim de Lambert
Hydrogeologist

—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 16
Other Professionals 31
Technical 16
Administrative 12
Total 75

—
Liesch is a full-service environmental consulting and engineering firm. Our multidisciplinary staff offers expertise in solving environmental challenges from design and oversight of wastewater treatment plant construction to investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater impacts. Liesch environmental professionals have the experience to finish the project on time and within budget.

—
Environmental and Engineering for Metropolitan Airport Expansion, Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, MN; Demolition survey for asbestos, lead paint and underground storage tanks for Target Tower site, Minneapolis, MN; Demolition and renovation environment services for Grain Belt Brewery, Minneapolis, MN; Environmental Phase I and II and remediation for the Quarry Project, Minneapolis, MN

LOUCKS ASSOCIATES
7200 Hemlock Lane, Ste. 300
Minneapolis, MN 55369
Tel: 763/424-5505
Fax: 763/424-5822
E-mail: home@loucksmlcagan.com
Web: www.loucksmlcagan.com
Established 1976
Other Offices: Loucks Mclagan, St. Paul, MN

—
Thomas G. Loucks
Jeffrey A. Shopek
Paul J. McGinley
John S. Bergh
Michael J. St. Martin
Richard Licht

—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 6
Other Professionals 21
Technical 14
Administrative 4
Total 46

—
Services include site layout, grading, storm water conveyance systems, water quality retention ponds, wetland mitigation, EAW/EIS documentation, Phase I and II ESA’s, groundwater contamination, ALTA title surveys, site feasibility studies, comprehensive plan amendments, rezoning, permitting and zoning approvals, construction staking and GIS.

—
West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN; University Village, Minneapolis, MN; Barge Channel Road, St. Paul, MN; Crossroads Shopping Center, Shakopee, MN; Minnesota Air National Guard, New Brighton and Holmwood, St. Paul, MN; Ford Motor Parking Facility, St. Paul, MN

DIRECTORY OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRMS

LUNQUIST, KILLEEN, POTVIN & BENDER, INC.
1935 W. County Road B2, Ste. 300
St. Paul, MN 55113
Tel: 651/633-1223
Fax: 651/633-1355
E-mail: vknutz@lkpb.com
Web: www.lkpb.com
Established 1969

—
Leonard A. Lundquist
Peter A. Potvin
Gayland J. Bender
John M. Killeen
Stephen J. Gentilini

—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 5
Electrical Engineers 3
Other Engineers 1
Other Professional: 2
Technical 34
Administrative 5
Total 50

—
Lundquist, Killeen, Potvin & Bender, Inc. (LKPB) is a mechanical and electrical consulting engineering firm that was founded by Leonard Lundquist in 1969. The firm provides services to clients in diverse settings, such as post secondary education, corporate, commercial, medical and municipal environments.

—
Gustavus Adolphus College New International House Dormitory Facility, St. Peter, MN; New Science Building for Bethel College, North Newton, KS; New Science Building for Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA; New Call Center for Diversified Pharmaceutical Services; Complete Remodeling of United Health Group’s 360,000 Computer/Distribution Facility
Spirit Lake Casino and Hotel Additions, Devils Lake, ND; Urban League Headquarters, Minneapolis, MN; Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Stillwater, MN; Holy Spirit School Addition, St. Paul, MN; East Side Neighborhood Service, Minneapolis, MN; White-tail Ridge Corporate Park, Rivers Falls, WI

**McSherry Group, Inc.**

410 Hayward Avenue N.
Oakdale, MN 55128
Tel: 651/731-0308
Fax: 651/731-0421
E-mail: mcherrygroup@aol.com
Web: www.mcsherrygroup.com
Established 1990

- Douglas L. Fell PE, ASCE
- Alan A. Kretman RLA, ASLA
- Paul D. Schimnowski PE, ASCE
- Steve J. Rivard ASCE
- Seth D. Spychala ASCE
- Scott P. Ferguson ASLA

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Civil Engineers 1
- Structural Engineers 3
- Landscape Architects 2
- Technical 3
- Administrative 2
- Total 11

MGI is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm providing services to the public, private and institutional sectors in the areas of structural engineering, civil engineering, pre-construction value engineering, forensic investigations, existing building and site evaluations, site design, planning, landscape architecture, segmental retaining wall design, recreation design, campus master planning and stormwater design. We are a service-oriented firm that strives to complement the design team as a strong technical resource with a wide variety of experience.

Sony Jumbotron Video Board Structures, Nationwide; Gander Mountain, Nationwide; Versa-Lok Segmental Retaining Wall Design, Midwest; Federal Express Distribution Facility, White Bear Lake, MN; H.H.H. Metrodome, Various Improvements, Minneapolis, MN; Gateway Business Park, Oakdale, MN; Ojibway Community Bandshell, Woodbury, MN

**MEI Engineering, Inc.**

2125 Upper 55th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
Tel: 651/552-0300
Fax: 651/552-0782
E-mail: info@mei-engineering.com
Web: mei-engineering.com
Established 1969

Other Offices: Bemidji, MN; Fargo and Bismarck, ND

- Corey Maple PE
- Gordie Maier PE
- Tim Pierce MBA, EE
- Joe Schulte PE
- Lynn Strombeck PE
- Randy Vetter PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Electrical Engineers 8
- OSP/ISP Specialist 1
- Environmental Specialist 2
- Facility Management Specialist 1
- GIS Specialists 2
- Technical 6
- Total 20

MEI provides services including INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SYSTEM DESIGN, specializing in small to medium size electrical and mechanical design development and documentation; HIGH VOLTAGE GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION DESIGN emphasizing today’s changing regulatory environment; GIS MAPPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION, providing high-quality GIS-based mapping, route design and permitting utilizing GIS tools.

- Good Shepherd Home, Watford City, ND; Sparboe Generation Control, Litchfield, MN; Eye Clinic, Edina, MN; Powder Ridge Powder Quality Analysis, Kimball, MN; Penelope Substation Design, Mankato, MN; KMC Fiber Optic Route Development, St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN

**MEYER, BORGMAN AND JOHNSON, INC.**

12 South Sixth Street, Ste. 810
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: 612/338-0713
Fax: 612/337-5325
E-mail: info@nbjeng.com
Established 1955

Other Office: Duluth, MN

- John E. Meyer PE
- Richard E. Wiehe PE
- Daniel E. Murphy PE
- Michael Ramerth PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Structural Engineers 23
- Technical 7
- Administrative 2
- Total 32

Specializing in the design of structural systems and foundations for commercial, industrial, educational, institutional, performing arts and religious facilities. Services are rendered to architects, contractors and owners for all types of projects which require structural engineering services.

- Minnesota Mutual II, St. Paul, MN; Micosukee Resort Hotel, Miami, FL; Seagate Research Facility, Shakoee, MN; UMD Library, Duluth, MN; Charter Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, MN; Mayo Medical Services Building, Rochester, MN

**Michaud Cooley Erickson**

333 South 7th Street, Ste. 1200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: 612/339-4941
Fax: 612/673-6933
E-mail: taylor@michaudcooley.com
Web: www.michaudcooley.com
Established 1946

- Dean A. Rafferty PE
- Monty L. Talbert PE
- Douglas C. Cooley PE
- Joseph A. Tennyson PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Mechanical Engineers 55
- Electrical Engineers 38
- Fire Protection Engineer NICET Level IV 1
- Administrative 15
- Total 109

MCE designs HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, electrical illumination, security, life safety, audiovisual, building automation and other specialized building systems. Feasibility and deficiency studies, reports and master planning, tenant representation and fit-up services. Commissioning and facilities management. Indoor Air Quality Analysis.

- Closed Custody Prison, Rush City, MN; American Express Financial Advisors, Call Center, Minneapolis, MN; Allianz, Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Life, St. Paul, MN; Regions Hospital Expansion 2000, St. Paul, MN; Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Bemidji and St. Paul, MN

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---
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Name</th>
<th>Address/Location</th>
<th>Tel/Fax/Email</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Established Year</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MJP ASSOCIATES, Ltd.</strong></td>
<td>4362 Oakmede Lane, White Bear Lake, MN 55110</td>
<td>651/426-7037</td>
<td>web: mjp-associates.com</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Michael J. Preston, PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REIGSTAD &amp; ASSOCIATES</strong></td>
<td>192 West 9th Street, Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55102</td>
<td>651/292-8015</td>
<td>web: reigstad.com</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Gordon H. Reigstad, PhD, PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RLK-KUUSISTO, LTD.</strong></td>
<td>6110 Blue Circle Drive, Ste. 100, Minnetonka, MN 55343</td>
<td>952/433-1153</td>
<td>web: rlk-kuusisto.com</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Chuck Poppler, PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOELL &amp; MADSON, INC.</strong></td>
<td>10580 Wayzata Blvd., Ste. 1, Minnetonka, MN 55305</td>
<td>952/546-7601</td>
<td>web: schoellmadson.com</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Kenneth Adolf, PE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


St. Paul Arena - Home of the Minnesota Wild, St. Paul, MN; ADC Telecommunications World headquarters, Eden Prairie, MN; Minneapolis Convention Center Expansion, Minneapolis, MN; Polo Ralph Lauren Distribution Facility, High Pointe, NC; Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, MN; Taylor Center, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN

**Continued on next column**
SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC. (SEH)
3535 Vadnais Center Drive
St. Paul, MN 55110
Tel: 651/490-2000
Fax: 651/490-2150
Web: www.sehinc.com
Established 1927

Other Locations: Minneapolis, Glencoe, Gaylord, Worthington, Rochester, St. Cloud, Duluth, Grand Rapids, Virginia, MN; Rice Lake, Chippewa Falls, Appleton, Wausau, Madison, WI; Chicago, IL; Lake County, IN; Houghton, MI

Gary R. Gray PE
David Pillatke PE
Dan Boxrud PE
Brad Forbrook AIA
Doug Parrott PE
John Hinzmann PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 83
Structural Engineers 9
Mechanical Engineer 1
Electrical Engineers 3
Other Engineers 85
Architects 15
Other Professional 64
Technical 242
Administrative 78
Total 580

SEH is a multi-disciplined consulting firm offering Architecture, Engineering, Environmental and Transportation Services.

- Water Treatment Plant, Savage, MN; BigSolids Reed Beds, Buffalo, MN; TH 23 Preliminary Design/ EI3, Kandiyohi County, MN; MNDOT Headquarters Building Addition and Renovation, St. Cloud, MN; Downtown Improvement, Mora, MN; Fire Station, Maplewood, MN

STEEN ENGINEERING, INC.
5650 Lilac Drive North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Tel: 763/585-6742
Fax: 763/585-6757
E-mail: steen@ecnct.com
Established 1993

- Mark R. Brengman PE
- Eugene A. Striefel
- Steven M. Youngs PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 5
Electrical Engineers 5
Technical 4
Administrative 3
Total 17

Steen provides a practical design approach for corporate, municipal, medical, hospitality, institutional and retail clients. Design expertise includes HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, lighting, power distribution, life safety, automatic temperature control, energy analysis and deficiency studies. Steen provides a practical approach to mechanical and electrical engineering, designing sensible cost effective solutions.

Becker Middle and Elementary School, Becker, MN; Hotels/Motels, Nationwide (AmericInn, Country Inn & Suites, Marriotts); Northwest World Club Airline, Green Concourse, Minneapolis, MN; Girl Scouts of America Headquarters, St. Paul, MN; Gramercy Highrise Apartments, Richfield, MN; Moundsview Convention Center, Moundsview, MN

STRUCTURAL DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC.
6860 Shingle Creek Parkway, Ste. 201
Minneapolis, MN 55430
Tel: 763/560-5300
Fax: 763/560-5400
E-Mail: sda@sdaeng.com
Established 1989

Other Office: Brainerd, MN

- Gregory J. Duerr PE
- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  Structural Engineers 6
  Technical 4
  Administrative 1
  Total 11

Structural Engineers providing design, construction documents, reports, and construction administration services for projects in the educational, industrial (manufacturing, warehousing, equipment supports, and repairs), commercial, municipal, medical, and renovation fields. Services provided to Architects, Owners, Contractors, Developers and others.

- Waconia Middle School, Waconia, MN; Buffalo High School, Buffalo, MN; Green Bay Packaging Addition, Wausau, WI; Conference Center for Andersen Windows, Bayport, MN; Redwood Falls Hospital Addition, Redwood Falls, MN; University of Minnesota Housing, Minneapolis, MN

DIRECTORY OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRMS

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Fax: 612/338-4840
E-mail: info.setterleach.com
Web: www.setterleach.com
Established 1917

George Theodore PE
Howard Goltz AIA
Jon Trumbull PE
Jerome Ritter AIA
Richard Speers AIA
Bob Egge AIA

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 5
Structural Engineers 24
Mechanical Engineers 21
Electrical Engineers 21
Architects 57
Other Professional 15
Administration 35
Total 178

As a full-service architecture and engineering firm, Setter Leach & Lindstrom provides complete civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering services. We specialize in the design and management of large public assembly projects, manufacturing and distribution facilities, and service and technology projects.

Minneapolis Convention Center Expansion, Minneapolis, MN; Carlson Center East, Minnetonka, MN; Youth Center, Minot Air Force Base, ND; Fairview Red Wing Medical Center, Red Wing, MN; UPS, Parcel Distribution Facility, Maple Grove, MN; Minneapolis Airports Commission, General Administration Building

STEEN ENGINEERING, INC.
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Established 1993

- Mark R. Brengman PE
- Eugene A. Striefel
- Steven M. Youngs PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 5
Electrical Engineers 5
Technical 4
Administrative 3
Total 17

Continued on next column...
 Urs/Brw, Inc.
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Fax: 612/370-1378
E-mail: steve.durrant@urscorp.com
Web: www.urscorp.com
Established 1956
Other Offices: Denver, CO; Phoenix, AZ, Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI
—
Steve Durrant ASLA, APA
Gary Ehret PE
Jon Horn PE
Paul Danielson PE
Sabri Ayaz PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 31
Structural Engineers 20
Electrical Engineers 2
Landscape Architects 25
Architects 5
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 7
Technical 8
Administrative 2
Total (Local) 17
—
Parking planning, design, construction administration and restoration of existing facilities.
—
Minneapolis Convention Center Parking Facility, Minneapolis, MN; University of Minnesota, Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN; University of Iowa, Newton Road, Iowa City, IA; Mall of America, Bloomington, MN; MAC Phases 1 and 2, Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, MN; Mayo Clinic Employee Ramp, Rochester, MN

Wenzel Engineering, Inc.
10100 Morgan Avenue S.
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Tel: 952/888-6516
Fax: 952/888-2587
E-mail: we@uisinternet.com
Established 1990
—
Lowell E. Wenzel PE
Patricia A. Cole PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 3
Technical 1
Administrative 1
Total 5
Wenzel Engineering, Inc. is a structural engineering firm dedicated to understanding and meeting our clients’ goals. Our experience includes: new facilities, renovations, additions, and investigations for commercial, industrial, public, retail, educational, religious and healthcare clients.
—
American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN; Gemstone Products Company, Burnsville, MN; Three-story Vertical Addition at 706 First Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN; Foundation Stabilization at Ipsco Steel, Montpelier, IA; West River Road Mill Ruins Park Improvements, MN; Additions at Cypress Semiconductors, Bloomington, MN

WesTwood Professional Services, Inc.
7599 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Tel: 952/937-5150
Fax: 952/937-5822
E-mail: wps@westwoodps.com
Established 1972
Other Office: St. Cloud, MN
—
Dennis Marhula PE
Martin Weber PE
Dwight Jelle PE
Bruce Miller PE
Allan Klugman PE
Tim Erkila ASLA
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineer
Traffic/Transportation Engineers 11
Other Professional 16
Technical 58
Administrative 9
Total 97
—
SuperValu Distribution Facility, Hopkins, MN; County Road 4 Upgrade, Eden Prairie, MN; West Ridge Market, Minnetonka, MN; Liberty/Legends (Subdivisions), Stillwater, MN; Mn/DOT Guiderst AUSCI Project, Minneapolis, MN; Riverdale Village (Retail Dev.), Coon Rapids, MN

Wold Architects and Engineers
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Web: www.woldae.com
Established 1968
Other Offices: Elgin, IL, Troy, MI
—
Craig Anding PE
Kevin Marshall PE
Paul Juntilla PE
Blane Krause PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 15
Electrical Engineers 10
Architects 65
Technical 4
Administrative 14
Total 111
—
Professional mechanical and electrical consulting engineering services, including: indoor air quality, HVAC system design, plumbing system design, fire protection systems, energy management, voice/data communications, media technologies, design and specifications of electrical power systems, and security systems.
—
Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center, St. Paul, MN; Dakota County Northern Services Center, West St. Paul, MN; Hastings High School, Hastings, MN; Minnesota Department of Transportation, Central Office Renovation, St. Paul, MN
area and an inner area leading to the theater, the overall space reads as a mazelike succession of confining, little boxes. A third lobby area, created by adding a glass-walled structure onto the front of the building, further impedes traffic flow.

Theatre de la Jeune Lune’s lobby in Minneapolis, designed by Paul Madsen and Associates, Minneapolis, offers spaciousness to spare, but precious little elegance. Lots of exposed brick and original stone arches betray the building’s warehouse origins, and Jeune Lune makes no attempt to hide the space’s utilitarian roots.

The wire-cage box office, red drapes and strings of lights across the ceiling are highlights of the décor. A bar and tables evoke a Parisian café. The lobby’s gloomy, cavernous reaches are reminiscent of Phantom of the Opera-style sewers beneath Paris. But overall, the lobby reflects the funky, iconoclastic work that Jeune Lune presents.

The granddaddy of Twin Cities theater lobbies is the Guthrie Theater’s. The building’s original exterior, designed in 1963 by Ralph Rapson, FAIA, is a much-loved example of modernism. In 1970, however, the asymmetrical façade was removed and the theater’s final transformation, completed in 1992 by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, expanded the lobby amid a great deal of controversy.

Nonetheless, the renovations enhance the comfort Guthrie patrons expect. The window wall still allows views of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. And the lobby’s spare white walls and burgundy carpets whet the appetite for the elaborate entertainments offered by the Guthrie’s world-renowned theater company.

The most recent lobby renovation in the Twin Cities occurred at Illusion Theatre, located in Hennepin Center for the Arts in Minneapolis. Designed by Jon Baker, AIA, Baker Associates, Inc., Minneapolis, the lobby is arguably the most eclectic in town. Against walls of ochre, burnt orange and deep blue are a variety of artworks commissioned by the Jerome Foundation. An elaborately inlaid floor features likenesses of people who have worked at Illusion or whose work has been represented on its stage.

A golden, phases-of-the-moon frieze just below the ceiling gives the space a magical, fantastic feel. Curved spaces and exposed trusses add to the lobby’s sense of adventure and intimacy, easing audiences into the theater for Illusion’s unique brand of often-controversial, issue-oriented plays.

The lobby’s importance as an entry to the theater experience is particularly evident in Park Square Theatre’s current remodeling project. Architects from Hokanson/Lunning/Wende Assoc. Inc., St. Paul, will not modify the performance space itself, only the lobby and façade.

Plans include a more accessible entrance and box office with greater street presence. The architects have also designed a spacious, light-filled lobby with a vaulted ceiling to generate an expansive mood as audiences anticipate the company’s traditional productions of popular classics and new plays.

While at first glance lobbies may seem a minor part of the overall theater-going experience, they play a critical role, one that architects should never overlook. Whether an extension of a theater company’s identity and aesthetic, or an overturing for the entertainments within, the lobby is an active staging area where audiences prepare for the artistic adventures about to begin.

CORRECTIONS:

Val Michelson, FAIA, did not design the Griggs Midway Building in St. Paul, as stated in Architecture Minnesota, November/December 2000. He did, however, office there for many years.

Also the phone number for Schuler & Shook Inc. is 612/339-5958 not 612/929-5197 as stated in Architecture Minnesota May/June 2000.
During the 1880s, the town of Wilder, Minnesota, was hardly a town at all. Only a Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad stop offered evidence that Wilder was anything more than a lonely settlement in southwestern Minnesota. When railroad owner Amherst Wilder created the community of Wilder (which was first named Timber Lake) along the tracks, and offered 110 acres and some town lots to the Episcopal Church, a school began to take shape.

Named after the Reverend James L. Breck, an Episcopal priest who arrived in Minnesota in 1850, the school was organized by the Reverend Henry B. Whipple, the first bishop of the diocese of Minnesota and a partner with Breck in ministering to the state’s Dakota and Ojibwe Indians. Whipple originally conceived of the Breck School as an institution that would train students in the methods and practice of agriculture.

On paper, the school began its existence in 1886 as the Breck Mission and Farm School. The first school building arose in 1889. To the few people who lived in the Wilder area, the Breck School must have appeared to come from nowhere when it opened on September 9, 1889, with an enrollment of 34 students.

The school’s purpose, according to early catalogs, was to “provide a place where young men and women, too old for the district and graded school, but too backward for the high school, may take up just the studies they need, in classes composed of students of their own age, and be allowed to advance as rapidly as they are able.”

The enrollment grew to 506 students by the second year. Breck “contains none of the evil influences of a larger place, that so poison the minds of our boys and girls,” stated the 1892-93 catalog. “By a special act of the legislature no intoxicating liquor can be sold within three miles of the school.” Breck also banned card playing, the use of tobacco and bullying.

In later years, Breck expanded its main building, built dormitories for boys and girls, and erected a chapel. (The photo, taken in 1909, shows the chapel and a girls’ dormitory.) But by the end of the 19th century, an economic downturn hurt enrollment, which dropped to 79 in 1899. The school accumulated a large debt.

In 1909, the Episcopal Church concluded that Breck could no longer operate profitably. The school shut its doors, never to reopen them in Wilder. The campus soon reverted to agricultural use, and the buildings deteriorated or were demolished.

In 1917, Breck restarted operations in St. Paul and moved to another campus in Minneapolis before arriving at its current location in Golden Valley in 1981. The Wilder chapel bell now sits outside the school’s main entrance. Jack El-Hai

Lost Minnesota

Breck School Campus, Wilder (1889-about 1920)