

The Voice

NOVEMBER 2006

Voice

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Sustainable Design and the Growing Green Trend

by Paul McCown, P.E., CEM, LEED AP, CxA

The mindset of the industrial revolution was if it doesn't work, just force it. In the last quarter of the 20th century, business, industry and government thought more about how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Now the mindset is transitioning to the next step: sustainable design.



Paul McCown

If you haven't heard the phrase "sustainable design" or "green design," you will (you just did).

With the advent of the US Green Building Council and its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) building rating system, green is now mainstream in the commercial building construction industry. More and more people agree that green building is not a fad and the LEED Rating System may soon become the *minimum* standard for building design and construction. Yes, you read correctly—*minimum*.

Before we continue too far down this path, let me back up a bit and define sustainable. The best, most succinct definition could be "no waste." Sustainable—like a tree, like the water cycle, like the earth before the industrial revolution. The ASHRAE definition is, "the concept of maximizing the effective use of our resources while minimizing the impact of those resources on the earth and its environment."

The environmental movement began in the 1940s, coinciding with the nuclear arms race. However, it never took hold in mainstream applications until recently. Why now? The reason is economics. Large corporations have seen the benefits of sustainable design and are taking initiative on implementing green design practices. The results are increased economic prosperity through energy savings, improved occupant health and satisfaction, and better stewardship of land, air and water.

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So, back to that minimum standard. Almost anyone who has facilitated the LEED process for at least one project will tell you that the most difficult part of LEED Certification is the documentation. Many of the prerequisites and credits of the LEED system are simply good standard design practices.

(continued on page 2)

EEA Entries Begin to Arrive; Judges Named

Several days prior to the November 3 deadline, entries for the Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition were already arriving at the ACEC of Tennessee office. Joe Chester, P.E., chair of the awards program, and David Harrell, P.E., co-chair, believe this is an indication of the high level of interest and enthusiasm for the program.



Joe Chester

"We know that Tennessee engineering firms did some outstanding work this past year," said Chester, who is Vice President for Infrastructure Services, Tennessee Region, at engineering firm URS. "The EEA program is an excellent way to focus attention on a firm's accomplishments. It gives a firm a platform for bragging."

Harrell, Vice President at engineering firm Vaughn and Melton, added, "Awareness of the EEA program is increasing among city, county, state, and growth and development officials. I think that was one of the reasons that we have been able to recruit such a distinguished group of judges for the 2007 competition."



David Harrell

Judges Named

As of the end of October, six people have agreed to serve as judges for the 2007 EEA program. They have backgrounds in engineering, architecture, planning and development, and public projects. Serving as judges in 2007 will be:

- Kimberly McClurkin, Department of Public Works, City of Chattanooga
- Vicki Simms, Executive Director, City of Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce
- Bridget Jones, Executive Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow

- Fort Gwinn, Professor/Chair of Engineering Mechanics Department, Lipscomb University
- Wain Gaskins, P.E., Director of Engineering Department, City of Memphis
- T.K. Davis, Design Director, Nashville Civic Design Center

The judges will convene in February 2007 at the Tennessee Engineering Center in Nashville to review the entries. The winners in the 10 entry categories and the recipient of the Grand Award will be announced on the evening of March 6 during an awards banquet at the Hilton Nashville Downtown.

The December 2006 edition of *The Voice* newsletter will include a list of firms entering the 2007 EEA competition.

Engineering Excellence Awards 2006 Winners

2006 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence

Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., Nashville

Honor Award for Building Technology Systems

I. C. Thomasson Associates, Inc., Nashville

Honor Award for Environmental Engineering

EnSafe Inc., Memphis

Honor Award for Structural Systems

Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, Inc., Memphis

Honor Award for Studies, Research & Consulting Engineering Services

Bowlby & Associates, Inc., Franklin

Honor Award for Surveying & Mapping Technology

Vaughn & Melton, Knoxville

Honor Award for Transportation

PBS&J, Nashville

Honor Award for Water, Wastewater & Water Resources

Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc., Nashville

Welcome, New Members

Simpson Engineering, LLC

P. O. Box 524

3159 Chatata Valley Rd., NE

Charleston, TN 37310

423-336-2108

Email: jmsimpson@simpsonengr.net

Website: www.simpsonengr.net

Principal:

John M. Simpson, PE, President

Simpson Engineering offers construction management and civil and structural engineering services, including the design of formwork, excavation bracing, temporary structures, falsework, and cofferdams. The company also provides technical support for construction dispute resolution and pre-bid engineering.

URS Corporation

1000 Corporate Centre Drive

One Corporate Centre, Suite 250

Franklin, TN 37067

615-771-2480

Email: Joe_Chester@URSCorp.com

Website: www.URSCorp.com

Principals:

Joe C. Chester, PE

John E. Waggoner, PE

Billy R. Nichols, PE

One of the largest, global full-service engineering design firms and a leading U.S. federal government contractor. Executes large and complex engineering projects and provides a comprehensive range of professional planning and design, systems engineering and technical assistance, program and construction management, and operations and maintenance services.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

14

Environment

Committee Meeting

1:30 p.m., Nashville

DECEMBER

6

Professional Liability

Seminar, Knoxville

Information:

ctoler@tnc.org

DECEMBER

7

Professional Liability

Seminar, Nashville

Information:

ctoler@tnc.org

DECEMBER

8

Professional Liability

Seminar, Memphis

Information:

ctoler@tnc.org

Member News

- S&ME announces the addition of four new professional staff members in its Knoxville office. Joining S&ME are Matt Haston, a professional engineer with more than 10 years of geotechnical experience; Cheryl Horn, an environmental professional; Nate Peterson, a registered geologist; and Randy Rainwater, a professional engineer with more than 25 years of experience in construction materials testing.
- Hart Freeland Roberts Inc., Nashville, announces that Harry L. Little, PE, an environmental engineer, and John Meadows, PE, a transportation engineer, have joined its staff. Little is team leader of the Environmental Engineering Department. Meadows, who is also a certified erosion control specialist, will concentrate primarily on roadway design.

ACEC

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of Tennessee

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December Seminars Offered Statewide

An ACEC of Tennessee-sponsored seminar, *Business Management and Your Bottom Line*, will be offered in Knoxville on December 6, in Nashville on December 7, and in Memphis on December 8. The four-hour program will focus on client selection, indemnification, good and bad contracts, and how they affect your profit. The seminars will be presented by Crow Friedman Group and XL Design Professionals. Attendees will receive four professional development hours credit.

Mark your calendars now and contact Candy Toler for more information and a registration form (ctoler@tnec.org).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tips on Marketing Professional Design Services

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Mike Fitts, the State Architect, spoke at a recent meeting of the Society for Marketing Professional Services. His presentation was titled, *Chasing the State*. As most of you know, Fitts serves as staff support for the State Building Commission, which awards all state projects other than transportation projects.



Candy Toler

According to Fitts, marketing your services to the state involves hard work and PLOTTING, which boils down to: Politics, Luck, Opportunity, and Timing. He observed that the state uses a form of qualifications-based selection in hiring engineers and architects and the “owners” of the state work are broken down into thirds—the UT system, the Board of Regents, and the remaining state departments.

In FY 2007, capital projects will amount to

almost \$500 million. In prior years, the range has been \$300 - \$500 million. The process starts when state agencies submit their budget requests in the fall for the fiscal year that begins July 1 of the following year. The Governor evaluates the requests and balances those against state priorities and the revenue available. The Capital Budget Request is submitted to the General Assembly when the Governor presents his budget proposal. The legislature conducts hearings and ultimately approves the budget before adjourning in May or June, although there have been years when it was done in July.

The hot issue right now is addressing design/build. The topic for the not-too-distant future will be sustainable design. (Note: An article on sustainable design appears on the front page of this newsletter.)

When asked, Fitts said that the biggest problem in construction of state facilities is communication and he emphasized the importance of attempting to understand the owner's problems. For more information on the State Building Commission, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/finance/rpa/archit.htm>.