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NEWS FROM BUILD BOSTON

Build Boston is the annual tradeshow and conference for the Boston Society of Architects, and the largest regional design show in the US. Over 12,000 people attended one or more of the 225 seminars offered at Build Boston this past week! Hottest topics: Building Science, Building Codes, and Building Information Modeling. For specs, Mark Kalin presented "Specs for Small Projects" and "Green Specs / LEED Specs." For a free copy of the extensive handouts, email mkalin@kalinassociates.com.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

Know a student interested in architecture? In case you missed the annual Career Day in Architecture and Design in Boston this past month sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects and held at Wentworth Institute of Technology, the AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students) is holding its 50th anniversary celebration in Boston from December 29 - January 1. FORUM 2006 is expected to draw over 1,000 students who will have the opportunity to meet college and firm representatives in the College + Career Expo and the Firm Crawl. For more info, www.aias.org

NEWS FROM GREENBUILD

Green continues on the upswing as the USGBC Greenbuild Conference in Denver exceeded previous attendance records. Attempting to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from buildings, next year's updated LEED programs will likely require two energy optimization credits as a prerequisite for commercial projects seeking LEED certification. Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 50 percent from current levels may also be required.

Coming soon, USGBC will rebate certification fees for LEED Platinum certified projects, and develop performance software to work with the BIM model during design. If you are interested in submitting a proposal to present at next year's Greenbuild, submissions are due December 22. More info at www.usgbc.org.

CARBON-NEUTRAL BY 2030

The AIA State Government Network is calling for the industry to design all new and substantially renovated buildings so that they produce no net atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2030. The national AIA has also called for a minimum reduction of 50 percent in the amount of fossil fuels used to construct and operate all buildings designed or renovated by the year 2010. Cut those carbon emissions for your grandchildren and theirs! Maybe the experimental Liquid Chimney from Professional Supply Inc. in Freemont, Ohio which captures greenhouse gas escaping from coal and natural-gas furnaces is in all our futures?

GREEN STEEL

According to a report from the American Iron and Steel Institute, the US steel industry has already surpassed the Kyoto Protocol's call for an average 7 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2012 by achieving a 28 percent reduction since 1990 - surpassing the Kyoto target by 240 percent!

RECYCLING DATABASE

Check out a new national waste database at www.wbdg.org/tools/cwm.php. The Construction Waste Management Database contains information on companies that haul, collect and process recyclable debris from construction projects. Created in 2002 by GSA's Environmental Strategies and Safety Division to promote responsible waste disposal, the new Database is a free online service for those seeking companies that recycle construction debris in their area. Use the form to search the Database by state, zip code or materials recycled.

NEW MARBLE WEBSITE

The Marble Institute of America has updated their website for stone info, www.marble-institute.com. Lots of technical bulletins, videos, even a locator directory for residential stone fabricators/installers and commercial contractors/installers. Discounted prepublication orders are being accepted for their Dimension Stone Design Manual Version VII.

FINANCIAL TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE

From statistics from architectural firms compiled by the firm of DiCicco, Gulman & Company in Woburn, MA come the following: The direct ratio of hours billed increased to 63.7 percent, its highest level since 2001. Wages increased 4.6 percent. For principals, direct billing increased to 47.6 percent, and the average billing multiple increasing to 3.03. The profit on an hourly basis for 2005 was \$6.52 compared to \$3.86 for 2004 - or nearly a 69 percent increase in

profitability per direct hour. The bottom line: operating profit as a percent of net fee income increased from 4.12 percent in 2004 to 6.81 percent in 2005.

Current strategic plans must address a tightening labor market, increased level of competition, consolidation within the industry, geographic expansion of work, ownership transition, and an inability to continue to pass on higher costs to clients. "The key for architectural firms next year will be to effectively manage the impact of higher wage rates and inflation while continuing to maintain or improve upon project profitability." For more info contact David Wexler at 781-937-5357.

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