Home Energy Score Update and 0% Loans

by Thomas RC Hartman AIA

WMAIA is pleased to announce that our initiative reported in the March newsletter regarding Home Energy Ratings has been unanimously supported by Central MA AIA and the Boston Society of Architects. This support has enabled the idea to become a statewide AIA Massachusetts agenda item to be developed under the capable leadership of John Nunnari who leads the Legislative Affairs Committee of AIA Mass.

The basic idea is for every home, both existing and new, in Massachusetts to have an energy score at the time of sale. This could be a rating such as a HERS index that ranges between 0 and 100+ with 0 being a zero energy home, and 100 being a code built home. Energy star is currently in the range of 85 (go to www.natresnet.org for more information). If a house receives a poor score, no work will be required but the marketplace will contemplate the value of that score. A low score, such as 25 would indicate to the prospective buyer that the home they are thinking of buying will have very low energy costs, be more comfortable to live in, and be more secure with fluctuating energy resources. For the average consumer, this is a useful reference point for energy use and much easier to understand than the geeky 0.3cfm50/sfs (an air tightness metric that describes how many cubic feet per minute at 50 pascals of pressure divided by the square footage of the building shell).

continued on Page 2

Jesse Selman of Coldham & Hartman getting to work on his new home.

photo by Thomas RC Hartman AIA
HerS continued from Page 1

Early in the summer Bill Austin AIA, Jeremy Toal AIA and I met with the Home Builders Association of Western MA and discussed this initiative. Currently, they are reviewing it internally, and the members I’ve spoken to have felt that such a score will help them to take advantage of the good work they are already doing in western MA. WMAIA will be working to gather the support of the builders we work with, as well as with the realtor community in our area. There are several realtors who market themselves as green realtors or EcoBrokers who can assist in supporting this effort as well.

John Nunnari and I have a goal for the end of the year: to have draft legislative language developed along with the Executive Office that can be used for coalition building across the state. He is currently working with Jason Schupbach, the Creative Economy Industry Director, who was appointed by Governor Patrick in June of 2008. This Council is within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

At Coldham & Hartman, we’ve become very interested in a new loan program that has come to our attention. Called the Heat Loan, 0% loans on a seven year term for up to $15,000 are available for home improvements such as replacing windows, upgrading insulation, adding solar hot water, and replacing equipment. The first step is to have an energy audit performed by MassSave to identify which measures qualify, and then to work with a bank to establish the loan. My understanding is that the utility companies are paying the interest on the loan as part of a demand side management program. Currently there are no banks listed in western MA (the closest is in Fitchburg), but we’ll be talking to the bankers too. (www.masssave.com/about/heat_loan.php)

Two people in our office have recently purchased houses in the Pioneer Valley that can benefit from both micro-financing that is available to make energy improvements, and a home energy score to get the deserved credit for their work when they choose to sell their house. Jesse Selman, (shown in the photo on Page 1) is already getting to work.

Membership Renewals - Check Your Email!

In an effort to go green, the national AIA offices will be sending out AIA and Associate AIA membership renewal reminders only through EMAIL this year. Renewal emails will be sent in October. Please ensure that the AIA and WMAIA both have your current email address by updating it online at www.aia.org and with WMAIA by contacting director@wmaia.org. (If you haven’t been receiving regular emails from the AIA and WMAIA’s monthly enews, please make sure we have your current email address.) Members without an active email address will receive a renewal by mail.

- AIA and Associate AIA members can also PRINT A RENEWAL FORM (log in at aia.org and print your own renewal) or RENEW BY PHONE (call AIA National and pay over the phone).
- Individual and Corporate Affiliate members will continue to receive a membership renewal by mail.

Orange SDAT, Join Us There!

The town of Orange, MA is the fourth city in western Massachusetts to win a Sustainable Design Assessment Team grant from the AIA. That’s one in each of the counties served by WMAIA. Each of these programs has been supported by WMAIA and has been successful due to the participation of its architect-members.

The SDAT team’s preliminary visit to Orange was held this past June 1 and 2. The full team visit, led by Peter Hind AIA of Nebraska, professor and practicing architect, will convene October 21-23.

We will have a group of UMass Amherst architecture students on board to help, and will need some professionals as well to assist. If you’d like to be part of this invigorating process (and earn CEU’s), please e-mail Martha Montgomery AIA, LEED AP at martha@montgomeryark.com.

Hope to see you!

Orange’s Municipal Airport is home to a skydiving company. Why not make a reservation while you’re in town for the SDAT?

photo courtesy of Jumptown
Expert Testimony

by Erica Rioux Gees AIA

I recently had the opportunity to testify in Congress before the House Committee on Homeland Security about post-disaster housing during a hearing entitled “FEMA Housing: An Examination of Current Problems and Innovative Solutions”. It provided an interesting view into committee work and how things get done in Washington. As the only architect on the panel, it was the perfect venue to address the big picture and present other alternatives for emergency housing. Other panelists included the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, a FEMA administrator, the president of an emergency shelter company, and an attorney from the Mississippi Center for Justice, among others.

The current system is based on a set of assumptions that clearly no longer responds to the challenges we face today. We are all aware of the problems following the recent severe weather in our region not to mention the Gulf Coast and Iowa disasters. With the work of the AIA’s Center for Communities by Design such as our Disaster Assistance Program and decades of Design Assistance in communities around the country combined with our Knowledge Community work on Building Envelope Performance and Sustainability we are fortunate to have a bird’s eye and worm’s eye view of this dilemma. Presenting a case for proper planning and design of our communities and all building infrastructure along with a new way of approaching the problem, we made an excellent argument for engaging architects in the discussion. The full text of the testimony is available on the WMAIA website.

WMAIA will be organizing disaster assistance training this winter. I urge all of you to attend. Hopefully we will never be called upon to assess damage to any of our buildings after a disaster, but I find it very useful to learn about how buildings fail when faced with extreme conditions. Upon completion of the certification program, you will be allowed to perform damage assessments as a volunteer on any building in the state. We are also in the process of coordinating our efforts with Rhode Island and the other New England states so we can provide assistance to communities within the FEMA 1 Region. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at egees@kuhnriddle.com.
WMAIA, in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Valley Development Council, is launching a Smart Growth Ideas Competition.

**Three Competition Sites – Three Strategies for Sustainable Development**

“Historic Mill” in Palmer
“Village Center” in Southampton
“Big Box” Edge Parcel in Hadley

*Each site offers unique options for sustainable development; together they represent the most common conditions found in towns across the region.*

Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects, Designers and Students are encouraged to submit designs that focus on the unlimited possibilities for future development in the region where growth can be

**Sustainable - Equitable and SMART!**

Enter one or enter all. All entries will be reviewed by a jury and the Public. Cash prizes and a People’s Choice will be awarded and entries will be displayed in various exhibits, public events and celebrations.

**Dates to Remember:**

- October 7, 2009 - Site visits (optional)
- October 15, 2009 - Early registration deadline
- January 15, 2010 - Submission deadline

Information-Technical Resources-Base Plans-Registration Forms:
Competition Website - www.wmaia.org & www.valleyideas.org
AIA/CES Survival Guide

The AIA/CES Survival Guide 2009 summarizes what AIA members need to know to get the most out of AIA Continuing Education System (CES) programs - the basics about AIA and state requirements, answers to frequently asked questions, and resources for further assistance.

The Guide, available as a free PDF download online, is your one-stop reference for all these topics and more:

• Program Basics: requirements, audits, reinstatement and exemption policies, quality control, transcript information
• Sustainable Design (SD) Credits: why the AIA requires 4 SD credits per year, how to report them.
• Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW): how to report HSW credits and how they relate to CES, SD, and state MCE requirements
• Self-Reported Activities: credit eligibility, self-designed activities, community service credits, self-report forms
• Distance Learning: course delivery options (e.g., online videos, podcasts, publications, live Web seminars)
• Mandatory Continuing Education: state requirements, how to use AIA/CES transcripts as documentation
• FAQ: AIA membership requirements, credit policies, transcript records
• Tips: learning units (LUs), transcripts, documentation, corrections of inaccuracies
• How to Find Courses: the CES Registered Provider course database
• Resource Links: where to find more detailed information online


Review of AIA Position Statements

The AIA issues Public Policies and Position Statements as statements of belief to policy-makers, the public, and the construction industry on issues of public policy affecting the membership, the profession of architecture, or The American Institute of Architects.

The AIA has a directory of Public Policies and Position Statements and as part of the rules of the institute each Position Statement must be reviewed every three years. A 60-day public comment period started on August 14th, for the following Position Statements:

5. Research & Development
8. Architectural Practice and Title Regulations
42. Energy and the Built Environment
44. Sustainable Architectural Practice
45. Sustainable Rating Systems

New Position Statement – Interoperability

Each of these Position Statements is being submitted to leadership, members, and key stakeholder groups for consideration and comment. Upon conclusion of the public comment period staff will develop a discussion draft of all submitted comments. The Board Advocacy Committee will review the comments prior to submission to the Board for consideration and final passage during the December 2009 Board meeting.

If you would like to offer comment on any of the draft Position Statement revisions, please complete all of the requested information on the comment form, including which statement you are commenting on, and return the completed form(s) no later than Friday, October 16. http://info.aia.org/aia/2009PositionReview.cfm

If you have any questions please contact Paul Mendelsohn, VP, Government and Community Relations, at 202.626-7388 or pmendelsohn@aia.org.

Calling All Berkshire County Green Projects

Coming In February 2010, UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center will be hosting an exhibition entitled “Greening the Valley” that will present examples of sustainable design in the Pioneer Valley region of Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Counties. WMAIA news will be featuring projects included in the exhibit and would like to take this opportunity to highlight projects in Berkshire County as well.

Built or unbuilt architecture, landscape architecture or planning projects of any scale will be considered as long as they feature sustainable design. To suggest a project that you would like to see included in the WMAIA newsletter article please get in touch. Contact the editor at studiozed@comcast.net by no later than December 15th.

Thanks!
Coldham & Hartman

Coldham & Hartman Architects is pleased to announce that the Davis Student Village at the College of the Atlantic (CoA) in Bar Harbor, ME received a Citation Award from the 2009 BSA Sustainable Design Awards.

In this month’s edition of Sierra Magazine, CoA ranks as the #5 “coolest school” in the United States (http://sierraclub.org/sierra/200909/coolschools/default.aspx).

Rated in eight green categories, by selected sustainability experts, CoA received 97 points of a possible 100. We were pleased to receive 10 out of 10 on energy, due to the high performance building design that includes a world class thermal envelope and air sealing, shower heat recovery, energy recovery ventilation, composting toilets and LEED nutrient recovery, super efficient lighting, and polished concrete grade slab floors. The college provided a mandate at the beginning of the project to entirely avoid fossil fuels, and this led to the solution concept to satisfy the heating and hot water loads with a pellet boiler on a district loop between not only the three buildings we designed, but two existing buildings as well. This installation is the first automated pellet 150kw pellet boiler in the US for Viessmann, and the boiler building in the adjacent photo is showcase for the campus.

For more information on the project, see www.coldhamandhartman.com/completed.

Kuhn Riddle

Kuhn Riddle Architects of Amherst has received an Honor Award from the BSA and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board for a recently completed project at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) in North Adams. The award recognizes design excellence in a building with a special approach to access for persons with disabilities. The MCLA Berkshire Towers project involved renovations and additions to a high-rise dormitory, built in 1973.

“Accessible design is a natural part of all of our work, so we are gratified that the MCLA Berkshire Towers addition has been recognized regionally in this way,” said Chris Riddle AIA, KRA principal. “We feel that this project does much more than simply providing bare accessibility for persons with disabilities. We strived to make it easy and fun for everyone—disabled or able-bodied—to make convenient use of the new common spaces and the other existing above-grade levels of this college residential complex.”

Project designers were Anita Licis-Ribak Assoc. AIA and Tom Hill Assoc. AIA.
The Penny Demo

by John Kuhn AIA

NFPA 13, Cellulose Insulation and Concealed Spaces in Wood Frame Construction: At Kuhn Riddle we have a wood-framed mixed-use project under construction in Amherst that has NFPA 13 fire protection. This is a heavily insulated structure with 12” thick walls and 24” wood truss cathedral ceilings filled with dense-pack cellulose. NFPA 13 requires sprinkler protection in any concealed space, with a number of exceptions, including one (8.15.1.2.7) for ‘concealed spaces entirely filled with noncombustible insulation’. We didn’t plan on providing sprinkler heads in those concealed spaces because they are filled solid with cellulose installed at 3.5 pounds per cubic foot, the borate treatment of which renders it essentially non-combustible. ‘No deal’ said the sprinkler engineer, ‘it’s still a combustible insulation’.

This story is on-going, to be resolved, hopefully, with the local building commissioner and fire chief. But if you have a chance, ask Bill Hulstrunk, Technical Manager for National Fiber, to give his ‘penny demo’ some time. Bill picks up an inch or so of dense-pack cellulose in the palm of this hand, puts a penny on it, and then points a blow torch at it. (Remember, the cellulose is still in his hand). The cellulose gets charred, the penny MELTS, and everything below the 1/16” of char is unscathed, including Bill’s hand. Then he points the same blow torch at a fiberglass batt, instantly melting deep into the fiberglass. Bill does not consider holding the fiberglass in his hand. The moral: Treated cellulose has immense fire resistance.

But what will this mean for well-insulated sprinklered wood frame buildings in the future? Stay tuned!

ARE Study Group

by Caroline Petrovick

This fall, I officially began my preparation for the Architectural Registration Exams (ARE). I’ve purchased the books and have made flashcards. Now all I have to do is sit down, open them and I’ll be all set.

I would like to organize an ARE study group to meet on a regular basis in western MA. ARE study groups available through the BSA typically are comprised of 6-10 intern architects each. The groups get together to study, offer support, and share study materials. Teams pledge to continue to support each other until all members have passed all exams. Each group is responsible for determining the sequence and frequency of their exams.

To help with this study group, I would also like to start an ARE study library. If anyone has used ARE books or flashcards that they would be willing to lend to aspiring architects please contact me. Likewise, if you are (or recognize someone in your office) in a similar study rut and in need of some motivation and/or empathy, please get in touch at caroline@coldhamandhartman.com.

NEHERS

The North East Home Energy Rating System Alliance (NEHERS) is a non-profit organization serving our region’s home energy raters, design professionals, companies, and agencies. They work to standardize and increase home energy ratings (HERS), and promote energy mortgages (EM’s), and Energy Star Homes throughout the region.

NEHERS offers a free listserve so that you can receive announcements about specific news, activities and/or HERS trainings. They also offer monthly conference calls with experts in the field available to full members. Regular topics include deep energy retrofits and alternative energy solutions for homes. Find them at www.energyratings.org.

And While You’re on the Web...

The Guggenheim and Google SketchUp invited amateur and professional designers from around the world to submit a 3-D shelter for any location in the world using Google SketchUp and Google Earth. Over the course of the summer, nearly 600 contestants from 68 different countries submitted designs that met the competition requirements. Current Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture students then selected ten finalists for the People’s Prize award.

Public voting is now open! Vote for your favorite shelter design among the ten finalists. Don’t forget to check back on October 21, when the People’s Prize winner will be announced along with a special Juried Prize chosen by a panel of experts. www.guggenheim.org/new-york/education/sackler-center/design-it-shelter/vote-for-shelters.

Lego House

With all the serious talk about The Economy and Saving the World from Global Warming it’s sometimes nice to watch someone doing something totally frivolous. Tap your inner kid by checking out this site: www.archdaily.com/33604/toy-fanatic-builds-a-house-from-lego/#more-33604 where you can watch a U.K. toy fanatic build himself a house out of 816 million Lego bricks.
New Historic Preservation Degree

UMass Amherst Architecture and Public History Programs Collaborate with Hancock Shaker Village to Create New Graduate Degree in Historic Preservation.

UMass Amherst and Hancock Shaker Village have announced they will collaborate to create a new two-year master’s degree in historic preservation and architectural conservation. It will combine university courses with training and classes on site at the historic community’s 18 national landmark buildings. The partnership is unique in the region for offering coursework and field studies at an historic site.

Starting in fall 2010, the new Master of Science in Design with a concentration in historic preservation will offer advanced study of traditional building materials, architecture, archives, libraries and other historic resources as part of the university’s Continuing and Professional Education program. Students and professionals already working in the field will be able to conduct field studies side-by-side with village staff and visiting experts on topics such as building restoration, town planning and historic site administration. A unique highlight will be the special focus on Shaker ideals, building methods and historic craft and trade knowledge as they apply to modern life.

Governor Deval Patrick said about the partnership that “Massachusetts’ long and storied history has left us with myriad artifacts and treasures in need of preservation and restoration. Through this program, students will learn cutting-edge techniques and tools to conserve our most precious pieces of history for future generations. This is a wonderful program on the Commonwealth’s educational landscape, and it will surely continue the state’s unparalleled tradition of academic excellence.”

Joel Martin, dean and distinguished professor at the UMass Amherst College of Humanities and Fine Arts, said, “This partnership will not only enrich our understanding of the American past, but the partnership itself is entirely cutting edge and innovative.”

Stephen Schreiber FAIA, professor and director of the Architecture+Design Program, through which the degree will be offered, said, “This collaboration will bring together two outstanding Massachusetts institutions that have a lengthy commitment to sustainable design and public history.”

Steven Bedford, an architectural historian for more than 20 years with special expertise in cultural resource investigations and management, will direct the new program and teach American Building and Preservation Theory courses. Overall, the new degree program is expected to enroll about 10 to 12 students in the first year and later expand to 25 or 30.

“I’m enthusiastic about working and teaching in such a rich cultural landscape,” said Bedford. “I think it’s the first instance of a building preservation program to be located within a National Historic Landmark. Excellent examples of late 18th through early 20th century architecture are right at hand.”

Bedford noted that in this era when designers, builders and architects increasingly seek sustainable and intelligent energy alternatives, Hancock Shaker Village and UMass Amherst will be rediscovering lessons from buildings handed down by “a culture whose principles and ethos were based completely on what we now call sustainability.” The new degree program should also help raise awareness of academic research and advanced restoration techniques in the traditional building community, he pointed out.

### In the Galleries

Cooper Hewitt

Design for a Living World
Through January 4, 2010

Ten leading designers have been commissioned to develop new uses for sustainably grown and harvested materials in order to tell a unique story about the life-cycle of materials and the power of conservation and design. Some of the featured designers and places include Yves Behar/Costa Rica; Stephen Burks/Australia; Hella Jongerius/Mexico; Maya Lin/Maine; Isaac Mizrahi/Alaska; Abbott Miller/Bolivia; Ted Muehling/Micronesia; Kate Spade/Bolivia; and Ezri Tarazi/China. On view will be the prototypes, drawings, and finished product created by the designers.

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

A New and Native Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene
Through October 18

This exhibit commemorates the legacy of Greene and Greene and the centennial of the period that included their finest work in both architecture and decorative arts. Highlights include objects representing a variety of media, including beautifully inlaid furniture crafted from exotic hardwoods, artfully executed stained glass and metalwork, as well as rare architectural drawings and photographs.
## Architecture through Film

### Fall 2009

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Presented by: The Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Five College Architectural Studies Program. CEUs will be available for members.
Mass Energy Summit 2009

October 15
Worcester, MA

The 3rd Annual Mass Energy Summit will focus the wide variety of energy supply choices, conservation methods, and the evolving array of alternatives to fossil fuels. Ian Bowles, MA Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, will be the keynote speaker.


Register online at www.wbjournal.com. For more info call 508-755-8004 x286 or email kprosser@wbjournal.com.

Build Boston

November 18 – 20
Boston, MA

This year’s theme is “New Economy, New Climate, New Thinking”. In this 25th anniversary year, over 250 exhibits fill the tradeshow floor and more than 200 workshops, tours and other professional development and networking events are offered.

This year, three keynote speakers (including Edward Mazria AIA, architect and founder of Architecture 2030 and inventor Dean Kamen); seven one-day symposiums and dozens of alumni receptions, building industry dinners and special tradeshow events are planned.

View the show information online at www.buildboston.com. Here you can download the full conference program or request a hard-copy brochure and start planning your Build Boston 2009 experience today.

Greenbuild 2009

November 11 – 13
Phoenix, AZ

With over 100 education sessions and the Expo featuring 1800 booths showcasing the latest in innovative products and services, Greenbuild 2009 promises to be an impressive conference. Top all that with a keynote address by Al Gore and you’ve got an event to remember.

Greenbuild will be hosted in Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the country, and a thriving capital in the heart of the American Southwest. Phoenix’s unique environmental and social characteristics speak to the diversity of the United States and the imperative of Greenbuild 2009: Green building can and must come home to all people, boosting the quality of life across the country and around the world.

For registration info: www.greenbuildexpo.org.

UMass Amherst

Continuing & Professional Education

Sustainable Building + LEED
October 26 – December 5

This course will provide a hands-on, multi-media learning environment for students to expand their knowledge of sustainability in the built world. All students will participate online; attendance of face-to-face field trips and lectures from specialists in the field are optional; those students who opt not to attend the face-to-face meetings will view video recordings of the field trips and the guest lectures. A LEED preparation component is woven into the structure of the course. For more info: www.umassulearn.net/programs/green-programs/online-green-professional-development.
"In The Works" is a regular feature of the WMAIA News. If your firm has new or recently completed work that you'd like to share with the readers then please send 300 dpi jpg images and a short project description to Erika Zekos, WMAIA news editor (studiozed@comcast.net). The deadline for the next issue is December 15th, 2009.

Peace Pagoda Community Center
Leverett, MA

T.I.A. Architects of Amherst is in the process of designing the Peace Pagoda Community Center. Plans include housing for the monks and nuns, housing for those on retreat, a kitchen, dining room, and assembly hall. The building will be made entirely of natural, non-toxic materials, and include photovoltaic panels, geothermal heating, and a super-insulated envelope. The interns at T.I.A. Architects are working on various aspects of the project to gain experience. Many people in the community have already offered their services, and fundraising for the construction is in progress. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated. Email T.I.A. Architects at tiaarchitects@gmail.com for more information. Preliminary plans are available for viewing online at our website – tiaarchitects.com and click on “Current Projects”.

If you are interested in advertising in WMAIA News contact Lorin Starr at director@wmaia.org for more information.
WMAIA Upcoming Programs

Architecture through Film Series
*presented by WMAIA and Five College Architectural Studies*

All films begin at 6:30PM at Pruyn Lecture Hall/Fayerweather Hall Amherst College.
Learning Units: 2.5LUs/program (approval pending)

**October 22**
*Play Time* directed by Jacques Tati

**November 12**
*Wings of Desire* directed by Wim Wenders

**December 3**
*Brazil* directed by Terry Gilliam

Each film will be followed by a discussion. Join us for a stimulating evening of film and conversation.

This event is free and open to the public, however there will be a $10 administrative charge (per film) for non-member architects requiring documentation of attendance.

WMAIA’s Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering

**December 10**
HOLD THE DATE! Details will be forthcoming.

If you have a suggestion for a WMAIA program – a building you’d like us to tour or a professional development topic you’d like us to cover – please email Lorin Starr, WMAIA Executive Director at director@wmaia.org or call 413-665-2424.

And don’t forget to check the website for program information: [www.wmaia.org](http://www.wmaia.org).