ASID PA WEST NEWSFLASH

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASID PA WEST CHAPTER

RECAP OF 2015-2016
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our latest newsletter, encompassing a recap of the 2017 fiscal year.

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as your ASID PA West Chapter President. We had some ups and downs as most boards do but, in the end, I’m very proud of everything we accomplished this year and all the fantastic events we held. As I leave office, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you to all of our members; our Partner Sponsors; our event sponsors; my amazing board members; and all the volunteers we have who work so hard on our committees. You all have made this a very enriching experience and I’m grateful for your guidance, support and everything that all of you have taught me along the way.

Here’s to the new board and a new fiscal year!!

“What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.”

-T. S. Eliot

BRIAN FEE, ALLIED ASID
President
October Membership Mixer
October 26, 2016 | 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Location: The Tile Shop—Robinson, 6511 Steubenville pike #200, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

13th Annual Holiday Luncheon
December 2, 2016 | 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: Duquesne Club

Calendar subject to change. Invitations for each event will be in our Eblast when available.
On Friday December 4th, the 12th annual Holiday Luncheon was held at its usual venue, the Duquesne Club, in downtown Pittsburgh; however, this year was a year to remember. If you were able to get in this year due to the fast fill up, you would have gotten to experience a wonderful celebration of the importance for design. The ASID PA West chapter celebrated the milestone of its 40 year dedication to provide “One Voice” to the profession of Interior Design. To celebrate this great achievement ASID chose to celebrate its members and Industry Partners. Decorations were themed around colors of white, red and gold.

Recognition was given to two of our distinguished members celebrating 25+ years of ASID membership. Those two members were Margaret Ringel Baker and Nancy Barsotti. Although the plaques of recognition were for service of 25 plus years, both of these women have been there from the start. They have dedicated their time, support, and leadership to ASID for the last 40 years. What a better time to honor our members that have been with us since the start than during our 40th Anniversary. We would like to thank all of our members; those who have been with us from the beginning, those who have just joined, and all those in between. So until next year...
Event Sponsor

Holiday Auction Donors

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Luncheon Committee Chairs

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Suzanne M. Lynch Memorial Scholarship Fund

Fund created by friends, colleagues, and loved ones to honor the memory of a talented young woman who cherished family and friends. She had a passion for life and a smile that will never be forgotten. Scholarships benefit students in the field of interior design.

Deadline: March 31, 2017

Apply: pittsburghfoundation.org/node/1715
Happy Hour

By: Nancy Sakino Spears, President Elect

November 6, 2015 marked the first membership mixer of our calendar year October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016. Nicole Santella graciously invited ASID to Artemis Design/Build at 3709 Butler Street. A crowd of over 59 people attended an après work event in Lawrenceville. This venue with food and beverages created an opportunity for new members from ASID, Green Building Alliance, AIA and industry partners to "meet & greet". Cocktails that evening were featured by Maggie's Rum, located in the Strip District. Besides providing mixology tips, Maggie's also educated attendees on the various types of rum...it provided a very entertaining evening.

Our philanthropy that evening was Raven Ridge, a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center based in Lancaster County. For more information on how to provide support and learn more about their mission go to: http://ravenridgewildlifecenter.com

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Day of CEU’s

By: Lori Claus, ASID, Membership Director

Every practitioner member of ASID must participate in continuing education, this includes every active ASID member in the Allied, Professional, and Associate membership categories. ASID members must earn a minimum of 1.0 (10 hours) approved continuing education units (CEU) every two years, the current reporting period is from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017. There are some exceptions, members in the following categories are not required to fulfill the continuing education requirement: Professional Inactive, Professional Life member, Professional Retired, Allied Retired, Industry Partner, and Student member.

In order to meet these requirements, ASID Pa West offers an annual day of CEU’s to that is open to all membership categories, students and non-members. This past year the event was held Thursday, March 31st and provided six CEU hours through the generous sponsorship of several industry leaders.

The Annual Day of CEU’s in 2016 was held at Cosentino’s showroom, located in Freedom, PA. A National Industry Partner Member, Cosentino not only opened up their facility for the event but also hosted an hour of networking and cocktails following the CEU’s. The following sessions were enjoyed by approximately (23) attendees throughout the day, many thanks to Cosentino and the hard work of Kayla Benton, Cyndy Mosites Walter for organizing!

- Introduction to Natural Stone Design, Provided by: Real Stone Systems – RI Lampus (Sponsor)
- Element Designs: Innovative products ° Custom Solutions, Provided by: Bennett Supply (National IP Member)
- Lighting Controls as a Component of Interior Design, Provided by: LeGrand (National IP Member)
- Think Better/ Neuroscience: The Next Competitive Advantage, Provided by: Steelcase (National IP Member)
- The Next Generation: Ultracompact Surfacing, Provided by: Consentino (National IP Member)
- True Colors: The Impact of Fabric Color and Texture, Provided by: National and ArcCom (Sponsors)
The first day of being in the White House seemed like a dream. It was overwhelming to just realize I was there — working in the White House — and thinking of all the presidents and famous people who have walked in these rooms and hallways. That truly was the most memorable part of this experience. But then we got to work, first by unloading the trucks that had pulled up to the North Portico. There must have been a thousand boxes and items. I remember standing here with my sister Margaret Ann in 1964 when Dad took us on a bus tour of Washington DC, which included a tour of the White House. Who could have imagined that all these years later I would be here on top of an 18 foot high scaffold, decorating a big tree in the Blue Room. A highlight of that day was seeing President Obama leave the south lawn on Marine One. He was headed to the Climate Conference in Paris. A thrill to see the helicopter land, the President walk out and get on, his staff jumping on also and then it whirling its way out towards the Washington Monument.

An event company handled the original design, planning and purchasing of materials according to the wishes of the First Lady. I was gratified that they were very pleased with my work and allowed me to use my own creative skills and ideas for projects all over the house, especially designing wreaths for the Blue Room, the Queen’s Bedroom Sitting Room, the East Landing and the Usher’s Office. I also was asked to arrange a special collection of authentic Nutcrackers on a shelf that was placed within the trees in the State Dining Room.

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The White House — which is often referred to as the “People’s House” — really does feel that way. It is warm, welcoming and comfortable. The Red, Green and Blue State Rooms are surprisingly intimate settings for conversation. During the course of the work, I met many nice people from all across the country. We had a lot of fun working together, donned in our green aprons. As we worked with our glue guns, wire, greens and ornaments, we were right next to the beautiful artwork and antique furnishings. I tried to take it all in and kept a diary of my experience. You can even sit on the furniture!

The staff at the White House was so pleasant. Yes, there was lots of security, but every one of them made you feel so welcome and appreciated. They served us a delicious and bountiful lunch every day. There I was, enjoying ham and sweet potatoes, sitting in the State Dining Room, looking at Lincoln’s portrait. At the end of Day Five, the Social Office selected me to be one of fourteen volunteers to help guide the military and press through the White House for opening day. What an honor!

The last day, Wednesday, December 2nd was the Grand Opening of the Holiday Decorations and our efforts. I was stationed in the Library and talked about the design concept, answered questions and was interviewed by NPR and several other stations. Afterwards I was invited to sit in on the First Lady’s official press conference where she announced the theme “A Timeless Tradition.” Beautifully decorated cookies and hot cider in the foyer followed. But that evening was the piece de resistance – a formal invitation to all the volunteers for an evening reception. My guest and I were so thrilled as we walked through all the elegant rooms, in all their Christmas finery, dining on a sumptuous repast of lamb chops, shrimp, crab, salmon, carved beef and ham and accompaniments; a dessert table of cakes, pies, cookies and candies; and a bar of every libation, including my favorite, champagne. We were treated like honored guests — just like heads of state or the Queen of England. I got to shake Michelle Obama’s hand in the receiving line. The entire day was awesome!

I could go on and on, but I think you can understand when I say that this was a thrill of a lifetime and an experience that I will never, ever forget. I was surprised to see myself about ten times in the HGTV special that they film every year – “White House Holidays” — and also had three sound bites. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette did a feature article on my experience in their Sunday, December 20th edition of the Home and Garden section. You may be able to find both of these online. It was an incredible honor, privilege and experience that were beyond fabulous and the memories of it will be with me forever.
Silver to Steel Exhibit Tour

By: Kayla Benton, Allied ASID, Professional Development Director

On Thursday, February 4th Rachel Delphia gave a mix of ASID members, non-members, and students a private tour of Peter Muller-Munks exhibit “Silver to Steel.” The exhibit showcased the modern designs of Peter Muller-Munk throughout his life.

The event was kicked off with heavy hors d’oeuvres and an open bar at the Carnegie Museum. At the start of the tour, Brian Fee : ASID PA West President, introduced Miss. Delphia. Rachel is the Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh and has more than eight years of experience in the decorative arts. Before the tour, Rachel provided a background on the artist’s life and the inspiration associated with his work. Although his ending was not the happiest, Peter made himself a promising and respected career, one that fellow Pittsburghers can be proud of. Peter’s career started at a young age as a silversmith. It was this work that really seemed to intrigue the interest of most attendees. Due to the expense of the material and lack of interest in paying the cost for his work, Peter expanded his knowledge and studied the field of Industrial Design. With this, Peter designed many things: razors, pots and pans, vacuums, appliances, tools, and much more. He even practiced in Interior Design and Architecture.

Rachel gave a tour that both showcased her knowledge and passion for the arts. She had a full house and did an excellent job at keeping the attention right up until closing time. The exhibit was well attended and all appeared to have a great night. We would like to thank Rachel for giving her time to take us on a private tour and the Carnegie Museum for being such gracious hosts.
On Friday, March 18th our quarterly Membership Mixer was in Cranberry Township at a "slab viewing Gallery" that was opened up with the collaboration of Top Advantage and Cambria Quartz. The event was well attended by a little over (30) designers and Industry Partner members and the featured presenter was David Kelly, a contract photographer that has been featured in "Pittsburgh Magazine" for various types of photo shoots.

During the course of the evening, David presented his interior photos and walked the audience with some of the "Do's" and "Don'ts" associated with setting up an interior shot. (It was decided that the backdrop for the slideshow presentation would be a large white slab, which was very fitting!) David had a few amusing stories to share with some of the photos, and entertained various questions from the crowd for a majority of the presentation.

Kalna Bobyn, the local Cambria representative, also gave students from Chatham University's Interior Architecture program a quick tour of the facility, with a short presentation on Cambria and the advantages related to specifying quartz.

Pittsburgh Magazine, one of our Chapter's Magazine Sponsors, was instrumental in securing the speaker for the evening. Additional sponsors for the evening were Cambria and Top Advantage, who generously provided the location and refreshments for the event. Top Advantage works through a network of dealers, to provide countertop fabrication and installation service, to both individual homeowners as well as on the commercial level. Over the years, our Chapter members have been exposed to Cambria in many aspects, with a strong reputation of being a family owned company that has history going back close to 80 years, Cambria is a nationally recognized name within the interior surface industry.

A Special "Thank You" to Cheryl Emmert and Kalna Bobyn from Cambria in their planning efforts and sponsorship for this event!
Eat. Sleep. Design. Repeat. As a busy interior design student, there is little time to sit back and catch up on emails. Sorting through your inbox turns into a chore instead of a helpful resource.

Don’t fear, ASID is here! To keep this up-and-coming group up-to-date on all the latest news on the interior design front, ASID is excited to launch its student text messaging campaign! Stay informed on industry news, programs, jobs, and more by texting “Students” to 52886. You will join interior design students across the nation in receiving exclusive, quick messages to keep you up-to-date while you’re on the move.

Join us today by texting “Students” to 52886.
Embassy Suites Tour

By: Kayla Benton, Allied ASID, Professional Development Director

On a Thursday like most of our events, a tour was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel downtown. The tour started on the 25th floor within the sky lobby and Ollie’s Gastropub with drinks and food. Everyone gathered to get a history of the building and the artist’s and designer’s inspiration. Multiple groups were then formed and started on separate floors all to meet back on the 25th floor for further questions and mingling.

The hotel along with Ollie’s Gastropub resides in the top floors of the historic Henry W. Oliver building. There are breathtaking views from all sides of the building looking out on PNC Park and buildings below. However, it is not only those staying in the hotel that get to see the views; those working there have just as beautiful a view from their offices on the top floors.

The owners of the Embassy Suites, McKnight realty along with the design firm, The Design Alliance, created a beautiful space that should be seen. They took the history of the area and brought it to the building with a modern twist. They were also respectful of the building and were careful to preserve what was already there. Custom pieces of art made by a wonderful woman and artist Judy Perlow reflect historical references of Henry W. Oliver and the architectural design of Daniel Burnham. The overall design of the hotel definitely gives the feeling of Pittsburgh.

It was also on this night that the Pittsburgh Penguin’s won the Stanley cup! Even with the hockey game underway, we had a great turn out and people decided to watch and celebrate a historic event in one of Pittsburgh’s historic buildings.

Each quarter, ASID Pa West strives to offer a Membership Mixer that features a topic that appeals to multiple design audiences, these mixers are free and open to members, non-members and students. The July Membership Mixer featured talent from the local Pittsburgh office of the international firm, Stantec.

“Local Firms Go Big – International Partnerships” featured a panel discussion from Carrie Haines (architect), Alicia Wolfe, NCIDQ, LEED AP (designer) and Principal Leslie Fitchwell to discuss the opportunities and challenges in working for an international firm.

With 13 offices located in the United States, the Middle East, and India, the firm formerly known as Burt Hill has led a number of high-profile projects, ranging from healthcare and research facilities to hospitality and destination developments. Stantec completed a merger with Burt Hill in 2010, this acquisition integrated 600 employees and offered an opportunity to leverage Stantec’s resources to further develop work in North America, as well as further grow an international practice.

The event was sponsored by local Industry Partner Member, TH Trade, located on Greentree Road.

Known as one of Western Pennsylvania’s largest Trade Showroom, this design resource was developed and built with one goal in mind, to create the most efficient showroom for independent designers in the Tri-State area. TH Trade’s website features representation of their breadth of product lines at: http://www.thtradedesign.com/

Many thanks to one of our newest IP Members, Greg Powell, and his staff of designers for their hospitality and coordination efforts!
This year ASID & Tandus Centiva joined together to bring highend men’s fashion designer and textile designer Jhane Barnes in as this years 2016 speaker series guest.

Working with Tandus Flooring since 1996, Jhane used her math and technology-driven approach to change the way modular carpet floor tiles are designed to be installed. Results: less waste (less carpet in the landfill), better cost, and easier installation.

Together with Tandus | Centiva printing capabilities, Jhane’s visions are transforming floor design nationally and globally.

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On Thursday, September 15, 2016 approximately 60 members, non-members, industry partners and students, family and friends gathered at Allegheny Millwork & Lumber for the Fiscal 16 ASID Annual Meeting for our PA West Chapter. The evening began with food by Don’s Appliance’s own Chef Anthony, drink and mingling of Allegheny Millwork’s new kitchen and bath showroom.

The food, drink and space were all graciously sponsored by Allegheny Millwork & Lumber and Don’s Appliance. They were wonderful hosts and we appreciate the work that was put into organizing this event.

This year, Brian Fee, Allied ASID presented the following with Presidential Citations in honor of their hard work and dedication to the chapter.

**Exceptional Service on the Board**
Kayla Benton, Allied ASID
Lori Claus, ASID
Nicholas Hillebrand, IP Member ASID
Nancy Sakino Spears, Allied ASID

**Exceptional Service for Professional Development**
Ashley Mikulan, Allied ASID
Cyndy Mosites Walter, IP Member of ASID
Kelsey Zeigler, ASID

**Exceptional Service for Community Service**
Margret Ringel-Baker, ASID
Caroline Vranesevic, Allied ASID

A special Thank you to our outgoing Board Members

**BRIAN FEE**, President
**MARGRET RINGEL-BAKER**, Director At-Large
for your dedication and commitment to ASID
Motivation, Skill, and Networking are all key components in becoming a successful well-rounded Interior Designer, but this cannot all be achieved by working alone in the studio all day! This year the 2016 Student Career Day was a day full of guidance from experienced Designers who are excited to watch today’s students develop into dynamic professionals. Career day offers great insights on tips for a successful interview, what to wear in a professional atmosphere, and resume reviews. It was an entire day of networking with fellow students, professionals and the ASID Sponsors. This inspirational day would not be possible without the generosity of our Sponsors.

A special thank you goes out to PPG Paints and the partner sponsors who
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