

## ENCORE !

### How many projects await your attention?

Completing a project can be one sweet moment, but usually only one, because all that waited in the wings in the meantime clamors for attention: the report to be written at work or the set to be built for the school play. We tell others and ourselves plenty of stories about why these things haven't gotten done yet; however, everything may not need to get done.



photo credit: the AMA

In her book, "Refuse to Choose!", Barbara Sher recommends keeping a notebook of projects and ideas handy, embellishing them as the thoughts occur, so they are constantly in the works: the supply list, the people to bring in, the drawings of the end result. Some projects move forward, others don't, and that's all right. (Of course, some are less optional than others.)

Such was the mindset of writer Betty Smith, who first gained fame with her book, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." She had typed away for years in her North Carolina apartment, writing magazine articles and plays, with little money to heat her home; but the people downstairs built a fire each day and so she put her "back to the chimney and wrote by the light of the early dawn" ... and without knowing whether anything would ever come of it. Sometimes, just the planting of the seeds of possibility is its own reward. Whether a tree grows is another story.

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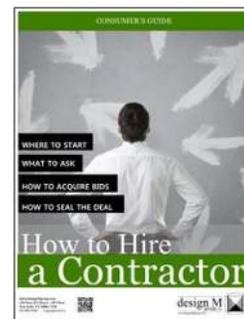
## Did You Know ?

We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

**One of our recent publications is...**

**"How to Hire a Contractor"**



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## Archi-fact:

### The Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport

Visitors are able to take an elevator up to the Observation Level to get a 360-degree view of arriving and departing planes.

## ENCORE

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*photo credit: the AMA*

Native American writer Thomas King, of the Cherokee tribe, gained additional insight that he shared in a talk for Canada's Massey Lecture Series. King set himself a project to photograph 500 North American native artists. Initially concerned when some passed on after he had already photographed them but before completion of the book, King eventually realized, as he said in his lecture titled *The Truth About Stories*, "... It doesn't matter. What's important is the stories I've heard along the way and the stories I've told, the stories we make up to try to set the world straight."

**So in truth the "sweet moment" must be today and every day. Enjoy the performance ... and do call for an encore.**

## Iconic Building of the Month

**This month the Iconic Building of the Month is the The Willis Tower in Chicago or as Chicagoans still call it, "The Sears Tower" which was it's original name.**

Of the world's tallest buildings, only one has stood the test of time. The Willis Tower in Chicago, formerly called and still widely known as the Sears Tower, is the tallest building in that city and the only building among the world's 20 tallest that is more than 40 years old.

Architect Bruce Graham of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill designed the building for Sears, Roebuck & Company. Constructed between 1969 and 1973, it has 110 floors (sometimes reported as 108). Despite an online protest by Chicagoans, Willis Group Holdings changed the name in 2009 when it acquired the property to the Willis Tower. Locally it is still referred to as the Sears Tower.

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## Archi-Quote

In referring to Architect Bruce Graham, Architectural historian Franz Schulze called him "the Burnham of his generation." Daniel H. Burnham, architect of the Flatiron Building in New York City was featured in our June 2015 edition of designSpeaks.



Bruce Graham, Architect - Sears tower  
*photo credit: Google Images*



*photo credit: Google Images*

# Iconic Building of the Month

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*photo credits: The AMA*

Although featured in “The Dark Knight” and “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” the building has its own story because of the design challenge it posed. The “Tower” consists of nine “bundled tubes,” uniform in width and of varying heights. This helps withstand the Chicago wind loads. Mental Floss magazine reports that, during a lunch to discuss its aesthetic appeal, architect Graham grabbed a handful of Camel cigarettes from his pocket and bundled them into his fist, with each cigarette peering out at a different height. He showed the bundle to Khan and a concept was set in steel, so to speak.



*photo credits: Google Images*

## Archi-Speak

Can you find these story building blocks?

CHARACTER	CONFLICT	GOAL
MOTIVATION	RESOLUTION	
Y X H Z L O R K A X N O R G M		
C O L X U I U I N M C N F D A		
F V M T N N M E F S Y W Q C F		
M V G T F Y R N E Q W N M V G		
B N O I T A V I T O M S O B I		
D M D R E X U P V M V T N G D		
N U U U L K L R T S B O W E Q		
J T K U S O K H W W M Y O A Q		
Q G O A L F T R Y G X X Z K W		
D V K S O W W J S Y S G W S U		
W M C O N F L I C T C P J M B		
K O P O V C H A R A C T E R X		
N S S O V K Y A L F O T O V O		
L E N O I T U L O S E R N N X		
W Y Z Q E T R J K P L N G A Q		

## Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character “M” heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007.

When contemplating adding on to you home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like “M” on your side. Each month the “Ask M” column will answer a reader’s question to place more information at your finger tips.

### This month’s question.

I would like to build a “Tiny House”. Is there any benefit in hiring an architect?

*Hellen C.*

Hellen;

The “Tiny House” movement is popular among many groups of people today. An architect understands space in three dimensions while sketching out a plan on paper. This enables the architect to come up with the most creative ways of using every cubic foot of space available to make your life whole and rewarding regardless of the quantity of space you have to work with.

Email your questions to [info@designMgroup.com](mailto:info@designMgroup.com), and in the subject line type in “Ask M”. We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone’s satisfaction.

## Want to speak with the Architect

Do you have questions but do not know where to start?

Do you know the legal consequences of starting a project without approvals?

Are you sure you have completed all of the research necessary so as not to waste your money and time during construction?

Are what you think are your NEEDS and OPTIONS truly the best for you and your future?

Does the contractor really have YOUR best interest in mind when suggesting solutions?

Answering these questions and more are the reason for enlisting a Needs and Options Review.

We can help you on your way to a successful project with less hassles and problems.

Visit: [www.designMgroup.com](http://www.designMgroup.com)

## About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA  
President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. Presently he serves as the Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

## Our core beliefs are ...

**Architects have a responsibility to our clients, community and the environment.**

**Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.**

**Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.**

**Let Us Help You Build the Home You Knew Was Always There For You.**



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