

## Money for your Thoughts

Samuel Brown had it all figured out. A coin collector and employee of the U.S. Mint, he put an ad in the newspaper nearly a century ago, looking to buy a 1913 U.S. a Liberty Head nickel (the five-cent piece produced from 1883-1912). That was the year the Mint had changed the design to feature an Indian Head. The ad created a sensation because no one had known of such a coin.



photo credits: *Crotalus horridus*

Brown eventually came forward with the only five nickels in existence fitting the description in his ad -- he had them all along. The details of how the coins came to be are still foggy and involve some unauthorized use of the coin press. As with many rare coins in excellent condition, their value escalated; in this case, the price tag climbed into the millions of dollars. Today, two of the five are in museum collections, leaving just three to the collectors.

One of those three coins spent 30 years in an attic labeled, its not real. The owner, George Walton, had died in a car accident and his family recovered the coin, which was then misidentified as counterfeit. But at the 2003 American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money in Baltimore, a team of experts authenticated the coin, which sold for over \$4 million.

One of the heirs commented, "The sad part is my mother had it for 30 years and she didn't know it." The new co-owner told ABC News that the takeaway lesson is, there could be a million dollar coin in your closet."

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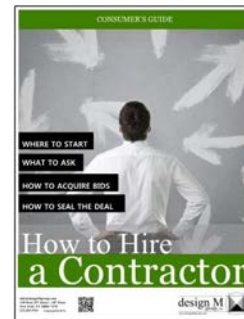
## Did You Know ?

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

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

["How to Hire a Contractor"](#)



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## Archi-fact:

Villa Tugendhat was completed in 1930, confiscated by the Nazi Gestapo in 1939 and became a public museum open to the public in 2012 at a cost of \$8 million. Tickets must be purchased 2 months in advance.

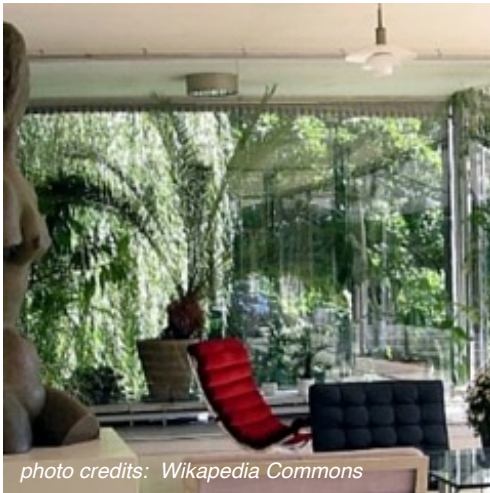
# Iconic Building of the Month

Villa Tugendhat in Brno, Czech Republic

A sedate exterior belies the acclaim and turmoil of the past of Villa Tugendhat in Brno, Czech Republic. Architect Mies van der Rohe, known for his a less is more approach, designed the villa for newly-wed and industrial heirs Grete and Fritz Tugendhat. Completed in 1930, its steel-framed, glass and concrete construction expressed the budding Modern Movement through the intersection of its materials, including ebony and onyx, and textures. The interior offered the space and light that were seen as essential to modern living, and a panoramic view of the city.



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons



The Glass Room featured glass walls that could retract into the floor like a car window, opening onto the gardens.



photo credits: Syria

## Archi-Quote "God is in the details"

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe,

This particular saying was also used by Aby Warburg (a German art historian) but probably has an earlier author. A variation "The good God is in the detail" is commonly attributed to Gustave Flaubert. Bartlett's Familiar Quotations credits "God is in the detail" to anonymous.



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons

Villa Tugendhat was known as one of the most influential houses of the 20th century spared the ravages of war. At first used as Gestapo military quarters and offices, it was damaged during combat. In 1967, Grete returned to the villa with experts, aiming to renovate it; however, the Communist era intervened and the new occupants subdivided the villa with pasteboard walls and used the garage as a stable. The Czech Government eventually restored the building which, in the early 1990s, was the site of the signing of the document that divided the country into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

This home is an outstanding example of the international style in the modern movement in architecture as it developed in Europe in the 1920s. Its particular value lies in the application of innovative spatial and aesthetic concepts that aim to satisfy new lifestyle needs by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by modern industrial

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# Money for your Thoughts

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## Dubious.

But it's almost certain that there is a million dollar idea in your brain. Why keep it locked away? In your travels this year, away from the office, the job, the daily grind, why not mint it into a bona fide plan? Then, you could put it away in the attic or maybe find a buyer. It wouldn't be the first time.

# Iconic Building of the Month

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production. The Tugendhat Villa has been referred to as a masterpiece of the Modern Movement in architecture.



*photo credits: Vit Svagcr*

# Archi-Speak

Can you find what is sometimes hidden?

JEWELS                      KNOWLEDGE                      PAINTINGS  
 PATTERNS                      BRIGADOON

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

# 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 have built a vacation home but do not have the time to work with contractors. Is there a way you can help me?  
*James M.*

James,

The short answer to your question is yes. We offer a variety of services from site location through design and construction drawings right through to acting as your lawyer, accountant, architect, contractor , art selector and of course your interior decorator and moving company. Your involvement can be as much as you have time for or as little as reviewing our week progress reports.

We are here to help you achieve your dream home which you know you can have and one that your family will enjoy for many years to come without any of the headaches.

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?

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

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## 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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