

Creatures of the Night

Bats have gotten a lot of bad press through the ages, but they have their good points, too.

As reported in Nature World News, bats help pollinate plants, disperse seeds in tropical regions and provide a natural form of pest control worldwide. Bats are long-lived creatures that reproduce optimally when they are doing well as a species. They account for about one-quarter of all the mammals in the world, and are the only ones capable of true flight. The young are typically raised in maternity colonies where the females congregate to give birth and feed their young.



photo credits: Pixabay

Here are some recent developments relating to these fascinating creatures of the night:

Bats may help us better understand hearing. In Rhode Island, a Brown University team is studying bats to learn how they protect themselves from intermittent loud noises. At some point, you've probably been exposed to a very loud noise and then experienced a deafening absence of the noise immediately following. This is called temporary threshold shift, common in humans and various animals. Not bats. Their hearing is un-phased by loud noises. The team hopes to both better understand bats and find inspiration for devices or implants that could help humans similarly weather loud noises.

Bats bear the brunt of certain human activity and face other threats. Wind turbines, white nose syndrome, and a fungus condition, are growing threats and the subject of much scrutiny because of the role of bats in the ecosystem.

continued on page three

september 2016 contents

Creatures of the Night	pg 1
Ionic Building of the Month	pg 2
Ask M	pg 3
Artifact	pg 1
Archi-quote	pg 2
Arch-speak	pg 3
About	pg 4

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...

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Archi-fact:

The Vienna State Opera construction started in 1861 and was completed in 1869. Around 1863 the street in front of it was raised by over 3 feet, which caused many to refer to it as the "Sunken Crate" and even the "digesting elephant". However when the Emperor spoke poorly of it the Interior architect Eduard van der Null committed suicide and within ten weeks the architect August Sicard von Sicardsburg died of a stroke. Neither lived to see the opening of it.

Iconic Building of the Month

The Vienna State Opera, or Wiener Staatsoper

The Vienna State Opera, or Wiener Staatsoper, has stood stolidly through every night for nearly 150 years, witness not only to the passion plays on its stage but in the streets around it.

The architects August Sicard von Sicardsburg and Eduard van der Nüll designed the Staatsoper, built in 1860. Now located in the heart of the city, it was the first major building on Ringstrasse, and was commissioned by the Viennese city expansion fund. The interior is a magnificent setting for renowned performances; National Geographic Magazine calls the Staatsoper one of the world's 10 best opera houses.

photo credits: Wikipedia



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons



For the inaugural performance, Emperor Franz Josef and Empress Elisabeth were among those enjoying Mozart's Don Giovanni. During World War II, the grand staircase and the foyer survived the Allied bombing of the city. According to National Geographic, years later, after the end of the Russian occupation of Austria, the restored theatre reopened to Ludwig van Beethoven's Fidelio, a hymn to freedom.

Archi-Quote

August Sicard von Sicardsburg

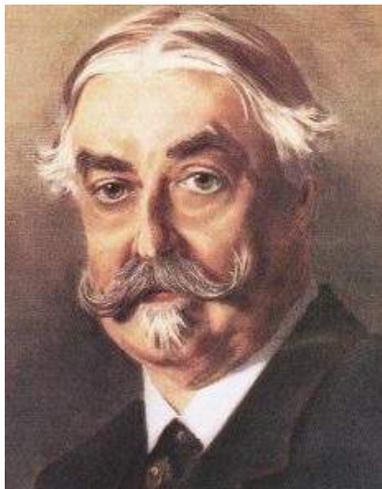


photo credits: Planet-Vienna

"The Opera House is a "Sunken Create", "It is a digesting elephant"

Anonymous

But when the Emperor spoke poorly of it Eduard committed suicide and August died of a stroke.

Eduard van der Nüll



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons

Creatures of the Night

continued from page one

Our bat neighbors may be due some consideration. Another team, this one associated with the University of Exeter, researched the effects of increasing urbanization of two of the UK's most adaptable and widespread bat species. They found that both species are being negatively impacted by human activity. The Bat Preservation Trust quotes the researchers calling for "landscape-scale environmental improvement programs, such as the creation of effective urban green space schemes." Bats.org.uk offers bat-centric advice that can come in handy (regardless of where you live) if you find bats on your property.

Remember we can not enjoy such beautiful views like this one without the balance of nature which ALL creatures are part of including our fellow mammals the bats.



photo credits: Pixabay

Archi-Speak

Can you find these nocturnal creatures?

- DINGO HEDGEHOG OPOSSUM

- RACCOON TIGER

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

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 your 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.

Have you heard of the "small house movement" and when is a small house appropriate?

Susan K.

Susan,

The small house movement started with environmentalists as a smaller house has less of an effect on the environment. It is also part of the movement to make our lives less complicated. A bigger house means more things in it. Which requires more maintenance, costs money and of course puts a strain on the environment of the area where these things of ours are made.

A small house could be a vacation home, a second residence on your property for an elderly parent or college student and even as the primary home for people who want to be liberated from stuff.

Email your questions to 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.

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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.

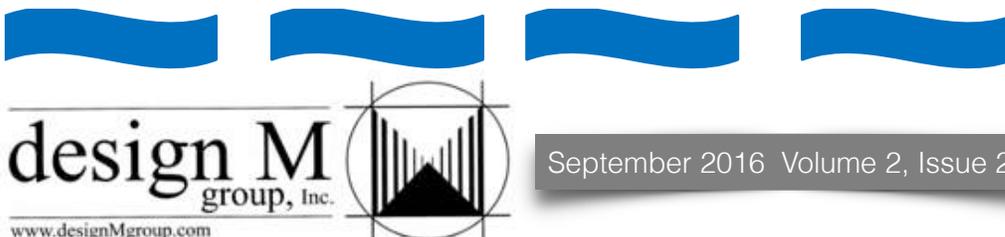
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Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.

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

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