

Firefighting Unplugged

From putting out fires with well water to forming municipal brigades, firefighting brings about collective action and innovation. The Romans developed early firefighting techniques, such as the manual pump, and even organized firefighters to race to the scene of fires and put them out.

Until the most recent century and a half, fire could wreak havoc in a city. In 64 A.D., two-thirds of Rome burned down. In 1666, the Great Fire of London (which followed on other big but not “great” fires in earlier centuries) burned down two square miles and left tens of thousands without homes. The Chicago Fire of 1871 left 100,000 homeless.



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons

As urban populations grew, the potential for fire damage did, too. Fueled no doubt by disasters of the day, the 16th and 17th centuries saw breakthroughs in firefighting. The French developed fire engines that featured the newly rediscovered manual pump. Innovation led to suction pumps. In either case, their effectiveness was limited due to the lack of hoses, not developed until 1672. These were 50 feet, or 15 meters, in length, still standard today in much of Europe.

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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”



Down load it here and share it with your friends.

Archi-fact:

The Jay Pritzker Pavilion bandshell's proposed budget was \$10.8 million. When the elaborate, cantilevered Gehry design required extra pilings to be driven into the bedrock to support the added weight, the cost of the bandshell eventually spiraled to \$60.3 million.

Both the pavilion and park opened four years later than originally planned and cost millions of dollars more than expected.

Iconic Building of the Month

The Jay Pritzker Pavilion

The Jay Pritzker Pavilion, an outdoor amphitheater in Chicago's beautifully landscaped Millennium Park, was designed by Frank Gehry. The plans presented challenges from the very start, given that the city of which it is a centerpiece had height restrictions on buildings in the park, which is part of the larger Grant Park. To get around this, the city classifies the bandshell as a work of art. The pavilion is home to the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the Grant Park Music Festival. It seats 11,000; 4,000 in fixed seating within the bandshell and 7,000 on the lawn, beneath a stainless steel headress.



photo credits: Wikipedia

Archi-Quote

“In the world we live in, 98 percent of what gets built and designed today is pure shit.”

Frank Gehry
Cocotas, Alex.

The sound system and overall design are meant to replicate an indoor concert experience. The Pavilion, named for its benefactor, a member of the Hyatt Family of hotel renown, opened in 2004 and, the following year, was recognized as one of the most handicap-accessible parks not only in the United States, but in the world.



photo credits: Wikipedia Commons



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Meanwhile in Boston, wooden chimneys were outlawed in 1631. Over in New Amsterdam (today's New York City), the governor appointed fire wardens. Benjamin Franklin established a volunteer fire company in Philadelphia.

Even before that time, some early entrepreneurs organized private firefighting forces. They would rush to the scene with men and equipment, then negotiate a price with the owner of the burning building. Examples are Marcus Licinius Crassus in 115 B.C. and insurance companies that formed in late 17th century London. The presence of the insurance company's medallion on the front of a British building is what would start the water flowing. Otherwise, the building burned. In the early days of the U.S., some insurance companies paid brigades for putting out fires, so the

companies would compete to be the "first responders." They used horse-drawn steam engines, invented in 1829 and popular until the 1910s, when they were phased out due to the invention of the internal combustion engine. Fire hydrants date to the early 1800s. Though they seem standard in size, color and location, they actually vary by locale and may even be sunken into the ground -- as in some areas of Australia, for example -- and identifiable at ground level by a "plug."

It wasn't until the 1850s that many municipalities paid firefighters. Today, about 70 percent of U.S. firefighters are volunteers. There are more than 60 brigades in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, where there are likewise both volunteer and paid firefighters. Sprinkler systems were invented in 1860 and have helped put out fires ever since. In the past 10 years, more and more governing bodies are pushing for all structures, including residential, to feature sprinkler systems.

Archi-Speak

Can you find these heavy machines?

Backhoe	Bulldozer	Crane
Forklift	Tractor	

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

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.

We just had new siding installed and they replaced the vents. They look like they are upside down compared to the old ones. Is there a reason why new vents would be in a different direction than the old ones. Here is a photo of the new ones installed

[James N.](#)

James,

Thanks for the photo which cleared up an questions we may have had about your question. The photo you provided clearly shows the vents have been installed incorrectly. They MUST be reversed. The way they are installed now will allow rain water to pour in instead of pushed away from the inside of the house. Call the contractor TODAY and if they are a reputable outfit they will be embarrassed and come back to fix this right away.

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.

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.

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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.

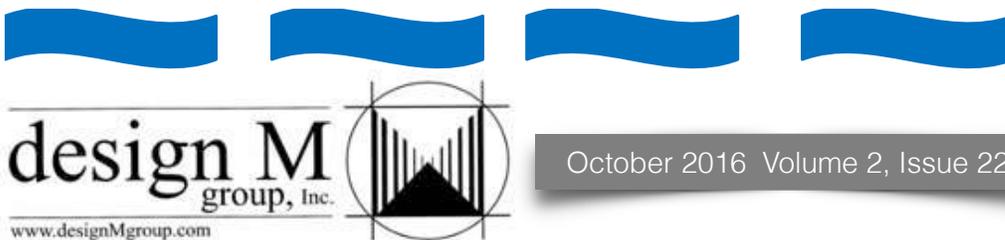
Our core beliefs are ...

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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