

O, The Irresistibility of the Beacons

We have many kinds of beacons in the world. Spiritual beacons, famous places, false or faltering beacons (often bemoaned in political contexts). Even the technological device that allows stores to send ads to your phone bears the name. Yet, while beacons have power, they also share a weakness: us. They need us.

Let's take the most recognizable of all the beacons in the world – lighthouses. Despite the red and white paint that many sport, there is something organic about them “standing” on the coast, the light beaming like that of a cyclops's eye into soupy darkness. Lighthouses are a favored setting for books and movies, irresistible in their remoteness and their enviable ability to pierce the elements.



photo credits: Wikipedia

Beacons share certain obvious characteristics:

They communicate, and they do it at great distances; beacons have impact; they function without physical connection to the recipient of the message; and while we know about strength in numbers, beacons demonstrate the power of one.

Yet, as is the case for paper money and language, beacons have no inherent value or meaning. Beacons have only the meaning we give them. At first, this requires active agreement; later, mere cooperation.

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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:

A lighthouse is a tower, building, or other type of structure designed to emit light from a system of lamps and lenses, and to serve as a navigational aid for maritime pilots at sea or on inland waterways. Once widely used, the number of operational lighthouses has declined due to the expense of maintenance and use of electronic navigational systems.

Iconic Building of the Month

Peggy's Point Lighthouse, Nova Scotia, Canada

The red and white paint of Peggy's Point Lighthouse helps it stand out against the rocky coast in the Nova Scotian fishing village of Peggy's Cove. Built in 1915, the lighthouse is now part of a historic preservation area located an hour's drive from Halifax.



photo credit: Wikipedia



photo credit: Wikipedia

Archi-Quote

This month we are quoting a motto of a company which uses a lighthouse as its logo.

The American media conglomerate, E. W. Scripps Company uses the Pigeon Point Lighthouse as its logo and its motto is "Give light and the people will find their own way"



photo credits: Wikipedia

Though lighthouses at first glance appear to have a standard "look," their designs require careful consideration. According to Trinity House, a website for mariners, "the height of a lighthouse takes into account the curvature of the earth, so the higher the light above the MHW (mean high water), the further away it can be seen at sea."

Yet the lighthouse should not be so high up that it will be out of the line of sight, so those on flat ground tend to be taller while those on cliff tops are often shorter. Beyond these features, the designer may take liberties, but most lighthouses include the tower and space to service its components.

Though often automated or superseded by electronic navigational devices today, lighthouses like the one at Peggy's Point continue to guide sea and air travelers, attract tourists and stir the imagination. The Canadian Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act protects 88 of these structures. Yet Nova Scotia alone is home to more than 160, so the future for some appears rocky.

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But there's more. Beacon Hill notwithstanding, beacons are not exclusive. There is a public component to them.

In their most favored forms, beacons are stolid, unshakable. The expectation is that they will continue to fulfill their role for the public no matter what. In the case of a lighthouse, it is, in fact, crucial that the beacon continues to shine at the most difficult of times.

But because beacons are not exclusive, maybe we shouldn't be either.

Why assume that the beacon is only there for us, but not the reverse? Without someone to understand its message, to reflect its meaning in action, a beacon would be nothing. So, in a sense, we must be there for the beacon.

What is your beacon?

Archi-Speak

Can you find the 5 (yes, 5) oceans?

ATLANTIC

PACIFIC

INDIAN

ARTIC

SOUTHERN

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

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.

The roof of my building is flat. I would like to put on the roof a full garden to grow vegetables and flowers. It would be great if we can put a deck on the roof as well to sunbath on. Can we do this ?

Brent F.

Brent,

That would be a wonderful addition to your building. The vegetables will taste so much better than they do from the supper market and the flowers can be planted along the sides of the building so they can be seen from the street. To do this we would have to investigate your town's zoning rules to determine if it would be permitted. Then we would have to inspect the structure to determine if it can structurally support the additional weight of the soil, decking and people on the roof. Do you have a stair case to the roof? If not have you considered the easiest way to gain access to your new garden of Eden?

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.

Visit: www.designMgroup.com

About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB 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. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

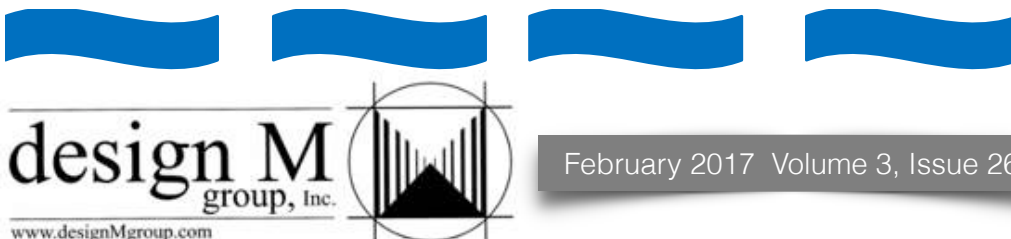
Our core beliefs are ...

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.



February 2017 Volume 3, Issue 26

Contact me !

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