

To the Balcony

By the definition a balcony is....

Balcony – n. 1. A platform that projects from the wall of a building and is enclosed by a parapet or railing. 2. An interior projecting gallery in a public building (as a theater). (Webster's Dictionary)

How strange that the definitions of "balcony" make no mention of its primary trait, perspective. Consider "Romeo and Juliet," Buckingham Palace, and the balconies of Lima. Balconies allow us to see others better. Crowds of thousands, even tens of thousands, can see those on a balcony. Balconies afford the ones standing on them a different, presumably better view than that of everyone else, whether of a theater stage, a courtyard, or the ocean. Such views are desirable and often priced at a premium, so balconies also seem difficult to attain. They are for the few and not for the many, we think.



Photo Caption: Rex Greets His Subjects, Mardi Gras, New Orleans. A circa 1920s -40s postcard of the view looking up St. Charles from a balcony on the former Kolb's Restaurant (125 St.Charles) with crowds in the street and floats of the Rex parade receding into the distance.

Ury, negotiator and author of "Getting to Yes," has brought a third, much broader and more accessible definition of balcony into view.

Ury is the co-founder of Harvard University's Program on Negotiation and has represented the United States at the international negotiating table. In a 2010 TED Talk, he explained that parties in conflict usually refer to "sides" – in particular, two sides. "But what we don't often see is *continued on page three*

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Archi-fact:

The Bradbury Building on South Broadway in Los Angeles, California has been used in the production of many movies, music videos and televisions shows starting with Shockproof in 1949 and most recently in "The Artist" in 2011.

The most well known movie that used this building was "Blade Runner" in 1982.

Iconic Building of the Month

Bradbury Building, South Broadway, Los Angeles

Completed in 1893, the Bradbury Building on South Broadway in Los Angeles has a modest if bulky exterior that belies its wondrous interior. Around the inside courtyard, marble stairs, ornate iron railings and open cage elevators rise, level after level, toward a skylight over all.

This National Historic Landmark building is said to be the oldest commercial structure in the L.A. city center. Mining and real estate magnate Lewis Bradbury originally commissioned architect Sumner Hunt to design the building. Bradbury eventually transferred the project to George H. Wyman, who according to Curbed L.A., was an inexperienced employee of Hunt.

Though the L.A. Conservancy says it is unclear whether Wyman influenced the design, in crediting Wyman, Curbed says he was influenced by a novel, "Looking Backwards," by Edward Bellamy. This was a popular science fiction story about a utopian society. In it was a building of the future (c. 2000) with 'a vast hall full of light received not alone from the windows on all sides, but from the dome.'"



photo credits: Wikipedia



Archi-Quote

This month we are quoting Ferrell, David from the article "The Bradbury Sparkles as Jewel in City Landscape" *Los Angeles Times* (October 10, 2002)

The narrow entrance lobby, with its low ceiling and minimal light "has the look of a Parisian alley of arched windows", and opens into a bright naturally lit great "awe-inspiring cathedral-like".



To the Balcony

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that there's always a third side," Ury said, "and the third side of the conflict is us, it's the surrounding community, it's the friends, the allies, the family members, the neighbors."

Then Ury said, "The third side helps us go to the balcony, which is a metaphor for a place of perspective" to what we might imagine, it isn't only the few who should or even can go to the balcony. Ury is in the company of Jane Goodall and many neuroscientists and social scientists in pointing out that humans are hard-wired for cooperation. Despite the complexity and violence of the conflicts about which Ury negotiated, he said he's seen nothing that dissuades him from the belief that "peace is possible."

Ironically, the loftiness of that hope brings us back full circle to the need for something tangible, such as a good solid "platform that projects." In reality, we need both parts of our definition of balcony; first, in order to appreciate the one as a design feature and, more importantly, to do what Ury spent his career practicing. The simple, physical nature of his metaphor can help us envision ourselves – all of us! – literally climbing the stairs to a balcony, a platform that projects, enclosed by a parapet or railing, and throwing open the doors onto a helpful perspective.

Archi-Speak

Can you find these sights seen through a telescope?

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|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Comet | Land | Meteor |
| Planet | Star | |

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

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.

My hot water heater is in the basement and on the other side of the house from my bedroom which is on the top floor. It takes a long time for the water to get hot in my bathroom. Is there anything I can do to get hot water faster.

Lauren C.

Lauren,

If there is space available the best solution is to install a "on demand" hot water heater close to your bathroom. This would take cold water and heat it with either electricity or natural gas in a very small compartment. The units available can provide enough hot water for several baths or showers simultaneously or in succession. They are also the most energy efficient method of heating domestic hot water short of using solar power to do so.

M.

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

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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.

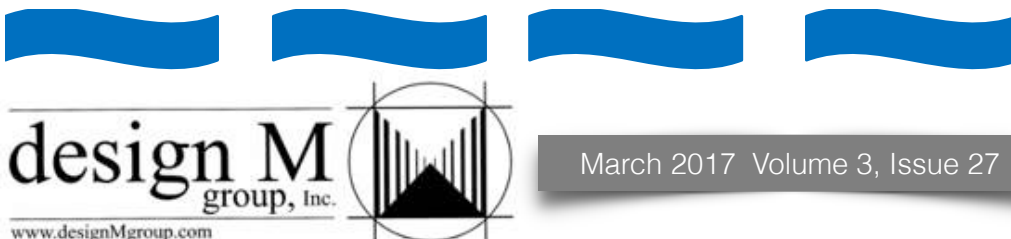
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