designSpeaks

design M group, Inc.
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How a Strong Marriage Built a Bridge

The Brooklyn Bridge stands for much more than its connection between New York City's Manhattan and Brooklyn boroughs. Its story brings to mind the power of perseverance and teamwork - revealing a great lesson we can apply in our professional and personal lives.

German immigrant and creative engineer John Roebling woke up one morning inspired to build this bridge. Experts immediately criticized his idea, calling it impossible, impractical, imaginary. Suspension bridges were famous for failing under heavy loads and harsh winds, according to History.com. In the face of adversity, John convinced his son Washington, a young engineer, to help him realize his vision. Using modern suspension bridge technology, a web truss would be added to either side to stabilize the structure.

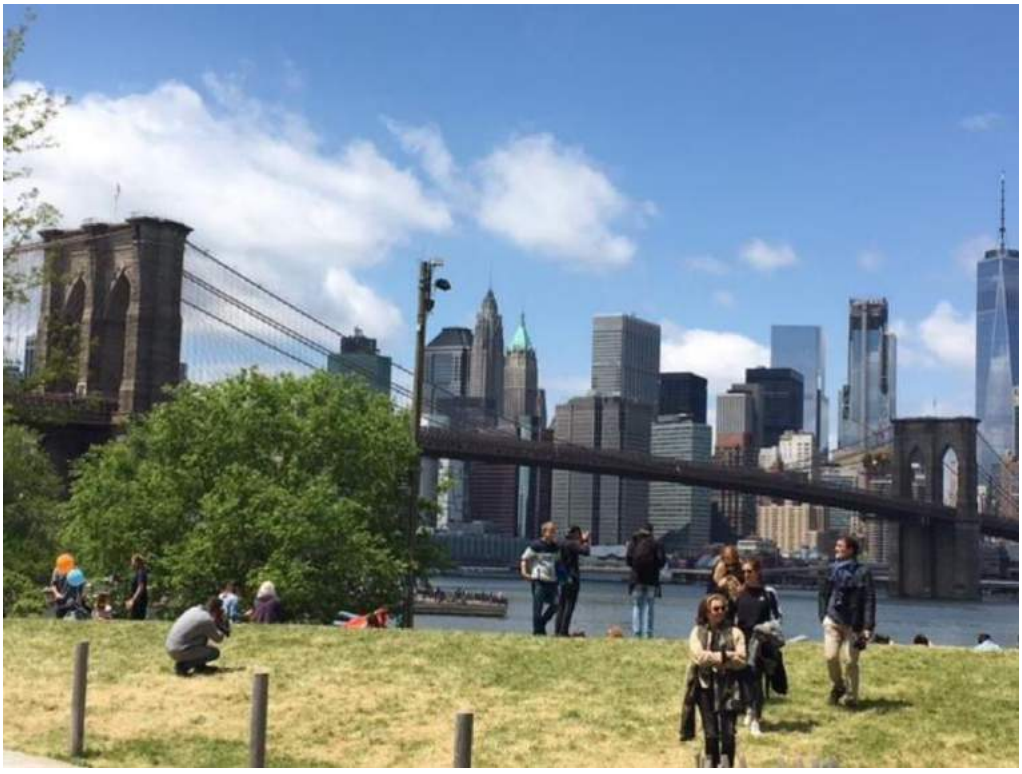

photo credit: Design M Group

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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 Embarkment Place

Built above the Charing Cross Station in the early 1990s it claims to be the most sustainable building in the world. In fact it was awarded the first BREEAM Outstanding Award for its sustainability design. To achieve this honor it was designed as an energy efficient building and built measuring low carbon technology.

Design \di-'zine\vb: to conceive and plan out in the mind. Origin:1650-1400 Middle English designen, Latin designare to mark out

Iconic Building Of The Month

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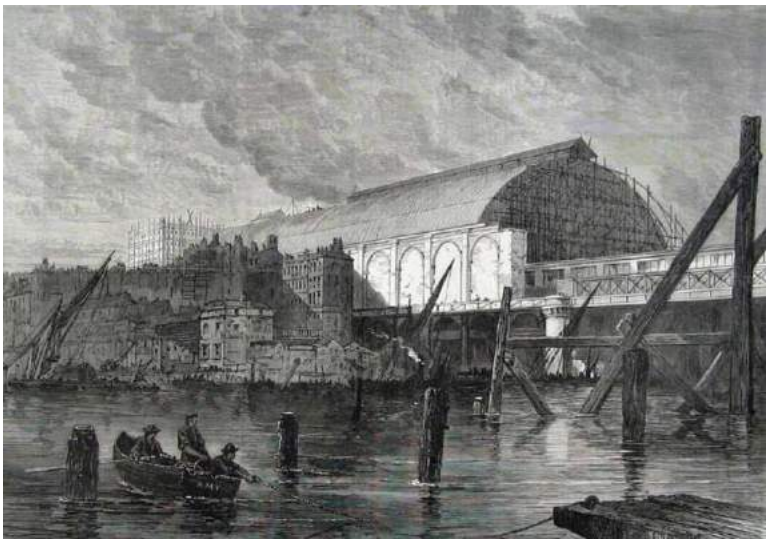
This month's Iconic Building is The Embarkment Place in London.

The double-arched form of Embankment Place is visible for miles, a grand welcome to passengers of Charing Cross train station and the center of London. British architect Sir Terry Farrell designed Embankment Place, a post-modern office and shopping complex, primarily for one of the companies that later merged to form PriceWaterhouseCoopers, which remains a tenant today, according to E-Architect.

Farrell's Embankment Place opened in 1990, restoring the form of an earlier landmark and bringing greater numbers of people to this corner of London. As a result, the streets below gained new life. Its design suits crowds. Large floor plates are arranged behind aluminum and granite cladding. Each of the nine levels accommodates up to 500 people. Two light wells allow natural light into this deep building's center. The wells rest on 18 large columns arranged in two rows to avoid crowds of commuters at this popular train station.

For his work on Charing Cross and Embankment Place, Sir Farrell won the Civic Trust Award in 1991 and 1994, the RIBA National Award in 1991 and the British Council of Offices Award in 1994. He is featured as one of the Brits Who Built The Modern World on Architecture.com. Still creating many urban designs, his firm, Farrells, has offices in London, Hong Kong and Shanghai.



The original station building opened in 1864. The station was designed by Sir John Hawkshaw, with a single span wrought iron roof arching over the six platforms.

Photo credit: Wikipedia

Photo: By Penn Station - This is a delivative work (trimming to focus on the center part) from File:Charingcross-eye.jpg at Wikimedia Commons. It was originally posted to Flickr as [1]., CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?

Archi-Quote

In speaking of his approach to the design of the Park Lane and Hyde Park pedestrian crossing in Great Britain the architect Sir Terry Farrell said….

"Everyone is looking at parks as if in isolation. I think its how we get to parks that is important".

Sir Terry Farrell, Architect
Photo credit: Terry Farrell Architects

How a Strong Marriage Built a Bridge

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New York legislators approved the plan. Just before construction began in 1869, a horrible accident put a wrench in the works. An incoming boat smashed the toes on one of John's feet, and he died of tetanus. Soon after, his 32-year-old son Washington suffered from a paralyzing injury. Washington's brain was damaged to the point of not being able to walk or talk or move. The critics ate this up. These crazy men had it coming, they gossiped. But this family was the only hope for building the Brooklyn Bridge. Legend has it, Washington lay motionless in his hospital bed and caught a glimpse of the light between the curtains.He knew there was still hope for the bridge. All he had to do was move one finger.

His wife Emily Warren Roebling was his helping hand.

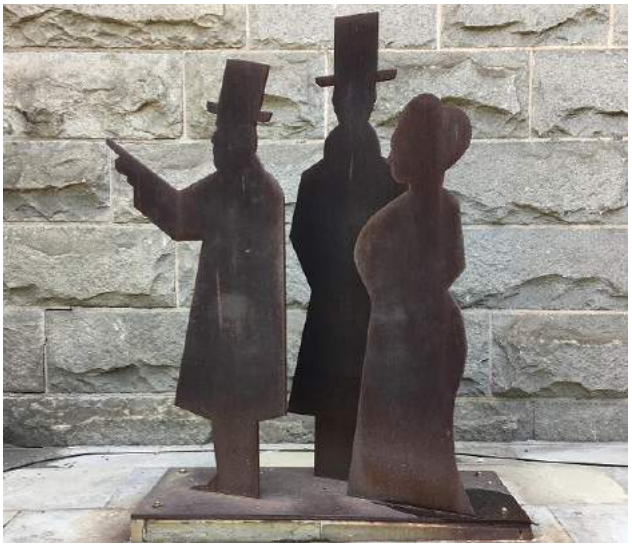

Photo credit: Design M Group

By moving his finger, he and his wife created a code of communication, reports the Huffington Post. Almost like Morse code, each group of taps gave direction. Highly educated in mathematics and attuned to her husband's mind, Emily spent more than 11 years assisting in the bridge's construction. The Brooklyn Bridge opened for use in May 1883.

Archi-Speak

Can You Find These Things That Bring Us Together?

Bridge Relationships Teamwork Trains Travel

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

Is it possible to design a vacation home in an area without electricity?

Hannah M.

Hannah

This is absolutely possible. First we would design it as a "Passive House" which will be supper insulated and need much less energy to be comfortable. Then we would include the use of solar power, geothermal mass energy transfer with sequential heat pumps and wind power to supply the energy needed. Of course we would need to include energy storage devises for periods that solar or wind is just not enough.

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?

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Are what you think are your NEEDS and OPTIONS truly the best for you and your future?

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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.

Let Us Help You Build the Home You Knew Was Always There For You.

About

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President

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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