

## Go Ahead And Fly

### Blue Skies Smilin' At Me Nothin' But Blue Skies Do I See

Why is it that a beautiful day fills us with “pie in the sky” ideas of “building castles in the air”? How could we even imagine in these days of extra-galactic discoveries that the sky would be “the limit”? The sky appeals to our basic senses without calling for reasoning, leaps of faith, or even intuition because we can see it. Of course, that means we want to touch the sky as well.



photo credit: DepositPhotos.com

Discoveries about the universe are coming in “out of the clear blue sky,” literally. We hear about infant stars, galaxies older than we can imagine and even, on Saturn’s moon, Titan’s Magic Island. We can see photos from the Hubble telescope, read about time bending, and imagine the surface of Pluto.

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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”



Download it here and share it with

### Archi-fact:

*Paul Williams was the first African American architect West of the Mississippi, architect of LAX Theme Building*

Most of the homes Williams designed, and whose construction he oversaw, were on parcels whose deeds included **segregation covenants** barring blacks from purchasing them.

Fortunately, the courts have voided these covenants.

# Iconic Building Of The Month



## Los Angeles International Airport Theme Building



*all photos on this page are credited to: Deposit Photos*

From land that once grew lima beans, wheat and barley rises a structure that looks as though it came transplanted from the future. The Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport represents a scaled-down version of the original plan for the entire airport. It is also symbolic of the story of one of the architects involved in its creation, Paul Williams (1894-1980).

Like his famous creation, Williams was ahead of his time. He came from an impoverished background, making his early plans to become an architect all the more seemingly unrealistic. However, he was working for an architect by age 20, had a license at 26 and his own very successful firm by 27. Known as the architect for the stars, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz were among Williams' residential clients. He found ways to rise above the prejudices he encountered, often working harder, accepting lower fees, and even mastering drawing upside down so as not to discomfit some of his white clients by sitting next to them.

The Theme Building's four arches rise 135 feet into the air and James Langenheim was the originator of the design. The structure opened in 1961. Thirty-two years later, the LA city council declared it a historic-cultural monument. Located among the terminal buildings, it had a \$12.3 million dollar seismic re-fit, features lighting by Walt Disney Imagineering and housed the Encounter Restaurant, now closed. Futuristic building anyone?



## Archi-Quote

Paul Williams was the architect of this month's Ionic Building.



*photocredit: Wikipedia*

"Planning is thinking beforehand how something is to be made or done, and mixing imagination with the product – which in a broad sense makes all of us planners. The only difference is that some people get a license to get paid for thinking..."

# Go Ahead And Fly

*continued from page one*

What we don't need to imagine is the sky. As impossible as it is to touch, it gives color to all that is at the limits of our understanding. This is where countless movie-makers have envisioned we would first notice extraterrestrials. Mary Poppins may still be sitting on a cloud up there. Chicken Little declared the sky was falling.

**Bluebirds singin' a song  
Nothin' but bluebirds all day long**

## Archi-Speak

Can you find these things that fly?

Balloon	Bumblebee	Helicopter
Spaceship	Trapezia	

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

# Blue Skies Smilin' At Me Nothin' But Blue Skies Do I See

Yet the sky remains exactly where it always has been and just as out-of-reach. Impossible though it may be to touch, the sky fills us with a sense of strength. Possibilities. It's very elusiveness gives us room to grow, to reach, to never actually find that so-called limit. Yet with it comes a sense of happiness and of security, like that of a child tossed up and safely caught by a loving parent.

For, no matter how high we fly, we will always come back to earth.

**Never saw the sun shinin' so bright  
Never saw things goin' so right.**

## 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...**

Over the last couple of years I have been looking to downsize into a community that has several sizes of homes of different styles and has a major walking component to the community ad is nature centric. I have not been able to find one. I have found walking communities but the houses are all 3 bedrooms. Is there such a community in the country?

**Marta B.**

Marta,

Most developers want all the house to be very similar in style and size as that is cheaper to build and provides more profit. Your question comes at an excellent time as we are developing a series of designs for our Design Build division one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast. We can keep you informed as to the progress of the design and the final location for what we like to call a "People Centric Village" where there is a variety os styles and sizes from 3 bedroom homes to Tiny Homes around a walking, biking, and farm to table concept.

Email your questions to [info@designMgroup.com](mailto: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](http://www.designMgroup.com)

## About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB  
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.

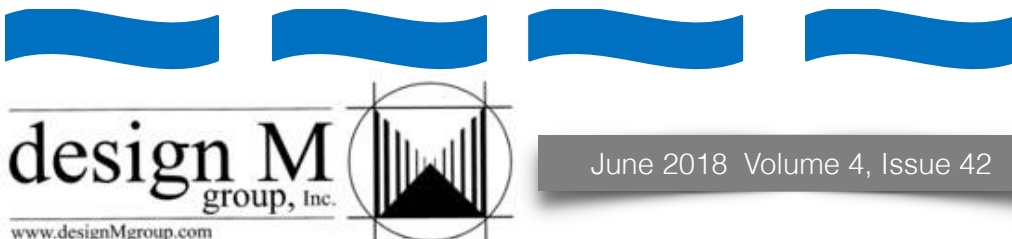
## Our core beliefs are ...

**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.**



June 2018 Volume 4, Issue 42

## Contact me !

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