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**The Restoration of Guimard's Gate at The Museum of Modern Art, NYC**

*by Liviu Schwartz & Jim Villano*

The relationship between Robert Silman Associates and MOMA goes back more than three decades. In 1999, MOMA approached RSA once again, to work on the restoration of the Hector Guimard Paris Subway Gate. Since we have extensive experience with the specification of repairs and coatings for architectural metals, RSA was an obvious choice for this important project.

One of the outstanding Art Nouveau objects in the MOMA collection is Hector Guimard's (French Architect born in Lyon, 1867-1942) Entrance Gate to Paris's subway station (c. 1900). This spectacular gate, the only one of its kind in the United

States, was a gift from Regie Autonome des Transports Parisians (RATP), like our MTA, and given to MOMA in 1958. After some slight repairs, it was erected and displayed in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden where it remained on outdoor display for most of the next 15 years. By 1973, the first restoration of the gate was successfully undertaken; the gate was reinstalled in the Garden a year later where it remained until it was recently removed for a major restoration in July of 1999. The research into proper methods and materials to be used was greatly advanced by RATP, which is currently restoring more than 80 other Guimard ensembles in Paris.



*Liviu Schwartz with the Guimard Gate at the MOMA installation*

*cont'd on page 3*

**RSA NEW PROJECTS** *by Andrew Ostman*

**Stay in Your Own Lane...** RSA has a job way above ground on the 66th floor of the Chrysler Building. Taking a cue from their automotive engineers and recent ad campaigns, Daimler-Chrysler executives have decided "wider is better" regarding their executive board table. Just one problem: the new table won't fit. RSA is examining the feasibility of moving 2 of the 8 columns which support the upper spire. Much closer to earth is the new Scudder Lane project with David Weiner. This residence on the North shore of Long Island won a design award in Architecture Magazine. **The Old College Try...** RSA has two new college projects with Kliment and Halsband featuring their signature curvilinear forms. A new theatre at Franklin and Marshal College in York, PA will have steel exposed bowstring trusses at the roof. The second project is a library addition at Beaver College, also in PA, and featuring a curved wall design. **Karma and Ten Gallon Bliss...** RSA has an exciting project in Kathmandu, Nepal. We will seismically retrofit three Hindu temples. See the article in this newsletter for more information on this intriguing international project. RSA also has a project in Texas, which is almost as foreign as Nepal to most office members. The historic barracks at the Fort Bliss cantonment in El Paso are constructed of early concrete and require significant surveying and repairs. If you were wondering how on earth they heard of us, they found us on the internet! **RSA Goes Prime Time...** Working with Ferguson Shamamian Rattner, RSA will build an addition and a screen porch on the James Burrows residence. James Burrows is the well known television producer and director whose work includes Friends and Will & Grace. The new Fortune Society gave RSA a rehabilitation project which will be highly visible from the West Side Highway. Located on 140th St. and Riverside Dr., this castle-like boarding house is masonry bearing wall, built out of granite and brick with terracotta ornamental details. The building has been abandoned for years, and is an example of early cinder concrete slabs. New and enlarged openings will be created in these slabs, as well as general repair work. **The Druids Would Be Proud...** The Rye Nature Center has hired RSA to work with Masonry Solutions to design repairs and stabilization techniques to the masonry ruin of a 19th C. house which suffered a fire. The house will serve as a meeting and visiting area for the nature center, and includes features such as stone masonry arches and brick and stone chimneys. Techniques which may be used to stabilize the structure are: Grout injection, Post-tensioning of the free standing chimney and water infiltration protection at the tops of walls. **School Days, Landmarks and Ski Slope Apartments...** RSA has several new school projects, including IS/PS 499, a new school for the SCA with Michael Fieldman Architect and PS129Q, a 20,000 SF, 15 million dollar school with Kappel and Kostow Architects. 70 Bedford St. is a landmark townhouse renovation with Pei Partnership for a former deputy mayor in the Koch administration. Webster Avenue Apartments is a new plank job with Meltzer Mandl which features a grade change of four floors from the front to the back of the structure. ■

## ROBERT SILMAN GOES TO NEPAL

by Ellen Blumenthal

Bob Silman flew to Nepal May 17, 2000. Although it took two days to get there and another two to get back, he spent five full days investigating three 17th & 18th century, Hindu Temples in Kathmandu for the purpose of strengthening them against seismic activity.

This region is victim to infrequent but very high seismic activity. About every 100 years or so, there is an earthquake measuring 8+ on the Richter Scale, the last being in 1934, which measured 8.2. At that time, all three temples were severely damaged, and had to be rebuilt using many of the same building pieces. Since the country of Nepal is so poor, it fears that the next earthquake will again damage the temples, and Nepal will lack money to rebuild them. It was decided that an effort should be made to strengthen the temples in order to withstand seismic activity, and prevent severe damage. The project is looked at as a trial site; success here could set an example for techniques for the seismic strengthening of many more temples throughout Nepal.

The pagoda-style temples, named Jagganath, Indrapur, and Narayan, are situated in the main square in front of the main palace. The temple walls are constructed



from kiln-fired bricks. The mortar, which is fairly weak, is simply mud dug straight from the ground. There is no lime or cement added. Roofs and floors are timber, more specifically sal wood (teak wood family) or pine. The roofs are also covered with mud and clay tiles. The craftsmanship is very good; compound complex joints are held together with wooden pegs, and the struts that hold up the eaves are ornately carved with images of the Hindu gods. Unfortunately the struts have a way of disappearing (art theft), and then they must be replaced.

As a result of the thefts, one goal is to secure struts, so that the local people can't easily walk off with them. Another challenge is the non-availability of high tech materials like stainless steel or epoxy.

The main challenge, however, is to come up with a scheme for seismic strengthening that is not visible or obtrusive. One scheme being

considered is to tie the elements together with pieces of steel, and underpin the foundation by tying walls together with concrete. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is very concerned that any intervention be reversible, and they are discouraging use of concrete anywhere in the building. The design team doesn't necessarily agree with this.

Because government funding is unavailable, the project is being privately funded and managed. One of the private organizations that is participating in the project is The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, an American organization in the neighboring town of Patan, Nepal, which was founded by Eduard Sekler, a Harvard Art History Professor, but is currently being run by Erich Theophile. UNESCO, mentioned above, is also participating in the project. Its World Heritage Centre has designated these temples as a World Heritage Site. This organization works "to make sure that future generations can inherit the treasures of the past." The World Monument Fund is the principal sponsor, and is funding two thirds of the \$500,000 cost. A local hotel owner is putting up the other third of the funding.

While Bob was there he had dinner with the Minister of Culture, Dr. Shaphlga Amatyer. It is possible Bob may be able to reciprocate this hospitality, if the minister comes to the United States. ■

## RSA PROJECTS IN THE NEWS

by Ellen Blumenthal

**Project: Yale U.'s Historic Berkeley College**  
Architect: Kieran Timberlake Harris  
RSA Engineers: Joe Tortorella, Heather Wildman

Stirring up controversy and clashes over old and new design (as reported by James S. Russell, AIA in *The Architectural Record* 2/2000)

The question is, ... "How can you keep a landmark building vital while preserving the original work of art?"

Berkeley, designed by James Gamble Rogers, is one of the eleven residential colleges built in the 1930's, and the first to receive a long overdue rehabilitation.

The \$35 million budget was primarily used for upgrades like air-conditioning in public spaces, sprinklers, wheelchair ramps, and screened trash-disposal areas, all needing highly discretionary design treatment. The more subtle changes involved reconfiguring the floor plans, creating more single dorm rooms while maintaining a higher bed count. Reconfiguration of suites involved creating

two means of egress with door alarms that can be switched on or off from each suite, allowing flexibility in accommodating groups of varying sizes. The greatest technical challenge was replacing the windows (thousands of leaded art glass in rusted steel sashes) which was accomplished using an interior glazed vented steel frame that matches the existing windows' profiles, and is close to the energy performance of insulated units, yet hardly distinguishable from the originals. By converting old storage areas in the basement, new social and recreational spaces were created including a laundry, an exercise room, and a multi-purpose area around a small cafe.

Only two contemporary elements intruded into the "Rogers-detailed" areas, a stair leading to the renovated basement social spaces, and the balcony in the Dining Commons. The stair attracted little criticism because it filled a former cloakroom and washroom, but the balcony was "labeled a travesty by critics,...inspired a petition for its removal, ...was denounced in the *Yale Daily News*." The

architect, Steven Kieran, says it was necessary to reconfigure the kitchen and food service areas and added 30 seats and improved access to the Swiss Room, a private dining area. Now that it is complete, some folks have come around saying it is not that bad, but others remain critical, calling it an irrelevant intrusion.

This small balcony has become a large symbol in the preservation debate. Preservationists say they don't want the landmarks to be unchangeable museums, but should all new upgraded functions be placed behind closed doors, not to be intermingled with historic fabric, leaving no finger prints? Kieran says that if no contemporary expression can be allowed to coexist with historic expression, it is the same as "embalming the buildings." And so, the debate continues...

**Project: Concord Hotel**

Architect: The Hillier Group

RSA Engineer: Joe Tortorella, Kirk Mettam

Resort Planned on Concord *cont'd on page 5*

## FOCUS ON ARCHITECT

### Frank O. Gehry by Margo Pucciarelli



Frank O. Gehry

Frank O. Gehry is one of the most influential architects working in the world today. He has successfully pushed the envelope, questioning conventional building forms and creating structures that resemble contemporary art sculptures rather than architecture.

“By definition, a building is a sculpture, because it is a three-dimensional object.”-Frank O. Gehry

Frank O. Gehry was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 1929, and at the age of seventeen, moved to Los Angeles with his family. He received his bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Southern California, and studied city planning at Harvard University’s graduate school of design. In 1962, he established his first practice, Frank O. Gehry and Associates, Inc., and in 1979, the firm Gehry & Krueger Inc. Gehry currently resides in Santa Monica, California with his wife Bertha, and their two

sons, Alejandro and Sami.

Gehry’s architectural career has spanned three decades and produced public and private buildings in America, Japan and most recently, Europe. Over the years, Gehry has moved away from a conventional, commercial practice to an artistically directed atelier. He leads the current architectural trend labeled Deconstructivism. His deconstructed architectural style began to emerge in the late 1970’s when Gehry, directed by a personal vision of architecture, created collage-like compositions out of found materials like chain link, corrugated aluminum, or utility grade construction board, ometimes giving the impression of chaos or disorder, transience and movement. Instead of creating standard, rectilinear Modernist buildings, Gehry creates “ad-hoc pieces of functional sculpture.”

Frank O. Gehry has become known as one of the most uniquely “American” architects working today. It was Gehry’s ability to address the culture and needs of the University of Toledo that made him the perfect candidate to build the new Art Building adjacent to the Toledo Museum of Art. Gehry created a new structure, which is a permanent moving sculpture and a fresh addition to the university campus.

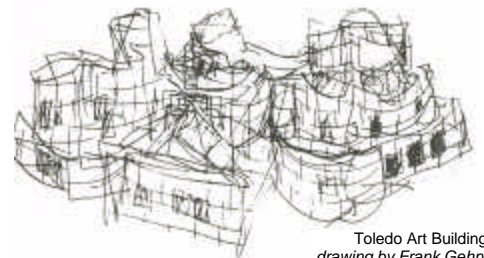
His design of the Weisman Museum in Minnesota won him the Progressive Architecture Design Award in 1991.

The Vitra Design Museum at Weil-Am-Rhein, Germany, 1990, is a continuing changing swirl of white forms on the exterior, each seemingly without apparent relationship to the

other. Gehry calls it “frozen motion.” The complex includes a chair-assembly plant, offices and a museum.

The new Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain by Frank Gehry was probably the most often mentioned new building of 1998 and 1999 in architecture circles.

Not only has Gehry’s architecture received worldwide recognition, but his drawings and models, his designs for cardboard and bent-wood furniture and his various interpretations of fish have been exhibited in museums around the world. In 1986, a major retrospective exhibition title “The Architecture of Frank Gehry” was organized by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and toured throughout North America, ending at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. His scores of awards include the 1989 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the 1992 Imperial Award in Architecture given by the Japan Art Associates, and in 1994, Mr. Gehry became the first recipient of the Lillian Gish Award for lifetime contribution to the arts. ■



Toledo Art Building  
drawing by Frank Gehry

## Guimard’s Gate *cont’d from page 1*



Another of Guimard’s Ensembles

These Guimard ensembles still exist today (not all of Guimard gates are identical). Liviu Schwartz, of our office, and Lynda Zuckerman, MOMA’s Sculpture Conservator, visited the Parisian restoration shop currently doing the work for RATP. Their efforts on other Guimard pieces proved that it would be necessary for us to exercise meticulous care to faithfully restore the Gate to its original glory.

Documents with original turn-of-the-century paint and production techniques are

lost. The adoption of RATP utility paint layers (some had more than 30 layers!) was found to be too expensive. The RATP paint samples were analyzed by MOMA using x-ray diffraction and infrared spectroscopy. After experimenting with local paints using several colors and techniques, we obtained a faux-bronze effect similar to what was achieved at the Parisian Station restoration. The deteriorated cast-iron was restored by welding. Except for some touch-ups, the glazed lava panel was in good condition. RSA created specifications of the procedures required to dismantle, protect, and ship the large pieces to the restoration shop, and made periodic visits to ensure these specifications were being followed. Finding a restoration contractor able to repair and repaint the gate was the next consideration. Decisions were dependent upon the final display location of the piece. In addition, explicit directions were specified

as to how to adequately protect and ship the newly restored pieces back to MOMA.

Finally, once the pieces were back on site, it was RSA’s responsibility to direct the re-assembly of the restored components. Included in the task was the reuse of existing base plates and their anchorage into the second floor temporary location, fabrication of a new faux stone/concrete base to match the original, as well as the supervision of the overall re-installation of the gate as a whole.

The result was the resurrection of a truly original work of art for people to view and enjoy, thanks to the joint efforts of MOMA, RSA, and the contractor, Johnson Atelier Foundry. The job was done on time for the opening of MOMA’s largest exhibition, “Start”, in October, 1999, and under budget. The restoration was complete 100 years after Guimard won the RAPT original design competition, which is one more reason to celebrate. ■

## RSA-DC NEWS FROM DOWN SOUTH *by Lisa Clarke*

The DC office has its first athletic team! Our newest RSA'ers, Paul Auerbach and Kevin Miller have joined the HOK softball team, the Canal Rats. Their mini team has been dubbed the Alley Rats, and for anyone who has visited our office here in Washington, D.C., it is an uncannily fit description. Despite being the only engineers, they are a huge presence in the field – Paul pitches, and Kevin plays various infield and outfield positions. Unfortunately, two of the five games were forfeited and another two were cancelled due to rain, but when the Canal Rats finally got to play a few weeks ago, they 'skunked' the computer techs.

The office is moving to bigger quarters this summer, and has begun the process of hiring new engineers. We look forward to growing to about ten people once the office settles down

into the new space. Our first hire, Mary Malhiot, a recent graduate from the University of Maryland's Masters program in Civil Engineering, will be joining us in the Fall.

As the office approaches its 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary, we marvel at how the firm's reputation has grown in Washington, D.C. The office is working on a huge range of work. Most recently, RSA was contracted to create a new campus building for Johns Hopkins University, the second project we are working on for this prominent institution (and Ed Meade's alma mater). The IRS Building modernization is well on its way, as is the U.S. Supreme Court modernization – these projects are two of the biggest federal building renovations in Washington, making our firm a familiar name at the General Services Administration and Architect of the Capitol. RSA-DC

continues to do lots of renovations of local buildings, many of them with architects we have worked with before, but some with firms with whom we are fostering new relationships. The Washington and New York office continues to collaborate with the MSKCC Prostate Center, and the Concord Hotel project in the Catskills is just beginning as well. RSA-DC was recently awarded the Sewell-Belmont House renovation, an 18<sup>th</sup> century building that will serve as a house museum celebrating the women's Suffrage movement, particularly the role of the National Women's Party.

On the marketing front, the office continues to pursue a number of promising prospects, including the study for the restoration of the Capitol building's House Chamber. In all, the office is busy and continues to grow in size and quality. ■

## In House Seminar Summaries

### Cathodic Protection in Early Steel-frame Buildings *by John Matteo*

On May 25<sup>th</sup> representatives from Corpro Companies Inc. visited RSA to present information on the above topic. Their approach seems to answer what is often a difficult question, "will the steel framing built within an exterior masonry wall continue to rust over time?" Their answer is, "probably yes, but not with a cathodic protection system built into the exterior masonry."

Often we are introduced to a job when portions of the steel have significant rusting which is expressed in cracks or spalls in the exterior masonry cladding. The general approach is to remove the damaged masonry to expose the steel, and then to treat the steel as needed given the magnitude of section loss. A lingering question is how long until other portions of the steel frame start to rust to the point of pushing out and damaging the surrounding masonry.

Corpro's cathodic protection system requires the placement of a thin

metallic ribbon (Anode Ribbon Mesh) into the mortar joints in the vicinity of the steel which is to be protected. The ribbon mesh is then pointed over, but remains wired to the steel at select locations and to a power source which creates a current. The mortar and masonry provides a suitable electrolyte which will make the steel frame function as a cathode, and will prevent further corrosion — an apparently good solution for building owners who are able to make a long-term investment in building maintenance. Corpro can perform a corrosion survey, cathodic protection feasibility study, cathodic protection system design, testing installation and supervision, as well as monitoring and maintenance.

### RAM Steel Finite Element Based 3-D Static and Dynamic Analysis of Structures *by Pat Arnett*

Early this year I attended a seminar given by the good people at RAM Institute, the producers of RAM Steel discussing their products

and the most effective ways to use them. The day long presentation was given by Dr. Sam Kassegne, a RAM Steel developer and troubleshooter who worked extensively on the latest version of RAM Steel which has just been released at the time of this printing.

Dr. Kassegne started the day reviewing the underlying theory behind finite element analysis, the various types of elements available to a user, fundamental assumptions in the theory, and its use in second order analysis. Then the talk began to focus more on the use of RAM Steel. Specifically, Dr. Kassegne described techniques for designing shear walls using the program as well as performing dynamic analysis of structures and creating response spectra and time history analyses. Other miscellaneous topics involving the use of RAM Steel and changes which would be appearing in the new version were also covered. Several informative documents were included with the seminar, including a booklet containing basic modeling information and tips, and a packet on design. ■

## RSA Projects in the News *cont'd from page 2*

Site in the Catskills (as reported by Charles V. Bagli in *The New York Times* Metro Thursday, March 16, 2000)



New Hotel & Conference Center

Developer, Louis R. Cappelli plans to demolish the famous Concord Hotel on Kiamasha Lake, in Monticello, NY and build a \$500 Million resort with a conference center, golf village, spa ranch, entertainment center, and wilderness area. The proposed complex, twice the size of Central Park, will be a year round attraction, 90 miles northwest of New York City. The resort should attract conventions looking for an 1100 room hotel in a rural setting, and families looking for a weekend getaway.

The Old Concord was the largest of 500 hotels and dozens of bungalow colonies that once made up the Sullivan County borscht belt, attracting vacationers and entertainers like Milton Berle and Danny Kaye. The area fell into decline with the beginning of cheap air fares in the 1970's, which fed the competition in Florida and Europe. This area, where most of the old hotels have crumbled, and where the local people are economically depressed, needs a developer who can succeed in bringing new life to the Catskill Mountains. All are hopeful that Cappelli will be the one. According to Cappelli, construction is planned to begin by Labor Day.

### Project: The Scholastic Building

Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY  
 Architect: Aldo Rossi Studio di Architettura/Gensler  
 RSA Engineers: Joseph Tortorella, Heather Wildman, John Giannetti

A Building Fits In by Standing Out (as reported by David W. Dunlap in *The New York Times* Real Estate, Sunday, April 23, 2000)

Facing seemingly impossible obstacles, the new Scholastic building has become a reality. First, the new structure contains almost twice the floor area that zoning rules allowed on the site. It was designed by the famous Italian architect, Aldo Rossi, who died in a car

crash before it was built. It required the service of the tallest freestanding tower crane ever erected in New York. It was constructed on property leased by seven different members of a single family, and occupied by another tenant. It was next door to a landmark building "Little Singer," occupied by an artists' coop whose space would lose light, air and windows. Finally, the foundations were on sandy soil and so close to the subway platform "that one could almost hear the announcements aboard the N and R trains as they passed." The distinctive and appealing architectural design was used strategically to win support. The new building turned out fine, and admirers of the Rossi design believe that the structure will become a landmark in its own right.

The new Scholastic building in the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District, is located just south of Prince Street between Broadway and Mercer. It is a 10-story office building which was added to supplement the owner's existing office space in the adjacent building to the south. The foundation of the building, 34 feet below street level, is a 38-inch thick concrete mat which extends throughout the building footprint. Constructing the foundation was particularly challenging because of the existing landmark building "Little Singer," to the north, and the BMT subway line less than 5 feet to the east. Vibration monitors were used to measure movement and prevent damage to existing structures. The lower 3 floors and the cellar are constructed of composite metal deck slabs on structural steel. The floors above utilized concrete plank on structural steel. Moment frames were designed into the structure to resist lateral seismic forces. The 2 facades fronting Broadway and Mercer Street were designed by Aldo Rossi to complement the existing cast iron architecture of the area.

### Project: Brooklyn Tabernacle

Architect: Kapell & Kostow  
 RSA Engineers: Nat Oppenheimer and Brian Maloney

A Firm Foundation, Starting From the Sanctuary's Roof (as reported by David W. Dunlap in *The New York Times* Real Estate, Sunday December 26, 1999)

The Brooklyn Tabernacle has embraced a \$37 million restoration plan focused on the 81 year old Metropolitan Theater on the Fulton Street mall. The facade of the theater and the 2 adjoining buildings will be re clad in brick and limestone, and a 115 foot high bell tower will

be added. The old Loews Metropolitan Theater was designed in 1918 by Thomas W. Lamb. The walls that had divided it into a quad theater have been removed, revealing the enormity of the space. The stage must be expanded with risers for the choir and a sunken orchestra pit. New lighting and sound systems will be installed as well as audio and video recording equipment. As much of Mr. Lamb's architectural detail as possible will be preserved, using the original drawings from the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University.



Children's Defense Fund Library

**Project: Children's Defense Fund Library**  
 Architect: Maya Lin/Martella Associates  
 RSA Engineers: Robert Silman and Ted Prime

Lin Finds New Use for Old Barn at Langston Hughes Library (as reported in *Architectural Record*, Record News, May 5, 2000)

Commissioned by the Children's Defense Fund to design a library on their 157 acre retreat grounds in Clinton, Tennessee, Maya Lin opted to adapt and reuse the existing structure, a 19c. barn, because of its unique cantilever shape. The library honors Langston Hughes, the "Poet Laureate of the Harlem Renaissance," and is located on a farm which was once owned by the writer Alex Haley. It houses 4000 volumes of African American literature and history.

The exterior of the barn was deconstructed and reconstructed around a new steel skeleton. There is a new standing seam metal roof with large skylights, and broad panes of glass at the loft-level end that look out onto a nearby pond. There is also a dramatic translucent glass lining inside the former ground level animal pens, and at night, light glows through the unchinked logs "like a Chinese lantern." The ground level areas contain a small gift shop, a stair and an elevator. The loft area contains the library and elevated reading room. ■

**STAFF BIO: Kirk Mettam**

by Kirk Mettam and Lisa Clarke



Kirk Mettam

Kirk Mettam joined Robert Silman Associates just over two years ago to open the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Although a relatively new face at RSA, he has been involved in the practice of structural engineering and architecture in NYC for over 18 years.

A native of the D.C. area, Kirk attended Pratt Institute and the University of Maryland for his Bachelor of Science, and went to Cornell University for his Masters. Kirk has had the opportunity to work on a variety of structure types throughout his professional career, including historic preservation, renovations and new projects including high-rise offices, hospitals, hotels, airports, bridges, and sports facilities in a variety of locations across the county and throughout the world.

After graduating from Cornell University Kirk joined Skidmore Owings & Merrill where he headed the structural group's computer efforts and grew into the role of project engineer. He was there for nine years, gaining exposure to the business aspects of the practice, while working with the partners and

other offices on world class projects. Kirk described one such project. "The design of the Tribeca Bridge was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The bridge needed to be a functional efficient bridge structure, yet its prominent location warranted more appointments than would typically be justified. I worked closely with the architects and planners to synthesize the form of the bridge and ancillary structures, and this level of collaboration continued down to the most minute detail. The 230 foot long bridge was brought up the Atlantic Coast in one piece on a barge."

Kirk joined Thornton - Tomasetti Engineers / Lev Zetlin Associates in 1994, which was an eye-opening experience. "I learned that the architecture world was much more diverse." The broader exposure to architects allowed him to sharpen his understanding of the business and know when to "play", which in this context means to innovate or collaborate.

Kirk joined HLW International LLP, an A-E firm of 250 people in 1996, as a partner and director of their Structural Engineering group. He designed a number of international projects located in China, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. The firm specializes in international architecture housing technology, which can range from research labs to aircraft hangers to state of the art Broadcast studios. "My last project at HLW was to design the new studio for ABC at Times Square by carving out a space of a 1960's spec office building. We removed floor diaphragms and columns creating a column free space with a cantilever portion over the sidewalk on Time Square, and designed the framing systems for vibration sensitive camera equipment and super flat floor slabs."

When Kirk learned that RSA was opening an office in DC, he jumped at the chance to be

a part of it. "My family is here and Washington has 'come of age' in the architecture profession. There are great historic preservation projects, and new construction is starting to get much more sophisticated and interesting than it has been. Of course the best new building in town, The National Gallery's East Wing, was done by RSA's own Fred Elsasser! The Washington office is a natural step for me. I truly value the small firm approach with a special emphasis on service and quality work, which we can enjoy."

As a graduate student at Cornell, Kirk learned that he loved teaching, and has been teaching regularly ever since. In New York, he taught at Pratt Institute and Columbia University. "I always try to mix in an enthusiasm for the work and a touch of passion for the end result...It goes a long way." Kirk has also been an active participant in the industry through his involvement with national committees and technical publications. "These activities are a wonderful way to continue learning. This is really the only chance we in the industry get to 'hob-nob' and share our experiences and ideas with our fiercest competitors in the marketplace. When asked about aspirations and goals Kirk says, "If I have a professional goal or aspiration it is beautifully expressed in this quote I found in a book that is surprisingly unrelated to architecture or engineering."

*"Ideally, a bold and lavishly imaginative individual should begin a project; a methodical and tireless individual, who stands in awe of his partner's brilliance but is affectionately critical of his excesses and lapses, should be in charge of the middle; and a third individual, patient, elegant and scrupulous, deeply impressed by his colleagues' joint achievement but aware that it will fail without his serene overview and inspired refinements, should complete the work. Even more ideally, these three should be one and the same person."* ■

**A COUPLE OF NEW KIDS**

by Brian Maloney

Joe Serrano, the new man at the helm of the accounting department, comes to RSA from Cuba. Well, not directly. He was born in Cuba, but also lived in Spain for 4 years. Immediately before joining our team, he was responsible for Billing, Payroll, and Benefits at HLW International LLP (also the former home of Kirk Mettam and the recently departed Chris Cobb). After nearly 11 years there he claimed that it was time to go, and RSA was happy to take him in.

His parents recently migrated to Florida, so visiting them is the reason Joe is perpetually tan. He also has a brother, a sister, and two nephews whom he loves dearly. Aside

from work, Joe devotes a good bit of his time to dogs. He bred Cocker Spaniels for 16 years and managed to produce some top show dogs. He has also published a book and collaborated on another about (what else?) dogs. Although he no longer breeds them, he occasionally judges dog shows. The newest passion in his life now is landscaping. A few friends and family have let him work his magic on their land, and he is looking forward to working on his own house. Hopefully, he'll soon be moving into a new house in the Garden State.

The other new addition to the office since the last newsletter also resides in the

Accounting department. His name is Michael Jones, but he'd like you much better to call him Mike. He was born just a bit north of here in Mt. Vernon, NY. Currently, he lives in south Jersey where he bought his first house. Mike has gained a wide variety of accounting experience over the past 12 years with WABC 7, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and Partminer Technologies Corp. He's also married with one daughter who is 7 and a step son who is soon to be 12. He counts among his interests all types of fishing, sharing his musical talents (keyboardist, basist and DJ), and the joys of constant road rage (he has approximately a two hour commute). ■

## Humm-Dinger - Alice Aycock *by Tony Spano*

The beauty of a bird in flight! Though appearing magically suspended, birds cannot fly without aerodynamic engineering provided by Mother Nature. The same applies to the flight of hummingbirds as represented in a soon-to-be completed work by New York based sculptor Alice Aycock, assisted by Robert Silman Associates of Washington, DC. Her work is found in several major collections and she has outdoor sculpture sited worldwide. Aycock's Baltimore piece is the second project for which RSA has collaborated, the first being a sculpture at New York City's Kennedy Airport.

For the hummingbird project, Ms. Aycock has chosen a triangulated truss looping across the facade of the Federal General Services Building in Baltimore, and through its George H.

Fallon Entrance. The piece also includes two horn-like structures perched within and a disc containing the constellations in the night sky.

The piece is to be supported by a system of aluminum and steel tension cables. Placement of the poles and cables was critical to the stability of the structure, as were aesthetic concerns. Considerable co-ordination between Ms. Aycock and the RSA design team was necessary to minimize the visual impact of the support system, preserve the artistic intent of the piece, and provide a safe, stable (not to mention beautiful) structure.

Far flung as well as prolific, Ms Aycock's next venture with RSA is a installation at the Marlborough Gallery in the Principality of Monaco. Reports will be filed as they come in! ■

# RSA



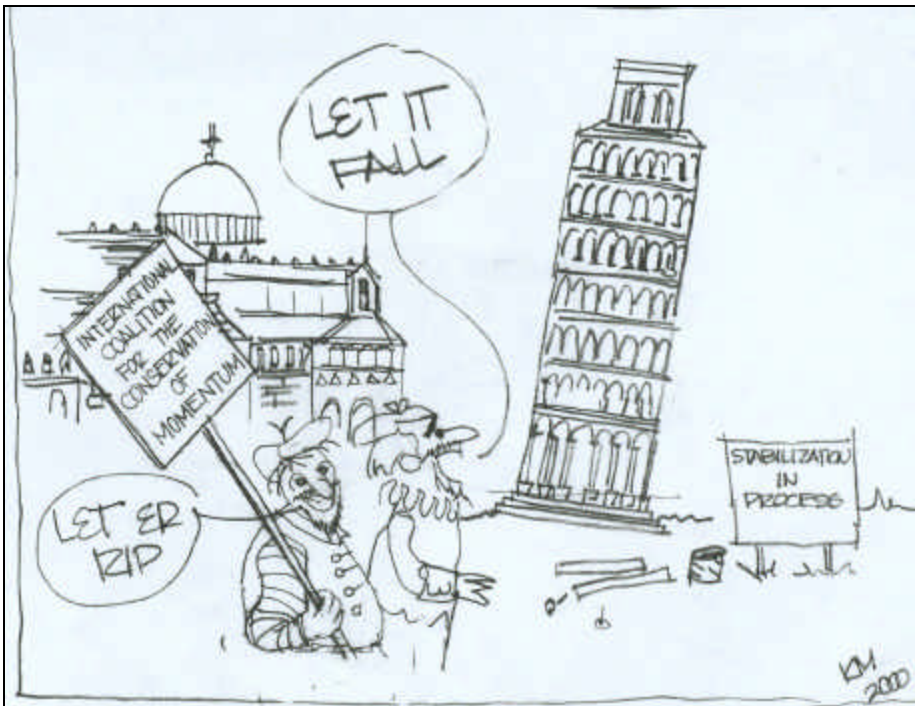
## Bowling Party/Softball Team/Volley Ball

*by Mark Maghakian & Andrew Ostman*

"I apologize for the fact that we did not have a Spring bowling party..I would like to plan a Summer bowling bash !!!!!...I plan on getting the ball rolling on that one (no pun intended)." -Mark

The softball team is going through some rough times right now. As of June 8<sup>th</sup> we had a dismal 1-5 record. Unheard of for a RSA softball team. I believe we have had one losing record in 15 years of play. Of course its not too late to turn it around,as we have 8 games left to play. The retirement of Joe Tortorella has had a major effect on the team's record this year. (how's that for buttering up, Joe ?..)

RSA's volleyball team finished its Winter season in grand style. We concluded the season with a winning record of 17-13, narrowly missing the playoffs. Most exciting is that all of our wins were legitimate, none of them coming from forfeits. This past spring season RSAVB was moved up a few divisions (those other teams were scared of us) and has run into some tougher teams. We won't make the playoffs this season, but the team continues to improve with every game and our expectations are higher than ever. ■



### OFFICE XEROX 3050 TIPS - JUNE 2000

*by Mark Maghakian*

For those of you who make copies using the Xerox 3050 by the 10<sup>th</sup> floor plan desk, I'm sure you have come across paper jams when making multiple copies of 30" wide prints. Here is a tip on how to avoid this problem in the future. When the prints are coming out, grab them before they reach the bin and put them on the plan desk. This might be a bit cumbersome to some of you, but it is much better than dealing with a paper jam. If you do happen to have a paper jam, more often than not, the problem can be solved by simply opening and closing sheet feed-in shelf, push in the two gray buttons on the corner of the shelf, push open the tray towards you, then open the second shelf by grabbing the two green handles. If there is paper in the machine, remove it, if not, then close both shelves, press the return button on the keyboard and you are back in business. This whole procedure will take you all of 20 seconds..

**AUTOCAD PLOTTING REMINDER:** This is another reminder that before plotting any drawing, please take an extra 5 seconds to check your .pcp files for the correct pen weights. If the text is cyan, then use the 8830old .pcp file, if the text is red, then use the current .pcp file, which is called 8830.pcp. ■

## Awards 2000

### Residential Architect Design Award 2000 - Merit Award

for: McAllister Point Model Homes, The Ford Plantation, Richmond Hill, Georgia

Architect: Ferguson, Shamamian, Rattner

RSA Engineers: Joe Tortorella, John Matteo, Sofya Levin, Andrew Ostman and Kelvin Brown

### Historic Preservation Awards

State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry, Historic Preservation Office

for :

1. Restoration of the New Jersey State House Dome and Rotunda

Architect: Jan Hird Pokorny

RSA Staff: Ed Meade, Rochele King, Marisa Tempone, Kelly Nuttall and Margo Pucciarelli

2. Restoration of St. James AME Church, Newark, NJ

Architect: Historic Building Architects

RSA Engineers: Ed Meade, Marisa Tempone and Erin Davis

### AIA, NY Chapter Restoration Citation

for: Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre, Central Park, NYC

Architect: Beyer Blinder Belle

RSA Engineers: Nat Oppenheimer, Karina Tribble and Marisa Tempone

### AIA, NY Chapter Interior Architecture Award

for: America Online Executive Offices, Manhattan, NY

Architect: Sidman Petrone Gartner Architects

RSA Engineers: Ted Prime and Liviu Schwartz

### New York Landmarks Conservancy

#### Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards

for:

1. Bridgemarket, 59<sup>th</sup> Street Queensboro Bridge

Restoration Architect: Walter Melvin

RSA Engineer: Tim Lynch

2. Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Architect: Li Saltzman

RSA Staff: Robert Santiago, Karina Tribble and Kelvin Brown

3. Radio City Music Hall

Architect: Hardy Holtzman Pfeiffer

RSA Staff: Kent Nash, Erin Davis and Ray McKenzie

## Coordinators Notes

*Coordinator: Ellen Blumenthal*

*Layout: Alastair Elliott, Ellen Blumenthal*

*Title R. Essay: Jim Villano*

*Proofreading: Lisa Clarke & Chris Leavitt*

*Contributors: RSA & RSA-DC Staff*

## OFFICE CORNER

*compiled by Noel Ocampo*

### Birthdays Blues :

(between 6/15 - 9/14)

<b>Brandon R. (DC)</b>	<b>July 1</b>
<b>Paul A. (DC)</b>	<b>June 22</b>
<b>Ken T. (DC)</b>	<b>July 18</b>
<b>Karina T.</b>	<b>Sept. 11</b>
<b>Ed M.</b>	<b>July 24</b>
<b>Peter C.</b>	<b>Aug. 14</b>
<b>Jim V.</b>	<b>Sept. 9</b>
<b>Marisa T.</b>	<b>June 24</b>
<b>Ray Mc.</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Vinnie T.</b>	<b>Aug. 26</b>
<b>Laura T.</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Farhana M.</b>	<b>Aug. 17</b>

**Happy Birthday to all!!!**

**LET'S ALL CONGRATULATE**

**Ray McKenzie - Graduate!**



*Ray McKenzie*

**Bachelor of Architecture, Pratt University**

### ANNIVERSARIES :

**Alastair - 5 Years with RSA**

**Kelvin - 15 Years with RSA**

### LET'S ALL WELCOME!!!

**Joe Serrano**

**Mike Jones**

**Jamal Adams**

**Melanie Stroe**

**Farhana Mansoorie**

**William Yeh**

**Shannon Tunia**