“The World Workplace Experience”

Once again, I’m writing my monthly letter from an airport. This time it is during a return trip from New Orleans after attending my very first IFMA World Workplace convention. Since many of you haven’t had the chance to attend WWP I thought it would be helpful to share a snapshot of a very memorable and positive experience.

**Day One:** Tuesday was focused on the inner workings of IFMA International beginning with a delegates meeting. Representatives from IFMA chapters around the world gathered to discuss the business of our organization. IFMA Chair, Gary Broersma, led the meeting and shared the good news of IFMA as a strong, growing, and influential worldwide organization. Future initiatives include efforts to magnify the importance of the FM professional by getting information in front of “C-Suite” executives and to promote more accredited FM college programs. It was refreshing to see that IFMA’s global directives are very much in line with those of our Madison IFMA chapter and that tools are being developed that will make it easier to achieve our local objectives.

While I was attending the delegates meeting, many of our Madison IFMA members were helping to frame a Habitat House in New Orleans. They worked efficiently as a team and fully framed the exterior of the residence within a single days work.

The evening concluded with the IFMA Foundation Gala Event, which included dancing mimes, a stilt walker, magic, live music, a silent auction, food and drink, and networking galore. I had the unique opportunity to converse with facilities professionals from the far corners of the earth including Singapore, Nigeria, China, Holland and Canada, as well as many of our U.S. counterparts. In all, over 38 countries were represented at the convention. IFMA Madison was recognized along with dozens of other chapters for their monetary contributions.

**Day Two:** Wednesday was the official start of the convention which began with a welcoming speech by Gary Broersma. The atmosphere was “High Energy” with the auditorium resembling a cross between a political convention and a rock concert. Next up was author William Taylor who elevated the intensity with an excellent keynote address highlighting the leadership concepts of his new book “Mavericks at Work.” The keynote address was followed by the traditional march to the exhibition hall featuring over 300 booths. The exhibit was open each of the next 3 days; it actually took me until the end of the third day to complete my tour of the exhibit floor.

The excitement continued into the evening with IFMA Council meetings and a Welcome reception at the New Orleans Contemporary Art Museum. This was another “over-the-top” event including a high wire act, live music, art tours, extreme networking and a wide variety of food and drink (are you noticing a trend yet?). We also began a daily ritual of walking back to our hotel following the IFMA events versus taking a cab. Since our hotel was more than 15 blocks away, it was the perfect chance to explore the sites and sounds of New Orleans, including the famed French Quarters and Bourbon Street (I’ll say no more!).

**Day Three:** Thursday was primarily a day of tours, educational sessions, and walking the exhibit floor. I stayed at the convention center and attended 3 excellent seminars while others loaded into buses to take part in a wide assortment of FM related tours.

The Madison Chapter also hosted a lunch gathering for our sister chapter, Ottawa, Canada. The lunch included a casual work session focusing on how we can build upon each chapter’s strengths. This was a very productive conversation and we look forward to a much stronger relationship with Ottawa in the upcoming months.

The day concluded with another “all-out” social bash at the House of Blues hosted by Cort Furniture Rental and our late night ritual of walking back to the hotel (sorry, I’m sworn to secrecy).

Continued on page 3
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Day Four: Friday was the closing day and fatigue was beginning to show on the faces of some attendees. However, everyone I talked to was highly energized and very satisfied with their conference experience. The day included a closing keynote address by Author Andrew Savitz (The Triple Bottom Line), a full day of educational seminars, more tour opportunities, and, you guessed it……, another celebration! The IFMA Awards of Excellence Banquet featured comedians, magic, music, dancing, fine foods, and refreshments. Awards were presented to several deserving IFMA chapters and councils and several people were inducted into IFMA’s coveted group of Fellows. This was a very motivating experience and I look forward to next year in hopes that IFMA Madison can be recognized for it’s achievements at this prestigious event.

A nice exclamation point on the convention came when IFMA Chair, Gary Broersma, and his family invited members of the IFMA Madison chapter to attend a chairman’s reception at his hotel. Gary reiterated his admiration for the Madison chapter and encouraged us to continue the good work we’ve begun.

Conclusion: With my World Workplace 2007 experience now complete, I can only say that if you haven’t attended a WWP event, you should. Whether you are a professional member or an associate, the combined benefits of the targeted FM educational offerings and highly effective social events equate to a total experience that is truly unique. I can’t think of a better place to learn about the latest trends in facilities management and to examine first hand a plethora of new facility technologies and products. Throw in networking with local, national, and worldwide facilities professionals and you have a venue that cannot be matched.

For me, there was the added benefit of having some fun with many of the IFMA Madison and Tri-Chapter members that attended. We now have a mutual experience to share and friendships are being formed. Next year’s convention is in Dallas, Texas and I would encourage you all to consider attending. I’d be happy to help you make the case.

Till Next Month,
Larry

Chapter Monthly Luncheon
November 20, 2007
12 Noon - Sheraton Madison

Pre Engineered Metal Buildings

Pre Engineered Metal Buildings (PEMB) are common, utilitarian buildings that offer a viable source of energy and cost savings to owners and renters. PEMB include strip malls, big box retail, warehouses, manufacturing facilities, and offices.

Developing a standardized approach for energy efficiency for this type of building will allow outreach efforts to easily target the common items found in these types of buildings. The presentation will discuss typical facility energy efficiency options including lighting, rooftop unit energy performance ratings, insulation levels, and insulation placement.

It will also cover programmable thermostats, day lighting and heat recovery. Presenting will be Scott Olsen, PE, Senior Engineer at Madison Gas & Electric Company. Scott provides energy efficiency, green building, and renewable energy customer support as well as HVAC problem diagnosis.

Scott’s experience with performance contracting and HVAC design provides a good foundation for determining energy efficiency options for saving money and protecting the environment. He is experienced with a range of building types and HVAC technologies. He is Professional Engineer, A USGBC LEED Accredited Professional, a CEE member, a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) and a member of ASHRAE and IFMA. He also has a Masters Degree in Public Policy.

Scott promotes and advances energy efficiency to address environmental protection, energy security, and economic development. He enjoys talking to small and large groups and can be reached at solsen@mge.com.

November Tour: To Be Announced
Watch your email for more information to come!
How to fit 3800 tons of chiller capacity into a 2700-ton space?

When a large medical center realized they had outgrown their chiller capacity, time was running out. They brought in Pearson Engineering to accomplish what seemed impossible — getting additional chiller capacity designed, installed, and running in eight months. Operating staff was immediately involved in design.

Eight months later...
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- Chillers started on the date promised
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- Commissioning optimized plant operation and served as training for operations/maintenance staff
- Project delivered on time, and under budget

Our Way Of Thinking
What makes Pearson Engineering different and better? Simply speaking, it's how we use our brains. Our unique way of thinking is a combination of good engineering principles, including rational and deductive reasoning, and a detective's inquiring nature. We take a holistic view and consider the building structure, systems, occupants and the universe in which they exist. In short, we spend a lot of time “outside the box.”

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- Adaptive Reuse of Existing Equipment Including Operating Personnel on the Team
- LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design)
- Value Engineering from Project Inception
- Peer Reviews of Our Work
- On-line Follow-up with Control Systems
- Leadership in Sustainable Energy Management
**Member Profile - Gene Post**

**How long have you been involved with IFMA:**
I joined IFMA Madison in June 2003. I was interested in joining IFMA because a number of my clients were members and I had heard a lot of good things from them about the organization.

**Brief History of your work experience:**
I have been an Architect in the Madison area for over 25 years. I was Head of Production and a principal in a larger A/E firm in Madison for 15 years and then went to work for Potter Lawson. I left Potter Lawson for about 14 months to be the Vice President of Operations for a Design Build firm in town but I missed the Architectural part of my job. Once I realized this, I was fortunate enough to be rehired by Potter Lawson to be the Director of their Corporate and Governmental Group.

**Offices held in IFMA:**
When I first joined IFMA I thought that I could take my time to get to know the organization and gradually get involved. That was not going to happen. My very first luncheon meeting was the June Business meeting and I happened to sit at the same table with one of the Past Presidents, Frank Alfano. For that meeting they had placed information about the various committees as well as sign up sheets at each table and proceeded to encourage anyone interested in joining a committee to put their names on the list. Frank grabbed the form and asked who at the table was not on a committee. It was obvious that I was not on a committee and even though I said that I had no knowledge of the committees that did not stop Frank. He let me read the committee descriptions before I made a decision. Fortunately, I had met Karen Miller and she had helped me with my Membership application. She suggested that I try the Membership committee. Little did I know at that time that this would be a great way to jump-start my getting to know people in IFMA. I was part of the Membership Committee for two years. I was asked by one of the Past Presidents to run for the Treasurer position and the rest is history. I have been your IFMA treasurer since June 2005. This whole experience has been a great way to get to know the membership and the workings of IFMA.

**What do you look forward to most about your new IFMA position?**
I look forward to being able to be a resource and to contribute to the leadership and direction of the IFMA Madison Chapter as part of the Executive Committee. As Treasurer, I have been working on the organization and documentation of the financial processes and getting the various committees involved in our annual budgeting process. The recent great success of the Sponsorship Committee has made my job easier.

**Hobbies/Interest:**
I have always loved the water and enjoy boating (power and sail) and have been a certified scuba diver since I was 16 years old. I am a downhill skier and I have been a member of the National Ski Patrol for over 35 years and a member of the Mad City Corvette club since it started. I enjoy building and remodeling and that is part of the reason why I became Architect.

**Family/Home life:**
I grew up in Mt. Horeb and after college came back to the Madison area. My wife’s name is Nancy and we have been married for 20 years this year. We have two children and a dog. My son Jordan is 17, my daughter Megan is 14, and Sophie is our dog.

**October Luncheon Meeting Recap**
Thank you PKK Lighting for the presentation on new fixtures and technology and recycling old lamps. The Madison chapter appreciates your participation in IFMA!

**New Member Event**
The membership committee would like to thank those of you who braved the weather for our new member event! The corn maze was extraordinary and it barely rained.

Our next new member event will be in the spring, but if you know a facility manager that:
1. Could use some help and
2. Doesn’t get out enough

- Tell them about IFMA and bring them to lunch. It’s just lunch. Let them decide why it’s great to be a member.

Remember, IFMA new member events always have:
- A Great view at a Great Location
- Great Food
- Great People
- A Great way to get involved
- Great Door Prizes at the end
- A great way to get started with IFMA
About 19 Madison Chapter members attended WWP in New Orleans this year. World Workplace is the annual international conference for facility managers. The event occurred Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - a change from the traditional Sunday, Monday, Tuesday format.

Several members arrived early to work for Habitat for Humanity on Tuesday before WWP began. The small but enthusiastic IFMA Madison group joined other work groups to build interior stud walls and attach exterior sheathing to a small home in St. Bernard Parish. St. Bernard Parish, a few miles to the Southwest of New Orleans, remains one of the most devastated areas.

Despite unseasonably cool temperatures, the group found the experience EXTREMELY rewarding. Participating chapter members, significant others and friends were Terry Austin, Catherine Neumann, Cindy Torstveit, Margaret St. Andre, Richard Pearson, Karen Miller, and Jeff Miller.

The conference featured keynote speakers on new management perspectives and an incredible selection of educational opportunities from disaster recovery to sustainability.

Next year World Workplace 2008 will be held in Dallas, October 15 - October 17.
IFMA Madison November Anniversaries

1 Year
Dan Beeman Two Tall Developers, LLC
Shannon O’Reilly AVI Midwest

2 Years
Phillip Bernhardt Webcrafters
Steve Kelliher Clack Corporation
Kevin Unbehaun Sub Zero Freezer Company

4 Years
Jenny Crubaugh Interior Investments
Scott Phillips US Cellular - Central Region
Suzette Sasman Wausau Benefits, Inc.
John Talbot Facility Asset Systems

6 Years
Karen Mackowski KMI Designs LLC
Barbara Unger Summit Credit Union
James Zirbel Capital Fire & Security

8 Years
Eric Truelove The Renschler Company

11 Years
Daniel Barsness National Guardian Life Insurance

14 Years
Michael Schmidt Arnold & O’Sheridan, Inc.
Cheryl Weisensel AAA Wisconsin

16 Years
Ginni Jones JT Packard, a Power Plus! Company

26 Years
James Montgomery Madison Gas & Electric Co.

Other News You Can Use

- According to the October 15 issue of The Christian Science Monitor, there might be a “creativity gap” in the workplace. Recent survey results found that although more than 85 percent of Americans consider themselves to be creative, less than 66 percent of those people are using their creative capabilities at work. Many would take a lower-paying job if it meant working for a company who truly valued their creativity. However, many companies don’t necessarily want their employees to be self-expressive. Having strict budgets or limited staff can discourage originality and innovation. Sometimes there isn’t enough money or sufficient staff to work on a proposed creative idea. Even more, while some employers may say they encourage creativity, they in fact may want employees to continue doing things the way they have always been done before. Are you being creative? IFMA Insider October 26, 2007

- What if you could drink your coffee, read the newspaper, surf the Web and have your breakfast all at the same time? Well now you can - thanks to touch screen coffee tables. According to the October issue of Business 2.0 magazine, a San Francisco company, TableTouch, is now producing coffee tables with built-in Wi-Fi software equipped with a touch screen right on top of the table. The tables have built-in Bluetooth capabilities so you can even send audio to your headphones. Imagine - a table that reads the news to you. TableTouch isn’t the only company diving into coffee table touch screens. Microsoft launches its very own touch screen table - Surface - later this year. IFMA Insider October 12, 2007

- According to an October 10 article in The Wall Street Journal, workplace stress might be just as harmful to your heart as high cholesterol, smoking and other risks for cardiovascular disease. While most people who experience a heart attack during their working years go back to work, new reports show that both employers and workers alike can benefit from learning about preventative strategies in the workplace - so as to avoid another heart attack. The article also reports that there are two characteristics that can define a stressful work environment. The first is having more tasks than time and resources allow for. The second characteristic is the lack of control or authority employees have over their own responsibilities and work.

- The washingtonpost.com featured an article on October 7 describing the proper way to dispose of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Although using these bulbs is certainly an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint, the bulbs can also be very harmful if not disposed of correctly. Simply throwing the bulbs away doesn’t do the trick - the lights can break and leak mercury. If this happens indoors, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that you open a window and leave the area for about 15 minutes. After that, make sure to use rubber gloves to gather all of the pieces and powder. Make sure to wipe the contaminated area with a damp paper towel. If you don’t get all of the material, use a piece of tape to gather the smaller bits. Double seal the materials by placing them in a plastic bag within another plastic bag. Of course make sure to vacuum the area and to then dispose of the vacuum bag. If you are careful and don’t break the bulbs, the good news is CFLs can be recycled.
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Rettler Corporation
C. Coakley Relocation Systems
Datakeep, Inc.
Welton Enterprises
Bruce Company
Tilsen Roofing Company

IFMA Madison

IFMA Madison Chapter Calendar of Events

November 2007
13 Executive Board Meeting
20 Luncheon Meeting - Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings
?? Tour - (Covance?)

December 2007
11 Executive Board Meeting
18 Annual IFMAadison Holiday Party

December Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Please submit materials to Emily Rowe at emily.rowe@creativebusinessinteriors.com (as an attached WORD document)