Captain Robert P. Harris, CEC, USN, FAIA, LEED AP was selected by a jury of fellow SAME Urbahn Medal winners as the 20th recipient of the prestigious SAME Urbahn Medal. The Urbahn Medal is named in honor of Max O. Urbahn, AIA and is awarded to a SAME member for distinguished performance in the field of architecture. Harris was acknowledged for distinguished performance in architecture including the design, development, and sustainment of Military Housing projects throughout the United States. Harris currently serves as Director, Special Venture Acquisition (SVA) at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters in Washington, DC. SVA provides homes to over 62,000 Navy and Marine Corps families and 6,500 single Sailors. He is responsible for design, development, acquisition, construction, oversight, monitoring and management of Public-Private Venture (PPV) housing portfolios supporting the Navy and Marine Corps. The Department of the Navy’s (DoN) investment portfolios currently include 17 projects with a total asset value of ~$10 billion.

Mr. Harris led the design and execution of multiple PPV housing phases for the Navy in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest; and for the Marine Corps in Hawaii, Camp LeJeune, NC and Camp Pendleton, CA with a cumulative development cost exceeding $880 Million. He additionally implemented the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) with the goal of reducing energy consumption.

As of June 2015, RECP has achieved ~16.5% in energy conservation equating to: 51M kWh of electricity, $10.5M worth of electricity, 35,000 tons of CO2 emissions avoided which is equal to removing nearly 6,688 cars from the road for one year. Mr. Harris also leads a current initiative to “green” Navy housing by partnering with renewable energy companies to both reduce the cost of energy to the Sailors while reducing dependence on non-renewable fuels. To date, four agreements have been made with an anticipated cost savings of $187M and up to 1.4B kWh reduction in non-renewable energy. The focus and inspiration of Harris’
career architectural achievements has been the improvement of quality of life for Service Members and their families through the built environment in which they live, providing high quality, safe and affordable homes. He is a credit to the Architectural profession and the Society of American Military Engineers and recently has been selected as a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects. Harris is a Registered Architect in Maryland and has been affiliated with SAME since 1984.

The APC congratulates Robert on this great accomplishment.

Max O. Urbahn was a prolific architect of government buildings. His firm (1946-1978) designed buildings for all three United States military services, the Coast Guard, and various Federal agencies.

In New York City, Mr. Urbahn’s most prominent structure is a 42-story skyscraper of precast concrete at 909 Third Avenue, between 54th and 55th Streets, completed in 1967, which combines the Franklin D. Roosevelt postal station with an office tower.

Mr. Urbahn served as president of the American Institute of Architects in 1972 and had been a fellow of the institute since 1966.

He was born in Burscheid, Germany on Feb. 2, 1912, and studied architecture at the University of Illinois and Yale University. His career began in 1938 at the firm of John Russell Pope, where he worked on the team that designed the National Gallery of Art and the Jefferson Memorial in Washington. Later he became the chief designer in the New York office of Holabird & Root, the prominent Chicago firm. He established his own firm, originally Reisner & Urbahn, in 1946.
Hello to the Architectural Practice Committee,

I am writing this letter on the Fourth of July. Our thoughts and thanks are with our service members for their contributions/sacrifices to our country and our public architects for their diligence in design of our military installations, public buildings and public spaces. Many Fourth of July parades culminate in public squares with the county courthouse as their backdrop. Other Americans celebrate the Fourth in our National Parks enjoying nature and the buildings imaged by our Park Service architects/consultants. A big thanks to all who help shape our public architecture and spaces!

This APC Newsletter highlights our APC Public Architects. Congratulations again to Bob Harris, FAIA, the 2015 Urbahn Medal winner and a new American Institute of Architects (AIA) Fellow. Our feature article highlights Bob’s contributions to military housing. You’ll also find an article on APC at JETC 2016 and some great technical features.

Our future APC events include an APC virtual meeting on 24 Aug 2016 (see details inside at NEXT QUARTERLY CALL). Please join us for the quarterly call and free webinar featuring a discussion moderated by me with panel members Sorab (Rob) Kermanj, R.A. BCO, NCARB, formerly an apprentice in the office of Mies Van Der Rohe, and Jerry Eben, AIA, NCARB formerly associated with the office of Max O. Urbahn. On the call we’ll hear what it was like to work with those masters.

July is the time to turn in applications to present at the 2017 AIA Convention (27-29 April 2017 in Orlando, Florida) or the 2017 American Planning Association Convention (6-9 May 2017 in New York City). While you are putting those presentation ideas together remember you can morph them to become a SAME webinar (Rad Delaney, delaneyra@cdmsmith.com), JETC topic (See SAME website) or APC Journal article (Yvonne Simon (ysimon@stoaarchitects.com) or Dave Packard (David.a.packard@usace.army.mil). Remember to include people new to SAME or APC in those presentations/articles. It is a great way to get people involved. The summer is also time to prepare fellowship packages . SAME and AIA are due in the fall (AIA in September 2017). Good luck!

In the fall of 2016 Russ Davis, the 2016 AIA President, is putting together a conference/workshop/public announcement about the contributions of Public Architecture and the importance of investment in Public Buildings. I have supplied Russ with recommended topics for the conference. If you have recommendations for topics you can send those to me and I will get those to Russ. Russ is also looking for great city/village squares in small and mid-size cities in the central part of the US and California to feature in the conference. Please send ideas.

If you have opportunities for your fellow SAME APC members, please let myself, Dave or Yvonne know. We can include your opportunities in the APC newsletter or emails. We’re happy to have you involved in with the APC. Have a great summer!

Paula Loomis
The Architectural Practice Committee will host a quarterly conference call on **Wednesday, August 24, 2016 from 12:00 – 1:15 pm EDT.** Video conference call-in number: For web connection, go to: [https://www.spiderphone.com/05698937](https://www.spiderphone.com/05698937) (This link will help connect both your browser) and dial **+1 212-812-2800** and enter **0569 8937** for phone connection.

**Time:**
- 12:00 to 13:15 EDT
- 11:00 to 12:15 CDT
- 10:00 TO 11:15 MT
- 09:00 to 10:15 PT
- 08:00 to 09:15 AKDT
- 07:00 to 08:15 HST

The agenda for the quarterly conference call includes an update on committee focus area initiatives, open discussion, and 1 AIA LU/HSW/SD credited presentation.

The AIA credited panel discussion, led by APC Chair Paula Loomis, will be given by **Sohrab (Rob) Kermanj, R.A., BCO, NCARB** and **Jerry Eben, AIA, NCARB**, titled “Learning from the Masters - Mies van der Rohe and Max Urbahn.”

Learning while sitting next to others that have accomplished much has long been an important learning style in the building professions. Apprentices learned from master craftsmen in the field. Budding architects learned from master architects. This panel discussion includes two architects who worked for Mies van der Rohe and Max O. Urbahn. The panel members will address what it was like to work for these masters. How did the masters approach design? What is applicable to today? How did they teach their interns - was there purposeful mentoring? What did these panel architects learn that still helps them today? How did the masters interact with clients - what can be learned? How were their offices organized and similarities/differences to today? Participants will also learn where these seasoned architects are in their careers and how their touch with the masters early in their careers affected their later careers.

**Learning Objectives include:**
- Learn how the master architects designed and what can be used in today’s design process.
- Learn how the master architects mentored younger designers and what techniques can be used today.
- Learn how the master architects interacted with their clients and what we can learn for today’s interactions.
- Learn how the master architects’ offices were organized and what can be applicable to architectural offices today.

**Rob Kermanj, R.A. BCO, NCARB,** is an architect for US Coast Guard in Miami. He studied Architecture and Design at Rhode Island School of Design for one year and graduated from Illinois instate of Technology in Architecture. He is a licensed architect in States of Florida, New Mexico and California. Rob’s first job as an architectural apprentice begun at the former office of Mies Van Der Rohe in Chicago. He later moved to Florida and worked at RKS Associates, Barretta and Associates and Quincy Johnson Associates before working for the Coast Guard.

He volunteers for Habitat for...
Humanity as an architect providing architectural services for house renovations in the Fort Pierce area in Florida. When not at work, Rob enjoys horseback riding in New Mexico and local flights in an airplane that he has built himself.

Jerome Leslie Eben, AIA, NCARB has a BS in architectural technology from the New York Institute of Technology. He worked for Lehman Architectural Partnership during the 1970’s and 80’s becoming a partner in 2001. During a tenure with Toys “R” Us, he was responsible for hundreds of Kids “R” Us and Babies “R” Us stores.

Mr. Eben worked with Beth Israel Medical Center as Architect and Director of Construction, where he coordinated the 1990 major expansion to the existing 1.2M sq. ft. - 550-bed hospital, including the construction of a new critical care unit constructed above the existing hospital. He is the architect of record for the ambulatory care clinic for Irvington (N.J.) General Hospital. Mr. Eben was a facilities team leader at Automatic Data Processing (ADP) where he designed expansion of a computer facility and the warehouse operations at the company headquarters along with the build out of numerous office spaces nationwide and into Canada.

His expertise encompasses forensic architecture related to construction fraud litigation, as well as planning and zoning work for his fellow New Jersey colleagues. Licensed to practice architecture in 18 States, Mr. Eben is a licensed planner and certified interior designer in New Jersey. He has been active in the AIA serving twice as president of Newark and Suburban Section; Mr. Eben has also filled every elected officer position in the statewide organization (AIANJ), including president. Nationally, he’s been a member of the Credentials Committee and is currently the AIANJ Regional Director, with a seat on the National Board of the American Institute of Architects affording him close relationships with architects around the country. He serves on the Advocacy Committee and chairs the Policy and Position sub-committee. He is active with ArchiPAC Steering Committee.

Mr. Eben is currently the Vice President and Design Committee Chairperson of the West Orange Downtown Alliance. He is in his second term on the municipality’s Planning Board. He previously served on the zoning board of adjustment. He was an adjunct instructor teaching architectural courses at Essex County College.

Mr. Eben is an “ambassador” for Deutsche Steinzeug, a German ceramic tile manufacturer. He promotes high-quality ceramics for buildings and swimming pools to fellow architects nationwide.

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe was a German-American architect. Along with Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and Frank Lloyd Wright, he is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of modern architecture. Mies, like many of his post-World War I contemporaries, sought to establish a new architectural style that could represent modern times just as Classical and Gothic did for their own eras. He created an influential twentieth-century architectural style, stated with extreme clarity and simplicity. His mature buildings made use of modern materials such as industrial steel and plate glass to define interior spaces. He strove toward an architecture with a minimal framework of structural order balanced against the implied freedom of unobstructed free-flowing open space.

He began his architectural career as an apprentice at the studio of Peter Behrens from 1908 to 1912, where he was exposed to the current design theories and to progressive German culture, working alongside Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier, who were later also involved in the development of the Bauhaus. Mies served as construction manager of the Embassy of the German Empire in Saint Petersburg under Behrens.

Mies settled in Chicago, Illinois, where he was appointed head of the architecture school at Chicago’s Armour Institute of Technology (later renamed Illinois Institute of Technology). He was commissioned to design the new buildings and master plan for the campus. All his buildings still stand, including Alumni Hall, the Chapel, and his masterpiece the S.R. Crown Hall, built as the home of IIT’s School of Architecture.
UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2016

**Webinar: Be a Super Hero at Work: Engaged, Empowered, Energized**
August 25
Online

**Post Leaders Workshop**
August 28 - August 30, 2016
Loews Don CeSar Hotel
St. Pete Beach, FL

For more information on upcoming SAME events visit:
http://www.same.org/calendar

SEPTEMBER 2016

**Project Management: Skills and Techniques to Up Your Game**
September 20
Airport Honolulu Hotel; The Hawaii Room

OCTOBER 2016

**Southeastern Tri-Regional JETS**
October 11-13
Embassy Suites North Charleston Convention Center, North Charleston, SC

**North Atlantic Industry Day**
October 24-25
Marriott Newark Liberty International Airport
Newark, NJ

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The next in the APC series of Continuing Education Webinars will be a presentation titled “Designing Federal Facilities to Enhance Organizational Creativity and Collaboration.” Today’s intergenerational, technology-equipped workforce empowers us to work collaboratively, dispersedly, and in partnership which affects organizational structure and facility design. To bolster and complement our most valuable asset, people, we must design workspaces that integrate technology, provide varied and tailored spaces, and enable creative interaction while remaining adaptable to operational and industry changes.

This 1.5-hour webinar, led by APC Vice Chair for Continuing Education, Rad Delaney, AIA, LEED AP, FSAME will feature a panel discussion which is being coordinated by Steven Williamson, Zyscovitch Architects, Miami, FL. Topics will include:

- Understanding the evolution of cross-generational work styles related to the change in the nature or work and the resultant need to design facilities to enable and empower creative and collaborative solutions;
- Comprehending the key factors in designing collaborative workspaces;
- Designing varied and tailored spaces to meet organizational mission and needs; and
- Ensuring your organization’s space is adaptable over time to meet changing needs.

We’ll send an e-mail notice as soon as a date and time are finalized. If you have questions regarding this or other APC Continuing Education opportunities, please contact Rad Delaney at delaneyra@cdmsmith.com
ENGAGING ARCHITECTS IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

At Habitat Ill in Quito, architects can begin to redefine their role in urban development

The third convening of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) will be held in October in Quito, Ecuador. Its aim is to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization and focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the 1996 Istanbul Habitat Agenda. A New Urban Agenda is urgently needed, as the current patterns of urban development are unsustainable and cities are proving unable to cope with environmental, economic, social, and political shocks and stressors.

Architects and urban planners are largely absent from this global conversation about the path of urbanization. At June’s German Habitat Forum in Berlin, the only reference made to an architect or architecture was a slide showing Le Corbusier in the 1920s next to a model of what he visualized for Paris: new high- and low-rise rectangular modern buildings to be built after razing neighborhoods of Haussmann’s 19th-century wide boulevards, parks, and unified five-story architecture. The implication was that architects are arrogant, destroying cultural heritage and city images for their own aggrandizement.

Habitat Ill and the New Urban Agenda are important to architects because these issues are important to the profession, and we can offer answers. Architects can begin their involvement in these spheres by volunteering in grassroots movements and participating in discussions on related social, financial, and cultural heritage issues. They should be guides and facilitators of creative solutions for both day-to-day and future problems in urban areas. Their technical knowledge is invaluable and could provide great assistance.

Without architects and their insight, issues that may go unaddressed are as follows:
- Gentrification, normal citizens from urban areas being driven out for upper-level incomes, a large problem that was not mentioned or discussed in Berlin
- The need for creative solutions to urban challenges of growth, sustainability and resilience
- Access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity for all
- Daily transportation and congestion issues by creating live-work-study neighborhoods
- Surfaces that are being sealed over by buildings and roads, leading to more flooding of urban areas

It should also be recommended that 20 years is much too long between these conferences. Every five years would make sense, based on all the difficulties besetting our world: changing climate, wars, resettlements based on wars, genocides, lack of access to clean water, lack of access to food, lack of control over funding for cities and their citizens, and uncontrolled building growth.

There is hope for the New Urban Agenda and the opportunities that may arise from Habitat Ill. Some of these include:
- A greater role for architects in the early stages of planning
- A greater role in the short- and long-term planning of more sustainable urban development
- The development and utilization of possible standard markers and/or benchmarks that measure the progress of a city toward achieving greater sustainable, livable, and resilient goals

These would underscore and make real the platitudes of the German Habitat Forum’s Berlin Declaration. At Habitat Ill, we can take a further step in making them a reality worldwide.
The APC liaisons help coordinate architectural programs within their local SAME post as well as coordinate shared programs between SAME and local architectural organizations.

If you are interested in becoming a SAME Architectural Liaison, please contact Daphne for more information: gurrimatutepa@gmail.com

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APC CELEBRATES JETC
Reflecting on Phoenix, Arizona

Get Inspired – Build Connections – Share Ideas.

The theme of JETC 2016 echoed throughout the event, as members of the Architectural Practice Committee joined all other SAME members in the Phoenix, Arizona sun. Our gathering took on special significance in this fourth anniversary of our committee’s founding. In the last issue of the APCQJ, JJ Tang recounted to origins of the Committee and this year he handed the reins to incoming APC Chair, Paula Loomis, FAIA, FSAME, USAF (Ret). The significance of JJ’s accomplishment in the establishment and growth of the APC was recognized by Society leadership, who honored him with the presentation of the 2016 SAME President’s Medal. The medal was presented to JJ by SAME President Jane Penny at the awards presentation held during the Society Ball. But, before that presentation, let’s take a look at the activities of the week…

ARCOSANTI: Prior to the start of JETC, APC members Rad Delaney, Dave Packard and spouse Cathy Grow, and Daphne Gurri and Jose Matute ventured north on I-79 to the Cordes Junction exit for a Sunday afternoon visit to Arcosanti, the urban laboratory of Paolo Soleri. Dave and APC member Bob Harris were among the 7,000 volunteers who have attended workshops contributing to the construction of the project since its start in 1970. Amazingly, without knowing it, Bob and Dave worked at the site in the summer of 1975. Look for an article on that experience in a future issue of the APCQJ. The project continues to progress despite the death of Mr. Soleri in 2013. Work completed to date forms a very small part of the envisioned arcology.

DIRTT: On Monday, thanks to APC member Daphne Gurri, Daphne and spouse Jose Matute along with Dave Packard and spouse Cathy Grow visited the design and production facilities of DIRTT. DIRTT Environmental Solutions facility in Phoenix houses a Green Learning Center (GLC). “DIRTT is a leading technology-driven manufacturer of highly customized interiors.” Each production facility features an integrated team of design staff and production teams who produce

ARCOSANTI – Existing structure (green) and future construction

Entrance to Arcosanti

Jose Matute and Daphne Gurri visit Arcosanti
innovative prefabricated wall systems for use in reconfigurable interior designs for offices to hospitals. Company representatives, lovingly called DIRT Bags, provide tours of the showroom, company offices, support facilities including food preparation area, and the production floor. The company prides itself on product quality and features, precision fit and finish, and adherence to strict sustainability standards. If you are ever in the vicinity of one of DIRTT’s many production facilities or GLCs, we recommend a visit.

**TALIESIN WEST:** JETC 2016 offered a great opportunity to visit the Taliesin West studio of Frank Lloyd Wright in nearby Scottsdale, Arizona. Unfortunately for many architects attending JETC, the tour was scheduled to coincide with the APC meeting, so none of the committee members could attend both events. However, APC member Dave Packard and spouse Cathy Grow took time for a visit on Friday morning. As a student of Wright, Paolo Soleri borrowed many of the philosophies of the master, especially as a laboratory for design. As one of so many students, Soleri lived and worked on site in the design and construction of the facility. The earth-formed concrete and use of indigenous materials are common to both Taliesin West and Arcosanti, allowing both to blend with the Arizona desert landscape.

**JETC 2016:** JETC 2016 was an amazing event with key note presentations by the incomparable Captain Mark Kelly, USN (Ret) and Dan McNichol (with his wonderful car, Mrs. Martin). SAME placed the responsibility for the JETC 2016 program development squarely on the shoulders of focus committees. In response, abstracts were reviewed by an APC team led by Rad Delaney, who selected nine technical sessions plus our own committee meeting for inclusion in the JETC program. These high quality presentations were moderated by APC members and provided a total of 11 AIA accredited LUs. Copies of all presentation slides are available on the JETC 2016 web page. The following titles provide evidence of the diversity and substance of the program:

- Addressing Complex National and Environmental Challenges through Collaborative Efforts (1 PDH)
- 21st Century C4ISR Facilities (1 PDH)
- Performance-Based Design: An Alternative to Prescriptive-Based Code Compliance (1 PDH)
- Future Strategic Directions in Facility Design & Construction (1 PDH)
- Resiliency in Military Planning and Design: New Technologies Enliven Old Ideas (1 PDH)
- Designing Federal Facilities to Enhance Organizational Creativity and Collaboration (1 PDH)
- Successful Historic Preservation Projects Using Design-Build Delivery (1 PDH)
- Best Practices Required for Stellar Military Design-Build Projects (1 PDH)
- Mega-Project Challenges and Solutions: Inside the STRATCOM Command and Control Facility (1 PDH)
- 2015 Urbahn Medalist and the Future of the SAME Architectural Practice Committee (2 PDH)
During this session, Bob Harris highlighted the successes of the NAVFAC housing program that earned him the 2015 Urbahn Medal. In addition, we were honored to be joined by SAME President Jane Penny, who presented JJ Tang with tokens of appreciation for his role as founder and outgoing Chair of the Architectural Practice Committee. Paula Loomis was officially handed the reins of the APC Chair.

One of the great events of JETC is the Opening Reception, held this year at the historic Corona Ranch. It is a great way to start your JETC experience with supercharged networking, food, and entertainment.

APC Outing: It has been an APC tradition to participate in a social gathering, arranged by the Urbahn Medal recipient, on Wednesday evening of JETC. Our evening began with a hosted tour of the Phoenix Art Museum, the largest art museum in the southwestern United States. The original structure, dedicated in 1959, was designed by Alden Dow with a large addition by the New York-based husband wife firm of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects in 1996. Following our tour of the museum, the APC moved to the Canyon Café in downtown Phoenix for Mexican and Southwestern food and an opportunity for APC members to once again thank JJ for his leadership and vision.
JETC 2016 Society Ball: The Society Ball Dinner and Awards Gala is an elegant event that celebrates the success of the conference and is the official recognition of achievements earned by distinguished members of the Society during the past year. The event is preceded by a reception and red carpet photo op for the glamorous and giddy. With a nod toward frivolity (special thanks to Yvonne Lee Simon) and a more serious contribution to Red Nose Day, APC members posed for a traditional photo followed by a bit of fun.

A highlight of the society Ball is the formal presentation of SAME Awards. Two awards were presented to APC members during the event. As noted earlier, Bob Harris was presented with the 2015 Urbahn Medal. In addition, JJ Tang received a prestigious President’s Medal for his role in the establishment and strong leadership which resulted in the formation of the Architectural Practice Committee. The APC congratulates both recipients with tremendous gratitude for their contributions.

Congratulations to Rad Delaney, AIA, FSAME as the recipient of the 2015 Appreciation Award from the SAME Architectural Practice Committee. Rad has been with the APC since day 1 when JJ Tang pitched the idea to the SAME Executive Director, Bob Wolfe at Kate Gregory’s Command Ceremony. Rad has been the session moderator for all APC-sponsored SAME continuing education webinars in the past three years. The sessions have all been well-attended. He has worked with speakers and SAME HQ staff to ensure the best quality continuing education sessions are provided to our members. Rad also provides members with AIA credits for quarterly web conference calls. Recently, he led the 2016 JETC selection panel for sessions in the A/E tracks of the conference. Rad’s comment...“It’s been fun!” Our comment...thanks for your great support, Rad!
This month’s Architect’s Sketch Corner is a tribute to an amazing architect, Steven Kalkman. Steve was the definition of an architect. When the APCQJ began requesting sketches he was one of the first to contribute (Volume 3, Issue 4). His passion for architecture inspired many of the young architects and interns within our firm.

Steve encouraged us all to live our lives; find happiness in what we have; and balance it with our work. He was my mentor. He guided me through the trials of my internship and helped me to emerge as a licensed architect. I will always remember the advice he gave me the last time we exchanged emails. Even during his most precious hours he found time to bestow the best advice I have yet to receive:

“Life is a balance of love, faith, work, and fun... Be your best, but do live your life in your way. Please love what you do.”

Along with this precious advice, he sent me the final sketches (right). He encouraged all architects to continue to draw by hand and explore innovative design, even within the framework of Federal/DoD architecture.

Steve kept true to his advice and loved what he did until the end.

Submit your sketches to Yvonne Lee Simon
ysimon@stoaarchitects.com

Steven B.P. Kalkman, AIA, NCARB, GGP, MSAME (1968 - 2016)
Topping many birthday, anniversary, and holiday gift lists this year are Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), or more popularly, Drones. Popular Mechanics reported that the FAA anticipated up to 1 million drones would be gifted during the 2015 holiday season. In order to protect aviation safety, the FAA and the Transportation Department are adapting regulations for UAS devices as the market changes.

Outside of the hobby industry, UAS devices are becoming widely used in the AEC (Architecture/Engineering/Construction) industry. In the field of architecture, UAS devices are starting to commonly be used for orthophotography, mapping, and fly-through video of completed works.

An orthophoto is a photographic map which has a uniform scale, allowing accurate measurements to be taken from the image. In orthophotography, a UAV is flown, making adjustments as needed as to not create any image displacements. Orthophotography taken with the help of a UAV is replacing ground-based remote-sensing methods for several reasons. Ground-based equipment can only capture what it can see while an aerial device can be flown so that the details can be seen from numerous angles and elevations. Capturing images with a UAV is quick, accurate, less invasive, and safer than more traditional ground-based methods.

Using a UAS to gather information for mapping in place of a manned aircraft or land-based surveying team also has many benefits. It can be more expedient than scheduling a manned aircraft if the company owns their own UAS and has trained staff in-house and is much quicker than a field surveying team. The cost savings is a huge benefit as well. Flying a drone is much less expensive than chartering an aircraft and because of the time savings, it is much more affordable than hiring a field team to conduct the survey from the ground.

Utilizing a UAS device to capture fly-through video coverage can be great marketing for an AEC firm and their clients. A drone can easily fly through a building, capturing dynamic imagery so that people
from all over the world can tour a space virtually. Construction companies can fly a drone over a site to document progress during construction. An end-user can use the video coverage to market a new building or space to attract customers.

UAS devices are becoming more commonly used in the AEC industry today with many benefits including time savings, cost savings, and safety. The most imperative factor is having a well-trained, experienced team member leading the operation. As the cost of drones decreases and accessibility increases, we must ensure our teams are following ever-changing regulations and keeping the safety of all in mind.

Integration of Drone Technology in Yaeger Projects

Under Yaeger Architecture’s IDIQ contract with the USACE Kansas City District, the Yaeger team is utilizing UAS to support the planning and design for the Combined Arms Center (CAC) campus renovation. This effort includes multiple historic structures located in the Fort Leavenworth Kansas National Historic Landmark District.

Working alongside Tukuh, LLC, an accomplished group of GIS professionals that specializes in a full range of spatial deliverables, including mapping, visualization, modeling and real-time data processing, the Yaeger team is integrating state-of-the-art technology to protect and revitalize buildings that are more than a century old. The following images and link show the orthophotography data which is being used to create a 3D model of the existing building. The photos above show images of the model transitioning from sparse point cloud data, dense point cloud data, and, finally, to a 3D surface model.

Part of the Yaeger team’s scope of work includes a master planning study of the Fort Leavenworth Kansas National Historic Landmark District. Since UAS can quickly cover large areas, are more versatile, and can be more accurate in capturing data using terrestrial surveying equipment, the UAS was utilized to map the district in its entirety. This information will be used by both the Yaeger team for the current task at hand and the Department of Public Works for future projects.

Finally, the Adams Toyota of Lee’s Summit, Missouri renovation is a great example of how UAS can help to collect great existing condition and marketing information. Crossland Construction’s drone pilot flew the devise around and through the facility, collecting video of the final project. This information can be used by the project team to showcase their work to people around the world without having to visit the actual site.

Yaeger is excited to use drones in our practice to enhance our work. As the popularity of UAS devises increases, their use in the AEC industry will increase as well and Yaeger is ready to embrace the new technology.

Additional photos here: http://tinyurl.com/j7n2vuj

Additional photos here: http://tinyurl.com/hugporo