



## Take a Walk with Us Down Main Street

When Garden Spot Village Retirement Community, located in New Holland, Pennsylvania, decided they were interested in updating corridor space in their main building, they turned to Beers & Hoffman, Ltd. Architects. Under the direction of GSV President and CEO Steve Lindsey, the design team came up with the Main Street theme to provide an old fashioned, small town feel.

This connecting link between the first and second phases of the building originally housed the administration area, the activities room, and a gift shop which have all been relocated within the facility. The space now features a post office, creamery, terrace room, and newsstand, as well as several staff offices. Harry Baily, a resident at Garden Spot Village feels, *"Our new Main Street brings back the village atmosphere of years past when the post office, ice cream parlor and newsstand were all part of village life"*.

The architectural details of the Creamery are geared to the 1940's, offering a unique atmosphere reminiscent of the resident's youthful days spent with friends, sipping root beer floats at the neighborhood soda fountain. In keeping with the theme, the more modern conveniences are cleverly housed in distressed beadboard cabinetry. With booths, tables and a counter, the Creamery at Millcreek is the meeting place for a number of group activities planned for the residents each month. On a daily basis, the residents find the puzzle tables in the rear of the Creamery a favorite spot. As resident Barbara Masho relates, *"My favorite place is The Creamery where there's lots of sweet treats served in an old fashioned style ice cream parlor. It's a fun place to take friends and family."*

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Success in architecture is not the design of one facility built many times, but rather the design of many facilities built one at a time.



*Take a Walk with Us Down Main Street (Cont'd)*

Across the "street" from the Creamery at Millcreek you will find several offices used by professional staff members. They have a residential façade of clapboard siding complete with front porch type details and greenery surrounded by white picket fences. The doors are often open suggesting a down home feel and encouraging interaction with the residents.

The terrace room features warm and inviting seating arrangements urging friends to meet there for refreshments and a lively game of cards, or just passing the time while reading a book or watching the birds in the courtyard outside.

The post office also offers a "step back in time" feel, with a bank of rich oak veneer mailboxes in the wall and a service window surrounded with wrought iron. The welcome center area, which also includes the newsstand, provides free coffee and various area newspapers. It is a bustling meeting place for the early-risers at Garden Spot Village. Resident Lois Crossan says, *"This is a wonderful place where you can read the newspaper, visit with friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee"*. Resident volunteers staff the Creamery at Millcreek, the post office and the welcome center.

This project was completed in conjunction with Horst Construction and Godshall Commercial Interiors, both of Lancaster, PA.



## Shonk, Beyer & Schwear Expands the Partner Team



Desiring to increase the depth of our organization, Bob Beers and Bob Hoffman invited long time employees Scott Shonk, David Beyer and Tim Schwear to join the leadership team. As Beers & Hoffman, Ltd. Shonk, Beyer, Schwear Architecture, we will continue to offer the professional and personal service you've become accustomed to over the years. Additionally, we now have three highly qualified individuals to help spread that vision.

Scott has had great success with churches, schools and life care facilities. David has had extensive experience with life care and hospital facilities. Tim is the behind the scenes partner who, as a CAD operator and project production manager, will oversee the completion of your construction documents in an accurate and timely fashion. With 42 years of experience between them, be assured that Scott, David & Tim will continue to meet the needs of our clients with expertise and knowledge.

## David Beyer Attends Hospital ER Conference

David Beyer attended the *Hospital Emergency Department Expansion Conference: Facility Redesign Strategies For a New Era*, held in Baltimore, Maryland in March of this year.

Over 1,128 Emergency Rooms have closed their doors over the last 15 years, thereby placing additional strain on those remaining open. In an effort to meet the patient's needs most efficiently, the conference speakers addressed areas where improvements should be implemented.

*Highlights from the conference included:*

- Designing an Emergency Department that works efficiently, and also meets the needs of the community
- Practical ideas to eliminate common planning mistakes
- Functional layouts for organization of staff and the public
- Understanding all the factors that contribute to the design:
  - External (those issues over which you have no control)
    - Population/Demographics
    - Social/Political Trends
    - Health Care Delivery Trends
    - Other Providers
  - Internal (those issues over which you have total or partial control)
    - Staffing Patterns
    - Treatment Protocols
    - Service Times
    - Process/Logistics
- Identifying new ideas and planning processes for the Emergency Department
- Critical Decision Units (holding beds), Fast Track (urgent care) and Pediatric ER's
- Methods to decrease average length of stay such as bedside triage and upgraded information technology
- Planning for catastrophic events

## Master Planning — "Measure Twice, Cut Once"

In the construction field, "measure twice, cut once" is the way of experience. The same applies to planning and designing your facility. Master Planning your facility from the onset allows you to "measure" your needs, now and in the future. That's why Beers & Hoffman has developed a thorough programming manual to assist Clients in assessing current requirements and anticipating future ones. The manual begins with administrative planning and general information gathering, such as timelines and code issues. Preliminary programming investigations follow and include site/landscape planning, spatial planning guidelines, mechanical and electrical preferences, and interior and exterior finishes. Sample worksheets, checklists and questionnaires are also included in the manual. As facility requirements are established we can quickly determine the needs of the client.

Preliminary plans are then presented to the client for their review and comment. This process continues until the client is satisfied with the 'Master Plan'. Clients can now choose to "cut" the Master Plan into as many phases as required to complete the project in their timeframe. We have had clients complete an entire plan in one phase and others that implement it as funds and needs progress.

Taking the extra time now to look ahead 5 to 10 years into the future saves Clients time and money. Beers & Hoffman has assisted over 100 life care, churches and commercial facilities with master planning their needs for now and the future.

## IN The Spotlight

### It's the Seventh Inning Stretch for John Houck!



Seven years. Two evenings a week. Working full time. After work, driving one and half hours, taking a three hour college course, and driving one and half hours home again. Plus being a husband and father of two young sons. This scenario may sound to most of us like a double header! Well, this describes our very own John Houck who's in the "seventh inning stretch" for his degree in Architecture from the work-study evening program at Drexel University.

As part of his last "at bat" during his final "spring training" this year, John was required to submit a thesis project. The concept that John chose expresses another area of interest in his life-sports. A minor league ballpark in Lancaster City, which is currently a hot topic in our area, was the thesis idea he selected. After he completed the schematic design and presented it to his professors for graduation credit, it was chosen as a finalist for the Pierson Prize, which is awarded annually to the top thesis project at Drexel. Congratulations John!

In the Houck household, the Philadelphia sports teams rule! When John is not hard at work you'll probably find him hard at play with his sons Corey and Brady, enthusiastically supporting the Eagles, Flyers, Sixers and the Phillies. Luckily, his wife Hope is an avid sports fan as well.

John has been with us since 1997. He's shown himself to be a team player and we're convinced he will drive in a lot of runs for our clients in the years to come. John is anxious to go the extra innings by completing his internship and becoming a registered architect contributing fresh ideas and perspectives that will help to shape the firm's future.



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IN THE WORKS

## South Lebanon Elementary School — Into the Light



South Lebanon Elementary School was in the dark....actually many of the classrooms in the original building were without exterior windows. This was just one of the reasons school officials in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District voted to move ahead with plans to renovate the building, which had not been updated since 1978.

After meetings with every teacher and staff member in the facility, Beers & Hoffman has taken all their "wish list" ideas and begun the design process for turning their dreams into a reality. This design will include additions and renovations providing natural light in all classrooms. The design will also include a new front façade and revised parking areas, which will offer a separate flow for school buses and parents dropping off their students, as well as a new kitchen, which will increase efficiency and reduce cafeteria noise. The new gymnasium will be large enough for bleacher seating to accommodate the entire student body.

These renovations and additions are projected to cost less than building a completely new school. The project is scheduled for completion by August of 2005.

## Code Watch

The Department of Health has officially adopted the 2000 Life Safety Code. This code outlines requirements for design, operation and maintenance of buildings for life safety from fire and similar emergencies. Until September of this year, the existing code will be accepted but as of October 2003 the 2000 Life Safety Code will be the only code accepted.

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