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JULY 2014

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## THE ICESTONE FACTORY IN THE FORMER BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

Wednesday June 11th members of Brooklyn AIA were treated to a conducted tour of the IceStone factory- located in Building # 12 in the former Brooklyn Navy yard. The building exterior is little changed since the time when the shipyard was turning out warships for the U.S. Navy. Whereas the interior has been totally re-purposed, converted to the manufacturing facility for the IceStone product.

Director of Marketing Sarah Corey and company President Jana Milcikova conducted the tour and explained to an audience of interested architects how the raw materials – notably the glass which comes in many different colors, sizes and shapes are blended with pigments to create striking colors and textures.

With the main ingredient being 100% recycled glass, and other core components namely portland cement and non-toxic colorizing pigments IceStone manufactures slabs for kitchen counters, tellers counters, desktops, table tops, backsplashes, and other applications for commercial and residential use. IceStone rates the performance of the product as comparable to natural stone such as marble.

Slabs are standard 35 square feet , 52 ½ inches x 96inches x 1 ¼ inch thick, weighing 570 pounds.

The EPA recently awarded IceStone the “Environmental Quality Award” and IceStone can contribute significantly to the LEED Certification for LEED projects.

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## FEATURES

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*Deadline for submission to the Pylon is the second Wednesday of each month.*

*Articles or notices may be submitted to the Editor by e-mail, fax or on disc. Handwritten articles or verbal comments are cheerfully received.*

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# LONG ISLAND SAFE DEPOSIT CO. NO.1 FRONT STREET, BROOKLYN, NY

This two story building on the corner of Fulton and Front Streets in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, was originally crowned with an elaborate parapet which proudly announced the date of the completion of the building as 1868. This was 2 years before the ground breaking for the Bridge, and 15 years would pass until the Bridge was opened in 1883. The building was erected by the Long Island Safe Deposit Company at a cost of \$150,000.00 to provide safe deposit boxes for wealthy Brooklyn families from the area.

Due to it's construction, consisting of mass produced interchangeable cast iron building parts (introduced by James Bogardus in 1848 in the first cast iron front building in Manhattan) it was known as the "Iron Clad Bank" the fact that the building was deemed fireproof must have been very reassuring to customers. Another reason was the location . At the foot of Fulton Street was the ferry to Manhattan and well heeled members of Brooklyn society must have been thankful for the convenience of having their family safe deposit vault in Brooklyn instead of across the river in Manhattan. Think of the risk of transporting jewelry or other valuables on the ferry, a conveyance open to every kind of person, surely some of them the unsavory kind !

The design is in the style of an Italian Palazzo, the architect was William Mundell.

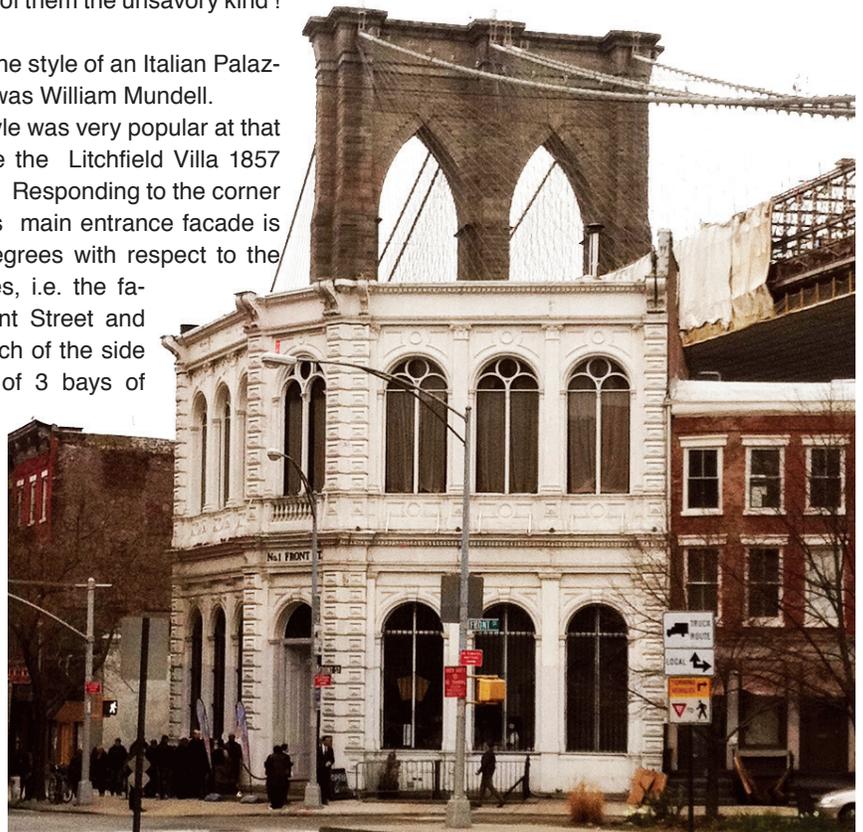
The Italianate Style was very popular at that time, for example the Litchfield Villa 1857 (see June Pylon). Responding to the corner site the building's main entrance facade is chamfered 45 degrees with respect to the other two facades, i.e. the facades along Front Street and Fulton Street. Each of the side facades consist of 3 bays of round top windows on both first and second story. The entrance facade consists of a single arch on both first and second story. The floors are separated by a flat entablature. All second story windows have a center mullion

with tracery characteristic of Venetian Gothic.

The first story windows are devoid of any tracery, which is uncharacteristic of the style, leading one to surmise that it was removed. On the second story of the entrance facade directly over the monumental doors there is a balustrade - suggesting a balcony. Another treatment typical of the Venetian style. Window arches on the first floor have pronounced keystones, while on the second floor the arches are flat. At every change in plane of the facade, quoins emphasize the cut stone style. The building is now the home of a famous brick oven pizza restaurant.

Prefabricating building parts was a natural outgrowth of the industrial revolution, the most famous example and best known among the pioneers of this type of construction being, Sir John Paxton designer of the "Crystal Palace" completed in 1851 for the Great Exhibition in London.

Other William Mundell buildings. The best known and still a vital part of the community is the 14th regiment Armory 1402 Eighth Avenue in Park Slope (completed in 1895) now home of the Park Slope Armory YMCA. **AIA**



June 18, 2014

Discussion:

As a result of the storm “Sandy”, we now have ample evidence that the Park Department’s proposal to change the existing wooden planks to a concrete surface for the Board Walk in Coney Island is probably the worst thing that they can do. The Boardwalk areas that the Parks Department changed to concrete had sand wash out to the street, while the existing untouched areas were only minimally affected by the storm.

The Chapter will strongly urge the Parks Department to maintain the existing wood plank surfacing for the Boardwalk as it was originally built. It works far better, as indicated. It looks much better and it retains the title “Boardwalk” not sidewalk.



June, 18, 2014

Hon. Eric Adams  
 Brooklyn Borough President, Borough Hall  
 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Borough President Adams:

*The Brooklyn Chapter AIA commends Council Members Chaim Deutsch and Mark Treygar for their letter to Mayor DeBlasio, which basically stated that the Reigelman Boardwalk in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, NY, which was originally constructed with a wood plank surface, is far superior to the concrete portions of the Boardwalk that the Parks Department has built. This has been clearly demonstrated by hurricane Sandy, which had a far greater adverse impact on the surrounding areas in the locations the Parks Department installed concrete surfacing.*

*The Chapter concurs with the Council Member’s assessment of the problem and joins them in urging the City to keep the wood planking, as originally built, as the best solution for the boardwalk.*

Very truly yours,  
 I. Donald Weston FAIA  
 Chair-Urban Design Committee

cc: Council Member Chaim Deutsch  
 Council Member Mark Treygar

# CITY HALL STATION TOUR

On June 5th, 2014 AIANY arranged for a private tour of the abandoned City Hall Station for the Chapter presidents and members of the local AIA chapters. Among the group was Lance Brown, FAIA, AIANY President, Rick Bell, FAIA, AIANY Executive Director, William Zambrano, AIA, AIA Queens President Elect and Jeffrey Geary, AIA, AIA Staten Island President.

The tour was led by Frank Klimasz of the MTA and proved to be well worth while. City Hall Station opened in 1904 and was closed in 1945 due to its curved platform that could not accommodate the new extended subway trains. The green and white tiled archways and dramatic skylights were designed by architects Heins & LaFarge of St. John the Divine and Rafael Guastavino. In 1995 the city made plans to restore the station and turn it into part of the New York Transit Museum.

Some other ideas for the station were thought up as well, such as a using the station as a cafe but unfortunately because the station sits directly under the front steps to city hall none of these ideas ever evolved. After the City Hall Station tour Mr. Klimasz led the tour group to an ordinary metal door within the Brooklyn Bridge station, what was behind was quite extraordinary. The door led to a tunnel that terminated with an abandoned staircase that originally led directly to the Brooklyn Bridge.

Within the tunnel a staircase led down into a labyrinth believed to be the remains of a pre-1840 fort directly beneath the Brooklyn Bridge. Within the confines of the fort a stone arch vault was discovered that was a cellar for the Pol Roger Champagne Company. Unfortunately the City Hall Station as well as the hidden passage-ways beneath the Brooklyn Bridge are not open to the public and remain dark and desolated.

- *Ida Galea, AIA Brooklyn President*



# THE ICESTONE FACTORY CONTINUED

*continued from page 1*

After touring the plant we were invited to lunch as guests of IceStone. Dal LaMagna CEO of IceStone and our host joined us at lunch and we discussed the product and responded to questions and put forth ideas about raising awareness of the product among the design community. Also Mr. LaMagna in addition to answering questions about the product explained his philosophy and dedication to creating the products in a way that is as socially responsible and sustainable as possible.

Thank you Mr. LaMagna,  
Ms Milcikova and Ms Corey

- Anthony Marchese, AIA  
vpaiabrooklyn





LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Eran Birnbaum AIA;  
Anthony Marchese AIA;  
Sarah Corey, IceStone Director of Marketing;  
Woody Blaufeux AIA;  
Ann Falutico AIA;  
Charles Diehl AIA;  
Ida Galea AIA;  
Dal LaMagna, CEO IceStone;  
Jana Milcikova, President IceStone

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# ARCHITECT OF THE CITY

In the south of France is the ancient city of Toulouse, with its magnificent 11th century Romanesque Cathedral of St. Sernin (below left). Navigating through the city with guidebook in hand, trying to locate my whereabouts, I found the street signs pictured here. The signs were mounted at about 10 feet (3 meters) off the ground, on the wall of the corner building. Reading the signs I was amazed that the street was named after an Architect. The top sign in French reads " Urbain Vitry

One can think of bridges, tunnels and highways named for engineers, or instances where the engineers name is as well known as the the structure he / she designed.

There is no better example than the Roebling family. John, Washington and Emily, their names synonymous with the Brooklyn Bridge. They deserve the honor of having a street named after them and indeed there is a Roebling Street in Brooklyn. But can someone explain why Roebling Street is in Williamsburg and not in Dumbo closer to the Brooklyn Bridge?



Street - Architect of Toulouse" - the dates refer either to his length of time on earth, or his years of service to the city? The sign below – without the confusion of the dates, written in the ancient dialect of this region, honors him with the title of "Chief Architect of the City" Does this say something about how different societies perceive the value of the architect?

## WIN A PRIZE!

If anyone knows of any street in the city named after an architect and can furnish proof of this to the satisfaction of the editor they will win one free ticket to the Cyclones baseball game outing on August 15th, only streets named for persons who were exclusively architects will be considered. The first verifiable entry wins, only one prize will be awarded.

Here in New York City are there any Streets or Avenues named for an architect?

Email your documentation to [vp@aiabrooklyn.org](mailto:vp@aiabrooklyn.org)

# LOOKING AHEAD

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are scheduled at:

Committee Meetings: 5:30 PM  
 Cocktails: 5:30 PM  
 Dinner: 6:00 PM  
 Program: 7:00 PM



General Meeting  
**Wednesday,**  
 September 17, 2014

Speaker: *TBA*

**Location:**  
 US Army Garrison  
 (Fort Hamilton Army Base)  
 Building #207



Executive Meeting  
**Wednesday,**  
 September 3, 2014

AIA learning unit credit and certificates towards NYS mandatory continuing education will be given for each program.

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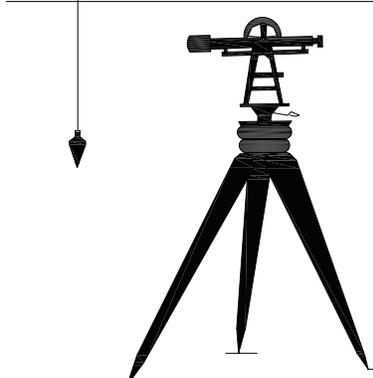
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**UPCOMING  
CHAPTER  
MEETINGS**

Sept. 17, 2014  
Oct. 15, 2014

EVENTS **CALENDAR** ACTIVITIES

**AIA BROOKLYN PRESENTS:  
2014 MIDSUMMER EVENT**

Contact Susana Honig prior to June 18th  
General Meeting for form and payment  
( [programming@aiabrooklyn.org](mailto:programming@aiabrooklyn.org) )  
Option 1 : July 19, 2014  
Option 2 : July 19 & 20, 2014

**July 19**

- Tour of Kykuit, The Rockefeller Estate
- Tour of Union Church of Pocantico
- Hills Overnight stay in Tarrytown, NY

**July 20:**

- Tour of Usonian Community
- Reisley House,  
designed by Frank Lloyd Wright

**CREATED IN BROOKLYN (photo)  
RANDY DUCHAINE**

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<http://www.bklynlibrary.org>

June 13, 2013 thru  
September 14, 2013

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October 9 -11, 2014  
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**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**  
Cscoren Sharples, AIA  
Thursday, October 9, 2014

Scott Simpson, FAIA  
Friday, October 10, 2014

Stephen Chung, AIA  
Friday, October 10, 2014

Richard Maimon, FAIA  
Saturday, October 11, 2014



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