



# AIA Eastern Oklahoma

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

## D E S I G N P E R S P E C T I V E S



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I love a good quote. The best quotes, like any written piece, speak volumes with the fewest words. So, I have been racking my head thinking of the perfect quote to begin this letter. Nothing comes to mind, so instead I'll just spit it out. I have relinquished my role as Editor of Design Perspectives and Chairperson of the Marketing Communications Committee. In fact, this issue of Design Perspectives you are reading is the first since its inception for which I've not acted as editor. The new Marketing Communications Chair and Chief Editor is Steve "The Hammer" Brown, AIA, and I must say, our small but mighty publication could not be in better hands.

I am proud to say this decision was totally mine and made without any prompting by anyone. I expect some thought I would never want to step aside. Frankly, I was as surprised by my own realization as those few to whom I first revealed my decision, except for Steve, who seemed to stop breathing when I suggested he take the reins. All I can offer by way of explanation is that the timing felt right.

And now, in the spirit of self-indulgent editorial license, here is a little history. I started Design Perspectives, originally under the name of Under Construction, in 2001 during my second year as president of the chapter. This was a few years after I created the Internet. Anyway,

for many years prior, our chapter had its own glossy four-color magazine, and it was a source of pride for us all. For a while it thrived, then for various reasons it dwindled to a mere single sheet of photocopied 11" by 17" paper folded once, and eventually died altogether. As president I felt strongly that our chapter merited a publication highlighting the work of our talented membership, and addressing issues relevant to design and the built environment. When the first issue of DP was launched it was a modest of 11" by 22" paper folded twice – barely any bigger than the emaciated single sheet newsletter we previously had. But, my pitch to the board was that this time the publication would be structured differently, thus improving its chances for longevity and good quality. A committee would be formed responsible for its development; it would be designed by a professional graphic designer to give it a distinctive architectural flair; and, it would be financially self-supporting.

Ten years later, here we are. Design Perspectives is a 12 page newsletter-format publication in all its two-color glory, run by an able, enthusiastic and focused committee, fully funded by a host of new and repeating sponsors, and giving every indication of a full and fruitful life ahead. I commend the first Marketing Communications Committee group, by the way, for sharing the risk with me. All committee members understood the gravity of such an ambitious new venture, and the chances of failure were high. Also, in the event of any corporate disaster, the first

duty of any high powered Captain of Industry is to crucify the innocent, and I needed a group of sitting ducks to take all the heat. So, I appreciate them being there for me.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank everybody who have supported and continue to support this publication. Thank you to all board members and committee members past and present who have committed their precious spare time and talents; many thanks to all our sponsors, many of them loyal and repeating supporters; and, thanks to all of you, our chapter members, friends and supporters of our profession. Your commendation, encouragement and feedback – both praising and critical – have made all the years of hard work well worth it.

Abbie Hoffman, the 60's generation writer and poet, once wrote "Sacred cows make the tastiest hamburger". That's a good quote. Perhaps equally memorable is Hoffman's departure from the Woodstock stage one hot day when the three day love and rock fest was in full swing. He was reading an interminably long poem between sets, when he was bonked in the head and off the stage with a guitar wielded by Peter Townsend. Hoffman was a smart guy, but had no sense of timing. He didn't know when to shut up and step aside, so it was done for him.

I'm stepping aside before I get bonked.

EXIT  
STAGE  
LEFT

