BICENTENNIAL HOUSE PROJECT ENGAGES ENGINEERING STUDENTS

In celebration of New Harmony’s Bicentennial in 2014, Historic New Harmony and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, sponsored a 2011 Bicentennial House Design Competition. Individuals or teams were invited to submit designs inspired by traditional Harmonist construction with emphasis on sustainable, energy-efficient, and affordable housing.

The architect who designed the winning entry in the Bicentennial House competition, Rupert Condict, is serving as adjunct faculty at the University of Southern Indiana in fall 2012. Condict is teaching a special projects engineering course and his student will complete the construction drawings which Historic New Harmony will give to the town as part of the Bicentennial House Project. Students in Dave Ellert’s TECH 351 course will focus on heating, ventilation and air conditioning specifications.

Ellert, Condict, and their students visited New Harmony recently to kick off their semester of work on the Bicentennial House Project. While in town, they learned about New Harmony’s history, focusing on Harmonist homes, and were given a mechanical tour of the Atheneum by Todd Tichenor, maintenance mechanic with Historic New Harmony.

The students and their instructors will return to New Harmony for a November town council meeting to report on their work. Once construction documents are given to the town of New Harmony, these plans will then be available to anyone seeking to build within the town limits or immediate environs.

The right elevation and street view of Rupert Condict’s Bicentennial House suggest a canopy over the side-door entrance. The canopy is the architect’s “nod” to the many contributions of Mrs. Jane Owen, often seen in New Harmony donning a wide-brimmed straw hat.
The dream of Dr. David Rice, president emeritus of the University of Southern Indiana, is taking shape in a meaningful way here in New Harmony. When the University became involved in preservation and programming in 1985, President Rice saw an opportunity for students to become immersed in New Harmony as a living, learning laboratory.

This summer, we had an unprecedented number of USI students and faculty involved in a wide range of projects and experiences. Several students worked in hospitality and education at the Atheneum – they greeted our guests from around the world and shared New Harmony’s utopian history.

This fall semester, USI undergraduate history intern Nick Bruce is working with our artifact collections’ records, and Indiana State University graduate student and USI alum Kara Westfall is working with the Center for Communal Studies to organize a symposium here in New Harmony’s bicentennial year, 2014. Dr. Eric McCloud’s biology students can be seen with nets, collecting insects in their quest to recreate Thomas Say’s entomological collection.

We anticipate communications professor Leigh Ann Howard’s inaugural New Harmony-New Lanark Field School, which will put undergraduates in residence here at points during a semester program of study. These students also will live in Scotland and be involved with New Lanark, our sister-site. The first step in a fully rounded exchange with Scotland began this summer with a six week Global Engagement internship at New Lanark World Heritage Site for history major Catherine Carver, who reported a life-changing experience there.

New Harmony has always served as a place of ideas, quests, searches, and discovery. Historic New Harmony is so pleased to share this treasure with many students whose lives will surely be enriched here.
A hot topic in the museum field is finding ways to connect museums with technology. Ball State University students have accomplished this through a cutting-edge project that blends technology with history, and uses New Harmony as the backdrop.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, over 30 Ball State students worked on an interdisciplinary project called “Transmedia Indiana.” Their goal was to tell Indiana’s story, particularly New Harmony’s, through different media including an eBook and several web sites.

They built a fictional story, similar to *The Da Vinci Code*, based on artifacts from the Indiana State Museum and real locations in Indiana. The plot involves a caper throughout the state, and readers can experience the story via an interactive eBook which contains web sites, videos, sound effects, and podcasts that lead to clues.

The students also used historical events as the framework for creating a series of web sites about New Harmony. They visited New Harmony multiple times to conduct research about the town’s history, and to take photographs and videos of buildings and sites in town.

Check out these web sites for more information, and to view some of their work:

**Transmedia Indiana project:**
www.transmediaindiana.com

**New Harmony:**
www.transmediaindiana.com/newharmony/

**Golden Troupe:**
www.transmediaindiana.com/thegoldentroupe/

**Working Men’s Institute:**
www.transmediaindiana.com/workingmens/

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**Suite Harmonic: A Civil War Novel of Rediscovery** by Emily Meier offers insight into the lives of New Harmony soldiers during the Civil War, and an excavation of New Harmony town life during the war period. Based on real letters and documents, *Suite Harmonic* tells the story of actual people—descendants of Harmonists and Owenites, as well as newcomers with their own aspirations.

To learn more about *Suite Harmonic*, go to www.emilymeier.com. Under the Favorites tab, there is a section called Suite Harmonic Connections that includes material from the actual war letters that shape the book’s story.

A number of imprints and manuscripts from the Harmony Society, among them Gertrude Rapp’s “Liederbuch,” and David Lenz’s “Gesangbuch,” are part of the Henry S. Borneman Pennsylvania German Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will present two distinct shows this fall. The first exhibit, from painter Armin Mühsam, is entitled “Intervention Landscapes” and will run from October 6 through November 11, 2012. Mühsam’s paintings focus on the ever-changing modern landscape and the addition of technology to natural organic settings.

Armin Mühsam is an associate professor of Art at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. He received his MFA in painting from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana in 1997. More information about his work can be found on his web site, www.freshrod.com/armin/armin.html.

Fiber artist Annica Cuppetelli will present “Threaded Interface” from November 17 through December 23, 2012. Cuppetelli’s work explores the overlapping boundaries that exist between art, fashion, architecture, and design, while forming a dialogue between disciplines.

Annica Cuppetelli received her MFA in fiber from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in 2008. More information about Cuppetelli’s work can be found on her website at annicacuppetelli.com/home.html.

An opening reception for “Threaded Interface” will be held at the Gallery from 4 to 7 p.m. on November 17. During the reception Cuppetelli will speak about her work and will be available to answer questions.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street, in the heart of downtown New Harmony. For information: 812/682-3156; www.usi.edu/nhgallery.
COMMUNITY HOUSE NO. 2: CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF INNOVATION WITH A GRAND RE-OPENING

The grand re-opening of Community House No. 2 marked the first time the exhibits and the structure have received extensive attention since the 1960s. Invited members of the press enjoyed a preview party on September 28.

A public open house to celebrate the re-opening was held on September 30. Guests had the opportunity to peruse the new exhibits and explore the fresh enhancements to the building – and to enjoy games, music, and refreshments.

The renovations were inspired by the previous functions of the structure. The Harmonists, a religious utopian sect from Germany, constructed Community House No. 2 for communal living in 1822. Three years later, the building was integrated into the Owen-Maclure utopian community and functioned as a school and living quarters for students and teachers.

The print shop (1850s-1930s) has returned to its former place of business on the third floor. Original printing equipment is displayed, along with copies of 19th century posters that were printed in the shop.

Upcoming renovation phases will result in a classroom/multipurpose space with wireless Internet access and many technology-friendly features which will facilitate community workshops, meetings, and distance learning opportunities.

Historic New Harmony’s staff is thrilled to have Community House No. 2 back on the regular tour route and invites you to join us in celebrating this grand building with a visit.

HISTORIC NEW HARMONY WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO OUR ADVISORY BOARD

■ Erik Arneberg, the grandson of Jane Blaffer Owen, recently completed renovation on a house in New Harmony, where he and his family currently reside. He is interested in continuing his grandmother’s vision of New Harmony and believes that one way to do that is to be a member of the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board.

■ David Campbell is a resident of New Harmony and president of New Harmony Town Council. Campbell is interested in keeping New Harmony a viable place for people to live in and to visit.

■ Jeremy Efroymson is vice-chair of the Efroymson Family Fund. He is a philanthropist and is interested in contemporary art. He teaches in the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis School of Physical Education and Tourism Management. He has spent much time in New Harmony visiting the art galleries, especially the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, and he cares about New Harmony’s future.

■ John Grizzell is a returning board member and son of former board member Jane Grizzell. He operates an advertising company in St. Louis, Missouri.

■ Jingle Igleheart Hagey is a supporter of many organizations in the Evansville area, and sister of former board member Wendy Igleheart Walker. She brings her enthusiasm and knowledge of non-profits to the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board.

■ Beth Sweeney is a member of the Channel 14 News team in Evansville. Beth has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and America Reads. Sweeney was married in New Harmony and wants New Harmony to prosper.

■ Wendy Turner-Frey is an associate professor of social work at the University of Southern Indiana, and an amateur artist and designer. Turner-Frey is interested in New Harmony and especially the Summer Hat Luncheon. She will be chairing the event this year.

■ Karen Walker, a resident of New Harmony, serves on the New Harmony Town Council and is a former Historic New Harmony board member. She brings her love of New Harmony and her public relations expertise to the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board.
Chairman’s Corner
by Scott Wylie

Preservation and stewardship are important aspects of the work of Historic New Harmony and each of you have been part of those efforts. We do this work jointly to continue the important dialogue begun in New Harmony nearly 200 years ago. Those early efforts to create intentional communities challenged conventional ideas of the time involving equality, education, arts and culture, and commerce. We are still searching for what makes a better community even in our time. Your support, both financially and through volunteerism, facilitates this 200-year-long dialogue through student and faculty engagement projects in and around New Harmony. It enables planning for our upcoming bicentennial celebrations, lectures, and installations. And, perhaps most exciting, it will ensure that new exhibits throughout the Atheneum interpret our historic community’s ideas to new generations of visitors. Thank you.
**OCTOBER**

6–Nov. 11 Armin Mühssam  
*Intervention Landscapes*  
New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

18  
*Just Below the Surface: A Conservationist Looks at Indiana’s Rivers*—talk by Allen Pursell, Working Men’s Institute

**NOVEMBER**

1–Dec. 30   
Atheneum Open Daily 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; Walking Tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Weekends

17–Dec. 23 Annica Cuppetelli  
*Threaded Interface*  
New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

17  
Fall Art and Antiques Stroll

22  
Thanksgiving Day; Atheneum Closed

**DECEMBER**

1 -2 Christmas in New Harmony

8  
Holiday Ball, Thrall’s Opera House

24, 25, 31 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve; Atheneum closed

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**JANUARY 2013**

1  
New Year’s Day; Atheneum closed

2–31  
Atheneum Open Daily 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

**FEBRUARY**

7  
Historic New Harmony Advisory Board Meeting

9–Mar. 10 Teresa Paschke, *Textiles*  
New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

15  
Harmoniefest

**MARCH**

1–14  
Atheneum Open Daily 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

15  
Walking Tours offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. through December

16–May 8 Amy Brier, *Roliqueries*  
New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

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For information regarding these and many other events, visit [www.usi.edu/hnh](http://www.usi.edu/hnh).