



# BUILDING BLOCKS

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Welcome to another issue of Building Blocks and our connection to you on the news and events of the Mills Group. We are finding the schedule for 2011 kicking off with many new residential and commercial projects.

You will find in this issue the completed 911 Center in Kingwood, WV and a look back at 2010.

Come see us in person March 11th and 12th at the North Central West Virginia Home Builders Home Show 2011 at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

We look forward to your comments and input with our newsletter.

Michael J. Mills

## PROJECT PROFILE

### Preston County 911/OEM, Kingwood WV Ribbon Cutting Ceremony....



On December 16th 2010 the Mills Group, the Preston County Commission, The Preston Office of Emergency Management, and City Construction celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new building for the Preston County Office of Emergency and 911 Call Center. The execution of this project was a collaboration between the owners, design team, and ultimately the contractor.

Planned with an eye towards both security and environmentally sound construction, the resulting structure balances tested methods with an interesting and aesthetically pleasing design. The 6,200 square foot, single story structure will make abundant use of precast concrete sandwich panels. Such implementation will provide savings to the client in the form of reduced construction costs and energy bills. Designs call for a mix of fixed and operable windows that will benefit occupants with natural ventilation and sufficient day lighting to all parts of the facility. State of the art technologies will finish the building's interior with a professional look that also avoids 'sick' building syndrome due to conscious interior décor selections combined with natural light and ventilation.

This is the first project slated for completion on the Preston County Farm redevelopment. It will act as an example of design and as a catalyst for further development of Preston County. Additionally, this is the first new building that the county has constructed since the courthouse in 1934.

Being greenfield development, the building is designed to meet LEED Silver standards, with careful consideration for siting, material selection, and construction waste management. Pre-cast concrete panels allow for expedient construction that will provide a new accommodation building for Preston County 911/OEM at a total project cost of \$2.2 million.



## A Glance Back at 2010.....

In November of 2010 Mills Group celebrated five years in business. This is a milestone that we are all proud of, especially in the challenging economic times that our country has seen, which in many regions of the country has caused the demise of some of the most talented architecture firms.

2010 was a busy year for the firm with 59 new projects on the boards and 109 project pursuits. We had 32 active preservation projects, 14 active residential projects, 7 active commercial projects, and 3 active public projects to add to our portfolio.

Some major firm milestones in 2010.

- December 16<sup>th</sup>, the firm celebrated the opening of the \$2.2 million Preston County Office of Emergency Management and 911 Call Center .
- December 9<sup>th</sup> the firm was notified that it was selected, partnering with EYP as one of eight firms to serve West Virginia University in an open end, five year term contract that could be renewable for an additional five years. This was a major achievement since the university received 60 submissions and interviewed 18 of the best firms in the nation.
- In August, ground was broken for the Fletcher residence in Morgantown.
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, the firm competed against two other local firms for the Morgantown Marketplace and on the following day the City awarded this visible community project to Mills Group.
- September 24<sup>th</sup>, the historic Metropolitan Theater opened its doors after 13 months of preservation, restoration, and building upgrades. Mills Group, in collaboration with David Kemnitzer Architect of Shepherdstown completed over ten distinct scopes ranging from back stage improvements to plaster restoration and decorative painting.



- July 9<sup>th</sup>, the first WV Living Marketplace Store opened at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, showcasing the Mills Group's retail design and layout.



- The Mills Group secured the fifth consecutive contract award of the Grant Monitoring for the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.
- Mills Group donated financial support and professional expertise to many good causes that included the St. Jukes Children's Hospital, Mon County Habitat for Humanity, the Woodburn Neighborhood Association, Arthurdale Heritage Inc, Mon County Fair, Fairmont State AIAS and Rotary International to name just a few.
- The firm was proud to participate in the St. Jude Golf Classic at Lakeview Golf Resort & Spa on October 12, 2010.



- The office hosted our third Main Street Arts Walk.
- The firm mentored five interns in addition to a UVA senior externship.
- The office saw some upgrades to the interior with new work station partitioning and technology upgrades.
- The 1952 Ford company truck underwent its first phase of restoration and debuted in the 2010 County Fair parade.



The firm begins 2011 with a talented staff and loyal clients that have allowed the firm to be their trusted advisor. We continue to improve our ability to serve of clients through continuing education, talented staff, additional office resources and professional service. One new tool for the firm is utilizing software for project management and resource allocation. Archi-Office creates a working project portal for the staff.

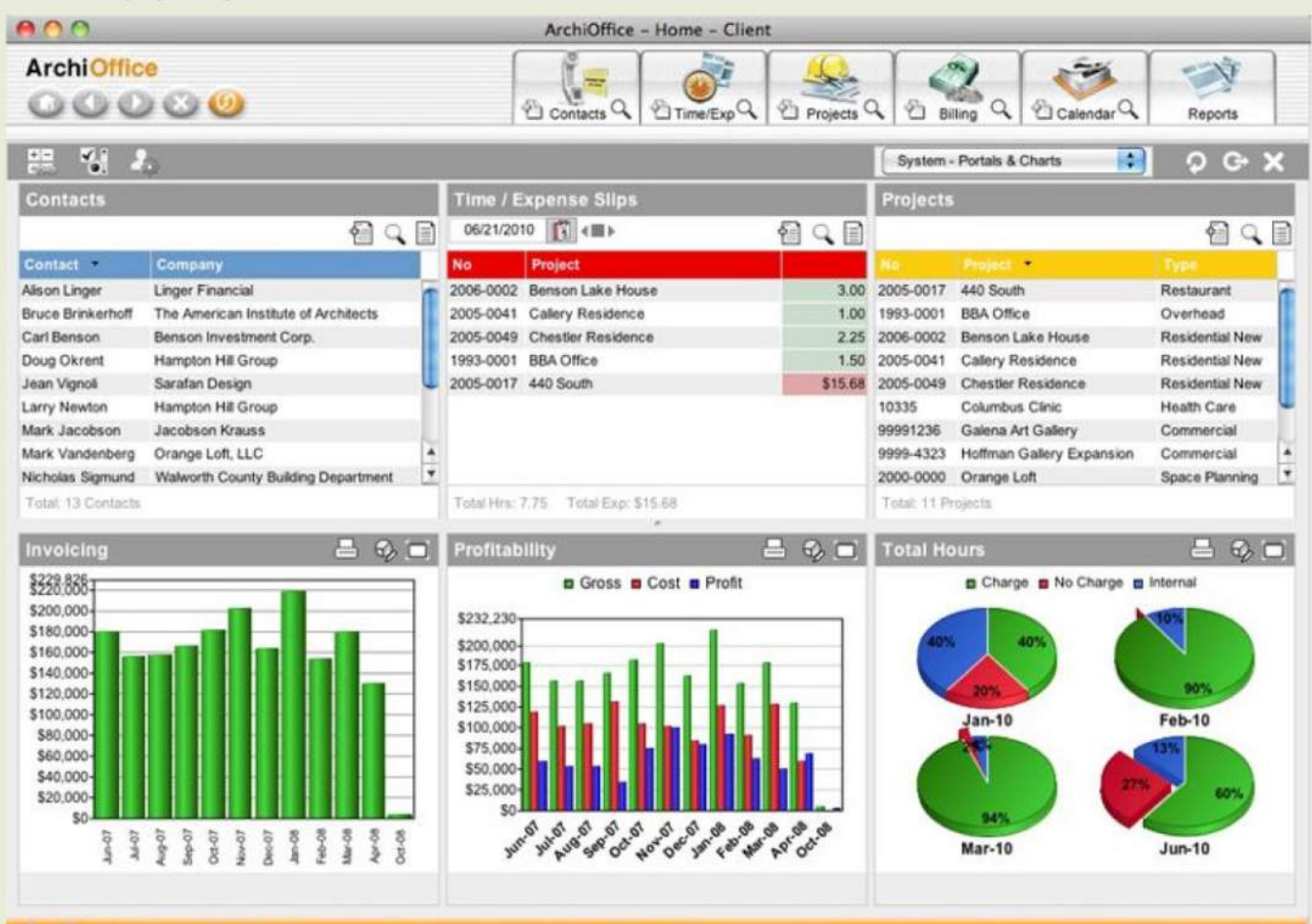
## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

### The Business of Architecture...

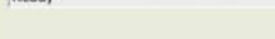
The field of architecture is unlike any other business adventure; the professionals in this field are challenged to be creative problem solvers, stewards of health-safety-welfare, conscious of the aesthetic, and a dozen other responsibilities all while being profitable.

"ArchiOffice is a comprehensive, intuitive and user-friendly project management software and solution designed specifically for architecture and design firms. With robust tools such as Contact and Project Management, Document Management, Time and Expense Tracking, Billing, Calendaring and Reporting, ArchiOffice is a central portal for nearly all the functions necessary to run a firm." <http://www.archioffice.com>

The software allows for up to date information on projects and the overall business. Information is power in making business decisions to aid the staff and our clients to achieve successful project results. We are always looking to better our practice and succeed in executing quality work.



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