Issue 15
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Mills Group Newsletter

BUILDING BLOCKS

In This Issue..

Jones Place
Reduce Reuse Resample
NCWV Home Show 2011
AIAWV 2011 Design Awards

Find us on Facebook

Quick Links

The Mills Group Website
The Firm and Staff Profile
Newsletter Archives
Other Projects
Long Vincent Vanier

Mills Group in the News
Morgantown Monitor/Dominion Post
Preston County 911 - Nearly Done
Preston County 911 Center On Track

Welcome to another issue of Building Blocks and our connection to you on the news and events of the Mills Group.

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

Michael J. Mills

PROJECT PROFILE

Jones Place....

Jones Place will uniquely set atop steep Sunnyside terrain, capturing the City of Morgantown and West Virginia University's growth since 1867, overlooking the Monongahela River and iconic Woodburn Hall. A total of (11) four-bedroom units will be walkable to the downtown campus and business district, further integrating the commercial and residential districts. The overlooking site served the theme of the architectural design, which provides ample views from within the building and further opportunity to overlook metropolitan Morgantown with cantilevered decks on the two uppermost floors of each unit. Furthermore, the project has a site line from the city's northbound entrance on Don Knotts Boulevard. Large windows, transoms, and glass doors on the south façade will also provide the units with ample natural daylighting and solar heat gain in the region's heating dominated climate. Both shed and traditional dormers pay homage to the vernacular architecture of the City's urban residential development; a poured concrete foundation with a wood structure will be clad in fiber cement siding, which will make this a durable structure in Morgantown's revitalizing Sunnyside district. Leasing for Fall 2011 occupancy is underway and excavation has begun for summer construction.

Reduce Reuse Resample Project 2011....

The Mills Group in collaboration with Arts Monongahela hosted the first annual ReSAMPLE Project on Earth Day - Friday April 22, 2011. Many times design firms get overwhelmed and bogged down with expired product material books and samples. It is important for us as designers to set a positive example for what to do with these once they have lived their useful life in our firms. Recycling is one option, however, we proposed a different solution: make them easily accessible to the people that would love to have them: art educators struggling with budget cuts to fund class projects: local artists in need of creative materials: students to feed their growing minds: and the community at large. We worked together to UPCYCLE these items and give them another life in their current form. It was a great success and we would like to thank the design firms that contributed to the wonderful outcome to support the creative community here in Morgantown. Together we upcycled 2,200 pounds of material! Pat yourselves on the back and we look forward to an even better response next Earth Day 2012. Also keep checking in for news on an upcoming art show in result to the materials upcycled in this event!

WBOY-Artist Benefit from Resample Event in Morgantown
Dominion Post Article

NCWV Home Builders Association Home Show 2011.....

For the second year in a row Mills Group participated in the Morgantown Home Show, held March 11, 12 and 13 at the Mylan Park Events Center. The event was well attended by professional exhibitors in the building industry as well as members of the greater Morgantown community.

Such event was an opportunity for Mills Group to showcase its recent projects in architecture, planning, and preservation, both in the commercial and residential sectors. Active participation created an opportunity to communicate with members of the building community regarding current trends and issues in the industry, which was most beneficial as the firm progresses in 2011.

West Virginia Sustainability Fair at Davis & Elkins College

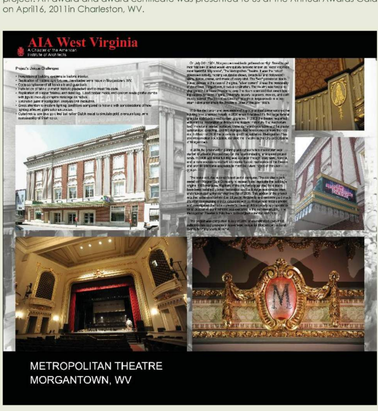
On April 16th Mills Group was invited to represent the building industry at the Fifth Annual West Virginia Sustainability Fair, held at Davis and Elkins College. Local examples of Mills Group preservation projects, including the historic Delmonte Hotel and The Kump House, were used as case studies to engage the regional attendance and college community with the local activities. Ongoing partnership with the Randolph County Housing Authority was also highlighted, as it has yielded the opportunity for Mills Group to model energy consumption in a greenfield development site. The project has in turn yielded the importance of natural energy sources such as the sun and wind in their interaction with site placement and orientation-both key elements of historic design that become uncovered in preservation projects.

Throughout Saturday April 16, the firm administered an exhibit display that was situated just inside the Hallehurst Mansion Library. Such display captured elements of sustainable design that were incorporated into recent Mills Group projects; it was a great opportunity for the firm to informally educate the attendees on the importance of sustainable design, as well as its evolving history.

More information regarding this event can be found at:http://sustainablelivingforwv.org/

AIA West Virginia 2011 Design Awards Program...

We are proud to announce that Mills Group, along with David Kemnitzer, AIA, was awarded a Preservation Merit Award for Achievement in Architecture for the Metropolitan Theatre project. An award and award certificate was presented to us at the Annual Awards Gala on April16, 2011in Charleston, WV.



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