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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 look forward to your comments and input on our newsletter.

Michael J. Mills

PROJECT PROFILE

Stewartstown Road Office Building-Morgantown, WV



A small commercial office building is due to be constructed at the intersection of Stewartstown Road and West Run Road. This 10,000 square foot structure will provide two levels of general office space with the flexibility to accommodate several tenants. Given a desire by the owner to blend the look of this new structure with its rural surroundings and the rolling topography of the site, the Mills Group found forms and materials which complement those found on the nearby homes and WVU farms. A blend of modern and established forms came together to create a unique look which is a staple of this client.

Biola Residence-Elkins, WV



The Mills Group was contacted by Scott and Johanna Biola in August of 2012 to design a private residence within the Wees Historic District of Elkins, WV. The new home is a two and a half story Victorian design, which will fit within the character of the existing neighborhood. The Biola's have great pride in their neighborhood and community, wanting to maintain the historic character by creating a home that truly fits within the context of its surroundings. Along with these criteria, the clients also placed sustainability as a priority by finding ways to use renewable resources to enhance the design.

The Mills Group designed a floor plan that accommodates their growing family as well as current and future needs with a 5 bedroom, 3 bath residence and detached two car garage.

The Mills Group is providing Residential Design, Interior Design, and Construction Observation services.

WVU Solar Decathlon Ground Breaking



On April 18, 2013, the WVU Solar Decathlon Team held their house groundbreaking ceremony at its building site near the employee parking lot of the student recreation center. The house is being built in preparation for the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, held in October 2013. This decathlon asks collegiate teams across the country to design, build, and operate a solar-powered house that is cost effective, energy efficient, and aesthetic. Throughout the project, Ryan Hess, Director of Sustainable Design for the Mills Group has enjoyed giving back to his alma mater. As a senior engineering student, he was a group leader for a steel bridge in a design/build competition that was also held in California. That particular project had many parallels with the Solar Decathlon project, as it was centered on student-driven design utilizing the best industry software, in house fabrication (which was a learning experience), and solving transportation logistic challenges to assure timely delivery for build day. Ryan looks forward to his continued support and review of the project through the end of the competition in October 2013."



[WV Living Article - Breaking New Ground](#)

Morgantown Market Place Solar Ribbon Cutting

On Thursday April 18th, Mills Group was proud to attend the ribbon cutting celebration for the installation of a 3.12 kW solar array and electric car charging station at the Morgantown Market Place. Since conceptual design, Mills Group, the design team, and stakeholders saw the sun as an important theme to the project, both for harnessing its energy and also using the building as a shading device to keep the market and the parking lot cooler in the warmer months. For the Farmers' Market in particular, this solar panel installation tells a great story-without the sun, the crops would not be at the market each Saturday morning. Now, it will be utilized to offset energy costs for lighting the structure at night to provide a safe environment for the parking lot.



Aaron Wark from The Mountain Institute says "This project, which stands on the shoulders of all the hard work Green Team members have been doing over the years, represents a significant step in our efforts to make Morgantown more Green. The 3.12 kW system consists of 12 solar panels; an electric vehicle charger will provide nearly half of the structure's electricity demand while also saving the city money."



Lumion 3-D



Mills Group has recently acquired the cutting-edge software, Lumion 3D, for creating fully HD videos and images of our projects. Lumion uses a real-time animation engine similar to those found in modern video games, allowing us to create complex animations with high quality vegetation, people, weather conditions, and camera effects in a fraction of the time as standard animation tools. Check out the projects we have used this software on so far, and be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel. Click on title to watch videos.

Waynesburg Pool House House Addition



Morgantown Pool



Recent Presentations



On Friday April 18th Michael Mills presented to the 2013 class of Leadership West Virginia on the campus of American Public University in Charles Town. The topic of the talk was "The Importance of Historic Preservation in Our West Virginia Communities". The talk sparked a great dialog with the 50 member class that represented a range of professional backgrounds from architectural photographer to lawyer and from and CVB director to banker. It is our belief, at the Mills Group that we need to educate the public on the importance of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at every opportunity.

www.leadershipwv.org

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