



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Spring 2009



Greener Pittsburgh

In March, IMI’s “Embracing Change in the Tile Industry” program showed stakeholders how tile fits into a green strategy. That gave designers “*a more holistic view,*” says Pittsburgh architect Richard King, NCIDQ of Radelet McCarthy Polletta, who appreciated hearing from all stakeholders. “*It’s a team process, and this seminar highlighted that,*” he says. IMI life cycle cost data also helps to show major owners the advantages of masonry products, such as ceramic tile (pictured left) versus vinyl.

The next month, IMI showed architects at AIA Build Pittsburgh how they can improve building performance with energy efficient masonry cavity walls.

Pittsburgh is only the 22nd largest American city, but, thanks to early acceptance of sustainable building practices, it is in the top ten for LEED-certified buildings. IMI works closely with Pittsburgh architects and owners to make masonry part of those projects, and with contractors to best position them for the work.

IMI will unveil the Sustainable Masonry Certification Program for masonry contractors and their employees on June 22. For more information go to www.imiweb.org/greenmasonry.

IMI’s Contractor College curriculum includes sustainable masonry courses to keep area contractors at the hub of the trend. IMI is also an Educational Program Provider of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), which enabled it to collaborate on a unique contractor training and education program.



Conference for Catholic Facility Management

When Catholic facility managers from all across the nation convened in Pittsburgh this April, IMI was there. Architect A. Richard Glance, who has worked on many of the city’s important church projects, including St. Paul’s Cathedral, says that IMI definitely made an impression. “*I can’t think of another organization that provides as much information for practicing architects as IMI,*” says Glance. “*You provide all the necessary technical information we need on a daily basis.*”

The restoration of St. Paul’s Cathedral by Mariani & Richards captured a 2007 Golden Trowel Award (pictured left).





Grout Certification for MARSA

The IMI Grout Certification program lets BAC contractors expand their portfolios for reinforced masonry construction. In March, Pittsburgh contractor MARSA, Inc. sent foremen for a custom session that included the latest information on grouting and reinforcing, plus demonstrations of cube mold samples and slump tests.

"Everyone learned something and now understand the importance of doing it correctly. Thank you for your time, energy and expertise," says MARSA Secretary-Treasurer/Project Manager Dan Scabillonni.



Jahn Certification

IMI is one of the few manufacturer-certified trainers in the U.S. for Jahn restoration materials, which are used on stone, brick, marble and terra cotta.

Local 9 PA members like Neal Mehrenberg (pictured left) boost their marketability, and that of their contractors, by getting certified at the Flynn Center.



OSHA Train-the-Trainer Classes

Cost cutting and safety concerns are driving demand for OSHA training. IMI helps locals provide it to members efficiently, through OSHA 500 "Train-the-Trainer" courses at The Flynn Center. The course qualifies instructors to teach OSHA 10 and 30.

"It doesn't cost anything, so why not do it?" says Joseph Lester from Johnstown, who attended in May, along with Reid Elko from Local 9, (pictured left).



2009 Western Pennsylvania Golden Trowel Awards

Entry information is being distributed. The preliminary entry deadline is July 10, 2009 and the completed entry deadline is August 14, 2009. The presentation of awards will take place in Mid-November. For more information about the competition including past winners, including CopperFalls 2007 Golden Trowel Grand Award winner by Harris Masonry, Inc. (pictured left) and an entry form for this year go to: www.imiweb.org/goldentrowel.

Johnstown Training Day

Local 9 members from the Johnstown area enjoyed a custom IMI Craftworker Training Day this March. Topics included grout certification, and flashing upgrade training, both of which help distinguish BAC members and contractors. *Contractors interested in grout or flashing training should contact Mary Linn Theis at 724/776-1930 or mtheis@imiweb.org.*

