

A Christmas Lesson for All Seasons

When darkness comes, glimmers of hope mean the world to us. The Moravians, a lesser known, communally focused sect of Christians, light beeswax candles as a symbol of hope during the Christmas Eve love feast. Lights are dimmed. Candles beam. A child sings the traditional Morning Star song, perched up in front of the congregation, who, like adoring parents, respond to the lyrics. Sopranos and altos soar with tenors and basses: "Fill my heart with light divine". Finally, volunteers carry trays of burning candles into the space. The sight is spectacular, and the story of the Moravian Christmas candle is even more inspiring.

The 1700s in Germany, and throughout the world, were filled with chaos. Religious and political strife ran free. One Christmas, tragedy struck Gnadenuetten. People were massacred, farms burned. It seemed impossible to remember that a religious holiday had happened at all. Yet, as they saw it, the candles brought purity to an otherwise polluted place. That's because the Moravians regarded beeswax as the purest of all animal or vegetable waxes, according to Moravian Church in North America.



photo credit: <https://pixabay.com/en/candle-tealight-hand-church-light-2738529/com>

The candle service that evolved spread across the Atlantic. Its first recorded instance in the New World was in 1756, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania -- now known as the Christmas City. Here, Bishop Peter Boehler felt moved by the experience after his return from Europe where

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Archi-fact:

There are about 120 Opera Houses in the United States of America. A country with about 320 million citizens. The most concentration of Opera Houses per capita is in Germany. Where there are about 100 Opera Houses. Germany has only 83 million people. About one quarter the population of the United States. In New York, Operas cost millions of dollars to produce.

Iconic Building Of The

Louvre, Paris, France



Photo credit: <https://pixabay.com/en/pyramid-louvre-paris-france-441647/>

photos credite: <https://pixabay.com/en/louvre-pyramid-paris->

The Great Louvre is the national museum and art gallery of France. American architect I.M. Pei renovated the Paris landmark in the 1980s and '90s. Yet it has a rich history that precedes him by 700 years. Before housing the Mona Lisa, it was built as a fortress and royal residence in the 12th century. When Louis XIV, the Sun King, moved to Versailles in the late 17th century, artists moved in. It became a hub for the already booming art world. After the French Revolution, it became a public museum. At the time, revealing quality artwork to the public was a shocking idea.

In 1983, Pei was summoned by French president Francois Mitterand to modernize the Louvre. The building ached for a renewal. The architect brainstormed in secret for four months. When inspiration struck, he put pen to paper. The renovation incorporated a new entrance, in addition to a network of rooms beneath the central courtyards -- easy for visitors to navigate. It added yet another scandal, the glass pyramid. The New York Times deemed it a "gigantic, ruinous gadget" amidst the city is beloved baroque architecture. Yet the glass is so clear that when you look through on the other side, you see the historic buildings in all their glory. The museum opened in 1989, and in 2017, won the AIA Twenty-Five Year Award.

Sources: Architect Magazine, Architectural Digest, Britannica

Photo credit:
<https://pixabay.com/en/paris-louvre-france-museum-1585182/>



Archi-Quote

The world of opera has blessed us with romantic, emotional, poetic and thoroughly gorgeous lines: According to classicfm.com the two most poetic and gorgeous quote from any opera is...

"Tell him, silvery moon, that I am embracing him. For at least momentarily let him recall of dreaming of me." Dvorak, Rusalka.

And of course...

"I speak of love awake I speak of love in my dreams, To the water, the shadows, the mountains, To the flowers, the grass, the fountains." Mozart, The Marriage of Figaro.

A Christmas Lesson for All Seasons

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photo credit: <https://pixabay.com/en/milky-way-galaxy-night-sky-stars-984050/>

there was so little apparent hope. That night was long to be remembered as a bright hour in the midst of a dark time. Voices sang to celebrate the holiday, even in times of peril. More than 250 candles shone through the darkness as they sang the closing hymn.

Their hearts burned brightly; and a few years later, the Moravian children of North Carolina skipped home with candles, still burning, to light their Christmas trees. Now people of all ages engage in the tradition. Each church

determines the size of the candle and how it is trimmed. Yet the commonality is in the message -- hope. The Moravian Christmas candle marks the start of a new chapter. It is a symbol of light's power to overcome the darkness..

Archi-Speak

Can you find all these parts of a light bulb?

Filament	Support	Insulator	Wires	Mount										
Q	H	I	A	Q	I	Z	B	J	B	Y	Z	B	G	D
Z	D	N	E	R	T	T	K	W	A	J	E	K	O	Z
P	Z	S	E	K	Z	L	F	L	W	U	H	V	X	S
P	S	U	H	U	E	E	S	A	C	I	Q	V	W	C
F	I	L	A	M	E	N	T	L	H	P	I	V	H	T
F	M	A	L	N	L	B	X	K	W	W	F	G	B	P
I	R	T	U	E	Q	I	A	U	W	F	Z	U	S	V
F	T	I	W	K	T	Q	W	A	L	Q	V	O	A	G
R	H	O	K	I	D	Y	I	M	O	U	N	T	D	Q
W	U	N	G	Q	U	X	R	Z	C	F	A	O	I	N
P	T	Y	J	A	H	K	E	H	T	I	O	C	M	Q
Q	X	J	Y	C	E	F	S	W	A	H	Q	H	Z	M
M	O	D	Z	T	L	O	H	L	N	Q	Q	Y	X	M
T	O	M	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	H	U	P	G	L
E	N	X	N	I	E	M	O	H	D	F	U	J	I	Y

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month's question is...**

There seems to be mice in my newly refurbished kitchen. Where are they coming from?

Jack N.

Jack,

You need to fill any and all holes in the walls, floor and ceiling. Where copper water pipes and heating pipes come through the floor or wall stuff the space left with copper scrubbing pads. Clean everything and get some spearmint oil and put VERY small drops around all openings. This is a natural rodent repellent.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com, and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

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About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

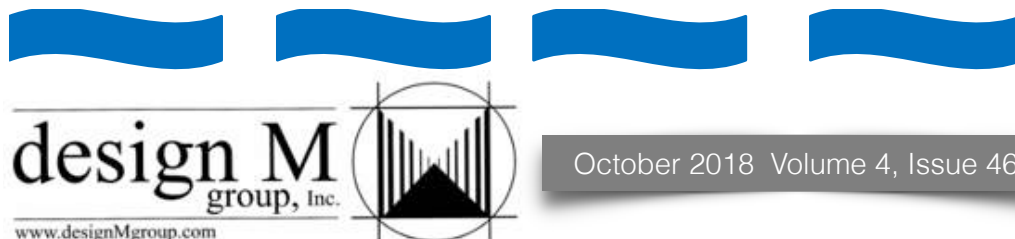
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