

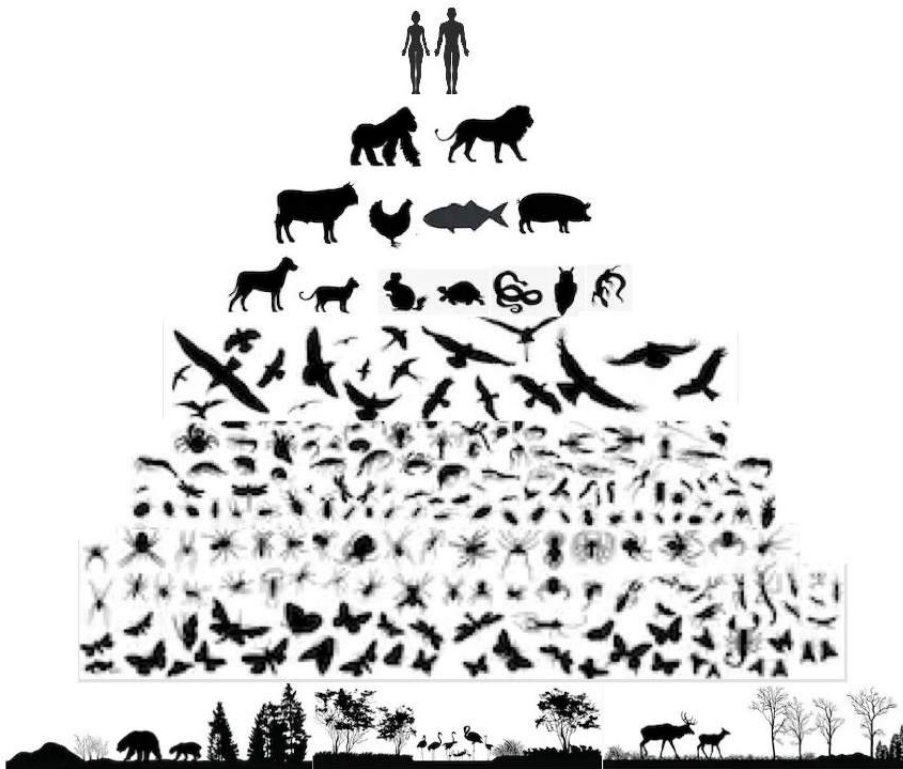
Every obstacle in life has a design solution.

September 2019, Volume 5, Issue 57

## Human Centric

Western society is human centric. That is, we see everything through our eyes as if we are the most important creatures on earth. Humans are many times put at the top of the chart of all living creatures on earth. It is true the humans have made and continue to make the most dramatic changes to the earth, far more than any other creature that has ever roamed the earth including the largest dinosaurs.

Humans now move more dirt and gravel in any year than the earth does through volcanos, landslides, earthquakes and erosion combined. There can be no question that humans have and continue to alter the surface of the earth, under the seas of the earth and beneath the ground of the earth more than anything else. We have now contaminated the surface of the moon and other planets as well as the space orbiting the earth.



Credit: Design M Group, Inc

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### Did You Know ?

We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...

["The 10 Advantages of Design Build"](#)



Down load it here and share it with

### Archi-fact.

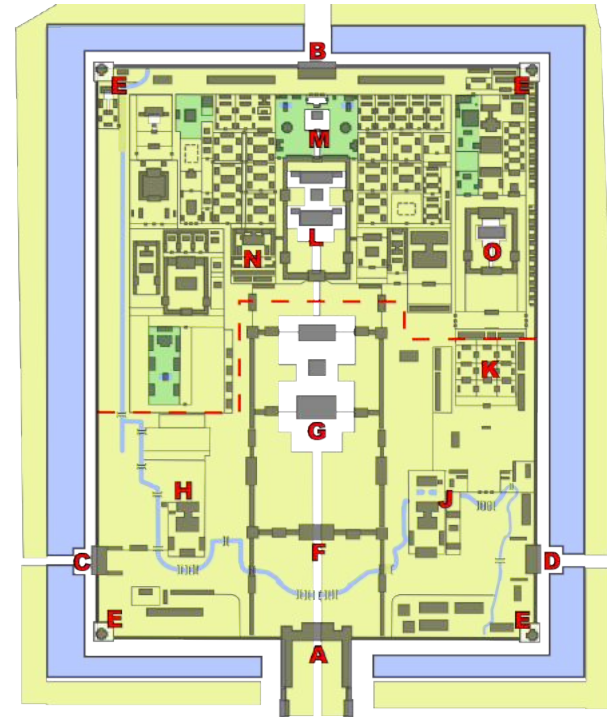
The Forbidden City required one million construction workers to build. It's construction required 14 years to complete. It is surrounded by a 26-foot-high, 28.3-foot-thick wall constructed with a rammed earth core and surfaced with three layers of specially baked bricks on both sides, with the interstices filled with mortar. It is surrounded by a 20-foot-deep, 171-foot-wide moat.

# Iconic Building Of The Month

The Forbidden City, Beijing China

The Forbidden City is a palace complex in central Beijing, China. It houses the Palace Museum and was the former Chinese imperial palace from the Ming dynasty to the end of the Qing dynasty (the years 1420 to 1912). The Forbidden City served as the home of emperors and their households as well as the ceremonial and political center of Chinese government for almost 500 years. After being the home of 24 emperors – 14 of the Ming dynasty and 10 of the Qing dynasty – the Forbidden City ceased being the political center of China in 1912 with the abdication of Puyi, the last Emperor of China.

The palace exemplifies traditional Chinese palatial architecture and has influenced cultural and architectural developments in East Asia and elsewhere. The Forbidden City was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 due to its significant place in the development of Chinese architecture and culture and is listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world.



Plan of the Forbidden City



Photo credits:Wikipedia

紫禁城

Forbidden City in Chinese Characters

Construction lasted 14 years and required more than a million workers. Material used include whole logs of precious Phoebe zhennan wood found in the jungles of south-western China, and large blocks of marble from quarries near Beijing. The floors of major halls were paved with "golden bricks", specially baked paving bricks from Suzhou.

The Forbidden City is a rectangle, measuring 3,153 feet from north to south and 2,470 feet from east to west. The Forbidden City was designed to be the center of the ancient, walled city of Beijing. It is enclosed in a larger, walled area called the Imperial City. The Imperial City is enclosed by the Inner City; to its south lies the Outer City.

## Archi-Quote

"The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes. If you foolishly ignore beauty, you will soon find yourself without it. Your life will be impoverished. But if you invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life."

*Frank Lloyd Wright*

# Human Centric

*continued from page one*

There are thousands of pieces of debris and working satellites circling the earth. NASA tracks about 50,000 items the size of a baseball and larger orbiting the earth.

We have built cities for ourselves of steel, glass and concrete the world over. In major cities because land is at a premium the buildings take up most of a site leaving little room for plant matter. Our homes are becoming machines to house us. Some have even started to build homes out of shipping containers as if we humans are merely cargo to be contained. The current form of modernism in design is devoid of living plants except for a manicured small lawn around a swimming pool. Good cities have parks to go to play and relax in, however once again they are separated from our working and living environment. They are places we must go to instead of live with. Poorer cities and poor neighborhoods usually have fewer parks for people to go to. This all leads to separating we humans from the nest of the natural world that we are part of.

Is this progress? Does separating us from plants and other creatures we share the earth with make us more productive or happy? Does this separation lead to the alienation of people from other people? Does this separation from the rest of nature and other people make us more intolerant or even more violent? These are the questions humanity must ask itself as we go forward. If the answers to these questions is no, then we must reevaluate our philosophy and embrace a new one.

Next month we take a look at an alternative way of looking at and working with the Earth.

## Archi-Speaks

Can you find these words?

EMPEROR CITY DYNASTY  
FORBIDDEN CHINA

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

## 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...**

**How often should we change the filter on the central air conditioning system.**

**Jamie F.**

*Jamie,*

*How dirty the filter gets depends on the air quality of where you live. It is also affected by how much and what kind of cooking you do, cleaners you use and if anyone smokes in the house. The manufacturer of your system should have a recommendation for this in the specifications. However I recommend inspecting and cleaning the filter once a month. If it can no longer be cleaned or starts to fall apart change it immediately. Please remember the cleaner the filter is the cleaner the air being pushed through the house will be.*

Email your questions to [info@designMgroup.com](mailto: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.



## Want to speak with the Architect

Do you have questions but do not know where to start?

Do you know the legal consequences of starting a project without approvals?

Are you sure you have completed all of the research necessary so as not to waste your money and time during construction?

Are what you think are your NEEDS and OPTIONS truly the best for you and your future?

Does the contractor really have YOUR best interest in mind when suggesting solutions?

Answering these questions and more are the reason for enlisting a Needs and Options Review.

We can help you on your way to a successful project with less hassles and problems.

Visit: [www.designMgroup.com](http://www.designMgroup.com)

## About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB  
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.

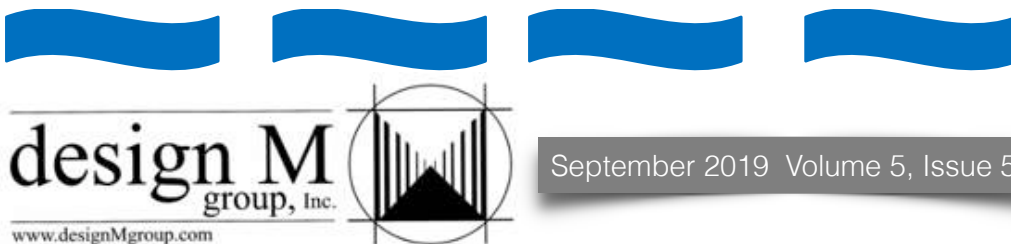
## Our core beliefs are ...

**Architects have a responsibility to our clients, community and the environment.**

**Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.**

**Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.**

**Let Us Help You Build the Home You Knew Was Always There For You.**



September 2019 Volume 5, Issue 57

## Contact me !

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