

# Kahn update

Issue 1, 2010

PROJECT PROFILE:

## NATIONAL ALABAMA CORPORATION Rail Car Manufacturing Facility

In 2007, National Alabama Corporation (NAC) embarked on a quest to build the most efficient railcar manufacturing plant in the United States, and selected Kahn to serve as A/E of Record for this spectacular manufacturing plant spanning nearly one mile in length and covering 2.1 million sq. ft. of heavy industrial space. Built in The Shoals region of northwest Alabama, the plant is the single largest railcar manufacturing facility in North America and a marvel of modern industrial architecture. The fusion of function, form and sustainable design in this facility has successfully created a flexible production environment with a reduced carbon footprint that will endure for decades.

At the core of NAC's strategic vision is the notion to leave a legacy that not only impresses today but lasts far into the future. Sustainable design features were integrated from the start, beginning with site selection and the plant's placement within the site. The unique and extensive incorporation of curtain wall, clerestory, and roof monitoring glass, which has been absent from contemporary manufacturing facilities, and the use of energy efficient glass combined with a mechanically assisted natural ventilation system all coincide to reduce energy usage and afford employees access to natural daylight. The project is currently registered with the USGBC and LEED Silver certification is anticipated.

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# from the PRESIDENT THE FUTURE AWAITS

There's no doubt the last several quarters have posed many challenges to our industry. What do you do when you are the new CEO, have a new Leadership Team and the economy is in crisis? Well, at Kahn we are doing what we excel at – planning and implementing creative solutions.

When faced with the option of “fight or flee,” flight was never an option. So we chose to focus our efforts on three key elements that will help us to weather this economic storm and position us to be stronger and more competitive once the economy rebounds. As we continue to refine our internal processes and organizational structure, our primary goals are to:

- Enhance customer focus throughout our project teams
- Establish stronger teaming opportunities that will enable us to better respond to the varied project delivery systems projected to drive our industry in the future
- Continue to embrace and support the greatest passion of our people – promoting environmental stewardship

Each of these initial steps focus on preparing our staff to become Trusted Advisors to all customers, from owners and developers to contractors, construction managers, and beyond. By empowering our project teams and reorganizing to support these goals we will be better positioned to serve you in the future.

Charles Robinson, PE, LEED AP  
President & CEO  
The Albert Kahn Family of Companies



## Site Master Plan

**Client:** Greater Essex County District School Board  
**Location:** Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
**Area:** 8 acres  
**Overall Project Budget:** Confidential  
**Completion:** May 2010

Wanting to create an educational program that extends the learning environment from indoor school activities to the playground, the client engaged Kahn to create a master plan that encourages students to develop an appreciation for the natural environment. The master plan provides opportunities for students to exercise their mind and body through the exploration of the natural world. By incorporating many natural processes, such as the changing of seasons, children are educated on the cycles of nature in which they live and play. As a result of a series of collaborative workshops with students, parents and staff, site amenities were selected that address both the students' needs during the day and the surrounding communities' activities in the evenings.

## Innovation and Progress. **The Perfect Ratio.**

# A closer look at a few select projects

### HOSPITAL PROTOTYPE DESIGN

**Client:** Safe Hands Health System (B.S.C.) ©  
**Location:** Multiple locations in the Middle East  
**Area:** 164,000 - 203,000 sq. ft.  
**Overall Project Budget:** Confidential  
**Completion:** On-going

With a mission to improve the quality of life and well-being for individuals in the Middle East, Safe Hands Health System is investing in medical facilities for its new health care system. The Hammes Company is overseeing the project implementation and design, and has selected Kahn to provide architectural design services, including preliminary schematic floor plans, blocking and stacking diagrams, room diagrams, and exterior and interior public space concept designs for the prototype hospital and clinic facility. The prototype is adaptable to numerous site configurations and is scalable to meet the demands of various market conditions. Targeting locations with a population of 80,000+ people, facilities will range from 164,000 to 203,000 sq. ft. and will provide inpatient and outpatient services, surgery, emergency treatment, maternity care, pharmacies and full diagnostic services.

### DOUBLE DINING FACILITY

**Client:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Fort Leonard Wood  
**Location:** Fort Leonard Wood, MO  
**Area:** 57,200 sq. ft.  
**Overall Project Budget:** \$19.1 million  
**Target Completion:** Fall 2010

Expected to serve up to 2,600 personnel per meal within a 90 minute period, this two-story dining facility consists of private dining areas, food service preparation spaces, storage, and staff offices. Service and support zones are also designed to accommodate activities of the 90 staff members per shift required to service enlisted personnel. Designed to achieve LEED Silver certification, this facility includes sustainable solutions to conserve energy and improve livability.

# NATIONAL ALABAMA CORPORATION RAIL CAR MFG. FACILITY

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In addition to the open and highly flexible production areas, the many worker-focused features include multiple employee facilities organized into north, south and administration locations that implement a corporate level of finishes in the entrances, cafeterias and locker rooms. These spaces, their level of finish, and attention to detail provide employees with a sense of equality and fraternity with management.

Completed in 2009, the outcome is a unique example of elegant industrial architecture that achieves an efficient, collaborative and inspiring image. As a result, this project has been the recipient of awards from numerous organizations, including the American Institute of Architects and Engineering Society of Detroit.



## OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*news from the* **Albert Kahn** Family of Companies

### New Board Members Appointed

Following in the footsteps of many great predecessors, we are excited to announce that **Cynthia Pozolo, AIA, LEED AP** and **Robert Sharrow, AIA, ACHA, LEED AP** have been elected to Kahn's Board of Directors.



Cindy has been with Kahn since 1982. With a foundation of solid leadership and technical skills, her ascension within the firm includes being named a vice president in 1997 and Director of Architectural

Development in 2004. During her tenure, Cindy has served as Principal for several notable clients, including GMAC and Aurora Health Care. With a passion for the profession, a strong work ethic and dedication to implementing quality products and systems, Cindy's new role will enable her to apply her broad experience base to guiding the overall direction of the firm.

As the firm's Director of Health Care Planning, Robb has over 35 years of experience and has demonstrated strong leadership in planning and design activities for complex health care projects setting new standards across the industry. Having joined Kahn in 1980, Robb's passion for his work has brought him recognition as a leader in designing for patient-centered care. His work with Planetree, a nonprofit entity promoting innovative designs and practices to humanize health care environments, has helped to advance his passions. Robb's leadership and



experience will offer a fresh perspective and outlook for shaping the firm's future.

### Moving on Up

Kahn is pleased to announce that the following senior associates have been elevated to management positions.



#### **John Cole, PE, LEED AP, Director of Mechanical Engineering**

Recognized for having over 30 years of experience and a knack for problem solving, John was named Director of Mechanical Engineering. His creative design solutions have helped earn the firm numerous engineering awards and his active participation in professional engineering organizations demonstrates his commitment to mentoring engineers and advancing the profession. Also a Principal of the firm, John ensures that client issues are effectively addressed and that the overall team performance exceeds expectations.

#### **Johannes Palm, PE, LEED AP, Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering**

In recognition for his leadership and technical knowledge, Hans was named Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering. With 30 years of expertise, Hans has led the development of overall mechanical concepts for some of Kahn's most notable and award winning projects. His drive for advancing the evolution of energy requirements and integrating



conservation and energy recovery techniques has led to many successful, inspiring projects.



#### **Elliott Krieger, PE, LEED AP, Director of Electrical Engineering**

Providing direction that exhibits confidence, wisdom and ingenuity, Elliott's 35 years of experience have led to his success and his appointment to Director of Electrical Engineering. In his tenure with the firm, Elliott has been responsible for leading the design of complex electrical systems across many market segments. Further, his ongoing participation in numerous engineering organizations demonstrates Elliott's commitment to preparing the firm's emerging professionals for future leadership roles within the organization.

#### **Philip Garland, PE, LEED AP, Assistant Director of Electrical Engineering**

Phil's attention to detail and steadfast work ethics are evident in each project he undertakes. With nearly 30 years of experience, Phil's technical skills, experience and commitment have provided clients with effective design concepts, boasting unique electrical solutions. His experience with power distribution, lighting, communications and security systems have contributed to the success of numerous Kahn projects. Phil's combination of experience and determination make him the ideal candidate to serve as Assistant Director of Electrical Engineering.



## Plans for a Rainy Day

Resources are finite! As designers and engineers, the responsible approach to developing building and systems solutions is to effectively use only what is needed for a given project, ensuring that fresh water, fossil fuels and raw building materials remain available for future generations. At Kahn, this approach is innate, whether we're developing a new hospital, corporate office building, or even a manufacturing facility.

In fact, industrial facilities, with their acres of flat roofs, offer tremendous sustainable potential by utilizing their roof drainage systems to harvest rain water. Captured rain water can be diverted to storage systems and used to irrigate natural landscapes, reducing or eliminating demand on municipal water systems, saving operational costs and preserving natural resources.

At National Alabama Corporation's mile-long Rail Car Manufacturing Facility, rain water is harvested from over 37 acres of roof and hard surface areas and diverted to an irrigation pond with a two-acre surface area. This system has the potential to collect up to 3 million gallons of water on a monthly basis – that's up to 36 million gallons of water saved per year. Not only will this allow the plant to support its irrigation demands through lengthy drought periods, but it eliminates the need to use potable water for site irrigation. Imagine what an Owner could do with the money saved by a solution like this!



At Kahn, our job is to design facilities that help clients create cost saving, eco-friendly solutions. To learn more about our approach to sustainable design solutions within industrial facilities, please contact Peter Lynde, PE, LEED AP, Director of Research & Technology. Email: [peter.lynde@akahn.com](mailto:peter.lynde@akahn.com)  
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## Next Issue...

### PROJECT PROFILE: COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES

A. Alfred Taubman Center for  
Design Education  
Detroit, Michigan

### JUST COMPLETED: AURORA HEALTH CARE

Summit Medical Center  
Summit, Wisconsin

## *just* COMPLETED **AURORA BAYCARE ORTHOPEDIC & SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER**

Created to offer therapy, rehabilitation and recreational programs tailored specifically for competitive athletes, leisure golfers and weekend sport enthusiasts, the Aurora BayCare Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center adapts to a wide range of clients' specific needs. Staffed with a team of top specialists, this 80,000 sq. ft. center offers the most advanced technologies, therapies and training techniques, delivering patients optimum care and results.



Located on the campus of the Kahn-designed Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the two-story multi-purpose facility is comprised of clinical space, an MRI center, conference center, and an athletic enhancement and lifestyle center with an outdoor turf field. The facility also boasts a basketball court, indoor golf training center, gymnasium, therapy pool, performance art studio, hockey treadmill room and ice training simulator, a workout area for medical fitness programs, and a rehabilitation center.

Expansive windows, graphics, imagery, and warm color palette within the gymnasium provide an inspirational healing environment for users. This open and highly adaptable facility gives an energetic boost to patients and staff alike.



Detroit, Michigan  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Sao Paulo, Brasil

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