

news from

PAULSEN ARCHITECTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - WEATHERING THE STORM



Bryan Paulsen, President
Principal Architect

Having graduated from architecture school in the early 1980's, a time of another major recession, I've now lived through four significant economic downturns during my tenure. But perhaps none have affected the architecture, engineering and construction industries as much as the "Great Recession" of 2009. Enduring such times is not easy and like most A/E firms we have had to make some adjustments due to a downturn in workload. However, I feel very fortunate that our firm has weathered this current economic storm better than many.

How have we persevered during these times? I believe that our continual focus on innovation, investments in technology and our unwavering commitment to our clients have made the difference. Innovations and investments such as the full integration of BIM technology has improved our service and made us more efficient and effective for our clients. Embracing green design years before it was "fashionable" was not only the responsible thing to do but was a good business decision as well. Being a recognized leader in sustainable design has helped us gain new clients and projects even in these uncertain economic times.

Paulsen Architects long-standing commitment to our clients and dedication to delivering exceptional service have earned us tremendous customer loyalty throughout the years and we are very grateful for that. This past year, we have worked closely with many of our clients to help them meet their facility needs and get their projects under construction, even in this difficult economy. This has involved much collaboration between architect and client to look at projects differently. One example of this approach is a project we are designing for a non-profit client with whom we have worked for years. Originally this project was planned as a multi-million dollar substantial expansion to their facility. However, given the current poor economy for fundraising, we worked together with our client to plan, design and "phase" construction of their project over time, which will allow them to meet their immediate needs and funding constraints, yet easily expand in the future when economic conditions improve. This type of teamwork approach is what makes our relationship with our clients so special.

During this economic downturn, our firm's commitment to community service has also remained steadfast and we have actually taken on additional pro-bono work. This not only keeps our staff members busy during a slower time but also gives us all a sense of fulfillment that our work continues to make a difference in our communities. Throughout 2009, we have continued our support of the 1% Solution program, and we have met our pledge to commit 1% of our billable time to pro-bono work and work for the greater good.

Through planning, innovative thinking and commitment to clients and service, Paulsen Architects will continue to weather the storms that may arise. I want to personally thank all of our valued clients and friends for your loyalty and support in 2009. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year that brings the passing of the storm for us all.

A TIME TO SHARE

This holiday season, with so many people in need during a difficult economic time, Paulsen Architects chose to support the Holiday Sharing Tree project as a part of our Christmas celebration. Instead of the usual holiday party that we hold for our staff, we put together a fun and worthwhile experience by "team" shopping for the Sharing Tree. Staff members were divided into four teams and the teams were given four Sharing Tree cards, each which included a specific gift request from a person in need. Paulsen Architects donated all the money for each team to purchase the gifts to fulfill these requests. After a fun afternoon of shopping with their teammates, staff members returned to our office to wrap the gifts and enjoy refreshments and holiday cheer! Everyone seemed to really enjoy this experience and many commented they would like to do this annually. Firm President, Bryan Paulsen said of the event, "This was a special way for our staff to enjoy time together and support a cause that is so worthwhile. Hopefully, we helped make this holiday season brighter for some of those in need in our community."





PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: GRAIF BUILDING/UNITED PRAIRIE BANK

One of the oldest and most historic buildings in downtown Mankato was recently renovated and updated to provide first class office space in Mankato's City Center. The original Renaissance Revival style National Citizens Bank building was constructed in 1892 and in 1963 became the home to and named after a retail icon in downtown Mankato for decades—the Matt J. Graif Clothing store. Some of the key Renaissance Revival design elements of the original building include the simple rectangular form, the pronounced cornice and stone base and interior details such as the ornate coffered ceiling and faux painted marble columns. For over 117 years, this building survived major disturbances like being connected to the downtown Mankato Mall during urban renewal and was spared demolition many times due to the continued success of Matt J. Graif Clothing. The upper floors of the building, which housed multiple tenant offices, had not been renovated in decades and many of the windows had been closed up for either energy efficiency or due to tenant wishes. The building's elevator and stairways were vastly out of date and did not meet modern building codes. By the early 2000's, the building was in need of substantial renovation.

In 2007, Tony Frentz and Rob Else bought the building from the Graif family and hired Paulsen Architects to restore the building to its former splendor. The new owners not only wanted to completely restore the historic building but to also offer a higher quality office space in the heart of downtown. As the first step in the renovation process, Matt J. Graif Clothing needed to be relocated to the southeast corner of the building, which had already been renovated by our firm specifically for the men's clothing retailer. Following that relocation, renovation of the main building could begin.

Our design for the renovation called for the complete rehabilitation of the building's exterior. All new windows, doors and lighting have been integrated into the restored and refinished masonry. Beautiful new paint in colors of cream, beige and gray highlight the many details on the exterior facade. A new, two-story entry—with doors on two sides—creates a grand feel to the relocated main lobby. As a part of the interior renovation, the beautiful historic details of the building have been preserved. On the upper floors, which previously housed multiple tenant spaces, interior walls have been completely removed to offer new, more open floor plans and office spaces with greater daylighting opportunities.

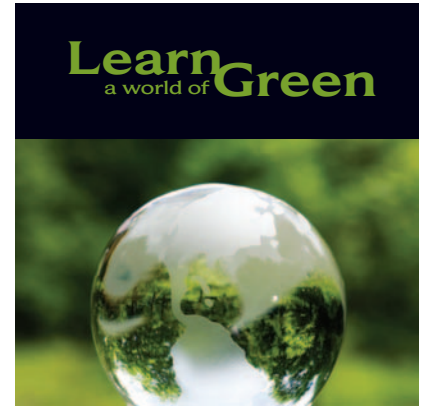
Graif Building/United Prairie Bank
Mankato, MN
2007-2009
30,100 sf renovation



ST. PETER CLINIC - MAYO HEALTH SYSTEM, ST. PETER



IMMANUEL ST. JOSEPH'S WOMEN'S IMAGING AND SLEEP CENTER, MANKATO



Paulsen Architects also designed the interior spaces for the majority of the building's new tenants, including the anchor tenant, United Prairie Bank. The new downtown branch location for United Prairie Bank was designed to be very open for natural light filtration and to create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for bank customers and employees. The bank's space showcases the original historic ornate coffered ceiling supported by faux painted marble columns. The bank offices were designed to be open and walls do not extend to the ceiling, to preserve the historic elements. In addition, the offices have no ceilings over the spaces and have large glass doors so the building's beautiful details are visible throughout. This also allows for maximum daylighting to fill the entire space. The bank lobby is open and bright with floor tiles that reflect light deeper into the space. The new overhead lighting was carefully placed in the center of the coffered ceiling detail. The lights have integrated fan blades that close up around the fixture like flower petals when turned off. Even the new exterior blade sign for the bank was designed to reflect the historic building's character and is specially mounted to the northern corner of the building.

In addition to United Prairie Bank, Paulsen Architects is also very proud to have been the designers for other building tenants including Leonard, Street and Deinard, Frenz and Frenz Law Offices and Ameriprise Financial Services.

This past summer, over 45 building industry professionals, contractors and clients attended Learn a World of Green – Understanding the Hows and Whys of Green Design and Construction Seminar at the recently completed Blue Earth County Justice Center. The day-long seminar held on June 11th was sponsored by Paulsen Architects, Leonard Street and Deinard, Gausman & Moore, Schwickerts and Bolton & Menk. It featured presentations from the region's top experts in sustainable design and construction practices.

During the morning session, Bryan Paulsen, Paulsen Architects, presented on the benefits of building green and joined with Jim Keller from Gausman Moore in presenting about the high performance of LEED certified buildings. Eric Galatz and Bob Torgerson from Leonard, Street and Deinard talked with the attendees about the legal issues of building green. Following a tour of the new Justice Center which is Southern Minnesota's first public LEED certified green building and lunch, Nate Huettle from Bolton & Menk and Bruce Chalupsky, Paulsen Architects, presented "How to Integrate & Implement Sustainable Site and Landscape Design". The afternoon was rounded out with presentations on how to integrate and implement sustainable architecture with interior design, mechanical/electrical design and how to put a green building to work as an energy asset.

RIVERFRONT PARK OPENING



Citizens, community leaders and city officials gathered at Mankato's Riverfront Park for a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 13, 2009. The new park—located in the City Center on Rock Street—serves as a designated Trailhead to the Sakatah trail system, gives users an opportunity to reconnect with the Minnesota River and provides an exciting new venue for concerts and festivals. The grounds include a children's playground, trailhead building, paved plaza, amphitheater and the Mankato Piece sculpture all in a restored prairie setting. The Paulsen Architects design team provided master planning, landscape and design services for the site and facilities.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK MINNESOTA, MANKATO



BLUE EARTH COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER, MANKATO



PAULSEN ARCHITECTS RECEIVES DESIGN AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

During the last year, Paulsen Architects' projects received several awards and recognitions for design excellence. Our work for the First National Bank Minnesota building in Mankato took home two awards from the 2009 Minnesota Shopping Center Association's (MSCA) STARR Awards ceremony held December 1st. The Shopping Center Tribute Awards for Retail Real Estate, or STARR Awards, honor outstanding projects and extraordinary individuals in the retail, service and shopping center industry. First National Bank Minnesota's complete renovation won both the Renovation/Remodel - Exterior and Interior categories for projects under 25,000 square feet. Project designer Eric Lennartson and interior designer Nicole Schroeder accepted the awards at the Golden Valley Country Club with over 260 MSCA members and guests in attendance. This is the second year in a row Paulsen Architects has won an award from the MSCA. Last year Olives Restaurant won the 2008 STARR Award for best Interior Design - Restaurant/Food Service category.

The South Central College renovation was recently recognized and published as part of the American School & University's 2009 Educational Interiors Showcase. The project was featured in the Outstanding Design Vocational/Industrial Arts Areas section of the August 2009 publication. Paulsen Architects designed the complete renovation of a majority of South Central College's Mankato campus including the chemistry and industrial labs to help convert the college's identity from its original vocational school image into a contemporary community college. Bold new colors and materials were introduced in the renovation of classrooms, labs and industrial areas of the college.



First National Bank Minnesota, Mankato



South Central College, Mankato



PAULSEN ARCHITECTS' ENTIRE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TEAM NOW LEED ACCREDITED

This past year, three additional members of our firm have earned their Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Professional Accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Bryan Paulsen, AIA, CID, LEED AP, Eric Lennartson, Associate AIA, LEED AP and Nicole Schroeder, Associate IIDA, LEED AP earned their accreditation by successfully completing a comprehensive examination on their knowledge and skills in the green building design practice/process and their familiarity with LEED requirements and the building application/certification process. With this completion, one hundred percent of our architectural design team and eighty percent of our firm's architects, interior designers and project managers are now LEED accredited—continuing our commitment to designing sustainable buildings that are innovative, employ earth-friendly construction techniques and contain green-conscious building materials.



Bryan Paulsen,
AIA, LEED AP, CID
President
Principal Architect



Eric Lennartson,
Assoc. AIA, LEED AP
Architectural Designer and Marketing
Development Coordinator



Nicole Schroeder,
Assoc. IIDA, LEED AP
Interior Designer



DULCIMER MEDICAL CENTER, FAIRMONT

BIG BOX REUSE BOOK FEATURES SPAM MUSEUM

As communities throughout the United States struggle with vast and vacant K-Marts and Wal-Mart shells, MIT Press released a new book this past year filled with ideas, inspiration and success stories of revitalization entitled Big Box Reuse. Highlighted in the book is Austin, Minnesota's Spam Museum—once an abandoned K-Mart reborn as a thriving visitor attraction through the investment of the Hormel Corporation and the vision and design of Paulsen Architects.

The book's author, Julia Christensen a Oberlin College professor, examines how empty big boxes across the country have been redirected with the efforts of private and community ventures into museums, libraries, early childhood centers, churches and even an indoor raceway.

In the sixth chapter—which focuses solely on the Spam Museum—Christensen chronicles the development, design and construction of the Spam Museum and Hormel Corporate South detailing the driving factors behind the unique design proposed by Paulsen Architects. Staff interviews, photos of the completed building, plans and construction drawings as well our firm's sketches that were submitted during Hormel's design competition to select the architect are included in the book.

The book was released at the Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University and has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered as well as in Architect Magazine and the Chronicle of High Education. Excerpts from the book and reviews by publications such as the Washington Post can be viewed at www.bigboxreuse.com. The book is available for purchase at www.amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.



About the Author - Julia Christensen

Julia Christensen is an artist whose work has been featured in the New York Times, the Globe and Mail, Preservation Magazine for the National Trust, and other publications. Her art has been shown in galleries and museums nationwide. She is Henry R. Luce Visiting Professor of the Emerging Arts at Oberlin College and Conservatory.

RECENTLY COMPLETED

Blue Earth County Justice Center, Mankato, MN
Capstone Press Expansion, North Mankato, MN
Dulcimer Medical Center, Fairmont, MN
Eagle Lake Elementary School Expansion, Eagle Lake, MN
Fairmont National Guard Armory Renovation, Fairmont, MN
Frentz and Frentz Law Office, Mankato, MN
Graif Building Renovation, Mankato, MN
Heartland Express, LuVerne, MN
ISJ-Mayo Health System St. Peter Clinic, St. Peter, MN
Leonard Street and Deinard, Mankato, MN
MSU Psychology Department, Mankato, MN
Number 4 American Bar and Kitchen, Mankato, MN
Rasmussen Colleges, Eagan, MN; Fort Myers, FL; Green Bay, WI; Romeoville, IL; Wausau, WI
Region 9 Offices, Mankato, MN
Riverfront Park, Mankato, MN
St. James National Guard Armory Renovation, St. James, MN
Timpte Trailer, North Mankato, MN
UFC, Winthrop, MN
United Prairie Bank Downtown, Mankato, MN



BREAKING GROUND

Chankaska Creek Vineyard Master & Landscape Planning, Mankato, MN
Creation Technologies, St. Peter, MN
Eagle Lake Elementary School Interior Renovations, Eagle Lake, MN
Jackson HRA Renovations and New Shop Building, Jackson, MN
New Ulm HRA Broadway Haus Renovations, New Ulm, MN
Rasmussen Colleges, Mokena, IL; Ocala, FL; Pasco County, FL
Rosa Parks Elementary School, Mankato, MN
Wells Historical Society Depot Renovation, Wells, MN



NUMBER 4 AMERICAN BAR AND KITCHEN, MANKATO

STAFF ELECTED TO COMMUNITY BOARD POSITIONS

Giving back to our communities through time, talent and financial support is an important part of the culture at Paulsen Architects. This past year several of our staff members volunteered for or were elected to various community based positions for many organizations. Some of those include:



BRYAN PAULSEN,
AIA, LEED AP, CID

Bryan was elected as the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minneapolis Chapter. He was also elected to the Kids Against Hunger board of directors.



TAMI PAULSEN

Tami was elected to the Mankato Area Foundation board of directors. The Mankato Area Foundation helps shape a stronger community through pairing acts of caring and giving with community needs. During 2009, Tami was also elected to the board of the City Center Partnership and serves as chair of that organization's Aesthetics and Livability committee.



PAUL LAWTON,
AIA, LEED AP

Paul was elected to the board of directors of the Educare Foundation. Educare is a non-profit organization, which provides financial support to Mankato Area Public Schools, for programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students.



NICOLE SCHROEDER,
ASSOC., IIDA, LEED AP

Nicole became a member of the Greater Mankato Cavaliers. The Cavaliers are the welcoming committee for new members to the Greater Mankato Growth community, the area's integrated chamber of commerce and economic development organization.



BRUCE CHALUPSKY,
RLA, ASLA

Bruce is the chairperson of the Greater Mankato Community Trails Task Force of Envision 2020. Envision 2020 is a planning and visioning group of over 400 citizens envisioning the future and creating a visionary plan for Greater Mankato.

EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

At our December Holiday Party, Paulsen Architects was pleased to recognize three employees who celebrated their five-year anniversaries with our firm in 2009. Jim Panko, Dan Pesonen and Eric Lennartson were each honored for their dedicated service and contributions to our firm.



Dan Pesonen-5 Years, Jim Panko-5 Years, Jesse Schott-6 Years, and Eric Lennartson-5 Years

In January 2004, Jim Panko joined our practice as a part-time student intern while completing his civil and structural engineering degree at Minnesota State University. As a student, Jim's interest in building structural systems led him to pursue an emphasis in structural design during his civil engineering education. We were so impressed with Jim's abilities as a student intern that when he was ready to graduate from Minnesota State, he was invited to join Paulsen Architects full-time. Over the last five years, Jim has risen through the ranks of Engineer-in-Training to a registered Professional Engineer and the leader of our Structural Engineering department. Jim has also earned certifications for practice in multiple other states and for additional civil engineering specializations. Jim is active in Greater Mankato as a member of the Greater Mankato Young Professionals, former President of the Traverse de Sioux Section of Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, a Practitioner Advisor for the American Society of Civil Engineers and a volunteer for the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Civil Engineering Department. Jim is also on the board of directors for Junior Achievement.

Dan Pesonen started with our firm in April of 2004 while he was a student studying Architectural Drafting at South Central Technical College (now South Central College). He began working full time with us upon graduation and completion of his A.A.S. Degree. Over the last five years, Dan has been a valuable member of our firm's technical team completing construction and contract documents as well as surveying multiple buildings to create as-built drawings. He has been responsible for the technical production of many of our firm's larger projects such as Rasmussen Colleges, the Hilton Garden Inn and the renovation of South Central College. Dan has also been instrumental through our firm's conversion from CAD to BIM based drawing production and is a highly qualified BIM technician.

Eric Lennartson joined Paulsen Architects in August of 2004, as an Architectural Designer and Marketing Development Coordinator. Eric came to our firm after practicing with a large Twin Cities firm for eleven years, where he worked in their architecture studio as well as in their marketing department. Since joining Paulsen Architects, Eric has continued to develop his marketing expertise to create proposals and presentations that have helped our firm earn multiple large high profile projects. He has also created wonderful submissions of our completed work resulting in numerous published projects and architecture and interior design awards. Eric has been very involved in developing our sustainable practice and has earned his LEED Professional Accreditation. Eric is active in the Mankato community serving on the board of directors and chair of the Site/Building Committee for the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota, and committee member for Twin Rivers Center for the Arts, Mankato Schools Career Fair and the March of Dimes Chef's Auction. Eric is also an active member of the USGBC- Minnesota Chapter and the Society of Marketing Professional Services.

To commemorate these special employment anniversaries and as thanks for their outstanding dedication and service Jim, Dan and Eric each received a glass clock engraved with special messages of thanks and appreciation.

In addition to the employees listed above, we would also like to congratulate Jesse Schott for his six years of service at our firm. Jesse received his five-year anniversary clock at last year's holiday party. Jesse Schott is a Project Manager and Construction Administrator at Paulsen Architects and has provided project management for many of our firm's high profile projects including the Downtown Mankato Hilton Garden Inn, ISJ-Mayo Health System EastRidge and St. Peter Clinics, Dulcimer Clinic and the Rock County Law Enforcement Center. Jesse consistently delivers quality projects and exceptional customer service and these characteristics have helped him develop a list of very loyal and satisfied clients.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Anthony Seller
Minnesota State University,
Mankato
College of Engineering
and Technology

At the Minnesota State University, Mankato's College of Science, Engineering and Technology 2009-2010 Scholarship Banquet, Jim Panko, Paulsen Architect's Structural Engineer was able to present the Paulsen Architects Structural Engineering Scholarship to Anthony Seller. Anthony is a Civil Engineering Student in the



Anthony is pictured with Jim Panko, Paulsen Architect's Structural Engineer.

College of Engineering and Technology Department of Minnesota State University, Mankato. Anthony is an excellent student holding a 4.0 grade point average through last year, while being very involved in many activities like the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as the Underclassman Representative and Publicity Coordinator for the MSU,M chapter, a member of the Concrete Canoe & Steel Bridge teams and Habitat for Humanity. Anthony also volunteers with other organizations in his hometown of Sleepy Eye, MN: Company & Care for Elderly, the Brown County Fair, Future Farmers of America, tutoring in math & science and the local chess club. Anthony spends his summers working for the Brown County Highway Department as a civil engineering technician and wants to focus his studies to the transportation, geotechnical and water resources. Paulsen Architects was proud to offer this engineering scholarship to such an excellent student that is also very involved in his community.

About the Minnesota State University, Mankato Civil Engineering Program

The Civil Engineering (CE) Program is part of the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU,M). Over the last decade The CE program has invested in the quality of engineering curriculum with a strong technical foundation to practice civil engineering, or to pursue graduate studies. The CE program has major disciplines: geotechnical, structural, transportation, and water resources engineering. US News & World Report magazine ranks the MSU,M engineering programs among the best in the country and the university continues making improvements in all aspects of engineering education. The program offers state-of-the-art labs, small class sizes, individual faculty-student interaction, 100% passing rate in Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, 100% job placement, and success stories of MSU,M Civil Engineering graduates. The program also offers numerous scholarship opportunities, internship opportunities, and real world design project experience.

About the Profession

Civil Engineers apply mathematics, physical sciences, and fundamentals of engineering mechanics to plan, design, and supervise the construction of roads, buildings, airports, tunnels, dams, bridges, water supply & treatment systems, and is one of the oldest engineering disciplines in the world. The profession spans many sectors of work. Roughly half of Civil Engineers are employed in the private sector consulting firms, while the rest are split into public sector positions from local municipalities up to larger federal agencies.

Other students receiving a Paulsen Architects scholarship during the past year include:

Neal Pastick – Minnesota State University, Mankato: Paulsen Architects College of Business Scholarship

Philip Lesniak – South Central College, North Mankato: Paulsen Architects Architectural Drafting Scholarship

Jenna Smith – Bethany Lutheran College: Paulsen Architects Arts Scholarship

PAULSEN ARCHITECTS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Paul Lawton, AIA, LEED AP
Project Architect

Paul Lawton relocated from Chicago, IL to the Mankato area to join our firm as a Project Architect. Upon joining Paulsen Architects, Paul took on the responsibilities of Project Architect for the new Rosa Parks Elementary School and expansion/renovation of Eagle Lake Elementary School, which we designed and are completing for Mankato Area Public Schools. Paul attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, where he earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2001. His career began in Chicago and he gained valuable experience at two prestigious architecture firms working on high profile projects for Midway International Airport, Chicago area school districts, and several governmental agencies. During his time in Chicago, Paul also earned his professional licensure and LEED professional accreditation. At Paulsen Architects, Paul now leads planning, design and administration responsibilities for many of our firm's largest projects. Paul is also involved in the greater Mankato area community and currently serves on the Educare Foundation Board of Directors, and is active in the Greater Mankato Young Professionals and Merely Players organizations.



Greg Prunty, EIT
Structural Engineer

Greg Prunty joined Paulsen Architects as an Engineer-in-Training in November 2008. Prior to joining our firm, Greg gained professional experience as an Engineer-in-Training at a Alexandria, MN structural engineering company. Greg received his Civil Engineering Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State University in Fargo in 2007 and is proficient in several engineering software systems including the latest versions of REVIT STRUCTURE an important 3-D Building Information Modeling software. In addition to his structural engineering knowledge, Greg is also helping build the engineering capabilities of our firm and recently received his Erosion & Sediment Management Certification. Outside of his professional interests, Greg has a keen interest in music and is a member of the renowned Govenaires Drum Corp. Greg also volunteers his time to mentor and teach younger musicians and is a member of the Greater Mankato Young Professionals organization.

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PAULSEN ARCHITECTS



Happy Holidays

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