

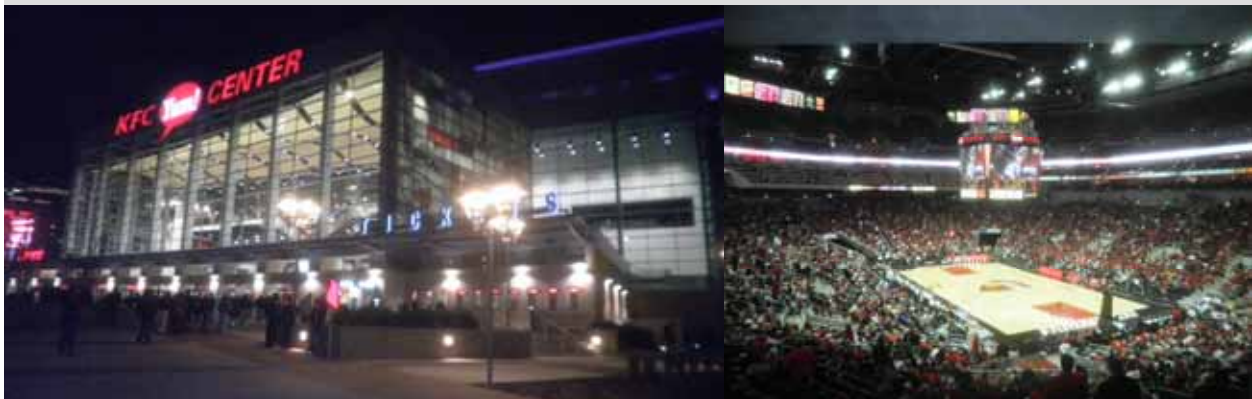
2010: A Carpathia of a Design Year

By Steve Wiser, AIA

After hitting an economic iceberg in the Fall of 2008, construction activity sank in 2009. 2010 began a gradual recovery as design firms sought the few project life-rafts available to survive in the frigid, brutal business climate. But, survive they did and some actually thrived. Before we head into a more hopeful 2011, let's reflect on some of the architectural highlights of 2010.

“New Places in Old Spaces” could be the theme for 2010. Urban infill projects seemed to dominate the headlines.

The biggest construction news was the titanic opening of the arena. An epic in the making since the 1980s, the new arena made a major splash. While there were various subplots, the main story-line was how it reinvigorated downtown. New restaurants like Impellizzeri's Pizza and Patrick O'Shea's Pub popped up around it and folks didn't complain much about any late evening traffic jams.



A small portion of the arena, which is overwhelmed by the massive size, is the colorful narrow pedway that spans the Third Street canyon. This distinctive overpass provides a signature gateway into the city.

Across Third Street from the arena, a distinctive parking garage was built. This



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decorative brick facade is tucked away from view while many other lesser quality parking facilities are in highly-visible locations. *(Left)*



Another noteworthy 'new place in old space' are the five buildings *(Above)* opened in October at the Home of the Innocents. This children's village at the eastern terminus of Market Street literally has turned a sow's ear (former Stockyards) into a silk purse. It is a thriving activity zone that radiates positive vibes into the surrounding Butchertown, Phoenix Hill, and NuLu neighborhoods.



A curving sculptural pedestrian ramp up to the abandoned Big Four Bridge was completed *(Above)*. But, it won't be accessible till the bridge walkway across the Ohio River is built in 2012. And, a new old-style community center *(Right)* opened at Jefferson and Jackson Streets for the Liberty Green inner-city residential development.



Jefferson Community & Technical College added the 100,000 square foot Health Sciences Building *(Right)* at 110 West Chestnut; which is the first campus building in 30 years.



The former Marcus Lindsey Church (Shelby and Main) was miraculously converted into living space *(Right)* while the Sons of the American Revolution relocated its headquarters within the historic West Main streetscape.



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Away from the urban core, a spectacular modern home sprung up amidst the traditional houses on Eastern Parkway, near Bardstown Road. And, the tranquil Masonic Home campus on Frankfort Avenue erupted with a flurry of hammers and saws that resulted in a \$40 million dollar senior residential community.

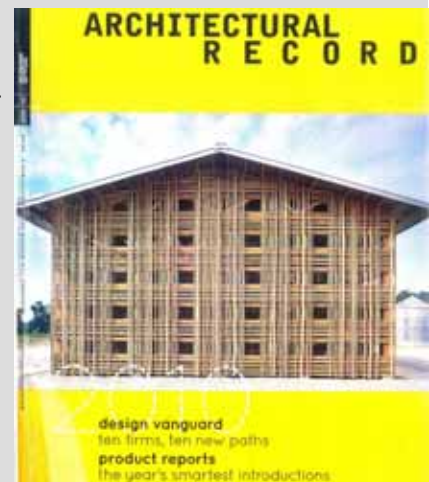


Shelbyville Road's commercial corridor saw the arrival of two new auto showrooms for Mini-Cooper and Mercedes at the intersection with Hubbard's Lane. And further out, at U of L's Shelby campus, the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory opened. Over off Newburg Road, Metro Animal Shelter completed an appealing design that is deserving of a more high-profile setting.



Several other notable news was the demolition of the movie memory-filled, but cookie cutter cloned Showcase Cinema's, and the saving of the landmark "Iron Quarter" in the 100 block of West Main. Plus, the local firm De Leon & Primmer made the cover of the December "Architectural Record".

Prominent greenfield construction included the F B I headquarters, which can be viewed from I-64 just east of Blankenbaker Parkway, and the wonderfully playful and creative Norton's Children's Hospital out



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US 22, near the Snyder and I-71 interchange.

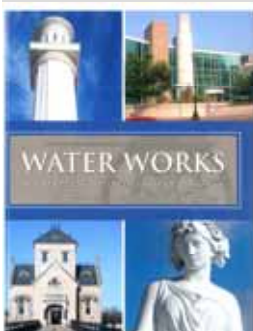


2010, while an economically challenging environment, had its fair share of blockbuster achievements. Now, with the close of the first decade of the 2000s which started with Y2K, it is time to look forward to a more productive 2011.

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To read the previous year-in-review, “2009: Dickens of a Design Year”, then click on http://wiserdesigns.com/uploads/2009_Dickens_of_a_Design_Year_12-27-2009.pdf

Title explanation: The term “Carpathia” refers to the survivor recovery ship of the Titanic. 2010 was a recovery from the economic problems of 2008 and 2009, and thus design firms were in a recovery survival condition.



*Left:
The Water Tower at Zorn & River Road was renovated to look like ‘new’ after 150 years—and, a book was published on the Louisville Water Company’s history.*



*Left
The eastern half of the 100 block of West Main Street, known as the “Iron Quarter”., was threatened with demolition but was saved via the Landmark process.*

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