The AIA Architectural Billings Index (ABI) ...

... is an annual exercise in analyzing the relationship between business activity at US architectural firms and US spending on non-residential construction projects. AIA finds that such construction spending averaged more than $380B per year over the last decade, or about 3% of US economic activity. Business is highly cyclical, as declines were followed by gradual upturns in the period 2005-07 and 2012-present. In the 2008-11 downturn, individual AIA member firms declined 6% from 2008-11, to 17,500. About 66% of ABI projects lasted nine months or less; 80% were completed within 12 months. The report notes that, “…more collaborative project delivery processes such as design/build, CM, and integrated project delivery can result in projects that have shorter overall project schedules than using a traditional…project delivery method.” On average, more nonresidential design work billings come from institutional projects (education, health care, government, transportation, etc.) than from commercial/industrial projects (e.g., office, retail, hospitality, and warehouses). A clear relationship appears to have been established between ABI trends and those in construction spending, with an average 11-month lead in commercial/industrial and a seven-month lead in institutional spending.

Click here for more information

Annual CURT/LCI/AGC Lean Summit

Several LCI board members and I recently returned from the annual CURT/LCI/AGC Lean Summit held in St. Louis. Highlights of the meeting for me included a well-received INDUSTRIAL example of a Lean project that (unlike health care) tracked well with the business interests of the majority of CURT owner firms attending. Also, in comparison to last year, I sensed a much greater proportion of owners represented who expressed interest in actually trying to implement Lean Construction, rather than just “kicking the tires” again. Time will
Most design in the real world is guided by rules of thumb. What might be the rules of thumb for strategic building designers? Some can be borrowed directly from chess players: “Favor moves that increase options; shy away from moves that end well but require cutting off choices; work from strong positions that have many adjoining strong positions.” More specific to buildings: overbuild Structure so that heavier floor loads or extra stories can be handled later; provide excess Services capacity; go for oversize (“loose fit”) rather than undersize. Separate high- and low-volatility areas and design them differently. Work with shape sand materials that can grow easily, both interior and exterior.

We were provided a wealth of interesting presentations at the Lean Summit. In the beginner track, Al Schwarzkopf/Merck & Co. spoke about how his company got its Lean journey off the ground. (Al also is active in our Carolinas Community of Practice Core Group.)

Previous attendees in our national meetings will recognize the name Bernita Beickmann, the HKS healthcare practice Lean champion and a long-time teacher and presenter at LCI programs. Bernita and her HKS colleague Andrea Sponsel recently presented the HKS Lean journey in a video presentation now available on YouTube. (Andrea also just presented at our Design Forum in Chicago.) The video provides an overview of how Lean tools and techniques are changing the HKS business model, driving innovation, and adding value to the design process for the client. Bonus content: the last few minutes of the Q&A talks about extending the benefits of Lean into improving our personal lives.

This is your last chance to register for the webinar “A Lean Coach’s Analysis of Last Planner® Successes and Failures,” with Dan Fauchier, June 17th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Fauchier will discuss how a dozen or more project teams (design and construction, current and past) have implemented Last Planner® System (LPS), the triumphs and stumbles, the pitfalls and challenges, on a variety of project types (schools, hospitals, prisons, commercial, residential). He will share case histories, show photos, demonstrate his energetic 15 minute kickoff explanation of LPS (it will give you some ideas on tightly
"Use materials from near at hand," advises Massachusetts builder John Abrams. "They'll be easier to match or replace."

Upcoming Events

June 27
WEBINAR - A Lean Coach's Analysis of Last Planner® Successes and Failures, with Dan Fauchier (WEBINAR)

June 30
WEBINAR - Introduction to Lean Design & Construction with Dick Bayer Session II (WEBINAR)

July 10
You Be the Judge - Case Study: Lean vs. Traditional Delivery on A Construction Project (Dallas-Fort Worth CoP)

July 18
Webinar: Intro to Lean with David Umstot (WEBINAR)

CoP Corner

Every month on our calls there is a CoP Spotlight. We would like to thank the NorCal CoP for being our Spotlight CoP on this past month's call and Chicago will be the Spotlight CoP on our call next month so tune in for what promises to be a great presentation about how they keep their events going and their CoP alive.

The Wisconsin CoP is putting on a “Lunch and Learn” Intro to Lean webinar on July 18th at 11:30 am -1:00 pm CDT, presented by David Umstot from Umstot Project and Facilities and Solutions, LLC. Come learn the basics of lean project delivery from the perspective of a former public owner. Why are owners increasingly interested in lean project delivery and how can all members of the project team benefit from a more collaborative approach? David Umstot will help you learn to see the waste and expose you to concepts that will help eliminate it and enhance the value proposition. He is a firm believer that "business as usual" is no longer an option. During this fast-paced session, you will be exposed to The Last Planner® System, 5S, target value design, set-based design, A3 problem solving and reporting and more.

Click here to register for Dan Fauchier’s WEBINAR

Click here to register

View all events

LCI Welcomes Our New Members!

Advocate Health Care
Sincerely,

Dan C. Heinemeier, CAE
Executive Director

Ph: (703) 387-3048 · @: danh@leanconstruction.org

Learn More Here

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