

PBA TODAY  
NOVEMBER 2020

PENZA + BAILEY  
ARCHITECTS

## AROUND TOWN



We're in sunny Pensacola, Florida. Currently applying our expertise under a federal contract at a naval base, we are busy assessing a multitude of buildings that suffered damage from Hurricane Sally. On their time off from the project, Architect Ryan Behneman and Greg Andoll look in the local attractions, including getting up close with a Blue Angels Hornet.

## TRENDS

### NAVIGATING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS — DEMOCRACY IN ACTION



Patience and perseverance can indeed lead to success. As the Covid-19 pandemic just began to spread, AIA Maryland's lobbyist American Joe Miedusiewski and I had been standing for a couple of hours within a crowded lobby in the halls of the State House in Annapolis. We are waiting for our turn to enter the hearing room to testify before the House Committee on Economic Matters. I was frantically editing my notes as I prepared to present the only opposition argument for a bill that could easily have dire implications for the profession and the public.

On any given day during the Maryland General Assembly Session, people scurry in and out of hearing rooms; and speed-walking State representatives and their staff attempt to avoid eye contact as they quickly approach their appointed committee rooms. On this day in early March, I listened intently to the banter of State politics and impromptu corridor debates, all the while watching the scrolling agenda on the monitor. Was bill HB1087 up next? Needless to say, my last-minute notes did not amount to much. This is often the typical and tedious routine one experiences while waiting for the opportunity to see democracy in action. Frankly, I have developed a great respect for the men and women who lobby on our behalf each and every day.

Fortunately, American Joe has been a great teacher. Through his guidance, I have somehow learned to manage the process. [Read more](#)

### RESIDENTIAL — FIREPLACE DESIGN

Linear Fireplaces are one of the hottest trends in modern designs.

Fireplace design has come a long way since archeologists discovered fire pits around 500 B.C. in huts that had a small hole in the roof to vent smoke. In 43 A.D., Roman bakers included a flue to pipe smoke to the outside. Historically, fireplaces were used for cooking, heating rooms and heating water for bathing and cleaning. Benjamin Franklin improved fireplace design by developing a convection chamber and also improved air flow by pulling air from a basement and venting at the top.

Although the fireplace was integrated into construction as a heat source, modern mechanical HVAC systems have made fireplaces obsolete, at least from a functional perspective. We still love them as an emotional symbol of comfort, however.

Like many building products, fireplace design has evolved from simple colonial styles to ornate Victorian styles. Mid-Century Modern design celebrated the fireplace massing with small openings. From wood-burning, to gas-fired or electric, many options are available today. Gas log inserts can be easily inserted into original wood-burning fireplaces for a convenient and much more efficient heating solution. [Read more](#)



This PBA design features a linear modern fireplace with bottom gas insert.

## CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS

### STAFF PASSIONS



Our Architects have many passions, including the need for speed. Jeff Penza has always been a car enthusiast, having grown up in the muscle car era (well before he had a driver's license). Jeff imparted his love of automobiles to his son Brian, who returned the favor by suggesting taking their cars to sanctioned driving events. These turned out to be great father and son bonding experiences.

Initially, they began driving in events organized by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and the National Auto Sports Association (NASA). One of the events is Autocross, in which drivers navigate courses set up in large parking lots using orange cones to define the course. And of course, the object is to drive as quickly as possible!

The other activity Jeff and Brian began was to drive on an actual racecourse in High Performance Driving Events (HPDE). Surprisingly, there are a multitude of racetracks open to car clubs around the country. Summit Point Raceway is a mere 90 minutes away in West Virginia, which serves as a "home track" to those living in the Baltimore – Washington region. [Read more](#)

### THINGS WE LIKE



**Baltimore Breweries.** Take an audio tour of local breweries and learn the fascinating history behind some of the famous brands and buildings. [Link](#)

Want to know more? In his *Five Minute Histories*, Johns Hopkins provides an in-depth history of the American Brewery building. [Watch video](#)



**The Peale Center for Baltimore History & Architecture.** It's the largest known collection of more than 1,400 authentic stories about Baltimore, its people and communities, and its unique architecture. Listen to special playlists on a range of platforms. [Link](#)



**Thirty Best Thanksgiving Games.** Although your Thanksgiving may look very different this year, there is still room for some fun. These unique games can be played in your own home and some even outside, such as the *Turkey Scavenger Hunt*. [Link](#)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

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