

Architecture • Planning • Interior Design • Infrastructure

**“Architects Without Borders”**

*With U.S. markets slowing down, companies look to Latin America to spice things up*



*Philadelphia Business Journal  
May 29- June 3, 2009  
H2L2 Principal Thomas Piotrowski and  
Director of Global Initiatives Natalia Olson  
de Savyckyj*

Just about everyone in the United States has felt the burn of the recent economic downturn. With national markets at an all-time low, many companies are looking internationally to broaden their horizons.

The Philadelphia Business Journal reported on June 3 that H2L2 Architects/Planners LLC, along with six other Philadelphia-area businesses, is doing just that by embarking on a trade mission to Panama and Colombia. The companies are partnering with the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia in the organizations’ third trip to Latin America.

The trip, planned for June 6-13, allows businesses to look for new opportunities

(continued, see “Architects”)

**Green Initiatives**

*H2L2 sets the “green” bar even higher*

Following Mayor Nutter’s initiative to make Philadelphia the “greenest” city in the nation, local business leaders have created the Greater Philadelphia Green Business Commitment program to encourage sustainable practices in the workplace. Businesses make a public promise to reduce their negative impact on the environment by following a checklist of practices designed around their typical work day and office setting. This checklist, ranging in topics from water management to leadership and education, provides sustainability guidelines that rank the businesses based on the



*Stamper Square Hotel and Condo, Philadelphia, PA  
LEED Silver*

number of practices the company has adopted.

H2L2 Architects/Planners, LLC is the first architecture/planning firm to reach Gold member status of the program. At the GPGBC Charter Member Celebration event on May 28, 2009, H2L2 Director of Global Initiatives, Natalia Olson de Savyckyj challenged nearly 75 other organizations to raise the bar and meet the sustainability efforts of the firm.

Sustainability has always been a cornerstone of H2L2’s practice since its founding in 1907 and continues to be today, over a century later.

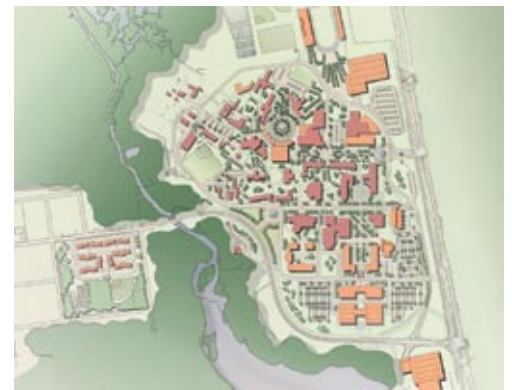


*American Community School of Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
LEED Platinum*

In addition to tracking its sustainable practices on a daily basis, H2L2 is committed to having 100% of their design staff LEED accredited by 2010.

To date, 40% of the design staff and 51% of the technical staff is already accredited, with nine more people lined up to take the exam this month. It seems like H2L2 really is “enriching environments”.

To see H2L2’s carbon footprint and to learn more about their sustainability efforts, log on to [www.H2L2.com](http://www.H2L2.com), or to learn more about the Green Business Program, log on to [www.PhillyGreenBiz.com](http://www.PhillyGreenBiz.com).



*Delaware State University, Dover, DE  
Sustainable Campus Master Plan*

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("Architects", continued)

supported by markets with a bit less turmoil than those here in the U.S.

While H2L2 is no stranger to international markets, these Latin American countries in particular seem to be hot spots. "Right now Colombia and Panama are showing great development, and they are growing very quickly," said Natalia Olson de Savyckj, company Director of Global Initiatives. "With the \$5 billion expansion of the Panama Canal I think there is a lot of opportunity for engineering and architectural firms."

**H2L2 Brings Home the Gold**

*Architects and designers earn prestigious awards*

H2L2 continues to be recognized for their outstanding designs across all four disciplines. The most recent additions to the growing list of awards are:

**The Associated General Contractors of America Outstanding Achievement Merit for Excellence in Craftmanship** for the design of Ashby & Geddes Law Offices in Wilmington, DE.

**The Building of America Network Community Service Award** for the new construction and renovation of Blank Rome LLP.

For more info regarding H2L2's services or teaming opportunities, please contact us at:  
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**H2L2 Presents Case Study at IBC**

*H2L2 architects exemplify how to integrate safety, planning and aesthetics into today's infrastructure at International Bridge Conference*



*I-480 Western Gateway Project, 2008*

The International Bridge Conference gathers over 1,000 bridge designers, engineers, construction executives, and government officials from the U.S. and abroad into one arena. H2L2 Principal Thomas Piotrowski and Senior Associate Bruce Chamberlin were selected to present a paper to the industry professionals in attendance at this year's conference, held on June 14-17. The paper, entitled "Urban Planning and the Design of Bridges", addressed America's need to rehabilitate miles of highways and interstates over the next few decades while keeping safety, planning, efficiency, community impact, and aesthetics in mind. H2L2 addresses all of these issues in their designs, and as an example, highlighted their 2008 award-winning I-480 Western Gateway project to demonstrate how the integration of these factors can be successfully achieved. After an introduction that included an analysis of the site, its community connections and the existing structures, a study of their solutions to the challenges was presented.

The primary objective of the project was to address structural, functional, safety, operational, and

aesthetic issues in providing a new bridge, walkway, entrance ramp, sound barriers, and landscaping treatments. The focal point is a unique tri-rib design for the bridge over the Genesee River (pictured above) that is one of the first of its kind to be constructed in the country. The bridge, spanning a width of 130 feet, is also the widest bridge of its kind in the United States. By establishing design criteria and intent and studying their relationship to the land and community, H2L2's final design for the Western Gateway project was a safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing addition to the city of Rochester, NY.

"Over the next few decades the United States will need to rehabilitate miles of highways and interstates."

**H2L2 Green Fact**

Sustainable design at H2L2 began with our founder, renowned architect Paul Philippe Cret, who in the early part of the twentieth century designed a rainwater collection and irrigation system as part of the World War I Chateau Thierry American Monument.