



ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

FOURTH QUARTER 2009

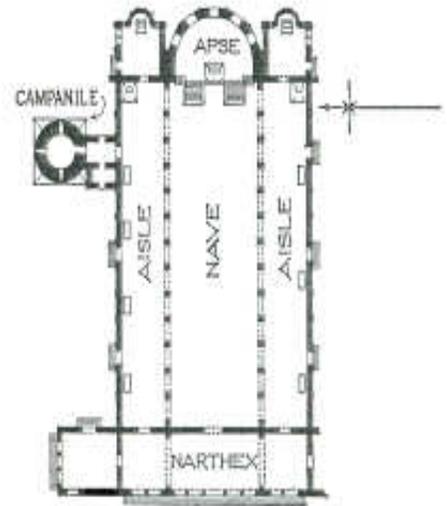


Ehlinger & Associates extends Seasons Greetings to all of our friends who receive the newsletter. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

as was Sant' Apollinare in Nuovo built slightly later in Ravenna itself, and San Vitale in Ravenna (4th Quarter 2007 E&A Newsletter). Saint Apollinaris (Apollinare in Italian) was a native of Antioch and the first Bishop of Ravenna and Classe who was martyred for his faith. The church was consecrated on May 8, 549 by Bishop Maximian. The Byzantine art within was instrumental in UNESCO declaring this to be a World Heritage Site.

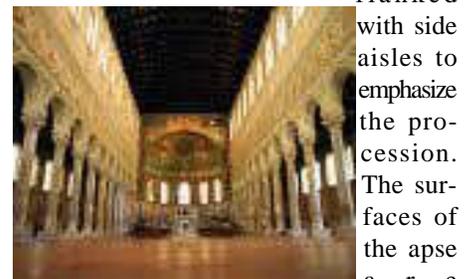
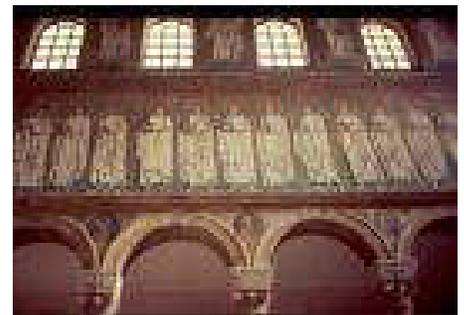
This issue's limed edition print of a sketch by Ladd Ehlinger is of the west facade. The narthex (a type of foyer), which is in the foreground and contains

the front door is a later addition as the original design had an atrium in the front with a different narthex. The campanile (bell tower) is a fine ninth century addition with tri-partite openings that get smaller as one goes down the tower to express the need for more



Plan from History of Architecture, Sir Banister Fletcher

triumphal arch which was closed in with an apse (semi-circular, half domed shape) that contained the altar at the far end, and



flanked with side aisles to emphasize the procession. The surfaces of the apse are

covered with frescoes. The decorative marble columns at the side of the nave at the aisles held a high wall above with clerestory windows over the aisles' roofs, the wall surfaces of which are infilled with frescoes mosaics. The nave is roofed over with wooden trusses, wood decking and clay tile roofing as are the side aisles. All of the masonry wall surfaces on the exterior are of the thin, flat red Roman brick.



Sant' Apollinare in Classe
Ravenna, Italy
© 2009 Ladd P. Ehlinger

Sant' Apollinare in Classe

Sant' Apollinare in Classe is located about five miles outside the City of Ravenna, Italy in it's port in what had been the Roman port city of Classus ("Classe" in Italian). This church is an important example of Byzantine architecture that was erected by the Emperor Justinian through Bishop Urcinius, using money lent by the Greek banker Iulinius Agentarius, on the site of a previous temple of Apollo, the Roman god of music, poetry, prophecy, and medicine. The Byzantine art within the church is magnificent and more than likely this early Christian Basilican plan church itself was also built by Byzantine craftsman,

support. The surprising aspect to me was that the site is so spacious and open, so un-urban in expression. It is as if the architect plopped it down in the middle of a pasture.

The basilican plan is an adaptation of a Roman public building type that was used for civic life - meetings of citizens and even the courts. In Roman use, the simple rectangular plan was entered from the long side. As adapted into churches, this was changed to enter from the short side at the end, as the liturgical emphasis was of having a processional space. This simple space, the nave, was ended with

The Art of Cleanliness

With the recent outbreak and public scare of H1N1 flu, people are focusing their concern on personal and public hygiene. It's actually an ongoing, everyday concern for architects... everytime we design a restroom, especially public restrooms.

Hands-Free Hygiene

Some people don't like to use public restrooms - you never know when it was last cleaned, or how sanitary it is. Technology, however, is helping to make the experience much more sanitary, and convenient.

While hands-free sensor technology has been around for a while - pretty much everyone is familiar with auto-flush toilets and sensor sinks - the technology is finally coming of age where it's reliable and inexpensive enough to become pervasive.

The biggest advance in the technology happened when the motion detector was switched from infrared to capacitive sensing. Infrared sensors are often unpredictable and prone to malfunction. Different skin tones affect the detection range, and nearby shiny surfaces, or blurring of the reception housing with soap scum, can affect performance.

Capacitive sensors create an electrical field around the fixture, and sense disturbances within the field. It's omnidirectional, and the housing for the sensor does not need to be exposed. This prevents false activation, as there is no beam to break. It also prevents problems with no activation - as the reception can't be blocked. This provides a consistency of use and ease of operation and maintenance that wasn't possible with infra red technology.

It's not just for toilets and sinks, either. There are touch-free soap dispensers, pa-

per towel dispensers, and hand dryers. So not only is it more hygienic to use modern public restrooms, it's also less wasteful.

This advancement has resulted in public restrooms whose fixtures can be entirely hands free, reliable and convenient to use, and easy to maintain.

Simple Sanitation

In addition to new hands-free technology, other areas of public restroom design have advanced specifically for cleanliness and hygiene.

In public restrooms, the areas most likely to need frequent cleanings for sanitation purposes are the sink countertops and the floors. While hands-free technology removes knobs and helps prevent walls from being dirtied, it doesn't prevent splashing from sinks or urinals, or spray from flushing toilets.



One of the simplest techniques is to simply make the surfaces easier to clean. This means using a solid, non-porous surface, with very few crevices, seams, or lips that can collect dirt. While this may sound "simple", it can actually be very difficult to design for, as individualizing seamless products to different restroom sizes and locations is a challenge.

For countertops, this means avoiding laminated surfaces, which, while non-porous, have seams at every corner.

Use of solid surface materials with integrated sinks is a popular solution, as there are no seams or rim at the sink. The disadvantage is that many solid surface materials (acrylic, corian) can be scratched by

sharp objects. Stainless steel fixtures are another solution, but ironically, they tend to look stained from soap and water spots, even though perfectly clean and sanitary. Properly sealed stone surfaces work very well, particularly if the backsplash can be integrated, and under-mounted sinks are used.

Making a countertop easy to clean is a good thing. Making it so the countertop doesn't need to be cleaned as often is even better. Much of the sanitation concern on countertops comes from splashes while cleaning hands under the sink. Controlling the flow rate and aeration of the water helps to prevent splashing to the countertop, and thus helps prevent the spread of germs.

Placing or integrating the soap dispenser over the bowl of the sink is another simple strategy for countertop cleanliness. With less need for wet hands moving over the countertop, and with soap spills immediately contained in the bowl of the sink, there is less chance for contamination.

EARLY COLONIAL

The early colonial home from late 1700 through early 1800 is a mini-reflection of immigration of early settlers along our East coast. There was a large invasion of from Europeans and they brought their unique cultural influences and building techniques. Almost all early colonial homes were owner built.

Philadelphia was an entry port for Germans and from there some moved north to New Jersey, and east to Delaware and Maryland and southward into the Virginia Valley.

Swedes went to the upper end of Delaware Bay followed by Jersey Quakers.

Lutheran Salzburgers settled along the Savannah River in South Carolina and Georgia, while the Scots mostly settled along the Alamaha River in Georgia.

One of the biggest melting pot cities was Charleston, South Carolina... Irish, Welsh, Scots, Dutch and group of New Englanders dominated by English, French Huguenots, and Barbados planters.

The Moravians moved to land granted to them in North Carolina.

Each cultural group contributed to the rich and traditional character of the Colonial style.

