Moeller: What kinds of projects are you working on now?

Hopper: The firm where I am now practices across a broad spectrum of the landscape architecture profession including a good deal of municipal work. We are working with a couple of different housing authorities, as well as with New York City Parks and Recreation in designing some of their play environments and recreation facilities. These projects involve some of the same safety, environmental, and social issues as in public housing. More specifically, in terms of sustainabil-

ity, we are working with Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC program [a long-term plan for “a greener, greater New York”]. We are helping to identify tree-planting locations on housing authority sites, through the sponsor-

ship of the New York Restoration Project, which is Bette Midler’s group. We are also part of the mayor’s Schoolyards to Playgrounds program, taking barren spaces that are covered in asphalt and surrounded by chain link fence and redesigning them so they really become community assets. We are actually working with kids to redesign their own schoolyards with the goal of having a community playground within a ten-

minute walk of all residents.

In all our projects, we are talking more and more about the connections between design and human well-

being, so whether we are looking at creating walkable communities or providing pleasant outdoor spaces, we are also looking at how we can leverage the design for the maximum possible benefits—socially, economically, and environmentally.
Managing Our Most Important Asset

As the National Building Museum’s fiscal year 2008 was coming to a close in October, the global economy, which had been gradually sliding downhill, fell off a cliff. Suddenly, longstanding assumptions about society crumbled, as did the public’s faith in many venerable institutions. Yet from this daunting situation there has emerged a broad resolve to seek meaningful solutions.

To that end, the mission of the National Building Museum has never been more vital. The Museum is, after all, one of the most important stewards of our nation’s greatest tangible asset: the built environment. Bridges and parks, schools and airports, office buildings and houses—are these the components of a diverse portfolio that continues to serve society’s needs regardless of the vicissitudes of financial markets. Increasingly, government officials, business people, and the general public are recognizing that this vast and complex asset must be protected, carefully managed, and continuously reinvested in order to ensure its long-term viability.

During fiscal year 2008, the Museum, through its exhibitions, education programs, publications, and awards programs, continued to shape the public’s understanding of the past, present, and future of our buildings and communities.

A Thoroughly Modern Museum

Over the past fiscal year, the Museum reexamined a seminal movement in architecture and design: 20th-century Modernism. The confrontations of this exploration were a pair of exhibitions about two of the movement’s most creative figures: Marcel Breuer and Eero Saarinen. Featuring large-scale models of landmarks like Breuer’s Gateway Arch, the exhibitions revealed that these architects—though both deceased for decades—continue to exert a powerful influence on contemporary design.

As a counterpoint to the focus on Modernism, the exhibition Lasting Foundations: The Art of Architecture in Africa explored the long and seamless history of vernacular building across that continent. The visually-rich exhibition included original works of architectural sculpture, handicrafts, photographs, and film.

Ongoing exhibitions included Citiescapes Revealed: Highlights from the Collection; Washington: Symbol and City; and the phenomenally popular Building Zone gallery, where young children learn about the built environment through hands-on activities.

Green is Still Good

For years, the Museum has been an advocate and resource for sustainable, or green, design, and 2008 was no exception. This past year, thanks to the support of The Home Depot Foundation, Green is Still Good, the Museum’s highly-regarded youth and family education programs, engaged youngsters in meaningful exploration of the built environment. Family events such as the Festival of the Building Arts and Discover Engineering Family Day drew a total of 25,125 people, while school programs attracted 14% more participants than in fiscal year 2007.

Enhancing Our Intellectual Capital

Thanks to the generosity of Beverly Willis, a founding trustee of the Museum, and other generous donors, we opened the renovated Beverly Willis Library in March 2008. The new library provides improved facilities for research, meetings, and presentations. We wasted no time in taking advantage of this facility as we welcomed our first two fellows—thanks to the support of The American Institute of Architects and Cynthia and Charles Field—who spent the summer conducting research that advanced the mission of the Museum.

As always, the Museum board and staff are indebted to the members, corporate sponsors, and many other contributors who made all of our activities possible. Despite the economic challenges that face us all, we look forward to another productive, creative, and informative year.
As a private, nonprofit institution, the National Building Museum relies on the generous support of corporations, individuals, associations, foundations, and associations to fund its innovative exhibitions and award-winning educational programs. This support is given in a variety of ways—from grants and donations to sponsorships and support for programs during the Museum’s exhibitions and educational programs. In 2008, the National Building Museum’s total contributions exceeded $5,979,718. The Board of Trustees and the Museum’s staff are grateful to all who provided the financial support that enables the Museum to raise awareness of and appreciation for the built environment.

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Paul W.还有一些人，他们的名字没有列出，但是他们的支持同样重要。2008年，基金会收到了大量的捐款，总计达到了$5,979,718。董事会和博物馆的全体员工对所有提供支持的人员表示衷心的感谢，他们使博物馆能够继续发扬优秀建筑和环境意识。

Donors

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2008 Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended September 30, 2008

**Unrestricted** | **Temporarily Restricted** | **Permanently Restricted** | **2008 Total** | **2007 Total**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**Revenue, gains, and other support**
Contributions and grants | 2,361,683 | 1,879,787 | - | 4,241,470 | 4,049,422
Great Hall events | 1,040,992 | - | - | 1,040,992 | 1,849,490
Museum Shop sales | 1,109,209 | - | - | 1,109,209 | 1,247,090
Contributed Goods & Services | 1,064,627 | - | - | 1,064,627 | 1,039,665
Investment income | 77,236 | 131,576 | - | 208,811 | 387,433
Membership | 267,785 | - | - | 267,785 | 299,100
Other | 324,069 | - | - | 324,069 | 256,495
Education program fees | 241,540 | - | - | 241,540 | 193,465
Contribution box | 57,334 | - | - | 57,334 | 70,657
Event Income | 63,825 | - | - | 63,825 | 56,005
Net assets released from restrictions | 1,804,957 | (1,804,957) | - | - | -
**TOTAL REVENUE** | 9,313,357 | 206,405 | - | 9,519,762 | 9,466,783

**Expenses**
Program services
Exhibitions | 2,563,055 | - | - | 2,563,055 | 2,473,478
Education and public programs | 2,080,604 | - | - | 2,080,604 | 2,004,236
Museum Shop | 1,015,061 | - | - | 1,015,061 | 1,100,488
Communications & Marketing | 1,042,009 | - | - | 1,042,009 | 1,030,770
Great Hall events | 500,868 | - | - | 500,868 | 472,056
Collections | 291,213 | - | - | 291,213 | 281,370
**Total program services** | 7,483,680 | - | - | 7,483,680 | 7,240,298
Supporting services
Funding | 1,226,391 | - | - | 1,226,391 | 1,136,720
General and administrative | 376,407 | - | - | 376,407 | 419,472
Membership | 122,358 | - | - | 122,358 | 151,272
**Total supporting services** | 1,725,156 | - | - | 1,725,156 | 1,707,440
**Total expenses** | 9,178,836 | - | - | 9,178,836 | 9,049,862
Loss on investments | 267,332 | 508,895 | - | 776,227 | -
**Total expenses and losses** | 9,446,178 | 508,895 | - | 9,955,073 | 9,466,783

**Change in net assets** | ($132,921) | ($303,450) | - | ($436,371) | ($398,921)

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**Net Assets, September 30, 2006**
Unrestricted | $375,823 | $3,971,515 | - | $435,655 | $3,367,193
**Change in Net Assets**
Temporal | (18,101) | 4,073,477 | - | 3,955,376 | 398,921
**Total** | $357,722 | 2,378,082 | - | $2,655,732 | $3,764,114
**Net Assets, September 30, 2007**
Unrestricted | $719,722 | $2,378,082 | - | $3,065,384 | $3,065,384
**Transfer of Net Assets**
Temporary | - | 500,000 | - | 500,000 | -
**Change in Net Assets**
**Total** | $719,722 | 2,878,082 | - | $3,565,384 | $3,565,384

**Change in Net Assets**

The National Building Museum is a nonprofit, educational institution designated under section (501)(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This financial report is based on independently audited financial statements. For a copy of the complete financial statement please write to: Accounting Department, National Building Museum, 4th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or call 202-272-2448.

The National Building Museum makes an effort to maintain complete and accurate financial records and reports. The Museum's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and are audited annually by an independent public accounting firm.

Paul Farmer is executive director and CEO of the American Planning Association. He has primary responsibility for the long-term strategic direction of the association, in concert with elected leadership. He is responsible for representing the leadership of the association, its members, and the interests of planning with partners and the public.

This article was adapted from Planning magazine and other APA publications.

The article provides a financial overview of the National Building Museum for the year ended September 30, 2008. It includes revenue, expenses, and changes in net assets. The museum's financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles and are independently audited. The article also comments on sustainability and its definitions, highlighting the importance of clear and meaningful terms in discussions around sustainable practices.