

design Speaks

Every obstacle in life has a **design** solution.

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BOTTLES AHOY !

The Internet may satisfy most of our needs to get a message "out there," yet this is no reason to abandon the old standby, the message in a bottle. Here are five occasions for which it may be best to cast one onto the waters of fortune:

Shipwrecked: Let's face it, Tom Hanks proved it can still happen. In his book, "The Twelve Million Dollar Note," Robert Kraske writes of many messages in bottles, including one that a Japanese seaweed collector found in 1935. It was from Chunosuke Matsuyama, who with his 43 crew mates had been washed up on an island ... in 1784. Now we know.



photo credits: Deposit Photos

Under siege: In 2011, the crew of the Montecristo, a cargo ship, threw overboard a message in a bottle as they went into hiding when their ship was overrun by pirates. British commandos from two NATO ships found the bottle in the water before taking the ship and arresting the pirates. On the other hand, a WWI soldier cast into the English Channel a letter in a bottle, addressed to his wife. He died two days later. As reported by the BBC, the letter was found in time to be delivered to his daughter -- 2 at the time -- when she was 86. The letter closes: "Ta ta sweet, for the present. Your Hubby."

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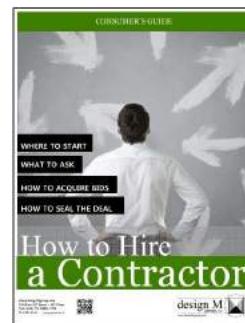
Did You Know ?

We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...

"How to Hire a Contractor"



Download it here and share it with your friends.

Archi-fact:

The Australian National Maritime Museum building has 7 galleries. The seventh was funded by the United States and is the only national museum in the world funded by a foreign nation.

BOTTLES AHOY!

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photo credits: Deposit Photos

Scientific research: In the early 1900s, scientists at the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, Devon, U.K., released 1,020 such bottles to study deep sea currents. One of the bottles was discovered on a beach in Germany 108 years later, showing this is a less than reliable form of research, though one still used today, albeit with tracking devices.

Fun: A message washed up in New Zealand after 76 years in the ocean, placed there by a Mr. Hillbrick in the 1930s, while on a cruise, and was returned to his grandson ... in Australia.

Romance: As reported in American Weekly in 1959, Swedish sailor Ake Viking cast adrift a note addressed "To Someone Far Away and Beautiful." Seventeen-year-old Paolina's father found the bottle in Italy and gave it to her. With the help of her parish priest, she was able to have the note translated and begin a correspondence. The Weekly concluded that the sailor Ake and Paolina, who had just turned 18, had "embarked on the sea of matrimony."

Iconic Building of the Month

The Australian National Maritime Museum does its job well. Though complex in design, there is a simplicity to the exterior that evokes the billowing sails of a ship. Standing at Darling Harbor in Sydney -- Australia's oldest city -- the Museum both symbolizes and exhibits the site's role as the cradle of the nation's maritime history.

Darling Harbor long served as an immigrant and commercial hub. It accommodated, too, the cargo transport demands of the railways of New South Wales, where it is located. Container shipping, however, proved too much, increasing the importance of Botany Bay and elsewhere. The area fell into disuse. Then came plans for the nation's bicentenary and a grant to revitalize the Harbor. Today, the Museum and Sydney Aquarium form a gateway to a recreational and tourist destination.

From inside, visitors to the Museum are able to see the port's activity through glass walls.

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Archi-Quote

"From the age of 70 you know life is limited and there's a certain desperation that develops in that you want to do this, this and this."

[Philip Cox, Architect](#)



Iconic Building of the Month

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Designed by Cox Architecture, the vaulted ceilings and series of balconies allow for exhibits that range from the America's Cup yacht to model ships. Displays recognize the original occupation of the site by the native Gadigal people. Anchored nearby are several in-water museum ships, including the replica of HM Bark Endeavour, commanded by Lieutenant James Cook when he charted New Zealand and discovered the eastern coast of Australia.

photo credits: Deposit Photos

Archi-Speak

Can you find these parts of a ship?

AMIDSHIPS

BULWARKS

GANGPLANK

MASTHEAD

QUARTERDECK

Y	X	H	Z	L	O	R	K	A	X	N	O	R	G	M
C	O	L	X	U	I	U	I	N	M	C	N	F	D	A
F	V	M	T	N	N	M	E	F	S	Y	W	Q	C	F
M	V	G	T	F	Y	R	N	E	Q	W	N	M	V	G
B	N	O	I	T	A	V	I	T	O	M	S	O	B	I
D	M	D	R	E	X	U	P	V	M	V	T	N	G	D
N	U	U	U	L	K	L	R	T	S	B	O	W	E	Q
J	T	K	U	S	O	K	H	W	W	M	Y	O	A	Q
Q	G	O	A	L	F	T	R	Y	G	X	X	Z	K	W
D	V	K	S	O	W	W	J	S	Y	S	G	W	S	U
W	M	C	O	N	F	L	I	C	T	C	P	J	M	B
K	O	P	O	V	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	X
N	S	S	O	V	K	Y	A	L	F	O	T	O	V	O
L	E	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	N	N	X
W	Y	Z	Q	E	T	R	J	K	P	L	N	G	A	Q

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007.

When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips.

This month's question.

There is a plot vacant land in town a block from my house for sale. How can I find out if it is worth purchasing for a future investment.

Rick M.

Rick:
One of the many services we provide our clients is that of the "Needs and Options Review". This report includes a review of the zoning and building rules that apply to a property. When this is accomplished you can rest assured that you will know what you can legally do with the property. Whether you can build on it for a home or other building and if possible how many homes can be built on it. We can also inform you as to the cost of building and the time it would take to carry a project through design and government approval. Once you have this information you can decide if the land is worth purchasing as an investment in the future and if it is priced in accordance with its value.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com, and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

Want to speak with the Architect

Do you have questions but do not know where to start?

Do you know the legal consequences of starting a project without approvals?

Are you sure you have completed all of the research necessary so as not to waste your money and time during construction?

Are what you think are your NEEDS and OPTIONS truly the best for you and your future?

Does the contractor really have YOUR best interest in mind when suggesting solutions?

Answering these questions and more are the reason for enlisting a Needs and Options Review.

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Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.

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About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. Presently he serves as the Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

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