

## Holiday Traditions

During the Holidays this time of year most families cook from recipes handed down from parents and grandparents. Cooking these meals are in many ways a family tradition. There are of course other traditions many families carry one at this festive time of year. Weather it is going to a specific show or watching a specific move, helping out at a homeless center or in the case of my daughter and I building a note worthy structure out of gingerbread, we do this every year at this time.

photo credit: Design M Group, Inc.



continued on page three

### january 2018 contents

Holiday Traditions:	pg 1
Ionic Building of the Month	pg 2
Ask M	pg 3
Archi-fact	pg 1
Archi-quote	pg 2
Arch-speak	pg 3
About	pg 4

### 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"



Down load it here and share it with

### Archi-fact:

#### The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Construction occurred in three stages over 199 years. Work on the ground floor of the white marble campanile began on August 14, 1173

The tower began to sink after construction had progressed to the second floor in 1178. This was due to a mere 10 foot foundation, set in weak, unstable subsoil, a design that was flawed from the beginning.

# Iconic Building Of The Month

## The Leaning Tower of Pisa



The **Leaning Tower of Pisa** is the freestanding bell tower, of the Pisa Cathedral known worldwide for its unintended tilt. The tower is the third oldest structure in the city's Cathedral Square, after the cathedral and the Pisa Baptistery.

The tower's tilt began during construction in the 12th century, caused by an inadequate foundation on ground too soft on one side to properly support the structure's weight. The tilt increased in the decades before the structure was completed in the 14th century. It gradually increased until the structure was stabilized (and the tilt partially corrected) by efforts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

The height of the tower is 183.27 feet from the ground on the low side and 185.93 feet on the high side. The width of the walls at the base is 8 feet 0.06 in. Its weight is estimated at 16,000. The tower has 296 or 294 steps; the seventh floor has two fewer steps on the north-facing staircase. Prior to restoration work performed between 1990 and 2001, the tower leaned at an angle of 5.5 degrees, but the tower now leans at about 3.99 degrees. This means the top of the tower is displaced horizontally 12 feet 10 inches from the center.

There has been controversy about the identity of its architect. A 2001 study<sup>[8]</sup> seems to indicate [Diotisalvi](#) was the original architect, due to the time of construction and affinity with other Diotisalvi works, notably the bell tower of [San Nicola](#) and the [Baptistry](#), both in Pisa.



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## Archi-Quote

The civil engineer, John Burlan, CBE, FREng was commissioned to save the Leaning Tower of Pisa from further leaning and collapsing back in 1990. At the time he was a Professor of Soil Mechanics at the Imperial College. He has also been Knighted in Italy.

This was his comment upon hearing the news....

"I was fine until I opened today's newspaper and found that I was chairing a committee to decide how to prop up the Tower of Pisa."

# Hoilday Traditions from page one

Some thing done year after year with love and hence becomes a cherished tradition.

The first time my daughter and I created a gingerbread masterpiece was our home, which of course I designed. Then there was Lincoln Center and the New York Public Library. These were then followed by the Eiffel Tower and the Sears Tower which when finished was over four (4') tall. Well this year we were a bit busy as my daughter graduated from college half a year early (with honors) with both a Bachelors' n Music Education and one in Vocal Performance. On top of that we at Design M Group were in the middle of relocating our offices.

So, we decided to build a structure smaller and less complicated this year (or though we thought), the



top of bell tower with bells and flag.

complicated this year (or though we thought), the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It turned out to be very difficult to build due to the fact that it is round and of course **leaning**. Both of these things we were both very aware of but though it would be easier than it turned out to be. As you can see by the accompanying photos it all worked out in the end, slightly over budget, because we baked extra gingerbread just in case the curved pieces broke while putting it together, but on schedule and structurally sound.

We hope you can find a tradition to keep alive from your family. They are a way of keeping in touch with out own history and the loved ones who departed us.

## Archi-Speak

Can you find these words about our project?

<b>Bell</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Gingerbread</b>
<b>Leaning</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Pisa</b>
		<b>Traditions</b>

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

## 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 is...**

My house is designated a landmark. Can I add on to it?

*Sheldon G.*

Sheldon,

In almost every own you can add on to a home which is designated a landmark. Of course great care must be taken by your architect so as to be respectful to the meaning of the landmark for future generations. We at Design M Group have worked on many buildings which have been designated landmarks and the outcome has always been beneficial to our client and the community.

Email your questions to [info@designMgroup.com](mailto: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.

We can help you on your way to a successful project with less hassles and problems.

Visit: [www.designMgroup.com](http://www.designMgroup.com)

## About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB  
President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB 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. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

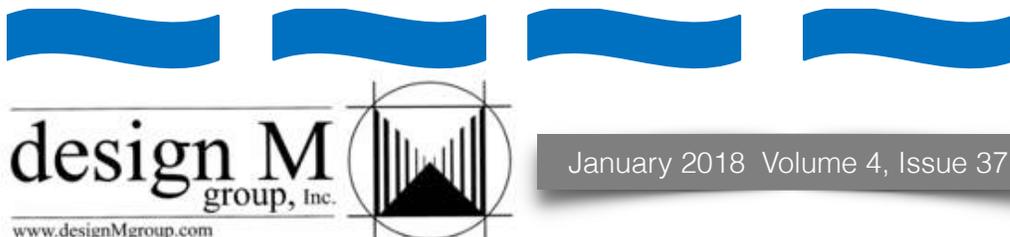
## Our core beliefs are ...

**Architects have a responsibility to our clients, community and the environment.**

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

**Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.**

**Let Us Help You Build the Home You Knew Was Always There For You.**



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## Contact me !

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