The National Building Museum, a non-profit educational institution, was one of the highlights of the Interior Design Club trip to Washington D.C. The building itself was gorgeous and historic, and the exhibits inside were stunning. The mission of the museum is to be "above all a forum for the development, exploration, and exchange of ideas." The museum was created by Congress in 1980 and since then has been a place to discuss and showcase the built environment and the impact it has on the lives of people.

My favorite exhibit was "Drawing Toward Home: Designs for Domestic Architecture from Historic New England." It was a few rooms filled with old floor plans, elevations, and perspectives that were hand drawn and rendered. The amount of detail that the architects used was incredible. Some of the architects worked for firms that are still around today such as McKim, Mead & White and Peabody & Stearns. Throughout the space, there were quotes from the architects who created the beautiful drawings on the walls to inspire all of the people who come through the exhibit. One such quote was by Robert A.M. Stern (see above). I think all designers have the hope he speaks of.

There was also a fascinating exhibit called "Cityscapes" that explored American 20th Century buildings from cities all over the country. It included mansions, storefronts, and skyscrapers. There was even an interactive element that let the visitors of the museum explore the different ways that masonry workers would place the bricks of a building to create different effects.

"We hope our buildings will be better than our drawings, but at the very least the drawings provide a record of our intentions, a standard for measure"

The National Building Museum is a must see for anyone going to Washington D.C. but is especially fun for architects, interior designers, and history buffs. There is even an area for kids to play called the "Building Zone" where young, aspiring architects can construct towers and look at architectural picture books.

Overall, the architecture of the past inspires the architecture and design of the present and of the future. The National Building Museum takes this notion and creates a place where people from many different fields can find the inspiration they need for years to come.

- Brittany Wirges
department classifieds

Black Foamcore Board
Conveniently, the Interior Design Club sells black foamcore all year long for $5 a piece. You can purchase boards through Stephanie Heher during her office hours.

ID Club Recyclable Bags
Help preserve the environment and represent the Mercyhurst College Interior Design Club by purchasing a trendy bag made of recyclable material with our name printed on it. For just $10, you can tote this bag around campus to make a statement about sustainable design. If you or someone you know would like to purchase a bag, please feel free to contact any of the ID Club Officers for details.

Professional Development
If you have anything you are looking to buy or sell, or have a lead on a job or internship position you would like to share through the department newsletter, please feel free to contact Kerry Tabar by email at ktabar37@mercyhurst.edu

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Facilities planner, CHS Strategic Services
Provide facility planning, programming, drafting, and specification writing to support to minimize the use and cost of outside contractors/vendors/consultants
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