

### Remember Allied Members When Doing Business

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### Amy says:

#### Potty Parity! – (or) – “Yeah, I’m sure a man designed this bathroom.”

If someone gave me a dollar each time I heard this while waiting in line for the bathroom, I would have enough to retire comfortably. I’m sure there are many of you (and by “you”, I mean women) that have to plan potty breaks during a large event or strategize when to have that drink. And you know the routine; go to the bathroom, wait in line, wait for the sink, and exit the restroom to find your male companion waiting outside.

Can we eliminate situations like those above and, in general, wait times for everyone? There are potty parity laws in place that are supported by organizations such as the American Restroom Association (ARA). In many cases, restroom availability and service weighs heavily on the success of a venue such as a stadium, concert hall, or restaurant.

In many older buildings, little or no provisions for women were made. Fortunately, cultural and societal shifts have invoked change for the better, but of course there is still disparity. On a Federal level, women’s restrooms were finally provided on the United States Senate floor in the early 1990s, on the House floor in the 1960s, and in the Supreme Court justice robing room in 1993. The first Restroom Equity Act was passed in California by the then-Senator Arthur Torres after his experience with waiting for his wife to return from the bathroom on one too many occasions.

Potty parity laws do not always mean equal number of toilets, but actually address waiting times at public restrooms and particularly wait times for women. Some laws try to address these problems by mandating twice as many toilets for women as men. But does this one solution solve all potty problems? Wait times can account for various reasons. Women take a longer period of time to use the facilities for a variety of social and physical reasons; women outnumber men in the general population and this is generally represented in large places of assembly, and women require more frequent use of the facilities. Current laws and regulations have provided some relief. The International Building Code (IBC) in general requires a 2:1 Ratio and the Uniform Plumbing Code of which the California Plumbing Code is based on requires almost a 4:1 ratio.

The two new baseball stadiums in New York City did not experience any clogged lines when they opened to the public at the beginning of this season. Each stadium exceeds the minimum plumbing code requirement and the ratio of women to men is about 2:1 for toilets. A recent New York Times article entitled “New Ballpark Statistic: Stadium’s Toilet Ratio” mentions some cases where the 2:1 “ratio” legislation did not work resulting in men facing long lines. Rather than seeing it as a victory for women, in all cases, the owners were required to make changes and in one case, the State lawmakers actually reduced the ratio of women to men.

A venue that I visit from time to time is AT&T Park with its capacity of 42,000. Reviews of the stadium have been favorable with regard to the availability of restroom facilities and, personally, I’ve never had to endure any lines. The stadium offers 255 toilets for women, 67 toilets and 156 urinals for men, and 11 family restrooms. All restrooms include baby changing tables. Currently, we’re involved with a project for an 880 seat concert hall. The designers have included a total of 26 toilets for women, 6 toilets and 12 urinals for men, and 3 family or unisex restrooms for public use. Will this be enough? We will have to wait until opening night to see if the only line that patrons have to queue up for is for a drink during intermission.

(See “Codes” on page 11)

## Members/Firms In The News



Attendees at the AIAEB August monthly program, "The New Urban Village – A Design for Intergenerational Living." Sponsored by Forell/Elsessor Engineers, Inc. Photos by Carol Shen, FAIA



Small Firm Forum visits the *Wooden Windows, Inc.* manufacturing plant. Photos by Barbara Llewellyn, AIA

(Codes, continued from page 8)

Things are getting better. It is certainly helpful when more designers and owners are more 'socially aware' and ever-changing codes reflect the needs of the public. Now if we could do something about requiring lactation rooms...

**Subscribe by Kerwin Lee** – Under the current CBC, AT&T Park would not comply with Chapter 29. Under the current code, for 42,000 users and based on a 50% split in the sexes, 183 WC's would be required for the men and 363 WC's for the women for a total of 546 fixtures. ▶

(Green, continued from page 9)

New SBD Incentive rules introduced in 2009

- Increased incentives for non-lighting Systems Approach measures by \$0.01 per kWh.
- Increased Whole Building Approach incentives, where the maximum rate is raised to \$0.30 per kWh at 30 percent better than Title 24
- Increased Systems and Whole Building Approach gas measures to \$1 per Therm
- An additional \$100 per kW saved across all Systems and Whole Building measures
- A lowered Design Team participation threshold to 10 percent better than Title 24 and increased incentive rates due to the increases in the Owner's incentive rates.

For more information regarding the Savings by Design Program, please refer to the following websites:

1. <http://www.savingsbydesign.com/index.htm>
2. <http://www.savingsbydesign.com/building.htm>
3. <http://www.pge.com/mybusiness/energysavingsrebates/rebatesincentives/inc/>

OR contact your PG&E Savings by Design representative early in the design process of your project. ▶

### Corporation Yard (see cover)



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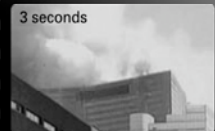
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