

Dec 10 2007

Dear Volker and Vivian:

I want to congratulate you on at least 10 years of existence of ABSIC. My participation was in the beginning. Later on, I acted as Chairman for at least two years.

You may recall that I organized a workshop at Steelcase titled REVALUING BUILDINGS. This happened in 1996. Subsequently, I joined the ABSIC meetings and continued thru 2006.

I have found it a most interesting exercise and certainly enjoyed the Building of the Intelligent Workplace and somewhere you had the official opening where I was able to bring Peter Wege, former president of Steelcase and a board member.

The most interesting thing has been for me was meeting all the members and their staffs from all the companies which participated, both from Industry and Government. My Rolodex certainly has expended during that period.

Have recently looked thru the summary books of many of the meetings and over the years we covered a lot of bases.

We collectively also did a good bit of traveling. The one trip which stands out was the trip to the Netherlands where we visited a number of outstanding buildings. What stands out most in my mind is the number of interesting people we met over those years.

I believe that Steelcase benefited from our participation although the marketing and sales people always had different ideas. Nevertheless some of it rubbed off. It certainly helped me in better understanding the effect technology had on the design of offices. Certainly the changes in technology effected office layouts tremendously.

Also the change which had to take place, as a result of the newer technologies. For example, the change to laptops from large computer terminals, the introduction of cordless phones, and other changes slowly coming about. As we said at one point, "a new office building is virtually obsolete the day they finish building it".

I Want to wish you similar results for the next 10 years,

With my best regards,

Jack J. Beckering