

February 2017 Newsletter

Greetings! ,

The following is the latest edition of the Sullivan Engineering newsletter. This newsletter is being provided as a courtesy, based on our professional relationship. As always, your feedback and suggestions regarding this newsletter as well as requests for future topics are appreciated. Please feel free to email us at newsletter@sullivanengineeringllc.com.

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Quote of the Month

"We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us"

- Winston Churchill



Introducing: Mike Lopez

Sullivan Engineering is excited to introduce and welcome our newest team member, Mike Lopez. Mike has extensive building envelope consulting and construction administration experience, specializing in exterior restoration, waterproofing, roofing and leak remediation. He has a determined attitude and a rigorous work ethic; and as a Registered Architect, he understands and offers both technical and aesthetic perspectives. Mike is a Registered Architect in the states of New York and Florida, a member of the American Institute of Architects, and holds

a NCARB Certificate (National Council for Architectural Registration Boards).

During the warm weather months, Mike enjoys taking in a round of golf or strolling through Central Park with his wife and infant son. On occasion, he likes to catch a New York Ranger's game at Madison Square Garden.



Limits for Exterior restoration in inclement weather - Part 1

By: Jimmy Monahan

Facade and roof restoration projects face many challenges from start to completion, including plan and permit reviews, the bidding process, limited budgets, etc. Weather, however, can be the most unpredictable obstacle facing the commencement, progress and completion of an exterior construction project, especially in the Northeast's climate.

Construction schedules are vitally important to the building owner and contractor involved in any project. After all, time is money. Weather can directly affect how long it takes to complete a project, causing costs to rise and frustrating all involved parties. All work can be suspended due to poor weather conditions including: rain, snow, ice, low/high temperatures and high winds. As it should be, safety is of paramount concern to building departments, engineers, architects, building owners, property managers and contractors. Workmen are encouraged to stop any roof work during high wind gusts, and no one should be working from pipe scaffolding or operating suspended scaffolds during winds that exceed 30 mph. The NYC DOB and Sullivan Engineering issue warnings to remind contractors to ensure all equipment, scaffolds and material are secured during wind events

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The Challenges of

Preserving Historic Buildings

By: Rebecca Reilly

Historic buildings are often very aesthetically pleasing to the eye. However, since antiquated methods were used in their designs, the facades of these buildings are very difficult to preserve.



The mortar used to construct masonry structures has developed overtime. Lime mortar was commonly used in older buildings. This type of mortar is significantly softer than the typical mortars containing Portland cement that are used today. Since Portland cement is often stronger than historic brick or stone units, utilizing this incompatible mortar on an older building can potentially cause brick units to deteriorate and spall. Building owners must always consider the age of their buildings before selecting materials to be installed.

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2017 Planning Retreat

By: Elizabeth Toomey

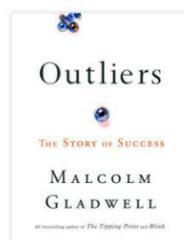
On Thursday, February 9th, Sullivan Engineering held its annual planning retreat. Due to a forecasted winter storm, the team arrived at the hotel where it was being held on Wednesday night. This led to an impromptu social gathering, great

conversations, and what most believe should be a new retreat tradition. As a rapidly growing company, many bright new faces joined our more veteran staff, filling the conference room to capacity. Everyone was eager to learn from and reflect on the past year's experience, along with understanding and committing to the firm's future success. The day was filled with presentations on vision, project management, marketing, human resources, finance, company culture and leadership. Various departments showcased what they have been working on, along with future strategies and goals. We delved more deeply into the EOS process we operate under, specifically the organization, strategies, policies, procedures and commitment that govern our daily work lives. The visionary presentation outlined our one year plan, three year plan, and ten year target. Leadership presented and reviewed the current picture and detailed their expectations of our present team and future recruits. Questions and comments were encouraged at the end of each presentation, which led to topical discussions and varied input regarding our firm's further growth and future success.

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Recommendations from Our Sullivan Team

Recommended Reading



Outliers

By: Malcolm Gladwell

Review By: Joe Czaszynski

"Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell offers insights into what leads to certain people becoming successful, why certain regions are able to live healthier lives, and how it takes not one, but a multitude of opportunities for an individual to thrive and succeed. He also contends

that if equal rights and opportunities existed between upper and lower classes, there would be a lot more successful people in the world.

Chapter 2, "The 10,000 Hour Rule," was very interesting. It claims that for someone to master a particular discipline, 10,000 hours of work on that discipline must be performed. Gladwell offers Bill Joy, Bill Gates, The Beatles and Mozart as examples of this theory, describing the time and effort they put in before they were considered great. Like some of you, I was not familiar with Bill Joy. Turns out he's the brilliant guy who rewrote UNIX, which is the operating computer code that most computers run on, and he created the software that allows us to access the internet. Like the other successful people in the book, Bill Joy was not only smart, but was also afforded multiple opportunities for success.

Another fascinating chapter, "The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes," shows us how different social orders in other parts of the world do not allow teams to effectively communicate with each other, even when lives are at risk. This was evidenced by a statistic in the book; a Korean airline's average accident rate was 17 times higher than that of a major U.S. airline. The Korean airline had to change their name, in addition to establishing a new management team to deal with this issue. All of the pilots were required to learn English. Additionally the traditional social orders were torn down so copilots, flight engineers, maintenance staff, etc. could communicate concerns to pilots without fear of showing disrespect. For 2 years after these changes went into effect, the airline had a flawless record.

Examples of people who never quite attained success, or ended in abject failure are also presented and dissected in order to demonstrate some of the author's concepts. Overall, "Outliers" is a quick read filled with interesting facts and entertaining real life stories.

Recommended Restaurant

Maison Pickle
2315 Broadway
Review By: Mike Lopez



Situated in the heart of the Upper West Side, Maison Pickle has taken over the space formerly occupied by the prominent west side restaurant Oust. At first glance, the restaurant appears small with minimal leather booth table seating. However, a few steps past the elegant marble top bar reveals an extravagant open dining space where 2 upper level balconies overlook long banquet seating.

The extensive menu of upscale comfort food features 5 different takes on their signature French dip sandwiches, each accompanied by a multitude of sides such as: duck fat fries, bacon mac and cheese, and even pickled crudités. The waitstaff is professional, yet friendly, and the bartenders will mix the ideal cocktail or perfectly pour one of the aged craft beers on tap. And save some room for their variety of cakes, all freshly made in house.

Reservations are recommended, and lucky patrons are seated at a table surrounded by beautiful imported jade green Moroccan tile that hides in an alcove beneath the balcony staircase.

Recommended Application



Team Viewer
Review By: Kevin Duffy

Have you ever been out in the field for a few days in a row but need to access your office desktop? Well thanks to Team Viewer, you can use your smart phone, laptop or another desktop computer to access your office desktop remotely from anywhere in the world. Simply sign in and set up your account and you're ready to go. The app can really come in handy on the unexpected snow day, or when you realize you forgot to send that crucial document out before you left for vacation. Our team at Sullivan Engineering has also found Team Viewer to be slightly faster than more traditional remote access applications.

Through the app on the iPhone, it's easy to retrieve any document or drawing saved on our network while in the field. Since Team Viewer allows us to access the full power of our desktops and network at a moment's notice, and while we are on the move, our response time in any situation can be kept to a minimum.

Photo of the Month



View of 56 Leonard Street

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