



# FYI Newsletter

## INTEGRITY

Dear Associate,

The more I look around at the world and all the professions people choose to devote their precious time to, the more I'm convinced that you and I are among the luckiest people in the world, for we get to work in an industry where integrity is built into the process of what we do.

In meeting after meeting, I hear professionals collaborating, teaching, and working to achieve the best value for our project. We have no ulterior motives. We don't sell anything but our time and our knowledge.

Next to the planted LEED certification plaque, wouldn't it be terrific to see a list of individual team members who made the building happen, to give well deserved recognition for their talent and skills? Yes I know, AIA and others give awards to firms, but I want the users of the building to know who labored to give them such an exceptional space in which to live and work. I wonder if each building, at least for the first few years after opening, carries the imprint of the personalities of its collaborators, like a Stradivarius exudes the talent and patience of its maker. Maybe!

Hope you are having a fruitful harvest season. Let's talk soon.

With food for thought,

Lynn Hopkins



## FORESIGHT

### BE PREPARED.

For what? Or rather, NOW what? No one knows what our future world will look like after the last mask is ripped off with glee, and we can breathe free from fear of illness and death. When will we return to a growing economy and a reliable supply chain? All this may take longer than we want.

There is nothing new or alarming about advice to be prepared. We have gone through enough terrorist attacks, black-outs, brown outs, severe weather, and wars to know that the Three Pigs fairytale is more than a childish story. When the big bad wolf couldn't blow down the brick house after all that success with the houses of straw and sticks, and when oddly enough... Be Prepared continues below

### A Look Inside

## HOPKINS

*Autumn Harvest*

### EDUCATION

**SOM**

Pennsylvania State Police Academy

### U.S. EMBASSIES

**Marlon Blackwell Architects**

Bangui, Central African Republic

**KCCT**

Doha, Qatar

### HEALTHCARE

**STV/Ar**

Mid-Hudson

Forensic Replacement Hospital

### WORKPLACE

**AECOM + Tetra Tech**

Confidential in Saudi Arabia

**Burns & McDonnell**

D.C. Armory

**BV/Jacobs**

ECB5

**SOM**

Confidential in Cambridge  
Montgomery County Judicial Center

*Time for you*



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*The priceless ingredient of every product  
is the honor and integrity of its maker.*  
~David Ogilvy

### Hot Basil-Lemon Toddy

This soothing beverage can be enjoyed with or without the rum.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup firmly packed basil
- 6 cups water (divided)
- 1 ½ c freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Grated lemon peel

1. In a medium saucepan, muddle basil and sugar with a wooden spoon.
2. Add 2 cups of water.
3. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until all the sugar has dissolved.
4. Remove from the heat and allow the basil to steep in the syrup until cool.
5. Once cool, strain the simple syrup into a saucepan.
6. Add 4 cups of water and the lemon juice.
7. Stir well while reheating on the range, then pour into your favorite mugs.
8. Add rum to taste...or not.
9. Serve with a garnish of basil leaf and lemon. Enjoy!

Be Prepared continues here:

the wolf couldn't catch either of the runaway pigs, we were being told that foresight and hard work pay off.

The scared pigs proved to themselves that although they were too lazy and fun-loving to take the time to build a house of bricks, they managed to run faster than the wolf until they reached the bricklayer's house for refuge. Good job!

The bricklayer pig also had enough foresight to place a cauldron of water to boil in the fireplace. When the hungry and worn-out wolf spotted the chimney he scurried up it and jumped in only to land in the boiling water. Didn't the wolf spot the smoke coming out? Tsk tsk.



We are the brick-laying pig, planning ahead with foresight and good specifications. Similarly, we must be prepared for real world threats, such as inflation, shortages, and winter storms. Make sure you have a good supply of food and water, flashlights, and candles.

If you haven't been slaving away in your garden all summer, go to a farmer's market and buy some produce for canning. Canning can be a satisfying way to step back in both time (think 1930s) and place (imagine being in a country farmhouse). Although my garden disappointed (once again), it managed to produce enough zucchini, okra, and cherry tomatoes to keep me content.

However! The Hopkins are still living in Basil-Land. I didn't have the heart to kill the seedlings when they were crowding each other, so I carefully transplanted each seedling in one of three beds, and they all thrived. Pesto with pine nuts, with walnuts, with nuts but no pecorino cheese, and our creation of basil-lemon toddy are just a few of my weekend adventures in the kitchen. Also, my fig tree more than made up for last summer. Fig syrup and fig jam!

I wonder how long Richard and I can survive on pesto and jam?



TRUST

### SOLE SOURCE – CRIME OR MARVEL

The letter about our integrity, followed by the article on foresight, intersect on the issue of sole source specifications. That we don't sell products or receive kick-backs should prove that we are insulated against the crime of specifying a product for personal gain. But knowing human nature and how tempted some people may be to have a sideline, it is essential that government agencies require that CDs show no semblance of favoritism.

Sometimes there is only one color that evokes the perception that the designer wants to convey, or an equipment engineer after years of work has invented the perfect solution to a difficult and expensive situation. The engineer proudly and at great cost patented it. Ironically, the invention can't be specified on certain projects because there is no competition to name as an alternate. Is this a Catch 22?

HOPKINS' solution, when allowed, is to write an outline specification that describes the characteristics of the equipment. Eventually, the patent will expire and the competition will get on board, but how many projects must unnecessarily suffer annoying problems until that happens? Who wants to design a 100-year building with 40-year-old technology?

What would have happened if all the pigs had to use sticks or straws, just to keep it fair? Trust and truthworthiness are golden.

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