Acoustical Society of America

Washington DC Regional Chapter

and

Audio Engineering Society

Washington DC Section

are jointly hosting

"Spaces Speak: Are You Listening?"

a lecture on architectural acoustics by

Barry Blesser

Monday, 22 June 2009

6:30pm — Sign-in and social (food and beverages provided)

7:00pm — Presentation

Throughout his 45 year career, Dr. Blesser has been engaged in both researching the experience of hearing space and developing equipment to create spatial experiences for listeners, including the first commercial digital audio reverberation system.

In 2007 MIT Press published his book, *Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? Experiencing Aural Architecture*, which was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Academic Title by the Associates of College and Research Library (a limited number of copies will be available for purchase at the meeting). As Blesser explains:

"We connect to the external physical and social environment by using our senses, and hearing is one of the more important means by which we experience our location. Sound is more than music and speech. Whereas vision primarily provides an awareness of static objects and geometries, hearing provides an intimate connection to the dynamic events of life. Listeners are involuntarily connected to those events that are audible regardless of their location. The sound of an event is always changed by the spatial acoustics of the environment.

"Aural architecture is the composite of those spatial attributes that have an audible manifestation, which can change the behavior response and emotional state of the inhabitants of either real or virtual space. The principles of aural architecture are directly relevant to architects who design physical spaces as well as to sound artists who create the experience of space using media technology.

"There are at least 5 types of spatiality: musical, social, symbolic, navigational, and aesthetic. Reverberation is good example of a process that has one physical explanation but which can manifest different spatiality: As musical spatiality, it merges note sequences into chords; as social spatiality, it changes the distance between people in restaurants; as navigational spatiality, it produces discomfort because the source cannot be localized; as aesthetic spatiality, it can provide a pleasing aural texture thereby avoiding monotony; and as symbolic spatiality, it can be associated with religious meaning in the context of a cathedral."

This and more …

This meeting will be held at:

National Public Radio headquarters
635 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC.
(not far from the DC convention center and Metro Center)

Some parking is available in NPR's garage. To park there, please email DC_Section@AES.org**.**

For more information, contact Fred Geil, AES-DC Secretary, at FGeil@Juno.com.

ASA — DC chapter: www.AcoSoc.org/RegChapters/WashDC/.

AES — DC section: www.AES.org/sections/dc/

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