

Sights of Geauga

On it's own, Geauga County is very unique.

But as anyone who travels through the County will attest, there are many sites that you may not see anywhere else in Ohio, The United States or even the World.

One such site is the ASM International, The Materials Information Society headquarters, located in route 87, east of route 306.



WRITTEN FOR
GEAUGA: A MAGAZINE FOR THE COUNTY
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Materials Mastery: Experience the Renaissance of Materials Park



Photos courtesy of ASM Int'l. and TAG Media

ASM International, The Materials Information Society, serves materials professionals, non-technical personnel and managers worldwide by providing high-quality materials information, education and training, networking opportunities and professional development resources in cost effective and user-friendly formats. Founded in 1913 and in its current location at Materials Park since 1959, ASM is the world's largest not-for-profit society serving the world of materials, science and engineering.

The design of Materials Park and the geodesic dome resulted from the vision of three men. William Hunt Eisenman, one of ASM's founders and its first Managing Director, got it all started by donating 100 acres from his family farm for a new world headquarters for ASM. The other two were prominent Cleveland modern architect, John Terrence Kelly and architect, mathematician and futurist R. Buckminster Fuller. The geodesic dome, a creation of R. Buckminster Fuller, is a symbolic gesture of what humankind can create from raw minerals and materials and transforming them into useful and reliable products and services. Today, the vision and dream of the three men are being realized at Materials Park. Both in the concept, design and construction of the geodesic dome and in the innovative problem solving tools in materials that are created by emerging industrial needs.

Preparing for the next hundred years, ASM headquarters is looking at past roots in the American Society for Steel Treating, and to the future as the provider of materials information to the world and beyond. Toward this end, the office building under the dome is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation. Updated to handle the fastest Internet speeds and the latest electronic technology. In addition, more efficient heating and cooling systems will be installed, better insulation will be added,

and corrosion will be repaired. The garden level of the building, which is below grade, has a "green" roof with soil and grass over the reinforced, and newly waterproofed, concrete.

ASM Managing Director Stan Theobald has worked with The Chesler Group, and its President Michael Chesler, from the very beginning of the renovation all starting with the listing of the building and its geodesic dome the National Register of Historic Places in late 2009. The Chesler Group is committed to preserving and protecting historic buildings with over 25 such buildings completed in Northeast Ohio. This involves very careful planning and great technical expertise, as these restorations are very complex and costly. Chesler's very competent staff is all dedicated to retaining the historic fabric. Theobald stated: "I never thought of restoring our building to get on the Historic Register. I didn't think we qualified, wasn't even aware of it as an opportunity until I met Michael Chesler. He had insight and experience into how to make it all work out for everyone's benefit."

The semi-circular headquarters building has 50,000 square feet of office space. It features stainless steel floating staircases supported by stainless rods running from the ground floor to the second floor, brass handrails, copper doors, large panels of clear glass windows and walls, and stainless steel sunscreens on the outside of those large glass panels. Last year the state of Ohio recognized the ASM Headquarters as a Historic Landmark because of its modernist design, quite advanced for 1959. As a result, the state has allocated \$1.4 million in tax credits to offset some of the cost. Because of the Historic Landmark designation, the building must be returned as closely as possible to its original design. Although computers and high-tech lab equipment are allowed, the open spaces of the original design must be returned.



ASM Managing Director, Stan Theobald

The renovation is proceeding on schedule with the staff moving back June 30th and ready for full productivity and resuming our work mission on July 5th.

The grand re-opening being is schedule for early August as "Materials Mastery; Experience the Renaissance of Materials Park."

The geodesic dome, which is made of tubular aluminum, is in perfect shape and needs no renovation. Defined by a network of hexagonal and pentagonal shapes, the openwork dome stands 103 feet high and 250 feet in diameter, and weighs 80 tons. In addition, the dome is formed of 13 miles (65,000 parts) of aluminum tubing and rods in tension. The dome is ornamental and open, honeycomb-like, and stands on five pylons, which arch 77 feet beneath the earth's service. The architect's conception required the minimum number of dome supports and the use of the minimal five pylons represents a real engineering achievement. The dome's purpose is aesthetic and symbolic. It is the largest open-work geodesic dome in the world. 