

# Gary W. Siebein, FASA, FAIA and 6 Other International Researchers Present Soundscape Symposium on Effects of Noise in Portland, Oregon

Professor Siebein was honored to present “Application of Soundscape Techniques” to members of the American Institute of Certified Planners, government officials, architects, university professors, acoustical consultants, engineers, citizens, and others at a joint Symposium hosted by the Acoustical Society of America and the City of Portland on May 19, 2009 at Portland’s City Hall. *The Symposium was one of the first of its kind to explore design solutions to community noise issues through a multi-discipline effort that included acoustical consultants, urban planners, architects, government officials, and environmental enforcement personnel.* The focal point of the symposium was innovative urban design and construction approaches to design a healthful sonic environment in the cities and towns to limit the impact of noise pollution on the health and livability of communities, and what planners and the public at-large can do to design the soundscape of their communities and address noise impacts in urban settings before they occur.

Professor Siebein’s workshop focused on engaging the community at large in the acoustical planning process to design community soundscapes that not only improve the quality of life, but also create healthy environments. Professor Siebein has spent 30 years developing practical methods to include soundscape design of urban and rural environments by conducting measurements and simulating sounds as they are heard by people; developing methods to identify those sounds needing mitigation and those needing preservation and enhancement; and developing strategies that can be applied in the initial planning process to enhance soundscapes of communities for the future.



## ACOUSTICAL DESIGN AND PLANNING TO ACHIEVE QUIET COMMUNITIES:

- Soundwalks to identify acoustic zones and issues.
- Focus group discussions and evaluation to identify issues and concerns.
- Long term monitoring of sound levels at critical locations.
- Short term measurements and calibrated recordings of specific acoustic events that comprise the ambient with adequate resolution to contain meaning of sounds.
- Mapping of existing and proposed situations.
- Modeling of proposed interventions.
- Auralizations of potential solutions for review by focus groups.