

COLUMNS

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American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter

November, 1987

PERSPECTIVE

INNOVATION, RENOVATION AT CMU

CMU adds two new buildings to its campus this fall, one old and one new. The old, Henry Hornbostel's 1918 Bureau of Mines building, is being renovated by L. P. Perfidio Associates. The new, Software Engineering Institute, was designed by Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinsky in association with Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

Architect Alan Weiskopf has worked closely with CMU officials on the Forbes Avenue, Hornbostel building, now known as Hamburg Hall. "We were trying to pay our respects to the architecture and at the same time integrate the technology to make it a servicable building." The technology, of course, is computers. The architects agreed to preserve the high ceilings (up to 14 feet) and the grand floor-to-ceiling windows while providing classrooms, offices and workrooms for a variety of users averaging more than 1.5 computers per room.

The design of the HVAC systems proved to be the greatest challenge. While the windows, computers and users generate large quantities of heat, only 5 to 6 inches were available above the windows to integrate all the electro-mechanical systems, piping and wiring. With such limited space, the architects used a rigorous approach to the placement of all mechanical and electrical elements.

The conversion from large laboratories to smaller classrooms and offices included transforming a double height space into two stories in the west wing. Interior offices required an ingenious borrowing of light with complicated blind systems for the several users of one window.

Meanwhile, the entry rotunda, wide brick corridors, elegant doors and some original hallway chandeliers were restored or faithfully reconstructed.

The architects are undoing some previous additions to the building. They have pulled makeshift

mechanical rooms and washrooms to re-open windowed stairwells in the "knuckles" which connect the main building with its two wings. The have back-lighted those "knuckles" and the rotunda to simulate the long-gone skylights in Hornbostel's original building.

Totally modern features include the installation of the campus-wide IBM cabling system which includes computers and telephones in one cable, and the high-output fluorescent fixtures used for indirect lighting throughout the work areas.

The auditorium, like the whole project, integrates a sympathetic approach to the old with a respect for emerging technology. New desk-type seating has replaced the auditorium style of the original. The worn stage and tiered floor were removed but replaced to retain the original flavor, while wood wainscoting was merely restored and refinished.

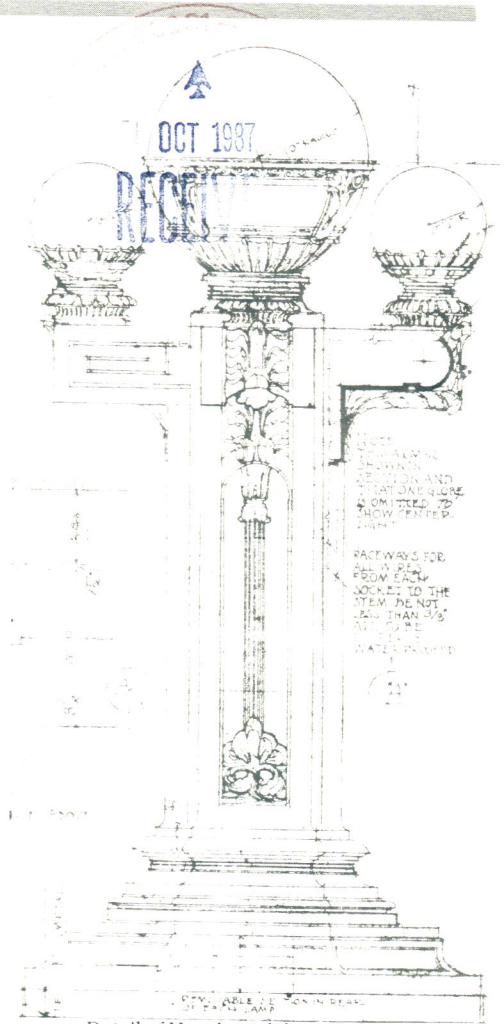
As the faculty of the School of Urban and Public Affairs (principal user) moves into the facility, they should find a space which blends past and present, architectural history and modern technology.

• • •

The Software Engineering Institute, designed through a joint venture of two leading architectural firms, is entirely new construction. Like the Hornbostel building, SEI presented the architects, Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinsky and Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates, with a problem of integration. While Hamburg Hall integrates past with present, designers of SEI were expected to integrate present with future.

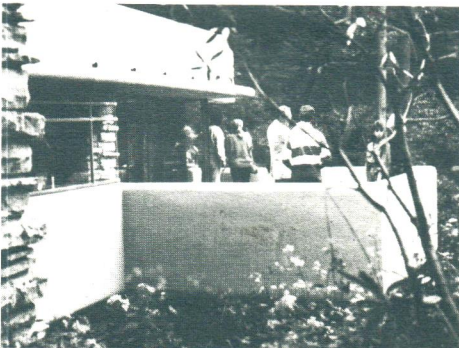
Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and operated by CMU, SEI will foster the development of software to keep pace with the rapid evolution in

(Continued on page 8)



Detail of Hornbostel drawing from Bureau of Mines Building

FALL FROLIC AT FALLINGWATER



Chapter members and friends tour Fallingwater with Mr. Lyman Shepherd (arms folded, right photo), well-known Frank Lloyd Wright impersonator, who presented a dramatic account of Wright's life from his early childhood to his later years at the forefront of the architectural profession.

A full busload of architects and spouses traveled to Fallingwater September 19. The 42 participants were given small group tours of the famous Kaufmann House, followed by free time for informal browsing. Dinner was served in the living room and then, the highlight of the evening, Mr. Lyman Shepard presented "A Unique Tribute to the Life of Frank Lloyd Wright." Mr. Shepard held full attention of his audience as he combined slide and narrative, in a first person journey through the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The presentation, videotaped by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, was the first of its kind at Fallingwater and the evening allowed Chapter Members to view this outstanding building at night.

Sponsors included the Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA and Rixson-Firemark, the door control specialists. The Chapter would be interested in repeating this excellent program in the future.

BREAKING GROUND

Prince Charles to Address AIA Conference In Pittsburgh

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will address international leaders in government, business and education on March 5, 1988 at a conference sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

"Remaking Cities," held at the Vista Hotel March 3-5, will focus on the plight of the post-industrial city in both the United States and Great Britain. Forty years ago, Pittsburgh became the first U.S. city to use private funds to rebuild its downtown area; thus, it is appropriate that Pittsburgh be the site of this international debate on the future of cities.

The conference will address the impact of economic and technological change on cities, their neighborhoods, urban centers and workplaces, with emphasis on citizen involvement in planning and needs assessment. It will also focus on the problems created by the rapid urbanization of rural areas and its impact on the natural environment, the ozone layer, energy and other elements affecting urban settlement.

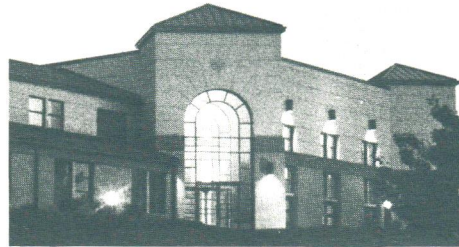
Prince Charles expressed his concern for cities in transition when he addressed the first conference on community architecture in London in November, 1986. "I would make a plea that we look for the opportunities that exist, not just highlight the problems that may appear to be insurmountable." His concern for urban form is shared by architects here and abroad as they strive to upgrade the quality of

life for all the emerging cities of the 21st century. More on this conference in future *COLUMNS*.

College Art Center Dedicated

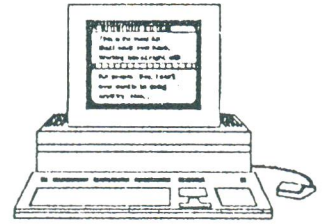


David Lewis, FAIA (left) chats with Earnest U. Buckman, chair of La Roche College's Board of Trustees. Lewis participated in the dedication of the college's art center designed by UDA Architects. The center is the first of several new buildings planned for the campus.



Entrance to the new LaRoche College Art Center, UDA Architects.

Macintosh Users to Form Local Network



The first national A/E Macintosh users group was formed at the AEC SYSTEMS '87 in June. The main purpose of the group is to exchange ideas and information among Architects and Engineers using the Macintosh Computer for any or all aspects of their practice. With the release of true CAD software, a great deal of interest in starting a users group was evident. Architects and Engineers in the Pittsburgh area interested in establishing a local group can contact Rob Pfaffmann at Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinski (765-3890).

Members on the Move

Chapter member Alan Jesse Cuteri, AIA, reports the following change of address: 400 Hastings St. Pgh. Pa. 15206. 412/363-9032.

Ross & Schonder announces its growth and new name, Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck, 8400 Perry St. Pgh. Pa. 15237. 412/367-3733.

Please mark your directories accordingly.

Making the Grade

The Pittsburgh Chapter AIA has met the 29 standards of service for local, staffed components in full compliance with AIA Charter guidelines.

Call For Entries: Scholarships Announced

• The American Institute of Architects Scholarship Programs

"The architectural profession depends on well prepared graduates who are able to meet the challenges of the future. Through its commitment to a strong scholarship program, the AIA assists undergraduates, graduates and professionals wishing to continue their architectural education. The institute considers this support an important investment in the profession's future." With this message, the American Institute of Architects announces four scholarship programs for 1988: The Minority/Disadvantaged Scholarship, the AIA/AAF Scholarship for First Professional Degree Candidates, the AIA/AAF Scholarship for Advanced Study or Research Beyond the First Professional Degree, and the AHA/AIA Fellowship in Health Facilities Design. For a complete brochure outlining eligibility requirements, application procedures and deadlines, write to: AIA, 1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

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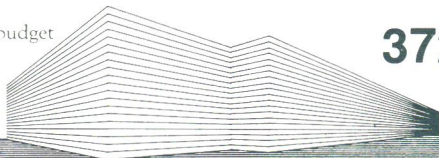
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POINT OF VIEW *William Bates, Chapter President*

The Architect's Apprentice



Once upon a time there was an architect with a magic CADD unit, with which he created beau-

tiful buildings in every style. The architect's work became well known throughout the land and his workload increased so much that he had to hire an apprentice.

The new understudy was fresh out of architectural school and most eager to learn. They worked together happily, the architect performing his magic on the machine while the apprentice looked on, cleaned the plotter pens and dusted the screen.

One day in the middle of a design, the master was called out of the office for a bid opening. Left to tend the studio in the architect's absence, the apprentice decided to try his hand at the controls of the enchanted architecture machine with the thought of finishing the drawings to impress his employer. While timid at first, his ideas quickly mushroomed. The machine began to spew forth

reams of digitized details; each new one wilder than the last! Before he realized it, the room had begun to fill with the output. By this time, he had forgotten the STOP command. When the architect returned, the door was wedged shut by the volumes of paper; his original work now hopelessly lost!

Architecture is a very complicated profession which takes time to master. Many practitioners expect too much of the architectural schools, which perform fairly well with the limited amount of time and the guidelines set by the National Architectural Accreditation Board. However, once the student graduates and becomes an intern in the architect's office, there are no guidelines for his or her development. Recognizing this, NCARB established the Intern Development Program to bring some uniformity to the training of our future professionals. Now that Pennsylvania has adopted the same, the law will require employer and employee to share in this great responsibility.

This program will allow the architect to methodically assess the full range of talents possessed by the intern. The intern is given the opportunity to learn more without getting in over his or her head.

Our November membership meeting will host a national organizer of IDP and provide a better understanding of everyone's obligations. The next time you leave the office—think IDP!

INSITES

Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor:

The spirit which, to me, was embodied in our recent Chapter Meeting on September 15th was invigorating and one which I have always delighted in finding among the citizens of Pittsburgh. It is one which helps make the city such a great place to live and work. My congratulations to Paul Farmer, John Rahaim, and Mike Eversmeyer for the fine presentation they made on the city's restoration plan for its historic Penn/Liberty section and the continuing development of its vibrant cultural center. The way it was presented, encouraging the active participation by the American Institute of Architects and its members, was well received by the architects and graciously acknowledged by Mr. Farmer and his colleagues.

With the cooperative spirit we have between government, private industry, and the architects, I think Pittsburgh has a wonderful future in store. Our meeting in September with Pittsburgh's planners and the long and lively question and comment period after the formalities is indeed a fine bellwether.

Sincerely,

Robert Dale Lynch/AIA

To the Editor:

The Plumbing Advisory Board of the Allegheny County Health Department met Sept. 30th, and is in the process of revising the ACHD Plumbing Code for submission to the Department and Commissioners for approval.

As the Architect Representative on the Board, I submitted an amendment in the name of the AIA that will give women recognition of their uniqueness and add to their comfort.

To avoid the long lines of waiting that occur at women's rest rooms, this amendment [Table 802.1 Chap. 8 "Minimum number of Plumbing Fixtures" - I] will more than double the number of water closets in public places.

The participation of the Building Industry Liaison Committee and the Legislative Committee is noted and commended.

Nathan S. Levenson/AIA Emeritus

(Continued on page 6)

When Franklin Hospitality Corporation of Columbus, Ohio considered property in Pittsburgh, they looked for quality and prestige and chose Fox Chapel. With those same considerations, they chose their General Contractor

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BRICKS AND MORTAR

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Kent Edwards, AIA, Apostolou Architects, 381-1400

The Membership Committee urges all members to remind interns in your offices to attend the Membership Meeting, November 17, which features the Intern Development Program. Beginning in 1991, the IDP will be a requirement for registration, so this meeting is critical for all interns. For more information, please call Kent Edwards (above).

The Pittsburgh Chapter will serve principals and interns by providing:

- Seminars on topics which are not usually a part of the intern's training, such as spec writing and cost estimating.
- A clearinghouse to match interns with potential sponsors (in house) and advisors (out of house) as required by the program.
- A liaison between firms to exchange seminars between a number of firms and their interns.
- A source of information on the IDP.

The chapter regrets to announce that Donald H. O'Neal, Partner in the former Martsolf/Gross/O'Neal firm of New Brighton and past AIA member, died recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He had been a design chief for a large studio there.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Chair: Ivan Santa-Cruz, AIA, Williams Trebilcock Whitehead, 321-0550

Watch for the new Directory of Architectural Firms which should be arriving this month.

The Public Awareness Committee has appointed an editorial board to act as a liaison with the Cantor Group in producing *COLUMNS*. The editorial board will meet with *COLUMNS* staff to review format and suggest news stories and features. Members include: Marsha Berger, Tony Poli and Doug Shuck.

A special "Thank You" to WQED Pittsburgh and WTTW Chicago for lending our committee two sets of tapes of "America By Design." The programs are reviewed by local architects in this month's *COLUMNS*.

The committee welcomes a new member, Jan Cook Reicher, Repal Construction Company, Inc. Jan will serve as our new recording secretary.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Robert Dale Lynch, AIA, 262-3555

The AIA/MBA Joint Committee is nearing completion of the 1987 Edition of the Yellow Book, a compendium of construction practices mutually agreed upon by representatives of the architectural and building contractor sectors of the construction industry. The last edition was published in 1976.

The Committee is exploring the problem of delays in approving plans by the Pa. Department of Labor and Industry. So far, no solution has been found.

Architects may now have formal voting influence on the BOCA Code. Due to a recent change in by-laws, local BOCA Chapters may be formed by groups of architects who can then introduce, advocate for and vote for needed changes in the code.

On Monday, Sept. 28, The State Senate Labor and Industry Committee passed Pennsylvania Senate Bill 730/Handicapped Accessibility by unanimous vote. A much needed and effective bill for disabled persons, it has been endorsed by the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA and the AIA/MBA Joint Committee. The bill is expected to pass the Appropriations Committee and the full Senate in the next 30 days. Once past the Senate, even swifter and easier passage in the House is likely.

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AIA/CMU LIAISON

Chair: Steve Quick, AIA, Quick Ledewitz Architects, 687-7070

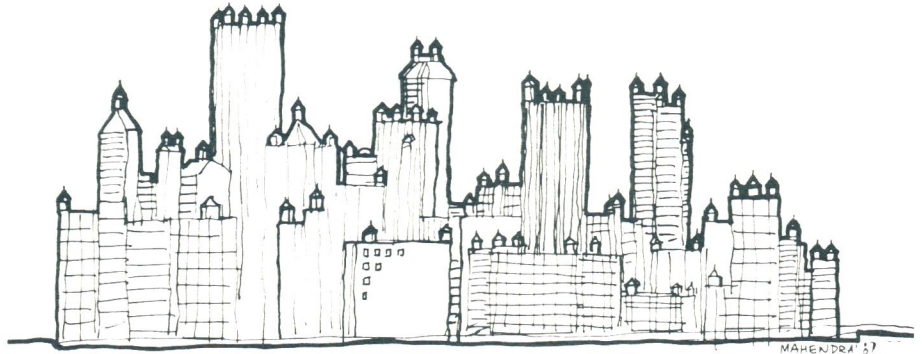
Clark Wallace, AIA, attended the meeting to discuss the Intern Development Program (IDP) in Pennsylvania. (More on the IDP in Membership Committee Report.) The student chapter will arrange for Mr. Wallace to address all architecture students about this important issue.

The student chapter has elected the following officers: Michael McDonnell, Anne-Marie Lubenau, Mark Aufdemberge, Cathy McColl and Peter Vonderleith.

Important notice for Chapter Members: For those who did not fill out the Member Survey at the September 15th dinner meeting, we are including one in this issue. Your response will help us plan for future programs. Please take a few moments to complete the survey; we will report our findings when they are compiled. Thank You!

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