

# COLUMNS

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American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter

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## PITTSBURGH HOSTS REMAKING CITIES

By David Lewis, FAIA

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA will host an international forum March 2-5, 1988. Remaking Cities has been convened by the AIA and the Royal Institute of British Architects to strategize on the future of older industrial cities in the wake of the decline of traditional industries like steel, shipbuilding and textiles.

Pittsburgh was chosen as the most appropriate site in the United States for this meeting because of its extraordinary self-transformation from a dirty, polluted, heavy industry city into America's #1 most livable metropolitan area.

Pittsburgh has been fortunate. While other cities have experienced huge disinvestments by the companies that made fortunes in them, Pittsburgh has retained the leadership and commitment of its corporations. The public

and private sectors have worked well together here, and the result is a role model for other United States and European cities.

Remaking Cities will bring together some of the finest minds from Britain and the United States as plenary speakers, workshop leaders and panelists. Among these will be internationally recognized bankers, politicians, economists, developers, and environmentalists.

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, has been a consistent advocate for new and comprehensive approaches to rebuilding cities. He has enthusiastically agreed to be the honorary chairman of Remaking Cities, and to come to Pittsburgh to give the forum's concluding address.

[For a preview of Remaking Cities, please turn to page 8.]



## Flying Solo

*This is the first in a series of occasional forums which tries to capture the flavor of the architectural profession as it is practiced in and around Pittsburgh.*

**The Question:** *Could you describe your work as a solo practitioner? What are the plus and minus sides? The challenges and the limitations? The size and complexity of your projects?*

**Donald Liss, AIA, Wellbe Design:** I have always enjoyed the challenge of doing the whole job, from picking up the telephone at the very beginning through having the client happy with a completed project. As a sole practitioner, I have the freedom to do that. I especially enjoy the business development aspect which in a large practice is separate from the design process.

But the negatives exist with the positives. Coming from a large firm, I never worried where the next job would come from; there was a preponderance of work and long, long hours. Here, you juggle. It's easy to get buried in a project and forget that you need to be out looking for your next job at the same time. There's a discipline you need to develop when you're on your own. Time management is more critical.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## The Prince Is the Key



"The Prince of Wales is perhaps the only head of state who speaks out on the quality of the inner city," says David Lewis, the driving force behind Remaking Cities. His Royal Highness is involved in the issues and concerns of ordinary people and how they live their lives in the modern city. In his pursuit of understanding how cities work, Prince

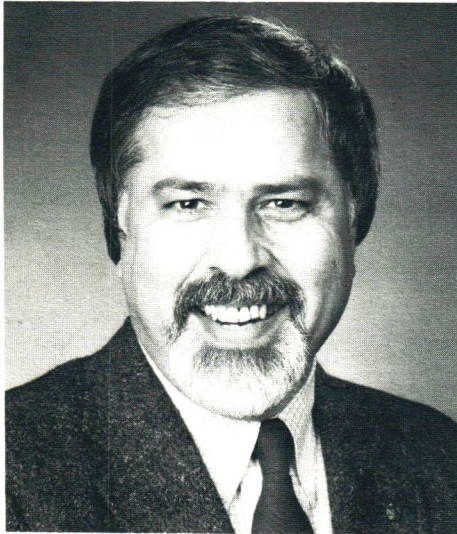
Charles traveled to the United States in November of 1985 for a seminar at the National AIA Headquarters in Washington. He brought with him several questions of mutual concern to our two countries.

- How do community development organizations and not-for-profit groups work to give people a voice in the shaping of their environments?
- How do we "gentrify" our historic neighborhoods without relocating the poor?
- How do we get public and private funding sources to work together?
- What techniques work best to foster citizen involvement in urban planning and design?

Nine participants, including David Lewis of UDA Architects and Charles Redmon of Cambridge Seven, met with the Prince for an hour in Washington. From that meeting, Lewis "caught the gem of an idea. . ." to pull together the finest minds on both sides of the Atlantic to discuss strategies for improving the quality of life in industrial cities. And so it has grown and developed, but Prince Charles was the key. He brought together the right people with the right questions at the right time. We hope that his presence here will be a catalyst for implementing the recommendations of the conference.

## BREAKING GROUND

### Members on the Move



**Syl Damianos, FAIA**, recently took office as a National AIA Vice President, heading the Design Commission.

Almost before he can assume his current duties, however, Damianos has been nominated for another office, First Vice President of the National AIA. If elected in May at the National Meeting in New York, Damianos would serve as First VP in 1989 and as AIA President in 1990.



**Steve George, AIA**, was installed as *President of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects on January 1 for a one year term. He has ended his tenure as Director of Aviation, and has assumed a new position, Director for Airport Area Development. His new office is temporarily located at 1 Thorn Run Center, Coraopolis, 264-4422.*

## Transitions

**Jerry Gzesh and Ivan Santa-Cruz** announce the incorporation of Gzesh Santa-Cruz Schointuch, the successor firm to J. Gzesh Associates with offices in Pittsburgh and Baltimore. Principals are Jerry Gzesh, AIA and Ivan Santa-Cruz, AIA, (Pittsburgh) and Richard L. Schointuch, AIA, (Baltimore). Local offices are at 1130 Oliver Building downtown. Telephone: 281-1414.

**Schafer and Slowik** has announced the retirement of Alvin F. Schafer. The firm will continue as W.D. Slowik & Associates under the direction of Mr. Slowik. Offices are at 806 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, 15237.

## Business Briefs

**Dorin and Mijlin Associates**, a local architecture and interior design firm, has opened a showroom for **Techline** furniture systems at 501 Freeport Road near the Waterworks Shopping Center. The firm is the local representative for Techline, a versatile system of modular components for custom-look commercial and residential installations, including kitchens and baths. The showroom is open to both the contract and retail trades. Techline components are designed and manufactured by Marshall Erdman Associates, an architectural firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Architects and designers will be invited to a Grand Opening reception planned for early February. For more information, call 781-3151.

**Allegheny Millwork**, a manufacturer of custom cabinetry, casework, wood mouldings and architectural woodwork since 1979, is moving to the old MacIntosh Hemphill Steel Company building at Muriel and the 10th Street Bridge on the Southside.

The **Ceco Corporation** has moved the concrete construction division of its Pittsburgh district offices from Greentree to Verona. Ceco, headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, is the nation's largest structural concrete construction company. Local district manager is Fred Swearingen, Jr.

## In Print

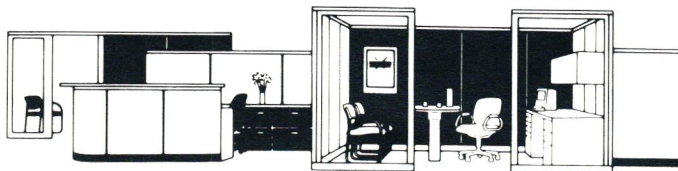
The National Roofing Contractors Association and the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association have issued a **Joint Technical Bulletin** concerning in-service R-Values for polyisocyanurate and polyurethane roof insulation boards.

The Bulletin recommends that designers of roofing systems use an R-Value of 5.6 per inch of foam thickness as a reasonable guide when calculating thermal resistance for polyisocyanurate and polyurethane insulation boards over their normal life in a roofing system. MRCA strongly supports this recommendation, and urges all architects, engineers and design specifiers to adopt this standard when



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designing a roofing system using one of these insulations.

For the complete analysis, you may request a copy of the bulletin by calling the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA at 471-9548.

**Babcock Lumber Company** has announced the publication of "Tools Tips and Techniques," a new technical bulletin on Corian and Formica fabrication and use of proper tools. Written by Vince Tramonti, Babcock's Fabrication Technician, the bulletin is available free of charge by calling Glen Dowd, 351-3515.

**The Department of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University** has published a twelve page catalog of research articles and conference papers available for general purchase. Topics include Computer Aided Design, Science of Design, Architectural Education, Building Performance and Project Management. For a copy, call Liz Fox, Research Administrator, 268-2353.

## Here and There



*IKM's renovation of the State Office Building is more than a "facelift." In addition to the new curtainwall, an emergency generator and emergency lighting have been added, the HVAC system has been upgraded, and improvements will be made to the main lobby and plaza. Contractor Elwin G. Smith will soon begin work on the low two-story portion of the building.*

## Kudos


The Board of Directors of the **Charitable Association** of the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA presented its \$1500 Scholarship award to **Gregory A. Smith**, a final year student at Florida A & M University. Greg, of 36 Iroquois Drive, Pittsburgh, received the award at the January membership meeting.

Congratulations and best of luck!

## Call for Entries

**Pennsbury Manor**, a Colonial Revival reconstruction of the 17th century county seat of William Penn, will hold a competition to select the architect for an addition to the visitor center and major alterations to the present facility. The competition is open only to architects registered in Pennsylvania with in-state offices or residences. Applicants may register through February 15 by contacting Pennsbury Manor, 400 Pennsbury Memorial Road, Morrisville, Pa. 19067. Entries are due May 23; awards will be announced May 27.

Cash prizes totalling \$2500 will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in the **1988 AIA Architectural Photography Competition**, organized by the St. Louis Chapter in cooperation with the National AIA. Members of the American Institute of Architects may submit photos of any architectural subject or some element of the man-built environment to: St. Louis Chapter AIA, 911 Washington Avenue, St. Louis MO, 63101, 314/621-3484. (Call for details.) Winning photos will be exhibited at the National Convention in New York, May 15-18 and will be published in *Architecture* magazine.



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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we go to press this month, all eyes are on March and the International Conference, Remaking Cities. We hope that our cover story and center spread preview will whet your appetite for coming attractions, and that you will take part in this important milestone for both the Chapter and the city of Pittsburgh. On page nine we will tell you how you can get involved as a donor or volunteer. Registration packets and conference schedules will be arriving shortly in the mail. Let's have a strong show of members!

This just in from our sister chapter in Boston: "Dear Colleague, It occurs to me that your members may wish to visit Gorbachev in the Spring." Gorbachev? we wondered. Has the Boston Society of Architects arranged an audience with Mikhail and Raisa? Well, not exactly. It has, however, planned a fascinating architectural odyssey throughout the Soviet Union and Finland, April 8-23, which we thought was too good to keep a secret.

The tour is called An Exploration of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design and Planning in the Soviet Union and Finland. In the true spirit of Glasnost, it will be a forum for an exchange of ideas and friendships between American and Soviet professionals involved in all facets of architecture and planning.

Highlights include meetings with local chapters of the Union of Soviet architects;

personal tours by Soviet architects emphasizing preservation and innovation in Moscow, Leningrad, Tbilisi and Helsinki; excursions to Soviet and Finnish schools of architecture; guided museum tours; a complete study guide; language tapes; and three nights of the theatre including the famed Bolshoi Ballet.

What price for this privilege? \$2499. Not bad when you consider that airfare, first class hotels and all meals are included. Lisa Saurier at the BSA can give you more details: 617/267-5175.

And finally—we've seen it on bumper stickers, so why not on envelopes? Don Lightner

of Design 3 in Monroeville sent us his catchy postage meter message:



do it with an  
**ARCHITECT**

"We're doing our part to promote Architecture," Don says proudly. Anyone else care to follow?

### INSITES

#### Letters to the Editor:

To the Chapter:

I love the newsletter format. It's great!

Mary Heindl  
Former Exec. Secretary  
Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA

*COLUMNS welcomes your opinions. Please address letters to: COLUMNS, Pgh. Chapter AIA, 307 Fourth Ave., Pgh., PA 15222*



#### Attention Chapter Members:

Planning to attend the May AIA Convention in New York City? Be sure to call Lana (471-9548) so she can submit a listing for publication in the Convention Edition of F. W. Dodge Construction News.

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