

COLUMNS

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American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter

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A NEW FACADE FOR AN OLD FRIEND

Masked Ball to Benefit Community Design Center of Pittsburgh

We've hosted a prince—now it's time for the Ball. On Saturday night, March 26, Pittsburgh's design community will step out in style. *Palladian style*, to be exact, at the first annual Palladian Ball, an evening of whimsy and merriment to benefit the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh's newly established Design Fund. (See accompanying story.)

Continuing a long-standing tradition, guests are asked to don architectural headpieces or masks of their own design and dress in theme-colored costume: black and white with a touch of red. For those less adventurous, black tie is fine, but don't forget the red accent.

The festivities begin at 9 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in The Carnegie Hall of Architecture. At 10, music, mimes and magicians accompany a late supper in the marbled magnificence of the Music Hall Foyer, with dancing into the early morning. And what would a masked

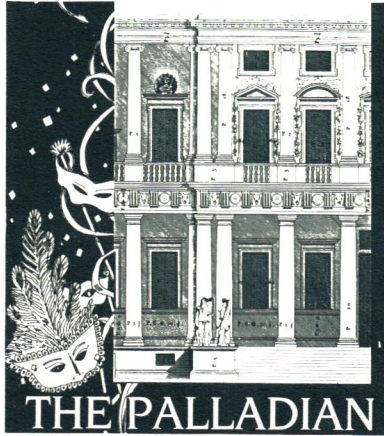
ball be without judges? Prizes for the best masks and costumes will be awarded with all appropriate fanfare to top a truly splendid evening.

Honorary Chairperson is Pittsburgh Magazine Publisher, Faith Gallo. Co-chairpersons

Caroline Boyce and Arch Pelley III head a star-studded cast of committee chairs: James Roddey and J. Mark White, corporate support; Peggy Mulvihill, costume judging; James Miller, decorations; Helen Hanna Carson, entertainment; Arthur Lubetz, Marlene Parrish, food; Sande Deitch, graphics; Dolores Bold, invitations; Carroll Ferguson, prizes; James Brown, William Joyce Jr., program; and Jim Rich-

ardson, publicity.

Tickets to *the* affair of the season are \$75. On the heels of *Remaking Cities*, it's the hottest ticket in town. For more information, call Lynn Manion, Director, CDCP, at 391-4144.



Local Firm Celebrates Centennial

The Pittsburgh based architectural firm of Reid & Stuhldreher will celebrate 100 years of continuous practice with a retrospective exhibit at the Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Gallery, University of Pittsburgh. The retrospective opens March 20 with a wine and cheese reception from 5 to 7 PM.

Founded in 1888 by Carlton Strong in Buffalo N.Y., Reid & Stuhldreher is the oldest architectural firm in Western Pennsylvania and one of the 20 oldest in the country. The firm has been headquartered on Fourth Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh since 1913, moving to its present location in the Investment Building in 1963.

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Rittenhouse Hotel, East Liberty, 1905 (demolished 1955) designed by firm founder Carlton Strong.

The Architects Workshop closed its doors for the last time Friday, November 27, 1987. On the following Monday morning, it reopened as the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh Architects Workshop has been providing low-cost architectural services to community organizations and lower income individuals in Pittsburgh for almost twenty years. Organized in the late 1960's, the Workshop was supervised by registered architects on a pro bono basis. The Workshop provided design services directly to neighborhood organizations, non-profit agencies and needy individuals. In addition, an educational function included such diverse activities as design-build programs in local schools and models of handicapped-access playgrounds. After such a long history of service to the city and its neighborhoods, the Workshop recently decided to re-evaluate the quality of that service with an eye toward making improvements. From its year of introspection came a rebirth of the organization.

The goal of the Pittsburgh Architects Workshop has been to provide technical assistance in design to Pittsburghers and Pittsburgh communities, thus enabling them to participate in the shaping of the built environment in the

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Bridging the Gap: Pittsburgh Design Marketing Professionals

"It was late August, 1984," began Lisa Winter, Director of Development, Hayes Large Suckling Fruth Wedge. "I attended the national convention of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) and met 7 or 8 people who market for Pittsburgh firms. We don't really get together in Pittsburgh, and here we were on an estate in the countryside of Virginia at twilight, sipping drinks and having a very nice conversation. Someone said why don't we do this at home. . ."

From this casual beginning, the Pittsburgh Design Marketing Professionals has grown into an organization which represents both technical and non-technical marketers in the local design industry. Earlier attempts to start such an organization in Pittsburgh have not been successful, so the core group, which has been meeting since the fall of 1984, has moved

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BREAKING GROUND

Members on the Move

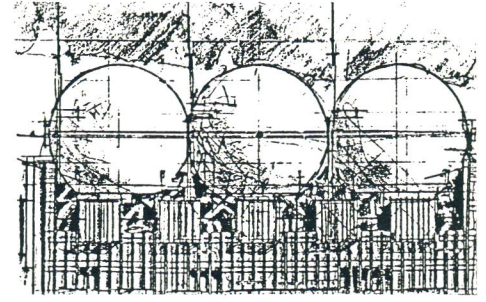


Chapter President, Park Rankin, AIA (left) accepts ceremonial T-square from his predecessor, William Bates, AIA, at January monthly meeting.

The students faced a choice of problems: either re-design Hunt Library à la Henry Hornbostel, or design a new and unique building on the site clothed in a Hornbostelian vocabulary.

Seven local architects juried the award: Ross Bianco, AIA, Chair; Park Rankin, AIA, Chapter President; Douglas Berryman, AIA; Mark Dininno, Assoc.; John Krusienski, AIA; Paul Tellers, AIA, University Architect; and James Yucas, AIA.

According to Bianco, "the jury's idea was to select a project that stood by itself. In addition, we were looking for a scheme that was risky, that took chances. Finally, it had to be presented well graphically—a complete design, an exciting design and a well represented design. The jury determined that Bers' work fulfilled all our requirements. While not in the style of Hornbostel, Bers' drawing represented Hornbostel's spirit and vision."



Hunt Library, North Elevation, redesigned in the spirit of Henry Hornbostel by CMU architecture student, David Bers.

Kudos

Congratulations to **David Bers**, winner of a recent school-wide Sketch Problem at the Department of Architecture, CMU. Bers, a fifth year student from Salisbury, Md., received his award at the February chapter meeting. He also won three additional awards for his drawing skills in January.

Transitions

Ruprecht/Schroeder/Hoffman, a Mt. Lebanon architecture, planning and interior design firm, has elected Theodore C. Schroeder President/Treasurer; Arthur R. Ruprecht, Vice President; and Richard H. Hoffman, Vice President/Secretary.

Business Briefs

Opening this week in the newly restored Motor Square Garden is the 15,000 sq. ft. furniture and lighting showroom, **Department of the Interior**. The latest venture of Ways and Means owner Ralph Colaizzi will showcase furnishings by Europe's leading edge artists, architects and industrial engineers. Vendors include Artemide, Brayton International, Brueton Industries, George Kovacs, ICF and Ligne Roset, USA, among others. Motor Square Garden is located at 5900 Baum Blvd., in the East Liberty Quarter (see pgs. 8-9). During opening month, refreshments will be served.

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Call for Entries

Entries for the first **Space Architecture Design Competition** will be considered for an exhibition at the 1988 International Space Development Conference held in Denver, Colorado May 27-30. Registration fee is \$10 (due Feb. 28—must be sent immediately to Design Science Corp., 7033 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028). Submission deadline is May 12.

Co-sponsoring the competition is the International Association of Space Architects, a non-profit organization coordinating research and educational activities associated with the space frontier. A newsletter is planned for early spring. For more information, contact John Spencer, IASA, 213/468-9064.

Architectural Record has announced an annual awards program, *In the Public Interest*, to recognize excellence in the design and planning of public architecture. Each year, the magazine will solicit entries of a selected building type and feature winning projects in the November issue. This year's category is *Housing*, which includes, but is not limited to, the following: low and mixed income housing, shelters for the homeless and victims of abuse, housing for the physically or mentally disabled, the elderly or blind, and residential drug/alcohol treatment centers. Entry deadline is May 1. For further details, call Paul Sachner at 212/512-3088 or the Chapter office.

Here and There

If your idea of a great way to spend a Saturday is to interact with youngsters about architecture, then you'll want to give Dave Davis a call right away. As Public Awareness Committee liaison, Dave is looking for volunteers to judge building contests for the **1988 Hands on History Education Fair** sponsored by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

The fair, which attracts over 1200 school children countywide, will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 10-4 at the Frick International Studies Academy in Oakland. Judging the **Straw Tower Building Competition** and the **Great Pittsburgh Bridge Building Contest** is a great way to encourage young builders and perhaps steer a few good kids towards architecture. Grab hold of a colleague and give Dave a call at Mosites Construction, 923-2255.

PERSPECTIVE

Translating Your CADD to Their CADD
By Donald Van Ollefen, AIA,
Van Ollefen Associates

So . . . you bought that CADD system after the salesman assured you that your drawings would be compatible with your consultant's or client's CADD system. Now you want to "translate" your drawings. What do you do?

The good news is that for the most part, CADD drawings can be translated from one CADD system to another. The bad news is that translating is not a simple, routine task and drawings are not always translated 100%. Typically, simple graphics, text, dimensions, symbols, and often crosshatching can be translated nearly all the time. Unfortunately non-graphic attribute data, such as furniture manufacturer and color, can not usually be translated.

Let us begin by looking at the basics of translations. There are two primary steps involved to convert a drawing from one CADD system to another: transfer and translation.

Transfer is physically transporting your data from one computer to another. If you are fortunate enough to be transferring data between two DOS based IBM personal computers, transfer is very easy. Simply copy your data from your system onto a floppy disk and back to the other system. However, transferring data from a Digital Equipment Corp. VAX based Intergraph to an IBM personal computer based CADVANCE system is another trick. Telephone modems combined with communication software work very well and are becoming more common. Direct hardware and a communication protocol is faster but requires that you have both computers in the same location. The place to

look for transfer help is the hardware vendor. DEC and IBM have been communicating much longer than they care to admit.

Translation converts the graphic data from one form to another. For example, each CADD system describes how to draw a dashed line differently. The description includes beginning and ending coordinates, color, line type, line weight, layer and sometimes more. Text, crosshatching, and complex curves have even more characteristics which each system may treat differently. Not all graphic element types are supported by all systems: Intergraph has 63 layers while Computervision has 256.

Translators are software packages that come in two types. *Direct translators* translate drawings and sometimes non-graphic attributes between two specific CADD systems. Direct translators generally achieve better results but cost more to develop or purchase. *Standard interfaces* have been developed (such as IGES and DXF) which allow any vendor to translate to and from that standard. Unfortunately, now there is a third format involved and sometimes information can be lost in the multiple translations. Standard interfaces are less expensive but, being generic, are not always successful and require more experimentation.

The most important question to be answered before beginning a translation is what are you trying to accomplish? Translating a base plan for a consultant is very different than translating as-built drawings for your client's Facility Manager. Your consultant's primary interest is in basic accurate graphics while your client is interested in as-built records and non-graphic data such as area calculations.

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New Facade (Continued from page 1)
 city. While the goal remains the same, everything else is new. The name has been changed to Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, which better expresses the organization's commitment to improving the quality of design in city neighborhoods. A further commitment has been made to compensate registered architects for their work. Offices have been moved to a new location, The Landmarks Building at Station Square. Finally, a new Director, Lynn Manion, has been hired as the only permanent staff member.

Manion, who was appointed in October 1987, has experience in both public and private sectors. She has worked as a city planner for the City of Pittsburgh, as Development Consultant for Goodwill Industries and as Housing and Community Development Consultant for Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. Ms. Manion holds a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas and has done doctoral research in Psychology and Literature at the University of Dallas. Her undergraduate degree is from Duquesne University.

Manion identifies three major functions in her new job. The first of these is fundraising. While the Community Design Center's operating budget is funded by the city through HUD block grants, the organization plans to raise a \$50,000 Design Fund to subsidize architectural services for community development projects. Manion is approaching local corporations and foundations for grants and



Lynn Manion (right) selects commercial properties to participate in facade treatment program with John Rahaim, City Planning, and Marva Williams, East Liberty Development, Inc.

a fundraising ball is planned for this month. (See accompanying article.)

The new director's second task is to re-interest the architectural community in her organization. She has sent requests for qualifications to architects and will use these to develop a library of architects interested in neighborhood projects. Individuals and firms will be catalogued by specialties or preferred types of projects and will be paid their usual fees for all work.

Finally, the director will work with neighborhood organizations from all parts of the city to develop proposals for renovation. Manion will then act as liaison between the neighborhoods and the architectural community in the design and renovation process. For a given project, four or five architects may be selected by Manion and presented to the neighborhood group who will make the final selection and hire the architect who best suits their needs. The CDCP will fund projects from the Design Fund, assigning money directly to the neighborhood organization. Participating architects will be paid their standard fees by the client. The Design Fund will be repaid by the neighborhood organization after funding has been received.

The first CDCP project is an ambitious one. The city has awarded a \$35,000 grant for design work in seven business districts. In each business district, a pilot block will be chosen for redesign. Initial sketches will show merchants what their buildings could look like, in an attempt to bring these neighborhoods into the city street-face program. One or two Pittsburgh architects will be hired to provide designs and sketches.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh wishes to reestablish its roots in the architectural community. Architects who wish to participate in projects may send qualifications to the center, 470 The Landmarks Building, One Station Square, Pittsburgh 15219. Further inquiry is welcome. Call Lynn Manion, 391-4144.

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