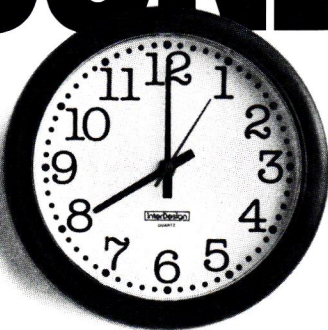


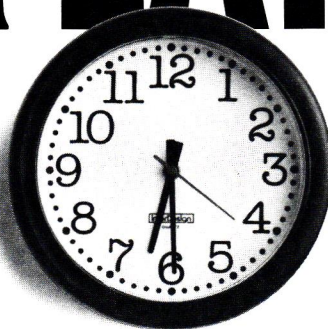
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ON THE COVER

The richly polished foyer of the 1856 *Breezewood House* on the IUP Campus introduces this month's theme on Home Design. The PSA award winning restoration was done by *MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Architects*. Story, page 17.

THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER AIA serves 12 Western Pennsylvania counties as the local component of the American Institute of Architects and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. Membership is open to all registered architects, architectural interns, and a limited number of professionals in supporting fields. Chapter Headquarters: Suite 1207, Bank Tower, 307 4th Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222. 412-471-9548.

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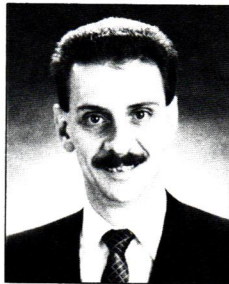
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VIEW POINT**AN OPEN LETTER TO ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS**

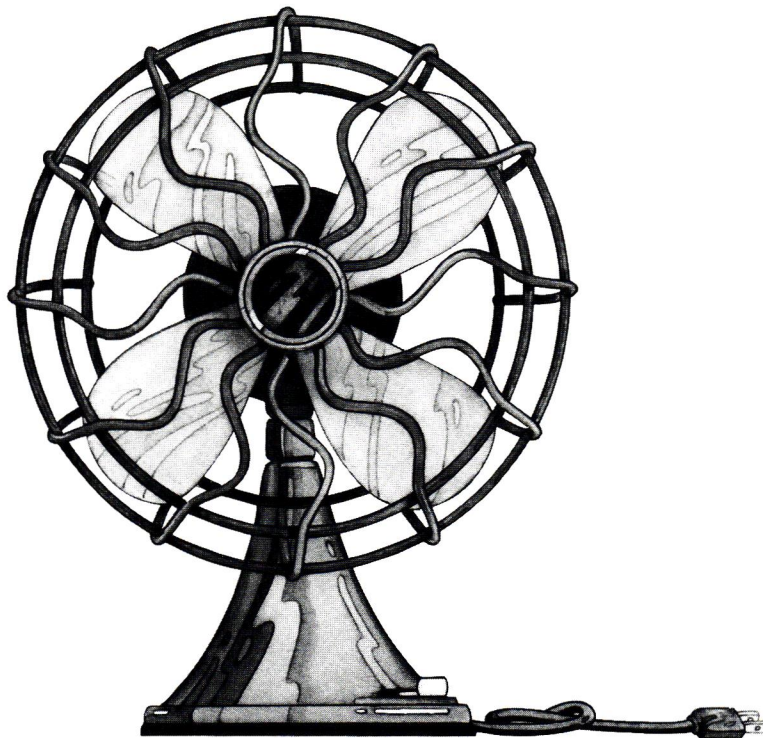
KENT EDWARDS, AIA, CHAPTER PRESIDENT



This letter is intended to confirm what you may already have heard rumored—that you will shortly join the ranks of the underemployed. Your hard work and long hours in studio will be rewarded with a starting salary that is an embarrassment to the profession. Your talent and design skills will not be valued by your future employers; they will prove it by not paying you much. Your starting salary will be less than that earned by an experienced secretary. If you are fortunate enough to graduate at the top of your class, you can expect to earn about one-third the salary of the top graduate in marketing.

This depressing news is brought to you to illustrate a serious deficiency in the system. Architectural education has failed the profession, its practitioners, and most of all, its students. We are only taught a few of the skills we truly need to provide services of value. We continue to pay lip service to those limited skills after graduation, even though it is perfectly clear that those skills are not what the purchasers of architectural services value most. When a realtor earns the same percentage of a building's value for selling it as the architect does for designing it, and the effort, ability and risk are compared, the inequity borders on the absurd. Design (with a capital D) is the most important criteria for very few clients. They assume a handsome building as a given. Their priorities are time and money, schedules and budgets, the materialistic issues above which architectural students are taught to rise. That is our downfall.

It's not too late. The students of my generation attempted a revolution, but of a very different sort. We had a few successes; mostly failures. You can reverse the ratio. Rebel against the curriculum and the faculty that imposes it. Demand that you be taught by those in practice, not those seeking refuge from it. Architecture is among the noblest of professions. We provide services of enormous value. Our talent is worth something. We should stop giving it away. Δ



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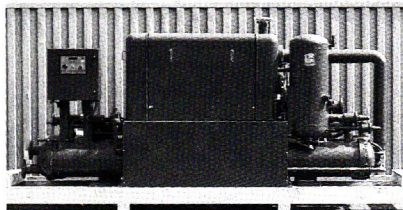
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