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ON THE COVER

Clayton, the restored home of industrialist Henry Clay Frick and his daughter Helen, is host to the Chapter's Charitable Association Scholarship Benefit this month. Tours and Victorian refreshments are just part of the fun to be had on October 16.

For details, see page 23.

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: CNG Tower, 625 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222, 412/471-9548.

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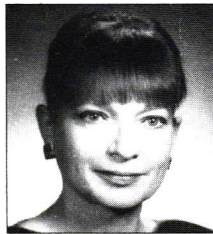
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VIEW POINT

MARSHA BERGER, AIA, PRESIDENT



During this season of architectural walking tours, as I carefully give tribute to the creator of each building, I have begun to wonder why, with few exceptions, so many of the commissions have gone to architects from other cities. Throughout the city's history, the local governments, corporations and developers have had a predisposition to hire architects from Boston, Chicago, New York, St. Louis. And yet, one of last year's AIA National Design Awards was bestowed upon the Software Engineering Institute, a building by two local firms: Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinski and Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates. Is it that the clients in Pittsburgh still feel that Pittsburgh architects (and artists, too) are second-rate? That if they were worth their salt, they'd be in New York competing with the Big Boys?

Can it not be acceptable to say that one chooses to live and work in a livable city and not be a lesser talent for it? For example, Siah Armajani lives and works in Minneapolis, a pleasant city, but certainly not considered on a par in artiness with New York. But this shy man has become a sought-after "Hot Artist," exhibited around the world. More interesting is the number of significant commissions that he has received from his hometown folks. Can it be that Minneapolis nurtures its own and Pittsburgh doesn't?

Why are local architectural firms not automatically placed at the top of the short lists? Why is it difficult for local artists and craftspeople to be given the first shot at commissions? Why is it commonly thought that an expert is someone who lives 100 miles out-of-town? All around us there is proven exceptional talent right here in Three-Rivers City. Obviously we have been hiding our light under a bushel basket. The Associated Artists did a fantastic job in kicking-off the exhibition season. Let's keep it up with our show in November where we can strut our stuff.

The new exhibition format was designed to generate excitement through the community about all of the work we architects do. Therefore a segment of the exhibit will be devoted to our architecturally-related theoretical, experimental, fantastical and avocational endeavors — a new category referred to as "Open Plan." The younger members of our profession will be given the opportunity to compete with their peers in a separate category. In addition, all design award entries will be exhibited in order to recognize the self-selection process used by each firm to determine its best work and, therefore, certainly worthy of display as well as review. The time is indeed now for Pittsburgh architects to be appreciated and come into their own. And it *will* be cause for celebration! Δ

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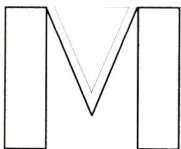
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