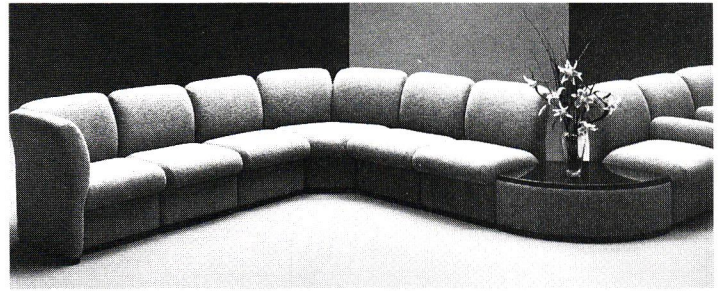


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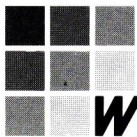


Which would-be architect was Miës van der Rohe's worst enemy?
Find the answer in "Architects of Fortune" on page 13.



C H O I C E S

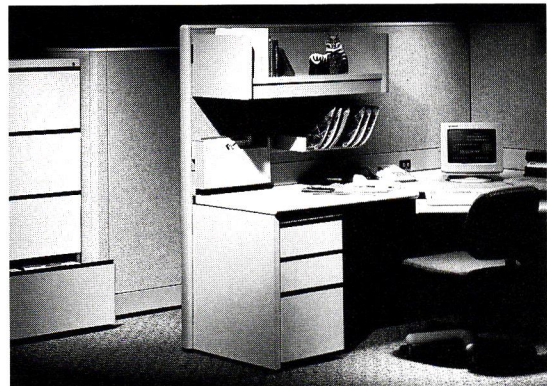
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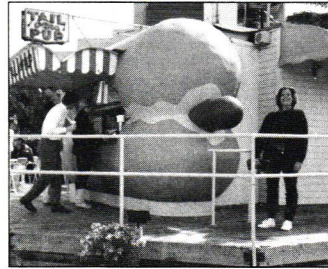
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Time for a Vacation

Anne Swager, Executive Director




Here I am in "sunny" Southern California. It is 75° in Pittsburgh (45° and raining here). Despite the torrential rain, there's a drought and we can only flush the toilet every other time. All the roads are six lanes wide. Most of the cars are fast and expensive with blacked out windows (BMW's, Mercedes, Porsches, and lots of Mustangs). My visual senses are on overload. High rises are smack-dab against one-story showrooms. Signage appears in every shape, style and size and

is mostly unreadable at 45 mph. There are blessedly few billboards but what there are assume you already know what the product is they want you to buy. Ascribing to the imagery school of sales, the billboards are mostly high-gloss images in a 50's style genre.

The persona of Southern California reminds me of the 1960's but all grown-up. There are yellow ribbons everywhere, but the nightclub bands sing about the horrors of war. Bumper stickers are mostly political, such as "If you can't trust me with a choice how can you trust me with a child?" Hardly the vernacular of bumper stickers in Western PA, which more often tend toward "You're in KD Country." Culture shock probably, but it feels more like overall sensory shock.

Today I went on a mission to find Tail O' the Pup, a hot dog stand appropriately resembling its product. A mission it was — in the name of progress, it has been replaced by a large Americanized version of an intimate Parisian hotel. Fortunately, commonsense prevailed and this wonderful 1940's fast food extravaganza has been saved and moved around the corner (see the photo above for proof!). In my quest to experience LA and especially its architectural diversity, I've been to the Hollyhock house, the Lovell house, the Ennis house and Bruce Goff's Japanese pavilion at the LA County Museum of Art, the latter being an elegant building with undercurrents of George Jetson's home and an ashtray from Woolworth's. We are having a great time! Are you?

Vacation — It's fun, energizing, and relaxing. I always find it hard to take time to go away. Worse yet, finding a new place to visit and planning everything I want to do when I get there seems like more work than it's worth. I always worry about the crush of things to do when I return. It's easy to forget what a great time you can have and how much everyone deserves to have fun. It's fast approaching vacatime — so do yourself and all of us a favor and take one! 

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Miës van der Rohe photo courtesy of Simon and Schuster.