

C O L U M N S

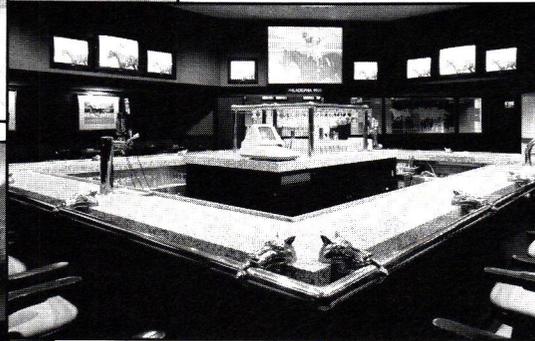


VOLUME 6, NO. 2

THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

FEBRUARY 1992

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Above: Ladbroke's third Offtrack Betting Facility in Harmarville.

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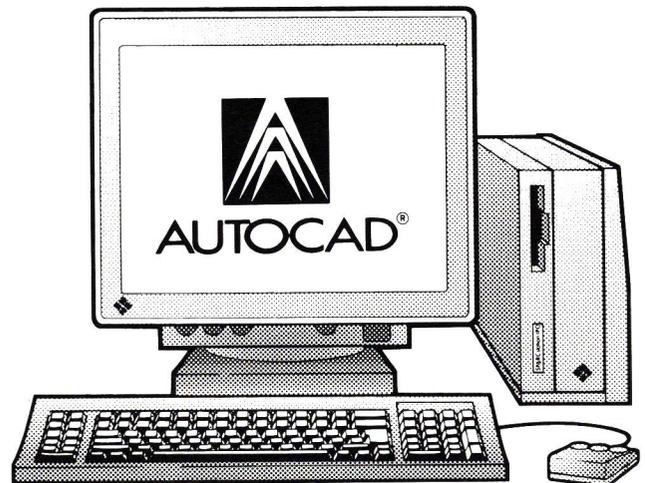
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COLUMNS is published ten times a year by the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA in association with the Cantor Group. Telephone: 412/661-3734; FAX: 412/661-6287.

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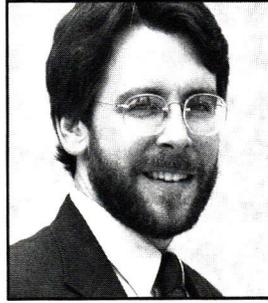
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View Point: Specialization is for Insects

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, President



It's usually the second question after someone discovers you are an architect at a social event: "What kind of architect are you?"

We have all experienced this innocent question from non-architects; the general expectation is that we must have a specialty. The answer they expect: "I do houses" or "I do hospitals." People expect a specific answer because they are accustomed to the proliferation of specialists in everyday life. The examples we all can relate to are in the medical profession: Cardiologists for your broken heart. Neurologists for your burned-out brain.

Given a choice, I suspect most of us do not want to specialize; it is the nature of our education as architects to be generalists; to explore the full breadth of our profession from a simple cottage in the country to a complex megastructure in the city.

Based on recent reports from AIA National, the organization has decided that the increased fragmentation of the profession into specialized areas of practice should be addressed in the coming year. What is the state of specialization in architecture? Should we encourage it? Is it affecting the long-term viability of our profession?

The internal debate is an invigorating one. We can go on and on about the impact of complex technologies on our profession and the services we provide. We can talk about the need for increased teamwork: site selection specialists, programming specialists, estimating specialists, preconstruction consultants, lighting designers, color consultants, acousticians, even architect selection specialists! Will this list grow until there is theoretically nothing left of our profession? Or are we left closer to the romantic idea of the architect as poet? Others say we will be freed to be the generalist orchestrator of all these specialities.

This side of the debate sees the architect returning to a clear role as leader, freed from the overwhelming feeling of "knowing virtually nothing about everything!"

The external influences on this debate are more complicated and political. Someone outside the profession (a client, an interior designer, a construction manager, a political bean counter) asks why the architect should be the team leader—after all, he's just interested in "decorating the shed."

In a recent book by the New York Building Arts Forum entitled *Bridging the Gap: Rethinking the Relationship Between the Architect and Engineer* the debate rages on with no clear answers except a consensus that communication, understanding and teamwork will mitigate the negative effects of modern misunderstandings about architecture.

The AIA should be commended for attempting to put this issue on the front burner. However, I'm afraid about the potential conclusions: If you're a laboratory designer you get one set of services from the AIA; if you design houses you get another. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of information needed in our profession; I'm just not sure I want someone else to sort it out for me.

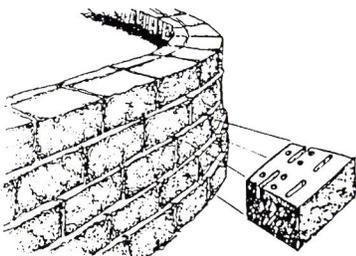
Other questions will come up: In trying to keep pace with the exponentially spiraling technical requirements of building, do we professionally recognize specialities? Do we require continuing education for membership? Will others answer them for us by taking the lead (new professions of Interior Design, Construction Management, Facilities Management, etc.)?

The trend to specialization is getting stronger. Our current generations will determine whether the profession is relevant into the next century or whether it will become an obscure, exclusive cottage industry called upon as a minor consultant in the building process.

As one of my college design critics used to love to sniff, "Specialization is for insects!" 

On the Cover The McCormick McCarthy-designed Pittsburgh Corning Corporation headquarters in Plum Boro shimmers in the sunlight. Story on page 6. Photo by Dennis Marsico.

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Flights of Fancy

Anne Swager, Executive Director

M

y parents told me that I could be anything I wanted to be as long as I worked hard enough. Knowing my own limitations, I think their aspirations were a bit stretched. The sight of blood or even the mere discussion of bodily functions gone awry turns my stomach inside out. I fainted once at the vet's when she palpated the cat's stomach and again when my doctor asked me to look at the x-ray of my injured finger—doctor material I am not! The only thing I ever remember really wanting to be was a rock star. My father responded to this by enrolling me in a Southern women's college. I lacked the talent, outrageous persona (c'mon, flashy is *not* enough), and even the figure to become a Madonna or a Joan Jett. Most of all, my dream was more a flight of fancy than a true desire. So, except for great air drums on my way to work in the morning, my fancy has given way to reality. But I still tell my kids they can be anything they want to be. Of course, I add the caveats of hard work, tenaciousness, and planning. Henry seems to be taking it all in. Morning, noon, and night we are outside with a bat and ball or he's at the ice skating rink. He's narrowed it down to professional sports; now he just needs to decide whether he'd rather be Bobby Bonilla or Mario Lemieux. Betsy's easy: she spends every waking hour on the phone and is obviously headed for a career in telemarketing.

Recently, one of our esteemed past presidents dropped off a file containing reports on past long range planning sessions. I find this kind of stuff interesting (probably why I'm an administrator and not a rock star) and so I read them. The plans and processes varied. Back in the 1980's, where the office should be located and how it was to be staffed were major concerns. The need to communicate *with* the

members and *for* the members took precedence: COLUMNS and the membership directory were the obvious outgrowths. Recurring themes included alternate sources of income for the Chapter, strengthening our relationship with CMU, AIA positions on public issues and marketing the value of architects and design.

Some things differ: we no longer worry about where to put the office, just furnishing it better. We have staff in place and feel that most of the time we manage the balancing of how many bodies we need to answer the phones and take care of the daily work reasonably well. But the biggest surprise to me was how much our "new" plan resembles some of the "old" plans. As in the 80's, the most important issues emerging for 1992 focus on advocacy of public concerns, strengthened relationships with others, better PR and a more diversified income stream. When you think about the perennial nature of these issues, to say nothing of their relative importance, it's easy to see why they keep coming up. One difference did stand out, though. This year and last we identified a *few* concrete actions to be taken. We wanted to include more but mostly we wanted an achievable plan. You can read more on page 8.

Also enclosed you will find one of those infernal questionnaires asking you how we're doing and what you would like us to do better. If you will give us your thoughts, we promise we will take them seriously.

Now back to life plans... still on my list are hips like Joan Jett's but after two kids and with at least a decade more in years, I don't think its too doable. 



Anne Swager

"The most important issues emerging for 1992 focus on advocacy of public concerns, strengthened relationships with others, better PR and a more diversified income stream."

*Don't forget to fill out the Chapter survey included in this issue —
Your opinion counts!*

McCormick McCarthy

V

ariety is the spice of life for McCormick McCarthy, Architects and Designers. The firm's projects and clients run the gamut, and even the two principals come from different backgrounds. Indeed, you could say that the only thing principals Mark McCormick, AIA, and Janet McCarthy, CCS, have in common is the "Mc."

The two joined forces 18 months ago after acquiring Oliver Design Group, a former subsidiary of Grubb & Ellis Real Estate Company. Both had worked for Oliver Design (McCormick as a principal and McCarthy as director of marketing), and, says McCormick, "both Janet and I came to the conclusion that there are basic problems of a design practice being part of a real estate company." Most

prevalent was a State Supreme Court ruling in 1989 that stated an architect must own at least 50 percent of a practicing firm in order for it to practice architecture.

Grubb & Ellis was moving away from design, explains McCormick, and away from Oliver Design, which facilitated their plans. In April 1990, with lots of support from Grubb & Ellis, McCormick McCarthy began business downtown. "We are particularly thankful for Tom McChesney's assistance in negotiating with Grubb & Ellis," notes McCormick.

Since its inception, McCormick McCarthy has grown from doing office interiors locally to 50 percent architecture, 50 percent interiors in six different states.

"Oliver was more specialized," says McCormick. "Our approach is diverse. The diversity of our experience benefits our clients."

"What that means," adds McCarthy, "is that we're going against the accepted theory that being specialized is better. It makes our practice interesting for us and everyone who works here. Also, we're not a victim of the economy. If one specialty drops off, we don't drop off with it."

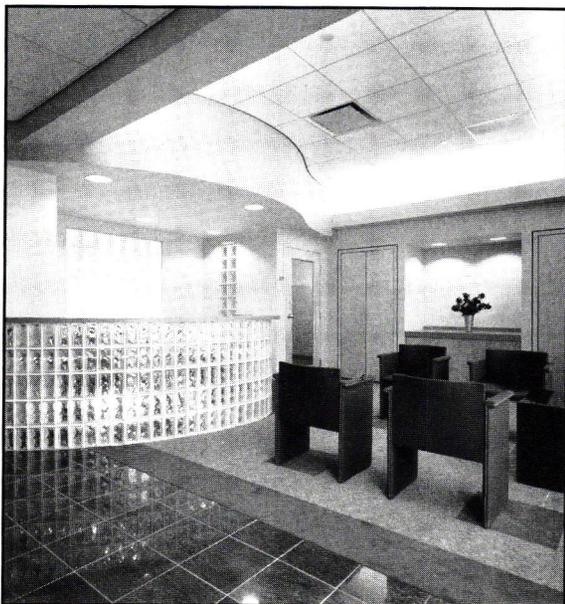
In the last eighteen months, McCormick McCarthy has worked on a wide range of projects including a beach house in North Carolina, public housing in West Virginia, a hospice in central PA, a private elementary school in Pittsburgh and corporate offices in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington, D.C. Clients range from large corporations like Westinghouse to small companies and non-profit organizations like Photosynthesis (a photography studio) and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.

While shying away from terms like 'specialty' and 'niche,' McCormick says he is very much interested in public housing, not just from a design standpoint, but from a sociological aspect as well.

"We are interested in exploring the effects of how design can improve the quality of public housing, and how the design process itself can contribute to building the commu-

"We're going against the accepted theory that being specialized is better. It makes our practice interesting and... we're not a victim of the economy."

*Janet McCarthy, principal
McCormick McCarthy*



Glowing glass block welcomes visitors in the lobby and reception area of Pittsburgh Corning Corporation's headquarters in Plum Boro.

Photo by Dennis Marsico.

nity. We as architects have an opportunity to positively impact a process through which communities are empowered to begin to take control of their own destinies.”

McCormick McCarthy is winning awards as well. One of its first projects, an addition and renovations to Pittsburgh Corning Corporation's headquarters in Plum Boro, won an Honor Award from PSA last year for its imaginative use of glass block, the client's own product. In November, the firm's design for the historic Foxburg Bridge received an Open Plan Award from the Chapter. Reminiscent of a covered bridge, the two-story building spans the Allegheny River in Foxburg, Clarion County. It is intended to be used as a hotel/conference center, and features retail and restaurant space.

Both principals credit their firm's unique balance for its early success. “Mark and I are quite different in terms of background, attitude and style,” notes McCarthy. “Our differences have a synergistic effect which balances the firm.”

“What we share,” adds McCormick, “is a commitment to excellence in what we do.”

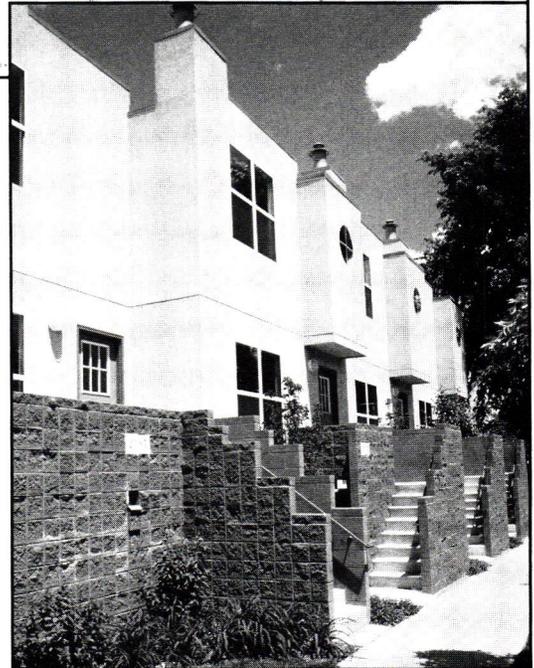
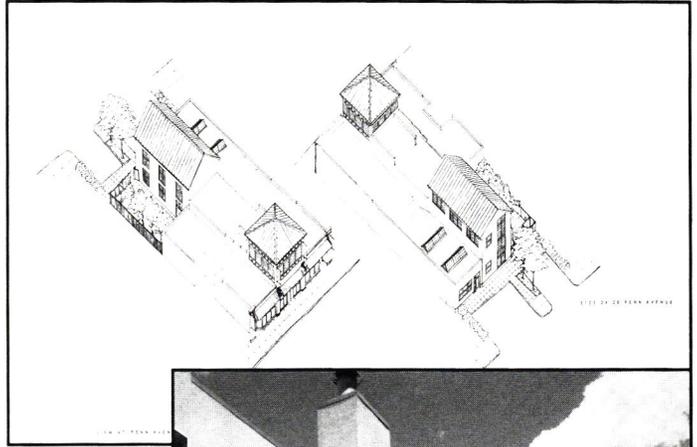
While McCarthy is a native of Pittsburgh, McCormick, originally from Ohio, previously was a partner in the Denver firm of Barker, Rinker, Seacat and Partners. He came to Pittsburgh four years ago and served as the assistant director for the City's Department of Engineering and Construction. After two years with the City, he became a principal with Oliver Design.

McCarthy has more than 18 years' experience as a specifications writer and marketer for architectural firms, including Johnson/Schmidt and Associates and IKM, Inc. “I started spec writing at Johnson/Schmidt and went to the University of Wisconsin for more formal training,” she says. “I eased into the business development end when it was a new idea.”

In addition to the two principals, the firm employs three architects, three interior designers, CAD specialists from both disciplines and support staff. If, says McCormick, there's any credit to be handed out for the firm's success, the lion's share goes to the staff. “We are blessed to be working with an extremely talented and committed group of individuals.”

Both principals are looking for growth for the firm—but only to a point.

“Growth creates better opportunities,” explains McCarthy, “and it gives our staff the opportunity for personal and professional growth. But we wouldn't want to become larger than a firm of between 15 and 18. We don't want to lose the direct contact we as principals have in all of our projects.” ■



Two views of public projects: Top, a mixed-use facility for the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, 5122-24-26 Penn Avenue; and below, Zuni Townhomes in Colorado, designed by Mark McCormick, AIA, while a principal at Denver's Barker, Rinker, Seacat and Partners.

Long Range Plans

AIA Targets Advocacy, Public Policy for 1992

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"The coming year is a turning point for the issues affecting public policy and the built environment (e.g. Supreme Court decision, preservation ordinance, Oakland planning, riverfronts, etc.). We will need to decide whether our organization is going to play a leadership role in public policy regarding the built environment."

*Rob Pfaffmann, AIA
Chapter President*

ineteen-ninety-one will *not* go down as a sterling year for architects. Pittsburgh area firms felt the brunt of the recession and responded with belt-tightening and, in some cases, layoffs. But last year was a good year for the Chapter, as evidenced by the Long Range Planning Session held in November.

Lively meetings and professional development seminars, a more polished image, COLUMNS, and an on-target budget were all realized in 1991. Most importantly the streamlining of office functions, additional phone lines, a computer and fax machine helped staff fulfill their most important mission, better member service. While there is always room for improvement, many of the goals laid out in the 1991 Long Range Plan were indeed fulfilled.

On the flip side, participants agreed that several issues had yet to be dealt with, including finishing the Chapter office and strengthening the Chapter's relationships with the local media and other organizations.

Attending the two day planning session were the 1992 Executive Board: Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, President; Doug Berryman, AIA, 1st VP; Alan Weiskopf, AIA, 2nd VP; Karen Loysen, AIA, Secretary; and Deepak Wadhvani, AIA, Treasurer. Others attending included Kent Edwards, AIA, Architrave President; Gwen Williams, assoc. member, Membership Chair; Claire Gallagher, assoc. member, Education Coordinator for CMU's Architecture Department; David Roth, AIA, active participant on numerous AIA committees; and Anne Swager, Executive Director. Leslie Reicher, currently the Executive Director of the Eastside Alliance and long time board member of the Commu-

nity Design Center, was the facilitator. Formerly, Reicher facilitated planning sessions for numerous community groups in her position as a facilitator with the Community Technical Assistance Corporation.

Everyone had suggestions for building upon the success of last year's planning session and redefining the Chapter's priorities. Most of the Chapter resources will continue to be dedicated to improving the level of service to members. Additionally, four areas of concern emerged as either pressing issues which needed further study and resolution or areas of service that needed special attention. These categories which form the core of the 1992 Plan are:

Advocacy: Should we respond publicly to issues of great interest such as the demolition of the Syria Mosque? AIA National and PSA devote much of their energies to watchdogging and responding to legislative actions which affect the profession of architecture. Could we be doing more on a local level? How can we better improve our communication to members so when a pressing issue such as sales tax on professional services comes up, we can better aid and abet their advocacy? Questions such as these have prompted the formation of a task force to recommend a policy on advocacy for the Chapter. This task force (which is open to all interested members) will consider the merits of advocacy in the public arena, issues relating to the self-interest of the profession, and our role as a public educator. As Pfaffmann put it, "We need to define the fine line between education and advocacy, as well as determine if the issue of advocacy is better suited to Architrave's mission."

Publicity/PR: Publicity efforts need to go beyond COLUMNS to increase visibility of the profession and the Chapter in the local media. The Communications Committee will be responsible for developing a public relations/public education plan that identifies needed tasks and available resources, sets a schedule and outlines routine procedures for promoting Chapter events and raising public awareness of the value of the profession.

Relationships: Shrinking revenue sources and ever-increasing operating expenses negatively impact the Chapter's ability to continue to provide the same levels of service. Increasingly,

we have seen other groups organize to address architecture/design issues. This creates an opportunity for the Chapter and all other groups to streamline their activities to avoid duplication, promote each other's services, and insure that all areas of concern are addressed. "The coming year is a turning point for the issues affecting public policy and the built environment (e.g. Supreme Court decision, preservation ordinance, Oakland planning, riverfronts, etc.)," explains Pfaffmann. "We will need to decide whether our organization is going to play a leadership role in public policy regarding the built environment." The Chapter will

begin by convening the different organizations to put our collective minds together on how we might all accomplish our selected missions more efficiently and effectively.

Finance: Diversifying the Chapter's revenue sources and minimizing expenses remain top-most concerns, especially in these tight economic times. The Chapter has been successful in increasing corporate underwriting for programs. However, other creative avenues need to be explored to help support the operating costs of the office. Efforts will also continue to help committees establish goals and coordinate and evaluate their activities. 🏠

The "Wurst" is Over Making Merry at the 1991 President's Reception



Good cheer was on tap at the Allegheny Brewery in December, when the Pittsburgh Chapter held its annual President's Reception for members and their guests. At left, 1992 President Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, and Anne Swager, Executive Director, bid outgoing President Doug Berryman, AIA a fond adieu. Below,



Jim Johnson, AIA, 2nd VP and other members eagerly gathered round to watch Doug unwrap his parting gift — an elegant leather attache.

Architrave Builds Bridges to the Public

by Robert J. Bailey, AIA

A

As its namesake supports the decorative classical frieze and cornice above it, *Architrave*, The Pittsburgh Foundation for Architecture, supports design quality in this region.

You formerly knew Architrave as the AIA Charitable Fund. Architrave's president Kent Edwards, AIA, says the genesis of change from the Charitable Fund to Architrave was the planning meeting held June

10, 1989. The planning meeting task force felt that there ought to be more public outreach than only the scholarship program which the Fund had supported.

That desire led to the appointment of public members to Architrave's roster: Jim Rogale of QED Enterprises; Reed Agnew, prof. affiliate, of Agnew Moyer Smith; Carol Brown of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust; Christopher Monkhouse of The Carnegie Museum of Art; DeCourcy McIntosh of the Frick Foundation; and William Wycoff of Thorpe Reed & Armstrong. Architects serving Architrave include Edwards; Brooks Robinson, AIA; John Eberhard, FAIA; Alan Fishman, AIA; Ray Hildreth, AIA; and Doug Berryman, AIA.

What are the goals of the new foundation? Essentially three:

Public Education: To provide means and identify opportunities for educating the general public about good design.

Public Policy: To establish Architrave as an advocate for good design.

Grants: To fund grants to students of architecture to develop design projects for non-profit organizations.

For the annual architectural grant program, Architrave issues a community design project Request For Proposals to eligible students at Carnegie Mellon University. Students' proposals are submitted to Architrave's board, which determines the most worthy individual project. For 1991, the board selected the proposal by Kevin Wells to explore improving the Rainbow



A proposal by 1991 Chapter scholarship recipient Kevin Wells for The Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead is this new building at East Ninth Avenue and Amity Street.

ARCHITRAVE

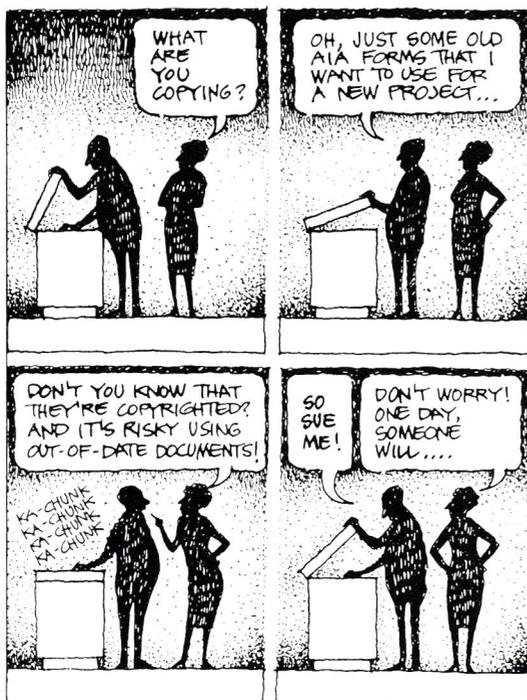
Kitchen Community Center in Homestead. Assisted by Pittsburgh architect John Pekruhn, FAIA, Wells researched problems and solutions during the summer and submitted his final report to the Rainbow Kitchen's Board of Directors in October.

The first major public project in which Architrave hopes to participate is a video that WQED has proposed to be part of their History Series. The video, focusing on Pittsburgh's downtown built environment,

will take a people-oriented approach with an emphasis on storytelling. Architrave's role will be to provide the filmmakers with guidance and access to sources. A grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation enabled production of a five-minute sample video which will be used to raise money to produce the larger project as well as related printed material. The fundraising goal, hopefully to be realized through several major underwriters and individual contributions, is \$125,000.

Architrave is a non-profit organization which welcomes support from anyone interested in furthering its goals. Tax deductible contributions should be made payable to Architrave and should be sent to the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA, CNG Tower Suite 200, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Look for updates on Architrave activities in upcoming issues of COLUMNS. 

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■ bricks and mortar: committee news

■ Intern Development

Chair: Rich Bamburak, AIA

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Excerpt from the PSA News, 12/91: "The counsel for the Architects' Licensure Board has notified PSA that applicants for the 1992 Architects Registration Examination (ARE) will not be permitted to anticipate the required experience once the IDP goes into effect in the spring of 1992. This decision differs from Section 9.85 of the Board's regulations, which previously permitted applicants to apply to take the exam and compute their experience three months in advance to June 1, provided that the candidate submits satisfactory certification to the Board that the additional re-

quired experience has been attained between date of application and May 1st...

"This is also a good time to remind candidates that if they plan on taking the exam in 1992 and have not yet established their IDP record with NCARB, they may be in for an unpleasant surprise. NCARB is experiencing a delay in processing IDP records so if an individual waits until the last minute, it is possible that NCARB will be unable to process the record in time for the March 1st deadline."

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13 at 5 PM at the Chapter office. We will discuss community service opportunities assisting Habitat for Humanity. We are also

pursuing a construction observation site. If you or your firm has a project beginning or continuing in the construction phase in the local area, please contact us to discuss the possibility of using it as a test case. Also, Mark McCormick, AIA of McCormick McCarthy will attend the meeting to discuss development of a proposed program involving intern architects and apprentice carpenters. The program would be co-sponsored by the AIA and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters with the goal of providing "cross training" and developing greater sensitivity to problems and concerns associated with the two related disciplines.

■ Urban Design

Chair: Steven Hawkins, AIA

Steven G. Hawkins/Architects, 521-9399

Our committee is involved with other Chapter committees in seriously exploring Chapter involvement with the Syria Mosque site. What role we can play will probably be well-defined when you get this issue of COLUMNS.

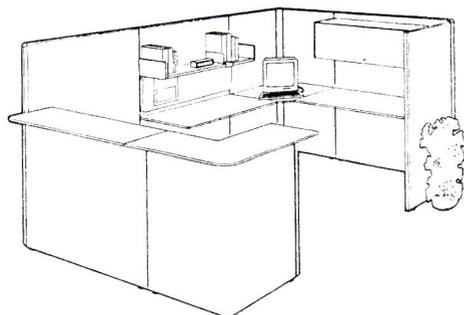
Since our first meeting in November, several more people have expressed interest in committee membership. Our intention is to turn the many ideas for committee work discussed initially into real projects that members can take on.

Steven Hawkins, AIA continues to represent AIA on the Hill District Planning Committee, which is exploring commercial and residential development potential in the neighborhood and discussing development criteria and guidelines.

Feel free to call for more current news and activities. Our next meeting will be on Febru-



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■ bricks and mortar: committee news

ary 18 (the third Tuesday of every month) at 5:30 PM at the Chapter office.

■ Professional Development

Chair: Dave Brenenburg, AIA
Brenenburg Brown Group, 683-0202

We are co-sponsoring a video conference on the Americans with Disabilities Act in cooperation with CMU. "Opening All Doors," a three-part conference featuring Pittsburgh architect Robert Dale Lynch, AIA and former White House press secretary James Brady, begins Thursday, February 6 at the university. For details, call 800/343-4146.

■ AIA/CMU Liaison

Chair: Steve Quick, AIA
Quick Ledewitz Architects, 687-7070

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, AIA of Andres Duany Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, architects of the community of Seaside, Florida, will deliver the 1992 Hornbostel Lecture on April 14. More details will be available in the next issue of COLUMNS.

The schedule for our spring seminar series at CMU is as follows: February 12, Resume Workshop; February 26, Portfolio Workshop; March 11, Roundtable Discussion on a Project; April 1, IDP Workshop; April 15, Rendering Workshop. To participate in these seminars, please contact Ken Kuligowski, AIA, at IKM, Inc., 281-1337.

The students are also looking into volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

■ Legislative

Chair: Al Cuteri, AIA
Poli & Cuteri Architects, 471-8008

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 18 at 4:30 PM in the Chapter office. All are welcome to attend.

■ Women in Architecture

Chair: Susan Tusick, AIA
Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann, 394-7069

At our February 19 meeting, attorney Daniel Ernsberger will hold a seminar on sexual harassment, covering the law and its risks. Please join us at the Chapter office on Wednesday, February 19 at 5:30 PM, for this very informative session.

■ Interiors

Chair: Charles DeLisio, AIA
STUDIO DeLisio, 488-0307

Please join us for our next meeting on Monday, February 10 at 5:30 PM at the Chapter office.

■ Membership

Chair: Gwen Williams, assoc. member
Douglas C. Berryman Associates, 363-4622
Congratulations to new architect **Mark A. Trimbur, AIA** of Hayes Large Architects.

Please welcome these new members to the Chapter:

Dennis Becker, AIA

Mulach Parking Structures Corp.
448 Parkview Dr.
Pgh., PA 15243



Michael J. Burrill, AIA

Firm: University of Pittsburgh
Graduate of: Princeton University ('66), Washington University ('68).

Past projects: Stafford Lakes — 962-acre planned community in Stafford, VA (design); Incirlik Installation, Turkey — 800 housing units (design management); Land planning and architectural design in US Air Force (20 years).

Family: wife, Marilyn; children, Jennifer (21), Cynthia (17).

Interests: Architecture, planning, transportation, historic preservation, urban design, model railroading, music.

Lee Calisti, intern member

Barry Wm. Morris
431 Stanton St.
Greensburg, PA 15601

Karen Kingman, intern member

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann
400 Morgan Center
Butler, PA 16001

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▲ breaking ground

▲ Kudos

A project by **Reid & Stuhldreher, Inc.** has been selected to appear in the *1991 American School and University Architectural Portfolio*. The Harry S. Tack Education Center at the D.T. Watson Rehabilitation Hospital (a day school offering special education, physical and psychological therapy and related services to students with brain damage, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy) includes a 14,000 sq. ft. addition and 11,000 sq. ft. of renovated space on the hospital's first floor. The space houses classrooms, therapy rooms, a library, a gymnasium, a lunch room and administrative areas. Project architect was **John Francona, AIA**.

Hayes Large Architects received the first-place citation of design excellence from the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter AIA for a school in Windsor, PA. The \$2.8 million Red Lion Elementary School, on a seven-acre site in a rural area between North Hopewell and Winterstown, houses classrooms in wings joined at their intersection by the library. The 34,683 sq. ft. facility can accommodate 375 students in 14 classrooms; the library, multi-purpose room, kitchen and mechanical systems are oversized to allow a future addition

of 12 more classrooms.

Karl Glaser of McCormick McCarthy won first place in a design competition sponsored by Haworth. He designed a custom insert for Haworth's PLACES Panel System.

▲ From the Firms

Hayes Large Architects have been awarded a \$14 million high school project in Durham, North Carolina. The new facility, situated on a 106-acre parcel near Research Triangle Park, will replace the existing high school and accommodate approximately 1200 students. Construction is scheduled to begin in July, 1993.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann is designing a 55,000 sq. ft. engineering and plastics manufacturing research facility for Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. The facility is being designed in four components, all connected by a winter hall, and will serve as a new entrance for the western side of the campus. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

The firm's plan for renovation at Presbyterian University Hospital is entering the construction phase. Burt Hill's design converts 18,000 sq. ft. into private rooms for acute-care, isola-

tion and special-care patients, as well as building improvements to service the new patient housing area. Construction is scheduled to be completed by August. Contractor for both projects is P.J. Dick.

Also in Oakland, **IKM, Inc.** is renovating 24,000 sq. ft. at Montefiore University Hospital. Renovations and interior improvements include new mechanical, electrical and fire-protection systems. June is the targeted completion date.

At Allegheny General Hospital, **IKM** is upgrading the telecommunications system, also to be completed in June. P.J. Dick is providing general construction support.

▲ Here and There

Want to research architecture in the Pittsburgh area but don't know where to begin? Look no further than **Pittsburgh Architecture: A Guide to Research**, a new publication from the Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives. The book includes lists of resources and repositories, journals, books on individual architects and buildings and the Archives' key collections. Guides are available at \$5.00 per copy: send a check to the Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives, Uni-

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Insites: Letters to the Editor

versity Libraries, Frew Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890. For more information, call Martin Aurand, Archivist at 268-8165.

Make your mark on the next generation of architects! On Thursday, February 13, Fox Chapel High School will open its doors to Pittsburgh professionals, giving them the opportunity to talk with students about different careers. To participate, contact Millie Schwartz at the Allegheny Trails Council, Flag Plaza, Bedford Ave., 471-2927 ext. 257.

▲ Call for Entries

Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture, an affiliate organization of the AIA, announces its 1992 International Architectural Design Awards Program for built religious structures. The competition is open to built structures (including architecture, renovation, restoration and interior design) designed by a registered architect and completed since 1987 that serve as or support a religious facility. For an entry form and requirements, write to: IFRAA National Headquarters, Doris Justis, Executive Secretary, 1777 Church Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Entry forms are due July 1; Deadline for submissions is August 3.

▲ Business Briefs

R.I. Lampus Company received an award from the Moraine Preservation Fund for the installation of a wildlife observation deck at Moraine State Park in Portersville, PA.

Harmar Brick has introduced the Utility Line of face brick. Because it is 2.35 times larger than standard face brick, it significantly reduces installation time and cost. 

COLUMNS:

While not a member of the AIA, as a member of the Pittsburgh architectural community I feel obligated to respond to Mr. Wadhvani's rebuttal to Paul Rona's letter (January, 1991).

Mr. Wadhvani, either obliquely or intentionally, has missed Mr. Rona's point completely and attempts to smother an intelligent position with 400 words of diarrheal verbal rhetoric (as John Pekruhn once described an over-blown critique presentation at Carnegie Tech).

As far as I am able to ascertain, Mr. Rona's only complaint was against "invited" competitions among "international" architectural firms, thus shutting out local firms; the plethora of argumentative points presented by Mr. Wadhvani are irrelevant and inane! Quite honestly, they were a waste of 2/3 of a page.

Tom Terpack

Thomas Stephen Terpack/Architect

COLUMNS:

I regret that my spontaneous and well-intentioned response to a questionnaire intended as light reading fare has ruffled the delicate sensibilities of certain readers and elicited such a strong level of vitriolic reaction from them. In any case, as I stated emphatically and lucidly in my response to Mr. Rona's letter, I had never intended that local firms be eliminated from consideration for prestigious commissions, merely that they compete with the best architects in the world. I have to believe that the vast majority of Pittsburgh architects would place a much greater priority on the architectural quality of our landmarks than on the geographic affiliations of the firms that design them. One can only hope that in the future my esteemed brethren will be equally forthcoming with their witty though vituperative correspondence, on behalf of professional issues more worthy of their time and indulgence.

Deepak Wadhvani, AIA

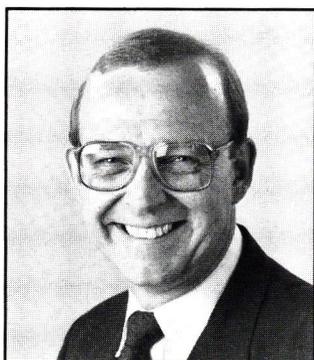
Got something on your mind? COLUMNS welcomes your input! Send your letters to:

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1225 Farragut Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

telephone: 412/661-3734
fax: 412/661-6287

Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior to publication.
 (Deadline for April issue is *February 25*.)

Dossier: James D. Howell, AIA



"I'm not God. If I were, the fees would be higher."

James D. Howell, AIA

Firm: Valentour English Bodnar, Registered Architects.

Family: Wife: Sharon, 22 years (and she still has reservations); Sons: Christopher, 21, Breyden, 19; Favorite: Dog Wonder, 8.

Years in Practice: 22

Education: Kent State University, B. Arch. 1971.

First Job: Draftsman, Office of the University Architect at KSU.

Most Embarrassing Project/Moment: Getting trapped in my locker at school in sixth grade.

Building you wish you had designed: Galleria at Southpointe.

Building you'd like to tear down: Virtually everything along McKnight Road; signs first.

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? Normal.

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? John Candy.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? On an isolated Greek island.

What would you change about your job? I'd reserve only two hours per day for the telephone and eliminate the incessant deadlines which are meaningless within a matter of days after having met them.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? I'm not God. If I were, the fees would be higher.

What's the most annoying thing architects do? Act like attorneys.

Advice to young architects: If you're not 100% certain, find another occupation while you still can.

The one thing you wish they'd teach in school is: Common sense.

Favorite architect: I really don't have a favorite. I see brilliance in the work of many architects. Aligning design with the needs of the client and users is my usual criteria.

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Lawrenceville. It's compact, dense, historic, and ethnic; it's comfortable.

Best gift to give an Architect: A client that wants quality service and is willing to pay for it promptly.

Wish list for Pittsburgh/downtown: Easy access Monday through Friday at 8:00 AM.

What's the next big architectural trend? Design fees by the square foot.

Someday I'd like to: Spend my summers in Nantucket and winters in St. Croix.

I want to be remembered for: Letting other architects spread their wings.

People would be surprised to know that: I enjoy and prefer the business aspect of the profession.

The secret to my success is: Smile, even when it takes all your strength.

I belong to the AIA because: It provides a comprehensive overview to, and for, the profession.



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PROJECT ARCHITECT/MANAGER — Registered Architect with talent, dedication, and 5-8 yrs. experience. CAD experience a plus. Unique opportunity for professional growth. All replies will be held in confidence. Respond soon with resume to Janet McCarthy, McCormick McCarthy, 2700 Two Oliver Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

CLASSIFIED RATES: AIA Members: \$.75/word. Non-members: \$1.00/word. Mail or fax typewritten copy to: COLUMNS, c/o The Cantor Group, 1225 Farragut Street, Pgh., PA 15206 (FAX 412/661-6287) or call 412/661-3734. Check payable to AIA/Cantor Group must accompany copy. Deadline for Classifieds in the March issue is February 4; for April issue is March 4.

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

■ AIA ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Interiors Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Contact Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Pittsburgh Chapter AIA Board Meeting, 5 PM at the Chapter office. All members are welcome. Anne Swager, 471-9548.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Historic Resources Committee Meeting, 4:30 PM at the Chapter office. John Martine, AIA, 227-6100.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Exhibit Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office. Karl Backus, AIA, 765-3890.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Urban Design Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Steven Hawkins, AIA, 521-9399.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

WIA Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Attorney Daniel Ernsberger will present a seminar on sexual harrasment. Call Susan Tusick, AIA, 394-7069.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Professional Development Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at Brenenberg Brown. Dave Brenenberg, AIA, 683-0202.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Pittsburgh Chapter Monthly Meeting, Town Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Engineer's Club, 337 Fourth Avenue. *Details and RSVP on page 19.*

■ AROUND TOWN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Stanley Tigerman will lecture on his recent works at Carnegie Mellon University, Doherty Hall 2210, 7:30 PM. Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call the Architecture Department, 268-2354.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Society of Architectural Administrators monthly luncheon meeting at the Engineer's Club. Cost is \$12.50. Call Jeanette Smith, 281-6568.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CSI Monthly Meeting, Robert Dale Lynch, AIA will speak on the ADA. 5:30 PM, Greentree Marriott. Cost is \$15 for members and guests. Call 823-5063.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Registration Deadline for Urban Housing Competition sponsored by Community Design Center. Details in January COLUMNS, or call 391-4144.

■ PLAN AHEAD

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 8 & 9

"Discovering the British Garden" symposium sponsored by American Architectural Foundation. Eight British and American scholars will review the traditions of British gardening in conjunction with a garden exhibit at The Octagon Museum in Washington, DC. Cost is \$150 per person. For information, call Melissa Houghton at 202/638-3221.

Time Once Again for a Town Meeting

It's time once again to examine the state of the Chapter. Financial affairs, long range plans and questions from the membership will be covered at February's town meeting. If you would like to have an item included on the agenda, call the Chapter office at 471-9548 or fax your request to 471-9501.

* * * * *

What's in store for the rest of the year? Program Chair Kevin Silson, AIA is working with other committees to prepare a diverse menu of offerings for '92:

March: A dialogue between contractors and architects on improving working drawings.

April: The Annual Hornbostel Lecture, given by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, AIA, designer of the famed Florida community Seaside (presented by the AIA/CMU Liaison Committee).

May: Susan Maxman, FAIA, President-elect of National will speak (presented by the Women in Architecture Committee).

June: In conjunction with the Bridge Engineers Conference in town, the Chapter will sponsor a program on bridge design.

July: A presentation by the 1992 AIA Gold Medalist on his/her work (presented by the Professional Development Committee).

September: Speak your mind at the autumn Town Meeting.

October: In response to popular demand, the Chapter will hold a Forum on Architectural Education, examining how students are prepared for the profession and what more needs to be done.

November: The Annual Design Awards Ceremony and Opening of the Awards Exhibit.

December: The Annual President's Reception.

Please note that meeting topics, like life, are tentative and subject to change. If you have questions about upcoming Chapter events, see the monthly calendar on page 17 of COLUMNS or call the office at 471-9548.

The Exhibit Committee arranges shows related to program topics and COLUMNS themes. Exhibits are on display in the Chapter office and change every month. For information, contact Chair Karl Backus, AIA, at Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, 765-3890. 



The Pittsburgh Chapter AIA
Cordially Invites You
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Town Meeting



Wednesday, February 26

Engineer's Club
337 Fourth Avenue

5:30 PM Cash bar
6:30 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Town Meeting

Members: Pre-paid Guests: \$20
RSVP by Friday, February 21



RSVP

Town Meeting

Engineer's Club
Wednesday, February 26

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Find out why this busy firm shuns specialization.

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The Chapter sets forth its plans for the new year.

Architrave 10

The former Charitable Foundation maps out a new course of action to educate the public.

And much, much more!

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