


COLUMNS



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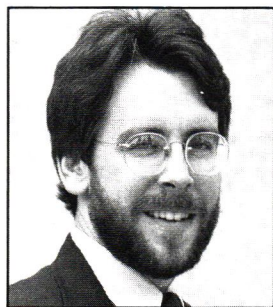
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View Point: Community Planning

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, President



"The Pseudoscience of planning seems almost neurotic in its determination to imitate empiric failure and ignore empiric success."

Jane Jacobs

This year's Hornbostel lecture (Tuesday, April 14) by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, AIA of Duany Plater-Zyberk in Miami will be for me one of the highlights of this year's Chapter programs and provides a great opportunity

for a dialogue about the future of building in this country. Since writing a review for COLUMNS back in 1988 expressing disappointment about the lack of effective planning in the new airport region, I have wanted to have one of the partners of this award-winning firm speak out about the issue of suburban/rural planning. Following the seminar by Randall Arendt (Natural Lands Trust of Pennsylvania) cosponsored by AIA and ASLA last month, it is clear that architects must begin to deal more seriously with the issue of land use.

Each of us can help open the dialogue about this issue by inviting a town official, a builder, a developer, a community activist, a corporate leader to attend this lecture.

This country is facing a crisis in land use policy.

With a conservative, right wing Supreme Court

reviewing new challenges from property rights extremists, the crisis looks like it will only grow. As a profession and as individuals we have to decide whether we will lead the search for alternative land use policies, or whether we will sit back and complain that restrictions on inefficient land use are bad for business, much like those who advocate loose wetlands restrictions. Landuse is becoming a prominent political issue in the "Reagan Era" high growth "S&L" states such as California, Maryland and Florida where quality of life degradation is particularly evident.

Pittsburgh is a city that has experienced the loss of its natural landscape and is in the unique position of reclaiming it (the rivers and slopes in particular). As we plan our future transportation systems to the airport and think about places to live, work and play along our rivers, the work of Duany Plater-Zyberk is worth looking at. Their work is not without controversy among planners and architects. The criticism most

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On the Cover

Arriving guests make a dramatic entrance under the porte cochere of this Fox Chapel home, designed by Brenenborg Brown Group.