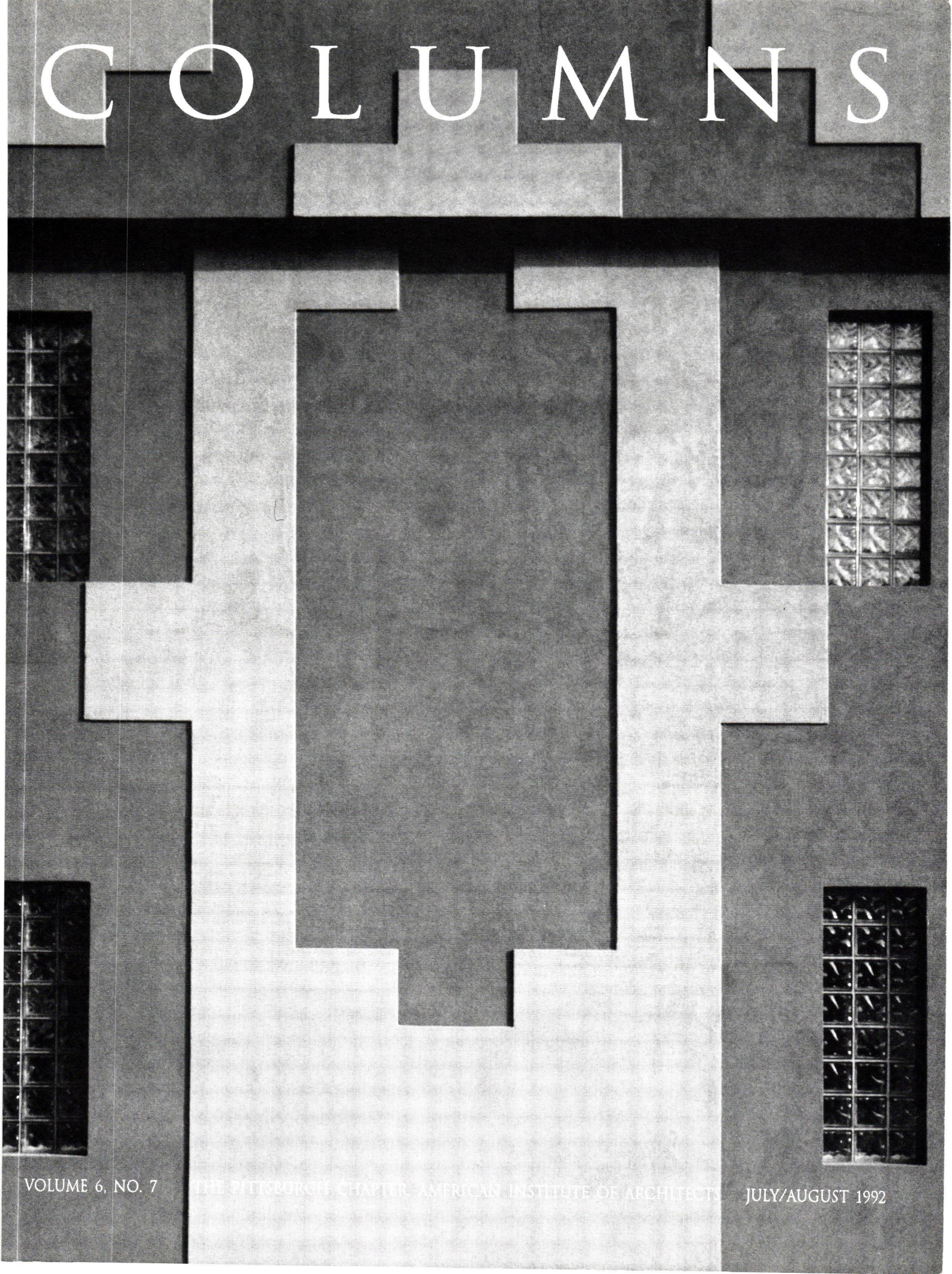


COLUMNS



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THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

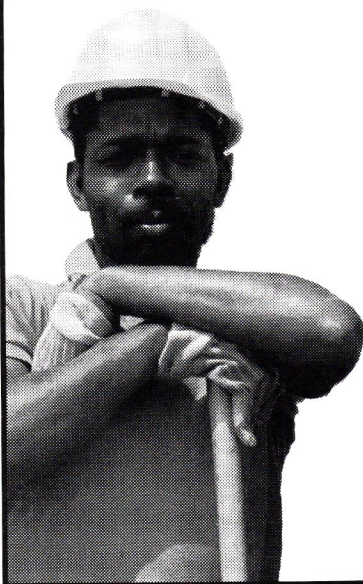
JULY/AUGUST 1992

WE DO MORE THAN BUILD AMERICA, WE ALSO BUILD AMERICA'S BUILDERS.

The organized construction industry operates the largest and best training programs in the world. Hands down.

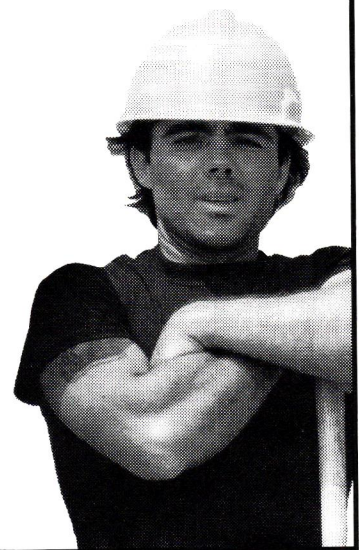
In fact, each year more than 180,000 apprentices learn traditional skills at over 1,000 apprenticeship schools and training facilities across the nation. And another 500,000 skilled craftsmen and foremen upgrade their abilities at advanced classes in cutting edge methods and technologies. In all, it's a multi-million dollar commitment... the most comprehensive program in the country...the best in the world.

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Building America's Future: The Organized Construction Industry

A message from the Construction Industry Labor-Management 1990's Committee

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. The objective of the Chapter is to improve, for society, the quality of the built environment by further raising the standards of architectural education, training and practice; fostering design excellence; and promoting the value of architectural services to the public. AIA 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 Telephone: 412/471-9548; FAX: 412/471-9501.

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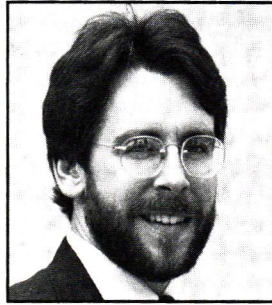
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View Point: Making Plans for Planning

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, President



"Make no little vacation plans, they have no magic to stir us away from the drafting board and probably themselves will not be remembered next winter. Make big plans; aim high in hope for sun and sand, remembering that a noble effort to leave the office behind will never die, but will be a living thing asserting itself with ever growing insistency during job meetings."

With apologies to "Uncle Dan" Burnham

I was hoping to lighten up my message, write about architecture and start to enjoy the summer a little. However, the most recent round of cutbacks in the City Planning Department have forced the issue of planning to the forefront of my concerns. Not surprisingly, the cutbacks have been fairly invisible because of the newspaper strike. Even when there is media, there is a general lack of public interest in planning in comparison to police or fire protection.

Some say that they deserved it—that the Planning Department had gone too far and was more often *designing* than *planning*. Others have commented that the department doesn't have enough resources to be more proactive and is an easy scapegoat for the politics of building, resulting in the rubber stamp syndrome, most often reflecting the word from the mayor's office. We need to avoid fretting about what has already been lost and devote attention to what we can gain. So in the spirit of looking ahead, here are my personal concerns:

- Let's look for a permanent seat on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment for an architect. The current lack of our professional view of planning creates an unhealthy imbalance that puts the power in the hands of more lawyers less inclined to have the foresight that we can bring to the table.
- A planning department has to have the support and resources to be proactive, to PLAN. Where is a comprehensive plan for the Strip? for Oakland? for our neighborhoods? How do they compare with the examples set by more progressive cities?
- How about an updated zoning code that does not depend heavily on lawyers to interpret (see Duany and Plater-Zyberk). Most importantly, it should not replace our vibrant urban neighborhoods with some plas-

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A detail from the facade of the Earth Sciences building in Murrysville. Photo by Ed Massery. See article on page 8.