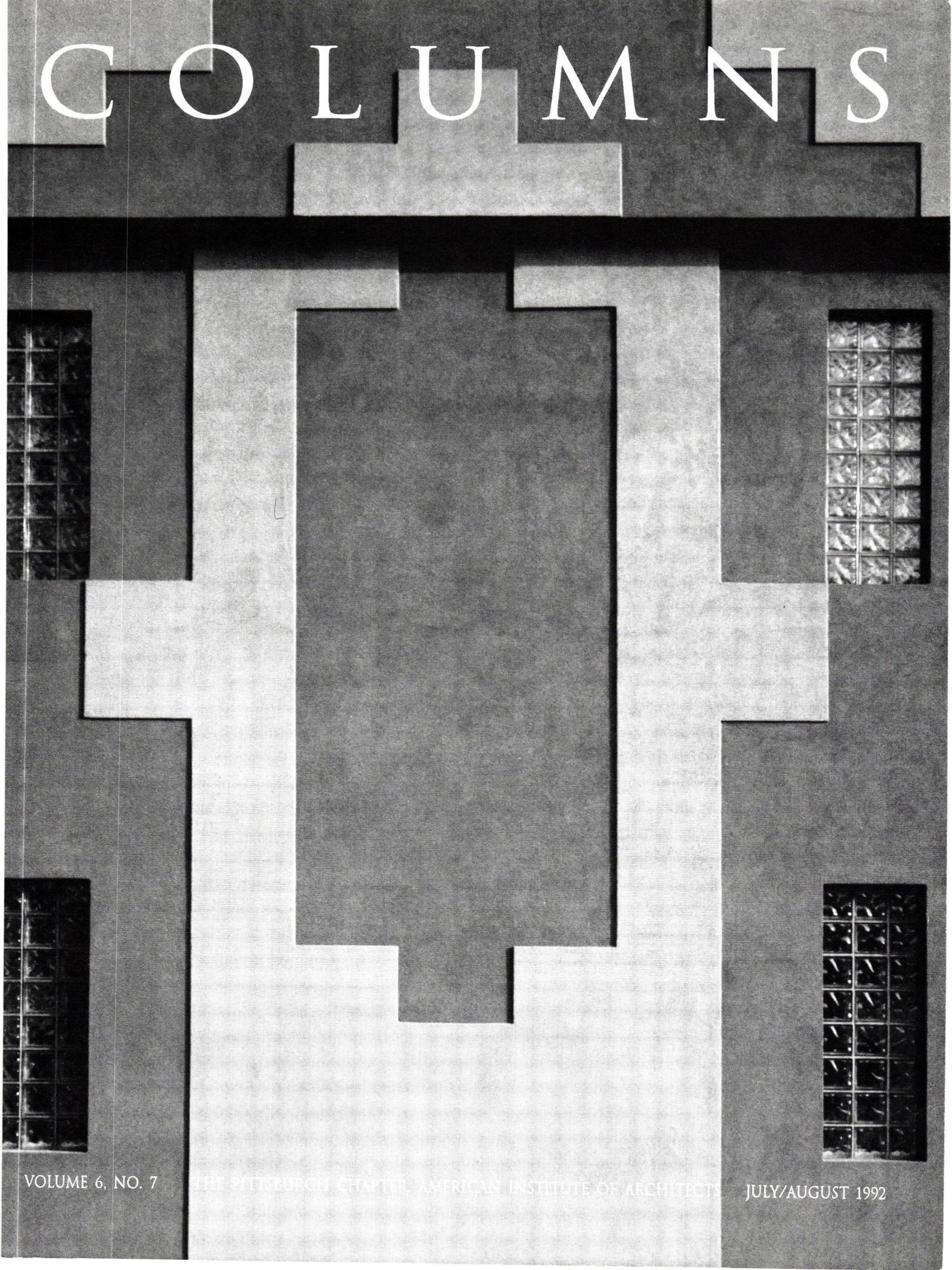


COLUMNS



VOLUME 6, NO. 7

THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JULY/AUGUST 1992

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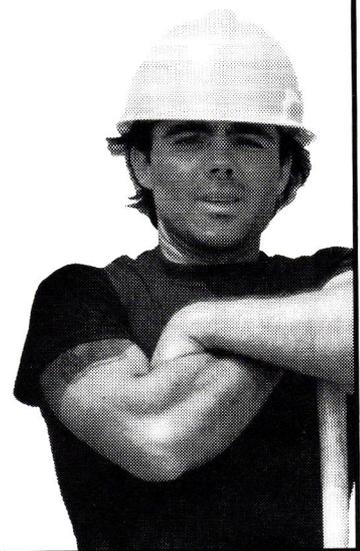
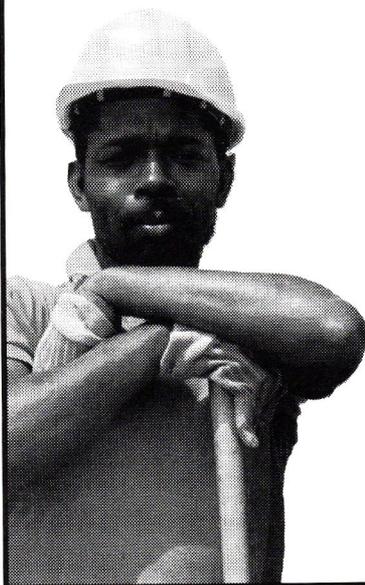
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Building America's Future: The Organized Construction Industry

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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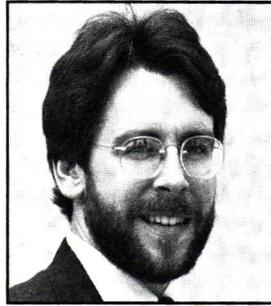
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Opinions expressed by editors and contributors are not necessarily those of the Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA. The Chapter has made every reasonable effort to provide accurate and authoritative information, but assumes no liability for the contents.

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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On the Cover

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

View Point, from page 3

tic-covered suburban nightmare.

- We need leadership that understands design and planning issues and can speak passionately about them. Listen to Ray Flynn of Bos-

ton, Pamela Plumb of Portland, ME, or Elizabeth Waters of Charlottesville, VA. These are literate, thoughtful urban mayors who have not turned their backs on the characters that make their cities great.

- Don't merge development and planning. Although one would like to believe that there is a model for a merged agency such as Boston's BRA, there are factors about Pittsburgh that make it an unwise move. The AIA can play an important part in educating public officials about what works and what doesn't. We have credibility; we can be perceived as objective; we often work for both development AND planning interests. But we have to become visible and show that we care.

- A city planning department that listens as well as it plans. There have been too many

incidents in the recent past where the professional and political rhetoric has prevented dialogue and action. We architects know how difficult it is sometimes to interpret and understand a client's needs; it requires patience with a full range of citizenry from just plain zany to those who know what makes our city tick better than most planning professionals.

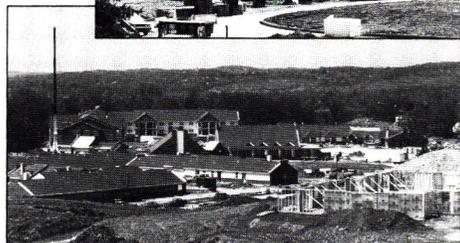
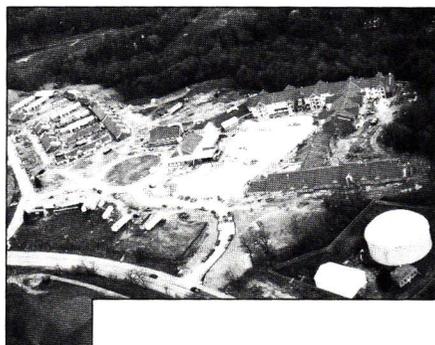
As chapter president it's my goal to meet with the mayor or her staff to try and gain perspective on the administration's "plans for planning" in Pittsburgh. Before the Chapter can consider advocacy of specific alternatives to the current state of planning policy, we must listen and understand before judging. In the meantime, I have this little plan for sailing the Mon! 

COLUMNS welcomes your input!
Send letters, articles and comments to:

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Above: Longwood at Oakmont
Owner: The Longwood Group Arch.: The Klett Organization
Photos: Richard Golomb

"If you're not part of the solution..."

Anne Swager, Executive Director

W

hen I was a kid my dad always beat into my head that 60's maxim, "If you aren't part of the solution, you're part of the problem." He practiced what he preached. Active for many years on the town council, he was best remembered for proposing a bomb shelter/community center be built under the picturesque village square. Dad took the bomb threat seriously. The shelter made it past the voters but was defeated when the town tried to float a bond issue to pay for it. Never easily deterred, Dad built us our very own bomb shelter in the basement while serving his last council term.

Following dutifully in his footsteps, I was a member of my college's governing body. True to form, it was a "model" government with equal parts student, professor and administrator. The nuances of this type of governance were lost on me. My only clear memory of my term in office was the meeting when Hazel Bernard "streaked" the whole assembly wearing only red hightops and a face mask.

Now that I am a taxpayer, I pay much closer attention to who and how I am governed. Mostly, I care about how the money is spent. But with everybody running on "image" and, worse yet, trying to appeal to every voter, I feel less and less as if my vote really counts (sorry, Dad).

Last year was my first trip to the AIA Convention. Information began arriving months before I even knew when it was scheduled. I had no idea what most of it meant and even less of an idea what to expect when I got there. There isn't a lot for executive directors to do when they go to conventions, although this is quickly changing (lest you think you're not getting your money's worth). After I had exhausted the exhibit hall (where I gathered a lifetime

supply of free laminated business card luggage tags), I wandered into the business meeting and watched numerous spirited debates on different convention resolutions. I was taken aback by the vehemence of many speakers and quickly realized I had underestimated the importance of the little book I'd received outlining the resolutions. Indeed, as the year progressed I began to see the effect these resolutions had. During Grassroots, many of us were appalled to find that on government affairs day we were supposed to talk to our elected officials on Capitol Hill about healthcare reform. Surprise, surprise, this issue choice had come from a resolution passed at the convention eight months earlier.

This year, we've gone about things differently. Realizing how the passage of resolutions translated into Institute action, the Board discussed each resolution's relative merits with a close eye on how Institute resources would be affected. Our president is off to the convention with a clear direction as to how to vote for each resolution. Predictably, I have many more meetings to attend this year than last. But I do plan to play hooky a little to watch the debates and the outcome. It is easy to envision the Institute as an entrenched bureaucracy where nothing ever really changes. What is surprising to learn is that it isn't. What programs are planned for the next several years comes largely from how members cast their votes at the convention.

Bomb shelters are a dead issue, at least for this year. Instead, I'm vying for the 800 number for members calling the Institute and the formation of an urban agenda. Watch for a full accounting of the proceedings in your next *Memo*. ■



It is easy to envision the Institute as an entrenched bureaucracy where nothing ever really changes. What is surprising to learn is that it isn't.

Environmental Hazards: A Hands-Off Story

Environmental services viewed as risky by most architects

by Charles Rosenblum

A

s environmental issues gain importance in the public eye, architects have become increasingly sensitive to the effects of building on the natural environment. In searching for new inroads to "green" design, many architects turn to the newly-established AIA guidelines that compare environmental costs of different building materials. However, with more former industrial sites now adapted to other uses, the question of what effect the environment has on the architecture is asked just as frequently. From asbestos and lead paint to "sick building syndrome," architects are coming to terms with a variety of environmental dangers.

Such issues typically fall outside the scope of standard architectural services. In discussing plans for the Carnegie Mellon Research Institute at the Pittsburgh Technology Center, Steve Schillo, Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and University Planning at CMU, commented, "The architects made it clear that they were not environmental consultants, that they were not responsible for designing the cleanup or mitigation on the site. The University retained that responsibility and determined through an outside consultant that our site poses no risk at all."

Owners face a similar situation at Washington's Landing, a URA site where several buildings are already completed or underway. "We hire separate firms to go in and test the property once the hazards have been identified," says Jerry DeTour of the URA's Engineering Department.

Similar circumstances apply to interior hazards, including asbestos and lead paint, and

sick buildings. "Anything that's hazardous is the owner's responsibility," explains Peter Collopy, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at CMU, who hires outside consultants and contractors for removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials.

James Dyson, Vice President of McDonough Caperton Insurance Group explains that most insurance for AE firms has an exclusion for pollution-related issues for financial reasons. "When a firm has a potential liability and there is a lending institution involved, from a real estate standpoint, this can be a deal breaker."

"Even the engineering firms that handle soil remediation or removal are likely to ask for some sort of indemnification or hold harmless," adds Craig Wizotski, Chair of McDonough Caperton. "If they find some unforeseen problem during removal, they don't want to be held responsible for it." And wisely so: according to Wizotski, "The average cost for a minor cleanup is half a million dollars. A major cleanup can be \$2 million."

High liability generally prevents architects from addressing environmental contamination issues within their own scope of services. Many firms thus opt for affiliations with environmental consultants to harness contamination remediation services.

In a few instances, those affiliations occur within the same company. L. D. Astorino Branch Environmental, Inc. is part of a holding company that includes the architectural firm L. D. Astorino & Associates. Under this arrangement, Astorino can provide consis-

"Anything that's hazardous is the owner's responsibility."

*Peter Collopy,
Director of Environmental
Health & Safety, CMU*

tently high quality environmental services to its clients and remain free from liability burdens.

Branch Environmental provides a wide range of environmental services, including hazardous waste materials management, lead-based paint abatement, asbestos management and indoor air quality evaluations, as well as chemical exposure and noise level monitoring. "We're basically a full-service company," says Bernard Quinn, president. Branch Environmental was founded in 1990 to provide "one-stop shopping" to Astorino's architectural clientele. Quinn, a Certified Industrial Hygienist who had been on Astorino's staff, was the sole employee back then. Today there are 10 employees: eight full-time and two part-time. Although Branch Environmental frequently takes assignments from Astorino, it is not bound to and in fact maintains a number of contracts with outside agencies and corporations.

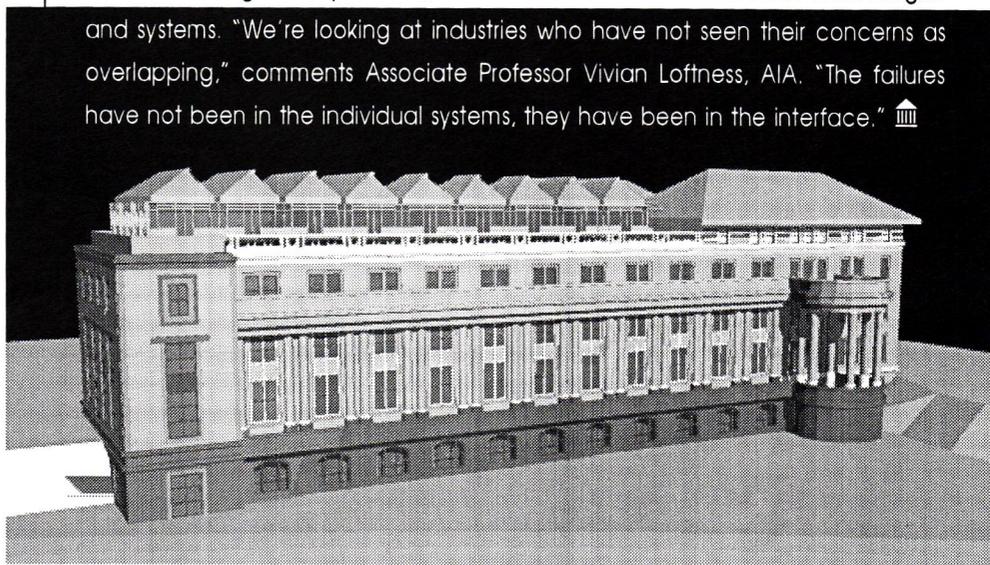
Environmental consultants are flourishing in the face of liability; renewed focus on the environment, in the form of greater awareness and stricter regulations, has created a promising future for those willing to assume the risks. The future looks so good, in fact, that Branch Environmental, which has grown rapidly in its short history, is considering adding employee health and safety training to its roster of services, as well as expanding its indoor air quality testing capabilities. ■

Academia Gets Smart About Buildings

As architects tackle the environmental problems of the past, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University are asking what the office of the future will be like. To get a better idea, the University established the Advanced Building Systems Integration Consortium (ABSIC), an offshoot of its 15-year-old M.S./Ph.D. program in Advanced Building Systems. ABSIC was developed in 1988 as a university/industry partnership between CMU, the National Science Foundation and 10 corporations: American Bridge/Continental Engineering Corporation; AMP Incorporated; Armstrong World Industries, Inc.; Bechtel Corporation; Bell of Pennsylvania; Duquesne Light Company; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Miles, Inc.; PPG Industries, Inc.; and Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

ABSIC's latest undertaking is the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics, aka the "Intelligent Penthouse," a showcase and laboratory for student and professional education about thermal, visual, acoustic and spatial performance and air quality, as well as long term building integrity in an advanced workplace. The 7,500 sq. ft. facility will be a rooftop addition to CMU's Margaret Morrison Hall. Construction began this summer.

Rather than viewing the "Workplace of the Future" as merely an agglomeration of individual high-tech products, the Center stresses interrelation of technologies and systems. "We're looking at industries who have not seen their concerns as overlapping," comments Associate Professor Vivian Loftness, AIA. "The failures have not been in the individual systems, they have been in the interface." ■



The Intelligent Penthouse, an advanced building diagnostics lab, will sit atop Margaret Morrison Carnegie Hall at Carnegie Mellon University (CAD rendering).

A+ for Environmental Awareness

Celli-Flynn's award-winning design stresses environmental harmony

W

hen your client is an environmental science and engineering consulting firm, environmental awareness touches every aspect of the project. Such was the case when Celli-Flynn and Associates' designed additions to the Murrysville headquarters of Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc.

Earth Sciences, a subsidiary of American Waste Services, Inc., specializes in environ-

burgh weren't keeping pace with the company's growth, so they turned to Celli-Flynn for help.

Earth Sciences' three major design goals were to: a) maintain the natural environment to the greatest extent possible; b) provide an up-to-date lab facility for many different types of analyses; and c) rehabilitate the existing office building in such a manner that the whole complex would be tied together as a functioning whole.

To house Antech, an affiliate engaged in analysis of soil, surface and ground water and all types of waste materials, the architect renovated 20,000 sq. ft. of existing space and constructed an additional 27,000 sq. ft. Antech's Laboratory Building was built as Phase I. After some relocation, the Earth Sciences' office building was renovated as Phase II.

The laboratory structure was built parallel to and downhill from the existing structure, leaving several tall trees and a sloping open site intact. The building contains cold rooms, sample preparation areas and field storage areas on the lowest level; offices for laboratory management, conference centers, a reception area and lunch room on the middle level; and laboratories for Antech on the top level. Labs house six piped gases, 22 fume hoods, and many sophisticated instruments.

The existing office building had been erected in 1978 as a developer structure intended for many small start-up companies. For the architect the challenge of this reorganization assignment was to eliminate deficiencies and convert the structure to a contemporary office



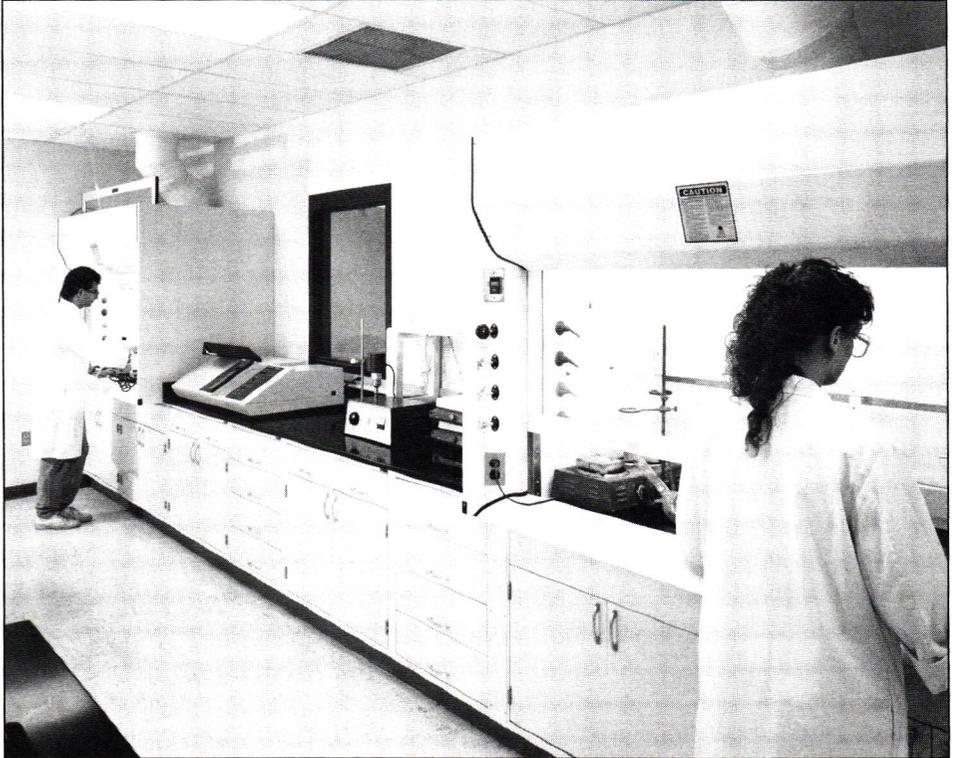
Celli-Flynn's Earth Sciences Building in Murrysville received the 1991 Project of the Year Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Western PA.

mental investigations, permitting and compliance activities. Two affiliated companies, Antech Ltd. and CRS, Inc., provide environmentally related analytical and remedial services. Since the company was established with three employees in 1979, Earth Sciences and its affiliates have grown to their current size of 170 personnel with branch offices in Akron and Denver. The existing facilities in Pitts-

building containing open plan offices for different departments, including a large word processing group, a drafting group, engineers, technicians, and administrators. All new HVAC and electrical systems were installed, as were internal communications, stairways, and other facilities.

The two buildings are connected by a pedestrian bridge, which passes through the open courtyard space and gives the employees an opportunity to experience the natural outdoors. Major exterior materials used in the process were brick masonry, glass block and aluminum windows, an exterior insulated finish system, and metal siding to tie the entire complex together with a unified appearance.

The finished project pleased the client and received the Project of the Year Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania. It was also partly responsible for Celli-Flynn and Associates' 1991 Architect of the Year Award from ABC. 



Housed in new labs on the top floor of the new building, Antech, an affiliate of Earth Sciences, provides soil, surface and ground water analysis.

No COLUMNS next month!

We'll be back in September with our Interiors issue. Firms interested in showcasing their work should send quality photographs (b/w or color) with project descriptions to:

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Why Can't Johnny Get a Job?

Today's architecture graduates face a tight market

by Dennis McFadden

B

etween final charrettes and studying for their last exams, students graduating from architecture schools this spring read of the deepening financial woes of Olympia & York, the world's largest real estate developer, further confirming what many already suspected: times are tough out there. The reports filtering back to campus from friends who graduated a year or two earlier were no more encouraging.

Claire Gallagher, intern member, who, after completing Carnegie Mellon's Master of Architecture program last year now works at the school, has kept tabs on many of her contemporaries. She readily admits that her class of '12 has not had an easy time of it. "About half of us are doing something related to architecture," she says. And Stephen Eger, intern member, a May 1991 Penn State graduate, says that most of the 32 members of his class are not working in architecture either. Eger describes his first year out of school as one of moving from Penn State to Arizona to Florida then back to State College and finally home to Mt. Lebanon in search of an opportunity to begin work on his internship. All he has found so far are short-term positions. "A week ago I started a job doing drawings that may last a total of three weeks."

In the past, graduating students could often land a first job by following what John Eberhard, FAIA, Head of Carnegie Mellon's Architecture Department describes as the "traditional mode" of resumes, scheduling interviews, and hoping for an interesting offer. In a tight economy, with this year's graduates competing not only among themselves but with

unemployed graduates from the last few years as well, this strategy rarely succeeds. But students are finding work and how they are doing it proves that commitment and creativity are the keys to success.

For Thomas Gallemore, who completed his B.Arch. at Carnegie Mellon last December, the search for a job began a year ago when he moved to San Francisco. Gallemore wrote letters and sent out scores of resumes to architects his teachers knew. He found that for the few jobs that existed he was often competing with people who had five or six years experience. His second tactic was to call architects by phone and ask them for the opportunity to come in and talk to someone about the firm and its work. After exhausting the San Francisco and Berkeley areas, Gallemore was beginning to think about coming home. Then, when he got to the G's in the Oakland directory, his luck changed. He was offered a job for the rest of the summer with Gutierrez Associates, a small firm doing a lot of public projects. The fit between Gallemore and the firm proved to be a good one, and after his final semester in Pittsburgh he was on his way back to California. Asked what the key was, Gallemore replies "determination and commitment." He feels his enthusiasm helped, as did the fact that he had experience doing working drawings. His future employer was far more interested in these than in his design portfolio.

Graduating students aren't facing the challenge of finding a job alone. Members of the profession and educators are trying to find new ways to help them get off on the right foot. For a number of years, the Chapter sponsored a

Talk to recent architecture graduates and you will undoubtedly hear horror stories; tales of classmates who after five years in a rigorous and costly program are selling jeans at The Gap. But you will also sense optimism.

"About half of us are doing something related to architecture."

Claire Gallagher, intern member on her former classmates from Carnegie Mellon University

career day at Carnegie Mellon. Several years ago, when a very tight market discouraged many firms from interviewing at the event, the school decided to try something new. Steve Quick, AIA, who chairs the Chapter's AIA/CMU Liaison Committee, says that the committee and the University now focus on a series of workshops on portfolio development, resume preparation and the AIA's Intern Development Program.

Eberhard has helped many graduating students articulate what they want to do and what they are equipped to do. After five years in a tightly structured curriculum, a young architect may not think in these terms. With some sense of direction, Eberhard and the student begin to develop a strategy for finding not just a job but a career path appropriate to the particular student. He explains how the process has helped Christopher Neighbor, this year's Alpha Rho Chi Award winner. Neighbor received the award in part because of his participation in student government. In the course of an extended discussion it emerged that he was very interested in government but hadn't considered how his architectural training would apply. Neighbor was inspired to contact state and federal government officials in pursuit of such a position, and as this is written his prospects appear very good.

Going back to school, once a preferred alternative to working, is more difficult today when students are strapped with considerable debts and reluctant to take on more. Those who do go back often choose programs in areas other than design, such as business or real estate. James Shaw, who completed his B.Arch. at

Carnegie Mellon two years ago and then struck out for Boston to look for work is now back in Pittsburgh refining his computer skills in his alma mater's M.S. program.

Talk to recent architecture graduates and you will undoubtedly hear horror stories; tales of classmates who after five years in a rigorous and costly program are selling jeans at The Gap. But you will also sense optimism. People continue to look, attend AIA meetings, go to lectures. Perhaps the rigors of an architectural education—constantly forcing the would-be architect to question his or her commitment to the field—are in a perverse way ideal preparation for the frustrations of finding that first job. ■

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One recent graduate found his first employer was far more interested in seeing his working drawings than his design portfolio.

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■ bricks and mortar: committee news

■ Interiors

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

Working with Save the Aviary, Inc., we have organized a design charrette to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary. The pro-bono project is scheduled to begin on July 18. Volunteers from the architecture and design community and construction industry are needed. *See the box at right for details.*

We are also completing plans to assemble and publish an interiors resource guide. Full information on this guide, intended as a joint AIA/ASID/IBD project will be published in the September issue of COLUMNS.

Our next meeting will be a design meeting/work session for the Aviary project on July 20 at 5:30 PM at the Chapter office.

■ IDP

Chair: Richard Bamburak, AIA
Williams Trebilcock Whitehead, 321-0550

We are sponsoring a site observation seminar series together with Johnson/Schmidt and Associates at a recently started Pittsburgh National Bank branch office at McIntyre Square, McKnight Road. Interns interested in participating to aid in fulfilling IDP requirements are urged to attend this interesting series. The first on-site observation is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 at 9 AM at the project site. Visitors will be required to sign a liability waiver prior to beginning the site tour.

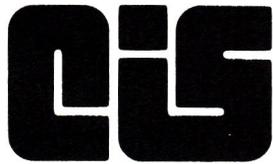
Additional tours are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 25 and Saturday, August 15, both at 9 AM. Please contact Rich Bamburak with questions.

■ Urban Design

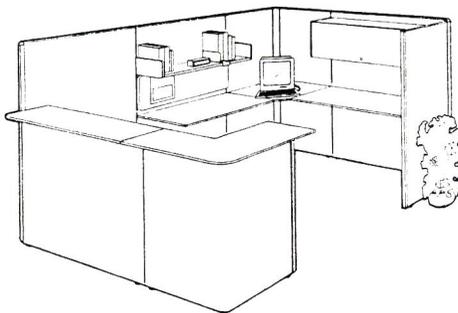
Chair: Steven Hawkins, AIA
Steven G. Hawkins/Architects, 521-9399

"Visions of Downtown," the May Chapter meeting was well received by the 50 or so people in attendance. To recap a few themes that recurred throughout the presentations: As the Golden Triangle goes, so goes the city; Downtown must be viewed and marketed not just in the context of the city and county, but in its regional context as well; public transit links between Downtown and the Midfield Terminal must be strong, with Downtown remaining an important destination; the decrease in the percentage of Pittsburgh's population versus that of the region is an issue that needs to be addressed at the state level, with a view toward possible regional asset management; there is a need for increased dialogue, coordination and cooperation between city and county governments and agencies, and also a state-level review of city taxes vs. suburban taxes.

Other notable suggestions included: a marketable "signature piece," like the Eiffel Tower or the St. Louis Arch, would draw people to Downtown from great distances (aerial trams across the rivers was one such idea); the David L. Lawrence Convention Center must be expanded (we are trying to host conventions in a facility that is out of step with those in other cities in terms of size and quality); the City Center project is viewed as having a positive effect on Downtown.



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■ bricks and mortar: committee news

For those who couldn't attend the meeting, please watch for future opportunities to engage in dialogue with leaders in the community.

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA and members of our committee are focusing efforts on the proposed transit bridge over the Mon River at the Wabash Tunnel site. This should be a bridge of extraordinary aesthetic and technical design. Response has been positive.

■ Membership

Chair: Gwen Williams, intern member

Douglas C. Berryman Associates, 363-4622

Please welcome the following new members:



Jeanne B. Weber, intern member

Relocated to Pittsburgh.

Graduate of: Indiana University of PA (B.S. in Art Education); University of Tennessee; SUNY-Buffalo (M.Arch.)

Past Projects: Docent Program Director, Budapest Museum of Fine Arts; consulting in Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Family: husband Gary, daughters Leigh (27) and Paige (23).

Interests: art, opera, music, reading, travel.

Stephen W. Eger, intern member

Seeking a position.

Graduate of: Penn State University.

Past Projects: residential additions.

Interests: astronomy, philosophy, well-being, carpentry, music.

■ AIA/MBA

Co-Chair: James Kling, AIA

DRS/Hundley Kling Gmitter, 391-4850

Co-Chair: Dominic Navarro II

Cost Corporation, 271-0420

At our May 27 meeting we adopted the following mission statement: The AIA/MBA Joint Committee acts as a liaison between its parent organizations and works to foster a spirit

of cooperation between owners, architects and contractors. The committee provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, discussion of industry problems and development of recommended construction practices for the Western Pennsylvania region. The committee publishes and disseminates these guidelines of industry customs and procedures as the AIA/MBA Yellow Book of Recommended Construction Practices.

Also at the May meeting we continued planning for a joint AIA and MBA membership meeting. The program, tentatively scheduled for September 17 at the Engineers' Club, will examine the benefits and detriments of partnering.

We will not meet over the summer. For information on our September committee meeting, please contact either of the co-chairs listed above. 

DESIGN CHARRETTE to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary

Working with Save the Aviary, Inc., AIA Pittsburgh has organized a **design charrette** to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary. The goal of the charrette is to **propose creative, interim improvements** to the existing facility, with a specific focus on the main entrance, adjacent classrooms, and gift shop area.

This is an opportunity for members of the architecture and design community and construction industry to give their energy, time and creativity to benefit one of Pittsburgh's civic treasures. Intern architects are encouraged to participate—this project will qualify under IDP training category D-15, Professional and Community Service.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 18
4:30 PM

Volunteers to meet at the Aviary to tour the facility, discuss program needs, and gather information.

Monday, July 20
5:30 PM

Organizational meeting and concept design working session at the Chapter office.

Monday, July 27
5:30 PM

Concept design working session and informal reviews at the Chapter office.

Monday, August 3
5:30 PM

Final design review prior to presentation to the Board of Save the Aviary, Inc.

If you or your firm wish to participate, please call:

Charles DeLisio, AIA	412 488 0307
Margaret Ringel Baker, AIA	412 488 0310
AIA Pittsburgh	412 471 9548

▲ breaking ground

▲ Kudos

Glen Cottrell, a fourth-year architecture student at Carnegie Mellon University, has received the 1992 Roy L. Hoffman Traveling Scholarship Award. The \$2500 award is sponsored by **Johnson/Schmidt and Associates** in memory of one of the firm's founders and awarded annually to an undergraduate who demonstrates a high level of achievement in computer-aided design. Cottrell plans to use his prize to visit Scandinavia.

▲ From the Firms

The Design Alliance Architects is providing base-building improvements to Two Northshore Center for Matthews International Corporation, the facility's new owner. Corporate offices will be relocated to the facility by the end of the summer.

The Design Alliance is also renovating the Circulation Department of the Valley News Dispatch in Tarentum, and relocating the Pittsburgh office of McKinsey & Company management consulting to One Oxford Centre. The firm recently completed the relocation of cor-

porate offices of Russell, Rea, Zappala & Gomulka Holdings, Inc. to the entire 31st floor of CNG Tower.

Omni Associates/Williams Trebilcock Whitehead has been selected to design a new hockey rink for the Wheeling Civic Center. The fast-track project will convert 20,000 sq. ft. of existing space into a 6000-seat rink in time for the beginning of the season in October. The rink will be home to the new Wheeling Thunderbirds franchise, a member of the East Coast Hockey League. Project cost is estimated at \$800,000.

WTW is serving as the PA Department of Environmental Resources' liaison for the development of new regional headquarters in Meadville and Wilkes-Barre. The firm will establish standard performance specs for developers and review developers' proposals for new construction and renovation. Project Manager is **Bryant H. Robey, AIA**.

Johnson/Schmidt and Associates is providing design services for Kyowa America Corporation's production facility in Waynesburg. Kyowa, of Costa Mesa, CA, a plastic products manufacturer, will begin producing

television cabinets for the area's new Sony plant in September in the JSA-designed Baker Mine Service Building. JSA will add a 32,000 sq. ft. mezzanine, additional loading docks, a modified material handling system and new sprinkler system to the structure.

▲ Transitions

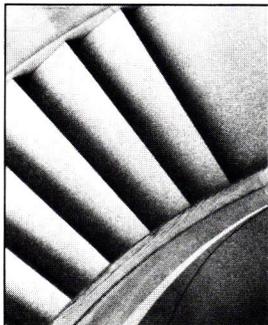
Becky Mingo and **Todd Sanders**, both graduates of Carnegie Mellon University, have joined **The Design Alliance Architects**. Mingo is Executive Director of the Fineview Citizens Council, a community development organization. Sanders is founding editor of **ARIS**, the Carnegie Mellon Journal of Architecture.

▲ Call for Entries

Three categories of awards will be given in **PSA's annual awards program**: The Silver Medal is the society's highest award for realized projects; Design Excellence Awards are given for realized projects; and Creative Research Awards are given for ephemeral design (exhibition design, temporary fabrications), product design, and research. All PSA members are eligible to enter the Creative Research category, but only PSA Principal Members may enter the Silver Medal and Design Excellence categories. Deadline for submissions is August 7, 1992. For details and a submission kit, contact PSA at 717/236-5407.

Buildings of all types in Massachusetts are eligible for the **annual design honors awards program**, sponsored by Boston Society of Architects. Submission deadline is Tuesday, October 13, 1992. For submission guidelines, call BSA at 617/951-1433 x221 or fax your request to 617/951-0845. 

Send your Breaking Ground news to:
COLUMNS c/o The Cantor Group,
1225 Farragut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.



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Engineers' Directory

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Michael Baker Jr., Inc. 420 Rouser Road, Bldg. 3, Coraopolis, PA 15108 269-6200 Contact: John J. Voycik			●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Claitman Engineering Assoc., Inc. 960 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 261-4662 Contact: Robert Rosenthal				●					●			
Dotter Engineering, Inc. 345 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 261-4745 Contact: Charles Fedon										●		
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Carl J. Long & Associates One Gateway Center, 5 West, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 471-9100 Contact: John Wilhelm							●				●	
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To include your firm in the Engineers' Directory, call Tom Lavelle at 882-3410.

AIA Pittsburgh/Master Builders Association First Annual Golf Outing Saturday, August 8, 1992 Cedarbrook Golf Course, Belle Vernon

\$47.50 per person gets you: 18 holes of golf, cart rental, cookout with food and beverages and a commemorative t-shirt. Long drive, closest to pin, long putt and other skill contests will be held. Outing begins at 10 AM.

First foursome tee off: 11 AM Last foursome tee off: 3 PM
(You will be placed in a foursome if you don't designate one)

Call and make reservations **soon** with Mark Duane, 833-6055
or mail the form at right (with check payable to "AIA Pittsburgh") to:
AIA Pittsburgh, CNG Tower, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
FAX: 412/471-9501. **Deadline for reservations is July 24.**

AIA/MBA Golf Outing Saturday, August 8, 1992 Cedarbrook Golf Course

Name _____

Phone # _____

Please reserve _____ places for the Golf Outing.

Included in my two/three/foursome are:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

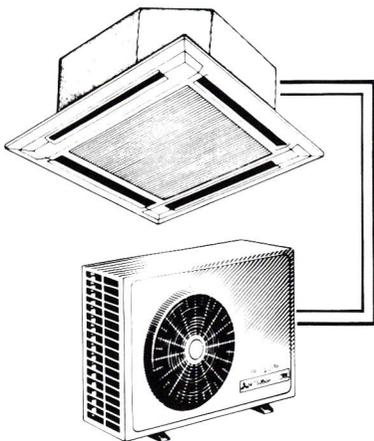
Dossier: Kevin Silson, AIA



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Kevin Silson, AIA
City of Pittsburgh
Department of Engineering & Construction

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Firm: Department of Engineering & Construction, City of Pittsburgh

Family: son John, age 13.

Years in practice: 22 (has it really been that long?)

School/Education: Carnegie Mellon University (B.Arch, '70, MSIA, '83)

First Job: Summer job as a carpenter's assistant for a small home builder in eastern Long Island.

Project you're proudest of: The Pittsburgh Zoo masterplan.

Project you wish you had designed: The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The power of this design has affected the entire nation.

Building you'd like to tear down: Gateway View Plaza (1600 Carson St. for those with traffic tickets). The building is a barrier to the linear use of the riverbank and blocks one of the best views of Downtown.

If you hadn't been an Architect, what would you have been? An archeologist.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? London.

What's the best part of your job? Helping people by solving design problems.

What would you change about your job? Add more labor-saving devices to free up creative time.

What have you always wanted to tell your (former) boss: Having financial decision-making power does not make you an architect.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients: You get what you pay for?

What is the most annoying thing Architects do? Ignore the aesthetic ramifications of mechanical and electrical building components. Nothing destroys a building design like a roof cluttered with HVAC equipment or an electrical transformer by the front door.

Advice to young Architects: Work in construction to understand how a building goes together.

The one thing you wish they'd teach in school is: Although design is very important it is, unfortunately, a very small part of the profession.

Favorite building: Fallingwater. This house looks like it was grown rather than built.

Favorite interior: United Terminal, O'Hare Airport, Chicago.

Favorite city: Prague—more beautiful than Paris (until destroyed by the Communist regime).

Favorite Architect: Gaudi—I never tire of looking at his voluptuous designs.

Favorite Architecture book: *Life and Death of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs (if only we'd learn from this book).

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Mexican War Streets—a real urban neighborhood.

Most architecturally-appealing restaurant in Pittsburgh: Grand Concourse.

Best gift to give an Architect: A trust fund.

Wish list for Downtown: Nightlife.

What's the next big architectural trend? Buildings with curves and more ornamentation (i.e. fewer rectilinear designs).

Someday I'd like to: Be rich.

I want to be remembered for: Having had a positive impact on the urban environment.

People would be surprised to know that: I grew up in Usonia, a housing development in N.Y. started by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The secret to my success is: Listening to people and working to understand their needs.

I belong to the AIA because: Architects need to work together in order to survive the changes taking place in the construction industry.



JULY / AUGUST CALENDAR

■ AIA ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Communications Committee Meeting, 12:30 PM at the Chapter office. Doug Shuck, AIA, 321-0550.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Exhibit Committee Meeting, 5 PM at the Chapter office. Karl Backus, AIA, 765-3890.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

IDP Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Rich Bamburak, AIA, 321-0550.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

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

SATURDAY, JULY 18

IDP Site Observation Seminar, 9 AM - noon at Pittsburgh National Bank, McIntyre Square (McKnight Road). Rich Bamburak, AIA, 321-0550.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Interiors Committee Design Charrette, to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary. 4:30 PM. Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

MONDAY, JULY 20

Interiors Committee Meeting & Design Charrette, 5:30 PM. Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:30 PM at the Chapter office. Al Cuteri, AIA, 471-8008.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

WIA Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Susan Tusick, AIA, 394-7069.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, Building Industries Center, 2270 Noblestown Road in Greentree. 6 PM cocktails, 7 PM dinner, 8 PM meeting. Joe Collins, 922-4703.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

July Chapter Meeting, with guest speaker James Stewart Polshek, AIA, 1992 AIA Firm Winner. *Details and RSVP on page 19.*

MONDAY, JULY 27

Interiors Committee Design Charrette, to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary. 5:30 PM. Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

Entry deadline, WIA Photography Competition. Call the office at 471-9548 for details.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

Interiors Committee Design Charrette, to benefit the Pittsburgh Aviary. 5:30 PM. Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

AIA/MBA Golf Outing, Cedarbrook Golf Course in Belle Vernon. Cost is \$47.50 per person. Deadline for reservations is July 24. *See page 15 for details and registration form.*

■ AROUND TOWN

TUESDAY, JULY 14 & AUGUST 11

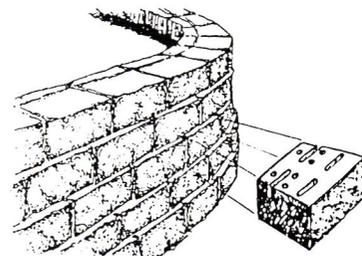
Society of Architectural Administrators monthly luncheon meeting at the Engineer's Club. Cost is \$12.50. Call Perity Walecko, 429-1555.

■ PLAN AHEAD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (TENTATIVE)

Joint AIA-MBA Membership Meeting on the pros and cons of partnering. Sponsored by the AIA/MBA Committee. *See page 13 for details.*

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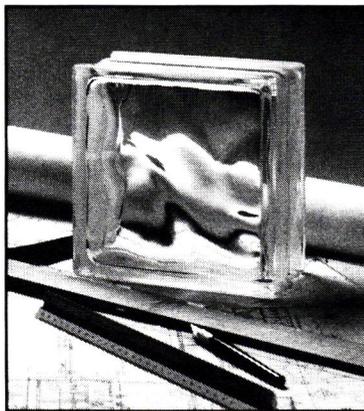
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Editorial Calendar

September — Interiors Issue

October — Schools Issue

Here's your chance to showcase your work in COLUMNS! Projects must be designed by a member or member firm and may be in any stage of development, but no more than one year old. Deadline is the 25th of the month prior to publication (deadline for September issue is July 25.)

Send your project to:

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Modernism with Good Manners

"Buildings don't have to bow and curtsy. But they have to show a concern for the user and the people on the street." This philosophy, articulated by James Stewart Polshek, AIA has laid the foundation of his New York-based firm's work for nearly 30 years. This year, James Stewart Polshek and Partners was honored with the 1992 AIA Firm Award. Polshek himself will be in town Thursday, July 23 to present his work to the Chapter.

The firm's projects, many of which are in New York, have won acclaim coast to coast. The Seamen's Institute, a part of South Street Seaport in lower Manhattan, was named in *Time* magazine's "Best of 1991." Other highly touted works include the restored New York State Bar Center in Albany; 500 Park Tower; dormitories and academic buildings at NYU, Barnard, Bard College and Case Western Reserve University; and the 1986 restoration of Carnegie Hall. In Akron, Ohio (Polshek's hometown), they have designed the National Inventors Hall of Fame and a convention center.

Architectural historian Helen Searing, in her 1988 book *James Stewart Polshek: Context and Responsibility*, said that the work "resists stylistic labelling...the unifying characteristics [in the firm's approach to design] encourage openness to many different forms—contemporary and traditional, Western and non-Western—and a willingness to assimilate and incorporate those forms when appropriate."

"Polshek's trademark," writes *Architecture* magazine, "is the deft juggling of spaces on a crowded urban site." Not all Polshek designs fit this mold, however. In 1993, San Francisco will open the Center for the Arts Theater, a multi-media complex adjacent to the city's new Museum of Modern Art. Polshek's striking black tile and white steel exterior reinforce the theater's mission: a large window invites passers-by to view video screens within. 

Marketplace

REGISTERED ARCHITECT with 15 years of experience in commercial and institutional new construction, renovation and interiors projects seeks project management or facilities planning position. Full or part time. Resume at Chapter office.

EXPERIENCED ARCHITECT SEEKING EMPLOYMENT Benjamin F. Barr, II, AIA: B.Arch., 31 years experience all phases with some planning. CADD literate. Resume available. Call (412) 362-5254 home. Until June 14: (412) 381-3300.

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 September issue is August 4; for the October issue is September 4.

▲
AIA Pittsburgh
Cordially Invites You
To The July Meeting

James Stewart Polshek, AIA
James Stewart Polshek and Partners
1992 AIA Firm Winner

Thursday, July 23
Rosebud
1700 Smallman St., Strip District

6 PM Lecture
7:30 PM Reception

This event is sponsored by Duquesne Light.

AIA Members: \$25
Guests: \$30

RSVP by Friday, July 17

▲
RSVP
James Stewart Polshek, AIA
Rosebud
Thursday, July 23

name _____

firm _____

address _____

city/state/zip _____

telephone _____

Names of members (\$25 each):

Names of guests (\$30 each):

Clip/copy this form and send with check (payable to "Pittsburgh Chapter AIA") to: **Pittsburgh Chapter AIA, CNG Tower, Suite 200, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pgh., PA 15222** or FAX to 412/471-9501 by Friday, July 17.

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See page 15 for details!

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