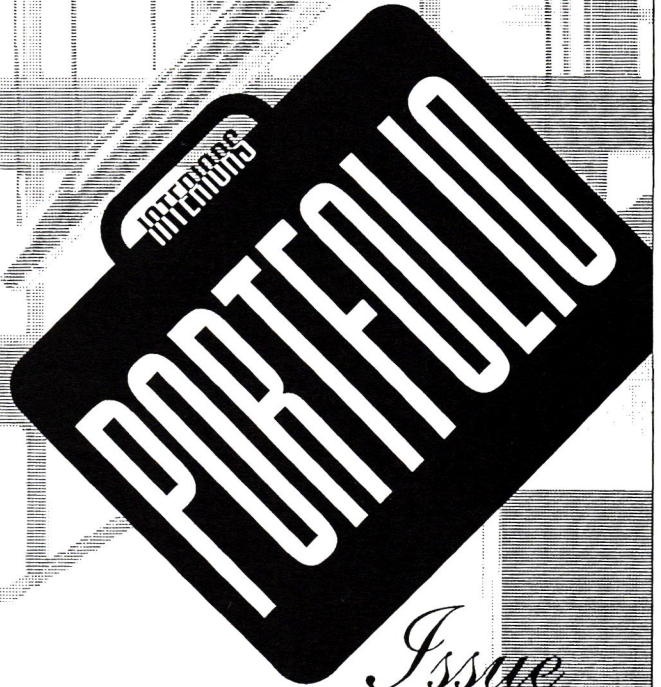
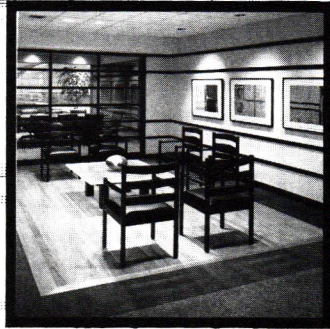
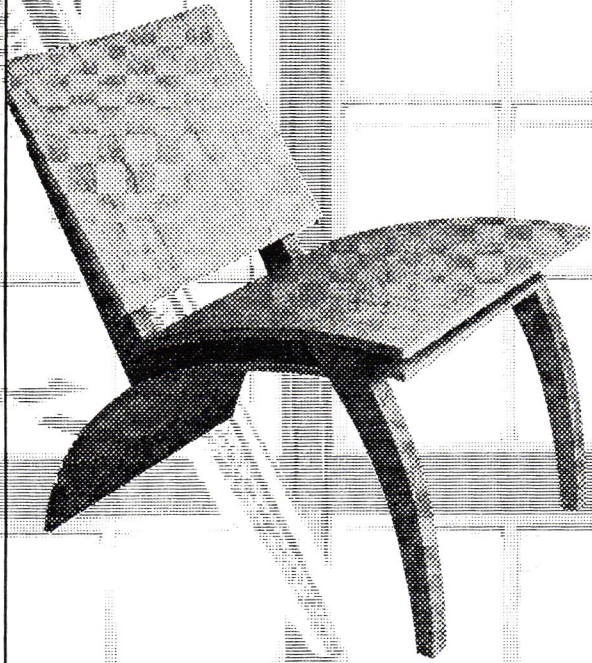
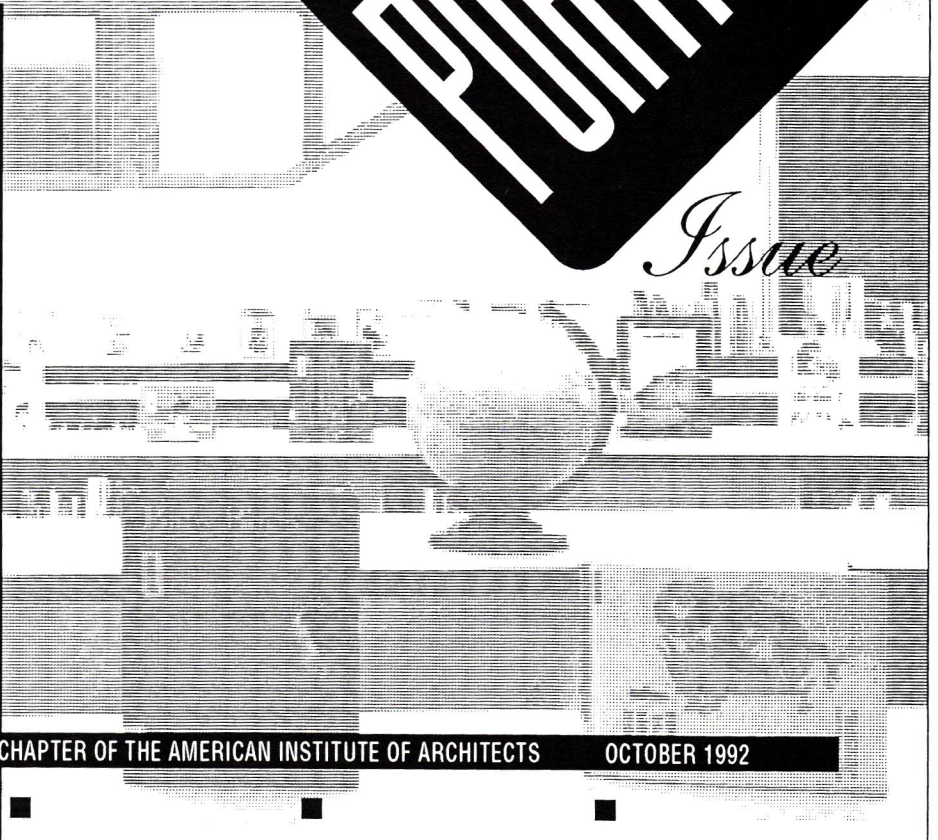


C O L U M N S



Issue



VOLUME 6, NO. 8

AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCTOBER 1992

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For over 25 years, architects, building owners and contractors have looked to Wyatt for superior-quality interior construction. From stunning lobbies, to impressive

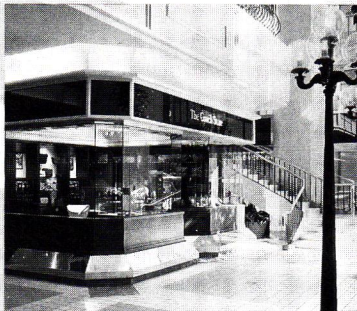
board rooms, to inviting retail stores, to high-tech data centers, to historic restorations.

Wyatt offers a single-source, vertically integrated "package" approach to interior construction. We can do it all -

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For small "one-of-a-kind" projects or large-scale,

large-quantity jobs for any type of facility, you can rely on Wyatt for superior interiors.

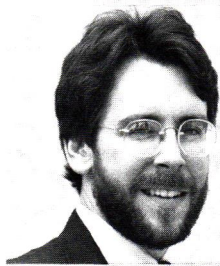


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The Architecture of our profession

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA President

"It is one thing for intelligent, critical thinking professionals to embrace the challenge of new design or construction technologies, but is quite demoralizing to face the choking morass of legal clutter in our daily work."



"... It is quite impossible

to consider the building as one thing, its furnishings another and its setting and environment still another . . . " — Frank Lloyd Wright

As I sat down to write on interior design licensure or registration, I was continually finding myself drifting into larger questions: just what is a professional occupation and

what really determines the need? Is there a better way to structure the art and science of building? Many assume that the profession of architecture as a legally endorsed profession has been around for a long time. Although we can trace our roots back centuries, it has existed as a legal entity only during this century.

A libertarian extremist might say that a profession, even when it affects public safety and health, does not have to be regulated by government, that standards for practice can be adopted through private organizations more effectively. Others point to the professions of law or medicine and assert that their "power"

is derived not from knowledge, but the ability to restrict competition, and develop artificial dependencies. Comparatively, we have very little real "power" to protect our society from architectural "quacks." But is the question how to get power — or do we really want it?

In the latest issue of *Progressive Architecture* this debate rages on in response to an essay in the May issue, entitled "Power, Knowledge and the Art of Leadership" by Professor Sharon E. Sutton.

As the technology and legalities of building becomes more and more complex, architects are often caught in the web of the question, is knowledge (or information) power? Too often we see unnecessary complexity in our practice, often created by the paperwork and knowledge base of the legal system. It is one thing for intelligent, critical thinking professionals to embrace the challenge of new design or construction technologies, but is quite demoralizing to face the choking morass of legal clutter in our daily work. Most of us grin and bear it because we are so insanely in love with the art and science of building.

The manipulation of information in the "information age" may change the whole ball game. With near limitless, instant access to information just around the corner, will the → 22

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