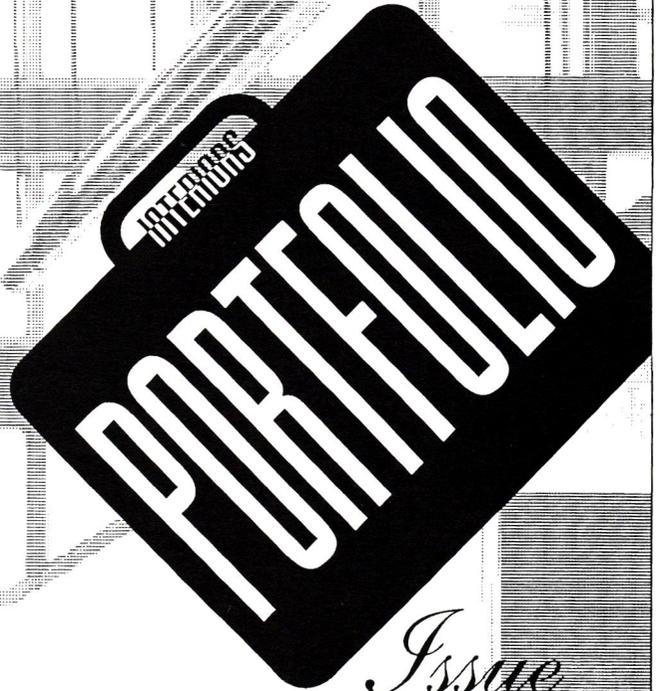
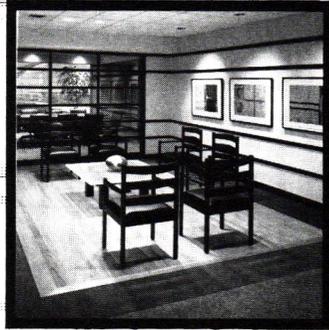
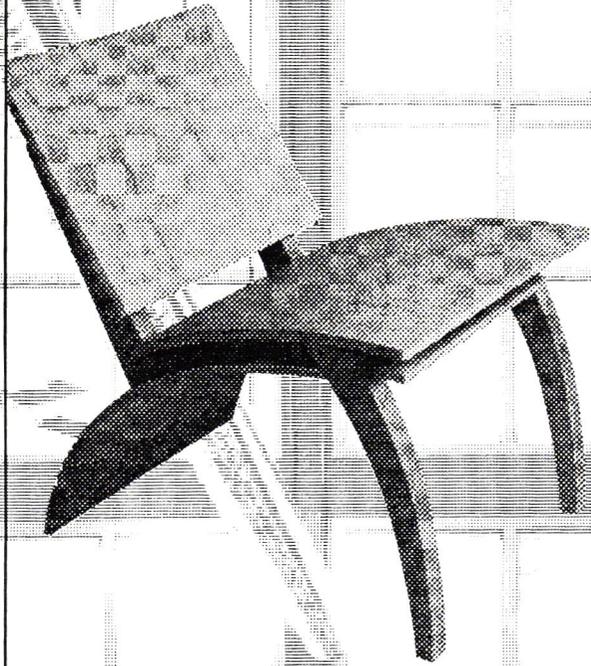
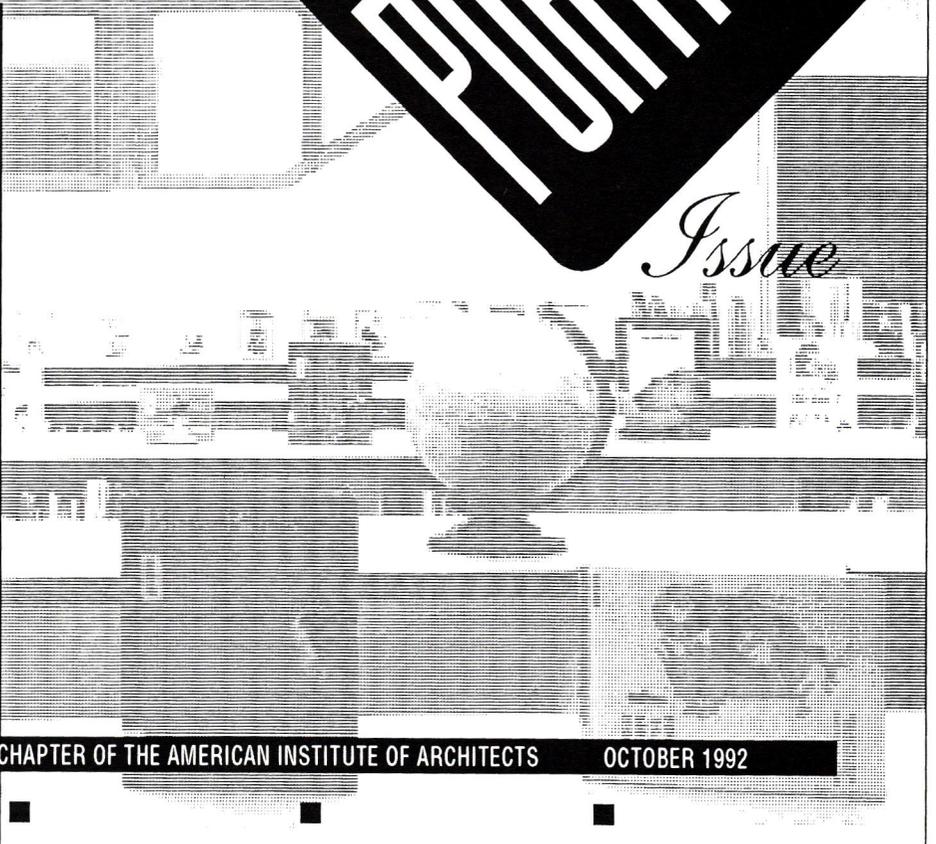


C O L U M N S



Issue



VOLUME 6, NO. 8

AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OCTOBER 1992

WYATT

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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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An inside look at some of the best and brightest projects by Pittsburgh-area firms.

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An update on why architects' liability may be extended when involving the Commonwealth.

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*An eye-catching sampling
of work from our interiors
portfolio.*

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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COLUMNS is published by, and primarily for, the members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Preference may be given to the selection of works, articles, opinions, letters, etc. of members for publication. However, in the interest of furthering the goals of the Chapter, as stated monthly at the top of the masthead and in the membership directory, COLUMNS will publish the names of and properly credit non-members, whether as participants in the design of works submitted by a member, or as designers of their own work, or as authors of articles, opinions or letters.

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.

The Inside Scoop

Michelle Fanzo, Managing Editor

Architecture may be

taking a cue from history in felling cold, institutional walls for more comfortable, atmospheric spaces. Our annual interiors portfolio exhibits projects with crisp lines, rich tones, and a consideration for the people who occupy the space. The scale is spacious but not



intimidating, the atmosphere, comforting rather than sterile. Consideration for future growth or mixed-use creates designs with forethought and sustained usefulness in mind—important to clients in rapidly changing and cost-conscious times. In addition to offering a forum for member firms' latest work, we decided to dig a little deeper this time and ask clients why they had chosen an architect to do interior design work. Our question yielded some strong reactions you'll certainly find interesting.

Lending itself to our issues' theme, the interior structure of the Pittsburgh Builders Exchange has changed, with an architect working on the inside for the first time as Executive Director. Newly appointed Bill English, AIA of Valentour English Bodnar, shares some insight into the 106 year old organization, its purpose and its future.

This month's guest columnist, David Raves, AIA updates readers on a critical legal issue that has the potential to be severely debilitating to the future of the industry. Imagine being held responsible for the structural soundness of a building for an unlimited amount of time. Seem a little out of bounds? Be sure to read Raves' well-researched article for an architectural view of the legal jungle.

As always, COLUMNS encourages submissions, letters to the editor, or story ideas of any kind. We look forward to hearing what's on our members' minds and drawing boards in the coming months.

Till then...

Michelle C. Fanzo

The House that an Architect Built

Anne Swager, Executive Director



“Finding out that the seller was an architect and yes, he is a member, was the icing on the cake.”

I am excited, delighted, and terrified.

I bought a house. The mortgage rates dropped so low, I had to do it. I didn't have very much money but I also didn't have any debt. Now, I am in debt for longer than my life expectancy. The kids are fighting over who gets which bedroom (they are the same size) and each day since the closing I find something else that needs to be done. Still, I can't wait to move in.

I am a real estate agent's dream. My agent gave me a print out of all the homes in Mt. Lebanon in my price range with a garage and more than one bathroom. My nine year old son, Henry and I drove by each and every one of these on a sunny Saturday morning. Henry eliminated every house that was more than a five minute bike ride from his next door best friend, David and his quarter finals baseball team. Two nights later, I climbed into my agent's car for inside tours of a few Henry and I had both agreed on and a few that I couldn't pass up. True to form, my agent suggested we look at this "cute little house right around the corner that is just a teeny bit over your price range but its been on the market for a long time so you can probably get it for less." That was it. Everything was done the right way. The gas grill is piped into the house. The new pitched roof on the garage is slate to match the existing roof on the house. The bathroom fixtures are top quality. A new furnace, a new ceramic tile floor in the entry, new lighting throughout, and it was really just around the corner. As I walked out of the house, I told my agent that this was the one. Just to make sure, she made me see all of the other houses on the list. I didn't change my mind.

Finding out that the seller was an architect and yes, he is a member, was the icing on the cake. I signed the sales agreement above my price range and then waited for the mortgage approval and finally the closing. Now, I'm waiting to move and making lists of my dos for the few remaining funds I have.

Replacing several old windows to match the recently installed new windows and refinishing the parquet floor are high on my hit list. Henry is busy dreaming up schemes on how to get the goldfish out of the small pond in the backyard and into a tank in his new front bedroom. Betsy just wants to know how soon we can install a phone and could she please have her own line. Worst of all, the glow is off and I am now faced with the dilemma of how to make my "early divorce IKEA furniture" fit into the space. There's plenty of space and not nearly enough furniture but the colors, textures, and sizes look all wrong to me.

So...I called an architect. My Dad's old saying of "don't bit the hand that feeds you" ran through my practical mind but mostly I relied on past experience. In my previous life, I added onto a home and I used an architect. He did exactly what I wanted but he did it better than I thought it could be done. He was also gracious when faced with the task of translating my often garish taste into livable and functional. Mostly, it was fun and in the end it fixed a major flaw in the home. So...I rehired him (and yes, he's a member, too). His task is no less daunting this time around. There aren't any major design flaws but I have a greatly expanded pink flamingo collection and Betsy wants to paint her room black. The upside is that almost all of the furniture needs to be replaced and there are not existing window treatments or rugs to contend with and I can be very decisive. The downside is that I am broke and owe more money than I thought anyone would lend me. He says we can just acquire the furnishings on an as able basis. I hope this means I won't be dead before we are finished.

I'll keep you posted (in installments) on how it all turns out. But first I'm planning a housewarming party, where everybody brings their own chair and leaves without it. 🏠

Atmosphere. That seems to be the focus of many of the eye-catching interior projects showcased in our 1992 portfolio. Projects suggesting a return to traditional materials (like marble and hardwood) and nostalgic styles (such as "Hopper-esque" lunch counters or a movie screen-size window reminiscent of Mondrian) also exhibit a contemporary look, firmly entrenching the work in the 1990s. In a welcome dismissal of the ubiquitous work "cubes" of the '80s, a tangible sense of com-

INTERIORS PORTFOLIO

munity speaks through these projects. Whether you're sharing lunch space, office space, or the uncertainty felt in a hospital waiting room, an effort has been made to consider people on an emotional as well as practical level. Could it be the economy is squelching the trend towards gigantism in favor of a more interactive, synergistic conception of space? See what conclusions you draw from this distinctive collection of interiors by Pittsburgh-area architects.

ARCHITECTS TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

by Michelle Fanzo, Managing Editor



POLYCLINIC MEDICAL CENTER > HARRISBURG, PA

HAYES LARGE ARCHITECTS

In a move towards warmth and appeal instead of traditional medical sterility, Hayes Large Architects creates a livingroom-like atmosphere intertwined with the elegant use of granite, marble and brass in the new concourse, lobby, serving kitchen and cafeteria of the Polyclinic Medical Center. Public access to existing patient tower elevators from the new main entrance is achieved by an arced concourse type corridor. The arc design provides needed space for the new consolidated cafeteria and serving kitchen next to the existing main kitchen, while reducing the space available for the lobby and public to an appropriate, comfortable size.

Principal-in-charge: J. Richard Fruth, AIA.

HAYES LARGE ARCHITECTS

Too many times the vibrant wonderland that books offer to young minds gets lost amidst achromatic fluorescent lighting and shelves far beyond the reach of small, stubby fingers. Light, color and convenience address these concerns as the keystones for Hayes Large's library design at Cambria Heights Elementary School. The educational center is the focal point of the building, housing two classes of students and a "storytelling" area. Well placed skylighting allows natural light into the room, which also houses an impressive but not overwhelming colonnade. *Principals-in-charge: Thomas Large, AIA and Robert Suckling, AIA. Photos: Christopher Barone.*

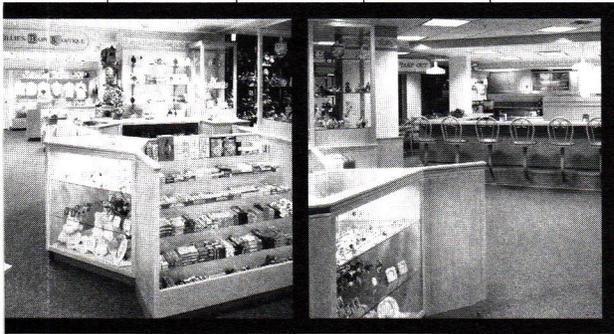
CAMBRIA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL > CARROLLTOWN, PA



REID & STUHLBREHER, INC

Located in one of the country's preeminent women's care hospitals, the Magee-Womens Hospital Gift Shop features a mix of baby clothes, gifts, convenience items, boutique apparel, and snacks. Poor lighting and outdated displays had hampered the shop's effectiveness; Reid & Stuhldreher's plan revived and invigorated the 3,300 square foot space. Casework of light colored pickled oak gives a bright overall look to the space. Enclosed display cases were replaced with slatwall displays for more appealing, spacious merchandise presentation. The color scheme went from beige to a lively combination of white, green, and mauve. *Principal-in-charge: William P. Bartoli, AIA, Project Architect: Anthony J. Solazzo, AIA.*

MAGEE-WOMENS HOSPITAL ► PITTSBURGH, PA



THE AUTOGALERIE ► SEWICKLEY, PA

POLI & CUTERI ARCHITECTS

The smartly etched Autogalerie Ltd. logo leads visitors into the airy, vaulted space for this unique automotive art gallery in Sewickley. The long wall at the left features a carpeted shelf on which art can be placed at eye level, and changed easily to suit the needs of the owner and clientele. The red shelf's accent band is complimented by a matching transaction surface on the work station at right. This hue is also used on the owner's graphic presentation, while a black and white checkered floor helps reflect the gallery's theme. The Car Barn, which houses the Autogalerie, is an updated masonry structure with exposed steel trusses in the common areas. This is the first tenant space to utilize the high volume, exposing the roof trusses painted a glossy black. Innovative track lighting uses fixtures that fit the sleek image of the gallery, employing sealed-beam par lamps that are reminiscent of automobile headlights. The seating is by automobile seat maker Recaro, providing an appropriate complement to the art on exhibit. *Principal-in-charge: Anthony Poli, AIA. Photos: Ed Massery.*

Architalk: The Client's View by Michelle Fanzo

To hire an architect, or not to hire an architect, that is the question on many a mind when planning to build, renovate or expand. There are plenty of contractors, interior designers, and do-it-yourself Time-Life books to entice clients that their way is best. So what makes architects different? We decided to go to the people in the know about this question. Not architects, but those who live with the finished product, the client. We contacted a few individuals who recently chose to use an architect rather than an interior designer or the

building contractor, and asked them why, and what they thought of the experience.

For Melanie Schliebs, the idea of hiring anyone but an architect never came up, though she and her husband did not set out with the idea of having Poli & Cuteri Architects completely design their Autogalerie in Sewickley. Schliebs says she recognized Poli's technical expertise could be useful to the designing of a gallery space encompassing high ceilings, extensive lighting and open areas. "The excentration of architectural space came easy to someone more familiar with

feature



APOSTOLOU ASSOCIATES

When most firms select a site for their new headquarters, they rarely choose their garage. Yet there's something appropriate about it if you're the Pittsburgh Parking Authority. Challenges posed by the creation of 12,000 square feet of Parking Authority offices within their Firstside Parking Garage were quite unusual. The structure consisted of a perimeter curtainwall system with post-tensioned concrete decks, in which offices, a board room, conference room, file area, meter repair shop and locker rooms were to be placed. The design had to allow for structural movement caused by the weight of cars, protection from water damage, and special ceiling suspension for mechanical equipment and other elements from the deck above to insure the tendons were not disturbed. Modern, efficient office facilities have been positioned so executives and staff are on the perimeter of the structure, with views of the Boulevard of the Allies, First Avenue and the park located to the east. *Principal-in-charge: Paul C. Apostolou, AIA, Project Architect: Carl T. Bell. Photos: William Rydberg for Photon.*

PITTSBURGH PARKING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS IN FIRSTSIDE GARAGE ▶ PITTSBURGH, PA



THE DESIGN ALLIANCE

The repetition of geometric figures creates a cohesive and elegant, yet playful, office for Russell Rea & Zappala & Gomulka Holdings Inc. on the 31st floor of the CNG Tower in downtown Pittsburgh. Since private offices for the majority of the staff were required, window wall partitions were designed for conference rooms and secretarial offices to allow relaxing views at key locations. A neutral palette was chosen, using off whites on walls and running trim, accentuated by stained mahogany doors and window wall fenestration. Custom conference tables were designed with "Agglostone" tops, matching the lobby floor tile. *Principal-in-charge: Leander H. Minnerly, AIA. Photos: Lockwood Hoehl.*



RUSSELL REA & ZAPPALA & GOMULKA HOLDINGS INC. ▶ PITTSBURGH, PA



"An architect provides greater insight into, and concern with, building structure, and

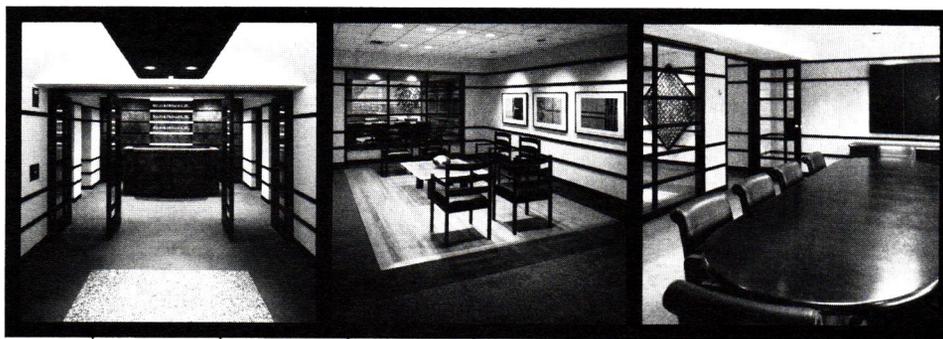
continued from page 7

structural aspects of the building," says Schliebs. "The learning curve an interior designer would have had to go through with our project was just not there with an architect familiar with the building." The Schliebs' also appreciated the role of neutral intermediary an architect can play between a client and contractor. "We felt we were



getting a candid evaluation from the architect regarding the actual cost of the construction," she said.

In a very different kind of project, Apostolou Associates was confronted with the unique problem of placing office space, which may be used by varying clients in the future, within the confines of a downtown parking garage. "We were concerned with getting functional offices with a decent look," says Jeff Leber, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Public Parking Authority, about their new headquarters inside the Firstside garage



RILEY & DEFALICE, P.C. ▶ PITTSBURGH, PA

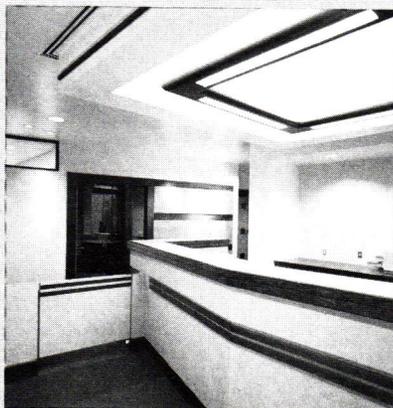
THE DESIGN ALLIANCE

Six "neighborhoods," each focusing on a particular aspect of this legal practice, is the basis for the Design Alliance's community approach. This contemporary arrangement features views and natural light filtering into the support area while attorneys without a direct view still enjoy a sense of the exterior through clerestory windows at each office. Located on the 12th floor of a prominent urban high-rise, the office is rimmed by four exterior terraces. Simple ebony trim flanks the more formal areas of reception, waiting and main conference room and recur at the entry into each neighborhood. High profile areas, such as the reception, signage wall and main conference room feature the use of backlit frosted glass set into panels of hand etched pewter metal. The color palette was kept deliberately neutral as vibrant colors were introduced through the art collection. *Principal-in-charge: Jules Labarthe, AIA. Project Architect: Laura A. Lee, AIA. Photos: Lockwood Hoehl.*



more extensive knowledge of what's acceptable to town zoning ordinances." — Marilyn Turner

on the Boulevard of the Allies. Leber found Apostolou knew the site, was able to provide the desired results within a modest budget, and, as architects, were able to effectively use the existing garage materials in creating a fully functional, attractive interior space.



In deciding whether to put an addition on her home or work with the existing space, Marilyn Turner realized she needed to consult with someone who would understand her concern about keeping the integrity of the house while providing the space she needed. "I felt only an architect was qualified to do the work," says Turner. "An architect is trained to look at the whole picture; to have an aesthetic eye as well as technical knowledge." Douglas C. Berryman Associates was able to extend her master bedroom over an existing porch, making it into the suit of rooms Turner was seeking. "An architect provides greater insight into, and concern with, building structure, and more extensive knowledge of what's acceptable to town zoning ordinances," says Turner. "We're very pleased with the work." ■

A recent issue of *News*,

published by the Pennsylvania Society of Architects, noted that PSA is planning to file an amicus brief in the case of *Altoona Area School District v. Campbell*. The following article is to inform the membership of the case's background and the po-

tential liability exposure an unfavorable decision against the defendants might place on professionals performing design services for the Commonwealth or its instrumentalities.

The Plot Thickens:

Architects' Liability May Be Extended When Involving the Commonwealth

by David Raves, AIA



The case was filed in January 1988 by Altoona Area School District against the architects and contractor of the Altoona Public Library. Construction of the library was completed on or about May 1, 1969. In July of 1987 the library's marble facade began to fail. The School District alleged negligence, fraud, and breach of contract against both the architects and contractor. Before the

case went to trial the defendants motioned the court for summary judgment, which essentially asks the court to find the plaintiff has not sufficiently set forth any facts to allow recovery against the defendants.

The motion for summary judgment is predicated on Pennsylvania's twelve year statute of repose, (*42 PA C.S. §5536*) whereby, a civil action brought against any person performing or furnishing the design, planning, supervision, or observation of construction, or construction of any improvement to real property, must be commenced within twelve years after the completion of construction (there are, of course, exceptions, that are not relevant to this discussion). The defendants argue the statute prohibits the bringing of a suit in 1988 related to construction which was completed more than 19 years before.

The School District counters this argument, claiming Section 5536 is not a statute of repose, but a statute of limitation, and as such is not applicable to the School District. (A statute of repose eliminates a party's cause of action once a stated time period has elapsed. After the running of a statute of limitation, a party still has a cause of action but is prohibited from seeking any remedy.)

The School District argues that as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth (a conclusion which is contested by the defendant), it can take

advantage of a legal doctrine known as *nullum tempus occurrit regi*, holding that statutes of limitation are inapplicable to the Commonwealth and its instrumentalities. (The doctrine carried over from England literally means "Time does not run against the King.")

The Court of Common Pleas of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania characterized Section 5536 as a statute of limitation, thereby allowing the School District to continue its lawsuit.

The crux of the argument, currently on appeal, is whether Section 5536 should be seen as a "statute of limitation" or a "statute of repose." Admittedly, this may seem an insignificant matter; but as in architecture, where the small details mean the difference between an average project or a great project, so too the law has its small details that, when properly applied, make or break a case. The characterization placed on the statute accordingly makes or breaks the School District's case.

If the case is upheld, any design professional would be subject to claims by the Commonwealth or its counties, municipalities, authorities and school districts beyond the . . . twelve year limited period.

PSA, in conjunction with the Consulting Engineers Council of Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, and the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, have submitted an amicus curiae brief arguing that the lower court erred in its conclusion that the statute is a statute of limitation. PSA's argument relies upon legislative history, showing that when the statute was adopted, it was intended as a statute of repose, thus completely eliminating any action after the twelve year period. The brief also relies upon appellate court cases establishing

the statute's predecees, or completely eliminating the ability to bring any suit after the twelve year period.

While difficult to predict the outcome, it appears a plausible conclusion that the Commonwealth Court will reverse the lower court's decision in light of the existing appellate court decisions. The cases cited in the amicus brief were summarily disposed of by the Huntingdon County Common Pleas Court. Those cases construe Section 5536 as a statute of repose, and were decided by higher courts than Huntingdon County and accordingly should have been treated as controlling. The Huntingdon court, however, without detailing its reasons, ignored these decisions and construed Section 5536 as it saw fit. The higher court decisions will undoubtedly be looked at more closely on appeal.

Though the outcome of this case only directly affects the architects named in the suit, the legal precedent to be established will affect all architects practicing in the Commonwealth. If the case is upheld, any design professional would be subject to claims by the Commonwealth or its counties, municipalities, authorities and school districts beyond the normally anticipated twelve year

limitation period. Whether or not one decides to engage in work involving the Commonwealth or its instrumentalities, and ultimately bear the burden of indefinite liability, is a choice to be made by each individual. I can only hope that no member needs to make that choice in the near future. 🏠

(This article is not intended to render any legal advice, nor is it intended to act as a substitute for the rendering of a legal opinion in specific situations.)

David Raves, AIA, an attorney with the law firm of Plowman, Spiegel & Lewis, received his architectural degree from Carnegie Mellon University and his law degree from Duquesne University. Mr. Raves' practice focuses on matters relating to construction and professional liability.

IDP Committee

- **Chair: Rich Bamburak, AIA, 321-0550**

The IDP Committee would like to thank Ed Shriver, AIA, of Johnson-Schmidt for his continued involvement with and support of the IDP Committee's on-going site observation program. Ed's onsite tours and descriptions of the project's progress have been informative and educational.

During our September 12 site observation visit, about twelve interns were guided through the mud, over brick pallets and recently poured curbs, up ladders and around temporary barricades, to review many varied aspects of the Pittsburgh National Bank regional banking center at McIntyre Square. Work should be nearly or recently completed by the November visit which is scheduled for Saturday the 14th. Be there at 9 AM for coffee and donuts followed by the tour. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Bamburak.

WIA Committee Report

- **Chair: Susan Tusick, AIA, 384-7069**

All members are invited to attend the opening of the WIA Photo Contest, "Our Built Environment," on October 8 in the chapter office. The evening's festivities run from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Refreshments will be served. Winning entries and the entries chosen for exhibit will be on display in the chapter office through the month of October. Gallery hours are 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

• Congratulations to:

"Juror Award"

J. Hahn	"Skylight"
Vernon Gay	"The Courthouse Revealed"
Ed Goytia	"Untitled"
Hugh Hackmeister	"Riesenrad - Vienna"

Chosen to exhibit in addition to winners

Cindy Stone	"City of Celebration"
Chandon Thorell	"Falling"
Whitney Gay	"Traveler's Big Demolition"
John Duffy	"St. John's Church" & "On the Beam"
Charles Shaw	"Desert Stage"
Vernon Gay	"16th Street Bridge" & "Ornate Window, Union Trust"
Paulette Baloch	"Urban Sundial"
Rob Pillar	"Mascaun and Column Detail"
Charles Coltharp	"Troyes"



We would like to thank Dennis Roth, of Structural Engineering Corporation, whose generosity made this contest possible.

Professional Development Committee

- **Chair: David Brønenborg, AIA, 683-0202**

Jim Franklin, FAIA, Resident Fellow with AIA National, will be presenting a seminar on October 28 at the Engineers Club, 8:30 AM to 5 PM, entitled, "Getting Clients Marketing/Negotiations Contracting Projects Successfully." This is Jim Franklin's second visit to the Pittsburgh area. He previously presented a very well-received seminar in February 1991, "Optimizing Design Firm Management." See flyer for more details or call the Chapter Office, 471-9548.

Urban Design Committee

- **Chair: Steven G. Hawkins, AIA, 521-9399**

Members of our chapter convened on September 11 for a breakfast conversation with state legislator Tom Murphy, with the subject being visions for planning and development in the city, county and region. We found that Mr. Murphy shared many of our ideas (and often brought them up first):

- There should be a collaborative city/neighborhood effort to have a master plan for each and every neighborhood.
- Planning should be pro-active and have a long-range component.
- A regional planning process, with closer cooperation between city and suburbs, and city and Allegheny County, is essential.
- The planning entity and implementation entity should be separate.
- Mr. Murphy considers riverfront development to be an important issue.
- Strategy 21: more neighborhood-oriented projects should be included.
- What should R.I.D.C.'s role be in the regional planning effort?

The success of the breakfast has led to the idea of informal meetings with other office-holders and agency heads as a way of introducing our profession and our interests and abilities. The committee will also develop the idea of a "Candidates' Forum," to be held next spring, for people seeking office in next year's election.

On the Mon River bridge, our committee's task force is reviewing the Environmental Impact Study and meeting with PAT's Director of Planning and Business Development, Al Biehler, to explore ways for local architects to participate in developing the bridge design. We also discussed ways in which grant funding could be sought and applied to design of the bridge or adjacent areas.

By our October meeting, we hope to hear from Hill District organizations on their ideas for AIA participation in their planning process.

CALENDAR

AIA ACTIVITIES

■ **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Architrave Board Meeting, 5:15 PM at the Chapter Office. Anne Swager, 471-9548

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

WIA Committee Meeting, Presentation of Photo Exhibit Awards, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office. Susan Tusick, AIA, 394-7069.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

October Chapter Meeting, The Future of Architecture Forum, 5:30 PM at the Skibo Hall, CMU. *Details on page 23.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Urban Design Committee Meeting, 5:45 PM at the Chapter office. Steven Hawkins, AIA, 521-9399.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Professional Development Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Brenenberg Brown Group, 4018 Penn Avenue, Dave Brenenberg, AIA, 683-0202.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, 6 PM at the Building Industry Center, Conference Room #1, 2270 Noblestown Road, Joe Collins, AIA, 922-4703.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

"Getting Clients Marketing/Negotiations Contracting Projects Successfully" seminar, 8:30 PM at the Engineers Club. Call Chapter office, 471-9548, for details.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

AROUND TOWN

■ **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Society of Architectural Administrators luncheon meeting, 12:00 at the Engineer's Club. Cost is \$12.50. Perity Walecko, 381-1400, for information.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

CSI Monthly Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Steve Arciuolo, Executive Vice-President with Zamaigas, speaks to the Pittsburgh Chapter. Cost is \$20, pay at the door with advanced reservations. Sheila Cartiff, 823-5063 for information.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Meryle Secrest, author of *Frank Lloyd Wright: A Biography*, talks at Borders Book Shop in the South Hills at 7:30 PM, 835-5583 for details.

PLAN AHEAD

■ **OCTOBER 7-10**

First International conference on Courthouse Design, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by the AIA. Call Chapter office for details.

NOVEMBER 5, 6

AIA Conference on the Past, Present, and Future of Health-Care Technology and Facilities, November 5, 6 in Cincinnati. Dennis R. Smith (202)626-7464, for details.

106 years ago,

when Pittsburgh was riding the crest of the Industrial wave, the area was a disparate mix of bucolic hills, burgeoning technology, sophisticated neighborhoods and squalid slums. Out of this menagerie, and in part because of it, emerged the Pittsburgh Builders Exchange. In an effort to assist the wildly expanding city, the Builders Exchange was formed on October 7, 1886 for the encouragement and benefit of the construction industry.



With an Architect at the Helm
**The Pittsburgh
 Builders Exchange**
 Looks to the Future

by Michelle Fanzo

The organization grew from an ambitious group of 61 to its present day membership of 1,650 architects, contractors, subcontractors, material dealers, manufacturers' representatives, and engineers. For the first time in the organization's long history an architect—William English, AIA of Valentour English Bodnar—has been named President.

A Board member for seven years before taking on the role of President to the third largest Builders Exchange in the country, English brings a sensitivity for the architectural profession to his post. "The services we provide are important to the architectural community," says English, who pointed out the benefits of the Builder's Exchange are often advantageous to architects.

Members receive a wide variety of services, including a directory, group insurance, a library of up-to-date information on codes and technical data, a modern Planning Room for the viewing of architects' plans and specifications by estimators, invitations to social events and the popular weekly *Builders Bulletin*. "Also," says English, "it's in our bylaws that the current AIA President can serve as an honorary member on our Board."

"Bill has great foresight and is an excellent person to move the organization in new directions and take on new challenges."

—Del Walker, Executive Secretary of
 the Pittsburgh Builders Exchange

Del Walker, Executive Secretary of the Builders Exchange, feels English's managerial and leadership skills make him an ideal person to work with and lead the organization into the future. "Bill has great foresight and is an excellent person to move the organization in new directions and take on new challenges."

The organization has proven its longevity and continues to grow, in membership as well as services. Some of the possible upcoming avenues the Exchange is looking into include a fax service, which would update members about jobs and addendums, and publishing the directory on a yearly basis. New computer equipment will be arriving this month to help improve service and the Planning Room has been newly furnished and remodeled. 🏠



▲
 William F. English, AIA

Kudos

→ **Susan B. Tusick, AIA**, of **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates**, has been selected by the National Headquarters of the AIA to serve on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Task Force. The Task Force's first job was to review the widely used reference book, *Architectural Graphic Standards*, for compliance with the new law. Additionally, the purpose of the ADA Task Force is to assist the AIA with issues concerning the ADA and architecture.

From The Firms

→ **Reid & Stuhldreher, Inc.** has been retained by a private group medical practice to design the renovation of a vintage 19th century building on Pittsburgh's North Side, at the corner of Suismon and Middle Streets. The building is located within the "Deutchtown" historical district and is on the State's register of historic buildings. **John D. Francona, AIA** is the designer and principal in charge of the \$1.5 million project, targeted for completion in December 1992.

Williams Trebilcock Whitehead has been authorized by the Mt. Lebanon Parking Authority to proceed with the preparation of construction documents for the new Mt. Lebanon multi-functional parking garage on Washington Road. 10,000 square feet are planned for the first floor of the parking garage, with a walkway and parklet allowing easy access to the light rail transit station nearby. The Parking Authority will advertise for construction bids in late 1992.

The Zoological Society of Pittsburgh has chosen **Indovina Associates Architects** to design the new Educational Complex and Zoo Administration Offices at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Scheduled completion is set for Fall 1993.

Indovina Associates will also begin design work for renovations to the Art Education Facility at the Carnegie Museum of Art, scheduled to be completed in mid-1993.

Transitions

→ Five members of **Williams Trebilcock Whitehead** have been named principals in the firm. **Richard F. Bamburak, AIA, Harold Colker, AIA, Paul F. Knell, AIA, Bryant R. Robey, AIA**, and **Paul E. Zippel, AIA**, have nearly 100 years of professional experience among them, including 65 years at WTW.

Mark A. Witouski has been named marketing director for **Williams Trebilcock Whitehead**. He will supervise all marketing and public affairs activities and also be involved with client development activities and new business presentations.

Susan L. Faigen has been named an officer of **The Design Alliance**. She has 16 years of diversified marketing experience and joined the firm as director of marketing in 1991.

John Francona, AIA, of **Reid & Stuhldreher, Inc.** has been appointed to the Planning Commission of Ben Avon, where he resides.

David J. Celento, AIA of **Reid & Stuhldreher, Inc.**, has been named to the board of Architrave. The foundation's mission is to promote, through education and advocacy, design quality in the built environment of southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, Inc. has hired **Richard St. John** as its new executive director. St. John has worked for ten years in community development, most recently with Northside Tenants Reorganization on the Brighton Place Project.

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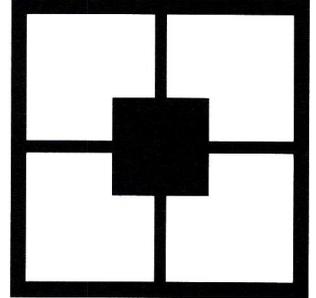
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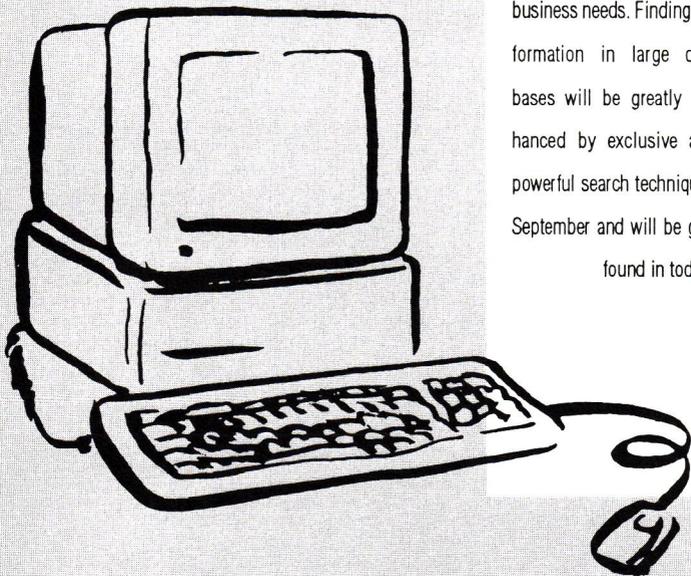
for a needle in a haystack, our new computer network will make the job seem simple," says W. Cecil Steward, FAIA, president of the AIA, in announcing an agreement between the AIA and Telebuild, L.C., of Houston.

The agreement will enable the AIA to implement *AIA Online*, a revolutionary information and communications network, using innovative and proprietary technology. The global electronic network provides time-sensitive access to critical information used by architects and those associated with the design and construction industry. *AIA Online* also includes large searchable data bases, electronic communications, and on-line ordering of publications, products, and services.

Through its E-Mail, Bulletin Board, and Forum features, *AIA Online* facilitates instant and customized communications between product manufacturers and architects working in government offices, corporations, institutions, and more than 15,000 architecture firms.

AIA and Telebuild to Construct Landmark Computer Network

In addition to the many data bases appropriate to the construction industry, architects will have access to more than 850 data bases that cover a wide range of business needs. Finding information in large data bases will be greatly enhanced by exclusive and powerful search techniques, enabling "needles" to be found quickly in large "haystacks." *AIA Online* went into a testing phase in September and will be generally available in December 1992. It is designed to run on modem-equipped computers commonly found in today's offices.

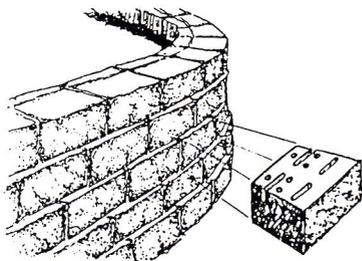


"The application of Telebuild's technology, combined with the AIA's data bases, will enhance the efficiency of architects around the world and will bring a new dimension to the exchange of information in the design and construction industry."

"The application of Telebuild's technology, combined with the AIA's data bases, will enhance the efficiency of architects around the world and will bring a new dimension to the exchange of information in the design and construction industry," says Steward. "We are very excited about being a part of this landmark computer network."

(Telebuild, L.C., was founded in 1988 with the charter to develop an on-line information and marketing network for the building industry.)

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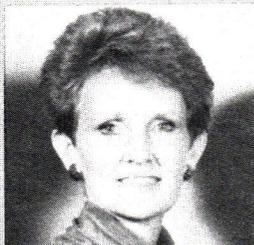
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"My favorite building is the Pyramids because no one has really figured out just how they were constructed."

Family info: Son, Charles, 5 1/2 yrs.

Years in Practice: 24 varied years.

School/Education: Bradley University.

First job: Drafting in the engineering department of Central Illinois Light Co.

Project you're proudest of: My son Charles, who already knows about footings and has an eye for color.

Most embarrassing project/moment: Can't think of any pertaining to architecture.

Building you wished you designed: I enjoy a number of buildings, have a great respect for the historic ones - perhaps it hasn't been designed yet.

Building you'd like to tear down: Garage on property line of a great new project.

If you hadn't been an architect what would you have been? Interior designer.

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? Someone who gave inspiration and had a sense of humor.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? Live in Pittsburgh but travel and work in other cities as well as Pittsburgh.

What's the best part of your job: I enjoy learning every day, applying my knowledge, idea generating, interfacing with people and giving of my knowledge.

What would you change about your job? Overseeing receivables.

What have you always wanted to tell your boss? She's great.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? That architects do more than make drawings.

What's the most annoying thing architects do? Not very active in community service.

Advice to young architects: Intern at a variety of places, work with someone who has community involvement and understands the needs of people along with the tools of architecture. Look at your employment as a stepping stone for your future.

The one thing you wish they'd teach you in school is: The practical side of the business, the construction and dollar value of an item or design.

Favorite interior: At eight years old the Biltmore Estate made a lasting impression.

Favorite building: The Pyramids because no one has really figured out just how they were constructed.

Favorite city: Chicago.

Favorite architect: Those architects who designed and their works were built without modern machinery.

Favorite book: *Architectural Treasures of Early America*, a publication by the National Historical Society. A series of ten books.

Favorite neighborhood: Mt. Washington and Shadyside.

Most architecturally-appealing restaurant in Pittsburgh: The Grand Concourse for its adaptive reuse.

Best gift to give an architect: Time to do the project and then a vacation.

Wish list for downtown Pittsburgh: To preserve, conserve, revitalize and have a good plan for future development that brings people back to the city.

Architect trend: Universal timeless design, human space with buildings that work and interact with surroundings, not monuments and shells of architecture.

Someday I'd like to see: More joint ventures to offer the client the best resources. A continual era of specialization in architecture to offer professionals a chance to really apply their knowledge.

I want to be remembered for: Sharing knowledge and expertise, creative and realistic design solutions, and making building environments a place where people want to work and play.

People would be surprised to know that: I have been a member of the City of Pittsburgh Minority Business Review Commission for nine years.

continued on page 20

Dossier

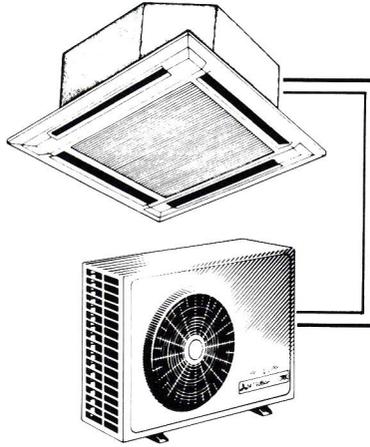
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The secret of my success is: I care.

I belong to AIA because: Of the interactive experience with other architects.

Someday I would wish three wishes: That Pittsburgh will have as good a domestic image as it does internationally. That greater emphasis on area international cultural efforts be made. That there will be greater respect for minority professionals (MBE/WBE) in Pittsburgh and public projects.

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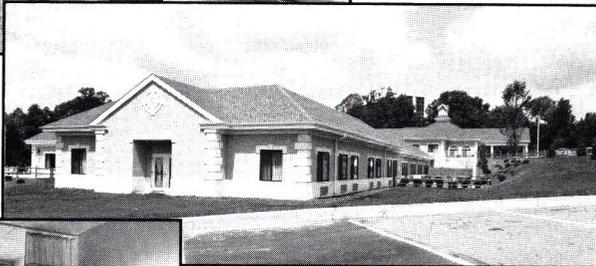
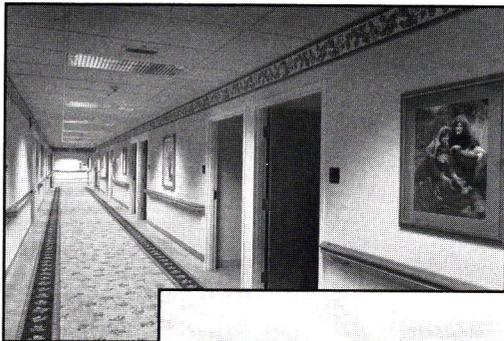
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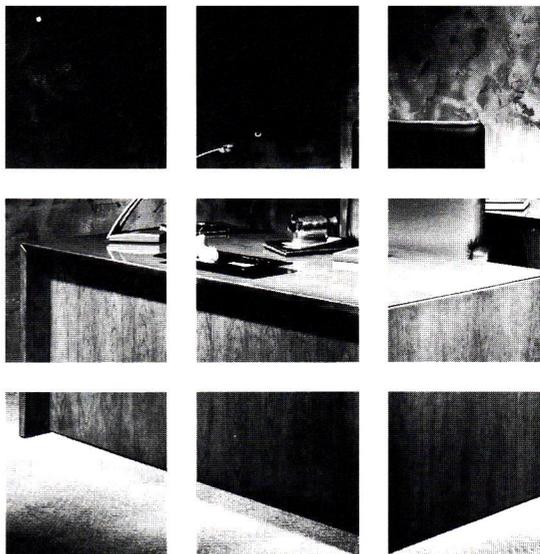
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most valuable skill of an architectural education, critical thinking and problem solving, save us?

When alternatives to our role in the planning of buildings is proposed, such as interior design, architects need to be concerned, but we also need to show legislators and the public at large that our architectural educational system despite its flaws, is most valuable precisely because it has resisted trade school values. (Maybe this month's chapter meeting on the state of CMU's program is good place for such a dialogue to occur!)

When people value our broad, long-sighted skills as much as short term quick-fix technicians of the world, we will have nothing to fear from a fashionable, new, flavor-of-the-month profession.

If the concept of an *architect* is to even exist very far into the 21st century, other than to appear as a dying cottage industry for millionaire's country homes, we need to clearly define what we do or others will define it for us. 🏠



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Awards

November 5

The Future of Architecture

October Membership Meeting

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Join members of the CMU's Architectural Department's new advisory board, faculty, and students for a provocative program touching on these and other questions.

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