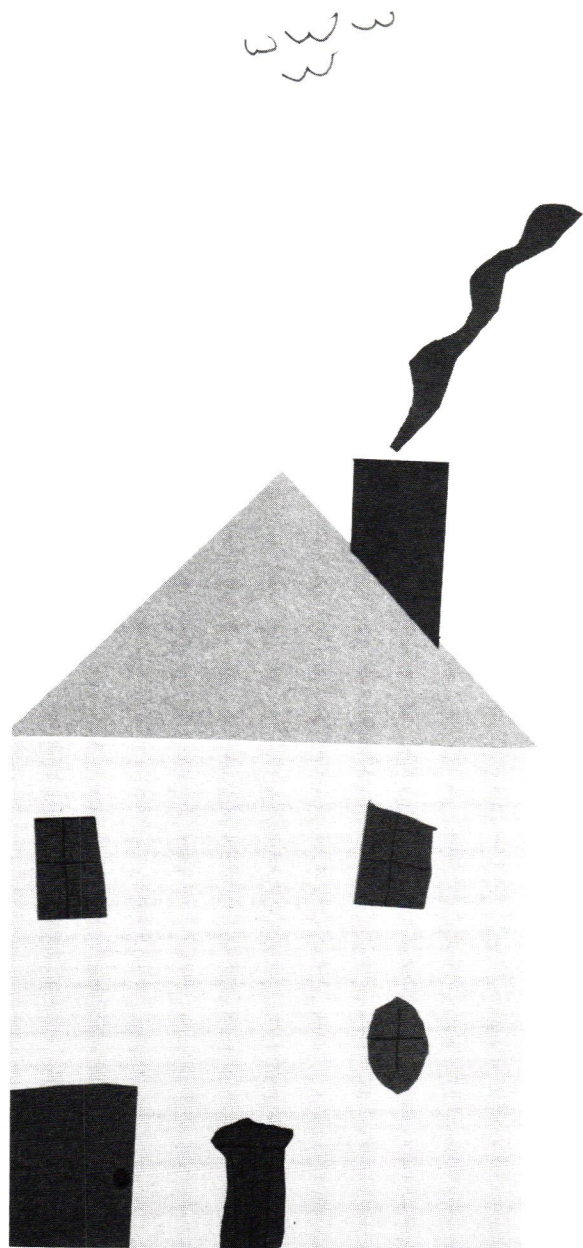
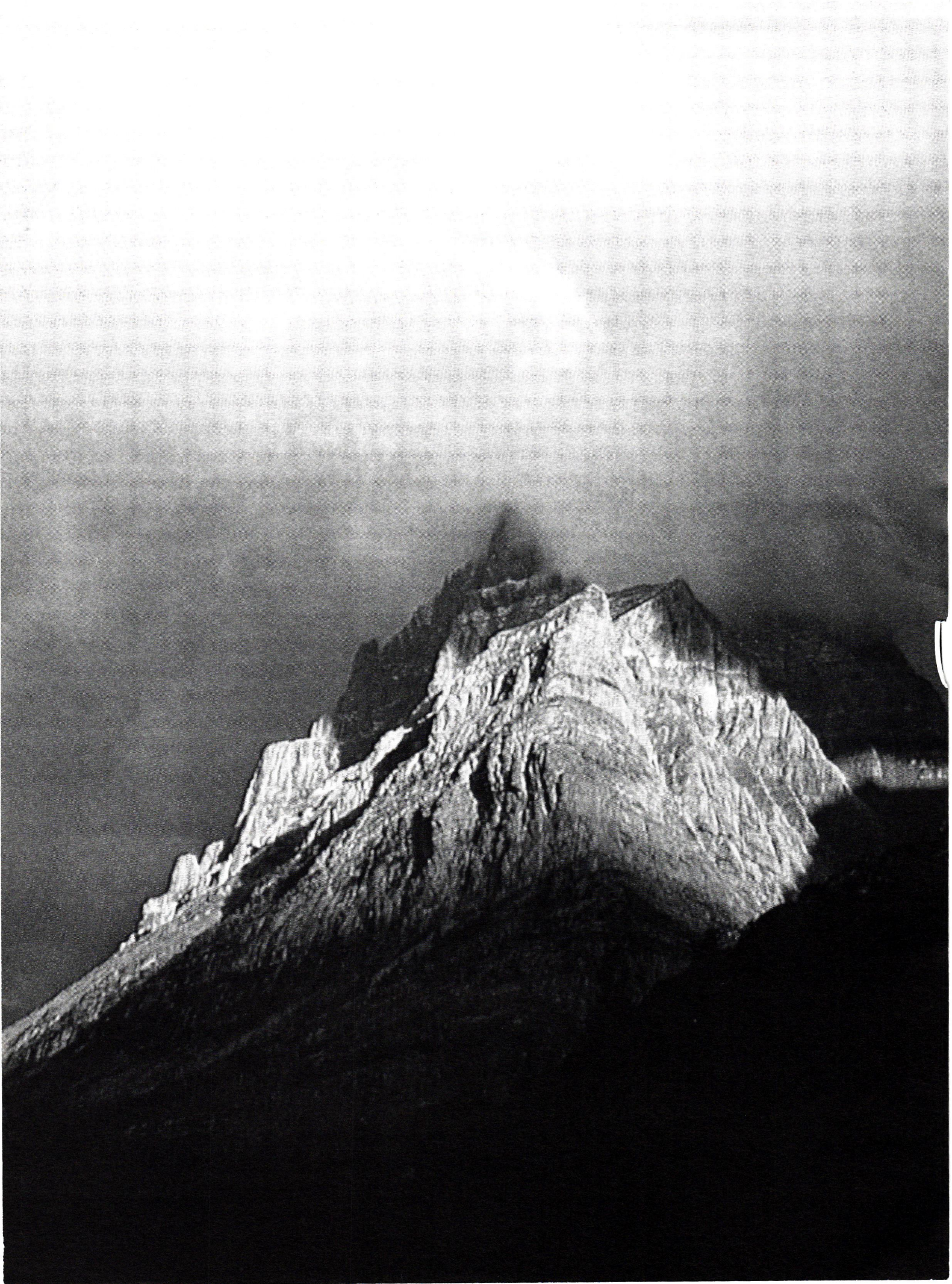


C O L U M N S





Northern Exposure

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA President

“There is a central quality

which is the root criterion of life and spirit in a person, a town, a building, or a wilderness. This quality is objective and precise, but it cannot be named.”

— Christopher Alexander

The Timeless Way of Building.



“Keeping the industrial character requires a careful balancing act on the part of our profession—we need to take care not to clean things too much; that is what gave us East Liberty and other misguided efforts of the 1960s.”

One might initially think that traveling to the Pacific Northwest would provide little in the way of relevance for a Pittsburgh architect. The recent attention to this region’s quality of life and economic prosperity are worth exploring from a Western Pennsylvania perspective.

Our vacation started in San Francisco and traveled Highway 1 to Seattle and then across the border into British Columbia. What follows are four observations with relevance to Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania:

1. The Cities and Towns

The cities of the Pacific Northwest, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, are relatively “new” from an Easterner’s perspective.

However, each city (and many towns as well) has embraced preservation as a major tool in economic redevelopment. Whether they are the small “old towns” of the coastal hamlets or the great public markets of the big cities, each is a major tourist draw. The better ones even maintain or have redeveloped traditional industries within them.

Vancouver’s Granville Market, with its well balanced mix of recreation, retail, artisan, and industrial uses, all within the language of simple corrugated steel sheds, is a model for the approaches we might take for areas like the Strip District or in small Mon Valley communities. As architects we can play an important role in identifying these characters our civic leaders should use in development strategies. Keeping the industrial character requires a careful balancing act on the part of our profession—we need to take care not to clean things too much; that is what gave us East Liberty and other misguided efforts of the 1960s.

2. Roads and Bridges

As we traveled the Pacific Coast Highway through Oregon, the natural beauty was breathtaking. But what made the Oregon Coast even better (the tour guides seem to recognize this too) is the sensitivity of the WPA era bridges and roads. The bridges, in particular, are sources of inspiration.

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On the Cover

A one-of-a-kind home by 10 year old Justin Ziegler, at the CMU Architecture for Children Program

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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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.

COLUMNS

home front

The Big Picture

Michelle Fanzo, Managing Editor

Architects and their ideas

about how the profession can move a community in a positive direction, solve problems, educate young minds and provide hope are highlights of this issue. I didn't have to look far to find area architects exhibiting social responsibility in their work, such as volunteering to help *Habitat for Humanity*, the *Our Town Program*, struggling neighborhoods and struggling nations.

Architects possess crucial information and skills and have made a commitment to share what they know. At a time when everyone is pinching pennies, it is rewarding to see our chapter so willing to give the valuable gifts of knowledge, caring and time.



While this issue reflects the larger scope and altruistic nature of our members' work, it also shows the extra step *Columns* is taking to advocate architects' relevance in the broader community.

Changes to the publication—which have spurred a number of wonderful letters and notes for which I thank the authors—directly tie in with the concern that architects aren't being taken seriously, an issue highlighted at the last membership meeting. While expanded coverage provides more information on issues within the profession, it also serves to elevate the credibility of these pages, which in turn raises the credibility of you—our members. A publication which exists only to pat itself on the back serves only the individual (specifically only the individuals spotlighted each month). But a publication which raises consciousness, which takes a look at the big picture as well as each masterful brush stroke, reflects the professionalism and sophistication of the entire field. That's why *Columns*, read by more than just the Pittsburgh membership, is taking the extra step to talk to clients about architects' work or report how an area member can make a difference in another part of the world.

Architecture goes beyond the personal to something far more significant—whether the project is redesigning a kitchen or building a signature bridge. This is a profession that molds cities and shapes the way societies interact, exemplified by Richard Rittelmann's trip to the Baltics (pg. 10) and Scott Mulrooney's commitment to decent housing (pg. 6).

This kind of work, in itself, is the best form of advocacy the profession could offer.

Enjoy the holidays; see you in January! 🏠

Michelle C. Fanzo

September is my favorite month in the Chapter office. It's the month that the design award submissions are due. I get to log them all in and prepare them for the jury. Which means, I get to look at each and every one and pick the ones I think are the most likely to win. I have a pretty good track record. Each year I manage to choose several of the winners. I also have a great time reading the jury comments. I can not put into words why I like a project. Juries have no problem with this, if anything they are prone to using too many words.

This year I have the added bonus (thanks to the *Press* and *Post Gazette*) of announcing the winners. So...with as few words as possible, the winners are:

1992 Design Awards Winners

Anne Swager, Executive Director

Chapter Design Awards

Citation to:

Firm: MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni Inc.
Design Team: Albert Filoni, AIA
 Kenneth Lee, AIA
Project: John Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences
Client: Duquesne University

Citation to:

Firm: Integrated Architectural Services
Design Team: John Martine, AIA
 Douglas Philp, AIA
 John Rizzi
Project: Dollar Bank Greensburg Branch
Client: Dollar Bank

Merit award to:

Firm: Charles L. Desmone & Associates
Design Team: Luke Desmone, AIA
 Chip Desmone, AIA
 Anoushah Bogharty and Krist Dodaro
 Kathleen Navarro, interiors
Project: Armstrong County Small Business Incubator
Client: Armstrong County Industrial Development Authority

Open Plan Awards

Citation to:

Firm: Tai Lee Miller Architects
Design Team: David Celento, AIA
Project: Puttersburgh
Client: McKnight Development

Citation to:

Firm: Volker Hartkopf
Design Team: Vivian Loftness, AIA
 Carnegie Mellon University
Project: Architecture for Art's Sake
Client: National Endowment for the Arts

Merit award to:

Firm: UDA Architects
Design Team: Raymond L. Gindroz, AIA
Project: Crawford Square: Urban Design for Rebuilding a Pittsburgh Neighborhood
Client: Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and McCormick Baron & Associates

The jury for this year's awards was lead by James Cutler, AIA with Jim Olsen, FAIA, Edward Weinstein, AIA, and David Miller, AIA. Jim Butler is working with Peter Bohlin on the Gates house in Medina, Washington. Additionally, he was recently cited in *Newsweek* for his work on the witches' memorial in Salem, MA. Most impressive of all, his firm has won 21 awards in the past ten years. Between the other jurors, I counted over 30 awards in recent years.

Look on page 23 to find information on our Design Awards bash. Jim Cutler will share with you his ideas on design and comment on our submissions, both good and bad. 🏠