

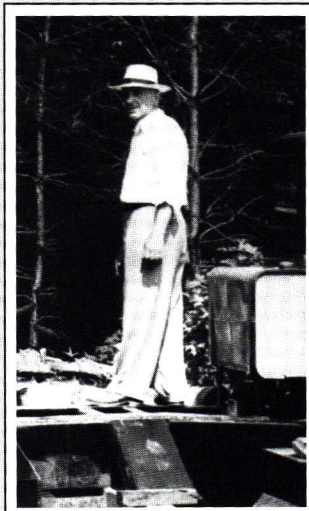
# C O L U M N S





# *A seventy-five year commitment to craftsmanship*

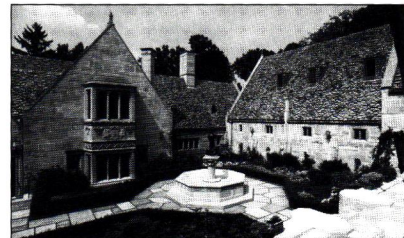
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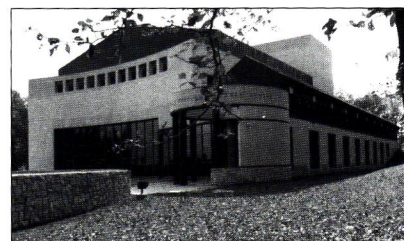
*John Deklewa, Sr., founder of the firm that bears his name, could be found checking the job progress. This same attention to detail has become a tradition on all John Deklewa & Sons, Inc. projects.*

applies state of the art construction techniques and a sense of fine craftsmanship.

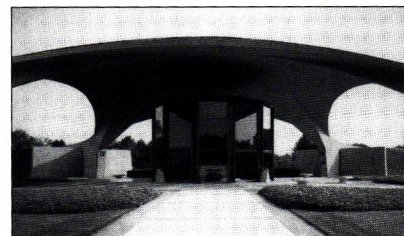
We are proud to have been a part of the Western Pennsylvania construction industry for the past seventy-five years and as we step into the future, we keep one foot in the past.



*"Elm Court" a 9-acre private estate located north of Pittsburgh involves unique additions and renovations, including an underground theater.*



*"Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center" situated on the University of Pittsburgh's Johnstown campus, contains a 1000 seat proscenium style main theater, and the 200 seat "Black Box" theater.*



*St. Lazarus Oratory is one of the largest clear span post-tension concrete structures in the tri-state area, requiring the special skills of John Deklewa & Sons, Inc..*

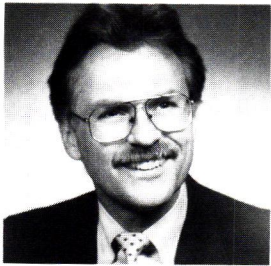
## **JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.**

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# Something to Gain

By Douglas Shuck, AIA, President

## Living in Findlay, Ohio developed in me



The most successful projects will be those in which there are significant contributions by all of the parties toward a common goal.

an enhanced appreciation of historic preservation and restoration. This western Ohio community developed during the gas boom days of the late 1800s and many wealthy industrialists built beautiful Queen Anne, second empire, and federalist period homes on the main street of this city. During the '70s and '80s many of these homes' original families left and the houses were purchased by new owners for preservation and renovation. Most of the new owners were young professionals and executives with Cooper Tire and Marathon Oil who restored these homes to their once rich grandeur and created a main street entrance for the city. But whether we are restoring turn-of-the-century homes, preserving the character of a North Side neighborhood, renovating the Priory Inn and St. Mary's Church or redesigning a former Sears department store in Allegheny Center for Integra Bank, we are in the process of providing new economic stimulus and growth, and returning quality of life to neighborhoods and structures which otherwise have fallen into disrepair or stagnate economic growth.

Owners are always requesting that we renovate their buildings and provide a new image, increased space, and

business efficiency. In essence, we are creating a new environment for that client that will fit into the neighborhood, encourage those using the facility to greater achievement, and stimulate surrounding neighbors to continue the renovation momentum. As professionals we should be the stimulus for responsible preservation and restoration for our clients. Owners can provide opportunities for renewed growth and enhanced quality of life. City, state and federal governments can provide financial incentives for many of these projects to take place through tax incentive programs, enterprise zones and unique buy-back arrangements. Lending institutions can offer creative financial programs, reduced points and eliminate miscellaneous fees to favor preservation and restoration of older structures and neighborhood areas.

The most successful projects will be those in which there are significant contributions by all of the above named parties toward a common goal in which everyone has something to gain. The owner gains a renovated structure with new vitality which will enhance its function. The neighborhood gains because there is new growth,

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### On the cover:

The one that didn't make it: The wrecking ball hovers above the mangled remains of the now extinct Syria Mosque—only one of many endangered historic landmarks in the area. *Photo by Michelle Fanzo.*

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.  
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## Keeping the Past for the Future

### Update on the Historic Review Commission

The Historic Review Commission, established in 1979, had another busy year in 1992. The commission issued 83 Certificates of Appropriateness (the commission's permit), presently bringing the number of structures it oversees to 1700 located in the city's seven historic districts, thirty landmarks and one historic site. The preliminary compilation of a Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places was the largest undertaking last year for the commission. The group expects to finish the survey and publish a final Pittsburgh Register by the end of this year.

The preliminary compilation of a Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places was the largest undertaking last year for the commission.

GAI Consultants, Inc. has been hired by the Department of City Planning to prepare a plan to review the impact of development projects on underground historic resources. The study will cover downtown, Oakland and the riverfronts—the sections of the city where most early settlements and developments were located and may have left evidence of themselves.

The biggest preservation news in the last two years is the state Supreme Court ruling in July 1991 concerning the United Artists (or Boyd Theater) case, stating that historic designation of private property without the owner's consent is a "taking" under the Pennsylvania Constitution. Though the case was re-heard in October 1991, no decision has yet been reached and the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission continues to operate under the assumption that historic districts, if not individual structures, may still be nominated and designated without prior consent of all owners.

The commission and City Council dealt with a number of historic nominations in 1992, involving a wide range of potential landmarks, districts and sites. The following received historic designation status in 1992. The Oakland Civic Center Historic District, 311 Lowenhill Street (Lowen-Shaffer Farmhouse), 118 Woodland Road (the Giovannitti House), Site of Fort McKinley, 1251 N. Negly Avenue (the King Estate), 344 Boulevard of the Allies (Engine House Number 1).

The commission's annual awards for outstanding preservation projects will be announced this month. 🏠

#### Mailbox

##### PHLF Speaks Out On Charette

We wish to make the following points regarding the design produced at the Wabash Bridge charette:

Our recollection is that the buildings on the east side of Market Street were to be demolished as far as the Boulevard of the Allies, whether for a roadway or a park strip. This would be a willing sacrifice of historic buildings and historic street scale.

At Station Square, there would be an open area just east of the new bridge. This, of course, is something wanted by some charette participants, not something that will happen.

Just inland from the railroad, the charette creates a bifurcation, with two level roadways to the old Pennsylvania right-of-way, one central roadway to the tunnel, and two-level bus platforms. The rise of the tunnel roadway at

this point would be visually discordant and the roadway would widen to about 50 feet, not including the bus-stop platforms. This would create blight where we intend to build. A suggestion by Paul Farmer that the bifurcation begin south of Station Square Drive, where it might somehow be muffled by construction, would mitigate the situation, though thought still has to be given to noise and fume abatement over the whole width of Station Square.

Perhaps I should have objected to these conclusions at the time, but I felt myself in a minority where consensus prevailed, and decided to comment on the published document.

Yours truly,  
Walter C. Kidney, Historian  
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

# Will the Next Mayor Please Stand Up?

The March membership meeting—a pre-primary question and answer session with mayoral candidates—gave architects the opportunity to have the next mayor of Pittsburgh directly address questions about the built environment. A true slice of Pittsburgh life was visible at the Engineers' Club on March 24th, with the responses of Gary Henderson, City Council President Jack Wagner, Chaston Roston, Jr., State Representative Tom Murphy and Robert Pirchesky being as varied as the city's architecture.

This cross-section of candidates made what was initially considered a "fluffy" question one of the more revealing queries of the evening. What is your favorite building or place in the city and why? elicited insightful answers from three of the men under scrutiny. Wagner responded with PPG Plaza for its representation of the past and future of the city. "That building put the city on the map to a great degree—it stands alone." Murphy chose Beech Avenue on the North Side: "Pick any house—it's Pittsburgh," said Murphy noting that this formerly rundown street is one of the few places in the city that's increased its population in the past few years. In yet another perspective, Henderson picked the East Liberty Presbyterian Church because it represents higher moral values. "We have to get back to character building in our youth," says the candidate, who feels the church must nurture and teach right and wrong in the community.


On other topics Henderson, a proponent of historic preservation, felt the city has done a poor job of marketing itself and should provide tax incentives to keep businesses in the city, develop riverfront housing "better than anything the suburbs could offer," and spur more economic development in neighborhoods.

Pirchesky, who emerged as the poor man's Ross Perot, was a strong advocate of gun control and more police walking the streets. He took a very down home approach to his

views, frequently not answering the moderators question in preference to driving home his "safety first" message.

Roston advocates keeping businesses in the city, cutting the mercantile and entertainment taxes, stopping city contracts to private contractors, restructuring the police force, and building affordable housing for lower and middle income households. He is unhappy Crawford Square public housing costs \$80-105,000 while comparable homes in Boston go for \$40,000. "This has got to change," he says.

According to Wagner the next renaissance in Pittsburgh will be its rivers, stating he would like to push the ailing Armstrong Project forward and build more boat docks. Expansion of the convention center is his top priority and he is a proponent of the Mon Valley Expressway, but is against the Southern Beltway. Wagner feels reopening the Wabash tunnel is crucial to the city's growth and advocates loft style apartments downtown.

Murphy wants to take advantage of Pittsburgh's tourism possibilities, is a strong and active proponent of riverfront development, feels jobs are not physically available within the city for young people in lower and middle income communities, and says the opportunity to own, rather than rent, is critical to rebuild neighborhoods. "The economic base has shifted," says Murphy, "we can't continue operating a city of the 1950s." 

A true slice of Pittsburgh life was visible at the debate.

## Something to Gain - Continued from page 3

enhanced image, and a sign of prosperity. The community or city gains the economic stimulation and improved long term tax base. The architect is recognized for accomplishing a successful project and a potential repeat client, and establishing possible referrals for new projects. The financial institution has an economic asset in lieu of a bad debt.

Historic preservation does not always have to deal with structures which are old, but can also deal with preserving the beauty of nature in open spaces, surrounding hillsides, wooded ravines, views of neighborhoods, city and regional parks, office buildings framed with trees, and tunnel and bridge approaches which span many of our rivers. These are

views which need to be preserved and restored to work in concert with the structured environment.

The North Side, the South Side, and Findlay, Ohio will all survive, but those communities and neighborhoods that have concert with all players working together will have a renewed richness of spirit, sense of community, and quality of life.