

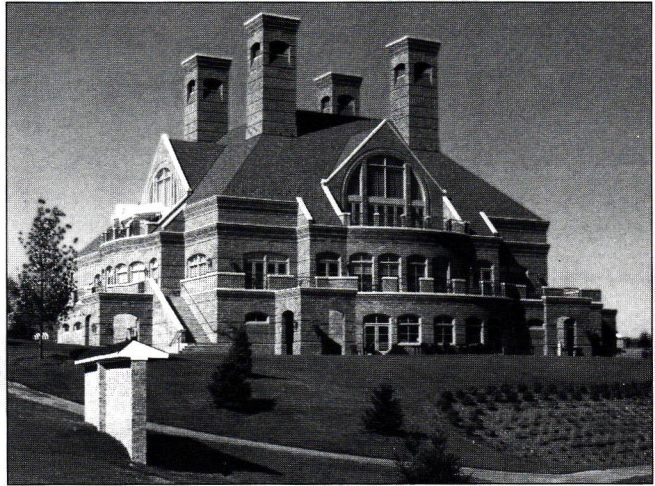
# COLUMNS



LUX FIAT

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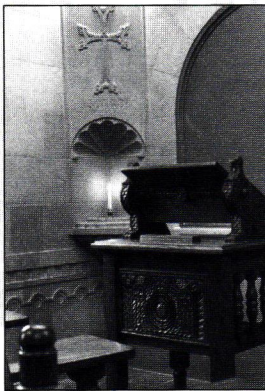
No area general contractor is better known or more respected than John Deklewa and Sons.



One of our recent projects, The Clubhouse at Nevillewood is now home to the Family House Invitational Golf Tournament.

## Sweating The Details Is No Sweat

In the seventy-five years since our founding, we've produced some of the most dramatic and functionally well-integrated buildings in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

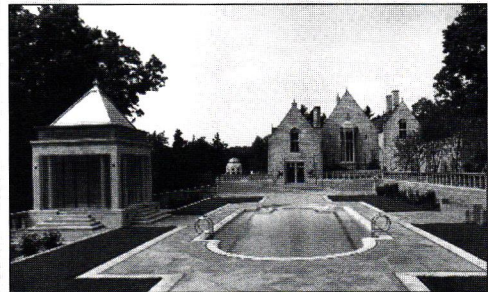


The Armenian room located on the third floor of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh is the 22nd nationality room to be established at the university. The stone arched room copies the masonry techniques of church and monastery builders of the 11th century. This magnificent classroom was designed by Torkom Khrimiam who emigrated from Armenia in 1978.

We offer a full range of contractor services. Our pre-construction planning and value engineering, for example, can detect trouble spots early to help smooth out the production process. This insures your project comes in on time and on budget.

Whether you're considering renovation and retrofit of an existing structure or new construction, consult the experts at John Deklewa & Sons, Inc.

For a more detailed analysis of your specific needs, contact John E. Deklewa, President at 257-9000.



"Elm Court", a 9-acre private estate located north of Pittsburgh, involves unique additions and renovations. For example, the pool above is heated and has an ozone purification system. The deep blue water is surrounded by a granite surface edged in limestone. The pool is lined with hand made ceramic tile. On the left is a pool house sitting area. To the right is the "Fish Slide" built to hold two antique Indian carved marble panels giving the appearance of two carved fish swimming in the current of the fountain.

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**GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS**

# Those Hallowed Halls

Michelle Fanzo, Editor



## Whether you are taking classes,

have children in school, or haven't seen the inside of a lecture hall in decades, September brings to mind the return to the classroom for most people. *Columns* decided to take a look at what's happening inside those educational walls and have a little fun at the same time. This month we offer a portfolio of members' recent school projects at the elementary, secondary and higher education levels, then go on to look at trends and changes in educational facilities over the last 25 years. The differences may not be dramatic, but some elements—like computer equipment—are permanent additions to the classroom while others—like bomb shelters—have proven more temporary.

A summer stroll past Carnegie Mellon University prompted the story on what's new at CMU. In July and August the former Skibo Hall was slowly dismantled, revealing a Gothic entanglement of metal, brick and wire that somewhat resembled a disaster site. Every day there would be a little less building and a little more rubble. The age of other campus structures, combined with the time consuming task of asbestos removal and material separation, made it impossible for the work crew to raze Skibo with explosives. What

started out as a pictorial report on the deconstruction of a building, rather than our usual look at the creation of one, led to exploring what new structures are planned for the university over the next few years. This month also welcomes Vivian Loftness, AIA to the post of Head of Carnegie Mellon University's Architecture Department. We hope to catch up with her in a future issue.

While the magazine discusses changes happening in education design, *Columns* itself is experiencing change this season. Starting next month with our special annual design awards issue, *Columns* will be brought in-house and produced directly by AIA Pittsburgh. This should produce few noticeable changes to the publication, but please note that all submissions, letters and press releases should now be sent to my attention at the AIA office downtown. Speaking of mail, we do appreciate letters to the editor, and suggestions about what you would like to see more or less of in future issues.

Due to the early date of next month's gathering, there will be no Chapter meeting this month. October 3 will be the design awards ceremony, so mark it on your calendars now. See you all there! 🏠

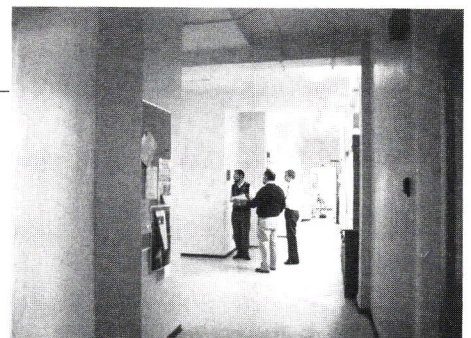
*The differences in old and new school design may not be dramatic, but some elements—like computer equipment—are permanent additions to the classroom while others—like bomb shelters—have proven more temporary.*

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### On the cover:

*MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni's entranceway to an academic building at Albion College in Albion, Michigan. The photo at right is what the hall looked like prior to the firm's renovation. Cover photo: Dennis Marsico.*



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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## Back to School

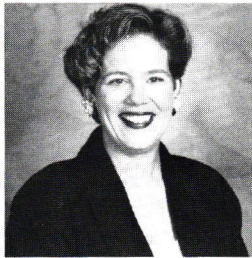
Anne Swager, Executive Director

### In my household, September means

a new first-day-of-school outfit for my daughter, Betsy; new teacher adjustment times for my son, Henry; and lots more rush hour traffic for me. While I welcome the return to the routine that back to school brings, I regret

the ending of summer with its more relaxed lifestyle. Betsy, a born egghead, jumps right back into the swing of things. She studies well by herself, loves getting to know new kids, and always has seven more activities lined up than are possible in a lifetime. Henry, on the other hand, resists change. The return to school brings him a certain amount of trauma each year. Classroom eating arrangements and who the teacher picks to head the line that day (inevitably it is unfairly someone other than Henry) are his main concerns. Betsy's style of learning—head in a book—is perfect for the school environment. Henry, the polar opposite, learns best in constant motion or with a baseball in his hand.

I, too, had problems adjusting to the classroom. My mother spent most of my elementary education years in the principal's office trying to convince him not to boot me out of school. I hated to sit still, thought school was boring—especially the arithmetic problems—and lived only for recess. Unfortunately, when I was finally set free my boundless energy meant that the vast majority of second grade boys spent recess trapped in the jungle gym. My favorite game was "Capture" and none of the boys could resist the challenge despite losing almost all the time. After school, I was involved in numerous wrestling matches that my mother to this day claims I provoked. That detail is gone from my memory but I do know I almost always lost these grudge matches.



*Schools now accommodate all sorts of children and their learning styles with more sensitivity and success.*

Fortunately, my early disillusionment with structured education did not translate onto a lifelong distaste for learning. Now I can learn more of what I want, when I want, and in ways better adapted to my learning abilities. I have changed and as evidenced in the following pages, so have schools. My strongest memory of elementary school—besides the concrete, metal and packed dirt of the playground—is the long halls. The dark speckled tile of the corridors went on forever and the length was further accentuated by the unending rows of metal lockers with the industrial dark green walls and ceilings. It reminded me of a prison, which probably relates more to the amount of time spent confined to the hall because I had disrupted class than their actual length. Schools now accommodate all sorts of children and their learning styles with more sensitivity and success. Architects have brought a more friendly feel to schools with their use of color, texture and curves. Inviting by design, I imagine they encourage young children to think and learn.

Continuing education becomes a requirement of AIA membership in 1995—encouraging us all to continue to think and learn. For the past few year the AIA has been exploring how to accomplish this in a cost-effective and meaningful way. The final decisions of how many hours, what qualifies, and how to track the credits are still being worked out. However, the time is ripe to design a local series of learning opportunities which would fulfill the requirements of continuing education while meeting the needs of our different members.

We need help. Continuing education has always fallen to the brave few who comprise the Professional Development Committee. This group needs new blood, ideas and energy. To volunteer you don't have to be an expert on how people learn or what they should learn. You just have to spend time sharing your ideas, listening to others and asking your colleagues what they think. We promise not to banish you to the hall, call you mother, or send you to the principal's office for crazy ideas. Instead, you will find committee colleagues ready to provide a variety of valuable learning experiences. Interested? Call the Chapter office. 🏠