

C O L U M N S



**ZONING
UPDATE**





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AIA Pittsburgh serves 12 Western Pennsylvania counties as the local component of the American Institute of Architects and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. The objective of AIA Pittsburgh 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.

AIA Pittsburgh
211 Ninth Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Telephone: 412/471-9548
FAX: 412/471-9501

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AIA Trust Introduces LegalLine

The AIA Trust announces the introduction of

LegalLine, a service available only to AIA members to help manage an architectural practice and protect it against law suits and claims. John M. Laping, FAIA, 1995 chairman of the Trust, explains that the service was created in response to a recent survey of AIA members in which 60 percent of respondents identified reliable practice-related legal information as the most valuable membership benefit that AIA Trust could offer.

LegalLine is a subscription service that provides instant, unlimited access to legal information from experts headed by Charles R. Heuer, FAIA, Esq., an architect, attorney, professional liability consultant, and mediator. He conducted the AIA's "Liability: Prevention and Protection" seminars and is the author of the A201 and B141 Commentaries published by the AIA and of Means' Legal Reference for Design and Construction. He is a member of the Boston Society of Architects and has been operating a similar service in Massachusetts and Virginia for 10 years.

"The service is an excellent complement to the new AIA Trust/Schinnerer/CNA Small Firm Professional Liability Insurance Program," commented Laping. "All of the AIA Trust's services are designed to help AIA members build and maintain a successful practice. LegalLine is the newest."

LegalLine is designed principally for sole practitioners and small firms. It is priced on a sliding scale according to firm size. Firms with 25 or fewer employees pay only \$400 a year for unlimited access. Firms with 26 to 50 employees pay \$500 annually, and firms with more than 51 people pay \$700 each year.

"My experience is that even principals in larger firms with attorneys appreciate the convenience of the service," says Mr. Heuer. "It assists architects to better understand particularly complicated or unusual problems." LegalLine is designed to help AIA members negotiate and interpret contracts, manage risks and prevent lawsuits, improve communication with clients, determine whether a lawyer is required in a specific situation, and resolve or mitigate disputes. In addition, the service will assist with the more routine issues of day-to-day business such as ways to structure profitable joint ventures, the benefits of incorporating your practice, and options for collecting past-due or disputed fees.

For more information about the service, AIA members can write to AIA Trust LegalLine, 2170 Lonicera Way, Charlottesville, VA 22901-9037; fax firm letterhead to 1-800-688-9780; or telephone, 1-800-688-9780. ☏

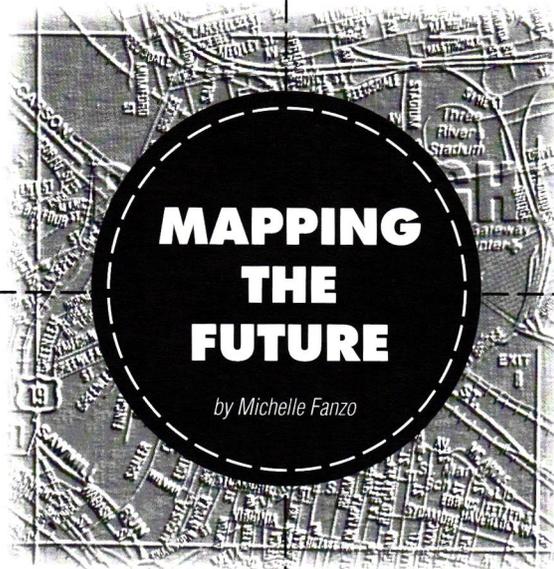
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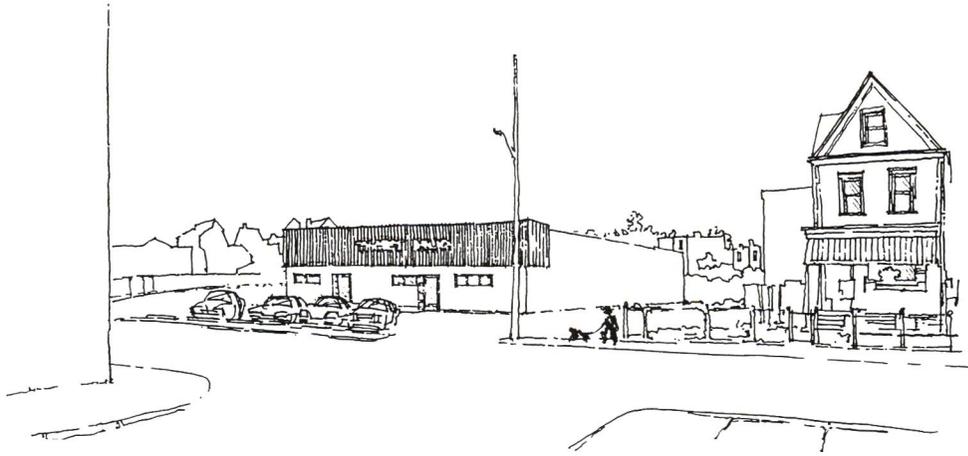
*A nearly completed reworking of the City's zoning code
has Pittsburgh written all over it*

People felt the stress of dealing with the zoning code on a *daily* basis. It was obvious something was wrong and it was also obvious that what we had to work with, at a basic level, was in conflict with the city it was supposed to help shape," says Karen Brean, project manager of the Pittsburgh Urban Zoning Code Project. This three year project, launched by the Department of City Planning, sprung from a need to address numerous out-of-date regulations adversely affecting growth and development in the city. Brean, a key player in the redrafting effort, says the process is now nearing completion.

The Zoning Advisory Group (ZAG), appointed in May 1994 by Mayor Tom Murphy, began meeting regularly 18 months ago to review and discuss code recommendations prepared by a national and local consulting team. The initial review process consisted of a section by section review of the proposed code. Currently, the group has just received the entire code as a single document and will examine the different cross currents and themes present in each component. During this winter and spring, the group will re-

view the entire code in anticipation of City Planning Commission and City Council review by the end of July 1996.

So what is so bad about the existing code? The current ordinance, adopted in 1958, was written to change density patterns in Pittsburgh, eliminating row houses in favor of either single family homes on single lots or multi-family dwellings and single-entry apartment buildings. This was a result of the (now disproved) assumption that there was a direct correlation between more space around buildings and human well being. Planners wanted a more suburban look for Pittsburgh, but realized some areas would have to maintain high-density housing, like the South Side and Lawrenceville, to accommodate the population. Hence, a sizable portion of Pittsburgh was designated for higher intensity residential, commercial and industrial use than was ultimately needed while other areas were zoned to look like an urban Ben Avon. To achieve this, the 1958 code advocated new building types which differed radically from the character of existing urban neighborhoods. Larger lots in residential communities were encouraged, along with a



The revised zoning code will encourage development in neighborhoods, like top illustration, to better fit a residential context, like bottom illustration.

homogeneity of residential development irrespective of historic development patterns and distinctive city geography. The code was shaping development in different directions, with those directions having little to do with the actual context to which they applied.

"Since 1958," says Brean, "we have learned that it is more desirable to continue established building patterns and development appropriate to the city's unique geography. Pittsburgh's traditional structural patterns, such as the compact row houses that are scattered across its hillsides, create the distinct character of the city."

So while you *may* be able to fight city hall, fighting Pittsburgh's mountain and valley laden geography is another story. And that, it has proven, is a good thing. "The '58 code deliberately attempted to reshape the city. Zoning was seen as a way to correct Pittsburgh's 'faults,'" explains Stefani Ledewitz, AIA, who, along with Steve Quick, AIA, was integral in preparing recommendations for ZAG. "At the time, the city was seen as badly flawed—it was too

dense, the streets were bad, mixed-used was considered to be very bad. Much of what made Pittsburgh Pittsburgh was seen as negative."

Topography—the mountains and valleys—and economic decline, says Quick, is what prevented wider application of the 1958 plan to change the face of Pittsburgh. A few major projects related to this view did go forward, such as the redevelopment of East Liberty and the North Side's Allegheny Center.

Among the changes that have emerged from the Urban Zoning Code Project is a broader view of building use. For example, "offices were equated with traffic, hence offices in residential areas were written into the code as bad," says Ledewitz. "Home offices are not necessarily bad. The new code would look more closely at the actual impact of an office in various residential areas." Take that idea further, and the economic and social benefits of neighborhood settlement patterns, such as local mom and pop stores, are also being reassessed as posi-

tive. The existing code advocated larger-scale suburban mall style retail, in designated commercial districts.

When the 1958 code was adopted and implemented, a zoning ordinance based on segregating dissimilar uses held much more logic than it does now. This idea was a reaction to a time when industry meant smokestacks and railroads, and housing meant single-family dwellings and tenements. As cities changed and industry and commerce became more complex, this type of zoning, referred to as conventional zoning, was too static and inflexible to accommodate changing development. A new approach, performance zoning, developed from the desire to solve land use problems with regulations to control impacts. In its textbook form, performance zoning would allow any use to go anywhere as long as its impacts were addressed. Though highly flexible, these regulations proved extremely time consuming, and have led to both arbitration and unpredictable decisions.

The Pittsburgh Zoning Code project is guided by four primary goals: to facilitate new development of good quality, to spur reinvestment in the existing building stock, to recognize and reinforce Pittsburgh's unique characteristics and qualities, to enhance the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

The Urban Zoning Code project team realized that a hybrid code, a middle ground between conventional and performance zoning, was needed for Pittsburgh. This code will contain permitted uses as well as design and performance standards to ensure high quality development. While districts will still be established in order to regulate suitable uses, compatibility standards will be implemented to prevent new development from infringing on the existing quality of its surroundings. Finally, by establishing groups of projects with comparable impacts by use and size, the extent of administrative overview will be reduced and property owners can better understand zoning regulations that affect their property.

While much of the code is being reviewed, Brean states that there have been a number of code amendments since 1958—such as special district, downtown and environmental ordinances—that will not change. Some of the most significant revisions to the code will be strong recognition of the fabric of the city, simplifying the planning and review processes, more opportunity for mixed-use, and a stronger notion of the public realm—with special attention paid to clarifying and reinforcing edge areas where neighborhoods and different uses meet. “In 30 years,” predicts Ledewitz, “Pittsburgh should be a far more livable city than today.”

Karen Brean assisted in the writing of this article.

Focus On: Residential Zoning

The need to rewrite existing residential zoning regulations has been a key force in the Urban Zoning Code Project. Current regulations are at odds with the City's historical development patterns, requiring lot sizes and front yard setbacks that are far greater than traditional settlement patterns. The local population is becoming increasingly older, and the average family size is becoming smaller, requiring more flexible housing stock. The existing code contains a large number of residential zoning districts, but the flexibility within each district is very limited.

Pittsburgh's overall character is defined to a great degree by its diverse and unique residential areas. In order to provide a fresh yet realistic approach to residential zoning, the proposed Residential Regulations have been drafted as a series of subdistricts that can be mapped in various combinations to form complete zoning districts. By providing a broader range of potential districts and separating use from physical characteristics, the hope is to give more flexibility and better “fit” than presently exists. —Karen Brean

RESIDENTIAL ZONING MATRIX		DENSITY			
		VL Very Low-Density Minimum Lot Size: 8000 s.f. Minimum Lot Area/Unit: 8000 s.f.	L Low-Density Minimum Lot Size: 5000 s.f. Minimum Lot Area/Unit: 3000 s.f.	M Moderate-Density Minimum Lot Size: 2400 s.f. Minimum Lot Area/Unit: 1800 s.f.	S High-Density Minimum Lot Size: None s.f. Minimum Lot Area/Unit: 450 s.f.
BUILDING TYPE	R1 Single-Unit Detached Residential	 Rosemont, Squirrel Hill ~ 12,000 s.f.	 Meade Street, North Point Breeze ~ 6000 s.f.	 Crucible Street, West End ~ 3500 s.f.	
	R1-T Single-Unit Attached Residential		 Penn Avenue, Lawrenceville ~ 3000 s.f.	 Spring Garden, North Side ~ 2000 s.f.	 Sarah Street, South Side ~ 1200 s.f.
	R3 Two & Three-Unit Residential		 Darlington Road, Squirrel Hill ~ 3500 s.f./unit	 Thomas Blvd., North Point Breeze ~ 2200 s.f./unit	 Sandusky Avenue, North Side ~ 340-675 s.f./unit
	RM Multi-Unit Residential		 Penn Plaza, East Liberty ~ 3000 s.f./unit	 Old Heidelberg Apts., Point Breeze ~ 2300 s.f./unit	 Ellsworth Avenue, Shadyside ~ 232 s.f./unit

Specific problems with the existing residential regulations:

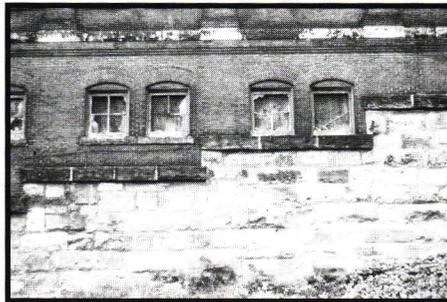
- Densities and standards regulated by the code do not fit the built reality.
- The code requires lot size for a single-family home to be 5,000 square feet, whereas median single-family lot size in the city is 2,400 feet.
- Existing regulations are cumbersome and difficult to understand.
- Townhouses are regulated as multi-family homes, rather than single-family.

Directions and proposed regulations for new residential code:

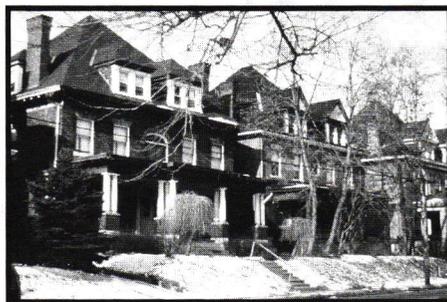
- Create a code that is reflective of the existing housing stock, providing closer fit with current building types and density.
- Preserve residential character of neighborhoods; place controls on surface parking, prohibit commercial parking in residential zones.
- Clarify regulations; facilitate enforcement with clearer standards; address operational impacts of multi-unit housing.
- Recognize housing typologies specific to Pittsburgh's neighborhoods; create an appropriate district for townhouses (treated as single-family dwellings).

A Sense of Place

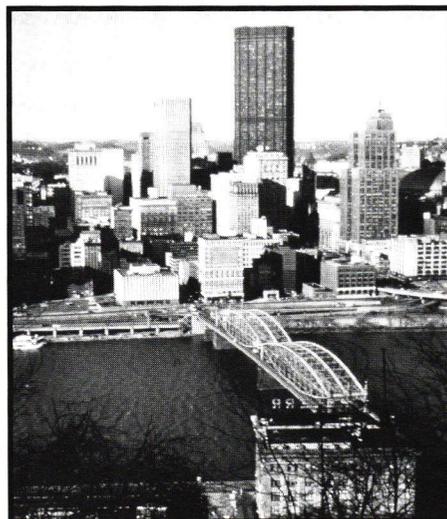
Steve Quick, AIA and Stefani Ledewitz, AIA prepared several of nearly a dozen discussion papers used in the redefining of Pittsburgh's zoning code to tackle urban design issues. They organized a caucus group that identified five distinct Pittsburgh characteristics. These are the qualities that give the city a distinct "sense of place" and hence, should be preserved: earthbound nature, physiography, historic legacy, Golden Triangle, and neighborhoods. The following photographs illustrate these identifying characteristics. 🏠



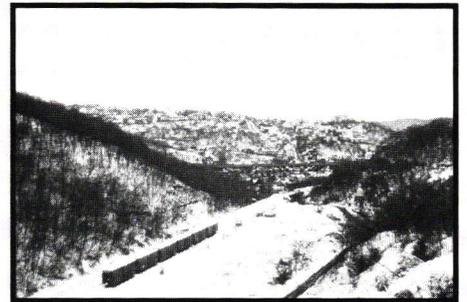
Earthbound nature: Pittsburgh has been built *into* the landscape rather than on it; city vistas are often bounded by tree-covered hillsides. Many of the materials used to physically build Pittsburgh are indigenous to the region—steel, coal, glass, aluminum.



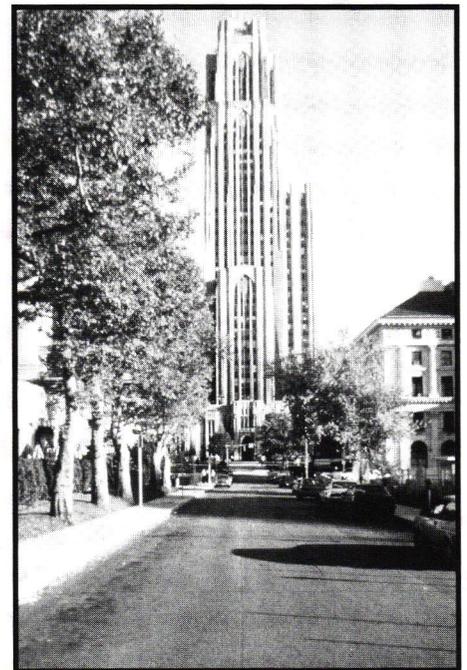
Neighborhoods: Pittsburgh's distinctive fabric and strong neighborhood identity are key to what makes the city unique.



Golden Triangle: The downtown area is a landmark, a dominant physical reality that serves as an orientation point for the whole city.



Physiography: Development in Pittsburgh, like most river valleys, is near the water and along hillsides, not on the plane from which the river valley was carved. Roads generally follow valleys. With topography like Pittsburgh's, tall buildings are not meant to be on top of hills, says Quick, but rather in the valleys, like the Golden Triangle. "It's important to let the land come through," he explains.



Historic legacy: Industrial as well as cultural buildings, parks, and historic monuments need to be preserved to strengthen a sense of place.

Learning Green

A Course on Sustainable Design and Development in Your Own Backyard

The Pittsburgh AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) would like to construct a Continued Learning Unit (CLU) on Sustainable Design and Development. It is important to reflect the diverse and interdisciplinary nature of sustainable design and development to make this course a success. Consequently, the COTE is interested in opening the process of creating and accrediting the course to the design community and others with an interest in sustainability in the Pittsburgh region.

The course is tentatively being framed around sustainability as it relates to region, community, site, green building and operation and maintenance aspects of sustainable development. The AIA COTE extends an invitation to anyone interested in participating in this endeavor, regardless of their background or professional affiliation. Please send all suggestions regarding course content, schedules, format, or topic interest to Bob Kobet, AIA, c/o Pittsburgh COTE, 211 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; or phone the AIA office at: 471-9458, or fax: 471-9501.

Call for Entries: Architecture in Perspective 11

The Eleventh Annual Exhibition of Architectural Illustration is the world's foremost architectural drawing competition, sponsored by the American Society of Architectural Perspectivists. There are two categories of entry: Informal Sketches and Formal Presentation Drawings. Awards will be presented for best artwork in each of the two categories, as well as individual juror awards. The High Ferriss Memorial Prize, the highest honor for an architectural drawing, will be awarded to work showing superior achievement. Submissions should be 35mm slides of original work that represents proposed architecture, in any media and at any size. Drawings of wholly extant (topographical) architecture will not be accepted. Chosen entries will be in a one year traveling exhibition that will premiere in Boston.

Entrants may obtain an entry form and more information from: American Society of Architectural Perspectivists (SAP), 52 Broad Street, Boston, MA 02109-4301; or call (617)951-1433 ext. 225 or (617)542-1021. All entries must be received no later than January 12, 1996.

Rotch Traveling Scholarship Available

The Rotch Traveling Scholarship is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the United States. A stipend of \$30,000 is awarded to the winner of a two-stage design competition for eight months of travel throughout the world. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen under 35 years old as of March 15, 1996 and must meet one of these requirements:

1. A degree from an accredited school of architecture plus one year in a Massachusetts architecture firm.
2. A degree from an accredited Massachusetts school of architecture plus one year in any U.S. architecture firm.
3. Applicants receiving a certificate from the Boston Architectural Center before the degree-granting program will need four years in an architectural office.

A detailed statement of eligibility requirements, a history of the scholarship and a 1996 schedule will be sent with the application form. Requests for applications must be made in writing and received no later than Monday, January 1, 1996, at the following address: Rotch Traveling Scholarship, 52 Broad Street, 4th floor, Boston, MA 02109.

Corrections

■ We extend our sincerest apology to Mark McCormick, AIA for incorrectly listing his firm's name in last month's Design Awards issue of *Columns*. The correct firm name is: McCormick Architects, Designers & Builders, Inc.

■ Also, the architects for the WYEP radio station project were the "deMODs," a collaboration which included Karen Loysen, AIA, Kevin Gannon, Peter Kreuthmeier, Jeff Davis, AIA, and Michael Kokayko. Davis + Gannon Architecture were the architects of record.

Zoning Zeitgeist by Michelle Fanzo

A multimedia prototype makes zoning user-friendly, even (gasp!) fun.

Instead of flipping through pages of legal text, users view setback and landscaping regulations displayed on the actual streets to which they apply.

Imagine this. In city and municipal planning offices, libraries and living rooms across the nation, designers, planners and just plain folk sit, transfixed, in front of their computers. They're playing what looks like a computer game incorporating a city landscape as part of the basic screen image. Tapping thoughtfully, their button pushing and mouse clicking adds a sidewalk here, some trees there, deletes a decrepit store front to be replaced by an item selected from an accompanying menu.

Is this an ideal Christmas gift for all your urban planning friends? Not quite, rather it is a description of a new, user-friendly zoning tool that makes codes and land-use regulations easier to understand and use for everyone. The goal of the computer program, called the Visual Interactive Code (VIC), translates existing regulations into a visually-based, community-specific format. The result is that anyone with access to a basic personal computer can pop in the program—which is made site-specific to each area that uses it—and access information at his or her own pace with accompanying visuals to illustrate what effects the code or ordinance has on the landscape. Instead of flipping through pages of legal text, users can view setback and landscaping regulations displayed on the actual streets to which they apply.

VIC was developed by a research team of landscape architects at Penn State University and is currently being tested in Findlay Township, a few miles west of Pittsburgh. The research team, led by assistant professor Kelleann Foster, ASLA, used computer games as part of its research and utilized basic commercially available software, such as Photoshop and Microsoft Word, to make VIC compatible with most computer systems. Communities supply the regulations, and often the images that are scanned into the program, and the project team provides a data base to link all the digital pieces. A do-it-yourself handbook for communities is being devised for use across the U.S.

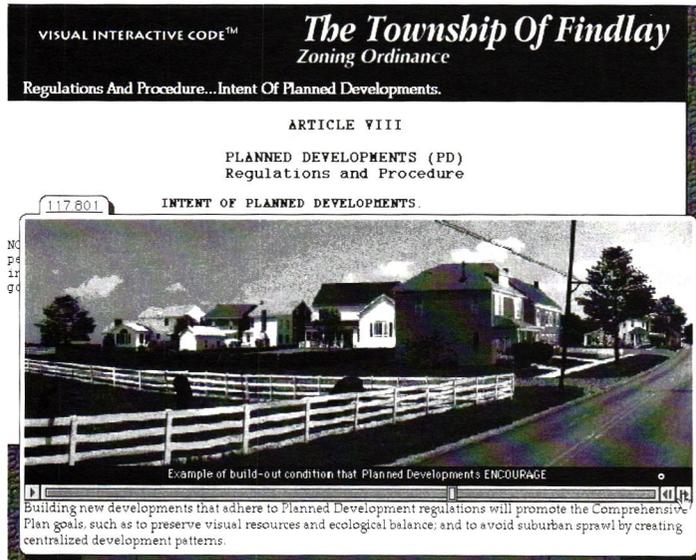
The straightforward, interactive quality of the software allows more people to understand and participate in the zon-

ing and development process than ever before. Foster developed VIC after seeing a multimedia map of the Appalachian Trail completed by a Penn State colleague, Timothy Johnson, ASLA, in 1993. For many years prior to that she had researched the inaccessibility of zoning regulations, and as a landscape architect, had found herself personally frustrated by codes and regulations that, she felt, acted as a barrier to community development.

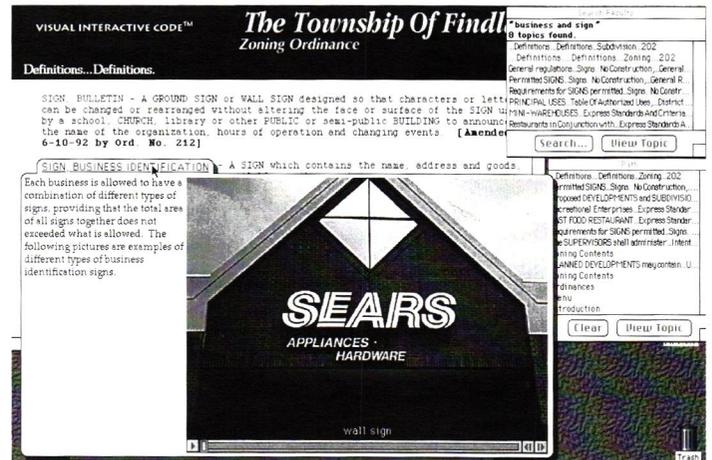
The dense legal writing found in thick zoning ordinance books only made matters worse, she says. "Zoning really determines a three-dimensional landscape. But it has been presented in a non-descriptive two-dimensional format. Most people don't understand the spatial and experiential implications of zoning text. An acre *sounds* good to those who want to preserve the rural character of their community, but the reality is it's not nearly enough space."

Additionally, Foster feels the interactive approach addresses a public concern that building is a "done deal" between politicians and contractors, and that residents have little input. "There is a lot of distrust of the planning process," says Foster. "Often, communities end up with something that they didn't want, that changes the character of where people live, and residents become disinterested, frustrated." VIC allows, even encourages, people in the community to get involved by making the software accessible for home, public library, or ultimately Internet, use. Residents are encouraged to take the photographs that customize the program—they even receive photo credits. "It's one way people can take part in the process," says Foster.

Once in visual format, communities, developers and local officials can review plans, cross-check, and compare regulations more quickly. "A lot less time is wasted," says Foster. "The program really functions as an economic development tool. Developers can find their way through local regulations faster and can get feedback on their proposals earlier." She also believes VIC levels the playing field for municipal officials as it provides them a degree of



The VIC enables a community to include illustrated commentary that further explains a land-use regulation. Red-colored words provide the clue that commentary is available. Selection of those words reveals a pop-up window that includes text, pictures, video with sound or a photo-realistic simulation, as shown here.



There are several ways in which information can be accessed in the Visual Interactive Code. Shown are windows displaying "Search" results and "Path," which lists all previous screen views, allowing immediate return to any past location. The ordinances' defined words can be further explained through illustrated commentary in pop-up windows.

sophistication often possessed only by lawyers and those who work for developers.

VIC has also produced some unexpected benefits. The program's search capability has inadvertently enabled users to find all occurrences of a certain topic or keyword within the code, revealing contradictions between separate entries that would have taken hours to find—if the reader knew what he or she was looking for.

The first area in the country to be mapped by VIC and used by citizens is Findlay Township, a semi-rural community home to the new Pittsburgh International Airport. Anticipating that more than half its available land will be covered with commercial and industrial development in the next few years, Findlay wanted to establish a growth plan that would preserve the characteristics of the existing landscape. After completing its work (by late December) in

Findlay, the project team plans to repeat the process in other communities. Their goal is to develop a universal framework that will allow any community to use VIC without having to hire anyone. A long range goal is to produce VIC on CD-ROMs. Instead of handing out heavy zoning books, cities, in the future, could offer CD-ROMs. The team—Foster; Johnson; software developer Matt Graham, ASLA; project manager with the Allegheny Planning Department and landscape architect Roy Kraynyk; land-use attorney Christopher Duerksen; and planning consultant Cheryl Towers—expects to do presentations in the Pittsburgh area in late December or early January.

For more information, contact Kelleann Foster at Penn State, (814)863-8137, or in the Pittsburgh area, Matt Graham of Earthware, (412)563-1920. 

ZONING

It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Zing

by Cheryl R. Towers

My husband and I were driving north on I-79 with another couple recently when we passed a huge sign proudly proclaiming "No Zoning" on a parcel of land which was for sale. We shuddered at the thought, but I have to admit some sympathy for the frustration that arises from plodding through convoluted, antiquated codes which give all zoning a bad name.

Unfortunately, codes are often the tail wagging the dog—a series of regulations that have been patched together over the years, encompassing each era's idea of what is desirable (or at least what is desirable in the minds of those drafting and passing the code). Often, the code conflicts with itself thanks to this evolution.

We need to approach zoning in this region by putting the dog back in charge of the tail. What do we want to be and how do we get there? Zoning is one of the tools that we possess to achieve the vision we have of ourselves as a community. So when my friends wax uneasy over the merits of zoning, I ask them, "what is your vision of the kind of community that you want to live in?" That is the heart of zoning, or any other community planning tool.

How do we sell the importance of community vision—the zing? Most importantly, we educate people as to the difference between growth and development. Evidence is available from all over the country demonstrating that growth and development are not the same thing, and that growth is not always good. Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute tells a wonderful story to that point. A child grows and develops from birth. Growth is circumscribed, though. There is an ideal size range for that child at every stage of its life. If the child is larger or smaller than this range, it is usually symptomatic that something is wrong. On the other hand, this same child will develop throughout its life with no end to its ability for refinement and improvement.

Communities also have optimal sizes, determined by factors such as site, geographic features, location, and natural resources. Like the child, development can take many forms, whatever the size. But the community must proactively define a vision for itself, or forces which may or may not be acting in its best interest will prevail. People must be brought into the process who are outside the realm of municipal officials, designers, planners, and developers—residents and civic community groups for instance. Comprehensive plans, strategic plans, and zoning are merely maps and tools to get to where we want to go. But a community must know where it wants to go first. And if we don't have a vision in mind, we all know that any road will get us there.

None of this is new, of course. Many examples exist across the country. Cities such as Chattanooga, with a withering industrial heritage much like Pittsburgh's, and Seattle are models for community visioning and implementation. But what about here in western Pennsylvania with our 130 municipalities in Allegheny County? Is it hopeless? The Three Rivers Parkway Project, to cite one example, is a vision for the transportation corridor between Pittsburgh International Airport and Downtown Pittsburgh that offers a solution for what is often thought of as a typical regional pattern of parochialism and non-intergovernmental cooperation.

The goal of the project is to encourage quality development and enhance and preserve the natural landscape of the Parkway West corridor. The corridor passes through ten communities: the City of Pittsburgh, Greentree, Carnegie, Scott, Rosslyn Farms, Robinson, Collier, North Fayette, Moon and Findlay. Through leadership from the Allegheny City Planning Department and the Allegheny West Authority, model standards were developed which each community has been encouraged to adopt (five have

We need to approach zoning in this region by putting the dog back in charge of the tail.

done so to date). In addition, almost \$1 million in private funds and in-kind contributions have been raised and numerous volunteers have assisted in enhancement projects—which are beautifying the interchanges while providing important environmental safeguards, such as erosion control and wind and noise buffers. The Parkway Project is long-term, but those involved have sustained interest because of the power of an important and easy to articulate common vision.

In the long run, the project will do more than preserve and enhance the environment. It will also help to level the playing field so that adjacent communities aren't competing for the same projects, lower development costs by providing uniform regulations, and attract better projects.

The bottom line, however, is that zoning, while very important to this endeavor, is merely a tool. The tool can only be useful if it is used to implement what the community wants. And most communities, if their residents really think about it, want more of that zing than they are currently getting. 🏠

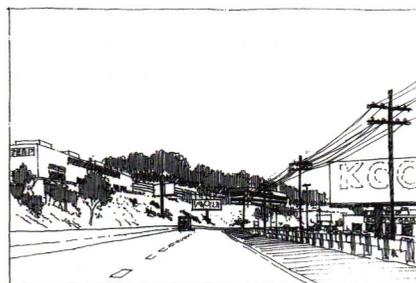
Cheryl R. Towers consults with communities, agencies and organizations on developing sustainable visions and goals. She is currently working with the Allegheny County Planning Department and with the Allegheny West Authority on the Three Rivers Parkway Project, and with Penn State University's Department of Landscape Architecture on the Visual Interactive Code project. She is also a partner in the consulting firm of Mizerak Towers and Associates, Inc. in Pittsburgh.

THE THREE RIVERS PARKWAY PROJECT

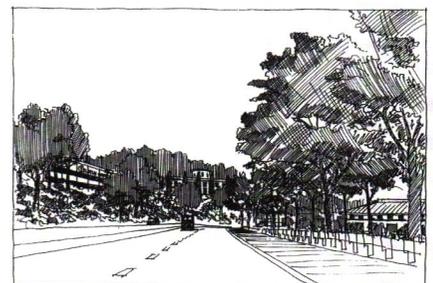
The Three Rivers Parkway Project won Scenic America's 1995 Stafford Award for its vision, its work to reach consensus with ten communities, and its inventive use of public-private collaboration to implement the vision. The project also won the 1994 Pennsylvania Environmental Council-Duquesne Light Three Rivers Environmental Award.



The view from the road of this undeveloped section of the Parkway includes privately-owned land that can be developed.



The same section would lose its character if developed under existing development regulations as evidenced by other sections of the Parkway.



Recommended zoning and design standards can accommodate development and preserve the character of the Parkway.

Once community residents have a vision, they can use visual images to improve their understanding of municipality regulations in the form of an important new zoning tool. VIC—short for Visual Interactive Code—is a software product in development under the aegis of Penn State University's Landscape Architecture Department. The result is “user friendly” zoning. (See article page 10.)

Kudos

► **John Eberhard, FAIA**, has been named Director of Discovery for the American Architecture Foundation (AAF), in Washington, DC, a related corporation of the AIA. In this newly created position, John will "discover," through literature, interviews and systematic observations, instances in which the built environment has influenced and enriched and/or elevated the human experience. The public, clients and building owners and professionals (not just architects) engaged in the process of designing the built environment will be the audience. At age 69, this will be John's ninth career, and one to which he is looking forward as he and his wife Lois move to Alexandria, Virginia.

Six projects by **Perkins Eastman Architects PC** of New York and Pittsburgh recently won more than a dozen Design Awards. Among the many awards are: Phase One of Fox Way Commons, an affordable housing complex on Pittsburgh's South Side, received Design Awards from the Pittsburgh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania chapters of the AIA, and The American Institute of Architectural Research, in association with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aged, selected Copper Ridge and Menorah Heights (Squirrel Hill) for publication in the *Design For Aging: 1996 Review*.

Transitions

► Perkins Eastman Architects PC is proud to announce the promotion of **Stefani Ledewitz, AIA** and **Steve Quick, AIA** to senior associates. Their promotion reflects "the exceptional leadership, skill and energy they have provided while building the office to 25 people since its founding one year ago," said Bradford Perkins, FAIA, AICP, president of the firm.

From the firms

► **Robert J. Miles, AIA** has joined **Celli-Flynn and Associates**. Bob, with more than 25 years experience as a principal, architectural project manager and designer, is the project architect for the Pattee Wing of the Pattee Library at Penn State.

Gardner + Pope Architects is pleased to announce the addition of Christina A. Hannon as interior designer to the firm. Christina earned her degree in Graphic Design from LaRoche College and completed the Specialized Technology, Interior Design program at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

The Hayes Design Group – Architects has been selected for the renovations to the Canonsburg Borough Building. The scope of work for the project will include a new roof, HVAC system, front facade renovation, and interior alterations to the administrative offices. Construction of another of the firms' projects, the Orr's Jewelers Building on Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill, was recently finished.

Hayes Large Architects announces the appointment of **Grace U. Oh, AIA**, H. Diane Marlett, Thomas G. Reed, Kenneth E. Witmer, and **James R. Schmidt, AIA**, as new associates.

Poli & Cuteri Architects announces that **Ronald B. Deal, Jr., AIA**, has been hired as their project manager. Ronald is a native of Tennessee and was employed with Earl Swensson Associates in Nashville before joining the Pittsburgh firm.

In addition, Mark Pierson has joined **Poli & Cuteri** as an intern architect. Mark received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Auburn University.

Radlet McCarthy Architects welcomes new staff members to its office: David J. Wells is a native of Pittsburgh and a recent graduate of Kent State University. While at Kent State he served on the Student Chapter - AIA. Also new to the staff is **Marc J. Mondor, AIA**, a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, most recently with Sheehan-Holler Architects. Marc is a member of the AIA Committee on the Environment.

Rothschild Architects is pleased to announce **Tony Albrecht, AIA** has joined the firm as project architect. Tony is a graduate of Oberlin College and Columbia University and is a registered architect.

James L. Speck has joined **Suzan Lami Architects** as project manager. Jim's 11 years of varied experience in architecture in New Jersey are being put to good use on his current projects: a restaurant addition to the Pittsburgh International Airport, a private corporate conference center, a sunglass shop in Dallas, Mark's Hallmark in South Hill's Village, and several residential renovations.

Business Briefs

► **Structural Engineering Corporation** announces the formation of SEC Geotech, Inc., offering geotechnical engineering consultation services and the solid foundation of the SEC name. Call 434-6000 for more information.

News

► The designation of Alpha Terrace as a city historic district was made official in October. Alpha Terrace—located in the 700 block of North Beatty Street near Stanton and Highland avenues—is a neighborhood of 25 monumental greystone townhouses built in the late 1800s. Thirteen Romanesque structures with castle-like towers and turrets face 12 delicate Queen Anne facades.

New construction contracts will advance 4 percent in 1996 to \$311.1 billion, forecasts the Construction Information Group of the McGraw-Hill Companies. On balance, this year's outlook expects slightly stronger growth in construction contracting for next year, in keeping with a maturing cyclical expansion. The rate of increase should pick up to 4% from the 1% estimated for 1995, but still lag behind the gains registered during the first three years of this recovery.

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Membership Committee *Frank McCurdy, AIA, 394-7000*

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes three new members:

Dennis A. Roth, P.E. Professional Affiliate, has practiced since the early '70s building a solid reputation and expanding the services of Structural Engineering Corporation. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dennis holds a Masters of Science in Structural Engineering and earned his BA at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dennis has designed and/or supervised the design of more than 3,000 projects with an estimated construction value of over \$3 billion. His work has garnered numerous professional awards and presents a diversity of projects, including hospital and health care facilities, parking garages, office buildings, historic structures, recreational and educational facilities. When he's not designing structures, he and his wife Debbie enjoy sailing and exploring the islands in the Caribbean.

Jeffrey D. Turconi, Professional Affiliate, of Turner Construction Company attended Penn State for his undergraduate studies in Architectural Engineering and received his Masters from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994. Jef-

frey has served as project manager on such jobs as the Federal Home Loan Bank Renovation, the Penguins Practice Facility at Southpointe, and the addition of balconies and luxury boxes at the Civic Arena.

When he's not spending time with his wife, Carla, and 18-month old daughter Marie, Jeffrey enjoys playing golf, softball, and a few rounds of home improvements. He is interested in joining the Interiors Committee.

Walter J. Janosky, Professional Affiliate, from 3S CAD Systems is the Technical Sales Manager for a company which specializes in software and hardware systems for architects and designers using computer aided designs for drafting and drawing. Walter is a graduate of Western Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, Penn State. His previous experience includes working extensively for PPG Industries, where he developed new fiberglass products. Walter has two children, Karen (46) and James (43). His interests include golfing, fishing, and traveling. He is also interested in joining the Education/Professional Development Committee.



ROTH



JANOSKY

*If you are a new member, please submit your new member questionnaire included in your membership packet, to **Frank McCurdy, AIA**, Chair, Membership Committee, so we can feature you in an up-coming Columns magazine. Be sure to enclose a picture!*

Thanks!



AIA Pittsburgh would like to extend a tremendous thanks to the following sponsors who made the 1995 Design Awards possible:

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Architecture on the Block

The Second Annual Architecture on the Block fundraising auction, sponsored by Architrave, will be held Friday, December 1 at the AIA Office and Gallery,

211 Ninth Street from 6 to 8:30 pm. Proceeds help fulfill the organization's mission: the promotion of quality architecture, urban planning, and community development in southwestern Pennsylvania. Architrave sponsors scholarships, an architecture lecture series, and "Our Town," an architecture lecture series for elementary school children. Guests may bid on furniture, drawings, architectural services, odd relics, old books, signed sketches, toys and much more. Cost is \$25. This fee will include admission and refreshments. Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard) will be accepted for admission and the purchase of auction items. For further information, please call John Martine, AIA, at 227-6100.

Clayton's Victorian Christmas

Clayton, the restored home of Henry Clay Frick, opened for the holiday season November 30, outfitted for Christmas in the true Victorian tradition. Plenty of evergreen boughs and poinsettias complement the 12-foot Christmas tree decorated with period ornaments. The table in the formal dining room is elegantly appointed for a holiday meal with china and crystal and an elaborate seasonal centerpiece.

Holiday at Clayton will be on view to the public through January 7, 1996. Tours are available Tuesday - Friday, with extended holiday hours from 10 am - 8 pm, Saturdays, 10 am - 5:30 pm, and Sundays from noon to 6 pm. Reservation must be made in advance by phoning, (412) 371-0606.

AIA ACTIVITIES

December 1, Friday

The Second Annual Architecture on the Block fundraising auction, sponsored by Architrave, will be held Friday, December 1 at the AIA Office and Gallery, 211 Ninth Street, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., \$25.00 per person, call John Martine, AIA, 227-6100.

December 5, Tuesday

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

December 5, Tuesday

Legislative Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m. at the Chapter office, Jim Sheehan, AIA, 682-6008.

December 6, Wednesday

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Building Industry Center, conference room #1, 2270 Noblestown Road, Kay Lamison, 922-4750.

December 8, Friday

Communications Committee Meeting, 12 noon at the Chapter office, Anne Swager, 471-9548.

December 11, Monday

The December **Chapter meeting** is the President's Party!, 5:30 p.m. at Penn Brewery, 800 Vinial Street, Pittsburgh, \$20 per person, 471-9548.

1 C 9 A 9 L 5 E N D A R

December 13, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting/Intern Development Committee, noon at the Chapter office, Carl Freedman, AIA, 281-6568.

December 14, Thursday

Committee on the Environment, 5:00 p.m. at the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 231-1500.

December 14, Thursday

Programs/Exhibits Committee, 5:00 p.m. at the Chapter office, Kevin Silson, AIA, 261-1500.

December 18, Monday

Architrave Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m. at the Chapter office, John Martine, 227-6100.

December 18, Monday

Urban Design Committee Meeting, 5:45 p.m. at the Chapter office, Kevin Wagstaff, AIA, 391-2884.

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Design Awards Exhibit, in the AIA gallery.

Diversityworks

A one-of-a-kind company links minority and women-owned businesses with the building industry.

Even as affirmative action comes under scrutiny at the federal and state levels, the goal of diversity in the contracting practices will remain.

There it is, another RFP staring you in the face. The deadline is, of course, just around the corner. You need to pull together the approach to the project, the scope of services, the relevant experience, and, one more thing, the minority and women-owned business participation plan. How can you effectively and efficiently add diversity to your project team? A new, one-of-a-kind business in Pittsburgh helps architecture and other building industry related firms meet minority/women-owned business (M/WBE) goals.

Diversityworks, launched in April of this year, was created to bridge the gap between architectural and engineering firms, owners, and contractors interested in identifying qualified M/WBE firms, and the firms themselves, which are typically small businesses with limited marketplace visibility. The company represents clients providing goods and services to the built environment from the design phase through post-construction. Currently, Diversityworks has contracts with several engineering firms, specialty consultants, suppliers and contractors. By spring, the company expects to have 15 firms on board, with approximately half of them being design phase sub-consultants. Diversityworks also offers consulting services in the area of M/WBE participation plan development.

Diversityworks is itself a woman-owned business. Susan Faigen, president and founder, says her two decades of marketing experience helped her to recognize the need for such a business. Faigen spent the past five years handling marketing and business development for two major Pittsburgh architecture firms, and "after seeing an increasing number of RFPs cross my desk asking for the firm's M/WBE participation plan—and not really having one—I started to think that there might be a need in the marketplace for a value-added 'matchmaking' service."

Even as affirmative action comes under scrutiny at the federal and state levels, the goal of diversity in contracting practices will remain, predicts Faigen. "It is strongly supported by many private sector corporations and institutions, and is a key component to public/private development projects at the local level." Based on her belief that the need for the services of Diversityworks is broad-based and here to stay, Faigen will begin developing expansion plans beyond the Pittsburgh market during 1996.

Diversityworks can be reached at (412) 381-4910.—M.F.

Bernard J. Liff, FAIA



Bernard J. Liff, FAIA, 1995 winner of AIA Pittsburgh's Honor Award for contributions to the profession.

Firm: retired from active practice in 1982.

Family info: wife, Betty; son, Fredric; granddaughter, Molly.

Years in practice: 37, in own firms.

School/education: B.Arch., 1935; Carnegie Institute of Technology.

First job: National Park Service, in Virginia.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? LaJolla, California because of its climate and ocean location.

What is the most annoying thing architects do? Compete for projects.

Advice to young architects: At the beginning of your career, work for a small office so that you become involved in almost every phase of the profession.

Your favorite building: St. Mark's Square and the enclosing structures in Venice which, despite its large size, projects a feeling of intimacy. The entire square was designed for use at all times, unlike many squares in this country. There is a progressive movement of people from building to building and through the interior of the square because the entire entity is so well tied together.

Your favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Point Breeze because of its many pleasant streets and its proximity to the wooded trails of Frick Park, the civic and medical centers, shopping areas, transportation, and traffic arteries leading to all parts of the city.

Best gift to give an architect: A perfect client.

Wish list for Pittsburgh/Downtown: The conversion of existing vacant and partially occupied commercial and office buildings to residential use (using procedures that comply with the building codes, contrary to other suggestions), and a viable transportation system from all sections of the metropolitan area, with Downtown as the hub.

People would be surprised to know that: I am still living in the house I designed and built 40 years ago.

I belong to the AIA because: even though I am retired, I want to keep abreast of the profession and help where feasible.

Contractors' Directory

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F.J. Busse Co., Inc. 1575 Noblestown Road, P.O. Box 8540, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 921-1231 Contact: John Paul Busse	●			●	●		●	●		●	
DiCicco Contracting Corporation 1005 Beaver Grade Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108 262-3540 Contact: Samuel E. DiCicco	●	●		●	●		●	●		●	
Flynn Construction, Inc. 610 Ross Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 243-2483 Contact: Jan McCoy	●	●		●	●			●		●	
General Industries 15 Arentzen Blvd., Charleroi, PA 15022 483-1600 Contact: Donald Ivill	●			●	●		●	●		●	
Kacin, Inc. 795-22 Pine Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239 327-2225 Contact: Jeffrey D. Ferris	●	●			●		●	●		●	●
Kusevich Contracting 3 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 95042, Pittsburgh, PA 15223 782-2112 Contact: George Kusevich Jr.	●	●			●		●	●		●	
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RCF Engineers, Inc. Two Gateway Center, 13 East, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 281-7706 Contact: Mark S. Wolfgang, PE, Pres.					●	●			●			
SE Technologies, Inc. 98 Vanadium Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017 221-1100 Contact: Phillip J. Damiani	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Structural Engineering Corp. 300 Sixth Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 338-9000 Contact: Dennis A. Roth, P.E.										●		
Widmer Engineering, Inc. 806 Lincoln Place, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 847-1696 Contact: Joseph H. Widmer, P.E.			●		●		●	●		●		●

To include your firm in the Engineers' or Contractors' Directory call Tom Lavelle at 882-3410.

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Upcoming Issues

The following is a preview of the feature articles in upcoming issues of *Columns*. We encourage all firms to submit projects for our portfolio issues, or call if you think you have something to contribute to a topic. We encourage members to write articles and call with story ideas. When submitting photographs please submit a self-addressed stamped envelope for their return, and write firm and project name on back of drawings or photographs. The deadline for submission is always five weeks prior to publication date.

January/February—Winter Getaways 2 parts: winter places designed by members (submit photos and short write-up) AND members' favorite winter getaway places (submit photo when possible, or description about why you like the place).

March—Are architects different? Do architects do things differently than other people? Are their hobbies related to their profession? Do they problem-solve differently? We welcome personal essay or article-style submissions on this topic.

April—Environmental Design Charrette

May—Interviews with recent architecture graduates

A near complete list of *Columns* themes for 1996 has been faxed to each member firm. Keep an eye out for it!

Don't miss the AIA Pittsburgh
President's Party

Monday, December 11

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