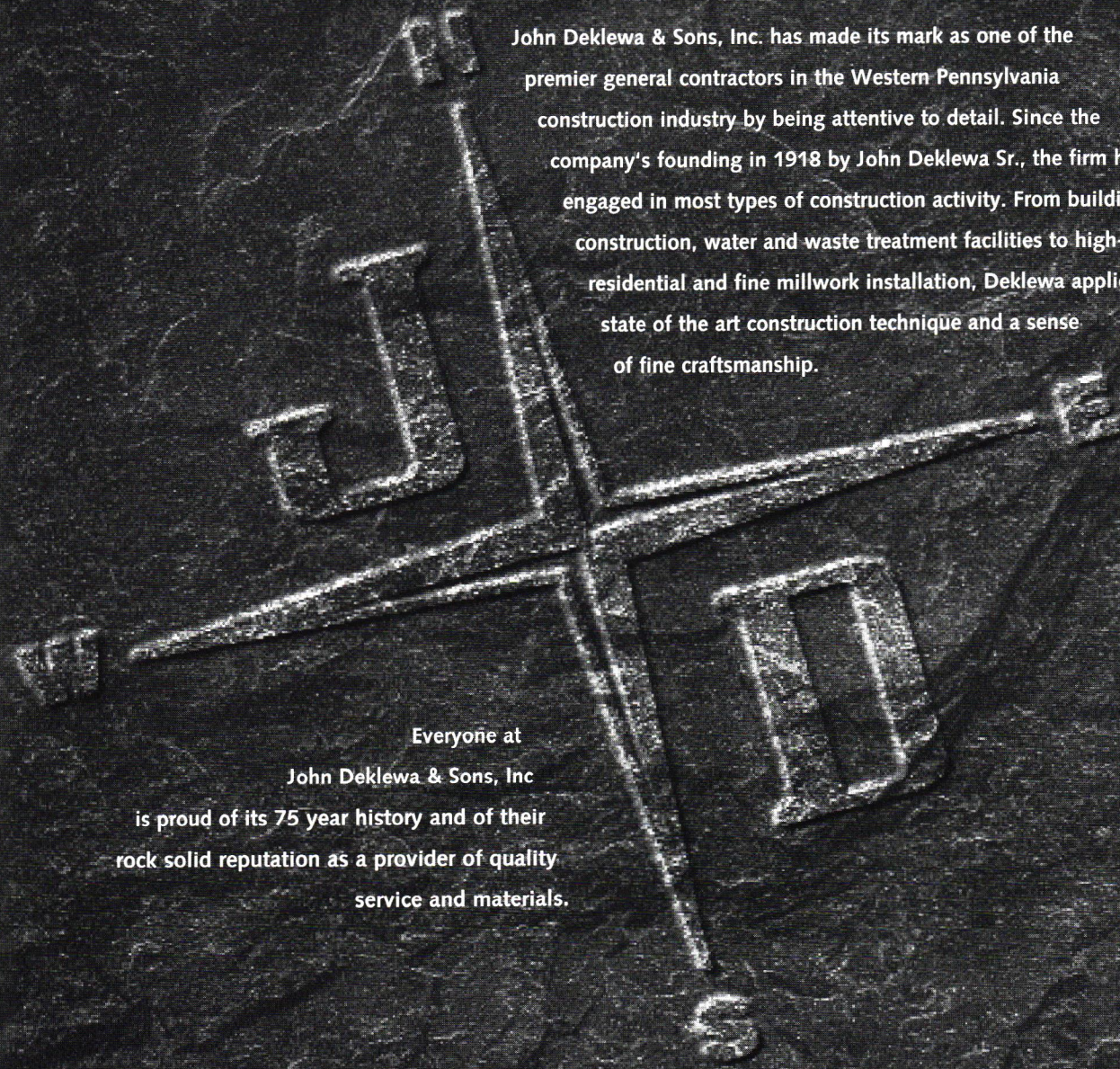


C O L U M N S



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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Cycles of Living

by Michelle Fanzo, Editor



This month, COLUMNS builds its theme around inside and outside spaces, looking at both natural beauty and the appeal of well-designed interior spaces.

Finally warmer weather has returned to Pittsburgh.

The smell of fresh cut grass, the visual delight of a cornucopia of tulips, iris and spring roses, and the desire to simply be outside blankets the city. This month, *Columns* builds its theme around inside and outside spaces, looking at both natural beauty and the appeal of well-designed interior spaces.

As of May, there is a new day trip for Pittsburgh residents who want to visit one of the region's best examples of combining nature and the man-made. The long inaccessible Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home, Kentuck Knob, has recently been opened to the public. The U-shaped 1956 house lies eight miles from Wright's more well-known Fallingwater.

In celebration of the season and the opening of Kentuck Knob, *Columns* decided to expand its annual Interiors Portfolio to include outside spaces as well—reflecting Wright's interest in bringing the outside inside and vice versa. Starting on page 8 we bring you a number of inside and outside spaces created by our members, ranging from a Japanese Garden in Squirrel Hill to a new approach to the traditional drug store in Upper St. Clair. In addition, we asked a number of members and

Pittsburgh people who work in a field related to architecture to identify their favorite space in the city. The responses are varied and sometimes thought-provoking, such as the sanctuary discovered by one architect in a city parking garage.

Buildings have often been studied in space but a recent book studies buildings in time. Robert Bailey, AIA offers readers his view on *How Buildings Learn*, a far-ranging survey of how buildings can improve with time, if they are allowed to. Additionally, Dennis McFadden, Director of the Heinz Architectural Center, provides readers with his insights on, and a recap of, James Wines's recent speech at the Hornbostel Lecture in April.

Looking forward to next month, a number of members have recently chosen to open their own practices and we will be asking them and others to share their experiences with *Columns* readers. How do you strike out on your own? What must you have in your new office? Where did you find advice? What would you do differently? Any member who would like to share their trials and successes as an independent architect give us a call. See you all next month, but in the meantime, get outside and enjoy the weather. ☀

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While James Wines makes a strong case for greater integration between architecture and the environment, some of his other ideas elude such natural conclusions.

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While organic architecture—often linked with Frank Lloyd Wright—has gained increased recognition in journals and classrooms, nature has long influenced how people live.

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On the cover: The 15th floor of the old Porter Building on Grant Street has become a dynamic reception area in Burt Hill's renovation for Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. Photo by Hedrich Blessing Photography.