

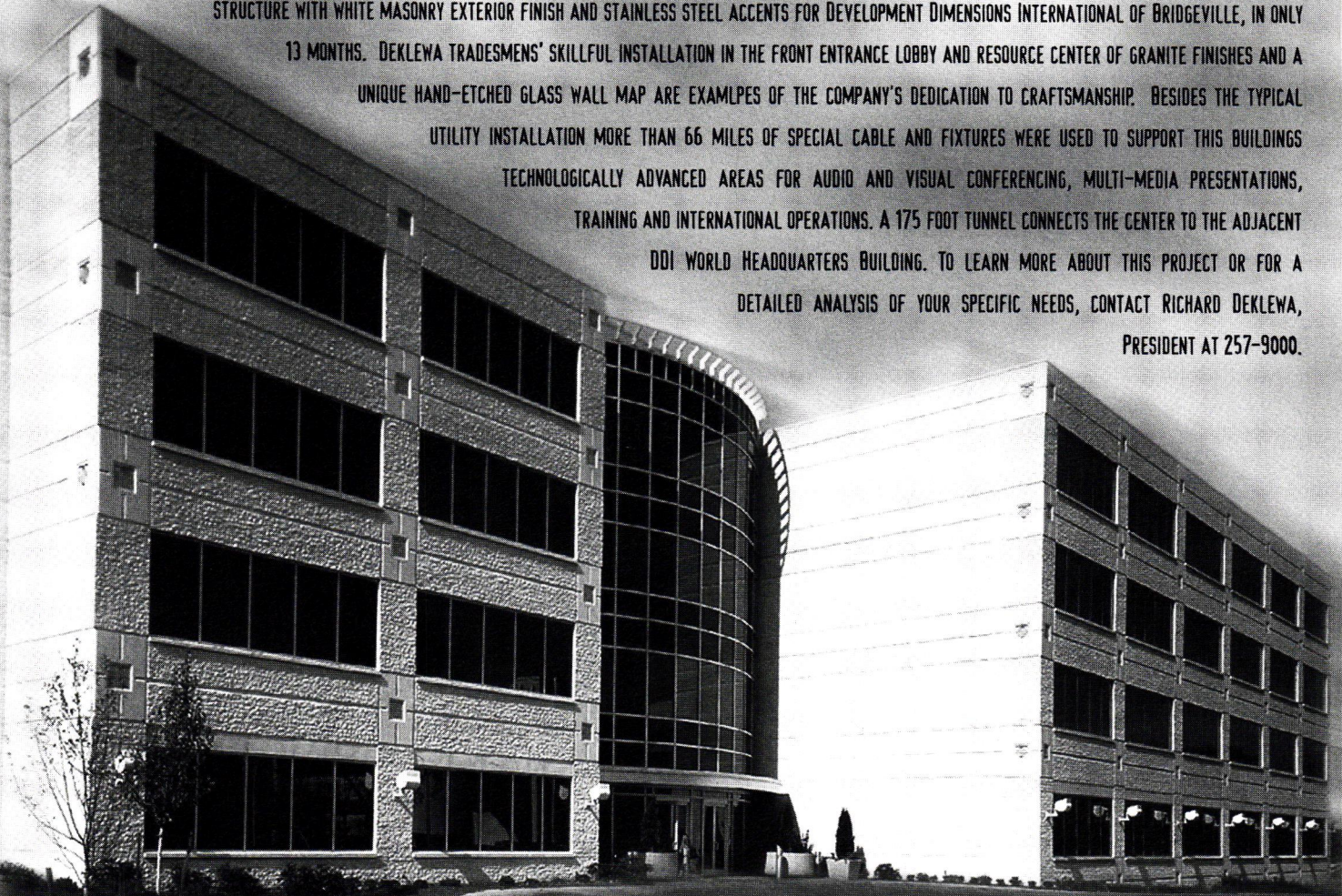
C O L U M N S





DEKLEWA DEVELOPS A NEW DIMENSION

THE RECENT COMPLETION BY JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC. OF THE NEW CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY SIGNALS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIRM'S LONG HISTORY OF PROJECTS FOR HIGH PROFILE CLIENTS. DEKLEWA CONTRACTORS ERECTED THIS "STATE OF THE ART" FOUR STORY STEEL FRAME STRUCTURE WITH WHITE MASONRY EXTERIOR FINISH AND STAINLESS STEEL ACCENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT DIMENSIONS INTERNATIONAL OF BRIDGEVILLE, IN ONLY 13 MONTHS. DEKLEWA TRADESMEN'S SKILLFUL INSTALLATION IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE LOBBY AND RESOURCE CENTER OF GRANITE FINISHES AND A UNIQUE HAND-ETCHED GLASS WALL MAP ARE EXAMPLES OF THE COMPANY'S DEDICATION TO CRAFTSMANSHIP. BESIDES THE TYPICAL UTILITY INSTALLATION MORE THAN 66 MILES OF SPECIAL CABLE AND FIXTURES WERE USED TO SUPPORT THIS BUILDING'S TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AREAS FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL CONFERENCING, MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATIONS, TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. A 175 FOOT TUNNEL CONNECTS THE CENTER TO THE ADJACENT DDI WORLD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT OR FOR A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS, CONTACT RICHARD DEKLEWA, PRESIDENT AT 257-9000.



JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.

1273 Washington Pike • P.O. Box 158 • Bridgeville, PA 15017 • (412) 257-9000

GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Who's Gonna Live Here?

by Michelle Fanzo, Editor



As more young professionals make living choices based on quality of life, rather than proximity to a particular job, our cities have an opportunity for renewal in offering urban amenities that the suburbs cannot duplicate.

This month *Columns* begins a four part series

exploring the vision and context for current building and renovation projects in and around Pittsburgh. The placement of a new baseball stadium, apartments on the North Shore, and the downtown Lazarus department store are but a few of the initiatives and projects currently underway. *Columns*, with the assistance of a number of AIA Pittsburgh's members, will train a spotlight on downtown, neighborhood and regional development over the next three months.

We start this series by looking at Pittsburgh's future through the lens of New Urbanism. New Urbanism is often associated with baby-boom architects and their vision for neotraditional suburban projects, like Andres Duany and Elizabeth Platter-Zyberk's Seaside, Florida development, or Disney's Celebration. Recently, however, the New Urbanists have expanded their vision to include reinvesting in America's aging cities.

New Urbanist architects like Peter Calthorpe, Elizabeth Moule, Dan Solomon, and locally UDA Architects, speak of reweaving the urban fabric by focusing on citizen participation and neighborhoods as the essential unit of development. This includes increasing residential density, reconfiguring zoning laws to allow more mixed-use, and facilities, like food stores, within walking distances of where people live. How, if at all, do these principles work in Pittsburgh? Is it a new idea? Are we looking backwards to go forwards? Is that bad? Do current plans for Pittsburgh embrace any of these ideas? Are we planning for a sustainable city? What does that mean? These and other questions will be explored further on page 6.

One aspect of a sustainable future that is often not discussed in architectural terms, is the need to have people to live and work in the new structures envisioned by New Urbanists, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the mayor and architects. Without forward-thinking decisions now, the Pittsburgh region is in danger of losing a critical number of its population, both to aging and attrition of its young people. Who will fill the empty homes or start the new businesses needed for the region to remain viable?

When discussing visions and design principles for a sustainable city, it must be remembered that the client is not just the client of today, but the client of tomorrow as well. The built and natural environments need to appeal to people who will be making decisions of where to buy their first house in the next ten years, as well as to people buying today. As more young professionals make living choices based on quality of life, rather than proximity to a particular job, our cities have an opportunity for renewal in offering urban amenities that suburbs cannot duplicate. Where are the home office trends, collaborative work environments, and technological innovations leading how we live and work? I encourage architects, planners and others who want a say in the future of Pittsburgh to read the following four issues of *Columns* and consider where the city and region are headed. Ask yourself if it is a vision that is appealing to you. Then ask if it is a vision appealing to the next generation as well. 🏠

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New Urbanism rejects the car-oriented, impersonal designs of the post-war era and turns back to human-scale streets, porches, stoops and mixed-use buildings of the pre-war era to reweave our frayed urban fabric. *Columns* begins its four-part series on development by exploring what potential this movement could have on Pittsburgh, and on our built environment in general.

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The current dialogue on rebuilding stronger community life is an opportunity for architects to have a prominent voice in land use and urban policy decisions.

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On the cover: Projects such as UDA Architects' Crawford Square pictured here, embrace New Urbanism principles of pre-war neighborhood design in an effort to revitalize our cities.