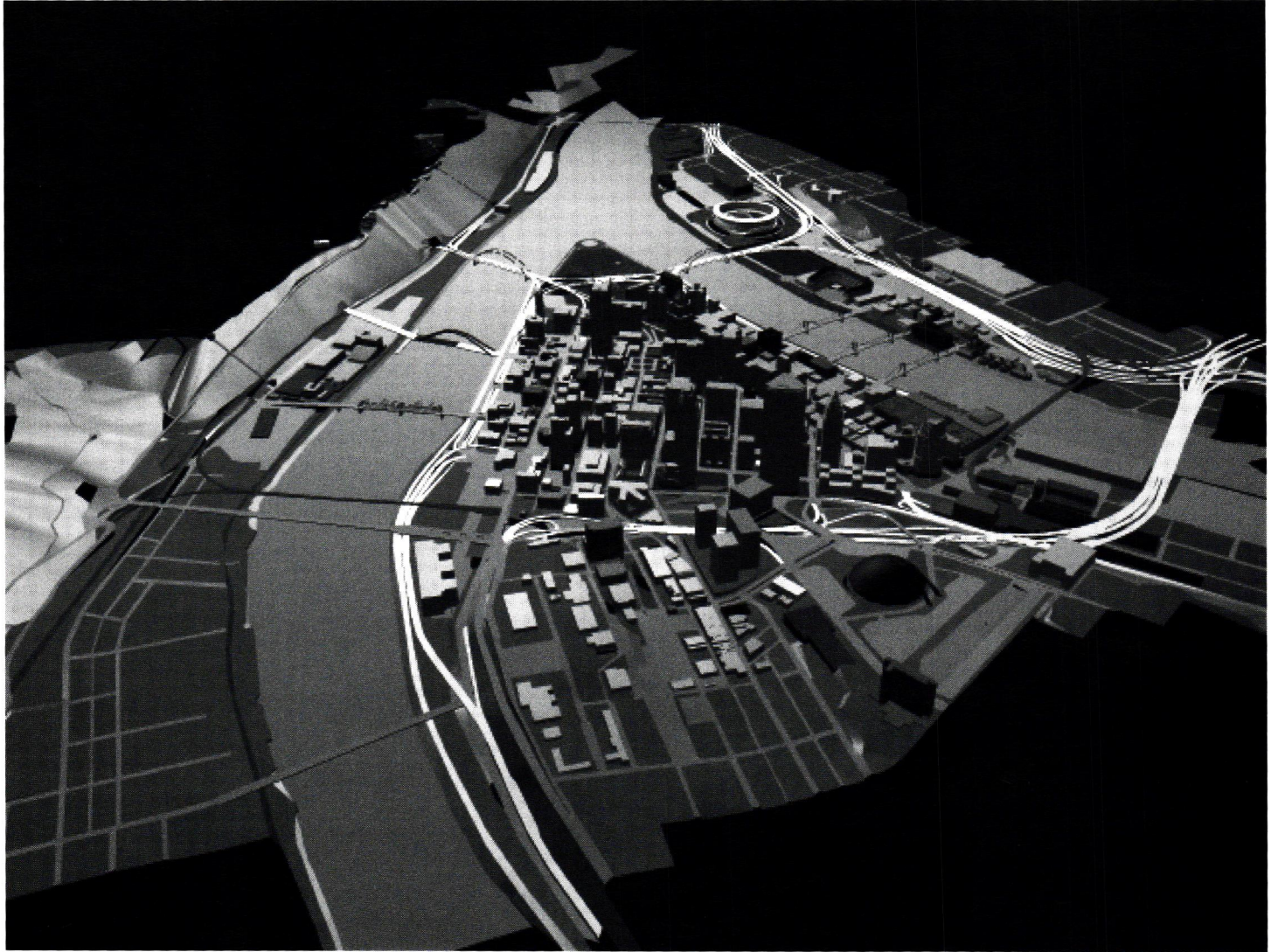


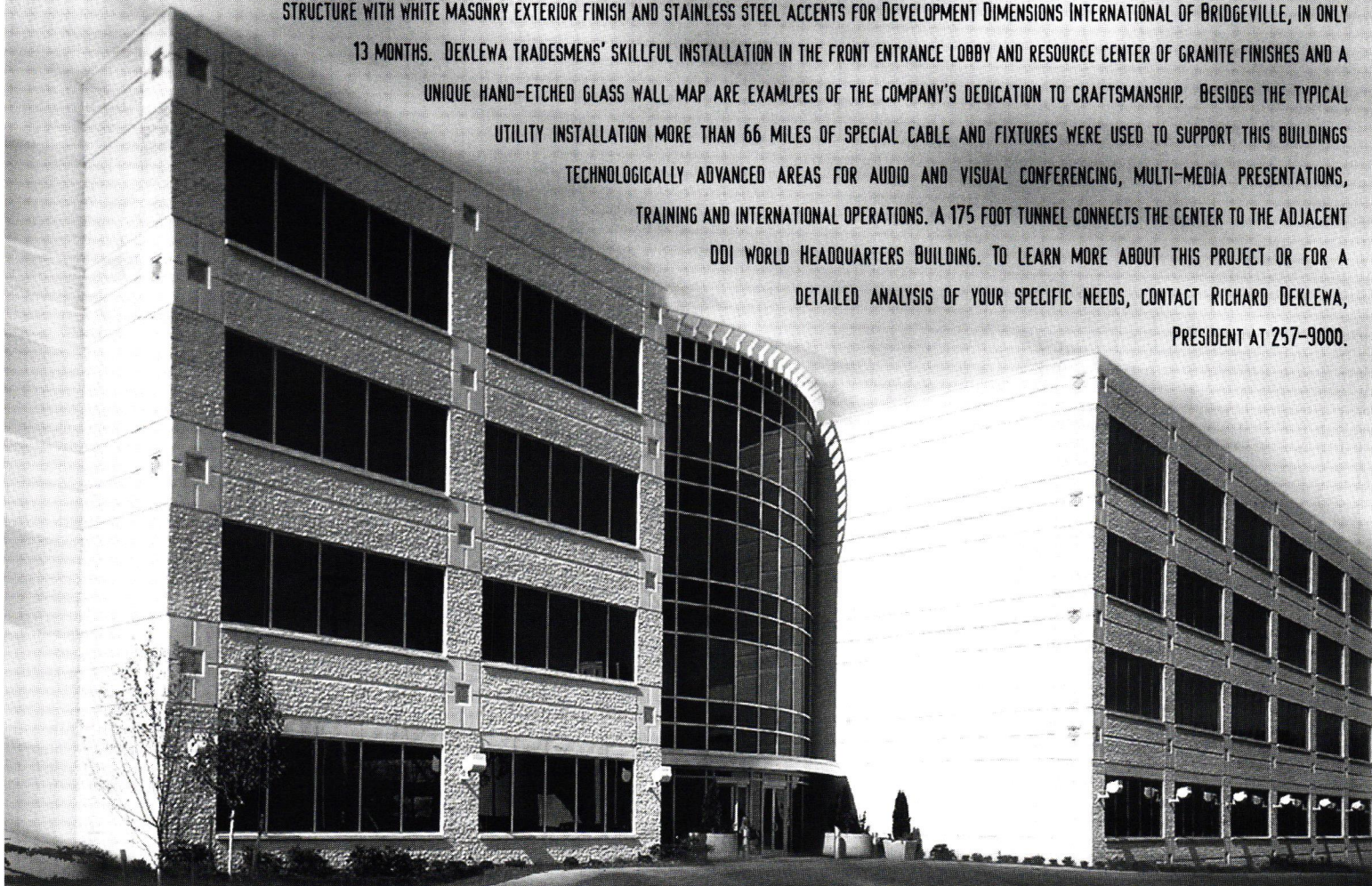
C O L U M N S





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 EXAMPLPES 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 BUILDINGS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AREAS FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL CONFERCING, 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.



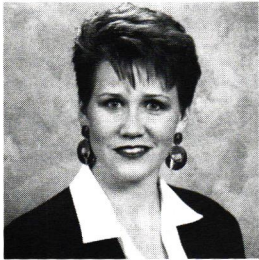
JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

What's It Worth?

by Maura Guttman, Immediate Past President, AIA



Simply put, there's no reason for panic, or to consider dropping your AIA membership. Any activity for which you can state a "learning objective" qualifies as continuing education.

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On the cover: Part two of our four-part series on Pittsburgh Development focuses on what's up and what's down in downtown. Illustration by John Decker, Associate AIA.

For those of you who read your magazines

back to front (as I do), and you've just finished an hour cuddled up with *Columns* (don't we all?), I think you'll be pleased to know that you've just earned one AIA Learning Unit (LU) to apply towards the 36 you'll need this year to maintain membership in the Institute.

Early in December, hundreds of members of AIA Pittsburgh received a letter from AIA President Skipper Post, FAIA. His intent was to remind us that accrual of continuing education credits has been set by us, the members, as a condition of membership. (Judging from the number of phone calls we got after this letter arrived, he scared you but good!) Not only is continuing education a membership requirement, but several states (Florida, Alabama and Iowa) have imposed this requirement for maintaining licensure. As there are eleven other states with similar legislation pending (including Ohio and New Jersey), you begin to view the AIA CES program as a benefit of membership rather than a burden. If and when Pennsylvania might impose such a mandate, we will be tapped into a readily available source of educational opportunities, and already be in the habit of tracking our learning activities.

The actual acquisition of these Learning Units is easy. I've always heard that architecture is "an old man's profession," meaning that every project involves new skills, and that the entire career of an architect is one long learning process. The daily activities of research, reading professional journals, keeping up with relevant legislation, attending box lunch presentations by sales reps, and mastering new computer applications are all painless opportunities for gathering credits. Other sources for gaining LUs are the more formal seminars and classes for which you may pay a fee, but which will also earn you more LUs per hour. The tricky part is keeping track of the LUs and sending them to National to be recorded. Included in this issue of *Columns* is a copy of the Self-Report form that must be filled out for each learning effort. Make copies of it, and get in the routine of recording your self-directed education.

The most frequent question related to the AIA's Continuing Education System is "How do I know how many units this activity is worth?" According to Carl Freedman, AIA, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, determining this is easy too. On the back of the Self-Report form is a series of questions to help you evaluate the Quality Level (QL) of your learning experience. Essentially, passive learning (reading, listening) will earn one LU per hour, while interactive learning (group discussion, college classes) earns two or even three LUs per hour, depending on the activity.

Carl also reminds us that 12 out of the annual 36 required LUs must be in the category of Health, Safety and Welfare. Loosely defined, this would be anything covered as a topic on a licensure exam (structural, mechanical/electrical/plumbing, contracts, codes, etc.)

Simply put, there's no reason for panic, or to consider dropping your AIA membership. Any activity for which you can state a "learning objective" qualifies as continuing education. You can meet these obligations all on your own, or take advantage of some of the programming offered by our chapter for you professional development. Last year the chapter committees offered several seminars and activities worth four to six LUs each, for an average cost of \$5 per LU. Additionally, the thousands of hours of volunteer time needed to operate AIA Pittsburgh will earn LUs for those individuals who are gaining organizational and leadership skills while generously donating their free time to their professional association.

Speaking of which, as I put a lid on this terrific year as president of the chapter, I reflected on all the accomplishments of the organization, and the personal enrichment the position has offered me. Now that I have conquered this pinnacle and know more than I ever wanted to know about the inner workings of the AIA, I am left with only one burning question: how many Learning Units was this worth? 🏠