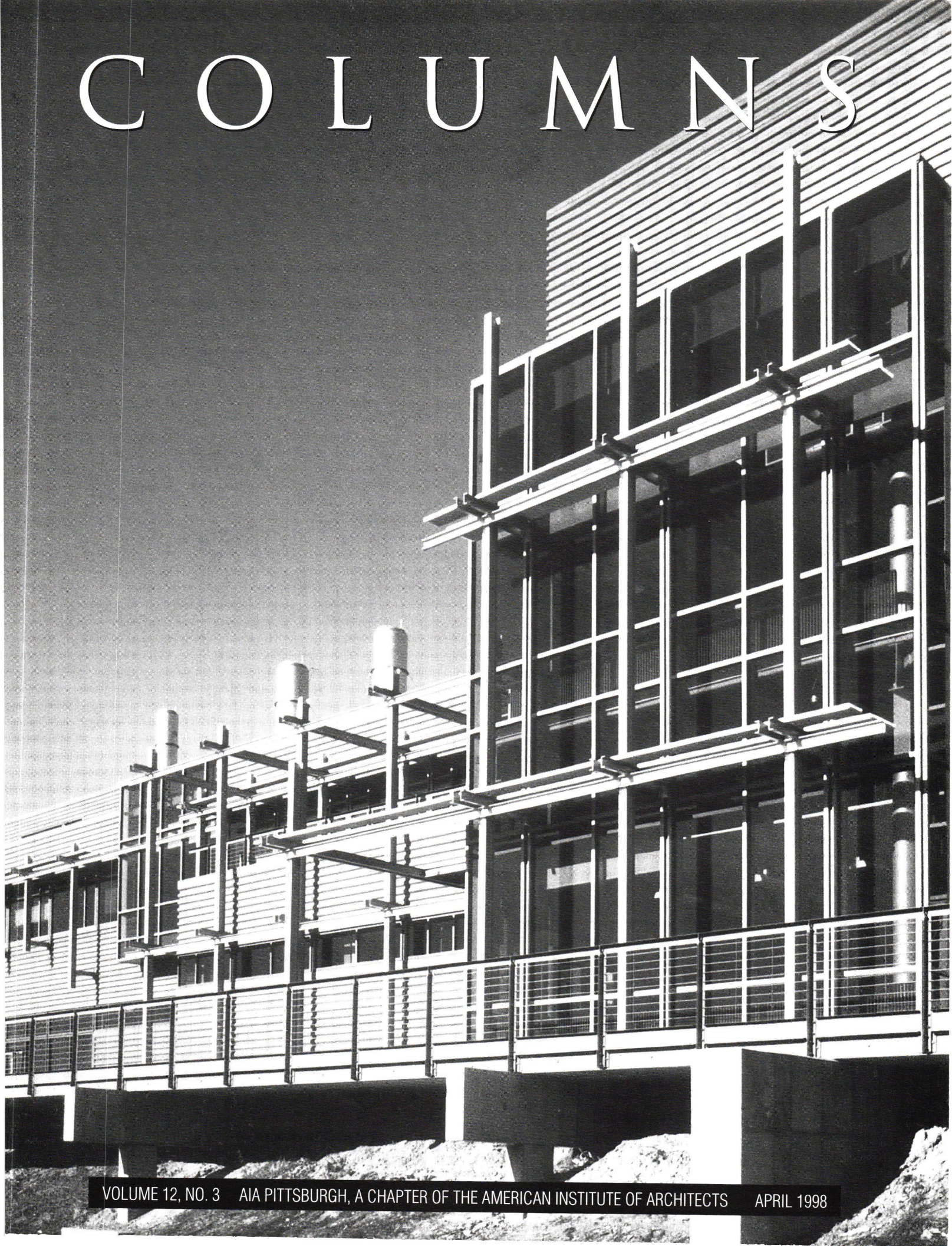


C O L U M N S



VOLUME 12, NO. 3 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS APRIL 1998

Your clients depend on you to be knowledgeable of materials and techniques while still providing professional design expertise. You can depend on John Deklewa and Sons, Inc., for quality workmanship and professional management on all your construction projects.

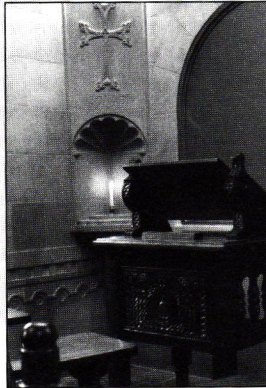
No area general contractor is better known or more respected than John Deklewa and Sons.



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

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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.

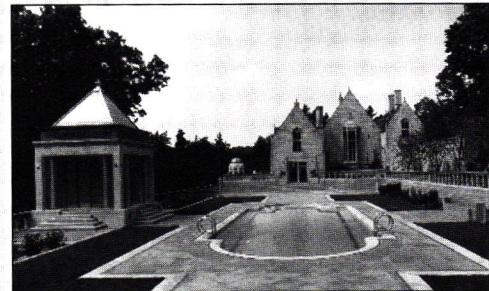


The Armenian room located on the third floor of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh is the 22nd nationality room to be established at the university. The stone arched room copies the masonry techniques of church and monastery builders of the 11th century. This magnificent classroom 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.



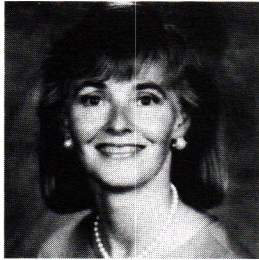
"Elm Court", a 9-acre private estate located north of Pittsburgh, involves unique additions and renovations. For example, the pool above is heated and has an ozone purification system. The deep blue water is surrounded by a granite surface edged in limestone. The pool is lined with hand made ceramic 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.

JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Laissez Les Bons Temps Roulez by Cheryl R. Towers



Good citizenship and enlightened self interest are two darned good reasons to go to the polls.

“May you live in interesting times” is my

favorite curse, Chinese or otherwise. Mind you, I don't have anything to complain about personally. I've got a great family, nice home, way too much good food, friends, fun activities, interesting work, terrific colleagues, on and on. But things around us are changing, and change is always...well, interesting. In Allegheny County, we're faced with a referendum in May that if passed will radically alter the face of local government. All indications are that we can only expect things to get better with passage. Call me cynical, but humans can always find a way to make a muck of things given proper time and incentive. Still, there is something comforting about the thought that we could be governed under a structure that doesn't guarantee a mess - we would at least have to earn it.

Tip O'Neill operated under the proven maxim that “all politics are local”. Given that, this is not just an interesting but a vital time for all of us. It's popular sport to make Washington the bogey-man, but the reality is that we are far more affected on a day to day basis by what happens on Grant Street than we are by what happens in Washington. The effects of federal decision making fall squarely into the category of “trickle down” — they may bite us and bite us hard, but we usually don't feel it until long after the perpetrators have moved on to other things. Raise our property taxes, though, and the effect is felt like a paper cut.

All of this is to urge you to take time to go to the polls on May 19. The article beginning on page 12 describes the changes that will result from the proposed home rule charter, and tells you how to access more information if you want it. It also points out the impact that the new charter will potentially have on architects. Good citizenship and enlightened self interest are two darned good reason to go to the polls.

Other things are changing in our world, and we bring some of those to you this month. The third article in our design hub series looks at what's missing from the region as a design center, and what the opportunities are to fill in the gaps. We update you on AIA's Continuing Education System, with special attention paid to the 36 LU's now required annually to maintain AIA membership. And finally, partly for fun and partly because it's an important trend, we take a look at the principles of Feng Shui as they have been applied to a local residence.

It seems almost nonsensical to wish everyone renewed vigor now that spring is upon us, since winter hardly bothered to stop in these parts this year. Nonetheless, spring *is* here, and we should all take the time to enjoy it. After all, we do live in interesting times! 🏠

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AIA PITTSBURGH'S NEW TOLL FREE NUMBER IS: 1-888-308-9099.

On the cover: Aristech Polypropylene Technical Center. Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. Contractor: NADCO Construction. Photo by Karl Backus.