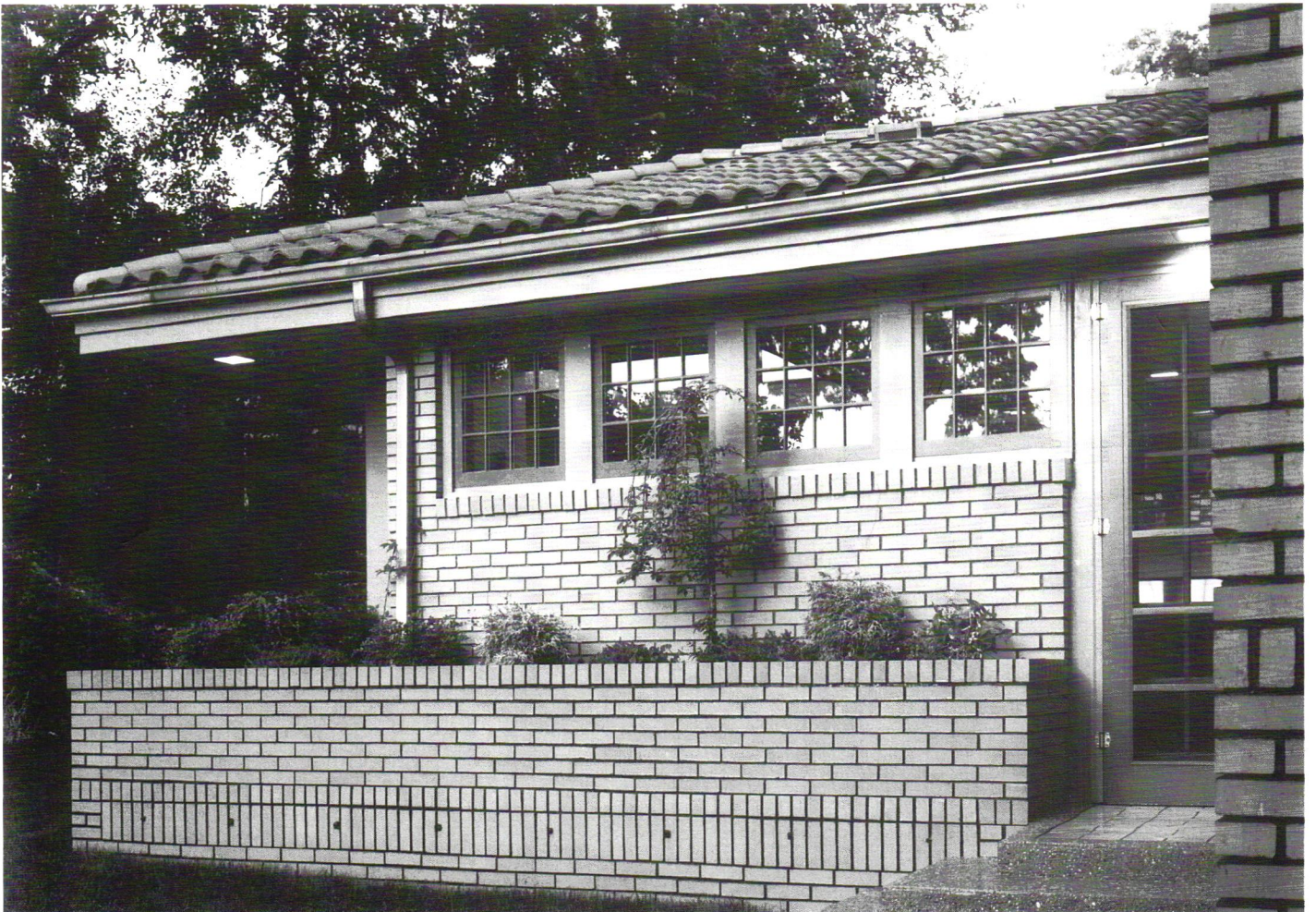


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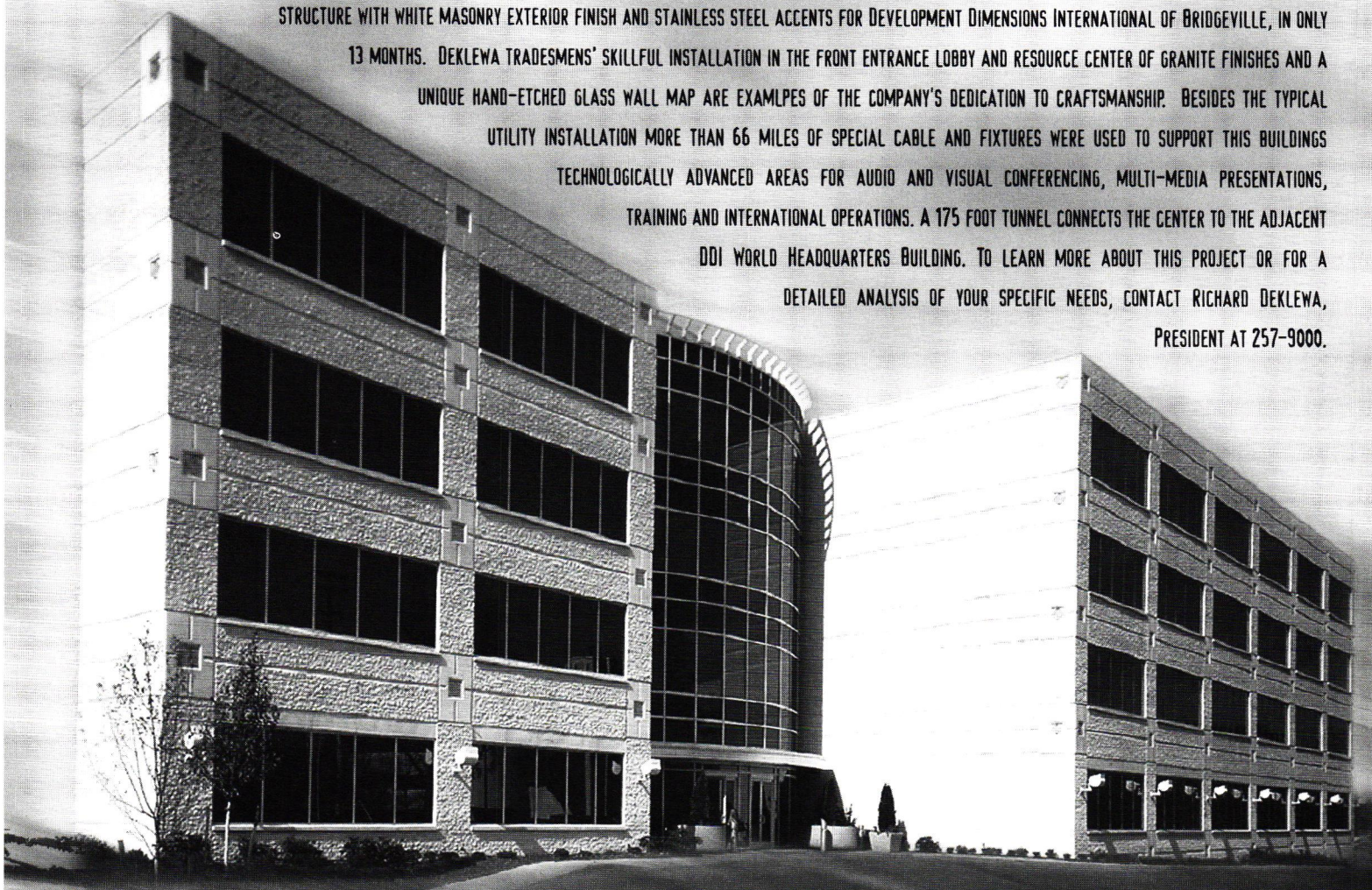


Special Issue
Residential Architecture Portfolio



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 CONFERRING, 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.



Project Architect: Johnson/Schmidt & Associates

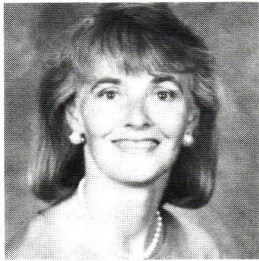
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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

A House Becomes A Home

by Cheryl R. Towers



Whatever your situation, an architect will give you the widest range of choices within your budget.

Congratulations! If you're reading this, chances are

that you've made the decision to engage an architect. Rest assured, it will be one of the best decisions that you'll ever make, whether your project is very small or involves the complete construction of your dream house. Architects are problem solvers who know the options available, the latest technology and how to develop cost effective solutions. In addition, an AIA architect's responsibilities continue through construction, giving you peace of mind that your interests are protected by a licensed professional subscribing to a code of ethics.

To me, though, the most important function of an architect is to give us choices. Every home is designed by someone, be it good or bad. That someone may be a builder, a homeowner who just bought the latest version of the Design Your Own Home® CD-ROM, or an architect. The architect's distinguishing characteristic is *design*. Look the word up in the dictionary — designing suggests arranging parts into a pattern, but more importantly, it involves creating and inventing. A builder is limited by his or her knowledge of building, a software program by the options that a programmer has given it. An architect is limited only by imagination and budget. And frankly, imagination is the more important quality since the most challenging design work can take place on small, low budget projects. In the end, design is a great deal more than drawing.

Choices move into a larger context, too. For years, driven by our increasing dependence on the automobile, we have pushed farther and farther outside of the urban core. The American dream came to be defined as a quarter acre in the suburbs, now grown to two acres and 10,000 square feet. For some people, that's still the dream, and an architect will help realize it. For many, though, communities are still the desired location, and that may mean designing a townhouse to fit into a small in-fill space, a renovation of an older home, or an addition onto an existing home. Choices may involve marrying modern conveniences to an older style house without losing the house's character, or making your home more environmentally friendly. It

can involve adapting to the changing needs of family — the addition of children or an elderly parent, perhaps, or turning an empty nest into an adult's playground. Or, maybe you just want to fix a problem area that's been annoying you for the past twenty years!

Whatever your situation, an architect will give you the widest range of choices within your budget.

Using an architect can add considerable value to your home. It will probably mean use of better quality materials and more well integrated solutions, especially in additions and renovations, than if an architect is not involved. Whatever your goals, the architectural product includes a great many things that you *don't* see such as use of "smart" technology and consideration of life cycle (rather than just up front) costs.

Finally, what is your job as a client? Simply put, it's to make an intelligent choice in choosing an architect, to be realistic about your budget, and to give the architect enough information to develop solutions. AIA can help you with all of these things. The Resource Center contains examples of member work, and printed material is available to help you choose and work with an architect. When making your selection, remember that "bedside manner" is important - you should seek an architect whose work is appropriate to your needs and with whom you're comfortable. Communication is essential to a successful partnership. And don't be afraid to cut out pictures of architectural features that you like. The specific item may not be practical, but it gives your architect a sense of who you are and your taste.

AIA Pittsburgh is delighted to bring you this issue. As a trade publication, we mostly talk among ourselves. While that's essential, it is also invigorating for us to have this opportunity to speak directly to you, the client. We hope you will find this portfolio a helpful aid in making a house truly a home.

(Regular features will return in the September issue.)

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Columns breaks its traditional format to offer consumers of residential architectural services a portfolio of member firms' work.

The Better Home 12
A prototype home brings high performance standards to residential design and construction.

On the cover: Addition by Gerald Lee Morosco Architects, P.C. Photo by Massery Photography.

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

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Wanted: 4Bdrms; Rvr Vw by Anne Swager

Four years ago when I was pretty sure

that my now-husband was close to deciding he needed a family and that my already built-in one was a perfect fit for him, I thought about adding on to my house. I live in one of the smallest houses allowed in the great state of Mt. Lebanon. Originally designed by an architect during economic hard times, every square foot is utilized. My house is a great study in how to make the most out of little to no space. Nevertheless, marriage meant we would go from me, two part-time kids and two cats to me, two part-time kids, two cats, a full-time husband and a semi-big dog. While my house was otherwise perfect for me, it lacked entertainment space and there wasn't much room for a husband and a dog. Time to hire an architect.



Thirty years is a long time to pay for something that's poorly done.

I spent at least three months studying my house and thinking about how you could add on to it. I envisioned every possible way. Nothing looked like it would work, but I hate to move. A pack rat at heart, I have more stuff than five families would ever need.

Cleaning it out is a monumental task that's best left to my kids when I'm gone. When you fundamentally like your house and your neighborhood, and you know all the short-cuts to everywhere, who wants to move? Not me. So...I finally hired an AIA architect.

First, we talked. I told him about my family and what we like to do and what we don't like to do. The kids like TV. I tolerate it. I like to cook and entertain, but I hate to clean or, more to the point, I hate to clean things *out*. We needed more storage. The kids are mostly underfoot even though they are teenagers. If you need to see the kids, sit down and look relaxed. They'll be right there. My kids would never use a basement rec room because they hate to think that I might want to do something when I'm out of their sight.

Next, the question of money. How much did we want to spend? Our house is our most valuable possession. While

it's small, it maintains value just by being in a strong, stable community. Everyday, I drive past homes in Mt. Lebanon that I would never buy because of the hideous additions that have been slapped on them in the name of more space. That's precisely why it was so important to me that, if we did put on an addition, it had to be done the best possible way. Thirty years is a long time to pay for something that's poorly done.

I got raised eyebrows from all my friends when I told them that we were going to look at the solution the architect designed and then decide if we could afford it. They thought I had taken leave of my senses when I explained that I wanted to do what was best for the house and if I couldn't afford it, I would move.

We signed a contract, I put some money down and we were off. Within a month, the schematic plans were back. Only one solution was presented. He offered to do more, but true to my request, he thought this was the best solution. I marveled at the genius of it. I'd never thought of adding on the way he did. I put it in front of my husband, the engineer. I was sure he would find fault, but he didn't. The most he could do was talk about adding drainage, but then, he would add drainage to the Sahara desert.

Just as we were getting around to talking to contractors, the inevitable snafu in our plans...a very unexpected child was on her way. Two years later, we've seen more houses than we ever wanted to see. We've searched high and low for a house with an extra bedroom that fit all of our criteria including a manageable mortgage which seems to be the sticking point. We still like our house which is really crowded now. Henry sleeps on the couch most nights rather than sleep in the same room with his baby sister who likes to remind everyone how cute she is in the middle of the night. We're torn over how much we really need an extra bedroom. After all, Betsy is in college. The architect thinks he has a new scheme with a place to tuck a small bedroom or maybe even another bathroom....

It's starting to sound better than a new house.

