

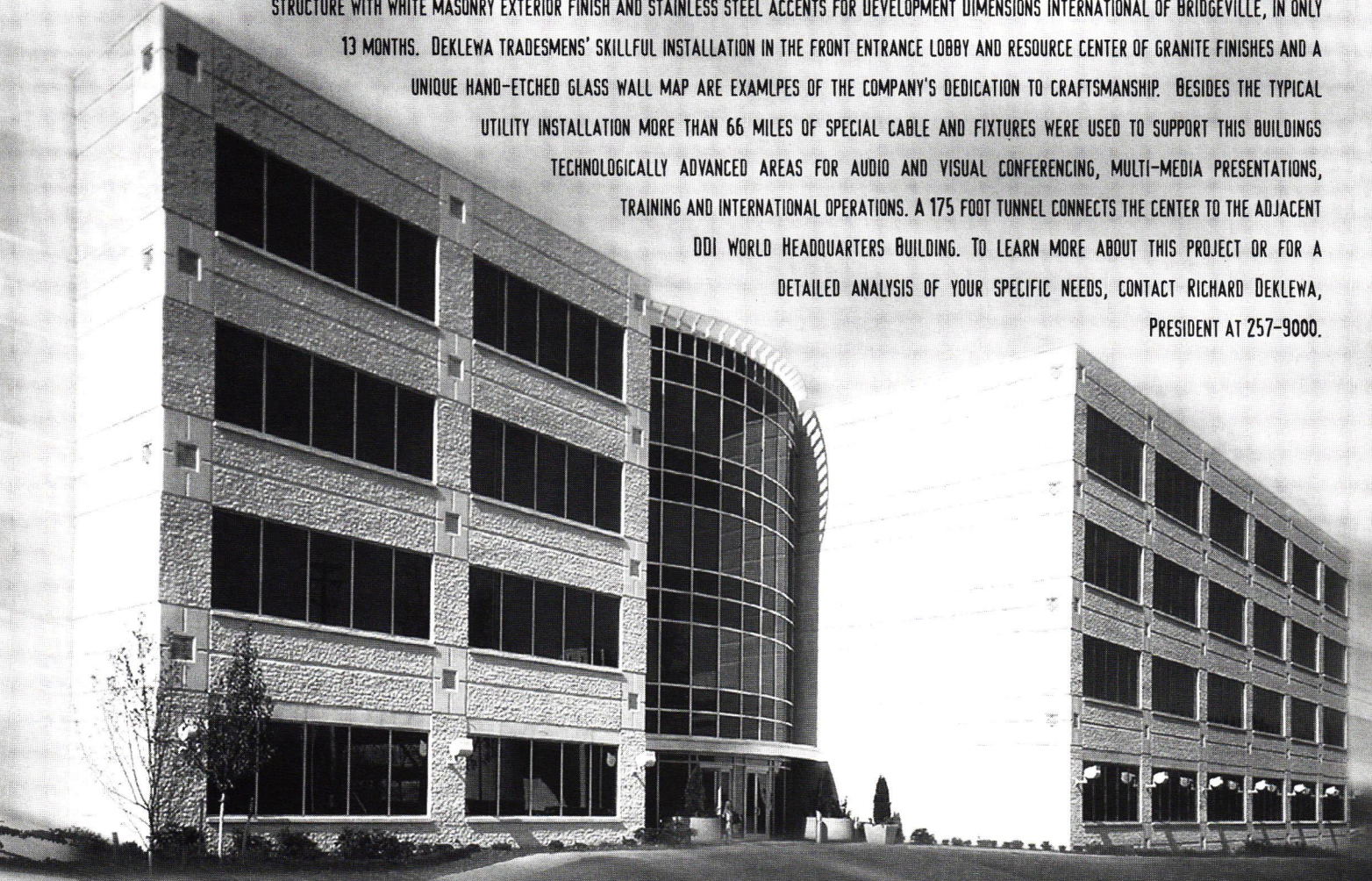
C O L U M N S





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 EXAMPLS 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 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.



Project Architect: Johnson/Schmidt & Associates

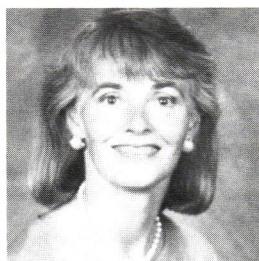
JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.

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

GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Everything That's Old Is New Again

by Cheryl R. Towers



Who would have thought that a new generation would discover Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, martinis, cigars and ballroom dancing?

My mother used to tell me never to

throw away anything in my closet — wait long enough, and whatever it is, it will become fashionable again. I wouldn't have believed that platform shoes and tie dye would work their way back into our fashion consciousness, but here we are. It takes a new generation to risk life and limb — or at least ankle — to go where many have gone before. Who would have thought that a new generation would discover Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, martinis, cigars and ballroom dancing?

The same thing happens in the design world, of course. The AT&T Building with its Chippendale top gave us a hint of things to come. It also happens with materials. In the drive for high performance and meeting technological needs, we've often created as many problems as we've solved, thereby causing us to re-visit all but forgotten solutions.

Consequently, it's fascinating to see the use of classic design and materials re-discovered. Dale Stewart, ASLA told me a story told to him about canvas awnings made from hemp designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. They lasted for 25 years and were finally replaced by fiberglass. Those lasted for 7. Along with his interest in historical sailmaking, Stewart used that as inspiration in his experiments at Slippery Rock University. They have led back to designing hemp canvas canopies coated with mineral spirits and paraffin, all materials that have been around for centuries, cost less than many more 'advanced' materials, and are far more environmentally friendly.

This issue brings old and new full circle. The technology sampler demonstrates some very innovative solutions by Pittsburgh firms as well as Stewart's "low tech" solution for a rooftop garden canopy. A report from Masonry Camp illustrates the appreciation architects developed for the work of those in the "trowel" trades. And David Vater's review of *The Homes of Sewickley* reminds us of the beauty of grand residential architecture preserved.

The old and the new collide head on in September, as always. Although everyone I've spoken with seems to have had their busiest summer in years, we all know that the "real" new year starts this month. That said, we welcome the Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter to the fold in this new year. This venture serves as an exciting prototype for other chapters, and also offers interesting opportunities to expand *Columns* along with ever important ad sales. We look forward to covering the nine counties served by Northwest and will begin that coverage in a later issue with a look at the changes in the Erie waterfront. Chapter president Bill Helsley, AIA shares the details of this arrangement in his letter on page 7.

Finally, I am delighted at the number of you who have contacted us looking for opportunities to contribute to articles and features in *Columns*. We occasionally print a snapshot of topics for upcoming issues as space allows, but as you can see from this issue, space didn't allow. If you're interested, we'll be more than happy to fax you a copy of our draft editorial schedule — just call the AIA office and leave a message for me. Remember that we work at least 2 months in advance and that all topics are working topics. Things have a way of changing at the last minute, so call first before submitting articles or information for a proposed story. And if you have an idea for a story, please pass that along. Much of what makes its way into print originated with you, so please keep up the good work.

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On the cover: Alcoa Corporate Center designed by The Design Alliance. Photo by Joe Renckly.