

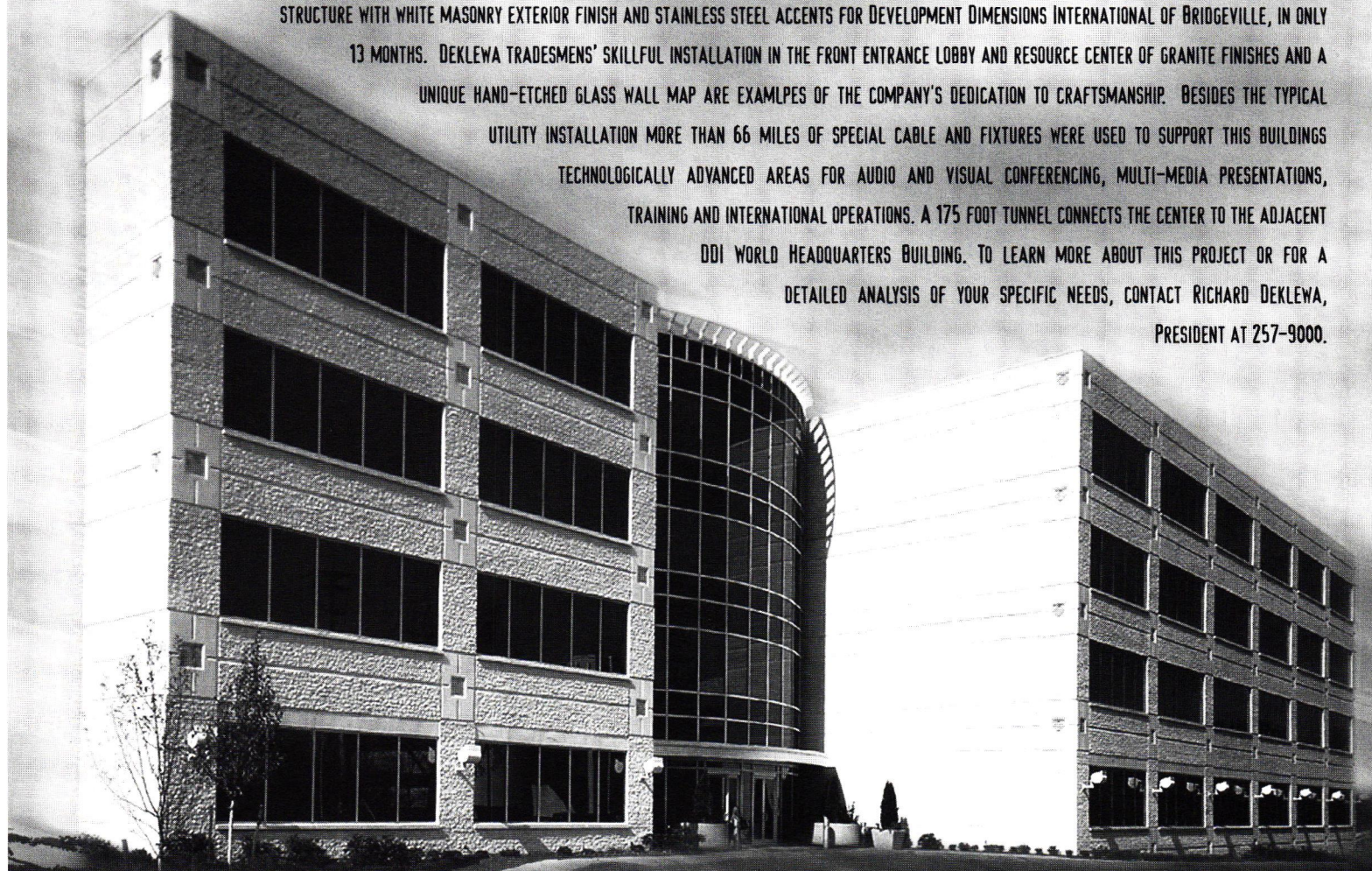
# C O L U M N S





# 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.



Project Architect: Johnson/Schmidt & Associates

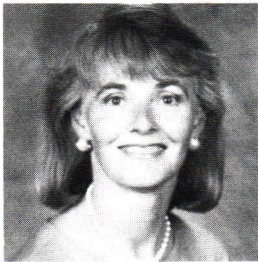
**JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.**

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

GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

# Peace of Mind

by Cheryl R. Towers



*It also speaks to the vibrancy and health of architecture in Pittsburgh that rival firms responded so rapidly and without question, knowing that it's in everyone's best interests to set aside competitiveness at such a moment.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Disaster Preparedness</i> . . . . .	6
Living and learning from fire and flood.	
<i>Architectural Records</i> . . . . .	8
What to save and how to save it; what to toss and how to toss it	
<i>Benno Janssen's Oeuvre Revisited</i> . . . . .	12
A review of The Architecture of Benno Janssen by Donald Miller	
Breaking Ground . . . . .	15
Calendar . . . . .	17
Dossier . . . . .	19

**On the cover:** The office of Frederick J. Osterling and associates in his studio, ca. 1905. Note the job files on the shelf at the rear, and the flat files full of drawings on the right. Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives.

### Hurricane Agnes pounded the Eastern

United States in 1972, pushing destruction hundreds of miles inland from the coast. My parents lived in Upstate New York at the time and watched the Chemung River, a tributary of the Susquehanna, rise until it overflowed the flood control walls built decades before by the Army Corps of Engineers. Fortunately, they lived on high ground and suffered only minor personal inconveniences, such as a daughter living in New York City who, not being able to get through by telephone, arrived unannounced in a commandeered Army jeep, anxious to know that they were O.K.

The lingering affects of Agnes were seemingly never ending for those in her path. A neighbor was rescued by helicopter from the roof of the power plant that he managed after holding down the fort while others evacuated. One of Dad's employees, a young man just out of college, was living with his mother squarely in the floodplain. They scrapped mud, bugs, sewage and who knows what else out of their first floor for months. And, of course, businesses were disrupted endlessly and many went bankrupt.

We heard the horror stories from Dad for the next two years. As an insurance adjuster who found himself working seven days a week for in the aftermath, he knew virtually every story there was to know related to the flood, some of them funny, some of them tragic, most just the dirty drudgery of cleaning up after Nature's mudbath.

All of this is a long way of introducing my personal fascination with WTW's experiences two years ago in the wake of flood and fire. Coping with a disaster of any kind brings us all down to a raw level — we hope that our better instincts will prevail and that we will perform well.

To the credit of the architectural profession, that happened

here. Not only did WTW's staff pitch in quickly during a holiday weekend, colleagues were on the phone as soon as they heard the news, offering support, office space, equipment...whatever was needed.

We feel better as human beings knowing that others will step in when their help is needed. It also speaks to the vibrancy and health of architecture in Pittsburgh that rival firms responded so rapidly and without question, knowing that it's in everyone's best interests to set aside competitiveness at such a moment. Now, if y'all will just be prepared to come to my house the next time the stack pipe lets go, I'll rest easier.

This is also a call to those of you working on school projects. With a robust economy (a risky thing for me to say as I write these words in September — weeks before they'll be read), new government funds in the pipeline, changing rules governing renovations, and new thinking about how school buildings are used and how to deliver educational services, it's time for a look in this direction. We'll be doing that in our December issue, and I invite any of you with information, thoughts, or projects to contact me by October 15. I can be reached at 362-1844 or via email at [cheryltowers@mizeraktowers.com](mailto:cheryltowers@mizeraktowers.com).

Other upcoming issues will look at nursing homes and the explosion of church building, so I invite you to be in touch.

Meanwhile, we hope that the thoughts in this issue about preparing for disaster and archiving material will give you some peace of mind of your own.