

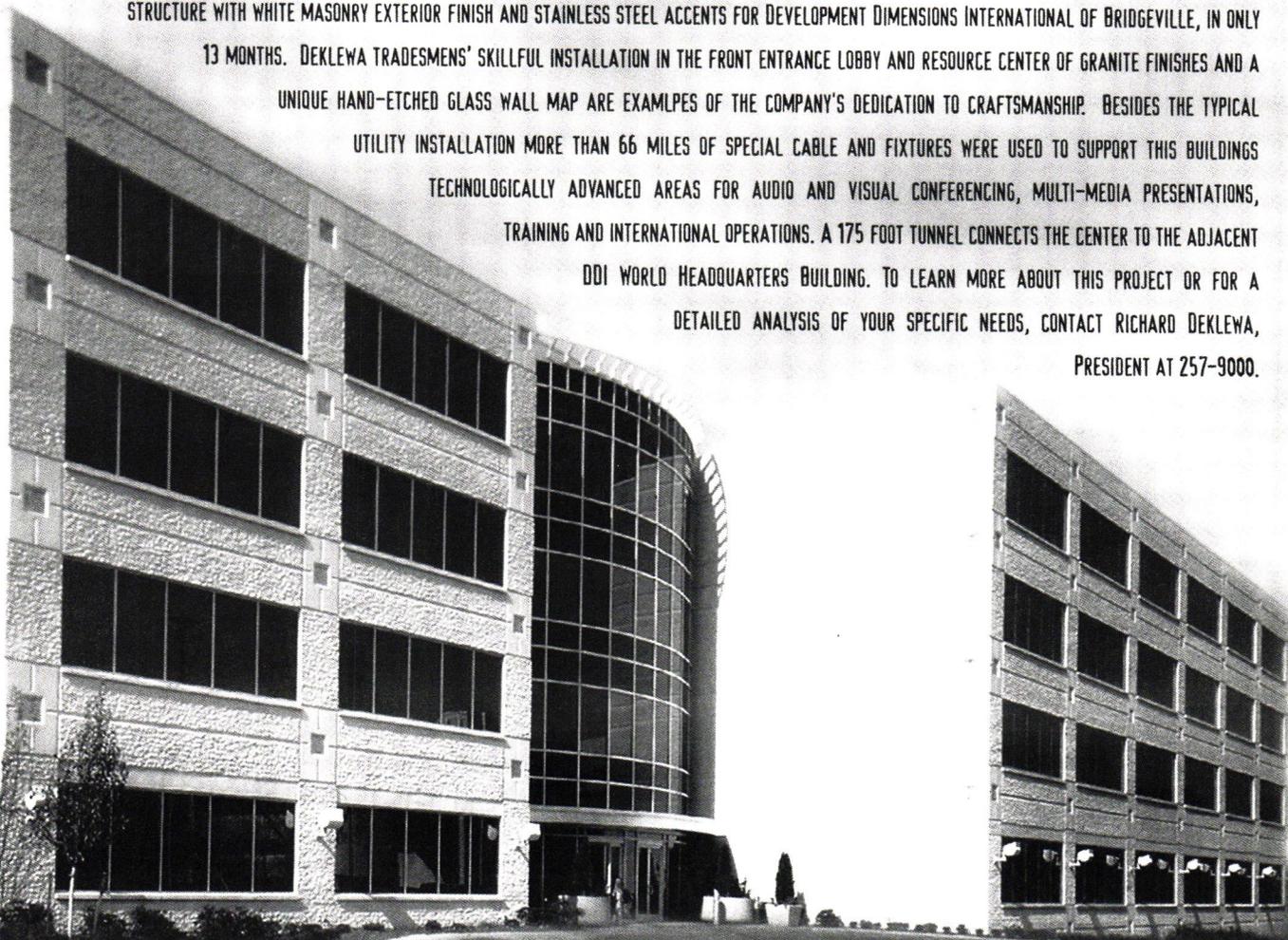
C O L U M N S





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 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.



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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Quoth the Raven by Cheryl Towers

What were you doing thirty years ago?



"Building replacement in large cities has become similar to crop rotation." — BUCKMINSTER

FULLER

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I was finishing college, looking forward to graduate school and reading Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock*. In the lingo of the day, Marshall McLuhan described the book as "where it's at", and, indeed, it was, giving voice to our collective discomfort in absorbing the rapidity and volume of technological change.

Toffler's work came to mind recently when I read yet another article containing the word *anymore*, as in, "it seems like no one (fill in the blank) anymore." It's questionable word usage, implying as it does that somehow, human nature was different at some other golden moment in time. In this particular case, the subject of the article was the pace of change, but big societal changes have always been difficult for people. Mark Twain is reputed to have said in the 19th century that, "I'm all for progress, it's the change I object to." I find it hard to imagine that an agrarian society found it any less difficult to deal with the industrial age than we who grew up in the Neolithic pre-computer era find integrating a barrage of contemporary technology into our lives.

Toffler pointed out what is different, though, and that is repeated waves of change that come closer and closer together. He also pointed out an interesting corollary: the foreshortening of our ties with the physical environment. He reports Buckminster Fuller stating that building replacement in large cities has become similar to crop rotation. David Lewis, FAIA when interviewed by Toffler told of apartment houses in Miami torn down after only ten years of existence. Rapid technological advancement had made replacement more cost effective than renovation, an example of the economics of impermanence.

While there is much to regret about such impermanence, the author correctly notes that technological advancements reduce the cost of variations, thereby giving architects - and thus the consumer - the opportunity for greater diversity of design. Then as now, construction is still, for many, a pre-industrial craft, limiting the ability to actually construct these variations cost effectively. I'm reminded of the best line in last year's race for Allegheny County's first chief executive as spoken by the winner, Jim Roddey: "People move to Allegheny County just so they'll have ten more years after the world ends everywhere else."

Re-reading Toffler was fascinating for other reasons. He speaks of value vertigo, citing examples of America's confusion over uncertainty about sex, money, property, law and order, race, religion, family and self. Values, too, are impermanent, and, as he describes it, this has led to a "crack-up of consensus." He anticipates email, the world wide web, and the Internet in providing a global communications network, as well as the growth of the lifelong learning movement. He even discusses gastronomic diversity as our supermarkets now buy worldwide and provide us with exotic produce year round.

I have no doubt that at least for the foreseeable future, the human race will muddle on, challenges to our psyches and our physical world notwithstanding. However, at this turn of the pseudo-Millennium, it's instructive to look back at what galvanized us a generation and a half ago before we use that word "anymore" again. *Gaudeamus igitur*.

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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David Hoglund, AIA *President, AIA Pittsburgh*



We have enormous opportunities as we enter the year 2000, and I look forward to being president. The city bustles with construction activity. The convention center design competition brings a new focus to architecture. The Market Place at Fifth and Forbes engenders debate about the future of our downtown. Architects are busier than ever!

As these events begin to reshape our region, the Chapter has gained visibility by voicing its opinions and increasing activity. I hope to build upon the momentum we have created within the Chapter, bringing focus to local professional issues. Chapter revenue and public policy issues require us to be proactive rather than reactive. With the success of Design Pittsburgh!, we know there is capacity and desire for growth in services, programs, and visibility within the community. I look forward to focusing this discussion to serve better our profession and the public.

Rick Riccardo, AIA *President, AIA Middle PA*



I believe that it is the responsibility of those that join an organization to take on roles of responsibility and leadership in that organization's structure and direction. This is one of the reasons that I agreed to this position within the Middle Chapter.

I came to Penn State University in 1991 from a private practice in Connecticut. I was born and raised in Lock Haven, PA and coming to Penn State was sort of a homecoming. When I joined the AIA in Connecticut, I was a very active member. There was only one chapter, and it was important to take part.

Some of the initiatives that I want to focus on during my tenure as president are more participation of members in AIA functions, increased membership in the Middle Chapter and articulating the value that AIA brings to its members.

The last item that I would like to convey to members is that being involved with the Middle Chapter will be fun!

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Design Awards Correction

Indovina Associates Architects' entries in the 1999 Design Awards Competition were shown incorrectly in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. Projects entered were:

PROJECT: A to Z Communications
 CLIENT: A To Z Communications
 CONTRACTOR: O'Donahue Construction Corp.

PROJECT: The Club Havana
 CLIENT: Joe & Nancy DiFore, J. T. Waters
 CONTRACTOR: Casciato Construction Co.

PROJECT: Congregation Beth Shalom
 CLIENT: Congregation Beth Shalom
 CONTRACTOR: Jendoco Construction Corporation



A to Z Communications



The Club Havana



Congregation Beth Shalom

Email to Keep AIA Members Current

AIA Pittsburgh is using e-mail to keep our members informed of the chapter's activities. If you would like to be included and are a member, please send your address to aiapgh@usaor.com.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Publication

Pittsburgh's Bridges: Architecture and Engineering by Walter C. Kidney is now available through area bookstores or by calling the PH&LF at 412/471-5808.

Agnew Moyer Smith Produce Wine Guide and Water Cycle Challenge

Wine Watch Guide, originally created as a gift for friends and clients, is now available to the public through Amazon.com. The database is available online at www.winewatchguide.com.

The firm also created The Water Cycle Challenge, an interactive game at the Carnegie Science Center to teach players how water moves through the environment.

Membership

Glenn M. Avick is a new affiliate member who is with the Peter F. Loftus Division of Eicheley Engineers Inc. Glenn is a University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University grad, married to Theresa, and the father of Alicia and Andrea. Professionally, "I hope to build the premier engineering organization that will work seamlessly with the architectural community to bring true value to our clients. We provide all engineering disciplines and take pride in innovation, quality and value."



AVICK

This is a man of many interests who travels, flies small planes, SCUBA dives and engages in family activities when not working or reading his favorite book, *A Whack on the Side of the Head*. Welcome, Glenn!

letter to the editor

I enjoyed reading your article in the November 1999 Columns about movies made in Pittsburgh. One film you left out was the 1994 CBS made-for-TV movie "A Promise Kept: The Oksana Baiul Story" in which the onion domes and rundown warehouses of McKees Rocks doubled for the drab Communist world of 1970s Ukraine.

John Stupp

Design @ the Speed of Thought

by Paul Doherty, AIA

A look at the new digital challenge.

Buckminster Fuller once said: "By the year 2000, mankind will have destroyed itself or used its brain in a very big way." Well, we're still here, and we are using our brains in a very big way.

The DotCom world

Welcome to the new economy of the "DotCom" world. It's a world where the combination of design and online creates a new high-contact sport: You cannot design for the online world offline. Our new economy has created a challenging intersection of speed and an increased value of the intangible.

Design today is about delivering valuable intangibles, not about delivering CAD drawings, fabric swatches, or cut sheets. This new world is not about embracing technology because it doesn't hug back. Computers are not about computing, they are about communicating. Today's world is about bucking conventional wisdom and embracing the velocity of change. Technology tools like email and the Web have provided this change of focus from technology to information, making access to information easy and transparent.

Our new digital challenge is to create valuable information content. These comprehensive knowledge packages create not just information resources, but knowledge models that we can connect into a growing system from which we can learn. It's not about just designing fast, but how fast a firm can understand its decisions and learn something new.

Catching the e-wave

The design firm that harnesses the output of digital data to speed up its operations is going to outperform competitors, create new standards, and be more successful. In the past, slowness protected market segments. Today, the difference between those who use speed and those who don't is no longer incremental — it's a quantum leap.



Computer generated image of the Holiday Inn, Dubai, UAE (under construction) designed by Burt Hill Kosar Rittlemann.

When the dust from the transition to the new economy settles, the architectural landscape will be strewn with carcasses of firms that were unable to adapt. Don't let yours be among them.

John Perry Barlow, AIA said this past July at the Architects Technology Summit in New Orleans, "The new workplace is no longer about brick and mortar. If I have a cell phone and a laptop, I now have all the elements I need to do business. You should be designing for the workplace of the mind."

"You should be designing for the workplace of the mind." — JOHN PERRY BARLOW, AIA

Full speed ahead

The emerging e-business practices experimented with today are becoming commonplace, but we all can look forward to witnessing the transition of these practices into new forms that we can't even imagine today. The key to successfully facing the challenges of this transition lies in understanding the fundamental dynamics of work and design processes and in adjusting expectations and practices as those processes reconfigure themselves in the new environment. The architectural profession creates an environment in which we can measure the effects of the velocity of design in the DotCom world. We won't do this by fixing yesterday's problems, but by focusing on the preparation for tomorrow's opportunities.

Life is short. Design smarter.



Computer rendering (left) and photo of completed project (right), Graciano Grane Corporate Headquarters designed by Rothschild Architects. PHOTO © ED MASSERY.

Know Your Buzzwords

... Trends that will help quantify and qualify speed as an integral element of design practice:

- **INFORMATION PORTALS** — Sometimes called "thoughtware," the development of information/knowledge portals represents a transition point in computing and a massive change in how we will all function in, and design for, the electronic work environment. Personalized Yahoo-style access to applications and relevant information through a simple Web browser is emerging as a standard on corporate intranets and is continuing into our industry.
- **OPEN SOURCE** — Led by the free operating system, Linux, open source for the rest of us means free. Freeware abounds on the Net, taking its nature from the Net's original intent of being a place of free exchange. The free cost of software will continue to erode the traditional software manufacturer's value like those who develop CAD tools, as Microsoft/Visio's IntelliCAD and Sun Microsystems's StarOffice become available for free over the Internet this coming year.
- **OBJECT MODELS** — The Golden Era of traditional two-dimensional CAD tools like AutoCAD and Bentley's Microstation has ended. A designer's ability to provide 3D digital models of their projects are becoming an expected part of providing design services. Solutions, such as Autodesk's Architectural Desktop and Bentley's TriForma, are providing designers the opportunity to not just create the 3D experience of moving through a virtual space, but also provides a graphic container for project information that can be used further into the life-cycle of the facility.
- **E-COMMERCE** — The emergence of marketplaces where designers can post their Object Model for bidding purposes to contractors, manufacturers, and/or service providers over the Internet will allow designers to add cost criteria, based on performance specifications, onto the open market for either estimating, bidding, purchasing, and/or delivery of product to the job site.
- **WIRELESS, MOBILE DEVICES** — The hand-held computer has revolutionized the speed in which a user can access and use information. With the emergence of Bluetooth technology in the Palm IX and the recent availability of Handspring's Visor and Springboard, by the developers of the original PalmPilot, immediate access to information in the palm of your hand is becoming commonplace.
- **NETSOURCING** — Outsourcing your applications and other information technology functions to a third party over the Internet. Called Application Service Providers (ASP), it is the ability to connect to the capabilities of others, and at the same time, be nimble and adaptable. Shift from relying on prediction, foresight, and planning to building in flexibility, courage, and faster reflexes. NetSourcing is about creating a Web tone by providing a small shop a big infrastructure.

2000 and Beyond

Trends and Predictions

The first century of the next millenium will see the increasing proliferation of the comprehensive design-build process, with the CM (construction manager) as the lead professional, rather than the architect or engineer. This is the natural outgrowth of the increasing desire by clients for centralized responsibility and liability. As CM's continue to usurp the traditional role of the architect in pre-design, estimating, and construction administration, architects will be forced to compete for commissions not from clients directly, but from CM's as part of design build teams. There will be no doubt, however, about who is leading the team (as there often is today), as the architect/engineer will be further and further relegated to, and treated like, just another subcontractor under the CM's contract. The inevitable effect of this will be that, with the exception of a few famous designers, architects and engineers will get lower fees, and little credit for a successful project, as that credit will be usurped by the CM, while blame for a failed project will be cast around to the subcontractors, which will include the architect/engineer. Poorer design will also result, as CM's will make decisions based more on their best interests than on the clients or the projects best interest, with the architect being contractually powerless to object. I hope I'm wrong, but I doubt it.

— Ryan M. Pierce, AIA
L.D. Astorino

We believe that architects will cease to exist as professionals within the next 5 - 20 years. The current trends in national building codes, economics, sales, and public perception are taking us down a road to where the clients believe that they can not afford us, they can design better than us, and they do not need us.

— Jeffrey D. Light, AIA
John C. Haas Associates, Inc. A/E/P

The most important improvement needed in the architectural profession for the next millennium will be client education and counseling."

"As a leader of the building industry professions, the architectural profession must now help clients understand their responsibilities during a long-duration, complicated, highly technical, costly, contractual relationship."

"Practice of the future will be very dependent upon the shared responsibilities of the client's forces and the A+E project team."

— C. Herbert Wheeler, FAIA, professor emeritus,
The Pennsylvania State University Department
of Architecture

This profession and each of us in it, is at an unbelievable turning point. We have the opportunity either to be the last generation of architects as we know them or — as we develop and pursue the AIA's redefinition of the profession — to take a forward step to become the new generation of architects."

— Richard W. Hobbs, FAIA
Vice President, Professional Practice, American
Institute of Architects

Architecture as we envision it will be largely irrelevant. (Stop me if you've heard this one). Electronic imaging and environmental controls will have advanced to the point that all possible worlds and experiences will be available in virtual rooms. "Chat rooms" will expand to include the virtual functions of "eat", "love", "work", "war", etc. Software commanded by mental telepathy will allow one to fully experience the decadence of the palace of Versailles as a monarch, the Tibetan steppe on horseback, or any other potential environment, as anyone in our imagination. When the world comes like this to our hermetically sealed cells, we will atrophy to resemble the floating brain in the beaker, like "Crang" on the Ninja Turtles.

But a millenium is a long time. We'll be over this phase after several hundred years. What happens after that is unclear. The voices in my head won't tell me more.

— David Pecharka, AIA
L.D. Astorino

Moments in architecture

c. 2750 B.C.E. Imhotep, the earliest known architect, designs the step pyramid at Saqqara.

c.1520 B.C.E. Senmut is the first architect to fall in love with a client (Hatshepsut), and designs her funerary temple, Deir el-Bahari.

1288 B.C.E. God gives Moses detailed specifications for the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

438 B.C.E. The Parthenon is completed, the most important joint venture project of the Classical Age as a collaboration between architect Ictinus and sculptor Phidias.

29 B.C.E. Marcus Vitruvius Pollio authors *De Architectura*.

c.1000 The first towers are built on English churches and the Danes build 100' long ship-shaped houses.

1267 Pierre de Montreuil who worked on St. Denis Abbey and served as master mason of Notre Dame, Paris is allegedly the first architect to be ennobled.

1452 *De re aedificatoria*, the first architectural treatise of the Renaissance, by Leone Battista Alberti, the first "modern" architect.

1546-64 Michelangelo completes St. Peter's in Rome.

1670-86 Sir Christopher Wren rebuilds the churches of London after the Great Fire of 1666.

1797 *The Practice of Architecture* by Asher Benjamin is

the first architectural book by an American published in America.

1849 John Ruskin publishes *Seven Lamps of Architecture*.

1884-88 Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail are constructed from designs by Henry Hobson Richardson.

1877 Giuseppe Mengoni falls to his death from his Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan.

1905 The world's first motion picture theater, "The Nickelodeon", opens at 433-435 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh.

1906 Stanford White is murdered by a jealous Harry K. Thaw. Years later, Thaw verbally murders another prominent designer when he allegedly states, "I shot the wrong architect!" after seeing the Albany, NY Statehouse designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

1907 The Pittsburgh Architectural Club presents its Fourth Exhibition - the largest architectural exhibition ever organized in the U.S. at that time.

1913 Gulf Oil Corp. builds the first company-owned gas station on Baum Blvd. at St. Clair St., Pittsburgh.

1926 Antonio Gaudi is the first architect to be hit and killed by a trolley.

1928 Pittsburgh's finest Art Deco theater, the Enright, opens in East Liberty.

1931 Pittsburgh's finest Art Deco school, Lincoln Elementary, opens (Thomas Pringle and Oliver J. Robling).

1934 Edgar Kaufmann, Sr. meets Frank Lloyd Wright .

The next year, Wright designs Fallingwater.

1936 Swan Acres, the country's first Modern subdivision, opens in Ross Township, designed by Quentin S. Beck.

1939 Mies van der Rohe states, "I don't want to be interesting, I want to be good." He completes the Farnsworth House in 1950.

1954 The pilgrimage chapel of Ronchamp, Le Corbusier's most revolutionary work in his anti-rational style, is completed.

1960 Kenzo Tange launches Metabolism, a Japanese movement with a science fiction-like image.

1976 Phase I of Station Square begins.

1997 The Getty Center opens (Richard Meier, FAIA).

1998 The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao opens (Frank Gehry, FAIA).

1999 The Pittsburgh Public Theater opens (Michael Graves, FAIA).

Beyond 2000 PNC Park (HOK Sports, Inc. with L.D. Astorino & Associates, Ltd.), Steelers' Stadium (HOK Sports, Inc. and WTW Architects), and the Pittsburgh Convention Center (Rafael Viñoly and Associates) are scheduled to open.

What Makes a Good Building?

by Patricia Lowry

Seeing architecture through the eyes of a critic.

A good building is one that makes its users feel good about walking in the front door. A good building is not only a gift to the street, but a gift to the soul and the intellect. A good building has a strong sense of self, but also is a good neighbor to the buildings around it.

A good building performs well when evaluated holistically, on criteria that weigh its social, environmental and artistic impact.

These are some of the questions I ask when I look at a building:

- What are all of the forces driving the design, and how have they influenced the building?
- What is the building's social function and how does the design support it?
- What role does the building play in its neighborhood?
- Does the design contribute to the life of the street?
- How does the building meet the street?
- How does it make you feel when you look at it, and when you walk inside?
- What did the client ask for? How well does the building succeed in meeting the client's needs? Did the architect simply do what was asked, or go beyond that to provide solutions the client never thought of?
- How many of the building's users or neighbors had input into the design?
- Did the architect consider the history of the site?
- How does the building relate to the landscape, either new or historic? The skyline? Is the building sited to complement the neighborhood or landscape?
- Does it take advantage of views? Does it block views?
- Do the design, scale and materials relate to the neighborhood, and if not, is there a valid reason for introducing something new?
- Is the building innovative in its design or technology?
- Does it incorporate energy-saving technologies?
- How does the structural system relate to the exterior?
- How do the parts relate to the whole, both in the massing and in the composition of the facade and the other elevations?
- How does the interior space flow?
- What is the architect communicating, intentionally or otherwise, with the design? Does it advertise its function or disguise it?
- Was it over, under or on budget? Or was the budget just not big enough?

Is that what happened with the East End's Reizenstein School, or was it simply a product of its time?

The school sits a block from my house and so is often in my view. Built in the 1970s, it is an unrelenting fortress of red brick and white metal panels, separated from Penn Avenue by a wide moat of grass. There is a narrow ribbon of windows on three sides, but they provide little interior light. There is, of course, no exterior ornament. Absent the name, there is nothing to distinguish this building from a minimum-security prison.

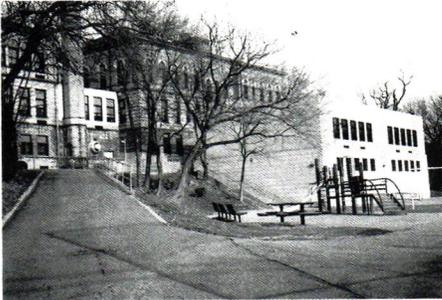
Just a few blocks away sits Linden School, where I did my student teaching as a novice art teacher 30 years ago. A great arch, supported by Ionic columns, welcomes children today, just as it gathered my grandmother in 90 years



Linden Avenue Elementary School. The Point Breeze school fronts on Linden Avenue with the rear playground area (next page) backing onto Wilkins Avenue.



Florence Reizenstein Middle School. The school is situated on Penn Avenue on the border of Shadyside and East Liberty. The front of the building faces a side of the Village of Shadyside development while the rear (next page) looks toward the Harold Steele Armory and Mellon Park. One side fronts Penn Avenue.



The rear playground area of Linden.



The rear of Reizenstein.

ago when she was a student there. Erected in 1903, it would have been new then, and so solidly built that even its lavish Classical exterior ornament survives today. Inside, students walk on white marble floors to a grand staircase where the landing is graced by three brilliantly colored stained glass windows. The two flanking, lesser ones are painted with mottoes: "Our todays and yesterdays are the blocks with which we build," and "Assert thyself rise up to thy full height."

The design and details of Linden School communicate to students that they are valued, that they are worthy of a building that can delight the eye and challenge the mind. The exterior of Reizenstein School communicates to students

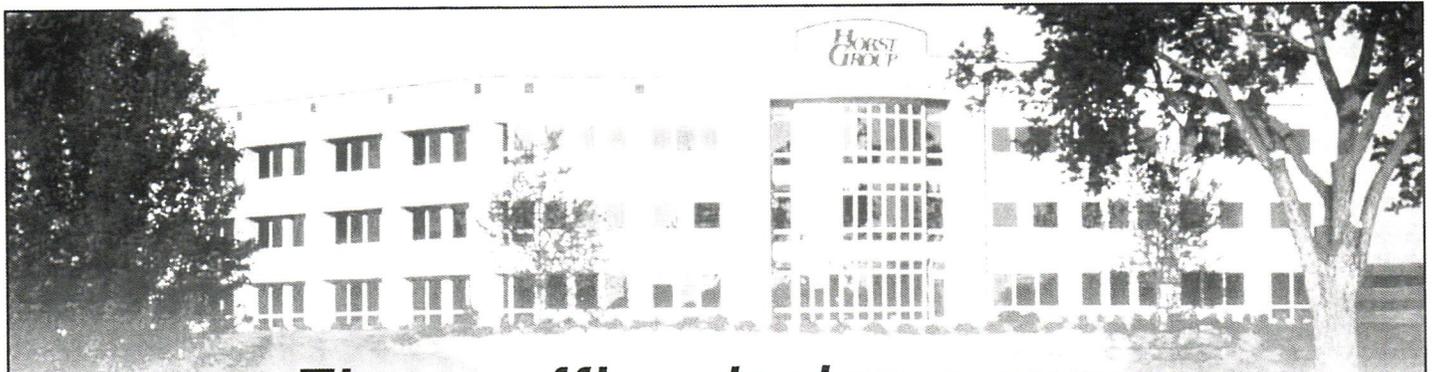
that they are about to enter an education warehouse. The two buildings represent the stylistic extremes of a century that is ending in a much different place.

"Make buildings strong enough to last for a long, long time, and so smartly designed that we want them to."

Today, as the age of pluralism meets the era of computer-aided design, architects are in the fortunate position of being able to work in any style and even invent their own. But the challenge remains the same as it has always been: Make buildings strong

enough to last for a long, long time, and so smartly designed that we want them to.

Patricia Lowry is the architectural critic for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.



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Building A Rural Practice by Lee Ligo, AIA

A case study of a successful practice based in a small town.

The firm: Ligo Architects was founded in 1968 by Lee Ligo, a '60 graduate of the School of Architecture at Carnegie Tech. Son Brett Ligo, an '86 graduate of the same school, joined the firm in 1992. Two technical production people, a financial person, and an office manager round out the staff. A part time student from Butler County Community College is normally employed to provide staff support such as printing, filing, etc. The staff, small by choice, is handling a combined construction and design load approaching \$16,000,000.00.

The problems facing the rural based firm are similar to any architectural firm: finding clients and staff, and time management.

The approach to solving these problems is, in my opinion, different than that used by firms in an urban setting. By definition, the client base is much smaller and more geographically spread out. The principals must be active socially, politically and in the business arena over a much wider area. Many of our clients have never met an architect, let alone retained one. It has been important to develop an efficient way to produce and provide contract observation to lessen the cost to the first-time client.

The rural-based firm must also be willing to work on much smaller projects for which the cost for architectural services are expected to be covered by the client. Although the distance in time to different projects may be the same as those experienced by the urban-based architect, the open road distance is far greater. I travel 30 - 40,000 miles a year covering projects ranging from Sewickley Heights, Kittanning, Butler, and Meadville. A major compensation is that, on occasion, I have ridden my horse to work.

Thirty years into the practice, repeat clients and referrals by past clients to new clients create 90% of all new work. For instance, Grove City College, Allegheny Valley School, and McGuire Memorial have retained the firm over several years for work in excess of \$25,000,000.00.

Private Residence, Conneaut Lake, PA



Securing staff is uniquely difficult because of the commonly held belief on the part of qualified personnel that exciting architecture happens only in the big cities and/or firms. Our approach has been to select the most qualified graduates from Butler County Community College and develop highly skilled personnel from this source. Three individuals following this path have gone on to architectural school and are now Registered Architects.

Time management on the part of the principals is a serious ongoing problem because of the need to manage multiple smaller projects in an efficient manner while main-



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Restoration of carriage house originally designed by Frank Furness.

Dental office, New Bern, N.C.

Architect's residence, Slippery Rock, PA

First National Bank of Slippery Rock, Prospect Branch, Prospect, PA

taining time for marketing, e.g. keeping in touch with our past and potential client pool.

Current work of the firm includes ocean and waterfront hi-end residential projects in Nevis (a Caribbean Island); Ponte Vedra, Florida; Nova Scotia; Conneaut Lake; Findley Lake and Chautauqua, New York as well as a multi-million dollar volume of high end residential projects in various locations such as Sewickley, the President's Residence at Grove City College, and the restoration of multiple buildings on a 3,000 acre Western Pennsylvania estate.

Work also includes the restoration of a three story stone mansion, and of particular note, the restoration of an 1876 carriage house designed by Frank Furness. We have found the latter to be of particular personal interest, since my

son and I both studied the 19th Century Philadelphia architect twenty years apart at Carnegie Tech/Mellon. Also for this estate, we worked on several other buildings such as log houses, a greenhouse, stables, and garden houses.

In the last three years by referral, the firm has designed eight new financial institutions in Armstrong, Butler, Mercer and Crawford counties. Based on referrals from work in Butler, the architect was also retained to design a multi-million dollar professional medical complex in New Bern, North Carolina.

In summary, establishing an architectural firm in a rural area has, in my opinion, taken much longer than it probably would have in a more populous area. However, the satisfaction of having an office and home in the midst of rolling green hills has been rewarding.

Priming the Development Pump in Somerset by Terry Necciai

A case study of the ripple effect of a small project.

In the mid-1990's, 70,000 s.f. of prime retail space sat vacant within a block of the Diamond in Somerset, PA where many of the town's visitors and residents first enter the central business district. A Main Street program was organized in 1994 to bring new life to this area. However, the Vannear Building, a once thriving resort hotel built in the 1890s, still sat vacant a year later with a yellow "Welcome to Somerset" banner draped across its rusting gray storefront with tar sealant dripping from above and dirty, broken plate glass looking into a big, empty, dirty room below. Earlier, the owners of the 20,000 s.f. building had gutted and converted the first two floors from dining rooms, ballrooms, and grand stairs to an open space that served as a temporary location for a Newberry's Five and Ten Department Store while a new store was constructed nearby.

The Main Street program put together a business plan in 1995 that included renting the first floor of the building from the Florida based owner for \$800 per month, minus the value of badly needed remodeling. Thirty local craftspeople were asked to set up small display areas in a mini-mall, and 18 agreed. They were asked to pay six months' rent in advance at a nominal rate that included utilities and

an amount to be paid to the lead shop in exchange for operating the cash register.

The craftspeople were also asked to personally help with the remodeling. With the exception of a center wall divider and repainting of the tin ceiling, all work was done by volunteers using donated materials, including mis-tinted paint from a local hardware store. The entire project was completed in 80 days with the volunteers working almost every evening. Paid expenses amounted to about \$3,000 (or \$.50 per square foot in an economy where most construction is \$80 - 100 per square foot). The documented volunteer hours were credited in exchange for rent to cover the additional \$1,800 owed to the owners in the first six months, so that no actual money went to them during this period. The project operated for 18 months on the same rent formula with the owner paid the full \$800 in cash each of the latter 12 months. At the end of 18 months, the project broke even.

The Vannear Shoppes project ended only because something better came along as a result of it. It attracted the attention of Barbara Vanyo, a local resident and business

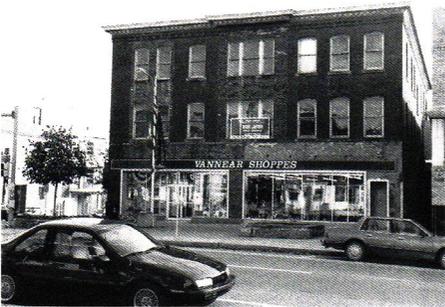
"Clearly, small projects can be very powerful motivators, especially in our smaller and more rural communities."
Terry Necciai



The Vannear Building as it appeared prior to any rehabilitation.



The Vannear Building after rehabilitation.



The Vannear Shoppes in use as a craft mini-mall.



Interior after rehabilitation.

owner. The Vanyo family own an electrical equipment company headquartered 20 minutes east of Somerset in a very rural location near the Turnpike. They were interested in moving their offices Uptown, and Barbara decided to invest a substantial amount of money in restoring the entire building and to locate the company offices on the second floor.

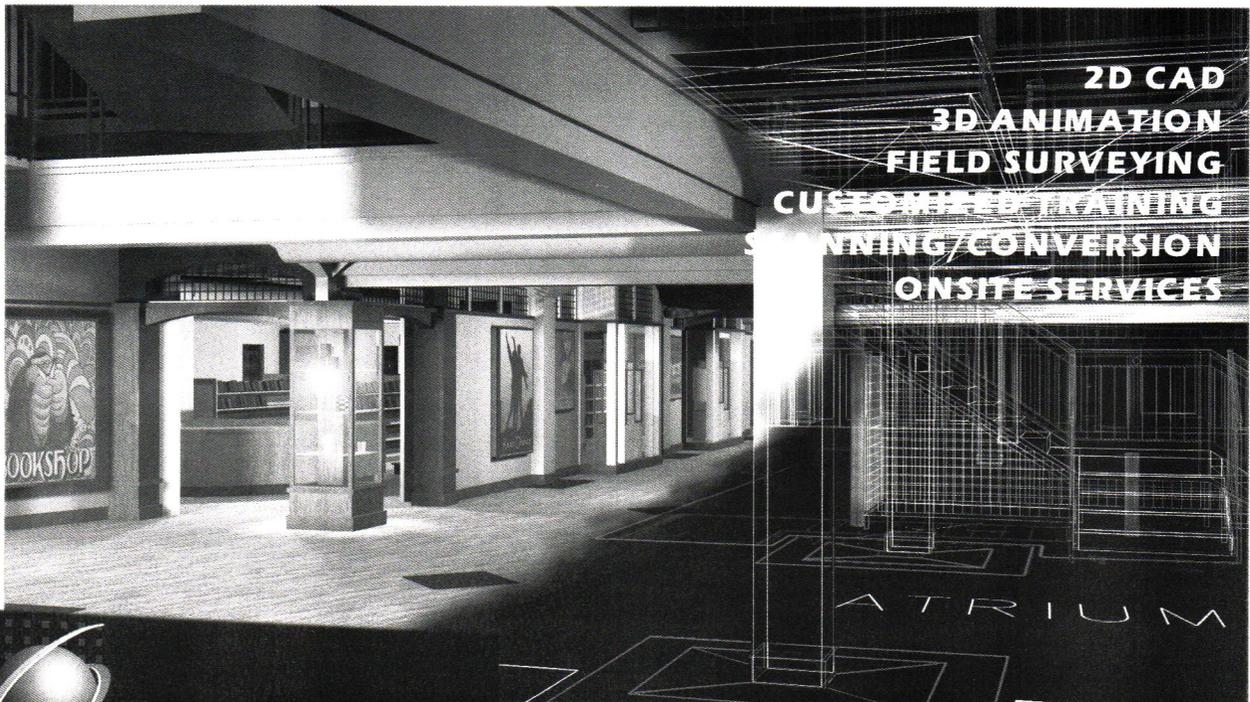
The first floor underwent a dramatic transformation from a home-made mini-mall of 18 shops to three high-brow retail spaces and a restaurant specializing in catered desserts. Between Barbara Vanyo and her partner/tenants, the project attracted over \$1 million in investment to a single structure in Uptown Somerset, and inspired several smaller projects as well.

Across the street, a friend of Mrs. Vanyo's rehabilitated the 30,000 s.f. former J. C. Penney building into a mini-mall,

residence, and dance studio. Several of the crafts shops from the Vannear Shoppes Project stayed in town, either renting or buying at smaller locations. The total number of square feet vacant in Uptown, which had risen to about 110,000 after Newberry's "new" location closed, shrunk to less than 40,000 s.f. and is still shrinking. Finally, Vanyo, Inc. is looking toward rehabilitating the entire Newberry's Building as additional office space in the near future.

Clearly, small projects can be very powerful motivators, especially in our smaller and more rural communities.

Terry Necciai was formerly Somerset's Main Street Manager. He is an architect and cultural geographer who works primarily on grassroots projects with people who don't usually interact with architects.



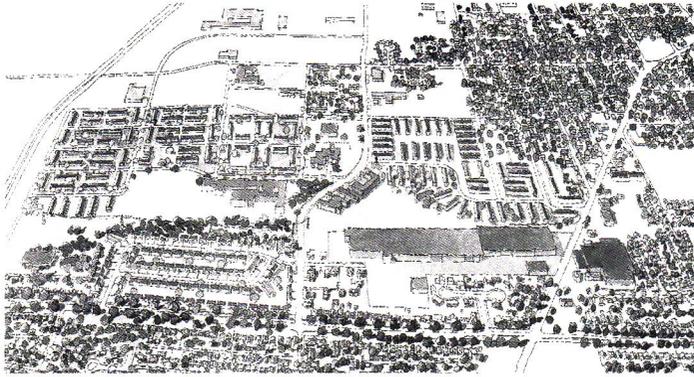
Architects: MacLachlan, Cornelius, & Filoni, Inc.



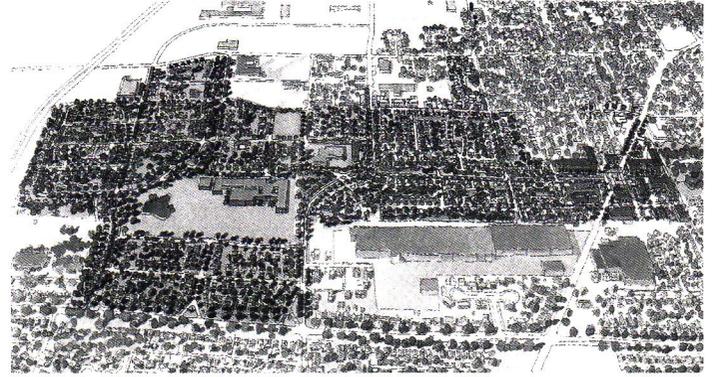
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Before



After

PROJECT

The rebirth of a Louisville community, linked by a continuous network of streets, homes, and parkways.

The Village of Park DuValle
Louisville, Kentucky

ARCHITECT

Raymond L. Gindroz, FAIA
Urban Design Associates
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ASSOCIATE FIRMS

LaQuatra Bonci & Associates, Pittsburgh, PA
Stull & Lee, Boston, MA
William Rawn Associates Architects, Inc., Boston, MA
Tucker & Booker Inc., Louisville, KY

CLIENT

Housing Authority of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of the Park DuValle HOPE VI Plan was to transform derelict public housing into mixed income neighborhoods with rental and homeownership opportunities for a wide range of income groups. A number of negative perceptions about the community needed to be overcome, and seven key principles shaped the plan:

- 1) Build a Neighborhood.** The plan revised the street pattern, linking new neighborhood streets with existing ones as well as to the existing, but separated, parks, seamlessly connecting the neighborhood with the larger community.
- 2) Build on Louisville's Olmsted Tradition.** The configuration and design of streets and parks directly continues the forms established in Louisville by the Olmsteds. New, residentially scaled Park Ways extend from the Parkway and the park, connecting all of the schools and many of the churches, parks, recreation amenities, and public buildings.
- 3) Create a Mixed Income Pattern.** Rental and homeownership units are mixed throughout the community on a street-by-street basis.
- 4) Build Good Blocks.** The streets and parkways are lined with closely spaced houses with front doors, porches, and large windows facing the street, thus creating a neighborhood space.

5) Build Houses not Buildings. Several different house types have been developed, including single family houses, duplexes, triplexes, row houses, and small apartment houses. This creates the look and feel of a traditional neighborhood.

6) Louisville Architecture. The architectural character of the houses follows Louisville traditions.

7) Mixed Use. The plan called for many of the functions of daily life to be available within walking distance. A closed school in the center of the neighborhood will be reopened, new recreation facilities and buildings are being built in the parks, and a public safety building is being renovated. A town center will include a medical center, retail shops, and an assisted living facility.

JURY COMMENTS

Accomplished at all levels of design: buildings, public space, streetscape, and landscape. Especially laudable is the full achievement of the program's goals of mixing user, income, ages, and ethnic groups. A workable method which should be emulated.

Where do artists and craftsmen turn for quality construction?

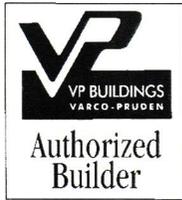
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Renaissance Glassworks, Inc., McMurray, PA
Architect: Sampey & Associates



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With over 48 years of experience, Nello is equipped to handle any type of project and contract option. Whether as a Design/Builder, Construction Manager, Program Manager, or General Contractor, you can feel comfortable that you are receiving the highest quality service.



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From the Firms

► **Indovina Associates Architects** has been chosen to design the 42,000 sq. ft. Franklin Park Corporate Center, Building No. 3 in Franklin Park, PA.

Renaissance 3 Architects recently announced new projects including offices for Mastech Corp.'s new e-commerce venture in Robinson Township; headquarters and laboratory space on the South Side for TissueInformatix Inc., and a new office building and manufacturing space in Munhall for Damascus Bishop, a stainless steel producer.

LLI Technologies Engineering and Construction, Inc. recently completed a successful network infrastructure upgrade project for J&L Structural Inc. in Aliquippa, PA.

Norman Y. Harai Associates is now **Klauscher & Harai Architects**. Contact information remains the same.

Hayes Large Architects is involved in the planning and design of several new projects, including medical offices for Metro Health System and an operating room conversion for the Oakland Veterans Administration Health Center; Elias Savion Public Relations' new office space in CNG Tower, PSEA's new midwestern headquarters in New Castle, PA and office renovations for PNC Bank; and a feasibility study and athletic facility for the South Allegheny School District and feasibility study for the Apollo Ridge School District.

Indovina Associates Architects and Dick Corporation anticipate a spring opening for the new Pittsburgh Aquarium. The \$16 million facility features 45,000 square feet of exhibits which include a Penguin habitat, Ocean Tank, and Pennsylvania Waterways exhibit.

Dick Corporation has acquired the Honolulu, HI-based Fletcher Pacific Construction Co. Ltd.

Howard, Jordan Robb and Pat Vescio to the architectural staff. Michael Leigh, Edward Moore, Stephen Schuster, ASLA, and Dolores Berard Noschese joined the landscape architecture department.

Jendoco Construction Corporation has promoted D. Guy Jackel to vice president.

Kudos

► **Indovina Associates Architects** together with Jendoco Construction and Cost Corporation has won two Western Pennsylvania Golden Trowel awards from the International Masonry Institute, Masonry Contractors Association of Western PA and The International Union of Brick Layers. Beth Shalom Synagogue was honored with both the Grand Award and the Best Religious Project.

TEDCO Construction Corp. also received a Golden Trowel Award. The category was Best in Education - Advanced for the masonry work on Vickroy Hall at Duquesne University.

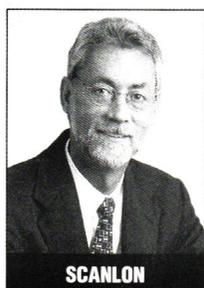
Bradford J. Furey of **Hayes Large Architects** has been named chairperson of the Council for Educational Facility Planning International Training Committee. He will be working on the development of distance learning models for seminars and for the Summer Planning Academy. Furey will also head the Recognized Educational Facility Professional Oversight Committee that determines credentials and how to achieve the REFP designation.

P.J. Dick Incorporated received the 1999 Build Ohio award from AGC of Ohio for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center in Columbus. This award is considered the "Oscar" for Ohio's construction industry.

Business Briefs

► **William A. Fullerton, AIA** has joined the professional staff at **WTW Architects** in Pittsburgh and is working on the Steelers Stadium design team.

Faro Hedjazi, AIA is proud to announce the opening of Cad Network Solutions Inc. in Pittsburgh, providing management solutions using card network technology. www.cadnetsolutions.com or 412-519-4231.



SCANLON

Paul Scanlon has been named director of engineering for Baker and Associates.

David P. Meuschke is now vice president of construction operations for Burchick Construction Company, Inc.

Richard McMillen has joined **LLI Technologies Engineering and Construction, Inc.** as electrical engineer.

Joining **Hayes Large Architects** are Jerry Bontempo, special projects coordinator, and Phil Madden, design assistant.

Foreman Architects Engineers, Inc. added **Charles Colthorp, AIA, Molly Colthorp, AIA, Stephen Eger, Todd**



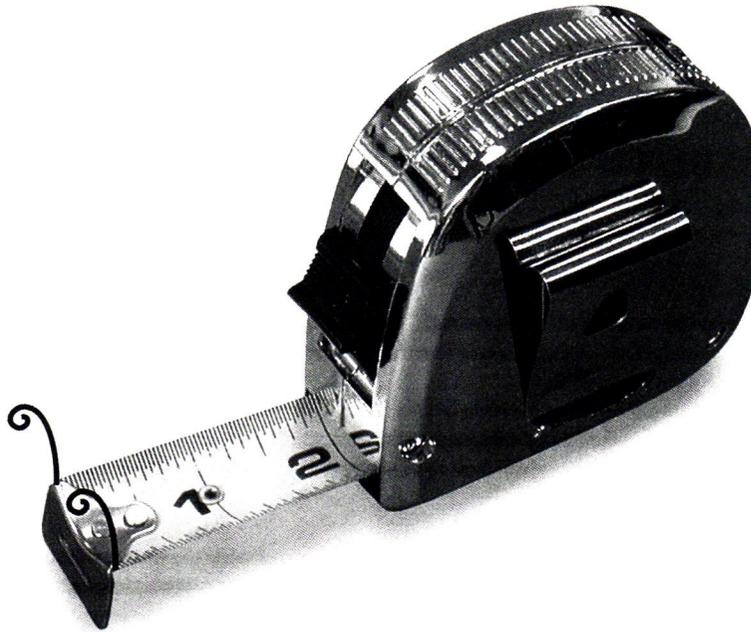
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welcome

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as a Principal of the firm.

AIA Pittsburgh is using e-mail to keep our members informed of the chapter's activities. If you would like to be included and are a member, please send your address to aiapgh@usaor.com.

AIA ACTIVITIES

Jan. 11 & Feb. 4, Tuesday

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting

5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome, 471-9548.

Jan. 11 & Feb. 8, Tuesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting

noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

Jan. 14 & Feb. 11, Friday

Committee on the Environment, noon

at the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 252-1500.

Jan. 20 & Feb. 17, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting, noon

at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 252-1500.

February 4, Friday

Communications Committee Meeting,

noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

AROUND TOWN

January 7, Friday

Brown Bag Lunch: Green Design and

the New Birmingham Housing in the

South Side, Leader: Stefanie Ledewitz, AIA,

Perkins Eastman Architects at CCI Center, 64

S. 14th Street, South Side. Noon – 1 p.m.

Free. For information 412- 431-0709.

INFO@GBAPGH.ORG or WWW.GBAPGH.ORG.

January 11, Tuesday

CSI Meeting. "Peak" inside the ASTM

Standards Development Process. Social

6 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m. (\$20) Program

7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn, Greentree. For

Reservations call Les Cartiff at 412-823-5063

by Friday, January 7.

January, 14, Friday

The Pritzker Prize: An Insider's View.

Lecture by J. Carter Brown, Chairman of the

Pritzker Architecture Prize Jury. J. Carter

Brown is director emeritus, National Gallery of

Art, Washington DC and chairman of the

United States Fine Arts Commission. In his

20 years at the helm of the Pritzker

Architecture Prize jury he has led a team of

some of the world's most prominent architects

and artists in selecting the winners of the

"Nobel Prize for Architecture," Carnegie

Lecture Hall 7 p.m. Free.

2 C O A L O E N D A R

January 24, Monday

Public Buildings.

Lecture by Rafael Viñoly, architect. Viñoly's expansion of the new convention center in Pittsburgh will be an impressive addition to the already distinguished architecture of Southwestern PA. He will discuss his project and what drew him to this area. Carnegie Lecture Hall 6 p.m. Reception follows. Free.

Jan. 26 & Feb. 23, Wednesday

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting

Master Builders Association, 2270 Noblestown Road 6:00 p.m. 412-922-3912.

Through February 27

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 1979-1999.

This exhibition celebrates the work of the first 21 laureats of the prize. The Heinz Architectural Center at Carnegie Museum of Art.

February 9, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators,

Monthly meeting at the Engineer's Club. Discussion of the Leadership Conference. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch \$17 members, \$19.50 non-members.

Reservations call Christine Taylor, 412-231-5500.

February 15, Tuesday

Ruminations on the Current Architectural

State. Lecture by Joseph Giovannini, writer and critic. Museum of Art Theater 6 p.m. Free.

March 6, Monday

The 2000 DuPont Benedictus Awards.

International architectural awards program to recognize innovation in the use of laminated glass in outstanding commercial and residential architectural projects. www.aiaonline.com

MIDDLE CHAPTER

January 17 – 20

Middle Chapter Third Year Design

Competition Week.

Contact Rick Riccardo for

more information. 814-865-7190 or

rar7@nw.opp.psu.edu.

January 20, Thursday

Executive Committee Meeting

followed by final design presentations and awards. Penn State Altoona Campus. Contact Rick Riccardo for more information. 814-865-7190 or rar7@nw.opp.psu.edu.

February 17, Thursday

Executive Committee Meeting.

Penn State Altoona Campus. Contact Rick Riccardo for

more information. 814-865-7190 or

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CONTRACTORS' DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF AREA CONTRACTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. To include your firm in this directory, call AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548.

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Bishop Suger *as channeled by Bob Bailey, AIA*



Illustration from ABBOT SUGER: ON THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. DENIS AND ITS ART TREASURES, edited by Erwin Panofsky, 1946.

Architectural patronage c. 1000.

Position: Abbot of St-Denis, France.

Years in Religious Life: 60 of my 70 years, beginning in 1091 when I was offered to the monastery of St-Denis. Later, I was named provost of Berneval in Normandy in 1107 and provost of Toury in Beauce in 1109. In 1122, I was ordained to the priesthood and elected Abbot of St-Denis.

Education: Monastery school of St-Denis, 1091 - 1103; monastery school of St-Benoit-sur-Loire, 1104 - 1106.

First job: Secretary to Abbot Adam of St-Denis, 1106.

Project you're most proud of: Renovation of the abbey church of St-Denis, in which, as I have written, "we turned our hand to the memorable construction of buildings, so that by this thanks might be given to Almighty God by us as well as our successors."

I want to be remembered for: Seeking to carry out my desire to uplift the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ in my edifice. In doing so, the fundamentals of my design directives became the birth of the style of architecture known as Gothic which is, as I have written, "elaborated with the variety of so many arches and columns," and whereby, "the midst of the edifice... was suddenly raised aloft by columns..." As we included in an inscription in the choir, "bright is the noble edifice which is pervaded by the new light."

Building you admire: Hagia Sophia at Istanbul, built 500 years before the renovations to St-Denis. Although I never actually visited this building, we had, as I wrote, "heard wonderful and almost incredible reports about the superiority of Hagia Sophia's... ornaments for the celebration of Mass." It was thus my desire to equal or surpass that here at St-Denis.

Building you would like to tear down: "Tear down" is such a strong phrase, implying as it does a rashness of temperament. Let us rather refer to those buildings I would not admire, those being any in which the Gothic style is employed but whose function is not that for which the style was intended.

If you hadn't been an abbot, you would have been: One becomes that for which God intended one to be used. I have, however, by the grace of God also served as statesman, historian, and royal advisor.

What's the most annoying thing Kings of France do? Go off on Crusades! It causes such disruption in the kingdom! However, when Louis VII went on the Second Crusade from 1147-1149, I was, in his absence, appointed regent of the kingdom. My administration was so successful that the king, upon his return, bestowed upon me the title of "Father of the Country."

Favorite book: Other than the *Bible*, I would direct you to either of two books I authored, *Sugerii Abbatis Sancti Dionysii Liber — De Rebus In Administratione Sua Gestis (The Book of Suger, Abbot of St-Denis — On What Was Done Under His Administration)* and *Libellus Alter De Consecratione Ecclesiae Sancti Dionysii (The Other Little Book On The Consecration Of The Church of St-Denis)*.

Best gift to give an abbot: The grace, strength and funding to erect a noble edifice to the glory of God.

People would be surprised to know: I was a monastery school pal of the future Louis VI.

Postscript: The good abbot had, himself, equipped an army and was about to depart for the Holy Land when he died of malaria in 1151. His journey would probably have been known as the Third Crusade, which, as history unfolded, did not happen for almost 40 years afterward.

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Upcoming Issues

Throughout the year 2000, *Columns* will explore innovative uses of various materials. All members are encouraged to submit designs in the categories below.

MARCH 2000

- Glass (Deadline for submission is January 21)

APRIL 2000

- Wood (Deadline for submission is February 15)

MAY 2000

- Masonry (Deadline for submission is March 15)

JUNE 2000

- Steel and other metals EXCEPT for aluminum (Deadline for submission is April 15)

JULY/AUGUST 2000

- Water as a material and/or system (Deadline for submission is May 15)

SEPTEMBER 2000

- Other materials not covered (Deadline for submission is June 15)

OCTOBER 2000

- Aluminum (Deadline for submission is August 15)

To contribute to an issue or to submit a story idea, please contact the editor at 412/362-1844 or by email: cheryltowers@mizeraktowers.com.

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AIA / MBA Committee Plans Y2K Schedule

The AIA/MBA Joint Committee has set its meeting schedule for 2000. In addition to developing recommended construction practices, discussing design/build issues, and monitoring state legislation and regulations, the AIA/MBA Joint Committee is inviting the following speakers:

Tom Kennedy, Sports & Exhibition Authority
David Matter, Oxford Development – Roddy Transition Team
Merle Ryan, Deputy Secretary, DGS
Tim Beard, Design-Build Institute
PA Sen. Tim Murphy

Contact MBA Executive Director Jack Ramage at (412) 922-3912 for additional information.

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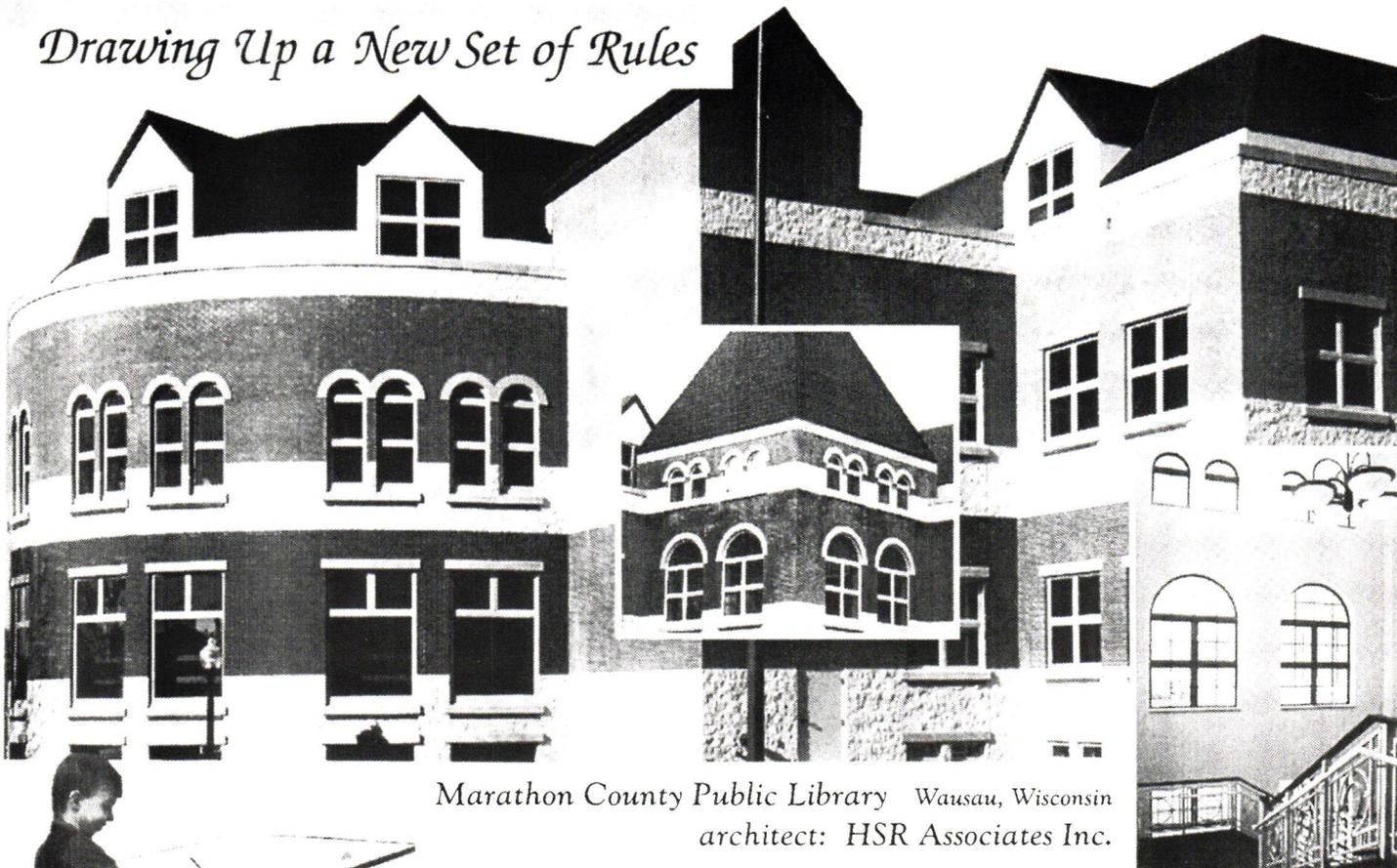


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