

C O L U M N S



Design Awards 2001



*Respected **Builder**, Valued Construction **Leader**, Trusted **Partner***

Builder.

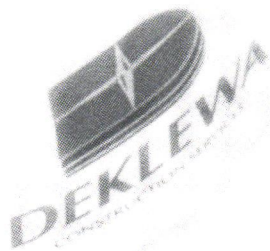
Site Work
Demolition
Concrete
Carpentry
Drywall & Acoustic

Leader.

Program Management
Site Selection
Feasibility Study
Pre-construction

Partner.

General Contracting
Construction Management
Design-build
Estimating/budgeting
Value Engineering



JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC.

1273 Washington Pike • P.O. Box 158 • Bridgeville, PA 15017
Tel: 412-257-9000 • Fax: 412-257-4486 • www.deklewa.com

Building Excellence with Superior Service Since 1918

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

How Do We Measure Success

by Paul Ostergaard, AIA



Great buildings are never labyrinths, never mazes, never confusing, never uninviting. They have a clarity of organization that invites comprehension.

How do we measure success in the

buildings we design? One method is to assemble a jury of our peers, and ask them to compare works of architecture, choosing what most interests them. This is a difficult task and juries are exhausting experiences. We ask a lot of our peers in a short amount of time: to evaluate complex three-dimensional objects reduced in their description to drawings, photographs and paragraphs. This year's Design Awards selections — showcased in this issue—are no doubt compelling and worthy of merit. But I would argue, and I believe our jurors would as well, that an AIA Award is an inadequate measure of success. The jurors told me there were many projects they felt were successful that did not receive an award.

We all measure our works based on an internal form of evaluation that for most is difficult to externalize. Vitruvius developed a way to measure success. Alberti tried it. So did Viollet-le-Duc. Most educators today try to instill their measures in future practitioners. With this opportunity, I will propose my own inadequate method of measuring success keeping mind that the ultimate judgment, however, is with the individual who lives with what we create.

Affordability

I am sure that many great works have broken the bank: costs that way exceeded budgets, driving clients to despair, divorce, bankruptcy, perhaps even ruin. Our job is to insure that our clients avoid that experience. There is nothing so rewarding as a tight set of bids, all below the budget. A financially sound client on opening day is a sure measure of success.

Sustainability

"To keep in existence; maintain; prolong". As I understand it, for architects sustainability means to use and consume as few non-renewable resources as possible. This is a relatively new term for the profession but a profoundly important concept that is as old as architecture itself. When I was in school, we studied how indigenous architecture consumed few resources and responded to the climate. We studied not just the buildings but whole settlement patterns. Do our buildings contribute to efficient compact cities or do they contribute to sprawl? In the age of the automobile, the greatest threat to sustainability is not the build-

ing itself but our uncontrolled consumption of land for settlement and the requisite consumption of energy to move us about.

Accessibility

We have the responsibility of protecting the civil rights of all who use our buildings. They should have access to all that buildings offer regardless of particular disabilities. The evolution of design criteria and codes which enable architects to practice with some sense of confidence has had a positive and profound influence on design. But there is another aspect to accessibility. Great buildings are never labyrinths, never mazes, never confusing, never uninviting. They have a clarity of organization that invites comprehension. The path through a great building reveals all that is within and adds a dimension to life that is greater than the uses listed in the design program. I believe that much of the delight of architecture is this idea of inspired accessibility.

Respectability

Respectability is something that is earned over time and awarded upon a building by others. But a sure fire way to start off on the right path is to show respect. Does the building contribute to making great streets, squares, and parks or does it diminish them? Just as a group of neighbors face each other in conversation, do buildings properly face the public or is one facing the wrong direction? Does a building block views, close streets, or internalize everything for itself? Does the building exhibit a certain deference to its neighbors or is it loud and obnoxious? Being a good neighbor is the first step in earning respect.

Lovability

The greatest compliment, a sure measure of success, is when someone loves something about your building. It may be a grand space with a lot of "vaboom" that captures the imagination or a cozy bay window with a cherished view. It may be a particularly elegant use of materials or colors. It is hard to know. Love is unexpected and hard to predict but it is a thrill when it happens.

There it is, my own measure of success in architecture: affordability, sustainability, accessibility, respectability and lovability. What's yours?

IN THIS ISSUE*Design Awards 2001*

Jurors' Bios	4
Remarks from Teresa Heinz	5
The Winners	6
News: Architects Saturday	4
Breaking Ground	19
Calendar	25

On the cover: Silver Medal Award winner, Fort Duquesne & Sixth Parking Garage Renovation by Pfaffmann + Associates. Photo by Charles Uhl.

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.

AIA Pittsburgh
211 Ninth Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Telephone: 412/471-9548
FAX: 412/471-9501

Chapter Officers

Paul B. Ostergaard, AIA, President
Jonathan W. Shimm, AIA, 1st V.P.
Richard DeYoung, AIA, 2nd V.P.
Daniel K. Rothschild, AIA, Treasurer
Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA,
Executive Director

Columns Staff

Tracy Certo, Editor
Joseph Ruesch, Art Director
Joan Kubancek, Coordinator

Editorial Board

David J. Vater, AIA, Chair
Robert J. Bailey, AIA
Alan L. Fishman, AIA
Eileen M. Kinney, Professional Affiliate
Daniel K. Rothschild, AIA
Donald G. Zeilman, AIA

COLUMNS is published ten times a year by, and primarily for, members of AIA Pittsburgh, A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Preference may be given to the selection of works, articles, opinions, letters, etc. of members for publication. However, in the interest of furthering the goals of the Chapter, as stated monthly at the top of the masthead and in the membership directory, COLUMNS will publish the names of and properly credit non-members, whether as participants in the design of works submitted by a member, or as designers of their own work, or as authors of articles, opinion or letters.

Opinions expressed by editors and contributors are not necessarily those of AIA Pittsburgh. The Chapter has made every reasonable effort to provide accurate and authoritative information, but assumes no liability for the contents.

For information about AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Middle PA and the Northwest PA Chapter, call 1-888-308-9099. Online: www.aiapgh.org email: aiapgh@stargate.net.



Columns is printed on recycled paper.

Design Awards Jurors' Bios

This year's Jury judged both the 100 entries in the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards and the 20 entries in the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards in Landscape Architecture. The Jury included:

Hank Koning, FAIA (Lead Juror) is principal of Koning Eizenberg Architecture, an award-winning Santa Monica-based architecture and planning firm. Many of Koning Eizenberg Architecture's buildings have won multiple awards and have been published in architectural and general interest publications in the U.S. and abroad. Also, the firm recently won The Pittsburgh Children's Museum Competition and the Chicago Public Schools Design Competition.

Celeste Novak, AIA, an officer of the Damian Farrell Design Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan, focuses her practice on community development and sustainable and environmental design. Celeste will be president of AIA Michigan and has participated in the President's Council for Sustainable Development as well as the LEED'S Certifi-

cation Training Program. She has won the Sterling Award of Merit from the National Commercial Builders Council for her unique automobile service center, which incorporates native landscaping and pollution prevention plans.

Brian Orland, ASLA, is a professor and head of Landscape Architecture at Penn State University. Both an architect and a landscape architect, he has written numerous articles on the subject of landscape and urban planning and environmental design. He is an elected fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, has received numerous awards and fellowships, and is founder and director of Imaging Systems Laboratory.

This Year, New Meaning to Architects' Saturday

By Larry Slater, Research Director for the Pittsburgh Business Times

This year's AIA Pittsburgh Architects' Saturday tour on October 13 of six South Side architectural firms took on an extra, healing significance in light of the Sept. 11 destruction of the World Trade Center towers and severe damage to the Pentagon. After a month of seeing

what true evil can destroy, after one too many videotaped ravings from fanatics who celebrate the cult of death, I found it soothing to instead see designs for living and to talk with professionals passionately committed to creating, building, improving and transforming.

Each of the buildings on this year's tour was a model of adaptive reuse, a skillful blend of often century-old brick, wood beams or pressed tin ceilings with cutting edge creative spaces, green design and the latest in architectural technology. Innovations ranged from the radiant heat-conducting recycled tile flooring and computer-powering solar panels of the CCI Center to the natural wood

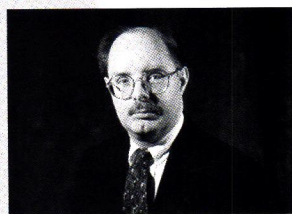
poles supporting the basement ceiling and first floor of Hanson Design Group Ltd. and the spectacular refit of an ethnic social club as

offices for Gardner + Pope Architects. Each firm on the tour showcased what it can design from concept to finish. What a welcome — and necessary — change from the warped practitioners of murder and demolition.

At Lynch & Associates, Architects, I was absorbed for quite some time in the floor plans and exterior renderings of a splendid private residence. The house, which will incorporate the natural landscape on which it will be built, seemed more a series of skillfully interconnected pavilions than one single structure. To think and create on these terms, rather than to ruminate on how to achieve, with maximum media attention, the death of thousands and the obliteration of modern landmarks, is truly the gift of a giver and sustainer, rather than of a taker of life.

The annual Architects' Saturday tours are highly enjoyable and thought provoking under normal circumstances. In the wake of the Sept. 11 atrocities, however, seeing plans for building and the people who design them took on a more affirming and comforting aspect.

LARRY SLATER can be contacted at lslater@bizjournals.com



"I found it soothing to instead see designs for living and to talk with professionals passionately committed to creating, building, improving and transforming."