

C O L U M N S



**If you were to make
a better world,
*how would you do it?***



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

Give a Little Bit by Tracy Certo



Maura hit the nail on the head when she said there aren't too many people with the vision and the creativity to get things done right in a community.

As often happens when writing articles,

I'm interviewing someone on one subject and they bring up another which grabs me. While talking about her role as a volunteer, Maura Guttman, AIA mentioned how much she had learned being on the Infrastructure Committee for the New Idea Factory. About raw sewage, for instance and how much is dumped in the rivers that no one knows about. And how it will take up to three billion dollars — yes, three billion — to rebuild the sewer system. As she talked, I thought, now there's a story.

The previous day I was talking to Henry Hanson, AIA about his role in CELP — Central European Linkages Project — and he told me about the transformation that occurs when people participate in community process for the first time. He mentioned the green space that occupies territory between three buildings in Prague and how complicated it was for all parties to collaborate to get things done right. But they did and in the process, they learned a great deal. Once again I thought, now there's a story.

The point is, there are plenty of stories out there about architects making a difference in our world. Maura hit the nail on the head when she said there aren't too many people with the vision and the creativity to get things done right in a community. But architects, who possess those very attributes in abundance, can do this and that's why we're focused on their efforts in this issue.

The article was something we had talked before 9/11; obviously, afterwards the whole idea of community work and helping your neighbors took on greater and deeper significance. It's worthwhile mentioning that none of the architects featured here called me. Instead, others told me about them and I made the calls.

A few years ago I was recruited to help a group of students interested in architecture at Lincoln Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon. It was for an innovative and hands-on program called Journeys that a savvy friend had started. The idea was to bring professionals into the classroom to help these kids learn from the best. My group, the Rikki Tikki Tacos (a takeoff of Rudyard Kipling), was a primitive island society that celebrated, well, everything: a birth, a

death, the rising of the sun, the setting of the sun. They mined gems for money and their most outstanding attribute was their happiness. These were joyful folk with dance platforms in the middle of parks and, in case of rain, dance halls.

Several architects, including Jim Kopriva, AIA and Art Ruprecht, AIA gave up their lunch hours for weeks to help these budding architects build a model of their island village. I don't know what impressed me more: the students with their enthusiasm and bright ideas or the busy architects who found the time to guide them. How much did the kids learn? Plenty. With limited resources they designed and built a model of society after much reflection on what the society needed for a comfortable (and very happy) existence.

In this issue, we honor those who contribute on a volunteer basis — to our local schools and community, our state and our country or another country. Their work makes a difference.

Where to start? If I could, allow me to start with the group who meet the first Friday of every month at the AIA offices for the communications committee. Here's where the ideas for Columns Magazine form and take shape. Without them, Columns Magazine wouldn't be what it is today. So from this thankful editor, I honor the following who give generously of their time and ideas: Bob Bailey, AIA, Alan Fishman, AIA, Eileen Kinney-Mallin, Prof. Affiliate, Dan Rothschild, AIA, David Vater, AIA and Donald Zeilman, AIA.

Not to mention all the other architects who volunteer for AIA committees and posts. We feature quite a few architects in this article to give a sample of what's going on out there, knowing full well there are many more who go unmentioned.

In writing this, I realized how day after day, I had one nice conversation with an architect after another. Of course. Those who are generous with their time and energy are really nice people, as Ed Meinert, AIA said to me. I find them inspiring. I hope you do, too.

Email Tracy Certo at tcerto@adelphia.net.

IN THIS ISSUE

Architects Giving Back 6
Volunteers Making a Difference

Getting By With a Little Help 12
A.R.E. Prep Course Series

From the top 4
News 5
Breaking Ground 17, 19
Calendar 21
Dossier 23

On the cover: Children learn early about community process in the Czech Republic as they participate in decisions and designs for shared green space. Photo by Henry Hanson.

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

Jonathan W. Shimm, AIA, President
Richard DeYoung, AIA, 1st VP
Daniel K. Rothschild, AIA, 2nd VP
Deborah Rouse, AIA, Treasurer
Elmer B. Burger III, AIA, Secretary
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-Mallin,
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.

A New Angle and New Excitement

by Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA

I come by my volunteer career honestly.

It is in my genes. My mother spent many years totally involved in church activities and my dad was the "civil defense" coordinator for our town. He took it very seriously, eventually serving on town council and proposing a bomb shelter that would also double as a community center under the village green. At the time, this all seemed like a good idea to me, but then I was busy crouching under my school desk whenever the town's sirens blared signifying a possible nuclear attack. My dad was successful in getting a bond issue passed to fund the proposed village green desecration but an ensuing court battle which pitted neighbor against neighbor overturned the vote. In retrospect, the town made a good decision even if the process was quite painful, as my own family's silence on the issue certainly indicates. Given all this, you might think my father retired to the sidelines to lick his wounds and sulk. That did not happen. After several terms on the town council, he retired to serve on the volunteer ambulance service. Now safely ensconced in rural Maine, both my mother and father remain totally involved in the church, library, and local land conservation group to name just a few. Again not content to sideline quarterback, they are more often in leadership positions although they both leave the politicking to others.

I have to confess that my first volunteer job in Mt. Lebanon grew out of my conviction that I had to get out of the house. As adorable as Betsy (now age 22) was as a child, staying at home was not my forte. While Betsy may not have realized it at the time, the beginning of my volunteer career lead to much better mothering from me and the introduction of Rita, our ageless babysitter. Rita still loves nothing better than to get down on the floor and play cards, pickup sticks, Candyland and every other game that I detest. Meanwhile I happily and innocently jumped into revitalizing the central business district of Mt. Lebanon. My

college major in economics and my background in banking proved perfect for the task of understanding revitalization strategies. However, when it came to the politics of convincing everyone to go along with your ideas and how to actually get things done I had a lot to learn and I am still learning. That first volunteer position turned into a job, but my involvement didn't end when I left the job bloodied, bruised and somewhat wiser five years later. I am still there.

With a full time job, a husband, children and pets, why continue? I certainly don't need another night out a week. I have found that there are lots of reasons to sign on the dotted line. First and foremost are the people you meet. Volunteers are optimists, forward thinkers, and interesting. Volunteers are committed to what they are doing. Meeting goals with a group of committed doers is always a satisfying feeling. You get to learn in the most effective way possible. Doing always beats just listening. Finally, believe it or not, volunteering reduces my sense of job burnout. Even my life can feel pretty routine and boring, especially when I have lots to do. Volunteering always brings a new angle and a new excitement.

Besides the obvious pluses volunteering brings to your own life, it can also greatly help your profession. Like any other profession, architecture and architects are subject to a number of preconceived notions. I have watched those notions get smashed over and over again from my perch on the Mt. Lebanon Planning Board. Letting people see you in action is a tremendous way to underscore the problem solving capacity of architects.

Volunteering is a great energy force. While it takes time, energy and commitment to volunteer, in return you get a grand opportunity to learn. Learning is a great fuel and for me the reason to keep saying yes to the next volunteer opportunity.



Volunteering is a great energy force. While it takes time, energy and commitment to volunteer, in return you get a grand opportunity to learn.



TRI-AIA Tristate Regional Convention

**Westin Convention Center Hotel
March 7 - 9, 2002**

SEMINAR TRACKS INCLUDE:

- New Technology
- Business Management
- Preservation and Sustainability
 - Emerging Trends
 - Design and Planning

Exhibitor Hall, Socials,
Networking opportunities and abundant
CES/AIA LU Credits.

Watch for more information coming via
snail mail, email and through Columns.

Sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh

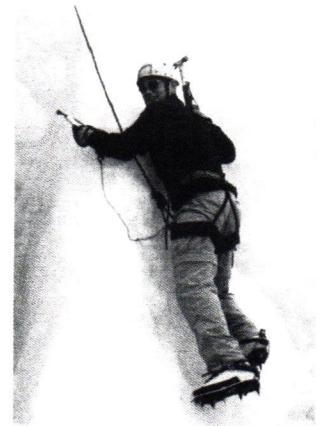
Welcome New, Adventurous and Globe-Trotting Members

(We suggest you two meet.)

AIA PITTSBURGH WELCOMES:

Scott G. Myatich, Assoc. AIA of JSA Architects, Inc. The Miami University of Ohio grad is shown here scaling the icy Swiss Alps during a European trip through the school's Honor program to study architecture. Scott's goal is to become a practicing architect with an ecological design/build philosophy. Hobbies include furniture design and construction, lacrosse, and, as you can see, the outdoors. In addition to scaling mountains, Scott also loves to camp, hike and ski.

Jeffrey Leon, Assoc. AIA of Strada Architecture L.L.C. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University ('01), Jeffrey's goals are to gain diversified experience before licensure and to focus on good design and greener solutions. Past projects include residential work, home renovations, community planning and prototypes for a bank, restaurant/bar, corporate interior and stadium. Interests include organized sports, athletics and outdoor pursuits as well as social events such as happy hours and activities with his alma mater (specifically his fraternity). From Boston, MA, Jeffrey served one year as the AIA's national director for the Northeast Quadrant. Currently he is the president of his fraternity chapter alumni corporation. He has studied in Italy twice.



Myatich

Upcoming Issues

*Columns welcomes your
ideas and suggestions*

March

- The Business of Architecture:
Marketing Your Firm
- Security by Design: The Local Angle

April

- The Business of Architecture
- The Challenge of Designing Overseas

To contribute to an issue or
to submit a story idea,
please contact the editor at
412/563-7173
or email tcerto@adelphia.net.

Shane
COMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED

Offering more than thirty years
of experience in:

- Marketing of architectural firms
- Writing, design and printing of brochures
- Implementation of public relations programs
- Design of effective internet websites
- Video and dynamic presentations
- Architectural and product photography

*For a no obligation evaluation of your
requirements, contact Chuck Shane.*

Phone: 412.978.6847

Fax: 412.343.3589

E-mail: CShane8678@aol.com