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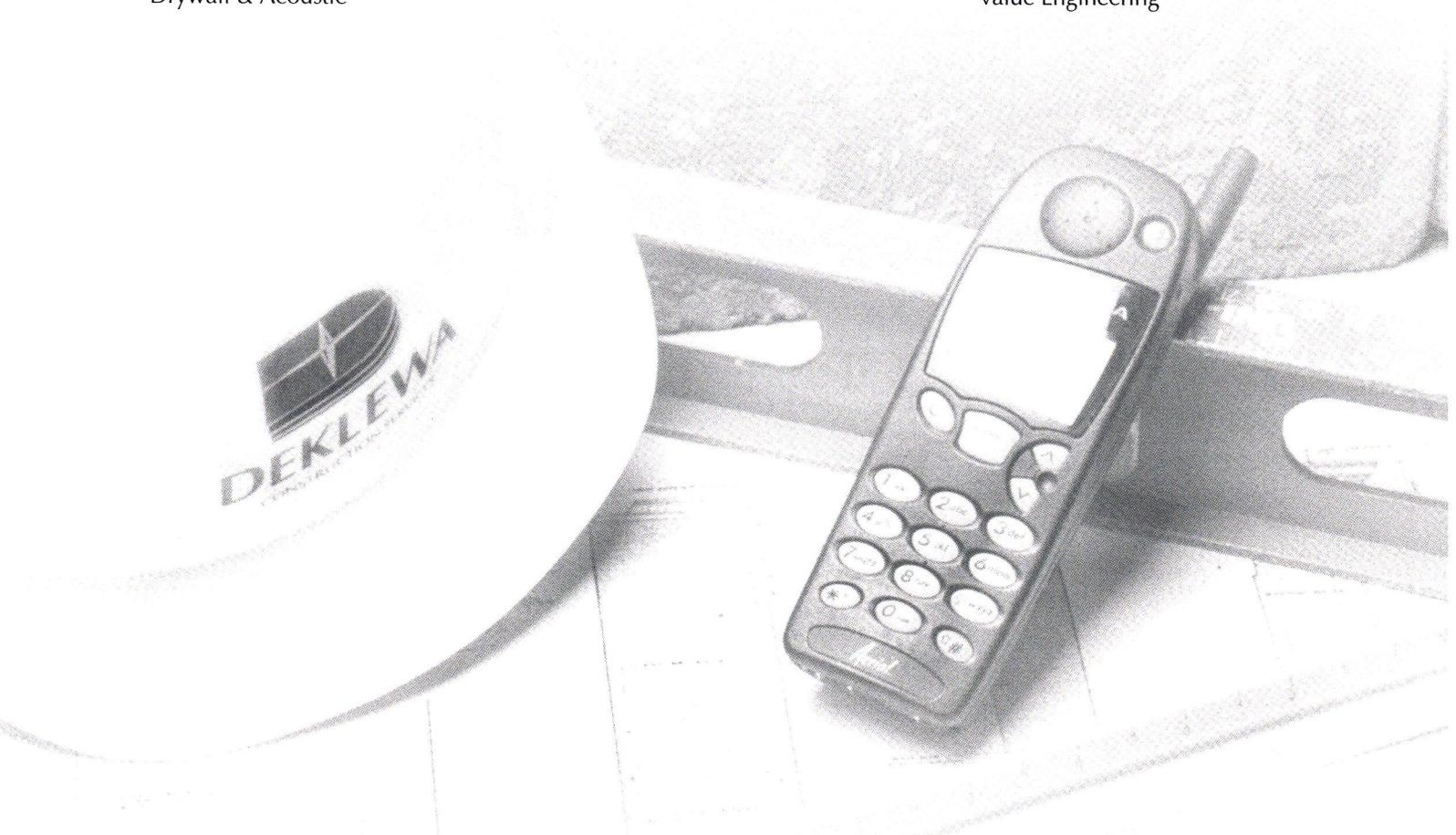
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This Could Be You *By Tracy Certo*



“Here’s how I might do this,” he said as he flipped the photos like cards into pairs, two on a page, and narrated the story they presented. Magic.

It was a big day in the Flynn household

in O’Hara Twp. A crew from Better Homes & Garden’s Kitchen and Bath Design flew in for a day and a half photo shoot of their master bathroom and powder room. Homeowner Karen Flynn submitted the prize-winning photos (by her next door neighbor, the photographer Dennis Marsico). I was invited as the local field editor, (on the lookout for great kitchens and baths, hint hint) for Meredith Publications’ many magazines.

I had the good luck to work with a great photographer, King Au, and the design director of the magazine, Stephen Peretto who, throughout the course of the day taught me quite a bit—notably the fine points of editorial photography. At the end of the long shooting day, Stephen laid out the Polaroids of the six money shots and explained why each one worked, what story they told and how they related to each other in the design layout. “Here’s how I might do this,” he said as he flipped the photos like cards into pairs, two on a page, and narrated the story they presented. Magic.

I mention this because sometimes a bathroom is not just a bathroom. In my limited photography experience, I might have taken a wide-angle shot that showed as much of the bathroom as possible. Not these pros. They teased and coaxed the scene forward, first setting up a scenario with props: a newspaper angled on the stool before the tub, a cup of coffee (diet Pepsi, actually, fizzy and all) with a teaspoon at tub side and a myriad of artfully and yet realistically arranged soaps, sea sponges, bottles of creams and lotions, metallic tubes and brushes. It turned an attractive bathroom into an inviting one, steeped in details and meanings. There was the robe, dangling by the shower (which was transformed into a lightbox) with slippers placed below, one angled on top of the other. On the vanity, a large glass vase with cherry tree branches blossoming at their peak. (And may I say right here this was my big contribution. The challenge was to find some forced flowering branches in Pittsburgh and I did, second phone call. They were beauts.) Watching King at work was instructive: he shot low to get the tub at eye level and catch the vanity beyond and the window behind it. Perfect in capturing the

architecture and the details without capturing the entire scene. The “tile shot” was from an angle, not dead on, for a more arresting photo with the robe in the background.

As I surveyed the scene that day, absorbing as much as I could, I kept connecting this to architecture and photography and how critical the relationship between the two. Presentation is everything in this case. From the art of propping (is that indeed a verb?) to the final angle of the photograph. Designing a beautiful room is one thing; showcasing it with top-notch photos is yet another. King is an architect and he’s done plenty of architectural photography. Knowing my position with this magazine, he referred often throughout the day to the difference between architectural photography and editorial.

Meanwhile, the homeowner, Karen Flynn, turned out to be a bit of a stylist herself, preparing us a lavish lunch (roasted beet and blood orange salad for starters—I got the recipe if you’re interested). Then her mom stopped in, and three sisters, a sister in law and baby Roberto, her husband and an assortment of friends. Not to mention the architect, Susan Tusick, the Valley News Dispatch, the Sewickley Herald and, the next day, the Trib-Review. It was great fun and I was surprised to see that the photography team was unruffled throughout, granting interviews, posing for photographs and answering many questions (including mine). Someone along the way said to me in an aside, “You know, I dread covering these “national” stories because often times the photographer is so arrogant.” Not these guys.

It was an inspiring day on many levels: watching the pros in action and seeing them relate to everyone so well, meeting the very large and very warm Flynn family and of course learning the ropes in styling and editorial photography. As I said, we’re looking for a few good kitchens and, especially, baths in the Pittsburgh area. Send your photos to me by email and who knows, you, too can experience a day like this with your name in a national design magazine. Just make sure the homeowner is an outstanding cook.

Email the editor at tcerto@adelphia.net

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On the cover: The spectacular views from Grandview Avenue make this a public realm. For the Mt. Washington CDC, that means a greater say in design issues. Photo: Tracy Certo

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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Meanwhile in Mt. Lebanon

by Anne Swager, Hon. AIA

My first husband spent his entire

childhood in Mt. Lebanon. After graduating from college, he returned to a condominium in nearby Scott Township. Not too many years later, we married and returned to Mt. Lebanon. I soon learned I had to move over and make room

for the ghosts of his childhood. At one point he wanted to buy his parents' old home but he finally settled for living only a stone's throw away. I heard repeated stories about buying his school clothes at the old Horne's and early attempts at romance over milkshakes at Isaly's. His nostalgia for the yesteryear of Mt. Lebanon was mirrored not only by his high school buddies who had returned to good old Lebo but also by a number of long time residents.

Soon bored with my lot in life as a stay-at-home mom living in Mt. Lebanon, I volunteered to work with a group dedicated to revitalizing the main business district of Mt. Lebanon. Washington Road had been home to Horne's, Isaly's, a thriving Denis Theater and a number of other small businesses that in many residents' minds contributed to making a perfect hometown. By the time I arrived, the Denis Theater was a sad parody of its former glory years. We had several discount drugstores, constantly selling paper towels at a great bargain, and most first floor spaces were professional offices. Washington Road's former glory was well hidden behind inappropriate storefront modernization attempts and the streetscape improvements had a very dated early 60's look. Nevertheless, our group had heady plans and we dove in.

We quickly adopted the National Trust's revitalization strategy, entitled the Main Street program, and formed a local development corporation. The Main Street program is scaled for small downtowns that have suffered from our love for the almighty automobile and the lure of the indoor mall. The four tenets on which the program is based include building consensus and cooperation through an organization focused on revitalization, bringing residents back downtown through a series of special events, attract-

ing new uses appropriate to a downtown, and Design. Main Street strongly advocated (and still does for that matter) that a downtown could compete with a mall by underscoring its uniqueness inherent in its architectural forms. I soon learned that while a bit of Mt. Lebanon's art deco architectural heritage remained, most of it had been demolished to make way for a fair amount of mediocre mid-rise buildings.

We formed a façade grant program that was tied to design approval. It covered everything from paint colors to signs to complete redos of storefronts. Modest in its success, it nevertheless underscored the importance design should play in a revitalization strategy and it even carried over to better streetscape improvements. Mt. Lebanon's revitalization efforts were taken in-house a few years after I had moved on to AIA Pittsburgh. The downtown still struggles with a number of the same problems although several new restaurants have reinvigorated the street. Current dreams include a boutique style hotel on a now vacant lot across from Rollier Hardware. A look at the preliminary plans shows a building in scale with its surroundings only through its relative size. The materials are decidedly out of sync and the concrete parking pads over the LRT look like aircraft carrier landing decks. Fortunately, Mt. Lebanon's Commission is committed to good design and they own the land which gives them a modicum of control over the project.

Bravo to the many city CDC's profiled this month by Tracy Certo. Each and every one of them is stressing good design and recognizing the long-term values it brings to a community. The Municipalities Planning Code which governs the planning in communities like Mt. Lebanon severely limits their control over design. While the ghosts of time passed have set the wheels in motion, Mt. Lebanon will need new models and systems if it hopes to be vigilant in guarding its greatest asset, its architectural heritage.



Main Street strongly advocated (and still does for that matter) that a downtown could compete with a mall by underscoring its uniqueness inherent in its architectural forms.





AIA Call For Volunteers

AIA PITTSBURGH seeks contact with persons interested in providing one day of community service for the repair of homes for our elderly, disabled and low-income neighbors.

WHEN: SATURDAY, April 27, 2002 from 8:00 am. To 4:30 PM.

WHERE: This year we will be doing repairs for the home of Catherine Wheat at 7549 Hamilton Avenue in Homewood. Repairs will include painting, clean up, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work

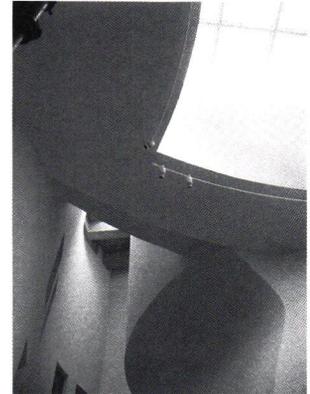
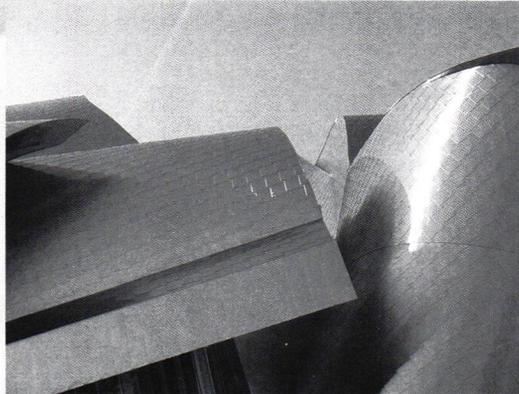
TEDCO CONSTRUCTION will be providing the skilled trades people and project management as they have for the past seven years. Their assistance has been invaluable.

WHO: Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to assist.

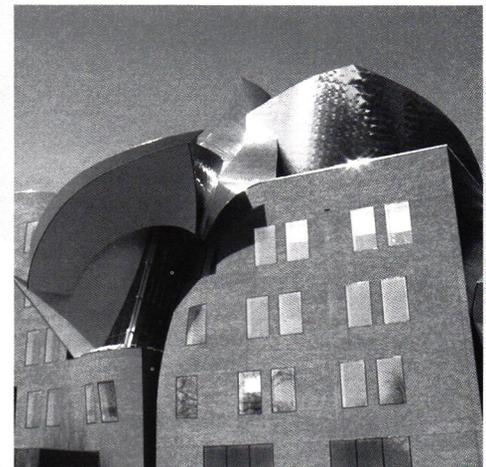
NOTE TO IDP INTERNS: This is a great way to fill those community service credits.

CONTACT: Jennifer McCarthy at 412-361-7878. She will be coordinating AIA volunteers. Please get in touch with her so that we can organize work assignments. For other information you may also contact Todd Havekotte 724/495-4282 at **Baker and Associates**.

A Sneak Preview



Work progresses on Frank O. Gehry's creation in Cleveland: The Peter B. Lewis Building for the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Since construction began, the architecture critic for the Plain-Dealer called it, "the best show in town". The \$61 million project, \$24 million of which was donated by Lewis, is meant to symbolize the creative, beyond-the-lines thinking needed for future business leaders. The building is a block away from the Cleveland Museum of Art. Trust us, you can't miss it.



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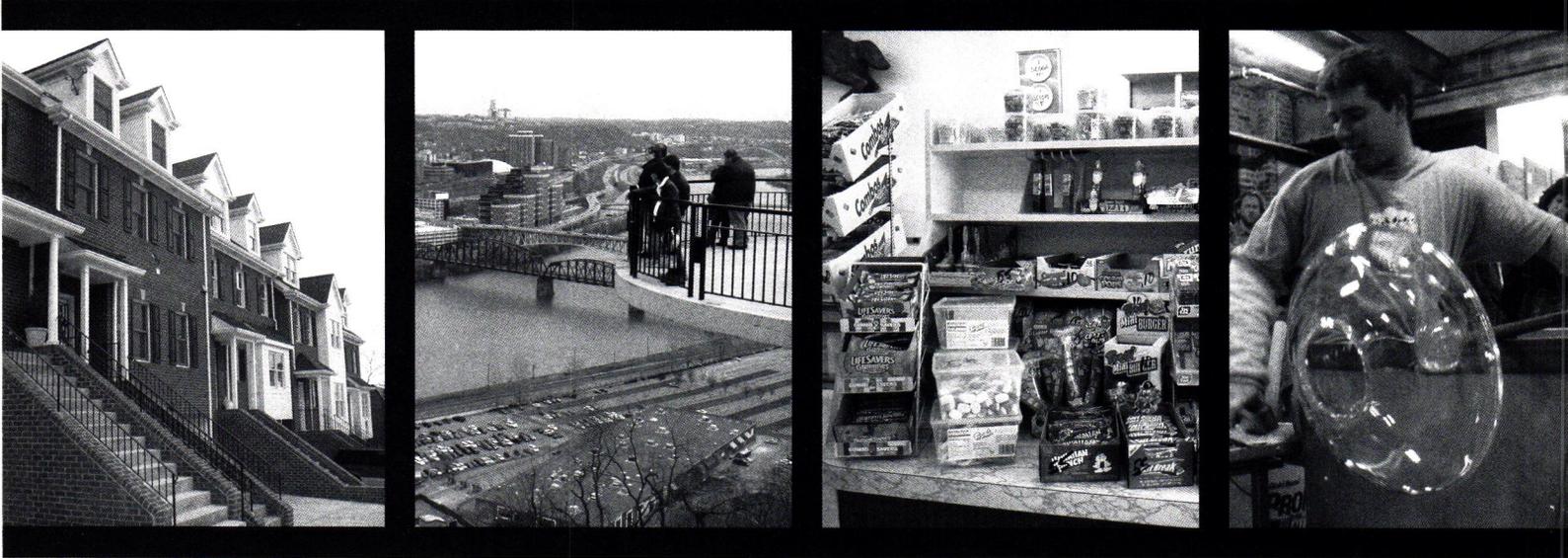
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ENSURING QUALITY FROM THE GROUND UP

CDCs: MAKING A BIG IMPACT



BY TRACY CERTO

There are approximately 3600 of them across the countries, some as old as 20 years or more. Community Development Corporations (CDCs), owned and controlled by residents, produce affordable housing and create jobs through business and commercial development activities, according to the National Congress for Community Economic Development. COLUMNS looks at CDC activity in Pittsburgh and how it affects development, creating opportunities for neighborhoods, not to mention the building industry and architects.

In 1983, the vacancy rate on Pittsburgh's East Carson St. was an overwhelming 60%. Today, the commercial and retail district in the South Side has a 5% vacancy rate, a major turnaround credited largely to the efforts of the South Side Local Development Corporation or SSLDC.

With a staff of 8, a board comprised of 27 and at least 100 regular volunteers on committees, this CDC has been around for twenty years or so and is one of the area's most effective.

Executive Director Carey Harris says the group used a national model for the East Carson St. program, helping to recruit and organize the business district, spearheading the historic preservation of the area and embarking on promotional programs. To date, more than 120 facades have been restored.

In addition, the group has developed successful real estate throughout the South Side, building 72 units of housing with eight more under construction.

Getting things built is one thing and getting them built right is another. "We're like design Nazis over here," Harris

exclaims, adding that the design committee of the CDC is very active, reviewing designs for the LTV site, for instance, and all residential design as well. "The physical space is very important, setting the stage and mood for how this neighborhood is going to develop. We spend a lot of time and energy promoting urban design," Harris says. It doesn't hurt to have "a ton of architects" on board, she notes, ticking off names such as Renaissance 3, Gardner + Pope, Hanson Design, David Morgan and Associates and John Martine, AIA.

As most architects are aware, local CDCs are flourishing. Of the approximately 25 neighborhood groups in the area, a few of the more successful ones include those in the South Side, Garfield, North Side, Lawrenceville and East Liberty.

One of the larger ones is the North Side Leadership Conference, a coalition of 13 neighborhoods with the purpose of strengthening neighborhoods through advocacy and planning and community development. Recent efforts have focused on the "spine line" mass transit in the area and the extension of the Riverfront Trail, for instance. This group also is very active in advocacy and promoting volunteerism.

Throughout Pittsburgh, community development corporations are affecting great change in neighborhoods.

The question is, is this typical of cities across the country? Star Marshall Cash, the new Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) says that Pittsburgh is different in a lot of ways. "One of the reasons CDCs are given such prominence in the city of Pittsburgh is because the mayor has stressed that he's very CDC-oriented. That's not always the case in other cities," she says. "Pittsburgh actively pursues development projects," adds Cash who describes her group as a consortium of CDCs established in 1988.

Another factor Cash cites is the level of cooperation between the City and the groups. For example, community development center reps meet with reps from the PCRG, along with the URA's Directors of Housing and Business Development on a quarterly basis.

"CDCs are our partners in the neighborhoods," says URA Executive Director Mulugutta Birru. "They are a very critical partner for us. Without them, there would be no development in some of the neighborhoods." Further, Birru explains, "All our programs are designed by working together with CDCs." He mentions the façade program, home improvement loans, the committee development investment fund and the business growth fund as examples.

Marshall notes the effectiveness of the entire team at these quarterly meetings. "They're making sure the development

The group used a national model for the East Carson St. program, helping to recruit and organize the business district, spearheading the historic preservation of the area and embarking on promotional programs.



The active South Side Local Development Corporation has 72 units of housing to their credit with eight more underway. Design review is critical. "We're like design Nazis over here," says director Carey Harris.



More housing development on 13th St. on the South Side. Perkins Eastman Architects.

fits in the neighborhood and working with the CDCs to help them through the development process. And they're addressing the issues like urban blight, vacant properties, crime and joblessness," she says.

One group focusing on the retail development that Birru mentions is the so-called Main St. Group made up of 30 representatives from local CDCs. They take their cue from the Main St. Project, a national model for business district revitalization. Developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the project envelops four concepts including: design, economic restructuring, promotion and organization of the business center district to take a more active role.

The Main St. Project tenets were quite familiar to the South Side group since, as Harris says, "We've been doing things that way since the early 80's." Although the South Side was one of the first urban neighborhoods to use the model, it's since been adopted by states, including Pennsylvania which now funds organizations statewide to carry out the work. In Pittsburgh, the community development corporations apply to the URA for these funds. This year, for example, the South Side group received \$150,000 which will be used, in part at least, to secure offices for second and third floor buildings. In an effort to consolidate staff support and make funding go further, South Side is charged with providing Main St. services to neighboring Mt. Oliver, Allentown and Hazelwood.

East Liberty: At a Crossroads

The East Liberty Development Inc.(ELDI)was formed in 1983 by local business leaders in an effort to undo some of the urban renewal ills of the past. As one of the largest urban renewal projects in the country, East Liberty years ago saw the creation of a pedestrian mall on Penn Avenue and the construction of a state highway around the business district, says Rob Stephany, director of real estate development for the group. The idea, he says, was to bring back some of the urban fabric that was lost.

With the help of the city, the group has since opened up automobile traffic on Penn Avenue and now, working with The Community Builders, they're eliminating the unappealing super blocks of rental housing. Perkins Eastman Architects helped with the community plan and



The way it is and the way it could be. A rendering from East Liberty's community plan shows a gateway to the community without the high rise. Perkins Eastman Architects.

acted as project architect on New Penley Place, one of those rental blocks. UDA is also involved in the master planning for the elimination of three of the largest rental high rises.

Meanwhile, Urban Design Associates and Karen Brean Associates are working together on transportation issues: for instance, turning one-way streets into two-way streets with on-street parking and public space improvements. The goal is to reintegrate street grid and build more contextual housing.

One issue for the group is the number of peripheral parking lots that are of interest to the big box retailers. "The question is how or how not to support those retailers in our efforts to build our main streets. They bring more people to the district, but they want to behave like they're in a suburban shopping mall, with concrete boxes that face huge fields of parking," complains Stephany. "It's a double-edged sword."

Home Depot attracted a new market of users in East Liberty and yet, "clearly the customers purchase their goods at Home Depot then leave. From our perspective, if retailers can help build our marketplace, then how can we do that from an urban design standpoint as well?" he asks. "We don't want to make bad long-term decisions to see just anything happen in the short run."

"From our perspective, if retailers can help build our marketplace, how do we do that from an urban design standpoint as well?"

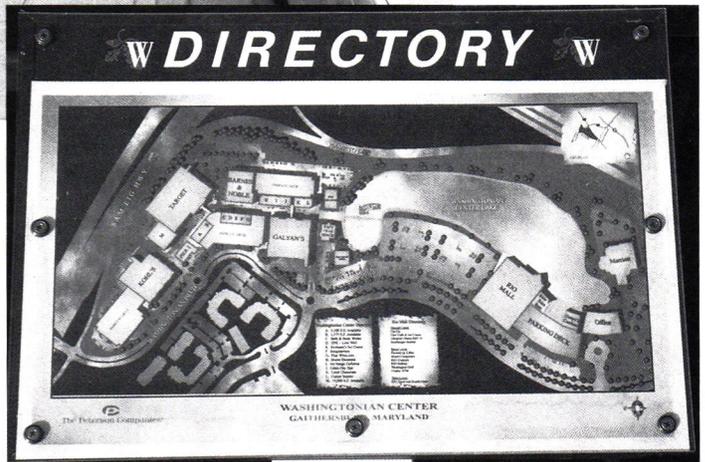


Building Main Street from scratch, with a two-story Target store and attached garage in Gaithersburg, MD.

The addition of Home Depot was a turning point in the community for several reasons. "It defused everyone's misconceptions of safety issues in East Liberty," says Stephany. "Clearly it didn't add value to urban design in the context of community. That is a loss that we all from a community perspective feel and understand. There were lessons learned there."

Currently, Rothschild Architects and Brean Associates are working with a variety of stakeholders to craft guidelines for design that are both contextual, that is urban and historic, and responsive to the marketplace. In the end, "Undoing the large-scale sweeping changes of the past will have to occur in an equally aggressive and coordinated fashion. If it's not going to happen with one developer at the helm then everyone has to meet the same standards," Stephany explains.

If nothing else, the new big box retailer has expanded the East Liberty market, by 2.5 miles in all directions, Stephany claims. If that's so, the area has one of the largest concentrations of wealth in the region, he says. What's



more, a new type of shopper is coming into the area by car and that trend could accelerate with the addition of Whole Foods Market. One of the premiere national retailers, it is scheduled to open in the fall.

The developer for Whole Foods Market, Steve Mosites, is mindful of design issues, Stephany notes encouragingly. Another positive note: retailers like to follow Whole Foods so there could well be more development in store for the area.

In a recent trip to the D.C. area, Stephany was surprised by what he saw. In Gaithersburg, Maryland, he says, "They're building Main St. from scratch with a two-story Target that opens into a garage."



New townhouses on the old blighted site of St. Mary's High School go for a cool \$950,000. Grandview Crest was designed and developed by Bill Fink, owner of Paragon Homes.

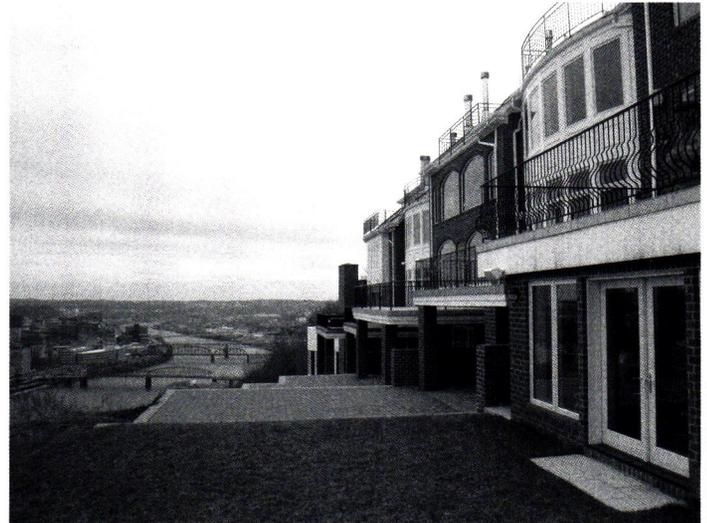
Furthermore, he recognizes the huge success of Walnut Street in Shadyside—"regardless of how hard it is to get there and how hard it is to park there."

Successfully merging big box retailers with an urban area is not the only issue in East Liberty. Stephany credits the "institutional presence" that has kept the community fabric together as of late. The East Liberty Presbyterian Church is not only a community leader but an investor as well, pouring half a million into the building across the street at Penn and Highland to restore it. Likewise, says Stephany, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater restoration could not have happened without help from the Church, along with local foundation support.

ELDI has a staff of seven and a board of 12 with 100 or so active participants on committees. Like others in the area, it is funded primarily through foundations along with the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development. The group also receives project support from the Local Initiative Support Organization, a national non-profit in New York that has invested \$4 million in the area at the group's urging over the past three years.

The Public Realm of Mt. Washington

The unique aspect of the Mt. Washington CDC is that the Grandview Avenue area draws a considerable number of



The million dollar view off Grandview Avenue.

tourists and is thus considered a public realm. In effect, says Executive Director Susan Brandt, that means the public space is important to the entire city. That in turn, "allows the neighborhood to have a say in what goes and doesn't go," she explains. Consequently, the CDC "played very heavily on the design" of the new \$16 million apartment building on Grandview for example, according to Brandt.

In existence 11 years, the first five years of the Mt. Washington CDC were devoted primarily to planning. The group, with its 15-member board, is now three-fourths of the way through the strategic plan. The 1990 plan was approved by the City of Pittsburgh ("that's key" says Brandt) and included a grocery store, (now Foodland) and parking facility, newly built, along with elimination of blighted areas. One of those areas is the site of the old St. Mary's High School on Grandview where eight new townhouses now stand, with stunning city views. Brandt says they sell for \$950,000. Another blighted area was the business district site where the new Rite-Aid now stands.

"What's different in Pittsburgh is, in recent years community development has become more prominent in addition to new housing development," Brandt notes. "Without a shopping district in your neighborhood, you won't sell many homes."

The emphasis on design "might be considered outrageous by some, meddling by others, but it always makes for a better project," Brandt says.



Charles Louis Park, a new addition courtesy of the Mt. Washington CDC. Mural by Eric V. Weisenberger.

The Mt. Washington group is emphatic about design and very pro-architect, says Brandt who notes that Bob Reppe, an architect in the planning department, is working aggressively in the community. "That's really significant because in previous times, the mayor, the Council and the planning department have not been friendly to good architectural design. The emphasis on design "might be considered outrageous by some, meddling by others, but it always makes for a better project," Brandt says. The group is now working on improving the entrance to the Shiloh St. business district to attract what Brandt says is the approximately 1.5 million tourists who come for the scenic splendor from Grandview Ave.

In this case, progress is colliding with tradition. The expansion plans of Eckerd Drug on Shiloh would shut down the neighboring Village Dairy, an institution in the area. "What kind of a draw is a drugstore?" asked owner Fred Yoch, who is circulating a petition to keep the old-fashioned store in business.

Despite conflicts, the Mt. Washington CDC is going strong. "I think we're pretty unique in what we've gotten done," Brandt concludes. "We're collaborating with for-profit developers, we bring money to the table through grants from the URA and we negotiate the public process in the neighborhood," she says. "Rule #1 in community organization: keep people informed!"



PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO

Owners Sheila and Fred Yong of The Village Dairy, a neighborhood institution on Shiloh but for how much longer? Next door, Eckerd Drug wants to expand, taking over their space.

Friendship: Community Development with a Flair

Although Becky Mingo, director of the Friendship Development Association, describes her CDC as small, she says they have 400 active participants. Considering that the Friendship population is only 5,000, that's a sizeable group that not only exhibits clout but also business acumen.

The FDA generates 40% of their own income. "We have a very entrepreneurial attitude for a non-profit," says Mingo. The group takes a five percent development fee from the real estate and commercial projects they develop. To date, what they have already bought, or are just about to buy, totals 16 buildings.

Anne-Marie Lubenau, director of the Community Design Center, says the Friendship group is "extremely proactive with a high percentage of architects and a high level of engagement".

Known for the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, the Friendship group has made an effort "to support local artists and revitalize the corridor through arts and art-related organizations." For example, one building they bought was sold to a ceramicist who both lives and works there, renting out the remaining space.



The Pittsburgh Glass Center (Davis + Gannon) is one of the few of its kind in the country, giving glass artists a dedicated space for studios and classes. The Friendship Development Association bought the building and held it while the center raised money to move in.

Another building, on Penn and Graham, was purchased to get rid of a nuisance bar, a locust of drugs and prostitutes, according to Mingo. It is now a coffee shop, The Quiet Storm, which has become a venue for local musicians and poetry readings. That conversion, from nuisance bar to creative gathering spot, is a "pretty big victory," Mingo concludes. Across the street, Mingo says, three houses were renovated and sold to new homeowners.

Investing in one's neighborhood obviously pays off for residents. "People who live here feel like we have a really great neighborhood. Part of it is attracting the interest of the rest of the city," says Mingo. Marketing is critical for this CDC as well as others. In the case of Friendship, showcasing artists' events becomes a marketing tool. "Unblurred" is a twice-a-year event where studios are opened to the public to spark interest and a better understanding of the creative and tight-knit community.

A major advance in the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative was the opening of the Pittsburgh Glass Center (Davis + Gannon). The FDA purchased the building and held it while the Glass Center raised \$2.5 million of its own to complete the deal. The center is one of very few in the country for glass artists and their studios and classes.

The FDA, with its 15-member board, focuses on the neighborhood of Friendship. Its sister organization, the Friendship Preservation Group, concentrates on the beautification and zoning aspects of the older neighborhood.

Commenting on the success of the group since its origin in 1989, Mingo admits they have changed the image of their beloved neighborhood, making it a more desirable place to be. Star Marshall Cash echoes that. "In ten years, they turned the neighborhood around," she says with pride.

Highland Park CDC

As president of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, architect David Hance of Perkins Eastman, likes the idea that it gives him the chance to be the client for once. "It's good for my own development. It's good to see the balancing of budgets and schedules and design from the client perspective," he says. From the hiring of architects to the inside view of how the world views them, it's been a fascinating process. "It's an excellent opportunity, especially for younger architects to get involved in how an organization runs."

The first accomplishment of the group was the renovation of a large abandoned mansion on the corner of Stanton and Mellon Ave, completed five years ago. It was financed through the sale of low-income housing tax credits. To manage the facility, the group hired a property management firm for the 11-unit building.

"It was a ridiculously large project for a volunteer organization to take on as their first project but we couldn't ignore it," says Hance. Ultimately, the \$1.4 million project helped to pull the organization together. "That started us into a long, dry spell," he says with a laugh but things are looking up. Work began on a second building on the same block. With the first staff person newly hired, the six-year-old organization is no longer all-volunteer. Currently, the group is developing a community master plan for Highland Park.

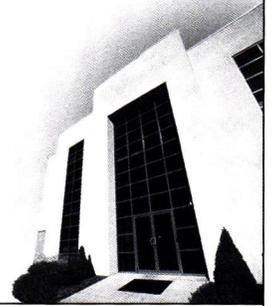
Other plans include buying property with a 75-foot frontage on Bryant St. and hiring a developer to create a retail on the ground level and offices above. In addition, the group is working with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to replace the entry garden at Highland Park. Last but not least, the CDC hired a consultant for help in designating the area a National Historic District. That, says Hance, should be in effect within a few months. The board is comprised of 13 members, including another Perkins Eastman architect, Vic Curti.



A project of Highland Park Community Development Corporation and Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, this \$1.4 million restoration of an abandoned building on Stanton and Mellon is now an 11-unit apartment building. The group credits the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh as instrumental in assisting with the project. Architect: Korzeniwsky-Cullen.

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In Architecture When The Wall
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- Louis Kahn

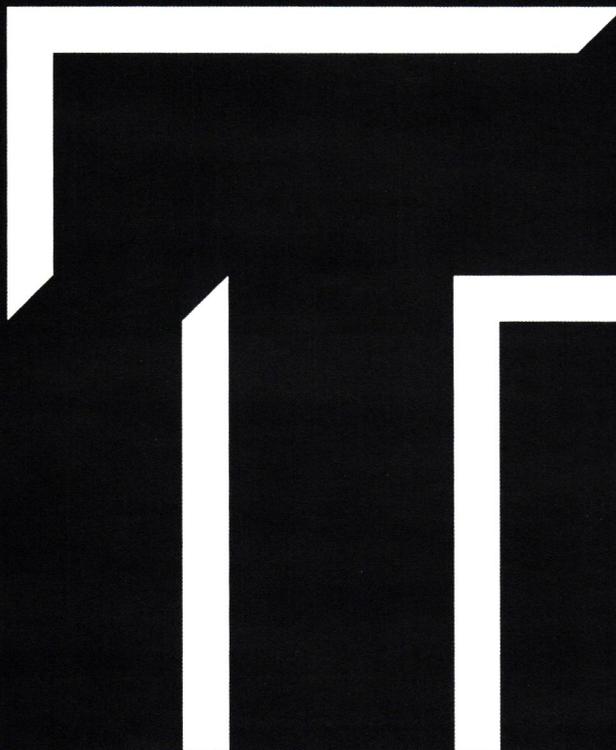


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TRI AIA

AIA Pittsburgh's TRI-State Regional Convention A Hit Photos By Tracy Certo

Not only was the recent convention educational and a way to fulfill yearly CES requirements, but it was also considered to be "best value for the money", "very interesting", "stimulating", "really worthwhile" and "a great opportunity" according to those who attended. Not to mention, "the food was fabulous."

For three days, AIA members from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, were treated to a host of informative sessions on everything from Essentials in Contract Negotiations to Green Building Design.

On the first day, attendees toured the first ever LEED certified convention center in the country, still under construction. On the last day, they heard Kermit Baker, Chief Economist for AIA give an insightful talk about current trends in the construction industry and what to expect in the future.

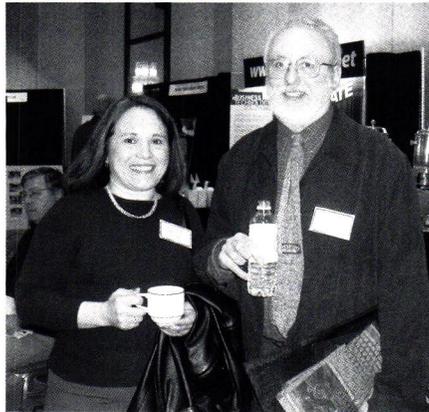
Inbetween, AIA members had a chance to get acquainted with new products and techniques in the industry, from retaining walls and lighting systems to office furniture and computer technology. And it was a chance to meet new faces and re-connect with familiar ones.

AIA Pittsburgh thanks the many architects, vendors and others who supported and attended our successful TRI AIA Regional Convention.

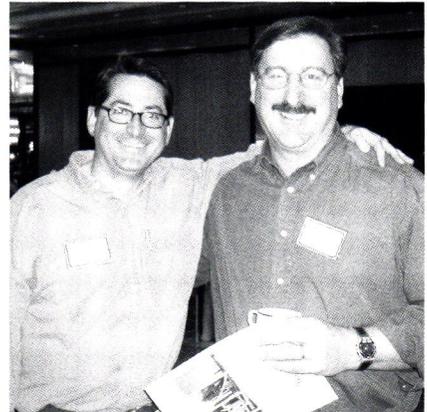


Al Cuteri, AIA of Strada LLC and Maura Guttman, AIA

HOLD THAT DATE: Next year the TRI AIA Regional Convention will be held April 10—13th. Please consider volunteering to help us plan this worthy event.



Ana Migone, LLI Technologies and John Martine, AIA, Strada LLC



Chip Desmone, AIA of Desmone & Associates and John Wilhelm of Carl J. Long and Associates



From left, Joan Kubancek of Pittsburgh AIA, Chuck Hamlin, AIA of WTW Architects, Rich De Young, AIA of WTW Architects and Alan Klaus, AIA of WTW Architects



Paul Zippel, AIA of WTW Architects, Ian Kirk of Smed Intl., Andrew Carr of Herman Miller, Claudia Farmer of Continental Office Environment and Traci McGavitt Yates of Continental Building Systems



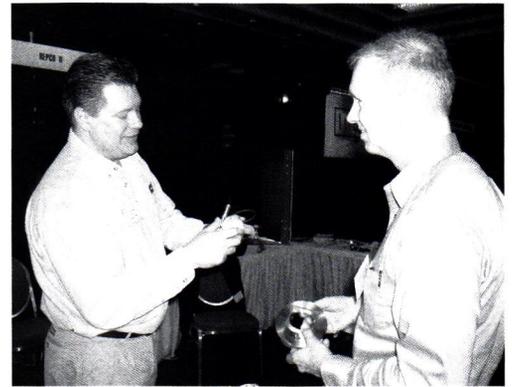
From left, Duncan Penney, AIA of Burt Hill Kosar Rittelman, Bryant Robey, AIA of WTW Architects with Daryl Nauman of Hafele



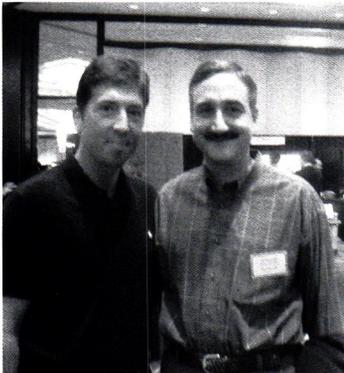
Mary Crawford and Bernie Glesky of Crawford Consulting and Jon Shimm, AIA, President AIA Pittsburgh



Mark Gilles, AIA of Stan Hewitt Hall and Gardens in Akron with Michael Leigh, Director of Education and Programs of AIA Pittsburgh



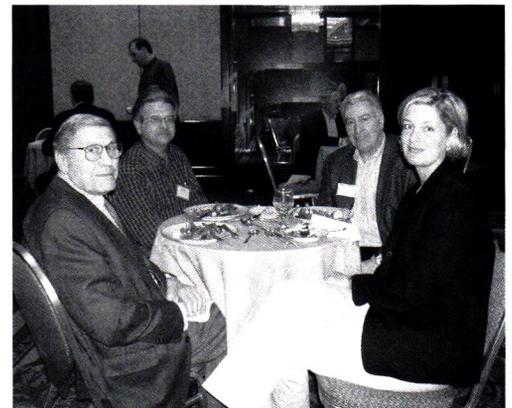
Michael Bartus of Repco II and Charles Cwenar, AIA of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson



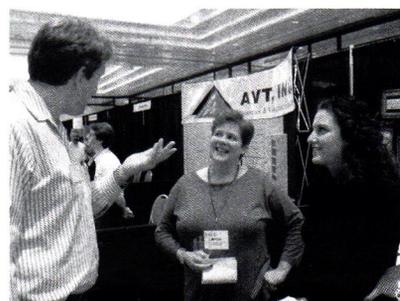
Richard Oziemblosky, AIA and Tim Kist, AIA of JSA Architects



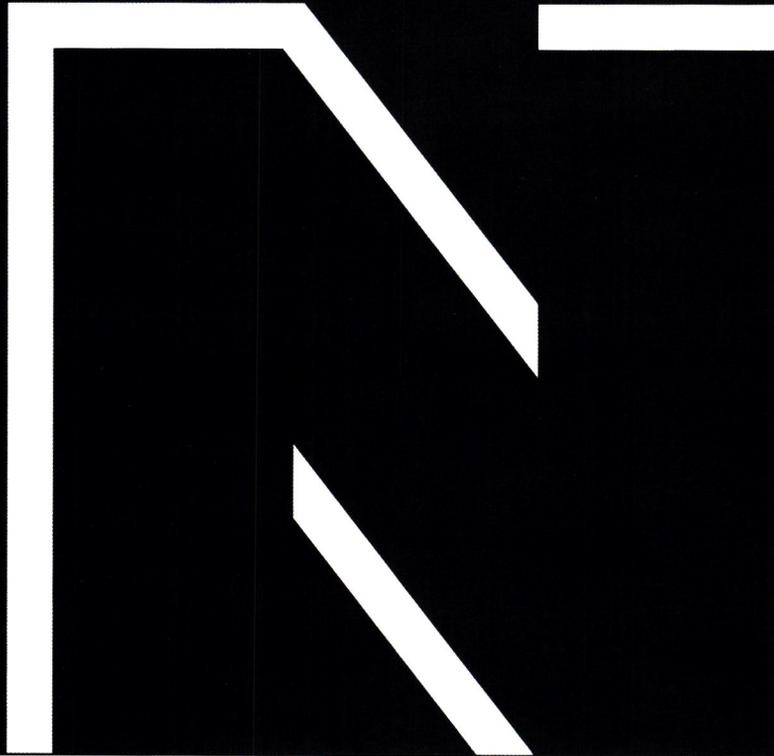
Laurie Hess of Wall-to-Wall Studios, Inc. with (left) her brother, Dean E. Hess, AIA of Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck and (right) Peter Dattilo of Pittsburgh Structural Clay Products, Inc.



From lower left, Bernard Liff, FAIA, Paul Zippel, AIA of WTW Architects, Luke Desmone, AIA of Desmone & Associates and Tia Sylvester of Continental Office Environments.



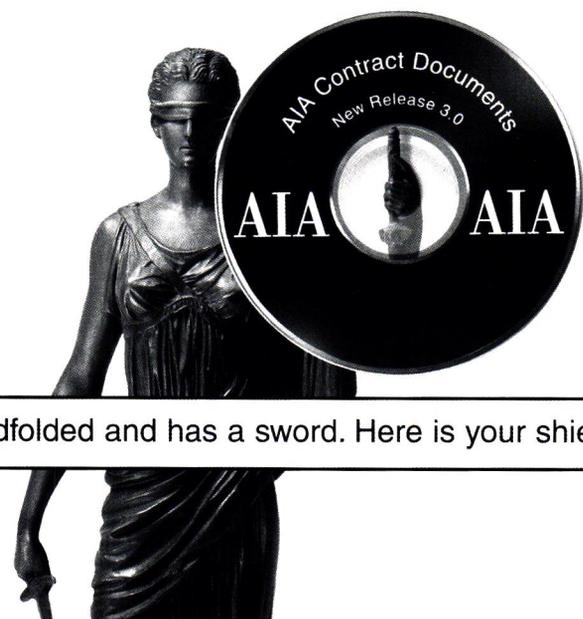
Anne Swager, Hon. AIA, Executive Director of AIA Pittsburgh with Sarah Lamont of Wall-to-Wall Studios, Inc.



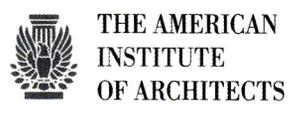
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From the Firms

→ **Desmone & Associates** provided design and administrative support services for the Manchester Craftsman Guild's new state-of-the-art recording studio.

Desmone & Associates are also providing planning, design and administrative services for the Sisters of Divine Providence's new \$2.5 million Family Support Center on Pittsburgh's North Side.

WTW Architects of Pittsburgh has teamed with THA Architects of Moorhead, MN and Fargo, ND in the design of a new student center complex at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. The \$30-million, six-phase project includes a new 120,000 sf student center, an 80,000 sf addition to the library and renovation of 65,000 sf of existing library.

Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation is working with **EDGE studio** and loft developer Eve Picker of no wall productions to renovate the building at 905 Liberty Avenue into the Liberty Lofts. Former home of the "China Chef" restaurant, the historic Romanesque building is being completely restored and converted into eight residential lofts, plus a first floor storefront. TEDCO is the contractor.

Other EDGE studio/ no wall productions collaborations include the Brake House Building, 18 new lofts in the former Westinghouse manufacturing plant at 2501 Liberty Avenue, due to open this Summer; and 947 Liberty Avenue, newly constructed loft residences with ground floor storefront, and courtyard and commissioned art work.

Perkins Eastman Architects PC has secured three contracts that expand its sustainable design practice, which involves designing buildings for energy efficiency, conservation of materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

Perkins Eastman is designing renovations for the Felician Sisters Convent in Moon Township, Pa. Renovations for the 150,000-square-foot building will be submitted for a LEED rating. They include ground-source heat pumps, "daylighting" features and a rain-water system for landscape watering.

Castcon-Stone, Inc. retained **Perkins Eastman** to design a 30,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and a 5,150-square-foot office building in the Victory Road Business Park in Gibsonia, Pa. **Perkins Eastman** organized a charrette with sustainable-design consultants then produced a planning study to identify opportunities for a "green" building. Scheduled for completion in December, the prefabricated-metal factory will incorporate high-efficiency heating, cooling and lighting systems; a super-insulated shell for energy efficiency; and a gray-water recovery system.



Perkins Eastman's Green Team works with clients to identify green building opportunities.

In conjunction with Koning Eizenberg Architecture, Inc., of Santa Monica, Calif., **Perkins Eastman** is designing the expansion of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and Center. The project includes the construction of a new, three-story "lantern" structure linking the existing museum with the former Buhl Planetarium. As a facilitator for the project's sustainable-design issues, Perkins Eastman emphasizes the museum's desire for indoor-air quality, water efficiency, and re-used and recycled materials.

Business Briefs

→ **JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design** is pleased to announce the return of **Renz Weinmann, Assoc. AIA** to the firm as an intern architect.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates announced that Steven Franckhauser has joined the firm as General Counsel.

(continued on page 18)

Jessica M. Forsythe, AIA and **Richard H. Forsythe, AIA** of **4-Most Group, Inc.** recently moved their office to: 267 Pittsburgh Rd. Suite 4 Butler, PA 16002.

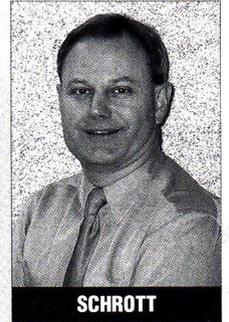
Perkins Eastman Architects PC announces the following staff additions to its Pittsburgh office: Zac Jones, draftsperson; Gerard Schmidt, intern architect; Jeffrey Schmitt, draftsperson; Susan DeFlicht, interior designer; Dorothy Spearman, intern architect; Jason Gallinger, marketing assistant/writer; Tazmine Khatri, intern architect; Shannon Campbell, draftsperson; Lisa Czar, information technology manager; Diane Becki, interior designer; and Jason Kaney, intern architect.

Washington Reprographics has launched a new interactive website at www.washingtonreprographics.com. With the new site, customers can order and complete document management projects from their desktops, including the production of blueprints, CAD drawings, large-format graphics, digital color documents and traditional print and photocopy work.

Elwood S. Tower Corporation announced the promotion of Stephen J. Kisak to the position of senior associate. Kisak heads the electrical engineering department.

Kudos

► **John C. Schrott III, AIA**, of **IKM, Inc.** has been accepted into the American College of Healthcare Architects, a group of board-certified healthcare architects dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare facilities.



SCHROTT

WTW Architects of Pittsburgh won Building Magazine's 2001 New Construction Award in the Private/Corporate category for the newly renovated and expanded Hetzel Union Building (HUB) and Robeson Cultural Center at Penn State's main campus.

WTW Architects was also named the 2001 Western Pennsylvania Golden Trowels Awards Grand Award Winner for the design of the North Shore Parking Garage. In addition, the building was cited for Best of Retail projects. "We were on a very tight timetable to get the garage open in time for the Pirates last March," said CEO **Richard De Young, AIA**. "It required an enormous amount of coordination and is a great tribute for our staff and our many partners in the project."

Dick Corporation is the recipient of the 2001 Master Builders Association Safety Excellence Award. The newly created award exemplifies a contractor's commitment to safety, training efforts and accident rates below national averages.

Dick Corporation received \$4 million in bonuses from Penn DOT for the early substantial completion of two highway projects in southeastern PA.

Ernie Sota of Sota Construction Services, Inc. was presented with the ABC Member of the Year award at the Associated Builders & Contractors of Western Pennsylvania's annual dance and awards ceremony. The award acknowledges Sota's "outstanding service and commitment" to ABC.



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MAY

DESIGN MATTERS: Creating Corporate Identity and Websites for Architecture Firms.

JUNE

THE PRESERVATION ISSUE: The Buildings, the Firms, The People Who are Preserving History

THE BUSINESS OF ARCHITECTURE: Diana Rudoy on Marketing.

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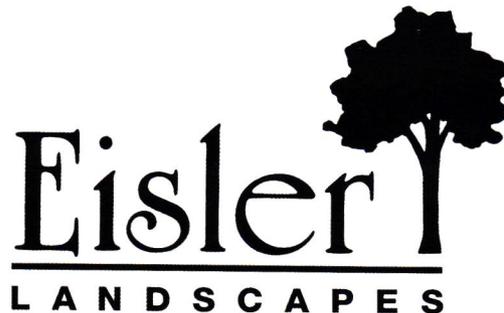


Photo Courtesy of Richard P. Rauso, ASLA

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Landscape Architecture: **Richard P. Rauso, ASLA, Landscape Architects P.C.**
Construction and Installation: **Eisler Landscapes, Inc.**

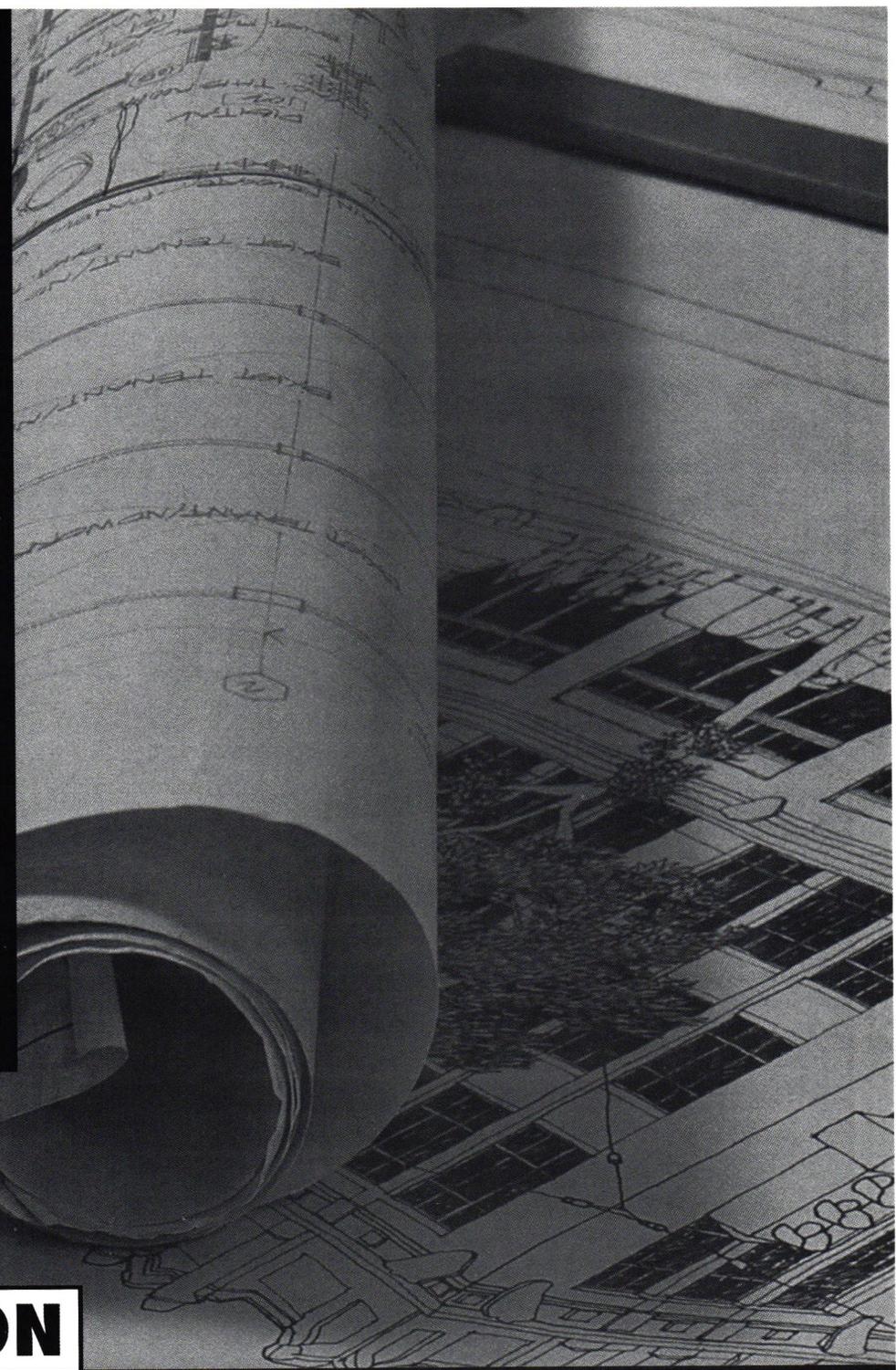
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AIA Pittsburgh is using e-mail to keep our members informed of the chapter's activities. If you would like to be included and are a member, please send your address to aiapgh@sgi.net.

AIA ACTIVITIES

- April 5, Friday**
Communications Committee Meeting,
noon at the Chapter office, 412-471-9548.
- April 8, Monday**
AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting
5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome, 412-471-9548.
- April 9, Tuesday**
Professional Development Committee Meeting noon at the Chapter office, 412-471-9548.
- April 15, Monday**
Urban Design Committee Meeting
5:30 p.m. at the chapter office, contact Arch Pelley, AIA 412-456-0900
- April 18, Thursday**
Legislative Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 724-452-9690.
- April 24, Wednesday**
AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture 5 p.m. at the Chapter office. Contact Ed Shriver, AIA, 412-263-3800.

AROUND TOWN

Through May 12

Architecture + Water explores the challenges of designing buildings on or near water—a critical issue in Pittsburgh and other cities where waterfront architecture and development are increasingly linked with economic progress and quality-of-life concerns. The five international projects showcased in the exhibition (all of them built or under construction) demonstrate that incorporating water is not only possible, but can produce exceptional building designs. Heinz Architectural Center Carnegie Museum of Art www.cmoa.org

2 C O A L 2 E N D A R

AROUND TOWN

- April 6-7 Saturday & Sunday**
SciTech Festival at the Carnegie Science Center. Landscape architecture for kids with hands on exhibits, drawings and site projects.
- April 9, Tuesday**
CSI Meeting: The Hillman Cancer Institute Tour. Meet at the Hillman Cancer Institute across from Shadyside Hospital. Hardhats and protective eyewear required. Contact Deborah Meges at 412-855-0928 or dmer@ATTBI.com by April 4th for reservations and/or more information. Space is limited. \$25.00.
- April 10, Wednesday**
Society of Design Administrators. Gina Vary, Assoc. AIA will speak on Initiating Recycling Habits in Your Workplace. Engineer's Club, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch \$17 members, \$19.50 non-members. Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337.
- April 23, Tuesday**
ULI Pittsburgh. FBI Headquarters tour and reception, South Side at Hot Metal Bridge, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Members only, \$25.00.
- April 20-28**
National Landscape Architecture Week

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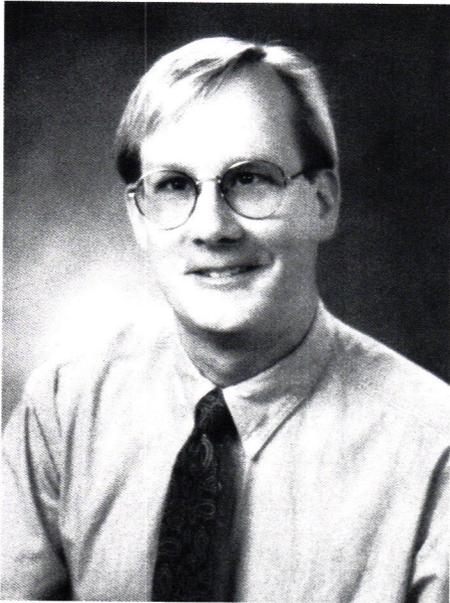
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W. Michael Leigh, ASLA



FIRM: AIA Pittsburgh, Director of Education and Programming. I worked for three years as Director of Site Department at Foreman Architects and Engineers, and at Environmental Planning and Design as Construction Coordinator in the Botanical Division, when I moved to Pittsburgh from Atlanta.

YEARS IN PRACTICE: 10 Years as Landscape Architect; and I have planned and developed four Conventions for ASLA.

EDUCATION: B. S. in Landscape Architecture, Ohio State University

WHY ARE YOU WORKING AT AIA PITTSBURGH?: I grew tired of doing all the paper work associated with city ordinances, zoning boards, and state regulations. I loved the design aspect, but the rest was too much. I wanted to do something I could enjoy.

SPECIAL PROJECT OF YOURS:

1. Noland Trail at Mariners' Museum Park, Newport News, VA. I had established a very close working relationship with the client, an 88-year-old philanthropist who was trying to leave a legacy for the community, and with his family.
2. Kauffman Memorial Garden in Kansas City, MO. I was able to demonstrate my knowledge of construction while working on this project, from the design phase to beginning the construction process.

PROJECT YOU'RE PROUDEST OF: Kauffman Memorial Garden, a \$3M, three-acre private garden in Kansas City, MO.

PROJECT YOU WISH YOU HAD DESIGNED: Central Park

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN: A bus tour guide of old castles and gardens in England.

IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE?: Newport, RI, a small town on the water with a great architectural history. During the summer it's filled with tourists, but off-season you have the whole town to yourself.

PEOPLE MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW: That I lived and worked at Grand Canyon National Park. I didn't want to start college right away, so that was the wild period in my life, away from everything in Ohio.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB AND WHY?: Diversity. Both practicing and working at AIA Pittsburgh, every day is different.

THE THING I WOULD CHANGE ABOUT MY JOB AND WHY: Office space, considering I'm in the back storage area, commonly referred to as the dungeon.

WHAT HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOUR BOSS AND WHY?: Slow down, BREATHE, talk to your staff more; she overbooks herself and works too much.

WHAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING THING ARCHITECTS DO AND WHY?: They don't listen to other professions. (Landscape Architects)

FAVORITE BUILDING AND/OR INTERIOR AND WHY?: Grand Central Station in New York City... it's the entrance to the entire city!

FAVORITE CITY AND WHY?: Boston. The city is compact, has excellent public transit, downtown living, lots of activity, and unique architecture...something Pittsburgh should aspire to become.

FAVORITE ARCHITECT: I.M. Pei

BEST GIFT TO GIVE A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Time

WHAT'S THE NEXT BIG ARCHITECTURAL TREND AND WHY?: I hope it will be more adaptive reuse and rehab, and less tear down and build again, but I think it might be environmental retrofitting of old structures.

SOMEDAY I'D LIKE TO: Travel to Europe for 5 weeks and visit my family's castle, Stoneleigh Abbey, and experience the culture and architecture of the continent.

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