

C O L U M N S



RIVERLIFE TASK FORCE: Connecting The Loop

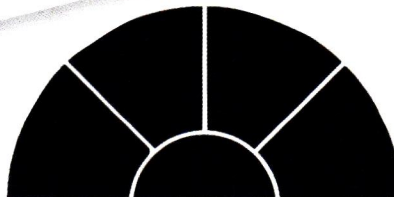
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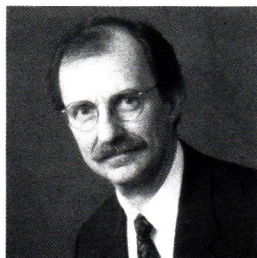
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Exploration, Discussion and Action

By Rich DeYoung, AIA



The board has identified a wide range of issues to reevaluate AIA Pittsburgh's role and effectiveness. We encourage your input, member and non-member alike.

On the first weekend in March,

your board of directors retreated to a stunning state park in Ohio to strategize and plan for this year and beyond for AIA Pittsburgh. Be assured that in opting for the out-of-town retreat to avoid everyday distractions, we also opted to pay for our travel and lodging. It was a worthwhile trip, and I'm happy to make the following report.

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. Based on this common understanding of our broader mission, we established several key themes for our planning process. Briefly, we determined that AIA Pittsburgh as an organization and through its professional members should:

- Be strong and inclusive at all levels
- Be leaders in influencing public design decisions
- Grow through expanded customer value and strategic alliances
- Further develop the AIA brand and enhance its value in the marketplace
- Grow the Foundation as the public outreach arm of the Chapter

To accomplish these ends, we identified several areas to be explored this year. To champion exploration, discussion, and action, each of these areas has been adopted by a board member.

The perceived, and perhaps actual, value of membership may vary depending on one's current situation in the profession. To create a compelling argument for membership, and attract a more diverse membership, we must understand and address these varied viewpoints. Three board members will study various perspectives: Rebecca Henn, AIA non-member registered architects; Art Sheffield, Assoc. AIA intern architects; and Jon Shimm, AIA senior members. Through a series of focus groups, surveys, and other techniques, these board members will be taking the pulse of our profession's view of AIA membership.

Architects have a rich tradition of advocating for the quality of the built environment. What should AIA Pittsburgh's advocacy role be while respecting diverse member perspectives? Do we become the convener of public dialogue on issues of public improvements facilitating the process

in which design implications are explored and discussed? How do we encourage our public officials to see the value of drawing upon the broad and diverse expertise of our profession? Tom Briney, AIA will be addressing this important and potentially controversial issue.

AIA members enjoy a valuable "brand" associated with the high ethical and professional standards of the organization. To have real value, the general public must share the perception of an AIA architect. How do we effectively build on AIA National's initiative to market what we do? How do we strengthen and enhance the value of the brand, perhaps as related to firms as well as individuals? Jim Radock, AIA will be looking at establishing the brand and Steve Quick, AIA will study the development of a marketing plan using positive public relations.

The financial aspects of AIA membership affect every one of us. What is a logical and effective dues structure that might encourage broader membership? Marty Powell will be studying the options and what other chapters and organizations are doing to create a structure that enhances membership.

Central to all of these issues will be how we communicate with both our members and non-members. The board has approved implementation of a discussion board to our Web site later this year as one means to encourage broader dialogue. What other tools would improve open discussion on issues affecting our profession? What opportunities are there to improve the consistency of the AIA Pittsburgh brand in communication tools we use? Dan Rothschild, AIA will be leading this effort.

Finally, Ed Shriver, AIA will be leading the efforts to consider how the Foundation can best serve the needs of the Chapter and the profession in its goal to further public outreach.

As you can see, the board has identified a wide range of issues to reevaluate AIA Pittsburgh's role and effectiveness. We encourage your input, member and non-member alike, to help the continual process of reshaping this organization that represents and serves architects. You may be called upon this year to contribute your thoughts, concerns, and ideas about how we can better serve you and the profession in general. Please be generous with your candor and creativeness.

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On the cover: West End Bridge rendering of Connecting the Loop plan by Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann.

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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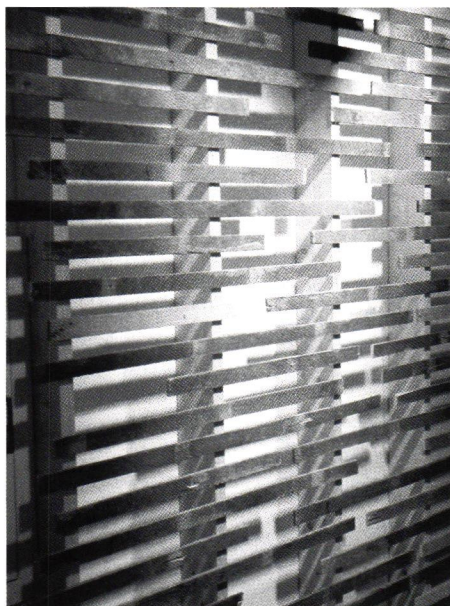
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Pittsburgh Center for the Arts 2003 Biennial



■ AIA Pittsburgh members are among the select artists contributing to the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts 2003 Biennial. This year Gerard Damiani, AIA of studio d'ARC Architects, Paul Rosenblatt, AIA of Springboard and David Celento, AIA and Rebecca Henn, AIA of Celento Henn Architects were all asked to participate in the Biennial.

Damiani's work (pictured at right) is titled: An Investigation into the Particular, and will be on display from now until June 22nd.

Who's In the LEED?

■ Our city is becoming so green that an increasing number of our architects have become certified with LEED accreditation. And, it seems some firms are keeping track of who's in the lead.

It's a moving target that can change daily, according to those at the Green Building Alliance. If you really want to know the score, go to www.usgbc.org and look under the LEED category, then professional accreditation. Click on the state so the list appears in alphabetical order. Then you can see which Pennsylvania architects passed the 100-question test.

As of March, it appears the tally for Pittsburgh was Burt Hill 9, HF Lenz 8, LLI Technologies 7 and Astorino 6.

Pedal Pittsburgh

■ Here's your chance to view the city from a vantage point that's hard to beat: your bicycle. Pedal Pittsburgh, an annual event that benefits the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, is scheduled for May 18th. Course options of 15, 25, 35, 50 and 60 miles accommodate everyone from the occasional to the hardcore cyclist. Along the way, you can enjoy beautiful scenery and architecture. It's considered one of the region's premiere cycling events. Rest stops and snacks provided, followed by lunch back at the big tent at Station Square. Register online at www.pedalpittsburgh.org or call the hotline at (412) 232-3545.



Mayor's Urgent Call for New Tax Plan *By Tracy Certo*

Mayor Tom Murphy recently posed the following question to members of AIA Pittsburgh: "What were architects smoking and drinking back in the sixties?"

"Because all over America we're tearing down these sixties developments that just didn't work. East Liberty is an example," said the Mayor. The question drew a laugh from the many architects in the audience at the Westin Convention Center Hotel on March 13th where Murphy presented his proposed Tax Plan 21. Sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh, the Mayor's presentation highlighted the current problems of the existing tax plan while proposing a new one. Consider:

- Fifty years ago, 600,000 people paid taxes. Today only 335,000 residents pay taxes yet Pittsburgh still supports 600,000 people with infrastructure and services.
- 45% of Pittsburgh businesses, which includes financial institutions, banks, utilities and manufacturers in Pittsburgh don't pay any business taxes.
- Small businesses pay \$51 million in taxes.
- Two out of three jobs are held by non-city residents. City residents pay \$49,540,000 in wage and occupation taxes while non-residents pay just \$2,080,000.
- Hospitals, universities, colleges and non-profits are tax-exempt, paying no property taxes.
- City residents and businesses pay \$121 million.
- The annual \$10 occupation privilege tax is mandated by state legislature and has not changed since 1965. In contrast, Philadelphia's tax is 4% of wages.

Despite massive efforts to reduce city spending by reducing employees (from 5100 to 4100) and other significant cuts, the city still struggles to control spending without reducing important services.

30% of the city spending goes for state-mandated costs such as pension, worker's comp, garbage tipping fees and recycling.

Since September 11th, homeland security has cost the city more than \$6 million. Every time the Federal government issues a security alert, the city as first responder must act. But no money has been received for these alerts which add significant overtime costs every time they occur.

At the same time that he outlined the existing tax structure problems, the Mayor emphasized that over the past nine years, the city's economic development efforts and busi-

ness growth has resulted in \$4 billion in public and private investment. To continue that kind of growth, he said, it is necessary to change the tax structure. His proposal involves three steps, including:

- 1) Broadening the tax base
- 2) Making necessary tax reductions
- 3) Determining what taxes get cut

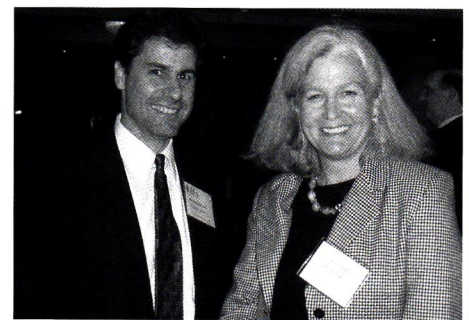
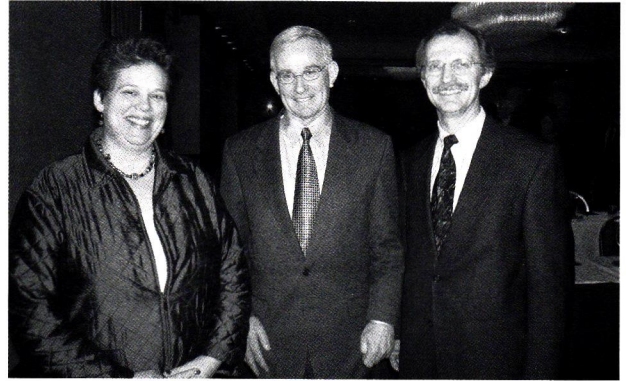
Although he recognizes that hospitals and universities are the economic engines of the city, the Mayor gave this example of the new \$185 million research facility under construction at the University of Pittsburgh: "The land it sits on becomes tax-exempt and the thousand people who work in it, probably 80% of whom don't live in the city of Pittsburgh, will pay a total of \$8,000 a year. That is not a lot of money to provide the underlying support services of public safety and roads and everything else that will be important for that building to succeed."

Murphy emphasized that, "This tax structure is not fair. It is essentially an inverted pyramid. It is a narrow base of people paying taxes that are supporting a very large group of people who benefit from a strong, growing vibrant city. And we need to change it. There's only one way to change it and that is to get the legislature to recognize that they need to make some hard decisions about this, to give the city the ability to broaden the tax base. We're not asking the legislature for money but to give us the ability."

He identified two ways to broaden the tax base:

- A retail drink tax: 10% tax on poured drinks
- Payroll Preparation Tax: It doesn't exist in PA, but is common in California and was suggested by a business executive here. This is a .5% tax on gross wages of every employer with "proposed significant reductions in other business taxes". Businesses could benefit from this tax, Murphy suggested, offering this as an example: Free Markets is paying \$500,000 annually in business privilege tax. If the PPT went into effect, they would pay about \$300,000 because the tax would be applied to everyone. For this to work, it would have to go through the legislation without exemptions, Murphy said.

Making the case that the tax situation has to change to maintain the momentum of the City, the Mayor ended on a bright note, stating that there has been a great deal of in-



PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO

TOP: AIA Pittsburgh Executive Director Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA with Mayor Tom Murphy and AIA Pittsburgh Board President Rich DeYoung, AIA

BOTTOM: Dan Rothschild, AIA and Riverlife Task Force Executive Director Lisa Schroeder at the Westin March 13th.

terest in the City and the environmental success stories. "The largest newspaper in Charlotte called asking, how did you do it?" he said. "We have miles and miles of riverfront trails where there were none before, and the two largest green buildings in the country." He also mentioned that positive articles recently appeared in the Wall St. Journal and the New York Times.

Those in attendance agreed the Mayor made a strong and convincing presentation. "He made a good case for how antiquated the tax system is and how it's paramount we have a strong urban core or the region will become second or third or fourth class very quickly," said Executive Director of AIA Pittsburgh Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA. "What's more," she added, "we can't possibly cut city services any further."

Riverlife Task Force: Connecting The Loop

By Tracy Certo



Here's the plan: connect the loop, the 6.5 miles of waterfront now known as Three Rivers Park, to accommodate a family of four on bikes. It's top priority for Mayor Tom Murphy who envisions the continuous trail as a destination point and a jewel in Pittsburgh's crown.

Parallel connections will thread the loop along the waterfront while perpendicular connections will provide more access to the rivers. In the true spirit of the Riverlife Task

Force, Connecting the Loop is more than just traveling seamlessly from one point to another. It's designed for enjoying, as much as possible, the journey along the way.

Riverlife hired Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates for conceptual designs analyzing not only how to connect the loop in a number of different scenarios but also what each would cost.

It's just one aspect of the work taken on by the Riverlife Task Force recently. What happens next—funding, choos-

ing and prioritizing of scenarios and deciding who will be hired to implement the design—is yet to be determined.

In a recent meeting at Riverlife, the group discussed how to best connect the Eliza Furnace trail to the Mon Wharf and the Smithfield Street Bridge. Three different scenarios were analyzed, with three different price tags, reported AIA Pittsburgh Executive Director Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA.

"A landscape architect was hired to give it more detail and finesse, and to achieve more of our goals in the process. Now we need to go to the Mayor and ask how it would best be funded," Swager said. Meanwhile, she added, work continues on the master plan for lighting Three Rivers Park which will light the trail.

The shoreline, broken down into specific segments, includes the area from the West End Bridge to the Sixteenth Street Bridge on the Allegheny River to the Tenth St. Bridge on the Monongahela.

What is connected? What isn't? What needs work? How do we establish the connections that don't exist? Those were some of the questions facing the design team and Riverlife members, said Riverlife Executive Director Lisa Schroeder. "The plan was created to set priorities," she

stated. Presented with teeming possibilities, not to mention obstacles, the next step is to decide the long-term solutions along with the short-term ones. As one example, Schroeder emphasized the importance of the vertical connections off the major bridges. Of primary importance? Getting people to the river, right away.

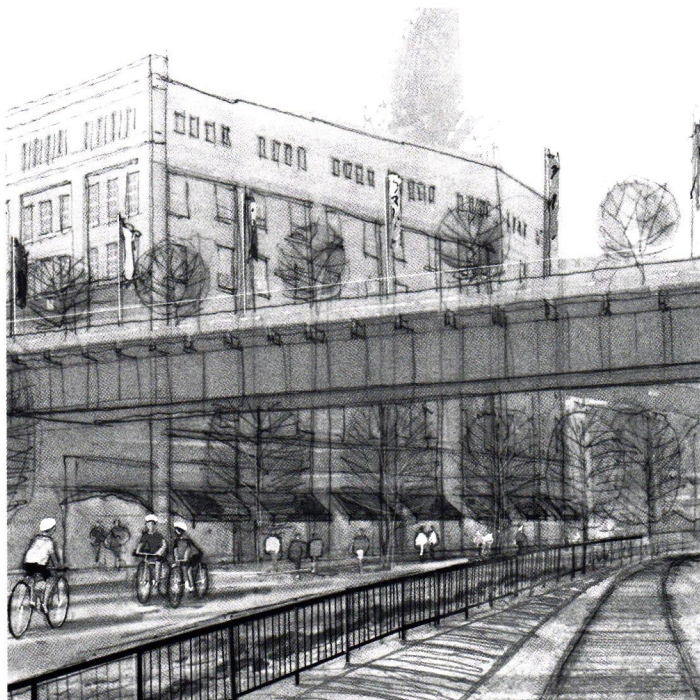
The before and after scenarios illustrated in Connecting the Loop lay out an array of possibilities along the way, allowing the reader to "walk through every stretch and then walk through the possibility," Schroeder explained.

"Once we did this with all the cost estimates," Schroeder said, "it gave us the menu to start thinking through priorities along with the City and the property owners." All major property owners are on the Task Force.

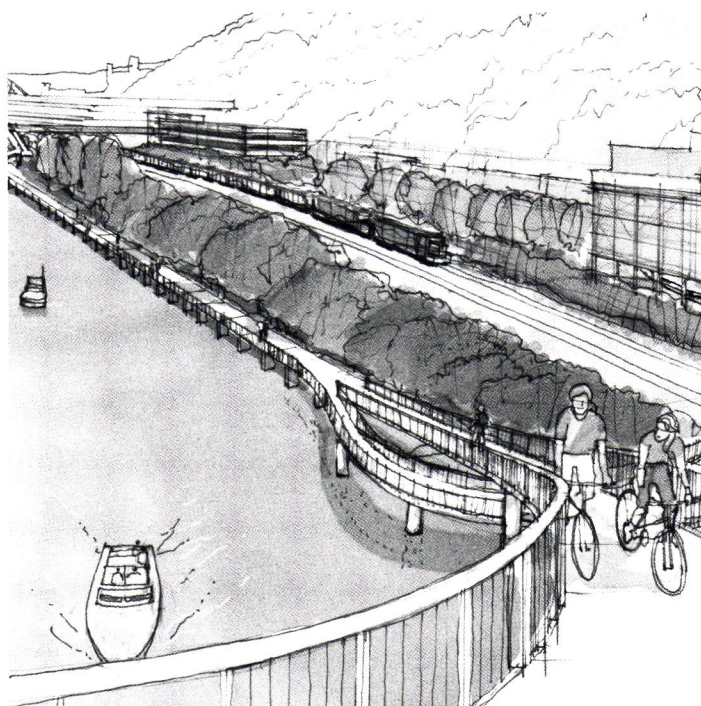
In a way, the Riverlife Task Force is turning zoning on its head, she added. "We're looking at what has to happen long term and what can't happen, i.e., what could preclude Three Rivers Park from happening? What emerged was the structure of the public realm along the riverfronts and the public connections to the riverfront. Rather than regulating private activity, we were looking at laying out what the public realm should be.



Smithfield St. before and after. Riverlife is looking closely at Smithfield St. to determine how best to connect the Eliza Furnace Trail to the Mon Wharf and the Smithfield St. Bridge.



Terminal Buildings. The unique historical structure of the Terminal Buildings and the quirkiness of the Bridge to Nowhere makes this area ripe with possibilities.



Station Square. With its user-friendly fence, the goal is getting access along the railroad tracks. "We added public bridges and also plan to put a bridge over the railroad tracks and down to the water landing" says landscape architect Jeff Funovits of Burt Hill.

The one year targets and four year targets that are already established "bounce around a little but they're consistent," she added. (Schroeder credited Carol Brown, chair of the Development Committee, with raising 85% of the funds necessary for operation of Riverlife over the next four years.)

The Connecting the Loop scenario was begun just as the Task Force published the Three Rivers Park Design Handbook, a 28-page guide that serves as a design framework throughout the Park. It encompasses five elements: water-scape, landscape, connections, districts and landings. For example: "Connections will vary in character, providing both quiet reflective threads lining destinations and lively inhabited promenades and vistas along the edges of districts and through landings."

In addition, specific guidelines are issued for each of the different route types along the riverfront: trails, promenades, roads and scenic roadways. They range from tree-planting (planting in groups with varying densities instead of even street tree rhythms) to integrating drinking fountains, mile-age markers and informational signage with the landscape. Throughout, the meticulous guidelines recommend qual-

ity material and offer thoughtful consideration for trail users as well as others such as boaters.

"What we're aiming for is a full set of water landings throughout the park," Schroeder said in reference to the latter group. A major water landing is planned for the front of the convention center, for example. "As part of the final phase of North Shore Park, we now are developing a big water landing with steps cascading down into the water and soft water landing for paddlecraft and so forth." Planning is complete but only a small percentage of funds has been raised. The final phase of the park planning process started long before there was a Riverlife Task Force, she noted.

With 58 tie ups on the north shore already, Schroeder said there is a strong need for pull-ins for nonpowered boats so the new plan accommodates pull-ins for kayaks and canoes. That, she added, achieves the other critical goal: people want to touch the water.

Also on the North Shore, the Task Force wants to establish a public connection at the 16th St. Bridge with a switchback that leads from the bridge to the riverfront trail.

CONNECTING THE LOOP
Burt Hill Kosar
Rittelmann's
design team:

Jeff Funovits, ASLA
landscape architect

Melissa Sarko, Assoc. AIA,
architect

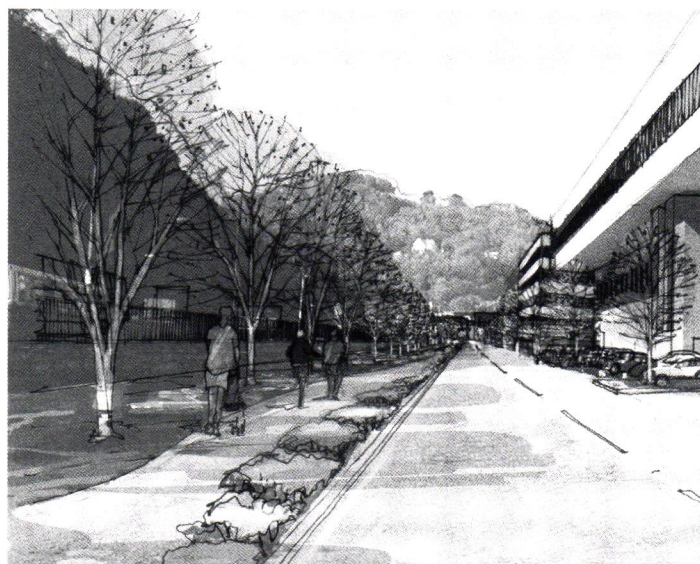
Rebecca Mizikar,
landscape architect

Barry Gripe, illustrations

Melissa Passafiume,
graphic design



Gateway View Plaza before and after. "The beauty of this is the diversity, to get into an urban setting," says Funovits. "Further down, the idea is to bike your way through the South Side Streets."



And then there's the plan for the West End Bridge which, in Schroeder's opinion is "the most spectacular view upriver and downriver in North America. It's really worthy of a high level of design investment." She admits there are plenty of obstacles to building the icon that is emerging as the important and standout signature. The riparian rights are owned by Consolidated Coal, for one, and other users tie barges there. Then there's the cost which is difficult to determine at this stage and could prove prohibitive. "But it is structurally feasible and if the will is there, it's definitely doable," Schroeder said, adding that it would be a full-scale public infrastructure project.

By regulating railroad crossings, creating pedestrian bridges and looking at the location of water landing connections, we can make a big difference in making the shoreline accessible, Schroeder said. One example? Good fencing along the railroad tracks so people can literally hang on the fences like they do at Station Square.

At Station Square, with its user-friendly fence, the goal is getting access along the railroad tracks. "We added public bridges and also plan to put a bridge over the railroad tracks down to the water landing. We're working on public utility clearance to do that. It's an important project," Schroeder stated. If all goes well, a double

tower at Station Square will be built this summer, granting vertical access to the rivers.

With so many committees and so many projects undertaken at once, it gets complicated but Schroeder somehow manages to keep it together. One of the Task Force members said to her, "You're looking for order. You're looking for a system. Forget it. It's just messy," she relayed with a laugh.

Messy or not, Schroeder remains as unflaggingly optimistic as she is energetic, zooming from one meeting to another of varying projects and responsibilities. "What keeps me going," she said calmly, "is how much people care about the rivers, how desperately they want to get to the rivers and this trust that we hold having undertaken this planning process." She paused before stating that it would be a colossal shame not to carry the plan to completion.

"We're looking at the short wins as well as the long wins," said the executive director. "Our first goal is to get people out and around."

Luckily, she has surrounded herself with good people to see to that. "The Task Force is the most amazing group of volunteers I've ever seen in my life," she stressed. "About 48 people and not a shrinking violet in the bunch."

Connections: Point State Park

Following is an excerpt of Pfaffmann + Associates' analysis of the report, *Point State Park Access, Connections & Architecture for the Existing Conditions* issued in December, 2002. The design team, led by Marion Pressley, researched the design history of Point State Park through the Griswold/Stotz archives to determine how the original designers and the community saw the Park and connections to it.

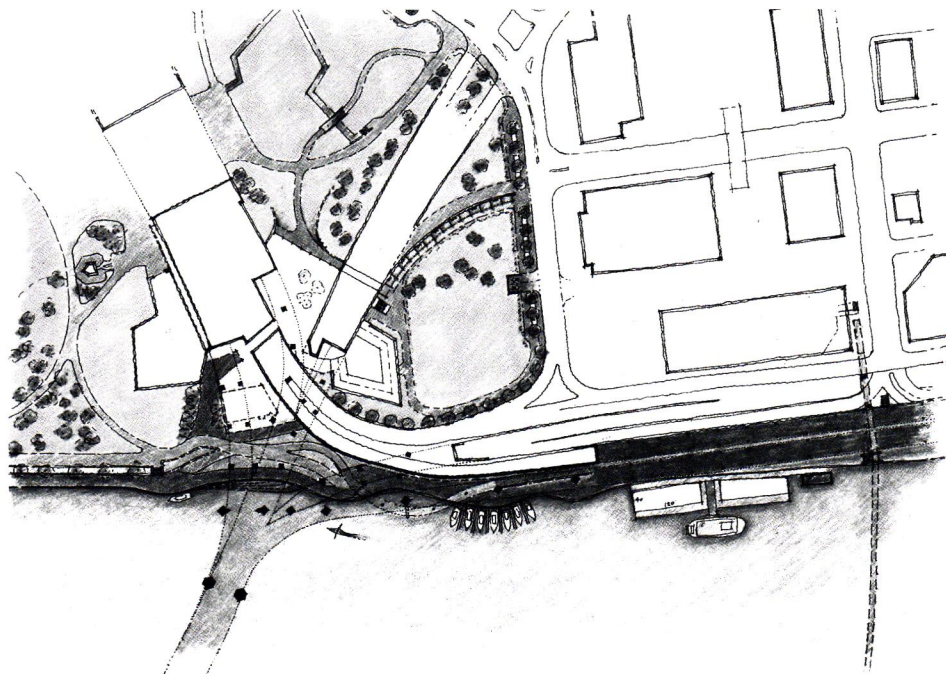


Connections to the City

The design of Point State Park was conceived in context with the larger redevelopment activities associated with Gateway Center. Based on LeCorbusier's "City in a Park", this development extends large open plazas and green space as far as Stanwix Street. Early design studies envisioned more formal vehicular and architectural connections to the Point along with options for a more formally positioned and extensive museum (Cyclorama) and restaurant (where the overlook is today). The Boulevard of the Allies and Penn Avenue were two key streets that nearly converge at the Park, but ultimately are transformed into

highway ramps rather than a formal terminus. Much of the design evolution at the Park's city edge related to the challenge presented by the Fort Pitt and Fort Duquesne Bridge approach structures. Much of the variations in design focus on finding ways to connect the City under the highway to the expansive view of the point itself. The Portal Bridge, designed with the assistance of Skidmore Owings & Merrill's Gordon Bunshaft, is one of the key architectural engineering landmarks in Point State Park.

Along the rivers, the Park walkways terminate at the bridges and provide little or no plan for connection further along the Allegheny or Monongahela wharfs. Although some



The nature of these connections present challenges in design that are physical, visual and programmatic.

versions of the park's design envisioned accommodation of boating (a marina on the Allegheny side), the Park's edge was designed to be a formal, durable edge suited for large vessels such as the Louis Kahn-designed barge for the American Wind Symphony.

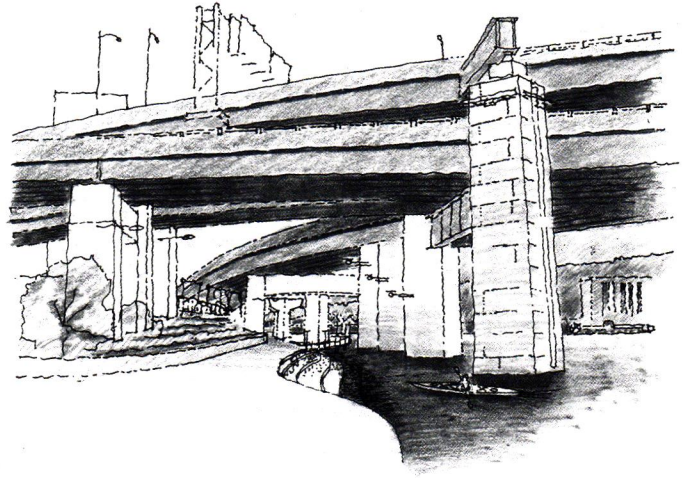
Today, with the rapidly developing Three Rivers Heritage Trail and the Allegheny Trail Alliance, among other projects, the development of Point State Park's river edges are a priority. The nature of these connections presents challenges in design that are physical, visual and programmatic. The connections can be summarized as follows:

Connections to/from Allegheny Riverfront Park

Van Valkenburg Associates studied the connections to the new Allegheny Riverfront Park for the River Life Task Force and The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. This plan features an extension of the design language of the Park which terminates at the pedestrian walkway landing off the Fort Duquesne Bridge. Recent suggestions by City leadership about the potential permanent closure of the Tenth Street Bypass expand the opportunities to make the connections to the convention center and Fort Duquesne Boulevard more significant. For a variety of reasons, political and physical, the Tenth Street Bypass will remain open for the foreseeable future. Pfaffmann + Associates has been charged with studying how the complex web of ramps could be modified to allow better access to Point State Park while maintaining the primary links between downtown, the strip district and the bridges to the west.

Connections to/from the Mon Wharf Park

The City has recently concluded preliminary studies of the Mon Wharf Park, including access from the Eliza Furnace Trail and vertical connections from the Smithfield Bridge area. This study also includes proposals for waterfront restaurants and seasonal docking facilities for recreational boating. The wharf will include a reduced number of parking spaces under the Parkway to allow a landscaped edge at the water. Additional access points at Commonwealth Place, Stanwix, Market and Wood are not defined at this point due to physical and planning constraints that may change in the future. The Mon River Crossing Bridge proposed by the Port Authority, currently in limbo, will have a significant impact on connections in the area of Stanwix Street.



The Mon Wharf Park is a key link between the ATA Trail to Washington, DC and the Point. There was much discussion about how to use the Mon Wharf as a place to accommodate trailhead facilities such as toilets, information and possibly a river center. The terminus of the trail is really two concepts: A formal/ceremonial terminus at the fountain and a functional one to accommodate the needs of the recreational trail users.

Connections to/from the North and South Shores

Currently there are pedestrian walkways to the north and south shores via the Fort Pitt and Fort Duquesne Bridges. These connections have generally been weak in design and implementation due to the constraints imposed by PennDOT safety and structural concerns. The pedestrian connection to the North Shore was redesigned in the 90's for Three Rivers Stadium and is currently being rebuilt at its terminus on the North Shore.

The Fort Pitt Bridge walkway is more limited in size and location of access. As development on the South Shore (owned by Forest City) develops critical mass in the future, this connection will become more important. It was suggested by those at the workshops that the Master Plan consider more distinctive and possible independent pedestrian connections to the North and South Shores to significantly improve the nature and capacity of the connections to Point State Park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Everywhere a Sign

Signs can form three functions, explained Rick Landesberg of Landesberg Design, "orientation, wayfinding and interpretation/storytelling." The firm Landesberg Design, along with John Martine, AIA of STRADA and industrial designers Chris Kasabach and Vanessa Sica, are charged with the signage for Three Rivers Park, including Point State Park. The purpose, Landesberg said, is not just to make the visitor's experience richer, but to also interpret the place.

"We can talk about the place, enhance experience in a compelling way and tell stories about the place," suggested Landesberg. He cites the H.H. Richardson Allegheny County jail storytelling panels exhibit as an example. There are historic possibilities, for one, or natural and cultural history. "There are lots of good stories to tell," he said.

Still in the creative/discussion phase, nothing is yet definite in the way of signage and the possibilities are rich and varied. One idea the team came up with: a relief image of the upper Allegheny River in the pavement. You can look down into the pavement as if its water, seeing fish

and the name of the fish as a way to remind people of the natural life coming back to the rivers, said Landesberg.

Another idea they've dubbed "virtual breadcrumbs" are directional medallions set into sidewalk (see illustration) within a few blocks of the river that tell you you're close to the park.

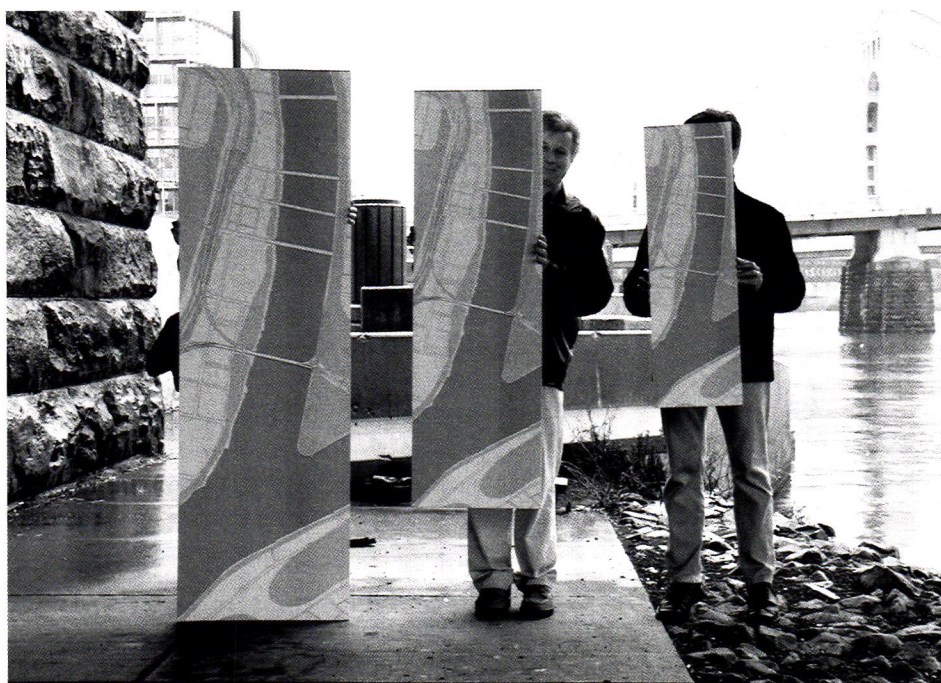
"They're playful element in sidewalks and in vicinities of rivers reminding people that they're there and a way to link adjacent neighborhoods to the rivers," Landesberg explained.

Regardless of the design idea, the focus at all times is for a user-centered experience. "One of our jobs is to reinforce the sense of Three Rivers Park and reinforce the sense of the loop," said Landesberg, who added, "Places that work well express a certain civic voice." Like? "Paris," he answered automatically. "Places we love express a certain attitude."

The job of the signage team is to help determine what that authentic voice is and how it can be expressed. That's ac-



The job of the signage team is to help determine what that authentic voice is and how it can be expressed.



Signs adjacent to trails could include imagery linking the visitor to the specific site.

complished by looking "for signals about that place, where it came from, characteristics," offered Landesberg.

"We're trying to give it form," he said.

What it comes down to is maximizing the potential of signs: how signage and wayfinding can extend possibilities. "The on-trail signs might have a vocabulary that suggests our industrial past but don't mimick the past," says Landesberg. "It comes down to details, well-designed and thoughtfully organized to help the visitor."

For example, to make it a positive environment instead of a negative one, Landesberg and his team refer to etiquette signs that tell someone what to do, instead of what not to do.

Instead of a sign that says: Don't ride bikes on grass, the polite sign would read: Ride bikes on path only. New York

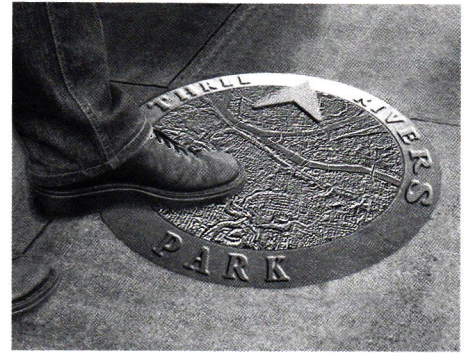
City's Bryant Park is a model in this regard, according to Landesberg. Or this: "Grass is resting after a major event."

It's a common courtesy that's part of the civic voice.

Another courtesy is found in the maps they're designing. Instead of north/south configurations, the maps are configured to show where you're standing as a kind of courtesy.

Since sections of Three Rivers Park won't be finished for years, a series of temporary trail markers is being designed to establish the sense of the trail before it's even developed, said Landesberg, who is also hired to work on the Point State Park project.

"The interesting thing about it," he says regarding the bigger plan of Three Rivers Park, "is the rivers are *part* of the park, not just the park."



"Virtual breadcrumbs" are directional medallions set into sidewalks within a few blocks of the river, indicating the near presence of the park.

CONNECTIONS, continued from page 11

Connections to/from the City

The interface between Point State Park and the City has always been considered the weak link. Unlike many urban parks and squares, Point State Park has only one edge that connects to the City directly, and it is cut off by the Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt Bridge ramp systems. Short of extreme relocations of significant regional highway infrastructure that could rival Boston's "Big Dig" in scale, the City is faced with a Master Plan that will continue to live with the bifurcation of the Park by the highway system. The potential for improved urban design and architectural connections to the Park are possible through long-term redevelopment of sites along the edge of the Park. Today



Three key men in the design and building of Point State Park: (from left) Ralph E. Griswold, landscape architect who served as the prime design contractor; Arthur B. Van Buskirk, chairman of the Allegheny Conference's Point Park Committee and Charles M. Stotz, FAIA the architect primarily responsible for moving old bridges at the Point.

there are a limited number of properties: working north to south there is the Gateway Condominiums, the Hilton Hotel, The State Office Building and the Post Gazette Building. Of these, only the Post Gazette Building could be seen as a near-term future redevelopment opportunity. It sits across from one of the major weaknesses of the original park design: the parking lot and Flag Bastion area. In addition, it is also cut off from the rest of the park and is used only lightly except for commuter parking and service access. The possibility of major improvements in this area was repeatedly mentioned during the discussions.

Connections/Access to/from the Rivers

Given the exponential increase in recreational boating activity of all types in the Pittsburgh Pool, the capacity for the Park and environs to accommodate large events on the wharf is extremely limited. The Park was not designed with access to and from boats. The bulkheads that are designed to withstand the stresses of the river flows and industrial barge traffic serve as a wall to small recreational boaters. This wall contributes to significant wake reflection in the zones around the Point. A number of stakeholders asked for areas that provide better access and possibly even mitigate the hard edge of the bulkhead. Areas in the "transition zones" under the Ft. Pitt and Duquesne Bridges were identified as opportunities to address this weakness.

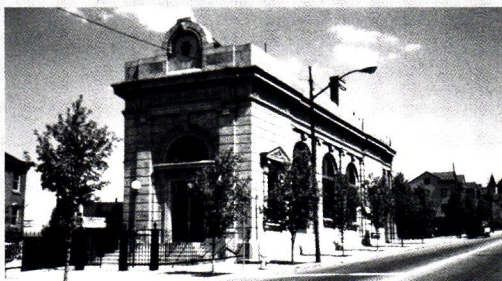
(In addition to the above connections, Pfaffmann + Associates is responsible for sustainable design and assessment of other existing architectural elements including the service buildings and a potential visitors center.)

For more information on the master plan, log onto www.pointstatepark.com

Design Fund: Celebrating 15 Years

by Jason Vrabel, Community Design Center of Pittsburgh

A grant from the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP) enabled Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) to hire Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (then Bohlin Powell Larkin Cywinski) to produce existing conditions drawings for the former Pennsylvania Bank Building on Butler Street. With these drawings, LC engaged Desmone & Associates as a co-developer to renovate the building into a home for both of their offices, and to restore a prominent landmark and gateway to the community. As Desmone's office expanded, LC moved their offices directly across the street to the Bathhouse Building, where they again brought money and development expertise to the rehabilitation of a historic structure. While the CDCP's initial role in the Bank Building was limited, the project typified what the CDCP's Design Fund Program was created to do — put ideas to paper, and to serve as a catalyst for community revitalization.



That was 1989, and the very first grant awarded through the Design Fund. Now in its 15th year, the Design Fund program has awarded 159 grants totaling almost \$750,000 — which have sparked nearly \$50 million in neighborhood reinvestment throughout the City of Pittsburgh. Currently, the CDCP awards approximately \$80,000 in grants annually, along with over \$20,000 worth of technical assistance in connection with those grants. The CDCP supports a wide array of projects, including the rehabilitation and new construction of residential and commercial properties, as well as the restoration and creation of parks and greenspaces.

As the PA Bank Building project reveals, community-based organizations have the capacity and creativity to develop sizeable projects and to initiate change in their communities. However, there is often a scarcity of available funds at the early stages of a project, and this is the niche that Design Fund strives to fill.

What follows is a glimpse at some prior-year Design Fund projects that have come to fruition, as well as some recently funded projects that are still in their earliest stages.



CLARENDON PLACE

Grant Amount: \$7,500

Grant Year: 1998

Architect: Loysen + Associates

Status: Construction completed in 2001

Cost: \$1.2 million

For many years, this string of row houses epitomized the destabilizing capacity of blighted properties in a community that was struggling to reverse decades of disinvestment, deterioration and crime. After Friendship Development Associates (FDA) purchased the properties, a CDCP grant enabled FDA to hire Loysen + Associates to develop schematic designs for the renovation of these historic row houses. All of the units have since been sold, and six were purchased by low- or moderate-income buyers. Not only has the project given new life to a 1910 structure, it has stabilized an entire residential street.



WEST END BANK BUILDING

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Grant Year: 1997

Architect: IAS Corporation

Status: Construction completed in 2002

Cost: \$1.5 million

A grant to West End-Elliott Joint Project, now West Pittsburgh Partnership for Regional Development, has culminated in a remarkable adaptive-reuse project. The former West End Savings Bank, featuring 23-foot high arched windows, has been renovated and has reopened as a National City Bank branch office along with various street-level retailers and, on two upper floors, professional office space.

"The CDCP made the difference between just another rehab and an award winning project. Their involvement and support was invaluable in aiding community members, project participants, and FDA, to evolve design solutions that addressed project needs and neighborhood concerns. The real test of success is revealed in how delighted folks are to live there and how pleased people are when they discover the street."

— WALTER BURLACK,
FRIENDSHIP RESIDENT



CATOMA STREET OVERLOOK

Grant Amount: \$500

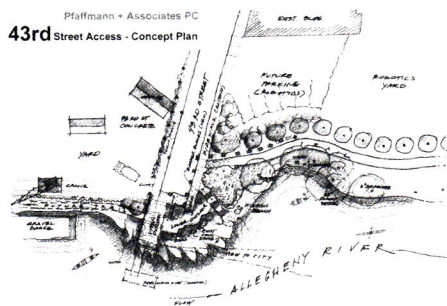
Grant Year: 1996

Landscape Architect: Klavon Design Associates, Inc.

Status: Construction completed 2001

Cost: \$90,000

A modest grant made to Fineview Citizens Council initiated the redevelopment of this unique city overlook, which offers an extraordinary view of Pittsburgh's skyline.



LAWRENCEVILLE RIVERFRONT ACCESS

Grant Amount: \$5,000

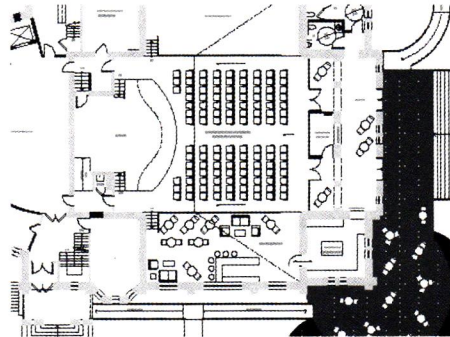
Grant Year: 2002

Architect: Pfaffmann + Associates

Status: Construction to begin in 2003

Projected Cost: \$380,000

With an existing riverfront trail already in place, Lawrenceville Corporation sought to enhance the trail by creating opportunities for increased river access. Pfaffmann + Associates designed a kayak/canoe launch at 40th Street, and an overlook at 43rd Street.



UNION PROJECT

Grant Amount \$12,000

Grant Year: 2002

Architect: Desmone & Associates

Status: Preliminary design complete

Projected Cost: \$1.5 – \$2 million

A small non-profit organization known as the Union Project teamed up with Highland Park Community Development Corporation to explore the possible re-use of the former Union Baptist Church on Negley Avenue. A CDCP grant enabled the team to hire Desmone & Associates to redesign the space in accordance with the Union Project's vision. The designs include a performance space for music and theater, ceramic studios, and offices and community meeting spaces. More information about the project can be found at <http://www.unionproject.org/>.

"The CDCP's involvement and investment in the Union Project at such a formative time has given us the early support that we need to succeed in such a large project. We are more credible in the community's eyes because of the significant reputation that the CDCP has in the city. The work product received at the culmination of the process is something we use each and every day to better articulate the project's mission and to help our supporters envision the catalytic effect that the revitalization of this community landmark will have on the community."

— JESSICA KING, UNION PROJECT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HABITAT HOUSES

Grant Amount: \$3,000

Grant Year: 2002

Architect: IAS Corporation

Status: Construction to begin in 2003

Projected cost: \$375,000

Mellon's Orchard Neighborhood Association (MONA), East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) and Habitat for Humanity forged a unique partnership to develop new housing units on a vacant lot on Rippey Street. With CDCP assistance, the group worked with architect Lee Calisti, AIA formerly of IAS to design affordable housing units that were contextual with the existing streetscape, and could be constructed with Habitat volunteer labor.

About the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that works to improve the quality of design in Pittsburgh as a means of encouraging community reinvestment and citizen participation — through grants and technical assistance to community-based revitalization organizations and through broader educational programming.

There are many ways for architects to get involved in community development!

To learn more about the CDCP, visit www.cdcp.org

Superior Interior Winners

By Maya Haptas
AIA Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Magazine recently announced the winners of its prestigious 9th Annual Superior Interiors Design Awards, which celebrate some of the greatest homes in the region. This year the awards were judged by members of the Columbus Chapters of the American Institute of Architects and American Society of Interior Designers.

Among the winners were several AIA Pittsburgh members:

Peter Margittai, AIA was the winner in the "Architecture, Remodels or Additions over \$50,000" and "Interior Design, Singular Residential Space over \$35,000" categories for his transformation of a formerly gloomy kitchen and dining area into a luminous hub of activity. Architecture judges felt that Margittai's "use of light and materials made a huge difference" and that he "did an exceptional job of taking an existing floor plan and opening it up." Interior design judges observed that the custom-built cabinets, used to define the space and provide storage, had "simple clean lines."

Margittai noted that "the budget and the spatial footprint of the house were very limited, but the owners wanted an open and rich space. We used inexpensive material treated in a luxurious way." Updating this foursquare house with a segmented floor plan may have been a challenge for Margittai, but the end result was an open and sophisticated space.

Also in the "Architecture, Remodels or Additions over \$50,000" category, Sarah Drake, AIA of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson was awarded an honorable mention. Judges felt Drake's renovation of what was once a dark and awkward kitchen "integrated new work into the existing very well." The natural light provided by the vaulted ceiling and sky-lit entryway and materials like light maple and absolute black counters created "a prism for the changing light of day."

In the "Architecture, New Construction" category, Brett W. Ligo, AIA of Ligo Architects won an honorable mention for his successful creation of an intimate and unassuming

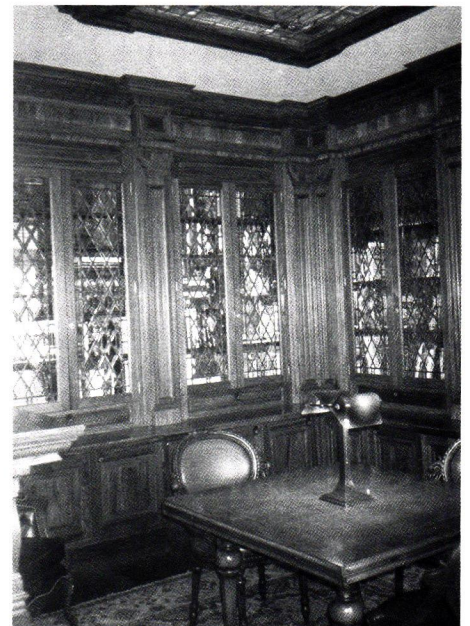


Singular Residential Space Under \$35,000, Honorable Mention

ARCHITECT: Brett W. Ligo, AIA
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Brett W. Ligo, AIA
MILLWORK/CABINETRY: Amish/Built
LIGHTING: Rudd Lighting Inc.

kitchen in an otherwise cavernous home. Judges felt this project to be "appropriate of the location and site" and that it "works well for an informal living style."

Ligo also took home an honorable mention in the "Singular Residential Space under \$35,000" for the design of his own kitchen. Amish cabinet-makers modified 19th century interior walnut shutters into cabinet drawers and doors and used birch stair posts reclaimed from a burned house as base cabinet corners. Tiger maple, culled from several different lumber yards, was used for the counter nosing and cabinetry molding. The combination of wood allowed Ligo to integrate the many architectural components he and his wife had collected over the years into a fresh and unified project. Judges noted Ligo's new kitchen was "very handsome" and that "the cabinetry is great."



Interior Design, Singular Residential Space Over \$35,000, Winner

ARCHITECT: N. Lee Ligo, AIA
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Whalen Contracting, Inc.
MILLWORK/CABINETRY: Greenville Wood Products

In the "Interior Design, Singular Residential Space Over \$35,000" category, N. Lee Ligo, also of Ligo Architects, won for his authentic, detail-oriented design of 19th century library cabinetry. It was inspired by a chimney-breast purchased by the owner from the same time period. Judges called the detailing, including leaded glass doors and carved rosewood molding, "phenomenal" and the cabinetry "magnificent."

The 9th Annual Superior Interiors Design Awards were co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapters of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Design Administrators. For a copy of Pittsburgh Magazine's March issue, featuring the full-length story, please call 412-622-1360.

AND THE SUPERIOR INTERIOR AWARDS GO TO . . .

■ ARCHITECTURE, REMODELS OR ADDITIONS OVER \$50,000

- Peter Margittai, AIA, Winner
- Sarah Drake, AIA, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Honorable Mention

■ INTERIOR DESIGN, SINGULAR RESIDENTIAL SPACE OVER \$35,000

- Peter Margittai, AIA, Winner
- N. Lee Ligo, AIA, Ligo Architects, Winner

■ INTERIOR DESIGN, SINGULAR RESIDENTIAL SPACE

- Karolyn Spagnolo, Spagnolo Design, Winner

■ ARCHITECTURE, NEW CONSTRUCTION

- Brett W. Ligo, AIA, Ligo Architects, Honorable Mention

■ INTERIOR DESIGN, RESIDENCE UNDER 3,500 SQUARE FEET

- Anthony W. Lamb for Weisshouse Showrooms, Winner

■ INTERIOR DESIGN, RESIDENCE OVER 3,500 SQUARE FEET

- Karolyn Spagnolo, Spagnolo Design, Honorable Mention

■ SINGULAR RESIDENTIAL SPACE UNDER \$35,000

- Brett W. Ligo, AIA Ligo Architects, Honorable Mention

■ DO-IT-YOURSELF

- Charles R. Honse, Winner
- Elise K. Smith, E.K. Smith Landscape, Honorable Mention



Architecture, Remodels or Additions over \$50,000, Winner

and

Interior Design, Singular Residential Space over \$35,000, Winner

ARCHITECT:

Peter Margittai, AIA

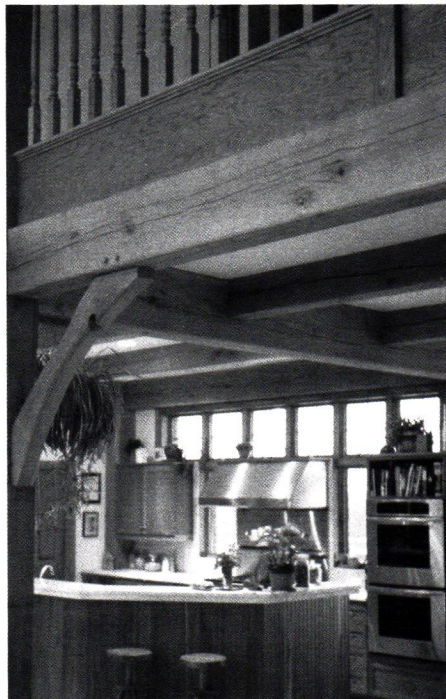
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Fisher Renovation, LLC

MILLWORK/CABINETRY:

Team Laminates Co.

FURNITURE: Weisshouse



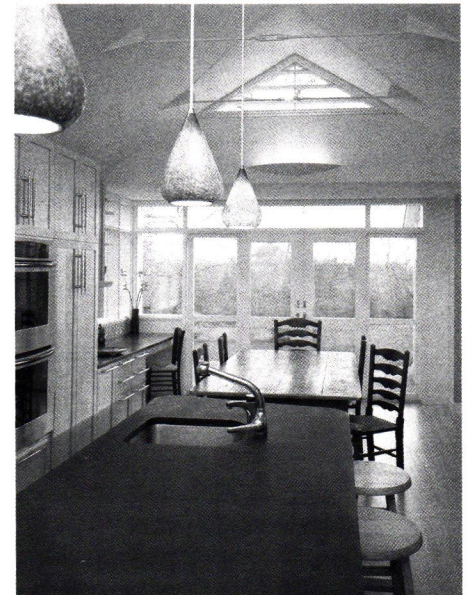
Architecture, New Construction, Honorable Mention

ARCHITECT: Brett W. Ligo, AIA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Salter Construction Inc.

MILLWORK/CABINETRY: Custom

LIGHTING: Juno, Brass Light Gallery



Architecture, Remodels or Additions Over \$50,000, Honorable Mention

PRINCIPAL: Jon C. Jackson, AIA

PROJECT ARCHITECT: Sarah Drake, AIA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Joel C. LeGall

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Carpenter Construction Inc.

MILLWORK/CABINETRY: The Kitchen Gallery

From the Firms

→ **JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design** has been hired to provide engineering services for HVAC and fire protection upgrades to the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. Current plans are to upgrade the basement through fourth floors and the seventh, eighth and ninth floors of the 70-year-old landmark building. Eventually all floors will be completed. Architectural project manager is **Mike Pappas**. Project engineer is **Jim Gaynor**.

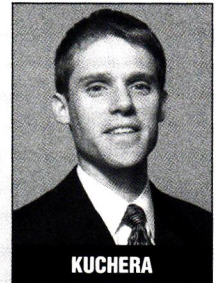
WTW Architects designed a student union addition and renovation at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Work is underway on the initial phase of a 43,000 sf three-level addition; a 32,000 sf renovation will begin this summer.

Massaro Company was selected for the renovation of the MBA board room. Architect: **The Design Alliance**.

Massaro began construction of the AFCO Cargo Building at the Pittsburgh International Airport. They are working with Aviation Facilities Company, Inc. of McLean VA.

Astorino promoted **Michael Kuchera, AIA** to associate and added Ed Loy as a senior CADD operator and Robert F. Hayward.

Daniel R. Baic has joined The Kachele Group, Prof. Affiliate as a structural engineer. A graduate of Penn State, he has an MS in civil engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.



KUCHERA

Clifford R. Rowe, Jr., has been named chief executive officer of Trumbull Corporation and Lindy Paving, Inc., sister companies of P. J. Dick. Rowe assumed the additional responsibilities following the death of Robert G. Hecht, former chief executive officer of Trumbull and Lindy.

P. J. Dick promoted several senior executives in a reorganization: Eric Lytle to president, John Taormina to vp of engineering, Carol Mulderig to vp, Walter Czekaj to vp of field operations, and Frank Babik to regional manager.

Business Briefs

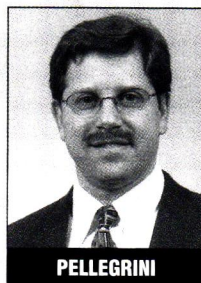
→ **STRADA** announced that **Dina Frederickson Snider, AIA** and **Casimir J. Pellegrini III, AIA** have been promoted to the position of associate.

John Deklewa & Sons, Inc. announced the promotion of Russell B. Heyz to director of field operations.

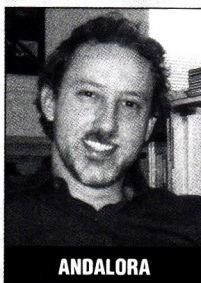
Perkins Eastman recently hired Will Andalora, intern architect, who has a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Maryland-College Park and a Master of Architecture from the University of Texas-Austin; and Holly Jordan, who holds a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and is a LEED Accredited Professional.



SNIDER



PELLEGRINI



ANDALORA

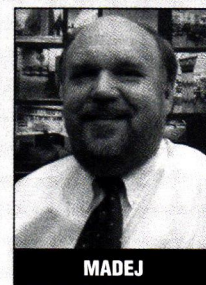


JORDAN

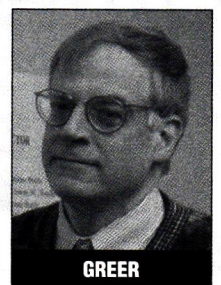
Kudos

→ **Urban Design Associates** won the 2003 National Honors Award for Regional and Urban Design for the East Baltimore Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan. The plan includes 2 million sf of research facilities as an extension of Johns Hopkins Medical Center and 1200 new and rehabilitated residential units.

Gregory P. Madej, AIA, **Peter S. Greer, AIA** and **David J. Roth, AIA**, of **DRS Architects, Inc.** have successfully completed the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) exam and are certified as Accredited LEED Professionals.



MADEJ



GREER

Rothschild Architects, a Regent Square architectural firm founded in 1988, is changing their name to **Rothschild Doyno Architects**. "The new name is an accurate reflection of how the firm operates, and we are excited to have Ken's name in a prominent position," states **Daniel Rothschild, AIA**, founding partner. **Kenneth Doyno, AIA**, the company's first employee, became a partner in the firm in 1997. He has been involved in many of the company's notable projects and is currently working on the University Honors College for the University of Pittsburgh, and the Sarah Heinz House Boys and Girls Club.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and Leadership Pittsburgh, Doyno is currently serving on the board of Caliope, the Pittsburgh Folk Music Society and the Land Use Committee of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.



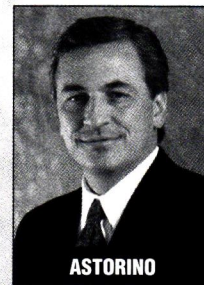
DOYNO

Perkins Eastman has been recognized by the National Association of Home Builders and the Senior Housing Council for its award-winning design of Sun City Takatsuki, The Manor at Yorktown, and Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center-Fay J. Linder Residences.

The Manor at Yorktown in Doylestown, Pennsylvania won a Gold Award. The 130,000 sf independent living retirement community responds to the client's desire for an upscale, exclusive country club setting.

WTW Architects won the 2002 Buildings Magazine New Construction Award in the Addition to Existing Structures category for its renovation and addition project at Roanoke College's student center on the Salem, VA campus.

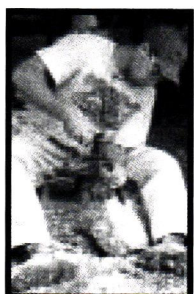
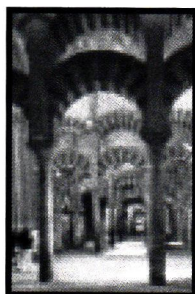
Dennis Astorino, AIA, chief operating officer at **Astorino**, joined the board of directors at Pittsburgh's National Aviary.



ASTORINO

General Industries, Prof. Affiliate, was recently honored by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) of western PA for the 2002 Speculative Building Award. The project winner was the Meadow Pointe Plaza Office Building in Meadow Lands, PA. Architect: **Gerard-Nagar Associates**.

General Industries was also awarded the 2002 Excellence in Construction Award of Merit for the Horizon Center office building in Southpointe. Architect: **Gerard-Nagar Associates**.



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May 20, Tuesday

ACCESSIBILITY AND HISTORIC INTEGRITY

Learn how to preserve the significance and integrity of historic structures, while making them accessible to people with mobility, hearing, sight, or other disabilities.

Cost is \$225. Contact the National Preservation Institute at 703-765-0100.

6 CES Credits

May 21, Wednesday

PHOTODOCUMENTATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND LANDSCAPES

For photographers working in 35mm, medium, or large format, this seminar explains HABS/HAER standards and issues involved in contracting for, undertaking, or supervising photodocumentation projects. Cost is \$375.00 (2 days). Contact the National Preservation Institute at 703-765-0100

12 CES Credits

June 11, Wednesday

EASTERN PARALYZED VETERANS ASSOCIATION Half Day Seminar

9 a.m. – 12 p.m., location TBA

SEMINAR TRACKS:

- Overview of city, state and federal accessibility requirements
- Problem application areas; parking, egress, toilet and bathing facilities, etc.
- Existing building: modifications, additions, occupancy requirements
- Life Safety Issues

Please send your information to AIA Pittsburgh, 945 Liberty Avenue, Loft #3, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or fax it to 412/471-9501. The deadline for inclusion is normally six weeks prior to publication. If you would like information describing qualified continuing education programs, please call the AIA office at 412-471-9548.

AIA ACTIVITIES

May 2, Friday

AIA Communications Committee Meeting Noon at Chapter office
412-471-9548

May 6, Tuesday

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting 5:00 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome 412-471-9548

May 22, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting Noon at the Chapter Office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA
724-452-9690

May 28, Wednesday

AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture 5:00 pm at Strada LLC office, 925 Liberty Avenue. Contact Ed Shriver, AIA
412-263-3800

AROUND TOWN

May 14, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators Meeting. A representative from Kennywood will discuss the history and architecture of this popular theme park. Engineers Club, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$17 members, \$19.50 non-members. Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337.

May 22, Thursday

CSI Technical Seminar. Understanding the Building Envelope. Paul Burgunder, AIA, CSI, Product Representative for Masonry Technology Inc. will speak from 8 - 10:30 a.m. at F. W. Dodge, 600 Waterfront Drive. Cost is \$40 and includes continental breakfast. For reservations contact Bob Bailey by May 9th at 412-281-1337 or rjbailey@ikminc.com. This presentation provides 2 LUs.

May 22, Wednesday

SMPS Meeting. At the Rivers Club from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Honorable James Roddey, Allegheny County Executive, will lead the discussion on "The Future of Allegheny County". For more information contact Diana Rudoy at 412-241-1770 or dirudoy@aol.com.

May 27, Tuesday

ASCE Meeting. Stabilizing the *Leaning Tower of Pisa*. 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Hilton. Cost is \$38, dinner included. For reservations call Lee Ann Murphy at 412-922-5575.

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 info@aia-pgh.org

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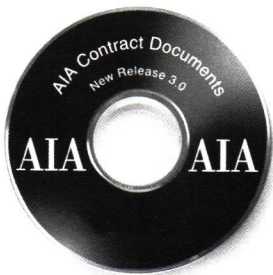
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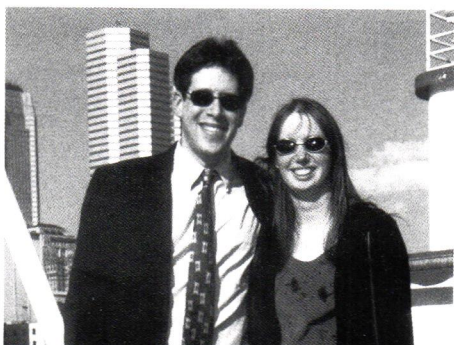
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PERSONAL: Fiancée, Olivia Davis, independent consultant and best friend. Our wedding is planned for September 2003.

DREAM VACATION: I have two: Hiking in the southwest desert and scooting around Europe on a Vespa.

YEARS IN PRACTICE: 8

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Architecture from Kent State University, School of Architecture and Environmental Design

FIRST PROJECT: Who can forget their first project? I was entrusted with the design for a renovation to an abandoned two dwelling unit for the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation. This was a wonderful opportunity to have some fun with the design of a residence while knowing that the project would be an asset to the community. The first 'glitch' in the project: meeting with a family of raccoons who did not anticipate a relocation.

IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE AND WHY? Paris—wine and cheese!

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB AND WHY? Each project has its own character and unique challenges. I enjoy the process of taking an idea and creating a project, then seeing it through to completion. I'm also challenged and humored by the lively early morning conversations with contractors.

WHAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING THING ARCHITECTS DO AND WHY? Constantly critiquing their surroundings and then explaining why to their significant others, or anyone who will listen.

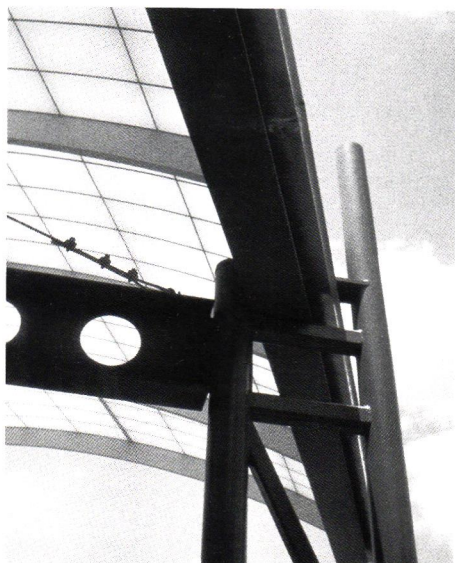
FAVORITE ARCHITECTURE BOOK AND WHY: *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Jane Jacobs captures the essence of people, buildings and the environment in which we live. She reminds us that buildings and spaces have personalities and they need to relate, contextually, with their communities.

BEST GIFT TO GIVE AN ARCHITECT AND WHY: More time, although we would want more and more.

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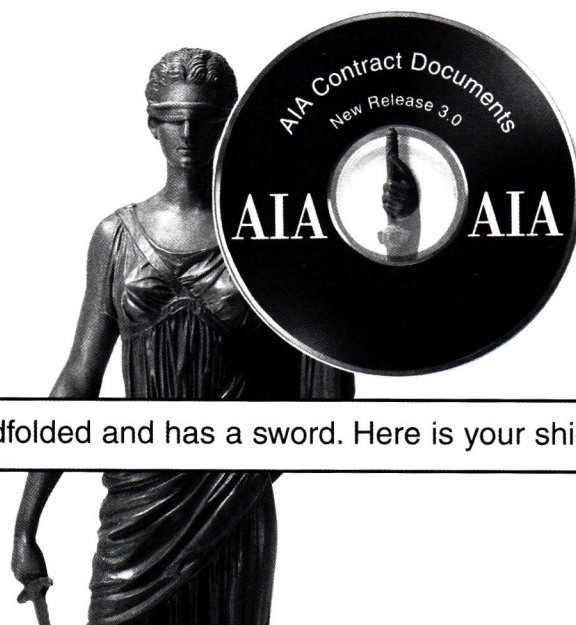
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