


# C O L U M N S

A detailed architectural site plan of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, showing a dense grid of streets and numerous building footprints. The plan is rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, allowing the text to be clearly visible over it.

## **Can McKeesport Be Saved?**

*The Proposal for the Region's  
First Eco-Industrial Park*

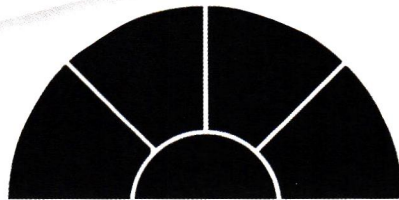
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## Big Ideas

By Tracy Certo, Editor



*It's cool, it's cutting edge and it's getting the right kind of support here in Pittsburgh.*

### In response to a question by a prominent

Pittsburgher about what I did on my summer vacation, I mentioned a wonderful trip to Montreal and Quebec City in July during peak festival season.

The streets pulsed with an irresistible rhythm and the many free performances held throughout the cities, more Cirque du Soleil than Barnum and Bailey, were genuine crowd pleasers, I told him. Best yet, there wasn't a smoky food stand or funnel cake in sight. Instead, people frequented the many cafes that line the wide boulevards closed to traffic. The string of festivals in both cities takes place all summer long, greatly benefiting hotels, restaurants, and store owners. Pittsburgh, I suggested to this person, should stage a summer festival like the Canadians do.

His response? "Pittsburgh doesn't like festivals," he said. I repeat: Pittsburgh. Doesn't. Like. Festivals.

Sounds like he's out of possibilities said my husband later when I repeated the conversation. As in, not in alignment with a common goal; as in being a naysayer, negative, dismissive. (And yes, I did call him on it.)

In any case, that's why I found it so refreshing to interview Mary Del Brady and Richard Pearson days later about their ambitious plan, ripe with possibility, to revive the City of McKeesport.

McKeesport? you say. I hear you. When Anne Swager suggested this story to me, I said the same thing.

Think about it, said Anne. Two kids from McKeesport, Mary Del and Richard, who connect at their 25<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, marry, and go into business together. Each alone has proved highly successful. She's a "serial entrepreneur", he's a real estate developer with interests in sustainable design and energy. Together they formed Bio Space Development where they were approached by the County to come up with a plan for a 100-plus acre brownfield in McKeesport.

McKeesport? they say. *They* light up.

What they propose—an eco-industrial park—is a big sweep of a plan that encompasses the brownfield site and beyond. If they pull it off, it would not only put McKeesport on the map again but the name would be in large font with a big green star next to it.

In featuring a story of this magnitude it's only appropriate to aim for a balanced piece, ferret out the bad along with the good, and find someone who is opposed to the project. Except, interestingly, I haven't found anyone. Everyone I talk to is gung-ho. And they tell me they don't know anyone who's against it.

Just this morning I sat in on another energizing meeting, of a visiting architect who talked about a specific project here in town. Throughout, he only talked big ideas. He profiled the urban planner/architect, Jaime Lerner, once the mayor of the now famous city of Curitiba in South America. Lerner designed a highly efficient mass transportation system (used by 70% of the population) and created his own community currency while ramping up the quality of life dramatically. If citizens didn't have the money to pay for transportation, they could work the community garden in exchange for transit passes. As one example of his resourcefulness, when Lerner saw abandoned school buses, he asked the people what they wanted to learn and then converted the buses into classrooms for sewing and computer learning.

The Curitiba example was a springboard for discussing the possibilities of doing things in Pittsburgh that have never been done before. The logic went like this: Here's what Lerner did in a third-world city. And you're saying *what* can't be done in Pittsburgh?

Whether it's mass transit, an eco-industrial park or a first-class street festival, the question isn't, can it be done? The question is who's going to do it? And yes, of course, pay for it. But maybe the biggest limitation we place on ourselves isn't financial restrictions but our own out-of-possibility attitudes.

If all goes well, Pittsburgh could one day soon have an eco-industrial park because someone said it could be done and is leading the charge. Its exciting stuff, says Connie Yarris, executive director of the Regional Business Alliance. It makes sense, says Bill Strickland of Manchester Bidwell, who's "planting" a greenhouse on the site. It's a sound idea and approach, says Art Baldwin of the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

It's cool, it's cutting edge and it's getting the right kind of support here in Pittsburgh. When it's up and running, I say let's hold a big first-class street festival to celebrate.

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**On the cover:** Proposed Development Zones for the McKeesport Eco-Industrial Park. Rendering by BioSpace.

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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## New AIA Contract Documents Software Releases You From Old Frustrations

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) earned a solid reputation for the best intellectual content available in the contract documents arena. Now, it has reason to boast about a new delivery platform for this content. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the AIA released a new and entirely redesigned AIA Contract Documents software based on the widely-accepted Microsoft® Word platform that is causing a buzz of enthusiasm and a collective “finally!” among current 3.0 PLUS users.

The new AIA Contract Documents software provides world-class functionality and ease of use. In addition to switching to the near universal technology platform of Microsoft® Word, the new AIA Contract Documents software also includes the capability to generate PDF files. These changes alone allow for vastly-improved drafting, editing, and collaborating options. And, the new software goes even further to streamline the contracting process.

#### Here are a few of the areas of improvement:

Special dialog boxes help users create documents faster and easier. When you first create a project, you are prompted to enter data about the project – such as the various team members and their respective roles. These details can be used throughout a project because they can be automatically incorporated into related documents and forms. After the project data is entered, a Document Dialog opens, prompting you to enter pertinent data such as dates, financial figures, etc. When you have finished entering data in the Document Dialog, it is inserted into the document in the appropriate places. In a matter of minutes, you now have a Working Draft.

Editing a draft document in the new AIA Contract Documents software is now akin to editing a Word document. All the Microsoft® Word functionality is available. When collaborating, users can choose the version they'd like to share—an unlocked version of the document; a track changes version, that captures every change made by the other team members; and a variance checked version in PDF format, locked to prevent further editing

The new software platform also allows for easier collaboration among team members involved in the project. Users can share drafts with team members on their network or outside their network by e-mail in Microsoft® Word or PDF formats.

There are more options when it comes time to print a final version of a contract or form. Users can print either a “clean copy” or a comparative copy. In the “clean copy,” all the additions to and deletions from the original AIA language are indicated by a small mark in the left margin, parallel to where the changes occur. The details of the changes are appended to the final in an Additions and Deletions Report at the end of the document. The comparative copy marks changes where they occur in the document. Additions are underlined and deletions have a line through the deleted text.

And last, but certainly not least, the new software makes it possible to customize AIA Contract Document templates. For those who spent time and effort crafting language that exactly meets your needs, the days of having to retype these favorite clauses are over. Welcome to the new AIA Contract Documents software. Check [aia.org](http://aia.org) for details on the date of release.

#### A LONG HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

■ The first AIA contract documents were published in 1888. Today, there are more than 75 contracts and administrative forms available from the AIA.

■ The AIA Contract Documents have been finely tuned during their 150-year history to reflect the latest changes in law and the construction industry. As a result, the comprehensive contracts and forms have been tested by the courts and are widely considered the industry standard.

■ The AIA Contract Documents are developed and revised based on a set of Drafting Principles assembled by the AIA. Therefore, the AIA documents are drafted to assure that industry opinion is solicited from all parties whose interests are significantly affected by a particular document. Given this, the AIA Contract Documents enjoy a wide reputation for fairness to all parties.

■ All AIA Contract Documents are revised on as appropriate to ensure that users have state-of-the-art legal tools to be more productive and profitable.



## PIYAF News

Open to all Interns and Young Architects (registered 0-10 years). Membership is free. Email: [piyaf@yahoo.com](mailto:piyaf@yahoo.com)

### PIYAF Coordinating Committee:

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### AIA PENNSYLVANIA

*AIA Pennsylvania Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference* Yorktown Hotel on Friday, November, 21 and Saturday, November 22. All interns and young architects are encouraged to participate in this very important event.

**“Masonry Day”** - Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – The AIA Pennsylvania Associates Committee is planning a masonry workshop for architectural students and interns to take place in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference. The International Masonry Institute has agreed to provide a mix of lectures and hands-on activities to help educate students and interns on the intricacies of using masonry. Stay tuned for more information.

### 2003 PIYAF & AIAPA Architectural Photo Contest

PIYAF and American Institute of Architects Pennsylvania present the AIA Photography Competition. The top entries will be exhibited at the AIA Architects Day to be held in June of 2004. The entries will be displayed in the Capital Building for all elected officials to view.

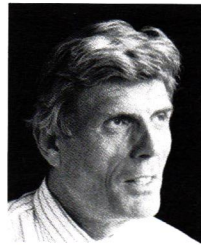
This competition is open to all Associate members of the AIA, and student members of AIAS in good standing. Professional Affiliate or Allied members are not eligible. Entries submitted by ineligible individuals will not be processed. The details of the competition are still being “developed” and we’ll keep you notified. If you have a particular project or detail that you want to submit, start to think about photographing the image.

## Second Annual David Lewis Lecture

The Second Annual David Lewis Lecture will feature Fred Koetter and Susie Kim, AIA of Koetter Kim & Associates, Inc. on “Cities and Buildings”. It will take place on October 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Kresge Recreation Hall at Carnegie Mellon University. The talk, which is free and open to the public, will explore the inseparable relationship between architecture and urbanism through such projects as:

- University Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- TEDA Administrative Center, Tianjin, PR China
- Canary Wharf, London, England
- NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

The lecture is sponsored by Urban Design Associates and Carnegie Mellon University.



Fred Koetter



### Correction

In the September issue of *Columns*, it was not made clear that IKM designed the atrium of the Hillman UPMC Cancer Center. Radelet McCarthy did the interior spaces of the clinical pavilion, not the atrium, which links the clinical pavilion to the research pavilion. IKM designed the atrium, research pavilion and exterior of the Hillman Cancer Center and were overall architects for the project. Alan Fishman, AIA, was the principal-in-charge.

**Franklin Toker**  
speaks about his new book:

## “FALLINGWATER RISING”

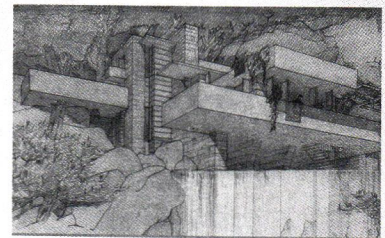
at  
CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2 p.m.

*Reception and book-signing following the talk*

Frank Toker has worked 18 years on his monumental history of what may be the greatest house on earth. His book, *Fallingwater Rising: Frank Lloyd Wright, E. J. Kaufmann, and America's Most Extraordinary House*, has just been published by the prestigious Knopf division of Random House.

Please come to this important and lively event (the first scan will feature Mrs. Kaufmann of Fallingwater without a stitch of clothing): admission is free to anyone entering the Music Hall directly (right-hand doors of Carnegie Institute, Forbes Avenue corner of Schenley Plaza). Information: 412.648.2400; website: [www.franklin.toker.com](http://www.franklin.toker.com).



FALLINGWATER RISING

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, E. J. KAUFMANN, AND  
AMERICA'S MOST EXTRAORDINARY HOUSE

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