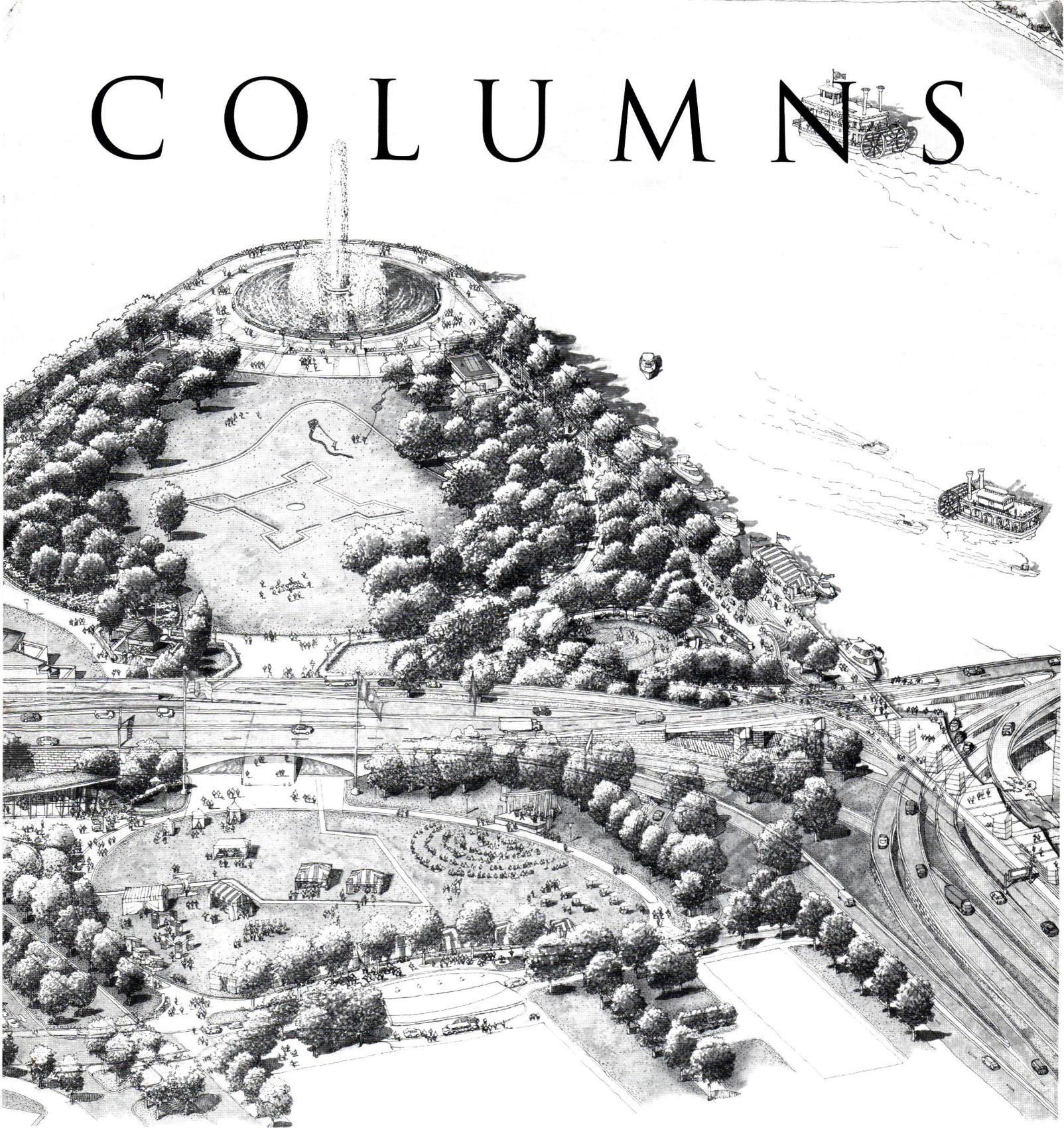


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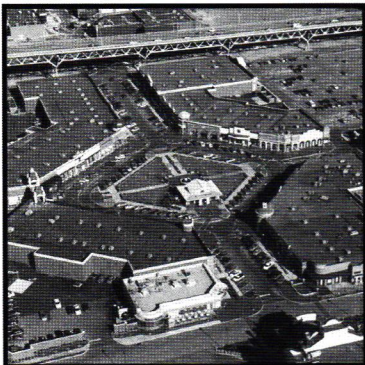
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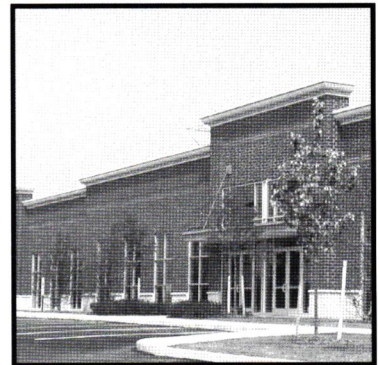
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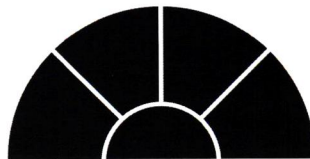
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A Foundation for Good Design

By Tracy Certo



"Good architectural design is every bit as important as good nutrition. Both are good medicine for our physical and spiritual well-being, and a lack of either one can cause a myriad of unnecessary maladies." — Sarah Susanka

At Build Pittsburgh in April,

Mary Navarro, senior program officer at the Heinz Endowments, posed a challenge to architects in her seminar: how is it possible to advance good design so it's embraced by a whole community? The problem, she said, is that good design is not the community value it needs to be. Is there a city in the country where this is true? she asked.

No one came forward with an answer to that question but there was another relevant one underlying it: is there any other city in the country where a major foundation is helping to lead the charge in its civic design?

It's highly unusual for a foundation to participate in design matters. When she went to a recent national foundation conference, Navarro was the only program officer in the room involved in design issues of any kind. Yet here in Pittsburgh, she is leading the charge for the Endowment's Civic Design Initiative, which she presented at Build Pittsburgh, and she is serving as the co-chair of the design committee of Riverlife Task Force. Which makes this city very fortunate.

Since the initiative is unprecedented, Navarro said they don't have models. And while her foundation can jumpstart an initiative, in this case civic design, it cannot sustain it long-term. "I look to you for guidelines," she told those present and the seminar soon morphed into a forum for discussing a variety of design issues, primarily how architects can serve to heighten awareness of good design.

Many suggestions were raised. Alan Weiskopf, AIA made the point that the most important component to health, safety and welfare concerns is the element of design. That connection, he said, is the major step to policymakers embracing the value of design.

Other suggestions included involvement in zoning boards and planning commissions where architects can play a key role in the process. (Peters Twp., it was noted, has a full-time planning director.) Get a seat at the table. Get elected. Serve on a community board—all solid suggestions. Grassroots AIA and livability issues, which are in the forefront for architects now, need to be made commu-

nity values, offered AIA Pittsburgh President Dan Rothschild, AIA, who has been writing an excellent series of columns on these issues in this magazine (see page 4).

Education is key, said others, including mentoring high school students as future leaders and programs such as ACE mentoring, Carnegie Mellon's Architecture for Kids and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation's Architecture in Schools.

Someone suggested the idea that Riverlife Task Force's standard of design could push the agenda forward with its broad-based principles.

Related to Alan Weiskopf's comment about health safety and welfare, one point that wasn't raised (at least in this session) was the idea of green building pushing the value of good design. And where else to do this but in the greenest city of all? (We're still #1, reports the Green Building Alliance, with Sacramento, California a close #2.)

Tying into green building and the Heinz Endowments, Teresa Heinz Kerry is giving Pittsburgh a nice boost with all the campaign publicity she has engendered. On 20/20 during a Barbara Walters interview, they showed a gorgeous shot of the convention center followed by another impressive photo of the Water Walk as they noted Pittsburgh as the greenest city in the country, thanks in large part to Mrs. Heinz. The *New York Times* trumpeted the success of the Ft. Pitt barrier bridge project in its recent and lengthy article on Mrs. Heinz, crediting AIA Pittsburgh. And other major newspapers and magazines are weighing in, (view them at www.johnkerry.com) praising our architecture and the greening of our city. That's one powerful way to advance good design.

In her wonderful new book *Home by Design*, Sarah Susanka (p. 8) of the *Not So Big House* book, argues that good architectural design is every bit as important as good nutrition. "Both are good medicine for our physical and spiritual well-being, and a lack of either one can cause a myriad of unnecessary maladies." What better argument to advance good design as a community value?

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AIA Pittsburgh serves 12 Western Pennsylvania counties as the local component of the American Institute of Architects and AIA Pennsylvania. The objective of AIA Pittsburgh is to improve, for society, the quality of the built environment by further raising the standards of architectural education, training and practice; fostering design excellence; and promoting the value of architectural services to the public. AIA membership is open to all registered architects, architectural interns, and a limited number of professionals in supporting fields.

AIA Pittsburgh
945 Liberty Avenue, Loft #3
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Telephone: 412/471-9548
FAX: 412/471-9501

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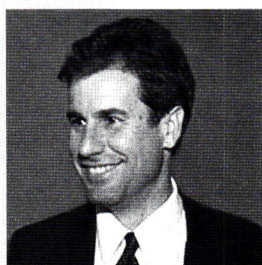
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THE AIA BRAND: Community

By Dan Rothschild, AIA

The AIA Brand Study,

which describes three pillars that support our organization, continues as the focus of my messages this year. Previous columns focused on Advocacy and Knowledge; this one will connect those themes to Community.



*The AIA is a place
where members can
come together, enjoy each
other's company, learn
from each other, and
band together to
accomplish things we
cannot do alone.*

Our sense of community extends both inward and outward. Our inward focus creates an organization that celebrates a sense of community. Opportunities abound for architects to connect with each other locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. It is the power of this collective to achieve that which we cannot achieve individually. This purpose naturally extends outward, since architecture is the most public of all art forms.

OUR INWARD COMMUNITY Knowledge

Our AIA community is strengthened when architects come together to increase our knowledge base. Last month's message described the positive educational benefits to those who attended our annual Build Pittsburgh conference. The power of this collective energy was also very evident for those who traveled to Chicago last month for our national convention. Whether it is large national gatherings, or our monthly local membership meetings, the combination of education and fellowship is a central part of our purpose, one that contributes to our sense of belonging to a community.

Advocacy

When we engage in advocacy that directly relates to our professional practice, we strengthen our AIA community. Last month I traveled to Harrisburg with several AIA Pittsburgh Board members for the annual "Architect's Day," to play an active role in pending governmental legislation affecting our profession and our communities: Green Building Incentives, Transit Revitalization Investment Districts, and Historic Preservation Tax Incentives. A portion of your dues to AIA Pennsylvania helps to fund a lobbyist who provides support for these efforts. Past President of AIA Pittsburgh, Rich DeYoung, AIA, now chairman of the AIA PA Political Action Committee (PAC), gave a presentation on the status of our contributions to the campaigns of supportive legislators. Please visit AIA Pennsylvania's website www.aiapa.org to learn more about Architect's Day and to make a contribution to our AIA PA PAC.

Diversity

Our AIA community can only be strong, however, if it reflects the greater community. Sadly, the demographics of the architecture profession are not reflective of the diverse society that we serve. The AIA approved a resolution at this year's convention to strengthen the demographic diversity of our profession, particularly in career advancement for minorities and women. The AIA will collaborate with related organizations and support research initiatives and ongoing data collection to better understand who enters and succeeds in the profession and why.

OUR OUTWARD COMMUNITY Knowledge

The AIA's outward reach to the greater community helps to build the knowledge base of those partners who participate in creating a positive built environment. At AIA Pittsburgh this is evidenced by our successful Design Pittsburgh activities, such as the public display of over 100 presentation boards at our Design Pittsburgh Gala, the Carnegie Museum, and the lobby of the USX Tower that educate the public about great design. The "Architects' Saturday" tours during Design Pittsburgh are often the first glimpse that would-be architects have of a professional office. Our public meetings this year included the sold out screening of "My Architect" and the lecture of Sarah Susanka, AIA author of *The Not So Big House*.

Advocacy

Our responsibility to help the community find its collective voice through advocacy also strengthens the AIA. On the local level, we recently joined with the Riverlife Task Force to challenge the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mon Fayette Expressway. On the state level, AIA members recently participated with the Department of Education on how to improve the delivery of public schools in our state. This multi-faceted report that addresses selection process, fees, design benchmarking, and construction delivery options will make the state more effective in delivering quality educational environments to our children.

The AIA is a place where members can come together, enjoy each other's company, learn from each other, and band together to accomplish things we cannot do alone. We know that the sense of belonging is a primal emotion. As architects, we understand that the power of place reinforces this sense. The AIA is that place for architects, a place where we share a common culture, language, and passion.



Richard H. Hoffman, AIA 1947-2004

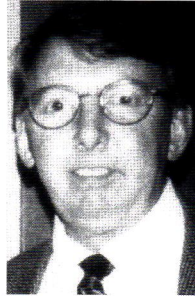
"Rich was our 'resident hippy', says Art Ruprecht, AIA, who described his partner as a free spirit who "brought an informal flair to our firm in his interactions with clients and with many of the architectural designs he produced. Even in designing nursing homes, he found a whimsical charm in creating colorful and playful architecture — something that AIA Pittsburgh recognized in 1996 with a *Design Excellence Commendation* for the Whitecliff Nursing Home in Greenville, PA."

The architect died in a car accident on May 24th. He is survived by his wife, Roslyn, and two daughters, Alycia of Erie and Julia of Pittsburgh, brother Gilbert E. B. Hoffman of Texas and sister Cheryl Massie of New Castle.

The three partners of RSH, including Ted Schroeder, met at Carnegie Mellon University, then known as Carnegie Tech. Ruprecht remembers with amusement a presentation for a Caribbean Island World's Fair Exhibition that Hoffman gave as a student. "Rich came in with a slide projector, a record player, a charcoal grill, a 20" fresh fish (unscaled) and one of his more lovely acquaintances, clad in a tiny bikini and nothing else! Rich lit the grill, threw on the fish (a catfish, I think - scales and all), put a reggae tune on the record player, turned on the slide projector loaded with pictures of his youthful vacations in southern Florida, and last but not least, introduced his friend the "go-go" dancer, who proceeded to mesmerize everybody including our stiff, gay professor. The aroma of burning fish scale stayed in the architectural studio for a week, but Rich sure knew how to present a "Program." I think he got an "A".

Hoffman graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree and was granted licensure to practice in 1975. While attending Carnegie Mellon, he interned with Curry Martin Heiberger & Claus, a noteworthy Pittsburgh architectural firm in the 1960's. Upon graduation, Rich was employed by the Eckles Company in New Castle, where he continued his internship toward licensure. (Richard's father Gilbert, who was then retired, served as a principal in the Eckles Company for many years.) Rich joined HHSDR Architects in Sharon from 1975 until 1979, when he was invited to become a partner at RSH Architects. He directed the firm's design of all housing and healthcare facilities as well as church designs including the Renovations to St. John's Lutheran Church in New Castle, among others.

He was many things to many people and he was well-loved, said Ruprecht. "Rich was a musician, who played Bob Schmeertz's "Ladies Beware of an Architect" and "Monongehela Sal" on his guitar. He was an avid skeet and trap shooter, and enjoyed cycling trips and fly fishing. His legacy will live on in both name and spirit at RSH Architects."



Correction

In the June issue, *Columns* printed information from a press release that mistakenly reported the general contractor for the Courtyard Marriot, which won a 2004 Preservation Award. The general contractor was **Mascaro Construction Company, L.P.** We regret that *Columns* is not equipped to fact-check information given to us from firms and organizations and we regret the error.

Feedback on Kahn

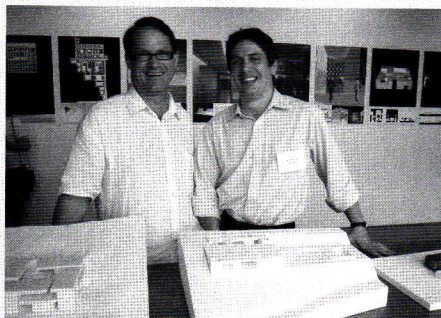
William Huff, a Pittsburgh architect who worked for Louis Kahn from 1958 to 1960, called *Columns* regarding the article in the June issue about Kahn by another Pittsburgh architect, Injoon John Chung, AIA. Huff informed us that Kahn did indeed die \$500,000 in debt, and not \$50,000 as Chung claimed in his article. (*Columns* originally reported the \$500,000 debt in the May article which Chung in turn disputed.)

At *Columns* we welcome the chance to provide a forum for discussion, or debate in this case. So here's the word according to Huff: A year after Kahn's death, he received a call from Esther Kahn, Louis' widow, who needed help with the debt her spouse left behind. Huff enlisted the aid of several prominent Pittsburghers who helped push through state legislation (it took two attempts) for Pennsylvania to buy the Kahn papers for \$500,000. Eventually, the state turned them over to the University of Pennsylvania where the archive remains today.

JUNE member meeting

Gary Carlough, AIA and Dutch MacDonald, AIA in the EDGE studio gallery, the site of AIA Pittsburgh's June membership meeting, featuring the work of internationally acclaimed Portuguese architects Manuel and Francisco Aires Mateus. AIA members and guests enjoyed free beer, wine and a variety of salsas and quesadillas as well as the chance to view EDGE projects.

The monthly meeting was generously sponsored by MGM Automation, a corporation specializing in residential and commercial audio visual systems (including home theater), lighting control and computer networks. Shown here at right are Melanie and Matt Mandros, Prof. Affiliates.



PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO

A REPORT FROM

BUILD *pittsburgh*

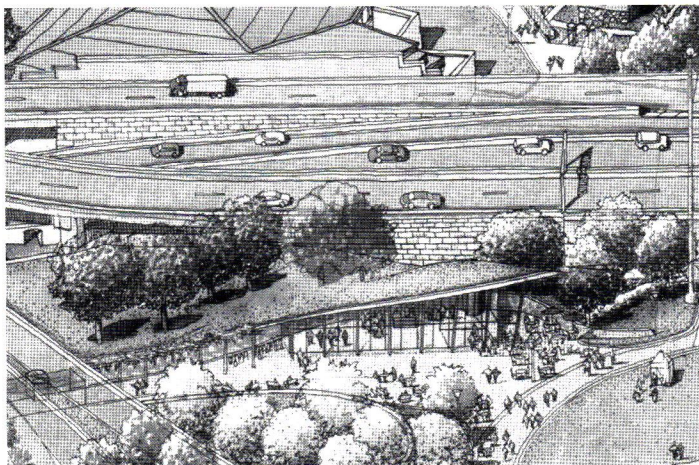
By Maya Haptas

On Saturday, April 24th, Lisa Schroeder, executive director of Riverlife Task Force presented two seminars: "Building the Region, Today and Tomorrow" and "A New Recreational Hub: What's in Store for Point State Park." The goal when developing the new Master Plan for Point State Park was not to think of it as an end to downtown Pittsburgh, but as a central point in the Golden Triangle. A bit of background: In 2001, The Allegheny Conference and Riverlife Task Force came together to form the Point State Park Planning Committee, selecting Pressley Landscape Architects to design the master plan.

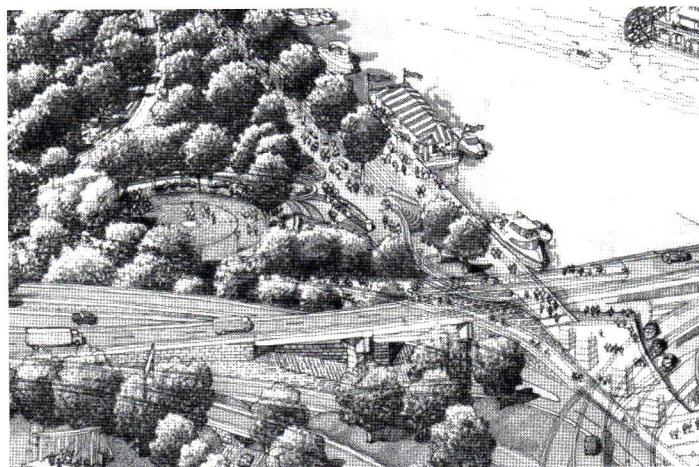
The inherent problems of Point State Park are mostly caused by its original design as a passive park, said Lisa Schroeder, executive director of the Riverlife Task Force. Through public forums and community workshops, it became apparent that Pittsburghers preferred the park as a "prime host spot for public events," fully encompassing its role as Pittsburgh's living room. Transforming Point State Park into an area which would allow for the flurry of activity, required to put on everything from chamber music ensembles to blockbuster concerts, was a difficult task. It was important to allow for increased traffic in the park without damaging either the landscape or Fort Pitt, a National Historic Landmark site.

The new Master Plan includes a goal to restore the fountain at the Point to include a wading pool for children along with new water steps, similar to the ones on the North Side, that will dip into the famous confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers.

The revitalization of Point State Park is not simply about improving the park contents in the hopes of attracting more visitors, noted Schroeder. One of the most important aspects of the new design is the focus on circulation both to



The visitor center



Aerial view

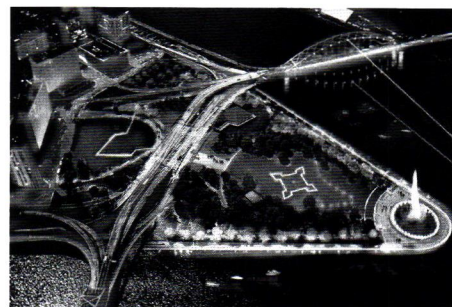


The rendering depicts a portion of the preliminary design for "Mon Wharf Landing" developed by Hargreaves Associates. It shows the two main components of this plan which are: 1) A trail connection and landscaped edge on the land side (both of which would be designed to withstand flooding) and 2) A barge-based landscape on the water side, part of which could be designed to help collect and treat highway runoff from the roadway above the Wharf. These barges could also be programmed to provide additional park and activity space, recreational boating tie-ups and many other uses. Riverlife recently received a transportation enhancements grant for funding to begin Phase I construction of the land-side landscaped berm and trail that will ultimately connect the Eliza Furnace Trail with Point State Park.

and from the park and in and around it. It is easy to forget that Point State Park can literally be accessed from any angle. The water's edge that surrounds so much of the park can be transformed through tie-ups for boats and public water taxis which can easily allow visitor access to any of the developed riverfront in the area. Bike and walking trails have also been developed to encourage, among other points, increased traffic at the convention center to take advantage of downtown's "walkability."

Developing paths and trails around the Golden Triangle will surely increase the area's walkability, but what if parts of those paths were lit at night? Would foot traffic increase, spurring the downtown economy? Peter Fink, of Art2Architecture believes it would.

During the second seminar in Track 1 on Saturday, "Coming of Age for Riverlife," attendees were treated to a special presentation by Fink on his firm's development of a holistic lighting master plan, unanimously selected by the committee for Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. The plan, which was announced that day on the front page of the Post-Gazette, includes a "laser gateway" highlighting the convergence of Pittsburgh's three rivers by lasers beginning at the Fort Pitt and Duquesne Bridges intersecting in front of the point.



A holistic lighting plan by Peter Fink of Art2Architecture was unveiled at Build Pittsburgh.

The approach to developing the plan was primarily to highlight, if you will, how lighting can contribute to the nighttime economy of Pittsburgh downtown, including the North and South Shores, said Fink. The plan uses light to create an outline of Pittsburgh and emphasize many of the larger public arenas including the stadiums and Science Center to create a greater sense of walkability. The guide could potentially be used in the future to outline residential spaces as well and encourage an increase in downtown living.

For more information on the master plan for Point State Park, log onto www.riverlifetaskforce.org

HOME BY DESIGN

By Tracy Certo

Few authors have done as much for advancing good design as Sarah Susanka, AIA, author of the best-selling *The Not So Big House*.

On May 20th, AIA Pittsburgh, Shipley Brothers Development,

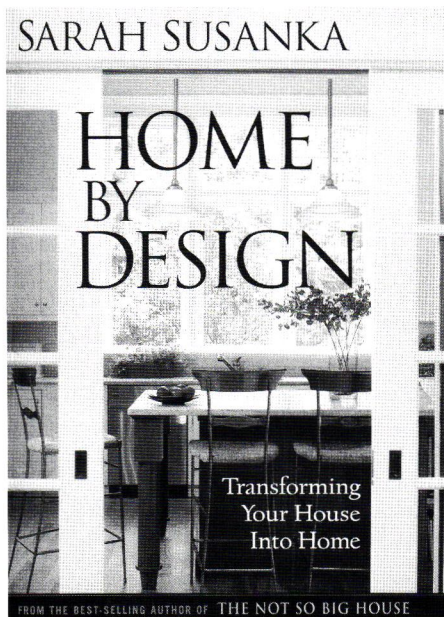
Inc., and Coldwell Banker Real Estate Inc. sponsored a lecture by Susanka, whose outstanding success is based on her ability to explain the key concepts behind every well-designed home—not only what they are but why they work and how to use them to your advantage. She inspires architects as well. As Mark Hoffman of Strada said after hearing Susanka, “My head is swimming with lots of good ideas.”

If you missed it, here’s a chance to catch highlights of her talk, along with information from her latest and highly-regarded book, *Home by Design*.

Want to know the cool spaces in your house? Let a three-year old loose and see where he or she goes, suggests residential architect Sarah Susanka. People are drawn to certain spaces without really knowing why: a well-placed alcove, a just-right window ledge, a protected and private cozy reading corner. The author of *The Not So Big House* advises us to listen to what our bodies tell us about spaces with her message that good design affects you on a physical level, as well as a spiritual one.

Susanka has a favorite space of her own in her home, an isosceles triangle of a space that is her meditation room. Initially her contractor made a suggestion on how she could carve out more space for the small but sharply defined area. “I don’t want more space,” she told him.

Bigger isn’t better is a theme of her very successful books, starting with *The Not So Big House* and continuing to the most recent, *Home by Design*. This, she said, was the book she’s been waiting to write, where the design principles of



the previous three books are the focus. Peering into the architects' toolbox, she defines the principles they use to "sculpt space and light, to imbue their creations with a sense of order, and in so doing, turn basic square footage and volume into exceptional living space." She divides the 27 key concepts, from light intensity variation to shelter around activity, into three main sections: Space, Light and Order.

Although many people have a highly developed sense of space, Susanka says tactfully, what we lack is a common language to describe our spatial experiences. And so we've resorted to talking in terms of size and volume rather than in terms of the qualities of the space. Hence, our desire for bigger spaces that we automatically and often mistakenly assume will be better spaces.

What's more, we know when we like a space—big or small— but unless we're a trained architect or designer, we're not always sure why. What most people don't realize is it's the interrelationship between spaces, walls and ceiling and windows that shape our experience. That's why it's critical to design for a sequence of places in a house, with a strong visual connection between areas and features such as alcoves off circulation. With her knack for explanations that clarify, she informs us that in a house that reveals its secrets gradually you are beckoned by the next room in the sequence.

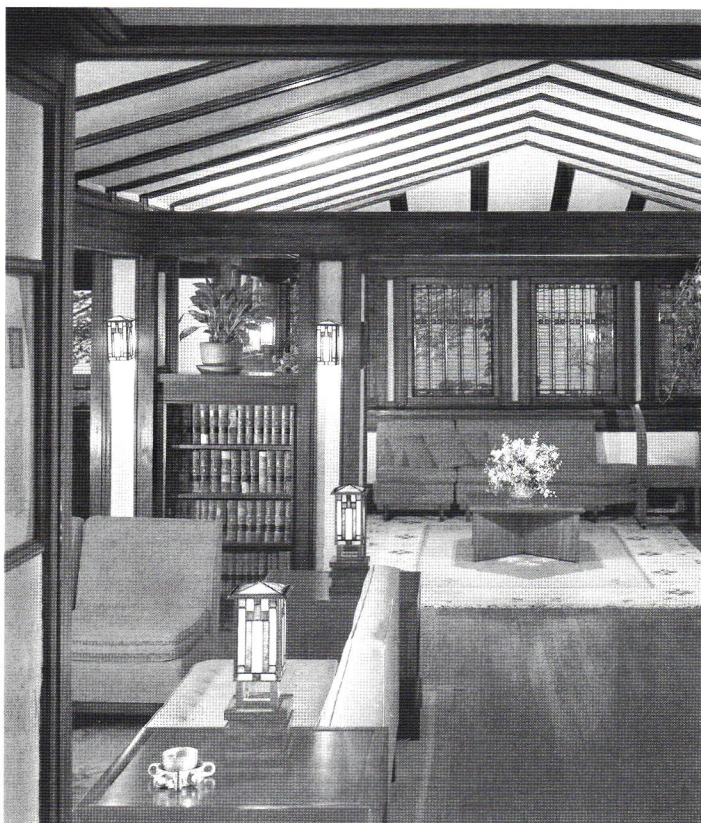
(This is why, says one reader, her books are flying off the shelves. "This is the book I wish I had read before doing my addition," she told this writer.)

Throughout Susanka's new book, 150 photos from 30 of the best designed homes in the country beautifully illustrate her points. Taking it a step further, she presents modified photos, some of which she showed at her lecture, which show the remarkable difference certain design elements make when added to a space. A dropped ceiling, for instance, adds visual appeal and serves to define an area. Varying ceiling heights breaks the monotony and defines areas of activities without resorting to solid walls.

There's something even more fundamental than style but we don't have a name for it, Susanka argues. "If you peel



An ideal house—one with main gathering places, an open kitchen to some degree, and alcoves or closed-off spaces for privacy—is more livable and will help to improve relationships between household members, says the author.



Susanka cites Frank Lloyd Wright's Cheney House as a good example of Shelter around Activity. The partial walls and floating shelf between the two spaces clearly separate one room from the next, even though they are open to each other and share the same ceiling form. The ribs on the ceiling help to define and shelter the two spaces.

away the surface stylistic embellishments, you'll find some basic principles that govern the ordering of space and light to create the experiences of home that we crave. A house that's been designed using these principles is a Home by Design," she says.

Light, which is the first section of the book, is the great animator of space. "When placed with an artist's eye, it can make even a simple square room into a place you'll enjoy being in," insists the author. She writes of Light to Walk Toward, our automatic response to move toward light which results in a significant sense of well-being. "There's a sense of delight and enchantment about a house that artfully employs this principle," she says, noting that a daylighted space makes us feel happier and more balanced while a darker space can make us irritable, even depressed. Un-

derstanding how to situate windows and light fixtures can make a house cheerier. Placing a window perpendicular to another window works bathe the space in light, and lets it reflect deep into the room. It's also necessary to understand the relationship between light and dark, brightness and shade. We worship light in our culture but it's the contrast between the shady and the light that intrigues and beautifies, she explains.

Order is the third principle, the way in which design elements are arranged through pattern and geometry, alignments, and rhythm. Theme and Variations are what most houses lack, the author says, patterns that tell you individual rooms are part of a singular whole. Demystifying architectural terms, the author explains clearly and simply concepts such as partial symmetry and half a bubble off, with photos that clearly and inspiringly convey each idea.

It's not just the interior of the house, of course; the exterior and how the two relate is also explained. Most houses, says the author dryly, are parked on their lots like vehicles that have landed from outer space. By looking at the house and the surrounding landscape as a single whole you'll have interplay between the natural and the manmade, between inside and outside.

Inspired by the book, *A Pattern Language*, Susanka spent 16 years practicing architecture in Minneapolis and is now inspiring legions of others, professionals and nonprofessionals, in better understanding design concepts. If, as Neal Shipley said in his introduction to the author, we are all trained to live in a three-bedroom brick colonial, Susanka is turning that theory on its head, revolutionizing the way people are designing their homes and even more importantly, understanding the elements of good design.

Part of her appeal for architects is her holistic approach. How can you separate good design from good living? The short answer is you can't. "Good architectural design is every bit as important as good nutrition," says the author. "Both are good medicine for our physical and spiritual well-being, and a lack of either one can cause a myriad of unnecessary maladies." That's sound philosophy any architect would love.

Although many people have a highly developed sense of space, Susanka says tactfully, what we lack is a common language to describe our spatial experiences.



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Architects' Treks:

THE BILTMORE ESTATE AND ASHEVILLE, NC

By Tracy Certo

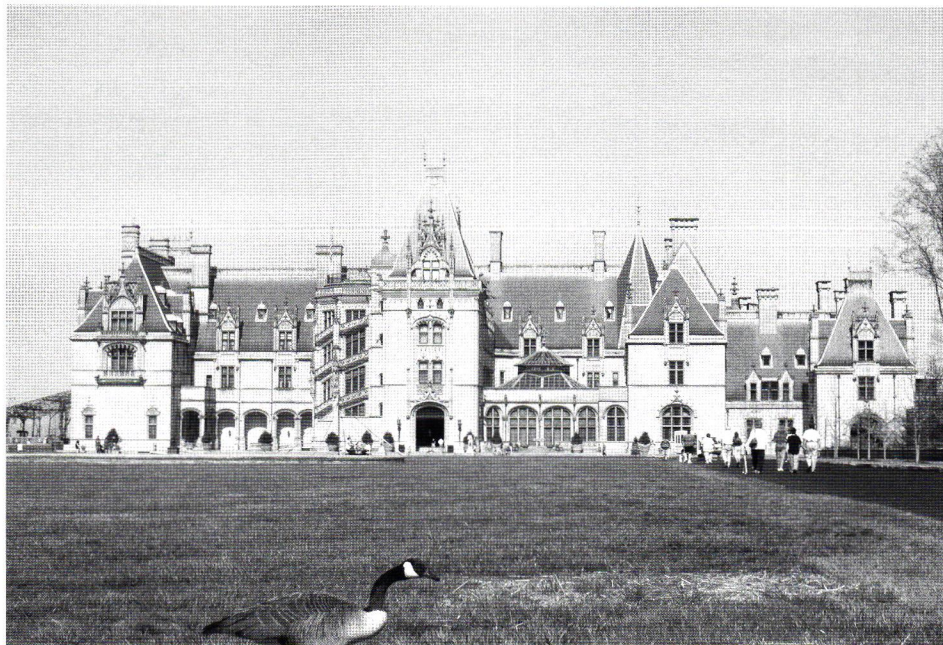
In a family known for building grandiose houses, then 33-year-old George Vanderbilt, grandson of the Commodore, proved to be the best of the bunch. The Biltmore Estate, a 250-room country retreat in Asheville, North Carolina, was on par with the best of Europe at the time. It was and still is more than just another wildly impressive mega-manse. It also housed its own industry to keep the estate self-sustaining.

The largest private residence in America, within the serene setting of the Blue Ridge Mountains, contained its own factory. During construction, the on-site kiln pumped out 32,000 bricks each day and the woodworking factory processed the oak and walnut for paneling and floors. A thousand masons, carpenters, and other artisans spent six years piecing it all together. Construction required the building of a private, three-mile railroad track and the creation of a supply town nearby.

Not only was there a nursery to grow the millions of plants for the thousands of acres, but the first planned forestry program, by Gifford Pinchot, was instituted on these grounds. Later Mr. Vanderbilt supported the founding of the Biltmore Forest School in 1898, the first school for scientific forestry in America.

Biltmore represented the best of architecture and landscape design—the former by society architect Richard Morris Hunt, responsible for the New York Library façade—and the latter by Frederick Law Olmstead, whose design included parks and forests, lagoons and lavish gardens. Full length portraits of both men adorn the second floor Living Hall. All architects should be so recognized.

Unlike the grandiose and over-the-top Breakers, the Vanderbilt estate in Rhode Island that is also a major tourist lure, the more restrained Biltmore is far more inviting.



PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO

The Biltmore Estate, the largest private residence in America, welcomes the public – including wildlife.



The flatiron is part of the 1.7 mile Urban Trail through downtown Asheville.

As one tourist in our group said, "I could hang here for a weekend quite comfortably." (But he didn't. Our admission was for a single day and I urged him to move on.) There was plenty to see, a 90-minute tour that offers a good sampling of the 33 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, 65 fireplaces, three kitchens and what was at the time a marvel of modern technology. That included refrigerators and elevators, fire alarms, heating, electricity and a plumbing system that piped in fresh water from a mountain reservoir miles away.

The grounds were equally impressive, with a 100-acre forest, the site of the first sustainable forestry in the country. Of course there was an indoor tiled swimming pool and to go with it, a gym. In those days, it was trendy to work out although you won't find any balance balls here. But you will find wiry and strappy contraptions that look like they could hurt you.



Details of the Biltmore Estate.

Hard to say what ranks highest—the views or the art or the antiques such as the chess set, once owned by Napoleon Bonaparte, in the salon, or the history. Even the basement fascinates. There is a photo exhibit of how this wonder of a house, formally opened on Christmas Eve in 1895, was built in the first place. Once the Vanderbilts staged a party where the guests were invited to paint murals on all four basement walls. They are beautifully rendered and one wonders how they pulled it off. (With or without cocktails? Was it BYOB as in brush? And just what were they wearing, these fortunate guests who typically lugged five trunks of clothing with them for a short stay, changing five times a day?)

After a very satisfying audio headset tour, you're welcome to stroll outside and walk the many gardens or bike the trails or even raft the river. During a mid-April visit, it looked like Holland with all those colorful bulbs swaying in a warm

and gentle spring breeze. In the Japanese gardens beyond, near the idyllic stream, a lucky dog romped in the water, looking very happy to be alive. (His owner has a season pass, maybe the dog does, too.) Visitors swarmed the place, as children wrapped ribbons around a Maypole on the great expanse of front lawn and adults gathered around bar tops in the winery to taste the selection made on the grounds. (George didn't plan this winery; and word is they ship in grapes from California but, cheers anyway).

It was George's dream to share his creation with friends and family as well as American presidents and famous writers and others. The dream continues, and all are welcome as long as you fork over \$39 per person at the gate. But you can stay all day and you'll probably want to. George would be so pleased.



The back porch of the Sourwood Inn on Elk Mountain.

If you go

Make sure to spend time in the charmer of a town, Asheville, an All American City in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It's an architect's delight, a small town filled with original storefronts preserved from the 1920's and 30's, when depression virtually shut down the town, but now filled with antique and architectural salvage stores, artsy and funky furniture and gift shops and plenty of cafes with street side tables.

They say Asheville has more Art Deco buildings than any city outside of Miami. While you're searching them out, head down the 1.7 mile Urban Trail that winds through downtown. With 30 stations, each with its own story, the Trail features whimsical sculptures such as the looming flatiron in front of the Flatiron Building, for instance. And speaking of whimsy, The Mellow Mushroom in central downtown, with its large outdoor seating, attracts a crowd with its wildly creative décor—don't miss the bowling balls embedded in the stone walls in front. More must-sees include Malaprop's Bookstore/Café and the newly restored childhood home of author Thomas Wolfe. Outside of town, on the Blue Ridge Parkway, check out the Folk Art Center, home of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, for gifts and souvenirs.

Where to stay? Some might suggest the Grove Park Inn which in its heyday was the place to go. The view is spectacular and the back porch for dining hard to beat. But what's with those ugly wing additions? And the misfit add-ons in the once magnificent lobby? Check out the Sourwood Inn on Elk Mountain instead, ten miles from town and worth every mountain curve. At an elevation of 3200 feet and with views to swoon over, this Arts and Crafts style 12-guest room inn of stone and cedar was designed by a local architect and is family-run. It's a winner at half the price with its beautiful fir-trim detailing, sunken tubs all with views, and awesome porch with rocking chairs and a 180 degree view of many Blue Ridge peaks. Plus the owner is a philosopher who will engage and charm you while the kitchen staff will seduce you with sublime food in a beautiful setting. Best bet is to sit outside on the stone terrace. BYOB, which works out well since Asheville has one of the nicest wine stores around. Stroll around town, select a few bottles of wine, then head back for happy hour on the porch followed by dinner. (www.sourwoodinn.com)

Save time to hike the many trails in the area. Chimney Rock with its magnificent outcropping, steep waterfalls and trails, offers challenging uphill climbing or, if you insist, an elevator. Afterwards, grab a cold brew and a hot pulled pork sandwich and sit at a table by the creek in the little town below. It doesn't get much better than this.

History of the Lawrence County Courthouse

By Sarah Petrus



Sarah Petrus, winner of the 12th Annual African American History Essay Contest, sponsored by National City.

In the 12th annual African American History Essay Contest, students were asked for the first time to write about a building that is significant to them. Thirty-year-old Kemo Grant-Crawford, AIA, an architect at IKM, Inc. and a member of the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh, was the role model for the contest which was sponsored by National City. At the awards ceremony in April, he told the students they have a voice in their community, no matter how young they are. And he expressed hope that this exercise could spark interest in a student who might aspire to become an architect, in a field that is underrepresented by minorities.

Essay contest winner Sarah Petrus, 18, wrote about the Lawrence County Courthouse as a building that is significant to her and the African American community, winning first place in the 14-18 age category. Ms. Petrus is a 2004 graduate of New Castle High School and will attend the University of Pittsburgh this fall. *Columns* is pleased to publish her winning entry in full.

The Lawrence County Courthouse has an immense significance to the African American community. The brick contractor for the building was a fifteen-year-old black man named P. Ross Berry. Plimpton Ross Berry was born a free Negro in western Pennsylvania in 1835. His father, Thomas Berry, moved his family to New Castle where they became the first black family to live in the area and he the first black businessman.

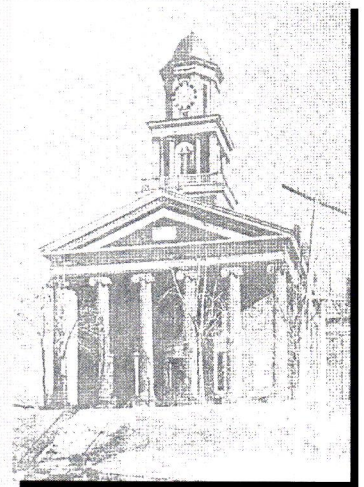
Ross was educated in New Castle schools and learned the masonry and bricklaying trade at a young age. He became so skillful at the trade that he was hired by contractors James Craig and William Hamilton to be the bricklayer for Lawrence County's Courthouse in 1850. The building was completed two years later in 1852.

Located on a small rise, the courthouse overlooks the east side of the city of New Castle, Pennsylvania, and remains a significant and historic landmark. It is a fine example of

a Greek Revival public structure and was built as a two-story brick building with a six Ionic column portico made of gray sandstone from nearby quarries. The original three-tiered cupola that housed a bell and later became a clock tower sadly deteriorated, initiating its removal in 1958.

Ross and his wife, Mary Long, moved their family of eight to Youngstown, Ohio in 1860. For about twenty years, he was the only mason contractor in the city, and his work was in great demand. He became one of the best known and most respected of the early colored residents. He brought many workers along with him from New Castle and often hired whites to work for him. This was something that was unheard of in these times. In 1863, Berry briefly returned to New Castle to construct the First Christian Church. It has recently been discovered that he also constructed an Underground Railroad home owned by Joseph S. White at the foot of Jefferson Street hill in New Castle. The home was demolished in 1957.

The Lawrence County Courthouse is significant for many reasons: to the neighborhood because of its commanding, yet aesthetic appearance in an area that is deteriorating; to the community because it is a symbol of justice; and to African Americans because of the significance of the person who built it. In addition, in 1979, the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the first property in the county to obtain such an honor. The building is important to me because it is one of the oldest preserved buildings in my city and was built by such a prominent and influential African American. As I write this, my historic high school is being torn down and could not be saved by local preservationists. I hope the fact that the clock tower was replaced on the courthouse last year is just one indication that such a historic building will be preserved for generations to come.



Perfect Summer Reading

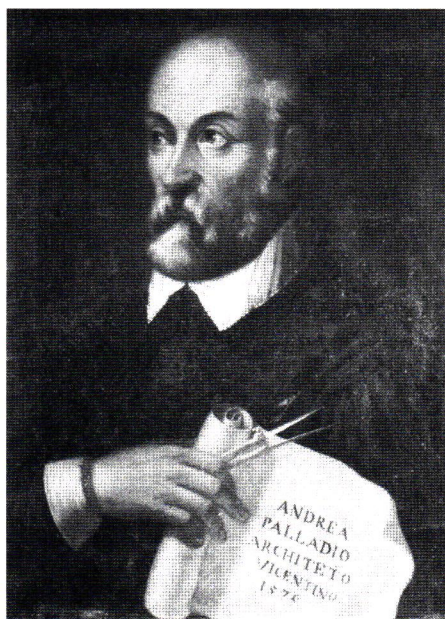
reviewed by Larry Slater

The Perfect House: A Journey with the Renaissance Master Andrea Palladio by Witold Rybczynski

Part modern travel narrative, part architectural detective yarn, part historical biography and the biography of an artistic and engineering process, *The Perfect House* draws the reader in with its first page. Is it possible, one wonders, to get enough sketches, photos and lyric descriptions of the proud ring of Palladian villas dotting the Veneto? Why does one never tire of the interplay between Andrea Palladio, the stonemason and architect, and his noble Venetian clients? Will Professor Rybczynski unmask some of the secrets of Palladian architecture that have baffled everyone from the great, such as Thomas Jefferson and masters of the 18th century English country house, to the unknown such as anonymous colonial builders?

Start reading and you won't quit until you've found out the answers to these and many more questions. The noted author follows Palladio from humble beginnings as a stonemason in the inland Italian provinces of La Serenissima (the Venetian Republic) to his first works as builder/architect to his villas and townhouses in the city of the Doges itself. In almost all of his commissions, Palladio had to first solve some critical puzzle of design caused by the site of the villa, the client's whim or the purpose of the house (working farm for a country gentleman or seasonal pleasure palace for a grand noble seeking to impress his way to still higher office). In each case, Professor Rybczynski follows the architect through the process, from drawings slashed through with a pen to floors or walls knocked down and rebuilt, until the design puzzle is solved.

The Perfect House is filled with reproductions of original architectural drawings and perspectives as well as the author's own sketches and photographs of the singular



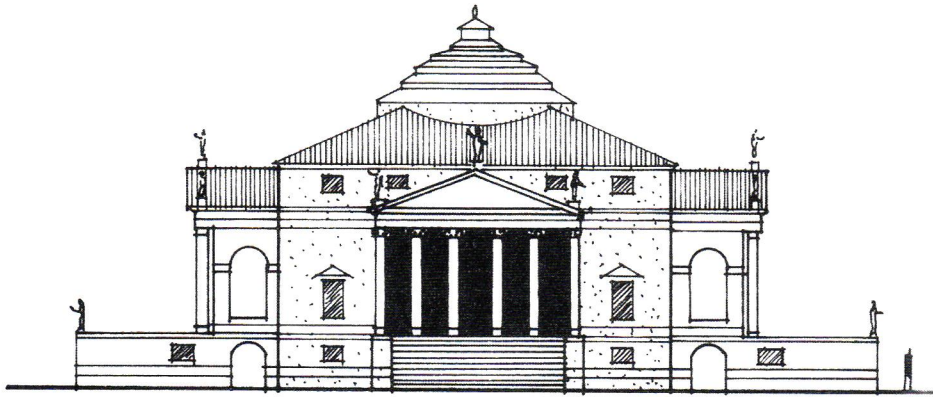
Andrea Palladio by Giovanni Battista Maganza

"For one could not describe as perfect a building which was useful, but only briefly, or one which was inconvenient for a long time, or, being both durable and useful, was not beautiful."

Venetian country houses that have been copied both well and badly every since the 16th century. For these alone the book is worth owning.

Add to these images the author's text, which guides us through imagined conversations, selections from period letters and texts and images of country life in provincial Venice as the Renaissance becomes the Baroque. Top off the whole short (294 pages) study with a meticulous glossary, time line and an inventory of each Palladian villa built by the Venetian master architect – and you have a treasure of a little book.

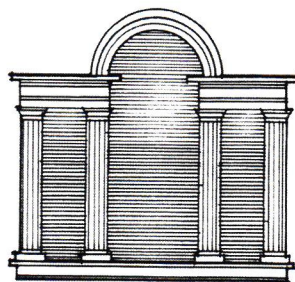
The Perfect House is now available in paperback for \$15 or in cloth for \$25.



Perspective line drawing of Villa Rotonda



LEFT: Palladio's signature thermal window dominates the rear of the starkly beautiful Villa Pasani. RIGHT: The Villa Rotonda, on a hilltop on the outskirts of Vicenza, is Palladio's most imitated house.

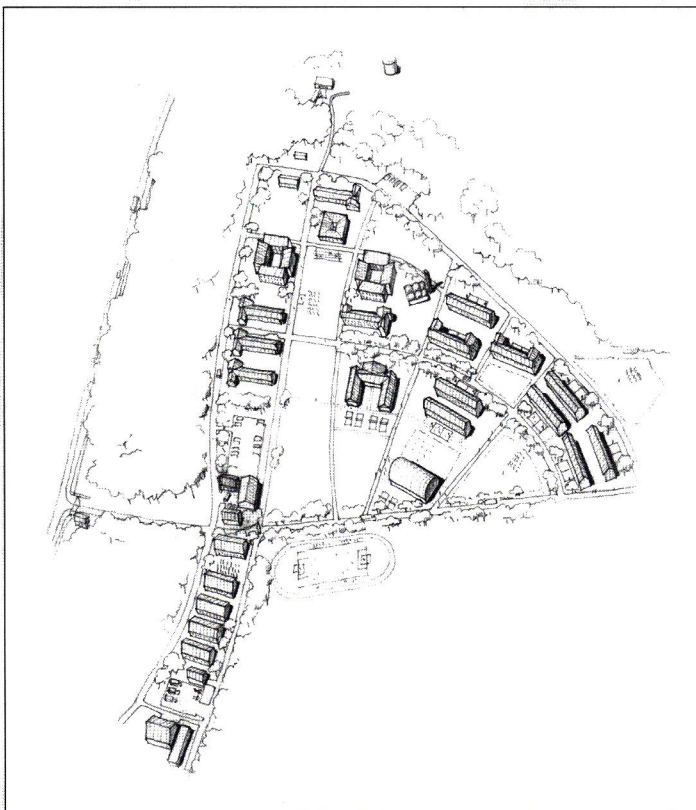


The Palladian window

From the Firms

➔ **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** is pleased to announce they have been selected by Niagara University to assist the university with their campus master plan. The scope of services include the review of existing studies, strategic plans, and draft master plan linking them to the vision and programmatic goals established by the University.

Architects and engineers from **Baker and Associates** recently returned from their third trip to Kabul, Afghanistan, where they developed plans for renovation of the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital for the Afghanistan National Army. The first phase of renovation to this 1970's era Soviet-built facility is estimated at \$36 million for 275,000 sf of building area. Work performed on previous trips in 2003 include master planning for the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (pictured below), and master planning work for the coalition forces to support Operation Enduring Freedom. All of this work was performed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Program Center and the USACE Afghanistan Engineer District.



Mascaro Construction Company, L.P., and New Era Builders of Cleveland. Baker and Mascaro also teamed for an addition to Building 246 at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District, also currently in construction.

Facility Planning & Resources, Inc. has been hired to develop the new laboratories for the Institute for Advanced Materials at North Carolina University in Chapel Hill. The new laboratories will be focusing on research in the fields of nanotechnology, microfluidics, supercritical CO₂ processing, and microfabricated chemicals.

General Industries, Prof. Affil., has started construction of the new California Fire Department (pictured below). The new 12,000 sf steel and block building will serve as the main fire station for the entire California community, which features seven bays to house firefighting and ambulance vehicles, a conference room to be used for meetings and training sessions, business and communication offices, and kitchen and extra storage space.

Gerard Nagar Associates is the architect.



Annandale Quarries, Inc. was chosen to furnish raw slab material for interior walls, columns and hand-railings for the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Project. Annandale's mock-up panel was placed in the Capitol Rotunda Building for viewing and was selected by the Capitol Preservation Commission.

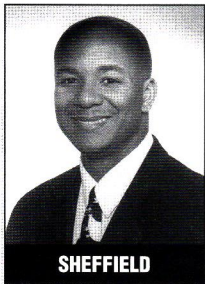
Massaro Company will begin renovations to the Holiday Inn and Damon's Restaurant of Steubenville, Ohio on May 1, 2004. The \$1 million renovation project will upgrade the interior and exterior of both spaces.

Construction has begun on the U.S. Army Reserve Training Center and Maintenance Shop facility for the 88th Reserve Support Command in North Canton, Ohio, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District. **Baker and Associates** provided architectural and full engineering design for this \$11 million, 60,000 sf facility in partnership with

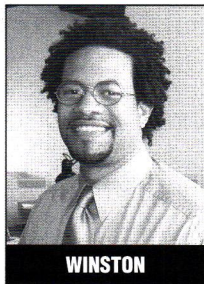
Business Briefs

→ **Arthur Sheffield, III, AIA** is the newest addition to the professional staff at **WTW Architects**. A graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., Sheffield is an **AIA Pittsburgh** board member and co-chair of the **AIA Pittsburgh Young Architects Forum**.

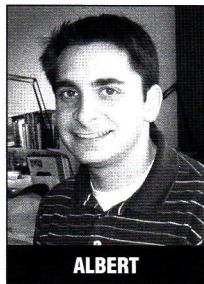
Gerrod Winston, Assoc. AIA, and Steven Albert have joined **Perfido Weiskopf Architects** as intern architects.



SHEFFIELD



WINSTON



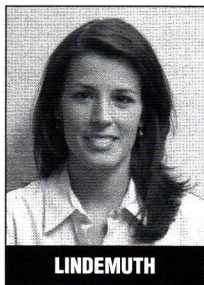
ALBERT

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennifer L. Lindemuth to associate and director of interior design.

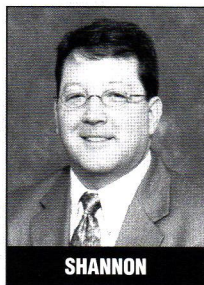
Mark Shannon, AIA, has joined the staff of **L. Robert Kimball & Associates'** downtown Pittsburgh office as a project architect.

Mark Fossum, Assoc. AIA has joined the office of **Tony Albrecht, AIA** as an architectural design consultant.

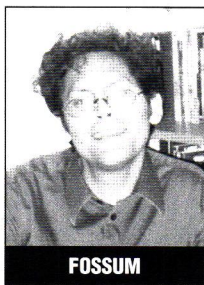
Fossum is a 1999 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. Also joining Tony this summer is intern Cara McKibbin, a student at Oberlin College. McKibbin has recently completed a semester abroad studying architecture in Copenhagen.



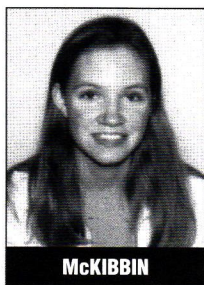
LINDEMUTH



SHANNON



FOSSUM



McKIBBIN

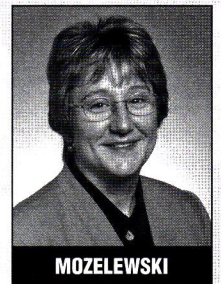
Kudos

→ The Western Pennsylvania chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. has named **WTW Architects** the winner of the 2003 Construction Industry Award in the Architect/Engineer category.

Hancock Architecture was recently named the for-profit "Business of the Year" by the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce.

The Design Alliance Architects is pleased to announce that Mary Ann Mozelewski has been awarded the 2004 Member of the Year honor from the International Facility Management Association Greater Pittsburgh Chapter.

AIA Pennsylvania celebrated **Perkins Eastman's** award-winning design of Castcon Stone, Inc., a custom pre-cast stone manufacturer, with a 2004 Honor Award.



MOZELEWSKI

The Kachele Group, Consulting Structural Engineers, Prof. Affil., is pleased to announce the opening of its State College, PA office. The office will be located at 1402 South Atherton Street, Lower Level, State College, PA 16801. — *Maya Haptas*



AIA Pittsburgh Staff Member in Gallery Show

Maya Haptas, associate director of AIA Pittsburgh, will be one of four non-professional photographers featured in a show at The Gallery on 43rd St. August 27th through September 17th. The show opens August 27th with a reception from 7-10 p.m. at the gallery in Lawrenceville. "I took these photographs with the intent of capturing the nuanced experiences that are what I love about Pittsburgh," said Maya.

Public Art and Architecture

Do you know of art that's part of a building? For a future issue of *Columns* on Public Art and Architecture, we'd like your ideas and suggestions.

Email tcerto@adelphia.net
or call (412) 563-7173.

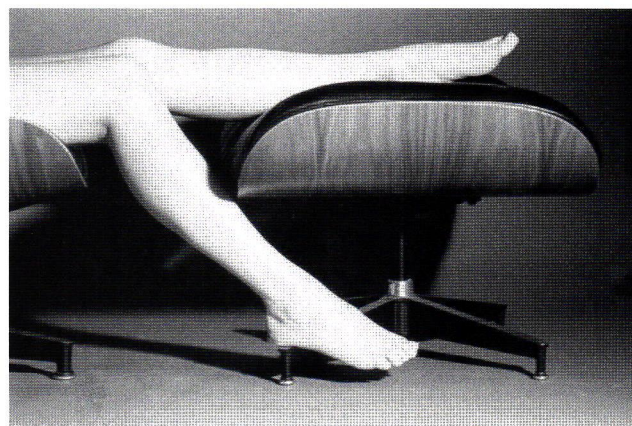
Sexitecture

Sexitecture: The Female Body Graced by Architecturally Inspired Furniture

By Jed Darland
Sexitecture LLC, 2004

Sexitecture is a term coined by author Jed Darland, a recent Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture graduate, to describe architecture as it relates to the human form. The concept is based on the design of Ray and Charles Eames, Pierre Paulin and other mid-century modern designers who designed to the scale of the human body.

In Darland's case, the focus is the female body since his coffee table book *Sexitecture: The Female Body Graced by Architecturally Inspired Furniture*, features 50 black and white nude photographs of various females posing on a range of architecturally inspired chairs. It was a project, he says, that allowed him to combine his love of photography with his love of architecture. The book is available online at www.sexitecture.com.



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We've totally redesigned our AIA Contract Documents software to offer world-class simplicity. We've incorporated familiar toolbars, pull-down menus, and icons, so everything is as streamlined and intuitive. Microsoft® Word and PDF file-saving let you create, share and manage documents with ease. Enhanced storage and retrieval lets you call up project data so it can be automatically incorporated into new documents. Plus, any variances from AIA standard contract language can be displayed in a special report. **To learn more or to download the software, go to www.aia.org or call 1-800-365-2724.**

AIA Contract Documents

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C A L E N D A R

AIA ACTIVITIES

JULY 20, TUESDAY

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Chapter Office. All members are welcome 412-471-9548.

AUGUST 6, FRIDAY

AIA Communications Committee Meeting, Noon at the Chapter office. All members are welcome 412-471-9548.

AROUND TOWN

JULY 14, WEDNESDAY

SDA Lunch 'n Learn. SDA is hosting a lunch time learning session about the new AIA Document Software to be presented by Rich De Young, AIA, of WTW Architects at their offices on the North Shore. The event will be from 12-1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Tara at Renaissance 3 Architects 412-431-2480.

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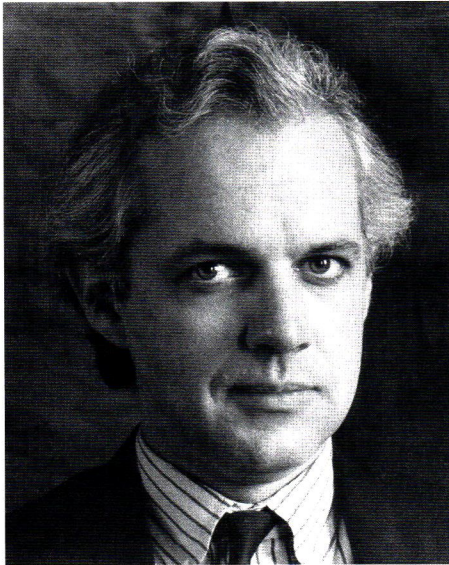
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Stephen Casey, AIA

STEPHEN CASEY ARCHITECTS



PERSONAL: I have been married to my wife, Helen, for 15 years. We share her two grown children and two grandchildren and Charlie the dog.

YEARS IN PRACTICE: In 1971, while still in school, I began working in an architectural office as a model maker/gofer. I was appointed as a project architect for the first time in 1975, so I have been at this for almost 30 years. STEPHEN CASEY ARCHITECTS was founded in 1995.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University, 1975. 20+ years of Continuing Education while working with David Lewis, Ray Gindroz, Jimmy Goldman, Don Carter and a huge cast of characters at Urban Design Associates.

PROJECT(S) WITH SPECIAL MEANING: There are two projects that stand out as most significant for us right now. The first is the recently completed home of the Department of Homeland Security [formerly the INS] in the Southside Works. This realized structure is actually the fourth building we designed for this developer on this site. It is an example of the tenacity and determination required to realize development and architecture in the city today. The second is the Crane Building in the Strip District. The Crane building is significant because our office has been in the building since 1996; Helen and I lived in the "manager's " apartment for 15 months, but more importantly, we have worked on the adaptive reuse of this structure for almost 10 years and have completed over 20 separate projects. We have been blessed with a client with vision and understanding and have had the opportunity to explore and refine a range of architectural concepts.



The Crane Building in the Strip District

FAVORITE BUILDING(S): This past Fall I spent the late morning at the Villa Savoye in Poissy, west of Paris. As a student, the ideas and work of Le Corbusier were the least accessible of the pantheon of Modern Architectural Masters. Seeing this icon of Modern Architecture and being able to actually experience the space has helped me to begin to understand its importance and place in the history of Architecture. Last year I was also fortunate to experience Lou Kahn's Salk Institute in La Jolla, California. The significance of Kahn to post WW II generations of architects is immeasurable; as I stood in the central space I was speechless.

WHY I BECAME AN ARCHITECT AND MY FAVORITE ARCHITECT: Growing up I read the metro edition *New York Times*. There were no cartoons but the Real Estate Sections had stories, almost every day, of new buildings being built in New York and around the world. The buildings of Eero Saarinen jumped off the page. Each project was unique and new materials and technologies were being invented. It was exciting, and heroic and looked like a good thing to do.

I BELONG TO THE AIA BECAUSE: Architecture really does matter, how we live and where we work is integral to how our society functions. Good architecture makes a difference.



Department of Homeland Security (formerly the INS) in the Southside Works

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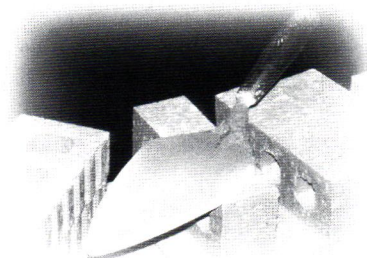
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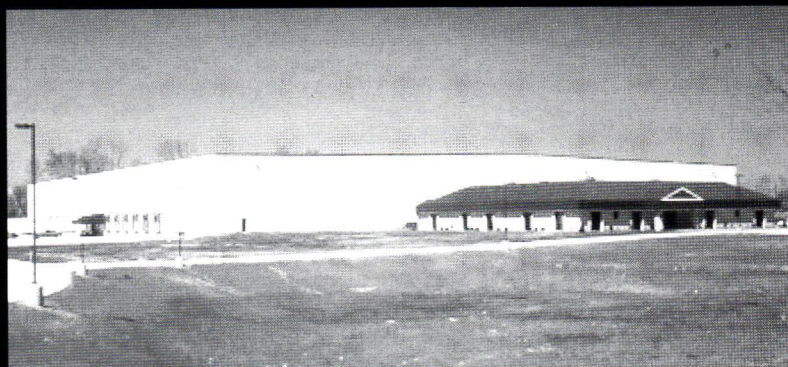
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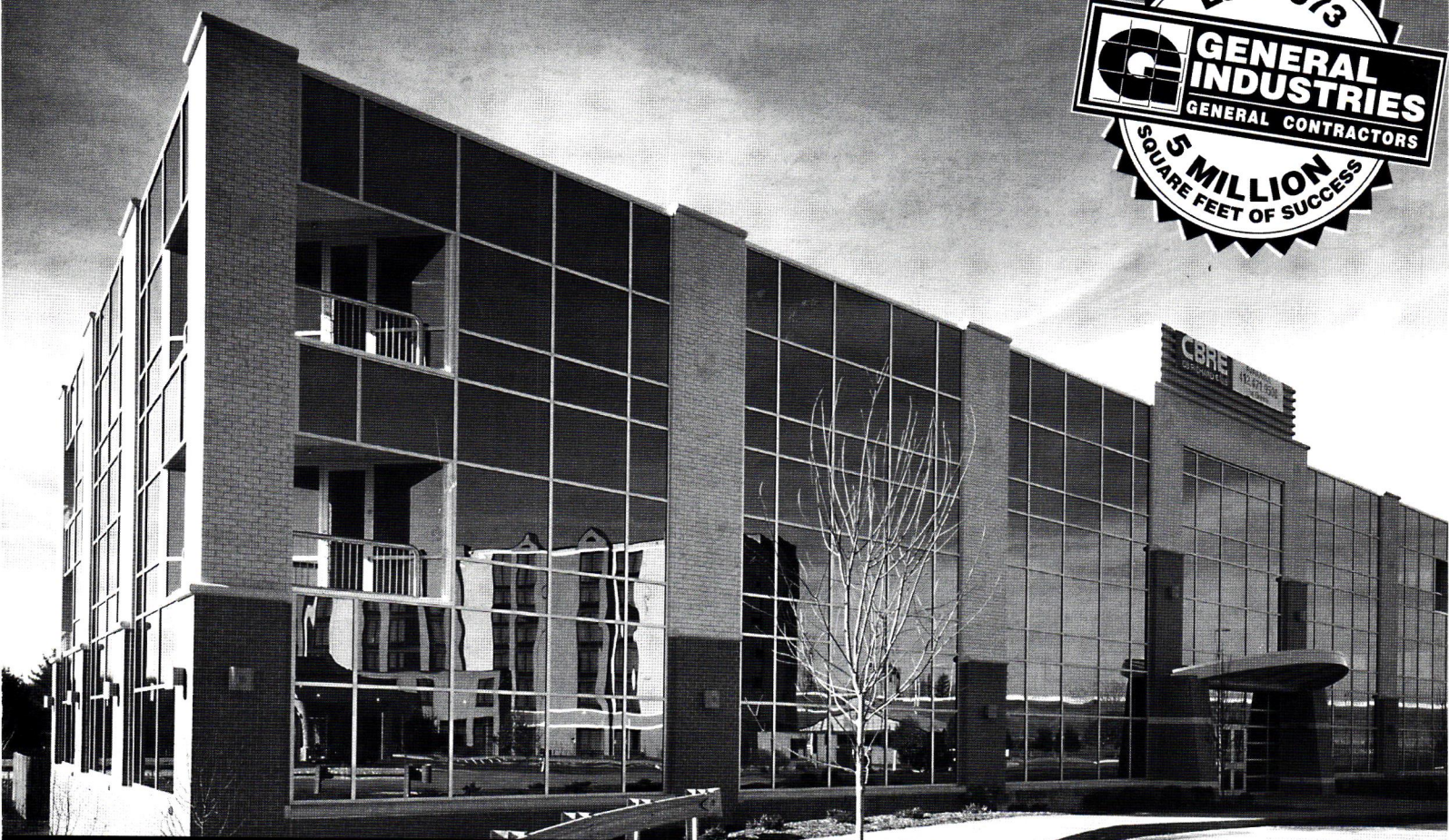
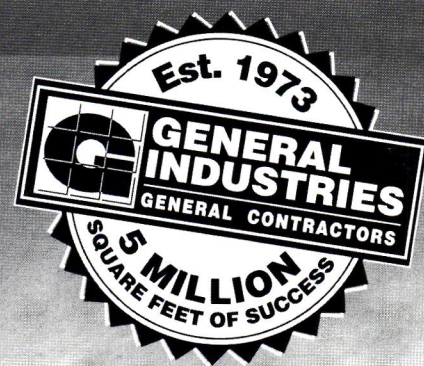


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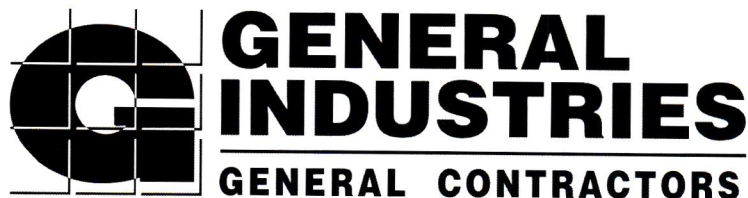
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