

# C O L U M N S

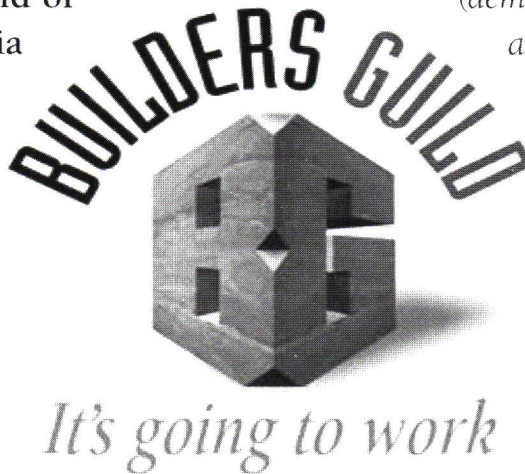


# The Pride of Craftsmanship, the Power of Partnership.

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The Builders Guild of  
Western Pennsylvania

The VALUE of Union Construction . . .  
*(demonstrated, signed, sealed  
and delivered . . .)*

It's a first – The Builders Guild is an industry-wide initiative bringing management and labor unions together with a single goal; to move every construction project smoothly from concept to completion by working collaboratively as the premier providers of construction services in the region.



Customer Bill of Rights is our promise that customers receive:

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- Pre-job planning through completion
- A diverse, drug-free work force
- Safe workers, safe job sites, quality performance
- Service you can count on
- Bottom line dollar-for-dollar value

**The Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania,**  
... representing a unified construction industry of building trades unions, 33,000 skilled craftsmen, union contractors, contractor associations and industry professionals working together to deliver **value** at every phase of the construction project.

**Building quality projects on time and on budget.**

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Find out how this new and unique labor/management partnership can help you get the best return on your construction investment.

Visit [www.buildersguild.org](http://www.buildersguild.org) to learn more, obtain a comprehensive list of contacts and see projects and testimonials from satisfied customers



# FAQ's

By Tracy Certo



*COLUMNS has the potential to make money for AIA Pittsburgh, and at times it has. That said, COLUMNS needs advertisers. If you're in the position to advertise, or know someone who is, contact us!*

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**On the cover:** The Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan

### Maybe this should be titled

Infrequently Asked Questions or We Know it's On Your Mind. Most of you, unfailingly polite, never bring these things up but some of you, whose bluntness can be quite helpful, have questions we assume others are also thinking. So here we go, our attempt to answer. Please if you have more questions, just ask.

### How do I get a story idea into COLUMNS?

Suggest one. In our monthly meeting we discuss story ideas and we welcome your ideas. We try to be careful to choose timely topics that serve a broad audience or a subject with a fresh angle. But hey, it never hurts to ask. Many a suggestion has turned into a full feature article.

### Why can't I get more than a few lines in breaking ground?

Since Maya Haptas has taken over Breaking Ground, my disgruntled call rate has dropped precipitously for which I'm grateful. She now handles them and most of you are pleased with the coverage you get. Others are not. What can I say. Breaking Ground is meant for news briefs, just the facts, without embellishments.

We're very space-dependent, meaning when we're inundated with news releases you get just the basic facts. Obviously we devote more space to AIA member architects. Sometimes the background information is intriguing so we'll include the fact that someone graduated from a university in South America, for instance. We love to feature new names and faces so don't hesitate to send info.

### What is the deadline for submission?

For Breaking Ground items, five or six weeks prior to publication. So an item appearing this month, October, would have been submitted by the third week of August. Assigned articles are given deadlines.

### How do you decide what to write about in your columns?

Good question. Sometimes there's a story behind the story and that's my first preference. When that's not the case, I look for another interesting or timely topic. In this column I almost wrote about my friend's knockout beach house in Cabo, Mexico. One of the most beautiful houses I've ever

seen, it was designed by an architect who died during the construction phase. It's a touching story about an architect who was pretty special and the house now bears a plaque on the front wall with a dedication to the architect. Thought you'd like that. Maybe another time.

### When are you going to change your photo?

It's on my list. I'd prefer a change of format where my photo isn't even necessary. Which leads to...

### Didn't you once write about a new design for COLUMNS?

Yes, and we haven't given up yet. We're all for it, it's just a matter of time and money and priorities.

### Does COLUMNS make money?

It certainly has the potential and at times it does. Prior to 9/11 we maxed out on ad pages which was a bit of a thrill. But we don't have an ad rep for *Columns* and the AIA staff is busy with a lot of other things so with advertising its catch as catch can, usually by phone at the end of the month. That said, *Columns* needs support from ads. If you're in the position to advertise or know someone who is, we would greatly appreciate your help.

### How are things at COLUMNS? (the most frequently asked question)

You might be surprised to know that *Columns* has been referenced in presentations, reports and other publications as far off as New Zealand. The article Health by Design was picked up by AIA National and it has been circulating freely on the Web ever since. And soon, I am happy to report, *Columns* will be on the AIA Pittsburgh web site.

### What would you like for COLUMNS? (the question I would most like to have asked)

A professional proofreader. A new design. An ad rep. And as always, your suggestions and contributions. I could ask for many things but I couldn't ask for a better reading audience and I take the chance here to thank you.

Contact me at: [tcerto@adelphia.net](mailto:tcerto@adelphia.net)

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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**Q: WHAT'S MISSING?**

**A: A display of over 100 submissions for AIA Pittsburgh's Design Awards and over 400 architects and members of the design/build industry!**

**Come to the Design Pittsburgh Gala on Thursday, October 6th to see how a group of architects transform this unfinished space into a modern exhibition site.**

**Join us at the 51st Street Business Center, in the 16:62 Design Zone.**

## The Chance To Mix and Motor

The Master Builders' Association - Young Constructors invited the AIA Pittsburgh Young Architects Forum and the Young Real Estate Professionals to join them for a joint networking social on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Claddagh Irish Pub in the Southside Works. It was not all fun and games although there was plenty of that, but also the chance to try out some serious construction equipment (pictured below). One Call Rentals provided the thrills as attendees operated Caterpillar equipment while participating in games and competition. All that and the chance to meet peers in architecture, construction and real estate.



### McGraw-Hill Construction Reports

McGraw-Hill Construction reported on June contracts for future construction in the metropolitan statistical area of Pittsburgh, consisting of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania. The latest month's construction activity followed this pattern:

	2005	2004	% Change
Nonresidential	\$87,290,000	\$104,405,000	-16
Residential	\$119,734,000	\$96,776,000	24
TOTAL BUILDING	\$207,024,000	\$201,181,000	3

**For the year-to-date on a cumulative basis, the totals are:**

	2005	2004	% Change
Nonresidential	\$492,094,000	\$923,173,000	-47
Residential	\$616,046,000	\$703,526,000	-12
TOTAL BUILDING	\$1,108,140,000	\$1,626,699,000	-32

— Nonresidential buildings include commercial, manufacturing, educational, religious, administrative, recreational, hotel, dormitory and other buildings.

— Residential buildings include one and two family houses and apartments.

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# HOT TICKET

*Frank Lloyd Wright: Renewing the Legacy* brings together two iconic buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright with new, associated projects by Toshiko Mori and Zaha Hadid, two women recognized as visionaries of contemporary architecture. The exhibition in Carnegie Museum of Art's Heinz Architectural Center runs from October 1 to January 15, 2006.

The Frank Lloyd Wright buildings are the Darwin D. Martin house (1903-1905) in Buffalo, New York, and the H.C. Price Company Office Tower and Apartments (1952-1956) in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. One of the best examples of his Prairie House period, the Martin House is an early and major domestic design which includes gardens and satellite buildings. The Price Tower, one of Wright's last realized works, is a rare example of an organic high-rise.

Both buildings are about to gain new and highly ambitious neighbors. As the result of an invited competition between five contemporary practices, the Japanese-born, New York-based architect Toshiko Mori is to construct a glass-walled Visitors' Pavilion to one side of the Martin House garden. At the same time, the Iraqi-born, London-based Zaha Hadid

will design an Arts Center situated like an inhabited earthwork with a glazed roof beside the Price Tower.

*Renewing the Legacy* presents and evokes both Wright projects with original drawings, furniture, film, photographs, and in the case of the Martin House, original art glass including the famed Tree of Life window. Several detailed models of Mori's winning design are shown alongside competing proposals by Brian Healy Architects, Architecture Research Office, Schwartz/Silver Architects, and Office dA. Hadid's presentation includes computer drawings with a characteristic sense of dynamic ground surface and an animated fly-through of the interior.

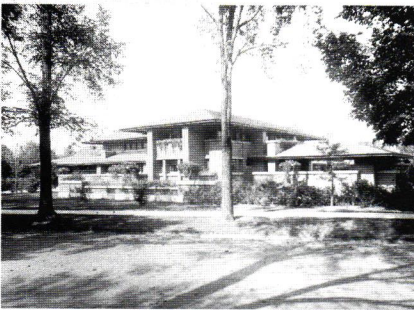
"Both architects have created buildings that are tailored to their site, that are inspired by the original Wright structure," says Carnegie Museum of Art Curator of Architecture Raymond Ryan, who is organizing the exhibition. "Toshiko Mori is making a new building, a rectilinear box based on the dimensions of the Martin House. She is manipulating geometry, as is Zaha Hadid, who has created a horizontal building in contrast to the verticality of Wright's Price Tower."

Mori's Visitors' Center inverts Wright's original design by turning its pitched roof upside down to act as a funnel for daylight. As opposed to the opaque brick of the Martin House, the glass walls of Mori's design allow for a sweeping view of the complex and grounds. The Center will provide historical information about the site, an underground gallery, and such amenities as a café, bookstore, and restrooms.

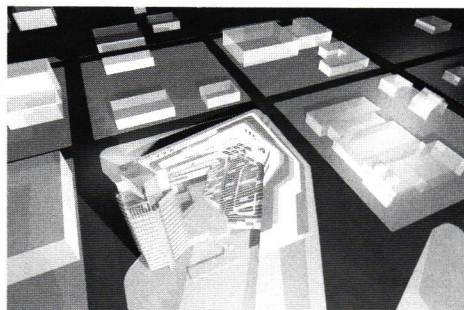
Hadid's aspiration is that her Arts Center will "flirt" with Wright's Tower. Converse to the Tower's verticality, her design takes the form of a long, horizontal promenade beneath a low roof of transparent, translucent, and colored panels through which visitors can view the tower above them.

After decades of only sporadic maintenance, the Martin House is currently subject to a meticulous restoration. In Bartlesville, much of the tower has recently been adapted to a boutique hotel by New York architect Wendy Evans Joseph, with furniture and fabrics inspired by natural materials and organic imagery.

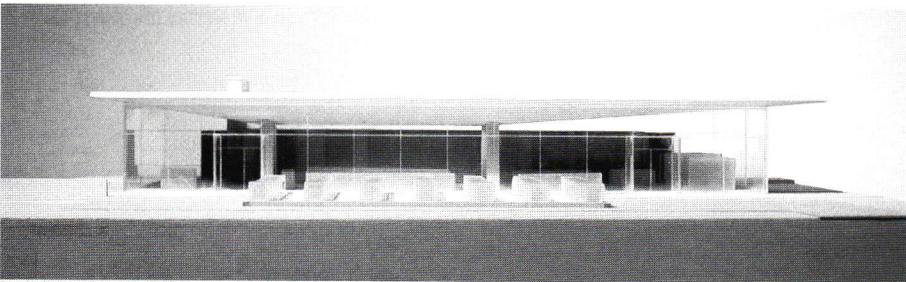
For more information, log onto <http://cma.org>.



**The Darwin D. Martin House, Buffalo, NY**



**Zaha Hadid's Arts Center for the Price Tower**



**Toshiko Mori's glass-walled Visitors' Pavillion at the Martin House**



**H.C. Price Company and Office Tower and Apartments, Bartlesville, OK**