

COLUMNS

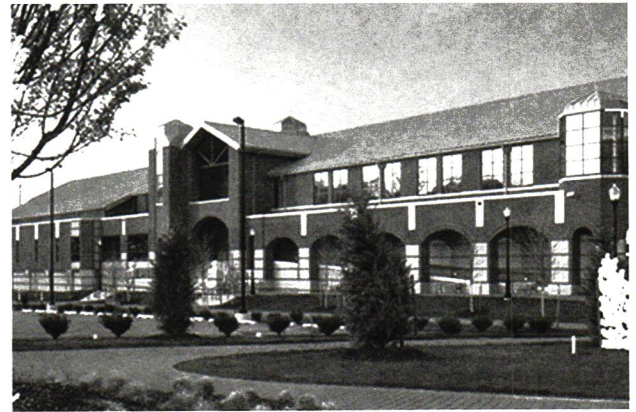
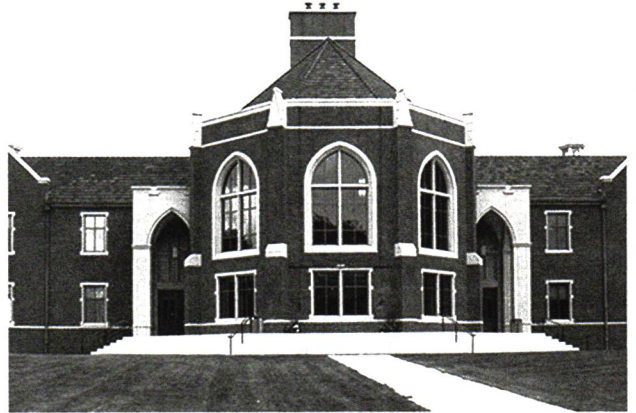


AUG/07

The State of Sustainability: The challenge of designing for the future | The Greenest Spot in Shadyside | Book Review: Green Architecture, by James Wines | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

COLUMNS

From concept to completion



Your *one* resource for masonry design & construction

Technical Assistance ♦ Life Cycle Cost Data ♦ Craftworker Certifications
Codes and Standards ♦ Job Site Troubleshooting
Specialty Materials Training ♦ Professional Education
Safety Training ♦ New Product Research ♦ Contractor Lists

*For answers to your masonry questions, call us at **1-800-IMI-0988**.*



International Masonry Institute

300 Northpointe Circle, #303 ♦ Seven Fields, PA 16046
(724) 776-1930 ♦ 1-800-IMI-0988 ♦ www.imiweb.org

HOMEFRONT

BY BECKY SPEVACK



I have been given a great opportunity. One that I hope you will find agrees with me. (One that I hope *I* find agrees with me.) In the past few months AIA Pittsburgh was given notice from Tracy Certo that she was stepping down as editor of Columns. New options had presented themselves, doors opened before she even knocked, and she has decided to step through them, to see what awaits her. With this loss, however, comes new growth. Anne, AIA Pittsburgh's executive director (and my boss), has chosen to take a leap of faith, and has given me the chance to take over as editor, to grow in my position as communications director.

As I'm sure many of you know Pittsburgh seems to be the biggest small town in the world. My husband and I moved here about two and a half years ago because it was lively, yet affordable, and it offered a penetrable environment, one where you could make your own way, without needing to know someone at the top. (You may scoff at our assessment, but we were coming from an art and music world in New England, where New York reigned supreme, and if you weren't there or in L.A., you didn't have a chance.) So, we loaded up the moving van, headed west, and in the past two years, we've found our assessments to be fairly accurate. The city we now call home has treated us nothing but kindly. Are there naysayers? Always. But as an artist and musician, we're experienced in blocking out the overly negative criticism.

Within a few months, we had settled in and were starting to make connections. Through the recommendation of an acquaintance (now friend), I was asked to interview at AIA Pittsburgh, and within two weeks, I was employed. The past two years have been great – the job has grown, as have the friendships and the responsibilities. That brings me back to having been recently named editor of this fine publication....

continued page 2

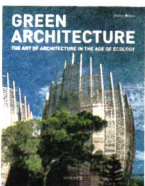
AUG/07

In this Issue | The State of Sustainability:

designing for the future page 7 | The Greenest Spot in Shadyside page 25

Book Review: **GREEN ARCHITECTURE** Green Architecture, by James Wines page 14

News page 4 Breaking Ground page 16 |



The challenge of




On the cover: MAYA Design's new space communicates their commitment to sustainability as part of their company's creative identity. By evolveEA. Photo © Ed Massery

As is often the way here at our chapter, there was not a lot of time to sit and ponder this new responsibility. Within a week, I was researching writers, fleshing out article ideas, and making sure I had everything lined up for this issue. The communications committee had previously decided on the topic of regional sustainability, and as I tried to figure out the approach I wanted to take, my attendance at two events furthered cemented Pittsburgh's 'small town' appeal. The first was a Memorial Day party at a friend's house. A lot of my friendships have spurred from this job, and thus, many friends are in the design community. At this party I was introduced to Deb Knox, a freelance writer with ties to the architectural community. The more we talked, the more I couldn't help but smile – I knew I would be asking her to write for Columns. And



sure enough, our new relationship has proved invaluable. As you read further, you will notice that she has penned two of the articles for this issue. The first, *The State of Sustainability*, is an overview on sustainability initiatives that are taking place in the region, talking with architects, contractors, and developers to provide a multi-faceted view of what the design/build community is involved in. The second article takes a look at a great new example of residential architecture, built with green in mind.

I mentioned a second event... and that was a lecture at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh by James Wines. A founding member of SITE (Sculpture In The Environment), Wines is an outstanding artist. I was familiar with various installations he and SITE had created from my art school days, but it was only at this recent lecture that I realized he was also a force in the architecture community. Not only did I have the opportunity to see a great lecture, I also ran into one of our members, David Roth, AIA, with whom I talked both before and after the lecture, learning of his admiration for Wines, and the influence Wines had on his practice. We touched on various topics, and almost all dealt with green architecture. Roth mentioned knowing Wines' book *Green Architecture* like the back of his hand, and it seemed too good to be true. An evening of education and enjoyment also brought with it the book review you read within these pages, a perfect cap to the topic at hand.

And so, with all of that said, read on! As time progresses, we'll get to know each other more, you'll become more familiar with my voice, and hopefully, you'll share with me any questions, comments, or concerns. I'll be climbing and conquering the learning curve over future issues, and feedback is certainly helpful for the process. 

A NEW VOICE

BY ANNE J. SWAGER, HON. AIA

We all know the platitudes about change: it's constant, it's an opportunity, it's progress. Yet it's hard not to feel like a dinosaur when you can't immediately figure out your new cell phone because it's configured entirely different than your last. The icing on the cake is when your child grabs the phone from you in frustration (picture large eye rolls and deep sighs) and fixes it in less than a nanosecond. Of course, change is constant. Our recent coverage of BIM drew the ire of at least one architect who felt that BIM would not necessarily revolutionize practice but instead was only one more software tool that may or may not prove its value in the years to come. I leave to wiser minds than mine to opine on what BIM means to the future of the architecture profession. However, it has clearly gotten the attention of some big players in the industry both on the design and construction side of the equation. You can expect us to continue to cover its impact on what you do and we hope you will continue to comment as well.


As staff for the AIA, we face changes in software and hardware as often as you do. It is often said we are only as good as our database and currently AIA National is testing different membership data base systems because ours no longer meets the needs of our organization. Knowing who our members are, if they are current on their dues or not, and how long they have been members is fundamental to what we do. I am not sure when the change-over to the new system will take place but one thing I can guarantee....it will not be completely without glitches.

The biggest change for AIA staff is the many new faces we see every year. We get a new board president every January along with assorted

numbers of new board members, new members, and sometimes even new staff. Integrating someone new into the way we do business is always a challenge - there is a lot to learn about our standard processes to say nothing of the intricacies of the profession.

Once again change has come about, as we bid farewell to a familiar face. It is with great sadness that we see Tracy Certo leave as Columns editor. She did a terrific job! Her love for architecture and respect for her audience showed in everything she wrote and did. When Eve Picker approached me a number of months ago for recommendations on who might fill the role of editor for PopCity I gave her Tracy's name and my endorsement. As PopCity grows and thrives, we are lucky to have someone so capable at the helm.

Change really is an opportunity as well. I have asked Becky Spevack in her role as communications director to become Columns next editor. We are going to try something different. Instead of having an editor who acts as the main author of Columns, we are going to employ different writers to fill the pages. We think we will benefit from hearing a variety of voices. In her role Becky will do some of the writing and all of the coordination.

Becky is a relative newcomer to Pittsburgh. She and her husband Tim chose our city because it was "cool." With a degree from RISD where she developed her talent as an artist, she has the necessary appreciation for aesthetics. I know Becky will rise to the challenges before her. I am counting on you to share your thoughts and ideas with her. Columns has a fresh new look and now will have a fresh new voice. 

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

CHAPTER OFFICERS
James C. Radock, AIA, President
Paula R. Maynes, AIA, 1st V.P.
Chip Desmore, AIA, 2nd V.P.
Kenneth K. Lee, AIA, Secretary
Grant Scott, AIA, Treasurer
Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA,
Executive Director

COLUMNS STAFF
Becky Spevack, Editor
Joseph Ruesch, Designer

EDITORIAL BOARD
Donald G. Zeilman, AIA, Chair
Eric R. Osth, AIA
Roxanne Sherbeck, AIA

COLUMNS is published six times a year by, and primarily for, members of AIA Pittsburgh. A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Preference may be given to the selection of works, articles, opinions, letters, etc. of members for publication. However, in the interest of furthering the goals of the Chapter, as stated monthly at the top of the masthead and in the membership directory, COLUMNS will publish the names of and properly credit non-members, whether as participants in the design of works submitted by a member, or as designers of their own work, or as authors of articles, opinions or letters.

Opinions expressed by editors and contributors are not necessarily those of AIA Pittsburgh. The Chapter has made every reasonable effort to provide accurate and authoritative information, but assumes no liability for the contents.

For information about AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Middle PA and the Northwest PA Chapter, call 1-888-308-9099. Online: www.aiapgh.org Email: info@aiapgh.org

Volume 21, No. 4




INVESTING IN GREEN

Green building is more than a trend – it's becoming part of American culture. AIA-Middle Pennsylvania will explore the challenges and opportunities for practitioners and their clients at their bi-annual Symposium on Thursday, October 25th in historic downtown Johnstown. Seminar presenters and highlights include:

- **MAUREEN GUTTMAN, AIA**, executive director, Governor's Green Government Council
- **REBECCA L. FLORA, AICP, LEED-AP**, executive director, Green Building Alliance
- **MATTHEW ROOKE** and **DUSTIN EPLEE**, Burt Hill
- **PAUL PETRILLI, PE**, HF Lenz Company
- **ROBERT HUGHES, Esq.**, Ames Gough

Reception at the City View, atop Johnstown's famed Inclined Plane.

Earn CES credits, network with colleagues, and check out the latest industry products and services in one day - at one easy and convenient location. For more information about the event or exhibitor opportunities, contact Anne McGrath at (814)539-1317 or annefmcgrath@verizon.net, or visit www.aiamiddlepa.org. 

AIA MIDDLE PENNSYLVANIA SYMPOSIUM



Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center
Historic Downtown Johnstown