

COLUMNS



OCT/07

Reflections on the most livable city: AIA's 10 principles of livable communities | Liability and BIM: Identifying the risks | Design Pittsburgh 2007: Meet this year's jurors | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

COLUMNS

**He feels yucky.
He's frightened.
He has butterflies in his stomach.

Get an architect in here stat.**



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A well-designed health care facility helps patients feel more comfortable. AIA architects use space planning, lighting, and color to design environments that can help ease patient anxiety, increase staff efficiency, and enhance healing. And the sooner you involve an architect, the sooner everyone will feel better. To find an AIA architect, visit www.aia.org. **Good design makes a difference.**



**THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS**

The AIA is celebrating our 150th year with the Blueprint for America initiative to help create more livable communities. Learn more at aia150.org.

HOMEFRONT

BY BECKY SPEVACK



I experienced a great moment recently. One that I am sure many, if not all, of you have had at some point in your lives. As you may recall from my column in our August issue, (or from just talking with me) I am fairly new to this city (two and a half years) and even newer to home ownership (13 months! – over a year already?!). As is the ever growing trend with my generation, there is a lot of moving during one’s twenties. Prior to my home purchase, I had lived in 5 different apartments in so many years. I think I would be referred to as a “serial mover”, at least according to a *New York Times* article covering this relatively recent phenomenon. But back to that experience I started out with.....

A few weeks ago my local coffee shop, The Vault in Brighton Heights, held an evening event. Actually, it was an all day affair – “Johnny Cash Day at The Vault” – remembering the Man in Black on the anniversary of his death. Friends gathered on my porch, we walked over to the shop, and upon entering I heard my name. Not only heard it, but knew who had shouted it. As we moved through the crowd, there were at least a few other shouts, some waves, and a hug. Now, this may not seem like a big deal. It’s not, really. (And if this were a sitcom, I believe the closest approximation would be a certain subterranean bar in Boston where everybody knows your...) But the fact that I have lived somewhere long enough to start to know my neighbors, my neighborhood, and my local coffee shop was a great feeling for me. One I’ve started noticing with some regularity. A sense of community – I like the way that sounds.

Another community I am becoming increasingly familiar with is the community of architects. As I’m sure you are aware, the AIA is a national organization, with hundreds of local components scattered throughout the country. Each chapter represents the interests of AIA National, but is also

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Cover photo by Rob Strovers



formed by its location. AIA Pittsburgh is its own entity, deeply impacted by the unique region that it exists in, and the people who live and work here. While keeping the bigger picture in mind, the office tries to focus on topics with strong local interest.

One example of this was a brainstorming happy hour held last month with our programming committee. There is little more encouraging than sitting with a group of young professionals (in this case architects, of course) and being part of a discussion in which passion and intellect both come into play concerning the health and future of the place you call home. The questions, ideas, and exclamations that resulted were like a breath of fresh air. I can't accurately describe how encouraging it is to be a part of this community – even if only on the perimeter – one that understands and celebrates the value of good design, walkable communities, and a thriving urban center.

Another example is this issue of *Columns*. Our main feature is one that was a lot of fun to work on, from inception to final proofreading. Taking something like the AIA's 10 Principles of Livable Communities and applying them to a specific case (our fair city) is always an interesting exercise, but asking some of the main players in the design community to draw the comparisons proved to be a great opportunity to broaden the voice of the architect and the magazine.

As time goes by, I can only imagine becoming more familiar with the various communities I am a part of. Getting to know more of my neighbors and more of our readers, and gaining a larger understanding of the ambitions of this organization. I've started to set down roots and I plan to enjoy the process as they spread and grow stronger, as I become a more active player. Hey, I like the way that sounds. 

The Vault in
Brighton Heights



A VISION FOR (AIA) PITTSBURGH

BY JIM RADOCK, AIA

Earlier this year, I wrote about two major aspects of the AIA's mission: the Community of Architects and the importance of communication between the Institute and its membership. AIA Pittsburgh is currently at work on strategic initiatives that directly address both.

The AIA's mission is tied to relationships with two communities: the community at large and the community of architects. All of AIA Pittsburgh's programs and projects are intended to benefit one (and often both) of these groups. Our major new initiative this year is specifically targeted to provide long-term benefits to both.

As our local project for **AIA150's Blueprint for America**, AIA Pittsburgh has embarked on a cooperative effort with the Pittsburgh Civic Design Coalition to establish a Pittsburgh design center. We envision creating a new home for the chapter offices (as well as other like-minded community design organizations) through the renovation of a building within the Golden Triangle. Our vision is to provide the community with an amenity that increases the visibility and accessibility of design by establishing a tangible, physical presence in the heart of the city that includes a strong educational component on design.

Patterned on the success of similar projects in cities like New York, Portland, and Chattanooga, the establishment of a downtown design center is an opportunity for AIA Pittsburgh to show how good design can make a community more livable.

We are proceeding with our exploration of alternatives for this project with the best interests of the city, AIA Pittsburgh, and our

affiliate partners in mind. We are still in the preliminary stages of investigation, including property and financial considerations, but we are making progress. Expect to hear more in the near future.

AIA Pittsburgh's continued dedication to its ongoing dialogue with its membership is also ready to move into its next phase. In the past

few years, you've seen changes and improvements in the way we get the word out, from the introduction of our e-mail newsletter, *eColumns*, to the most recent (and dramatic) improvement – the new format of *Columns* (which is also now available online at our website, aiapgh.org). *eColumns* gives the chapter the ability to communicate our schedule of upcoming events and, importantly,

breaking developments and updates in an efficient and timely fashion that was next to impossible a few years ago.

With the launch of the redesigned *Columns*, we are ready to address the next two components of our long-range communications plan: the revamp of our website (both technically and graphically) and, along with it, the opportunity to implement a web-based dialogue – a blog for the Pittsburgh architectural community. This development has been on our radar screen for a while now, and the board of directors sees it as the next logical step in the process. We think its time has come.

In the meantime, until you can post a blog online or post a comment in our storefront bulletin board, we continue to value your feedback through the usual channels. 



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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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. 5



RODEF SHALOM CELEBRATES SANCTUARY'S CENTENNIAL WITH SYMPOSIUM

To mark the 100th anniversary of its historic landmark sanctuary, designed by famed architect **HENRY HORNBOSTEL**, Rodef Shalom Congregation hosts a free community-wide symposium on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Fifth and Morewood Avenues in Oakland. "Historical Symposium: Honoring Our Builders and Building" will feature keynote speaker **PROFESSOR JONATHAN SARNA** of Brandeis University followed by two panel discussions elaborating on the congregation's landmark historic building, its builders, and early members who played significant roles in the development of Rodef Shalom and the Pittsburgh community.

With its dome constructed in the Catalan timbrel vault style, as its most distinctive feature, the sanctuary was one of the first products of the Beaux Art movement in Pittsburgh, popular in the United States between 1900-1935. A 1907 Pittsburgh Post article describes the sanctuary structure as a "wonder in architecture...one of the handsomest temples...in the country." For more information contact Rodef Shalom at 412-621-6566, or visit www.rodefshalom.org. 



ATTENTION RECENT GRADS!

Have you graduated recently from an accredited school of architecture? Are you trying to become more involved in the local architecture community? Make connections with colleagues and have a little fun? Membership in the AIA may be just what you're looking for! As an active member of AIA Pittsburgh, you will have the chance to participate on one of our committees, attend our various events, and establish yourself as an emerging professional in the community. And the best part... It's *free*! The American Institute of Architects offers complimentary membership to qualified individuals for up to 18 months, ending on December 31st of the year following graduation. For example, if you graduated this spring, you're entitled to free membership through the 2008 calendar year! If interested, go to www.aia.org/join_graduates for an application. 

LETTERS

“The State of Sustainability” (August 2007) is well written and addresses the subject in an easy to read, straightforward manner that I found refreshing and informative. We are always looking for ways to encourage awareness of ways to promote healthier living and this is certainly a building block!

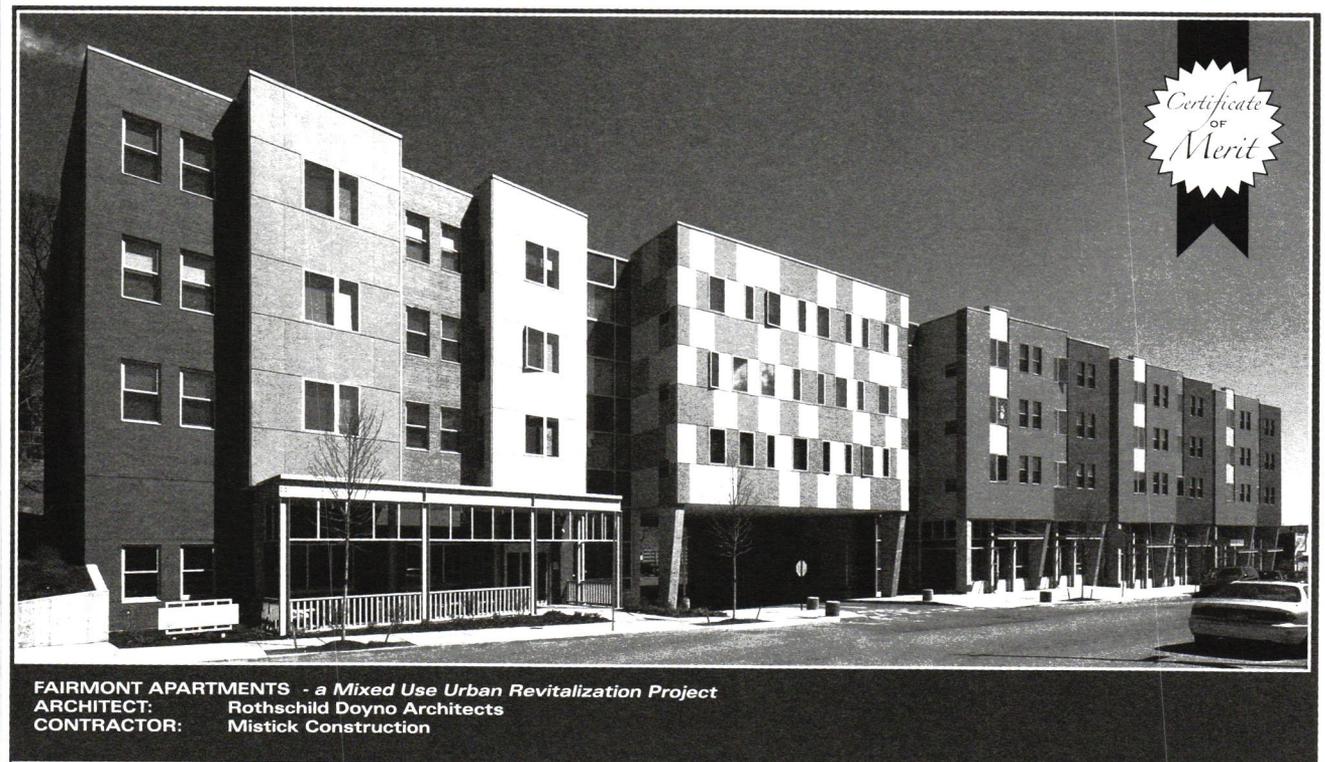
– Marilyn Kandus

I just wanted to congratulate you on making the change and totally updating...*Columns*. I have to compliment you on the new layout, size, color graphics, and goal of the magazine. It now has a more edgy local feel that makes Pittsburgh and the local AIA chapter so great!

– W. Michael Leigh

CORRECTION

In the August issue, “The State of Sustainability” contained inaccuracies regarding the Sarah Heinz House. The Sarah Heinz House is located on the Northside, near the recently restored 16th Street bridge. The existing building is of remarkable historical value including intricate terra cotta and brick detailing. For over one hundred years, the organization has been a community asset and has positively inspired the youth of the surrounding area. *Columns* regrets the error.



FAIRMONT APARTMENTS - a Mixed Use Urban Revitalization Project
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CONTRACTOR: Mistick Construction

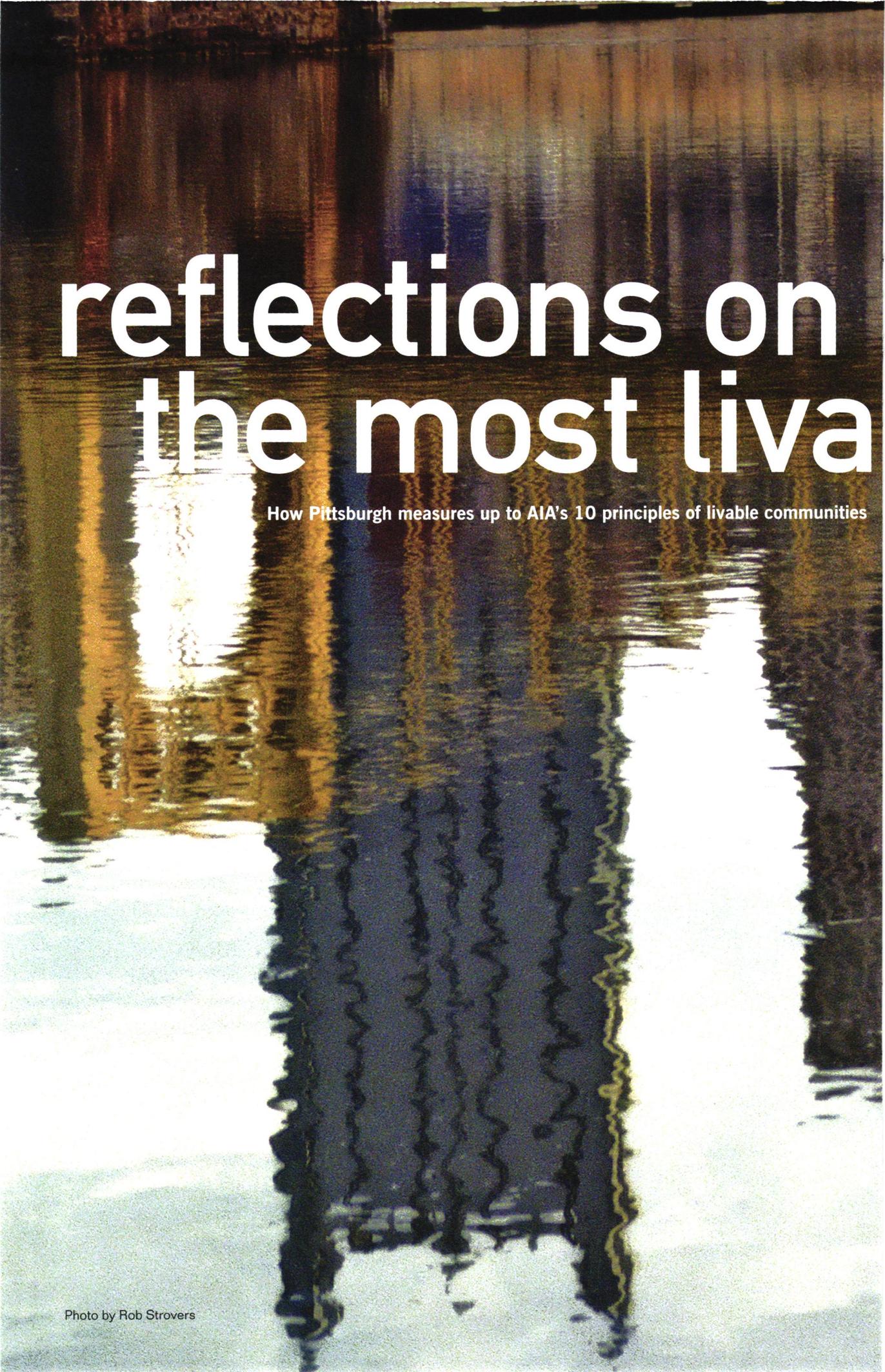
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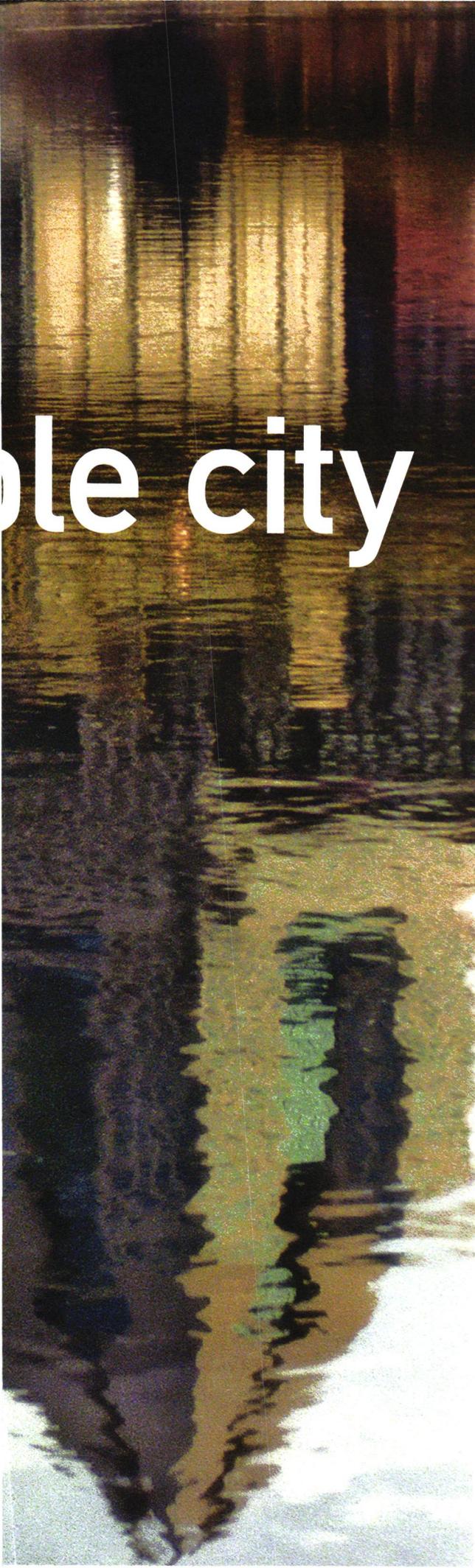
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reflections on the most livable

How Pittsburgh measures up to AIA's 10 principles of livable communities



le city

In April 2007 Pittsburgh was rated America's Most Livable City, a title it first captured in 1985. What makes our city livable? The arts and professional sports teams. The region's character and the two-degrees of separation here. For those of us who love Pittsburgh, the reasons are endless.

The Places Rated Almanac, which bestows the Most Livable crown, uses nine categories ranging from affordability and ambience to climate and crime. Pittsburgh ranks undeniably well across all of these livability measurements.

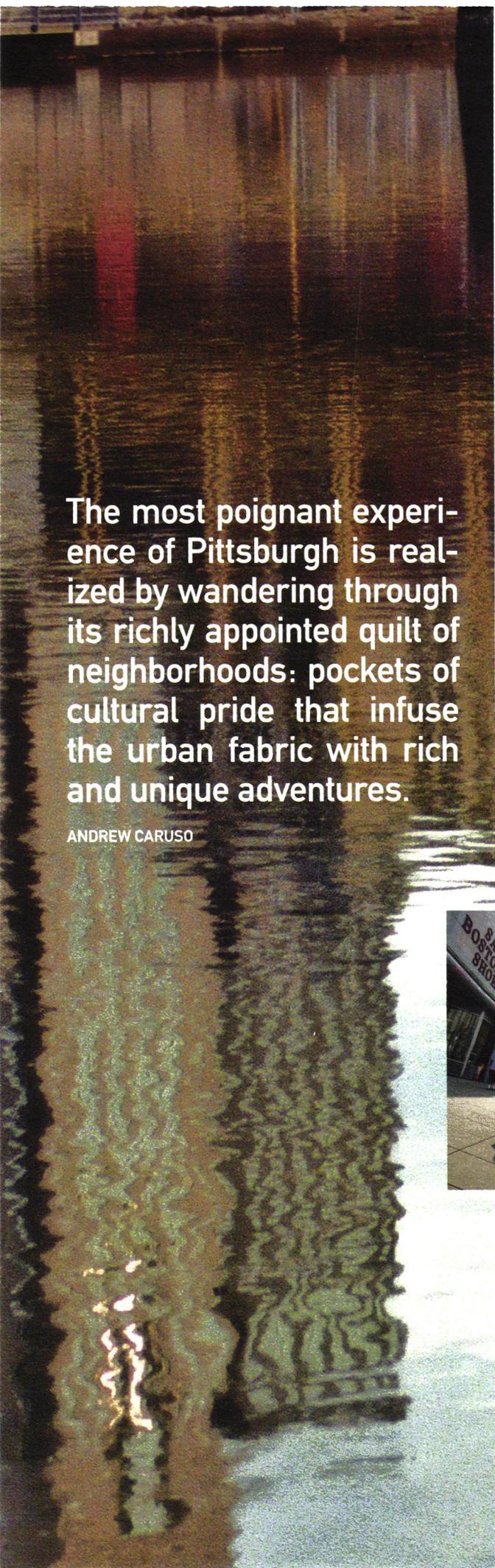
Yet, how does Pittsburgh rate when considering the American Institute of Architect's 10 Principles of Livable Communities?

Columns invited ten distinguished advocates of the built environment to represent how our town meets – and sometimes exceeds – the AIA Principles of Livable Communities.

The following essays are thoughtful, captivating, and enlightening. Pittsburgh's distinctive neighborhoods are woven throughout. The city's unique cultural and industrial heritage informs several. Hills, valleys, riverfronts, and open spaces are heralded in many. And, the importance of good planning and civic design is written or implied in all.

We're sure these ten perspectives will add a few more reasons to your own list of why Pittsburgh is the Most Livable City. Enjoy!

BY JUDITH KELLY



The most poignant experience of Pittsburgh is realized by wandering through its richly appointed quilt of neighborhoods: pockets of cultural pride that infuse the urban fabric with rich and unique adventures.

ANDREW CARUSO



Dutch MacDonald, AIA
EDGE studio

PRINCIPLE #1 Design on a Human Scale.

Compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural resources, and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit people's health.

More than anything else, Pittsburgh is a city of distinct neighborhoods. The hills and valleys serve as natural boundaries as well as the organic settlement patterns of early immigrants. To this day, each of the city's neighborhoods maintains a distinct character that is often defined by its own main street.

As a result, Pittsburgh's neighborhoods inherently embody the principle of design on a human scale. The names of the larger main street neighborhoods are familiar – Shadyside, Southside Flats, Bloomfield, Squirrel Hill – but there are few places in the city that are not within easy walking distance of a small cluster of shops or services.



Community development efforts have brought recent resurgence to places such as the West End, Lawrenceville, and

East Liberty. This continues to breathe new life into Pittsburgh by [re]creating a city of interconnected pedestrian-scaled villages.

Walkable main streets, such as in East Liberty, create pedestrian-friendly communities.



Andrew Caruso, Assoc. AIA
*President, American Institute
 of Architecture Students*



Greg Weimerskirch, Assoc. AIA
Urban Design Associates

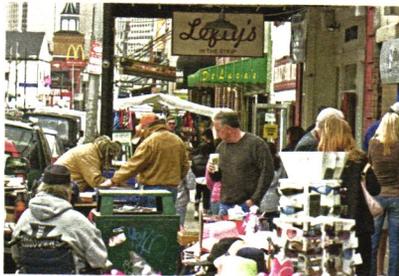
PRINCIPLE #2 Provide Choices.

People want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation, and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.

The most poignant experience of Pittsburgh is realized by wandering through its richly appointed quilt of neighborhoods: pockets of cultural pride that infuse the urban fabric with rich and unique adventures.

The Strip District is one piece of this intricate patchwork offering an incredibly wide selection of shopping and dining opportunities accessible by public transit. This diversity has become a favorite of natives and tourists, young and old. Specialty shops and restaurants from cultures across the globe supplement traditional Pittsburgh offerings, with opportunities to live, work, and play in a distinctly Pittsburgh environment.

In the evenings, a growing nightlife invites younger generations to rediscover this part of historic Pittsburgh and establishes “The Strip” as a truly public urban space.



PRINCIPLE #5 Encourage Mixed-Use Development.

Integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and diverse communities.

Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods, and at the heart of these neighborhoods you will often find a healthy, mixed-use core. Throughout the re-

gion there are new, mixed-use infill projects that enhance the qualities of their neighborhood centers.

None of them are as significant as the SouthSide Works, an entirely new center where none previously existed. The

site was home to the old industrial anchor and economic generator of neighborhood life – the former Jones and Laughlin Steel mill.

SouthSide Works exhibits a new physical structure of blocks, streets, open space, and urban parks that support a healthy mix of retail, office, and residential uses that can grow and change in the future as the South Side continues to evolve.



SouthSide Works provides a successful example of mixed-use development. Above center: The bustle of shoppers in the Strip District (photo by Sriram Bala).



Anne Marie Lubineau, AIA
Community Design Center
of Pittsburgh



Court Gould
Sustainable Pittsburgh

PRINCIPLE #4 Preserve Urban Centers.

Restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services, and buildings, and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promote stability for city neighborhoods.

Over the past 20 years – since the city was last recognized as “Most Livable” – continued investment in Pittsburgh’s urban core has enabled the city and its neighborhoods to successfully redefine itself in the face of significant economic and population change.

After years of decline, neighborhoods such as Allegheny West, Friendship, Lawrenceville, and the South Side have attracted new residents and businesses that value the vitality, amenities, character, and convenience of urban centers.

Visionary planning and good design are essential ingredients for revitalizing and sustaining our urban centers. Places with a well-defined vision succeed in attracting investment in an increasingly competitive market.



The Quiet Storm coffee shop in the heart of the Penn Avenue Arts District. Above right: Pittsburgh’s public transportation provides options for the region (photo by Jason Cohn).

PRINCIPLE #5 Vary Transportation Options.

Giving people the option of walking, biking and using public transit, in addition to driving, reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment and encourages physical activity.

Pittsburgh’s livability benefits significantly from the high level of public transit service available to the citizens of



Pittsburgh and surrounding counties. As of late, viability of transit has, of course, been in question. Relief, by avoiding another round of service cuts and a long-term reliable funding source, is at hand.

Critical and timely it is, as public transportation is requisite to prosperity. Pittsburgh has an unusually high rate of per capita transit ridership, which contributes to a vibrant urban core, and allows Pittsburgh’s Golden Triangle and Oakland to stand as hubs of regional commerce.

Our daily surge of commuters includes a growing share of public transportation riders for which all residents of the region benefit through reduced congestion, air pollution, and mobility options.



Lisa Schroeder
Riverlife Task Force

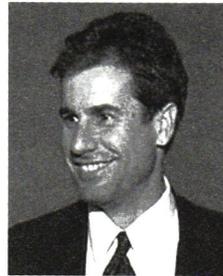
PRINCIPLE #6 Build Vibrant Public Spaces.

Citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places to stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.

Great public spaces serve as crossroads for urban life and as centers for civic engagement. At their best these places lift our spirits, symbolize our democracy, and celebrate the American story.

Winding through the heart of our city and embodying the great Pittsburgh story are the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio. These three rivers have been the stage of our industrial past and are emerging as the centerpiece of tomorrow.

Pittsburgh is connecting diverse stretches of riverbank into a seamless sequence of open spaces. With the addition of each new greenway, water landing, or outdoor cafe, we experience the potential of this new public place to knit our neighborhoods together, reconnect us with our living environment, and provide us with the common ground from which we can build our future together.



Dan Rothschild, AIA
Rothschild Doyno Architects

PRINCIPLE #7 Create a Neighborhood Identity.

A “sense of place” gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.

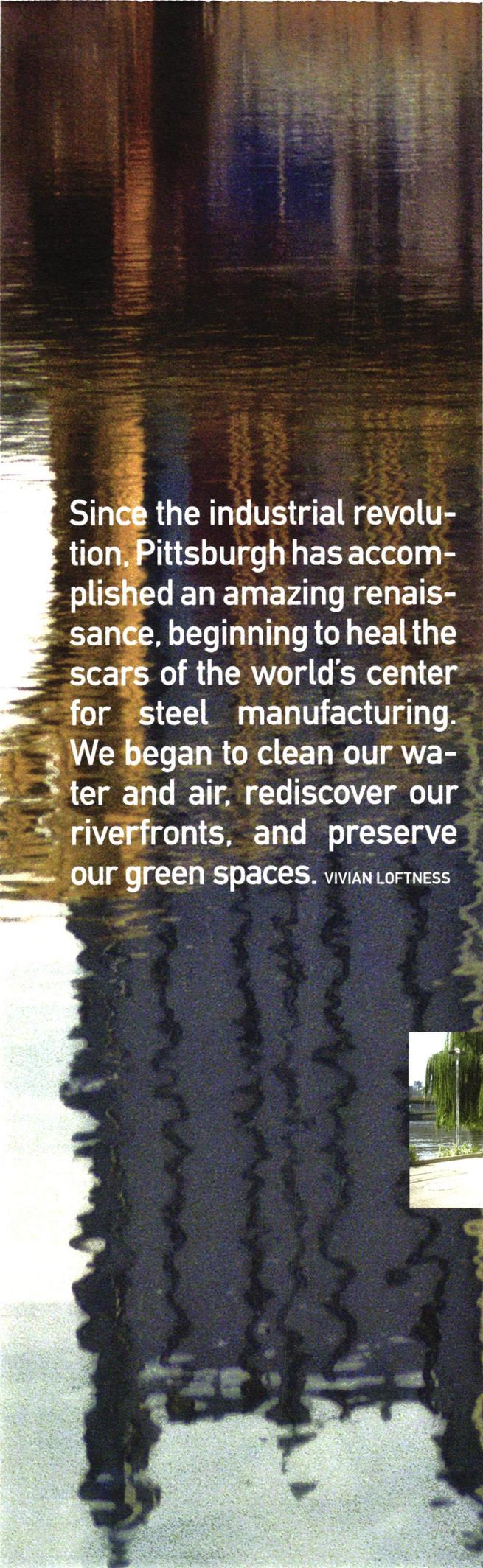


Physical, economic, and social forces shape the great diversity of Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods.

Physical forces include the power of great glaciers that carved our riverbeds and resulted in the steep slopes and valleys that demarcate distinct neighborhoods. Economic forces that began with the steel industry are changing to reflect quality of life and knowledge-driven assets, leading to an infusion of capital in new areas.

Neighborhoods with strong ethnic identities have retained their history while embracing new development.

Left: The Water Steps at the confluence of Pittsburgh’s three rivers. Above: Many factors – topographical, economical, and social – have contributed to the unique identities of Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods.



Since the industrial revolution, Pittsburgh has accomplished an amazing renaissance, beginning to heal the scars of the world's center for steel manufacturing. We began to clean our water and air, rediscover our riverfronts, and preserve our green spaces. VIVIAN LOFTNESS



Vivian Loftness, FAIA
Urban Lab-Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture

PRINCIPLE #8 Protect Environmental Resources.

A well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution, and protects property values.

Sustainable strategies and good design will ensure our natural beauty, waterways, watersheds and air-sheds – the foundations for a healthy and livable city.

The breathtaking view given early settlers as they crested the Allegheny Mountains is still the trademark of Pittsburgh. Miles and miles of rolling green hills descending to a natural point at the confluence of two rivers that formed a third—the greatest of all.

Since the industrial revolution, Pittsburgh has accomplished an amazing renaissance, beginning to heal the scars of the world's center for steel manufacturing. We began to clean our water and air, rediscover our riverfronts, and preserve our green spaces.



The postcard picture of Pittsburgh depends on our continuing this renaissance – completing the Riverlife revitalization that brings each neighborhood together with recreation and parks along the river,

connecting the Olmsted parks with avenues of trees and safe bikeways, and rediscovering the natural beauty of our watersheds and air-sheds that bring fresh winds through the city.

Above: Pittsburgh's North Shore is a place for recreation and offers a scenic view of the city.



Stephen Quick, AIA
Perkins Eastman



Mary Navarro
The Heinz Endowments

PRINCIPLE #9 Conserve Landscapes.

Open space, farms, and wildlife habitat are essential for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons.

A livable city respects its open space, its open countryside, and its wildlife habitat for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons. Conserving our landscapes also makes good economic sense. Land values are higher when adjacent to open space and views, of course, but did you know that small businesses ranked open space/parks/recreation as the number one factor in choosing a new business location?

Pittsburgh's most important asset is its landscape. Our rivers and hillsides, unique to this region, are the envy of everyone who visits our city. In fact, when we studied Pittsburgh's hillsides we could find no comparable city in the world that has a landscape like ours.

It's time we celebrate and conserve our landscape. It determined our settlement patterns. It determines where and how large we can build. It defines our neighborhoods. It creates memorable places. It laces green fingers all throughout our city. It provides us with an abundance of recreational options. It's essential to Pittsburgh's place and identity. It's what helps make Pittsburgh "Pittsburgh."



PRINCIPLE #10 Design Matters.

Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.

One of Pittsburgh's greatest resources is its distinctive "soul," that special sense of place, which springs from the significance of its history, the beauty of its geography, and the abundance of its natural resources.

While many newer American cities have yet to establish a unique identity, many older ones, in a rush to promote new development, have sacrificed theirs. Not Pittsburgh. Here, we have deliberately drawn on the potential of great design to add economic value as well as contribute to quality of life.

At the Endowments, we are proud of our involvement in projects such as the design competition for the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Oakland's Schenley Plaza, and an innovative planned pedestrian bridge linking Shadyside and East Liberty. Key to our work is maintaining the vital relationship between people and their environment while helping Pittsburgh fulfill its economic and quality-of-life potential. **C**



Left: The hillsides of Pittsburgh form natural neighborhood boundaries. Above: Projects such as Schenley Plaza help communities show the value of good design.

design awards 2007

Meet our distinguished Boston-based jurors



Our lead juror, **CAROL BURNS, AIA**, is principal of Taylor & Burns Architects in Boston. Focused on residential and institutional work, Taylor & Burns has special expertise in the design of big rooms for hundreds of people—including theatres, performing art centers, social halls, and churches. Recent buildings include two at Bennington College opened in 2007 – a new Student Center Building and renovations to the school’s main musical performance barn.

Ms. Burns initiated a groundbreaking program at the Boston Society of Architects to fund research in the profession of architecture. Following, the AIA instituted two programs (mini grants and the Upjohn Fellowship) to sponsor research. Open to architects across the USA, with a special mission to sponsor research among professional practitioners, these two programs have granted over half a million dollars in the last five years.

Ms. Burns has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Architecture from Yale University. While at Yale she co-edited *Perspecta 21*, the journal of the Yale School of Architecture, with partner Robert Taylor, AIA.



MARY-ANN AGRESTI, AIA, is principal architect and owner of The Design Initiative, Inc., a full service architecture and design firm. Since establishing The Design Initiative, Inc. in 1997, Ms. Agresti has developed a body of work ranging from individual private residences to complex educational renovations. While varied in program and scale, each project demonstrates a commitment to problem solving and detail that continues to be the common thread in her work.

In addition to her architectural practice, Ms. Agresti is a printmaker of traditional etchings and letterpress books and teaches interior architecture and design, most recently at Rhode Island School of Design.

Ms. Agresti has a Master of Architecture degree from University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Editorial Design from Syracuse University.



MATTHEW LITTELL is a principal of Utile, Inc., a 20-person architecture and planning firm in downtown Boston. During his four year tenure at Utile, Inc., Mr. Littell has acted as principal in charge of the firm’s growing body of work in affordable housing, mostly in and around Boston. In addition, Mr. Littell manages many of the firm’s urban design and planning projects, which range in scale and type from detailed streetscape design for the city to broad early-phase conceptual design for developers. The specific role of the regulatory process in design and the opportunities for invention therein are ongoing interests of Mr. Littell and the firm, and inform both the architectural and urban design projects.

A graduate of Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, Mr. Littell collaborated with his now partner Timothy Love, AIA while working for Machado and Silvetti, Associates, managing many of the firm’s institutional master planning and urban design projects. 



**Carol Burns
Taylor & Burns Architects**

Bennington College's new Student Center is a gathering space for live entertainment, food, and drink. The building adds 10,000 square feet to the existing Cafe structure, to which it joins by a glassy link and new stair. Sited to reinforce paths and drives on this woodland campus, the new structure looks toward the main quadrangle with a glassy corner calibrated to absorb solar warmth in winter. Mobile glass panels open the room outward onto a south-facing stone terrace.

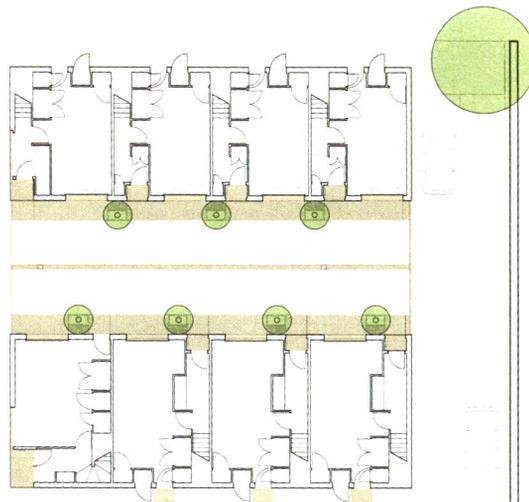


**Mary-Ann Agresti
The Design Initiative, Inc.**

Sleeper Street – A loft renovation of a residence in the emerging Fort Point Channel neighborhood in Boston.

Choate Rosemary Hall Andrew Mellon Library Renovation – A \$2 million renovation of a Georgian academic library. The project included programmatic development to accommodate new teaching and learning methods as well as custom furniture and fixtures.

Photos by Chris Johnson



**Matthew Littell
Utile, Inc.**

557-559 East Second Street is a development of eight new single-family row houses located at the edge of the industrial and residential parts of South Boston. A central court serves both pedestrian and automobile access to the units. Above the ground floor entry and garage, the section diagram of a traditional row house has been inverted. Rather than placing the living areas on a 'bel etage', they are located on the top floor, taking advantage of views to the seaport and downtown.

BREAKING

FROM THE FIRMS

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has been selected by Fraggasso Financial Advisors to design their new office location at 610 Smithfield Street in downtown Pittsburgh. The new offices will occupy the entire fourth floor of the building with approximately 17,500 sf. JSA project team members include **Thomas J. Mrozenski, Jr., AIA**; Noelle Weaver; Anita Myers; and Jim Gaynor. JSA has also been selected to be part of a design team to assess and evaluate various properties owned by the Sisters of the Holy Family in and around the environs of New Orleans, LA. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Sisters of the Holy Family owned and operated the oldest continuous Catholic home for the aged in the United States, two independent facilities for low-income senior citizens, a number of educational facilities, and commercial properties. JSA will work with Ira Peppercorn International, JDH Development and IM-ACC Concepts LLC to prepare a study, which will identify prioritized options for the highest and best use of land in conjunction with market analysis for both housing and commercial properties. JSA project team members are **Richard Oziemblowsky, AIA**, and Jennifer Jeffers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson announced the addition of five new architects and a construction administration assistant to the firm. Patty



Clark



Dulaney



Lloyd



Michael



Kuczma

Clark, Ron Dulaney, Jon Funari, Darren Lloyd, and Heather Michael will be working on primarily higher education projects for the firm. Christina Kuczma will be adding assistance in construction administration. Clark will be assisting the firm on a chemistry and chemical engineering laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. Dulaney, Funari, and Michael will all be working on a life sciences building for Dartmouth College. Lloyd has nine years of experience in residential, civic, and corporate projects and will be working on a private residence.

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. has hired R. Martin Hartman, ASLA to lead the landscape architecture practice in the Pittsburgh office. Mr. Hartman brings 20 years of landscape architectural experience to the firm. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Landscape Architecture.

John Missell, AIA has joined **Foreman Architects Engineers** as managing director of the central and east region. Mr. Missell is a graduate of Colgate University and the Rhode Island School of Design.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has hired Jennifer Jeffers as a project manager. Jeffers received her Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape



Phil Foreman, AIA welcomes John Missell, AIA

Architecture in 1994 and GIS Certification in 2007 from Penn State University. She also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from the University of Maryland in 2001. Jeffers has experience in urban planning and community design on a variety of senior living campuses, HOPE VI revitalization plans and university facilities.

L. Robert Kimball & Associates has promoted **Keith Williams, AIA** to the position of operations manager in the downtown Pittsburgh office.

Williams is a skilled architect with more than 14 years of experience with master planning, existing conditions assessment, new construction, and renovation/addition projects. His project experience includes governmental, health care, commercial, correctional, sports, office, warehouse, nursing home, housing, and aviation-related facilities.

MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Inc., Architects has announced that Robert R. Russ will serve as shareholder and board member of the firm



Jeffers



Williams

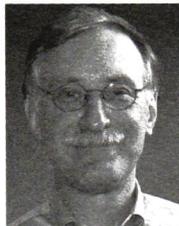
effective immediately. Since joining MCF Architects in 1998, Mr. Russ has concentrated on theater, higher education and historic restoration projects. Currently, Mr. Russ is working on a \$21 million performing arts and academic facility for Seton Hill University to be built on an urban site in the business and cultural district of Greensburg, PA. He is also the project manager for the renovation of the drama department and creation of an experimental theatre at Davidson College in North Carolina.



Schlossberg



Hoglund



Krukowski



Masarik



Furmanski



Palko



Modzelewski



King

The board of directors of **Perkins Eastman** has chosen **Alan Schlossberg, AIA** to lead the Pittsburgh office as managing principal. He will transition into this new leadership role as current managing principal **J. David Hoglund, FAIA** assumes the newly created role of managing partner and Chief Operating Officer for Domestic Operations. Schlossberg has been with Perkins Eastman for more than 15 years. There have also been staff additions to the Perkins Eastman office. **Kenneth J. Krukowski, AIA**, Lindsey M. Masarik, Rachel Furmanski, Paul F. Palko, and Gregory J. Modzelewski have all joined the firm.

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. proudly announces these LEED accredited professionals: Zack Coy and Adam Wenger.

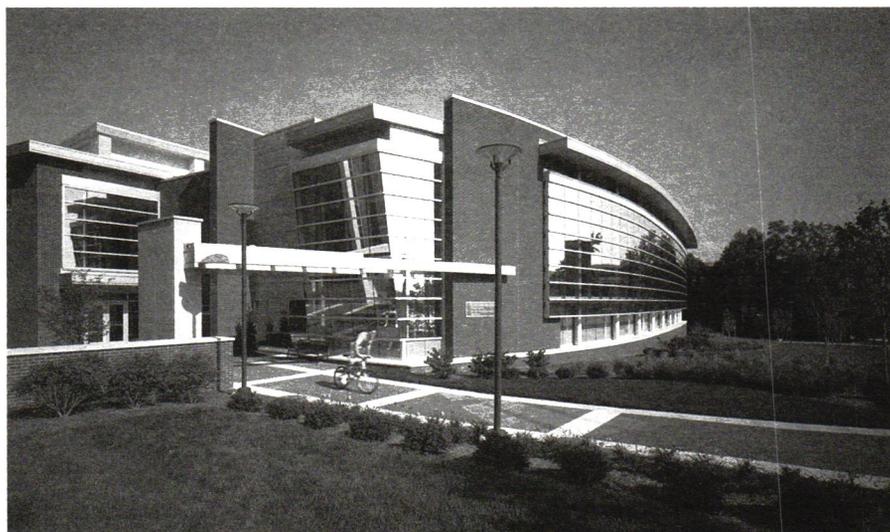
Foreman Architects Engineers announces that **Nancy King, AIA** has become a licensed architect. Ms. King is a project architect for Foreman Architects Engineers. She is responsible for design and project management. Her experience includes all aspects of architecture from project programming to project construction phase services.

The Pennsylvania State University's (PSU) Recreation Hall Wrestling & Student Fitness Center, designed by **L. Robert Kimball & Associates**, has received the grand prize award in the College Planning & Management Magazine's Annual Education Design Showcase awards edition. The facility was selected as the grand prize recipient for the integration of the new construction with the existing building, the successful the renovation of existing areas, and the way in which Kimball reflected the feel of the campus through the new design, all the while providing top-of-

the-line athletic facilities catering to both the students and the student athletes. Additionally, L. Robert Kimball & Associates was recently ranked in the 2007 Giants 500 Report produced by Building Design + Construction magazine. The magazine ranked Kimball #51 in Top K-12 firms, #50 in Top Engineering/Architecture firms, #66 in Top Institutional Design, and #78 in Top Governmental Design. The rankings are compiled by the magazine's editors who survey the country's largest architectural/ engineering/ consulting firms in the non-residential building industry.

KUDOS

Charles Parker, AIA of **Burt Hill**, has been appointed to the position of co-chairman for the AIA-MBA Joint Committee. Mr. Parker is a senior associate at Burt Hill, an architectural firm that works in the higher education, sciences, healthcare, corporate, and commercial sectors.



Penn State University Recreation Hall Wrestling & Student Fitness Center

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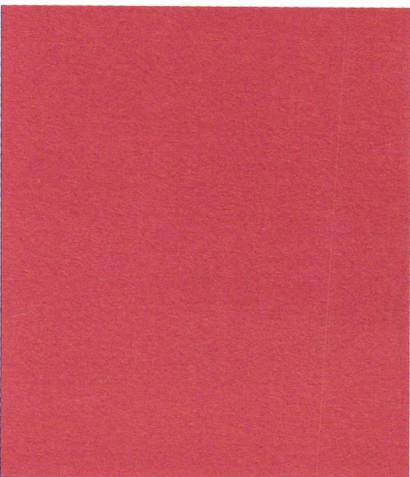
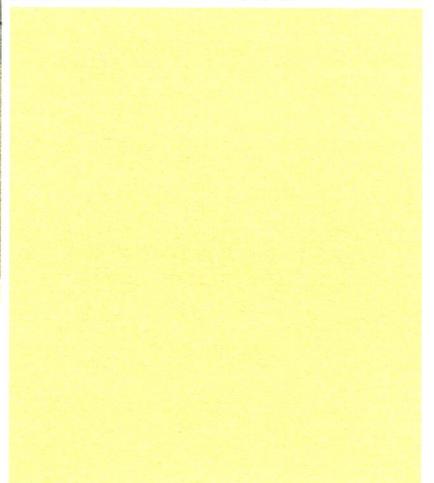
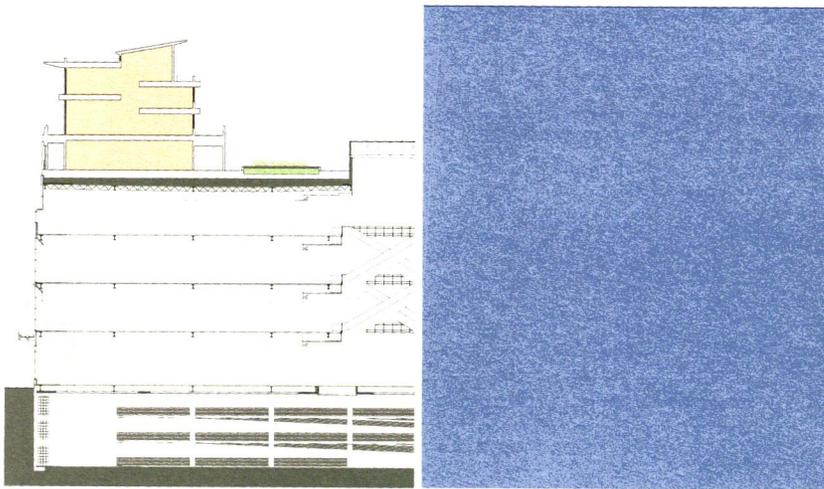
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liability and BIM

Identifying the risks associated with Building Information Modeling

BY JOHN SIEMINSKI

There are many differences of opinion about BIM and its potential, but all agree that it represents a fundamental (some say revolutionary) change in the manner in which a building project design is prepared and implemented.

Like all new technologies, the literature about BIM is a convoluted continuum of hype at one end, truth at the other end, and sober reality interspersed somewhere in the middle. In a business environment that is as laden with risk as the construction industry, disputes invariably arise. Our legal system depends upon the early adopters of technological change to frame issues on a dispute-by-dispute basis in order to produce precedential decisions to guide those who follow. Unfortunately, there are no such reported decisions related to BIM. Consequently, there appear to be more concerns and questions than there are answers at this point.

Many have suggested that our legal system and the manner in which construction industry participants do business are a significant impediment to full implementation of BIM as a collaborative tool that would allow all participants

to reap its benefits. Full implementation of all of the functions available in a BIM system presents a substantial set of legal issues. Understanding some of the areas where BIM may stretch the legal concepts generally applied to the work that design professionals do will help create the mindfulness necessary to deal with those issues in a proactive manner.

OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL



In a society that honors the maxims “knowledge is power” and “possession is nine tenths of the law,” it should come as no surprise that many of the key issues surrounding BIM stem from concerns about ownership of the model and use of the information contained in and generated by the model. A corollary tension arises by virtue of the fundamentally collaborative nature of BIM layered over traditional project delivery systems that are less collaborative. BIM potentially lacks established protocols for determining responsibility when something goes wrong with a product into which all participants have contributed data.

In a design professional vs. contractor scenario, it may seem like a quick answer to say that the architect will always want to maintain control of the model, but that control may also make the architect the first line of attack in the event of problems with the model or the drawings and information generated from it. Concerns at the outset involve the potential difficulty in tracking the genesis of a problem after it arises, especially when the relevant data may have been entered into the model days, weeks, months, or years before the problem manifested itself. For example, in a situation involving an issue with the size of a structural element of a project, it may be difficult to determine after the fact which person or what entity was responsible for the error, especially if multiple persons or firms had the ability to enter or change data during the process.

In a design professional vs. contractor scenario, it may seem like a quick answer to say that the architect will always want to maintain control of the model, but that control may also make the architect the first line of attack in the event of problems with the model or the drawings and information generated from it. Concerns at the outset involve the potential difficulty in tracking the genesis of a problem after it arises, especially when the relevant data may have been entered into the model days, weeks, months, or years before the problem manifested itself. For example, in a situation involving an issue with the size of a structural element of a project, it may be difficult to determine after the fact which person or what entity was responsible for the error, especially if multiple persons or firms had the ability to enter or change data during the process.

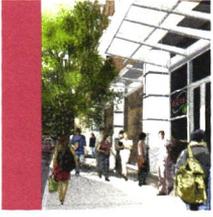
Some owners have contractually obligated the design professional to treat the model as a deliverable. The impetus for this is twofold. The first reason is the owner’s visceral desire to get what he believes he is paying for and to have more knowledge of the design as it progresses. The second is the use of the model in management and operation of the facility during its life cycle. In fact, the latter use is touted as one of the major benefits of using a BIM model to design a project and operate the resulting facility. This, of course, raises additional concerns with respect to a design professional relinquishing possession and control of an instrumentality that could serve as a basis for future liability.

STANDARD OF CARE



There is a concern that general use of BIM will alter both the standard of care and historical protections afforded to design professionals by the doctrine of privity. Until recently in some jurisdictions (including Pennsylvania), in the context of negligence claims, the doctrine of privity of contract shielded architects and engineers from claims by parties with whom the design professional did not have a contract. Recent case law has relaxed the privity requirement to a limited degree. Many jurisdictions now allow claims without privity when it is clear that a contractor reasonably relied upon information that was misrepresented by the design professional in a context in which it was clear that the contractor would be relying upon that information. Got that? With use of a BIM-generated model, it appears logical that the promise of BIM can be realized only in a context where reliance upon the information is not only anticipated but is expected. This would appear to be potentially problematic in that one of the requirements of this type of claim – reasonable reliance – may appear to be presumed in a BIM environment.

LICENSURE



The professional practices of architecture and engineering are regulated by the state. States generally require that each project undertaken by a firm engaged in the practice

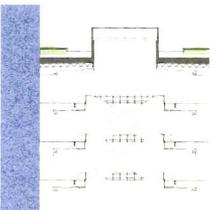
of architecture must be under the personal supervision of a licensed partner, shareholder, or member of the firm. Additionally, they require that the seal of such individuals must appear on all drawings, specifications, and other design documents issued by the firm for such projects. Although these requirements are easily understood and followed in the 2D world in which the design documents are issued only in paper form, they become potentially problematic in a 3D world in which all participants may have access to the BIM model.

How is compliance guaranteed in a situation in which data is entered into the model by unlicensed professionals followed by incorporation of that information by the model without a subsequent review by the professional in responsible charge? If the model contains the input of multiple parties, is it even fair to view any one person as being “in responsible charge”? Who will keep track of (and be responsible for) adjustments that may be automatically made by the software? (Especially considering that software license agreements always disclaim liability for just this type of situation, even if they are the result of an error in or problem with the program.)



Understanding some of the areas where BIM may stretch the legal concepts generally applied to the work that design professionals do will help create the mindfulness necessary to deal with those issues in a proactive manner.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION



The Architectural Works Copyright Protection Act allows for registration and protection of the design of a building and the associated architectural drawings.

Assuming creation of a model through the collaborative efforts of many project participants,

there is a question – assuming that material generated by the model is subject to copyright protection – as to who will be deemed to own the information in the model and therefore be eligible for copyright protection.

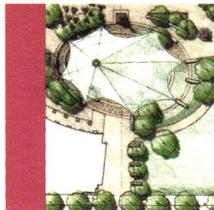
CONTRACTUAL PROTECTION



Theoretically, many of the risks associated with BIM use can be eliminated, limited, or managed by the use of BIM-specific contractual provisions. As with other

risks, this requires identification and contemplation of the risk, crafting appropriate language to deal with it, discussion and negotiation, and, ultimately, agreement on specific terms. Some have suggested, however, that aggressive use of disclaimers and non-reliance clauses will diminish or eliminate the benefits of BIM that may accrue to all parties. In recognition of this potential, so-called “Alliance Models” have attempted to structure contractual arrangements among all participants in a way that purports to fairly balance and share both risks and benefits. Whether this type of model can be adapted to the normal three-party arrangements that sometimes become adversarial remains to be seen.

INSURANCE

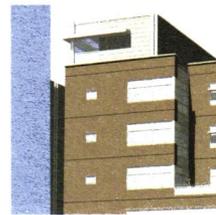


Risk management theory dictates that one should insure those risks that cannot be borne by the practice or controlled through contractual protections. BIM is relatively

new with respect to the legal and contractual issues affecting parties in a construction project. Insurance carriers have not yet developed policy language that identifies the insur-

able or non-insurable aspects of BIM. The use of BIM to provide professional services should not theoretically raise any coverage issues, although there may be concerns to the extent that model-generated information could be interpreted as input into construction means and methods. Some have suggested that the insurance industry will develop a BIM-specific policy or endorsement in order to allow design firms to realize the benefits of BIM while at the same time not generating any coverage issues.

MANAGING THE RISKS



It has been suggested that the two major unresolved issues related to BIM are risk allocation and compensation. BIM’s benefits and track record thus suggest that the

operative question is not whether to implement it, but rather, how it should be implemented. First, recognize BIM for the paradigm shift that it represents, including the attendant risks, as discussed above. Second, adapt the risk management techniques associated with traditional project delivery methods, focusing on contractual protection, appropriate levels of insurance coverage, and adoption of a BIM-specific set of project management best practices. Adequate staffing, appropriate levels of training, and implementation of BIM-centric quality control will all help protect design professionals as more advances are made with this new technology. 

John Sieminski is an attorney in construction law at Burns, White, and Hickton in Pittsburgh. He has represented architects and other design professionals in litigation, business, and licensure matters for over sixteen years. He frequently writes about and lectures on risk management issues and developments in the construction industry from the design professional perspective. Mr. Sieminski can be reached at jpsieminski@bwhllc.com or 412-995-3000.

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