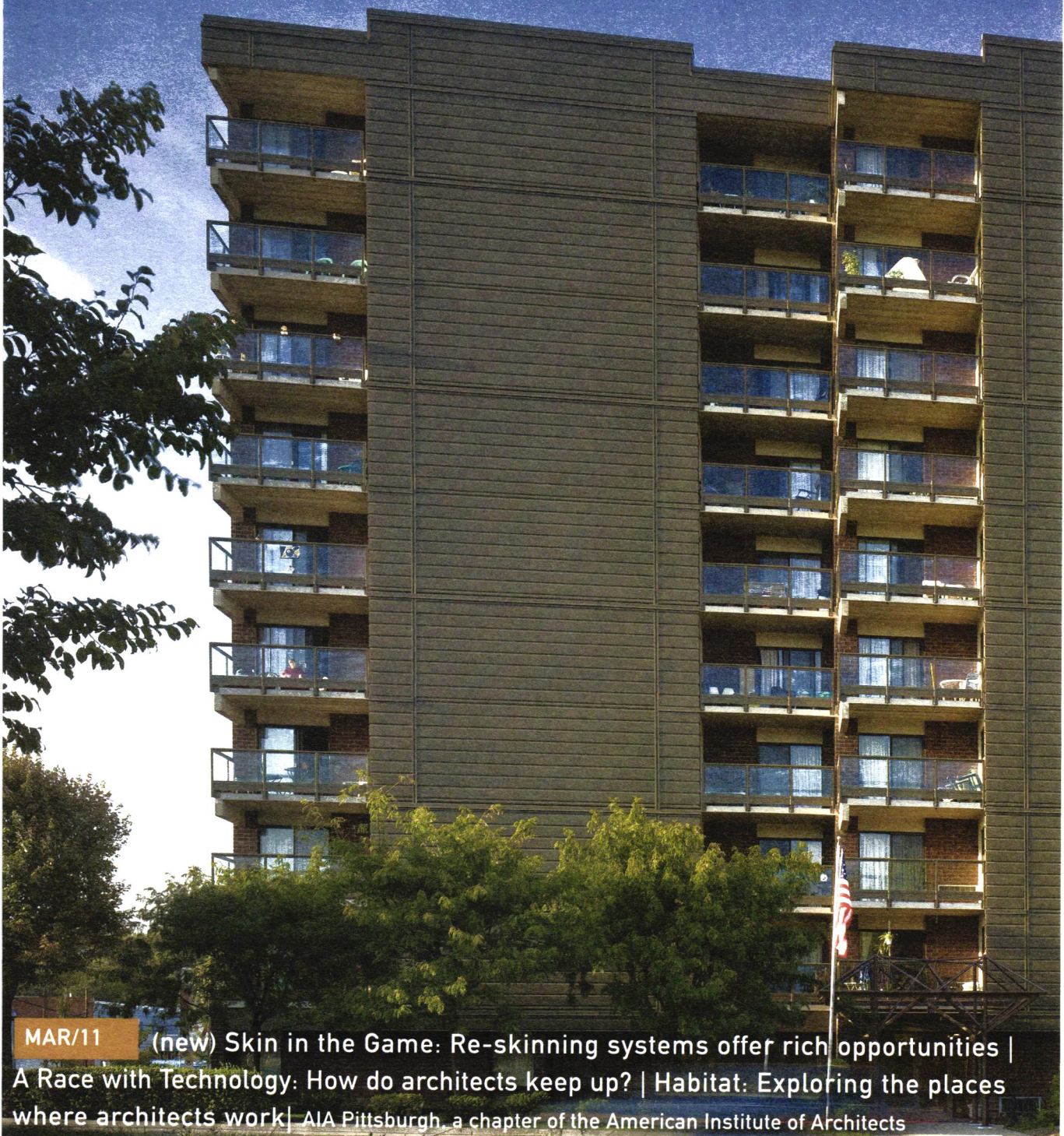


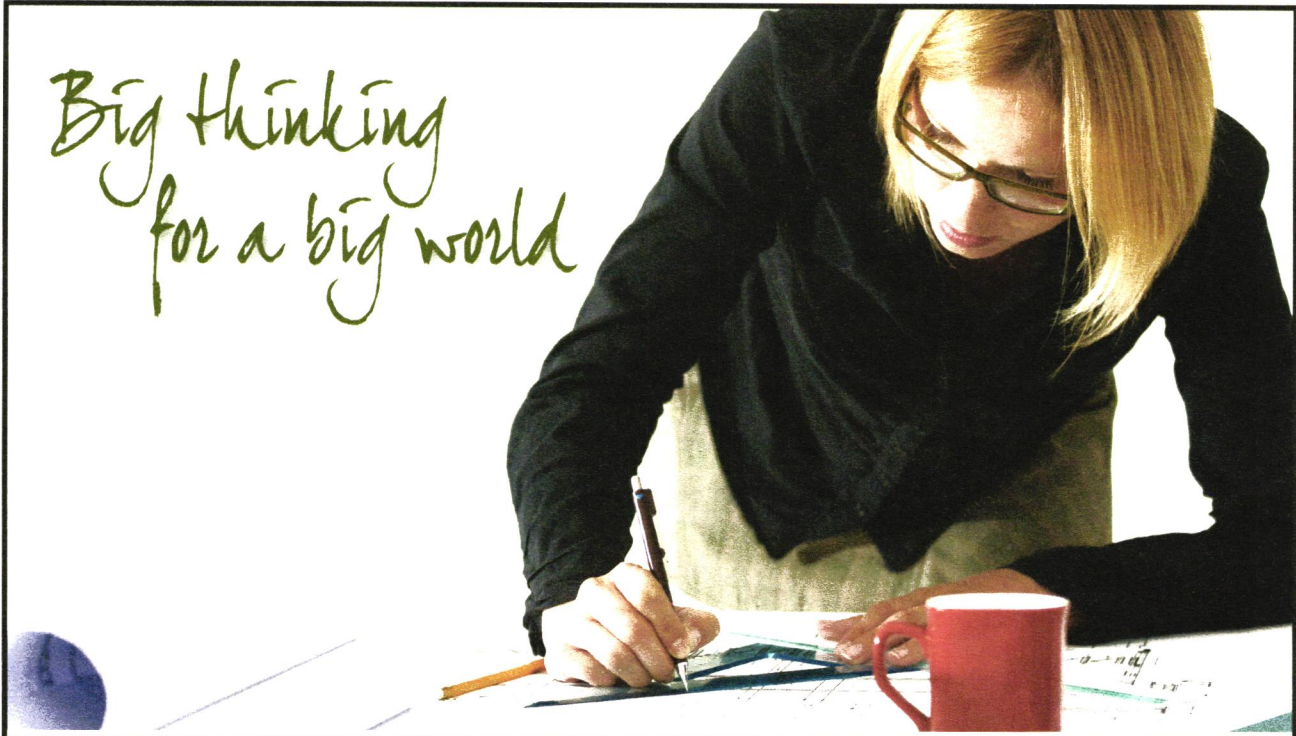
COLUMNS



MAR/11 (new) Skin in the Game: Re-skinning systems offer rich opportunities | A Race with Technology: How do architects keep up? | Habitat: Exploring the places where architects work | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

COLUMNS

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HOMEFRONT

BY BECKY SPEVACK



By the time of this printing, this year's Oscars will already have been handed out, and we will know what movie will join the ranks of some of the greatest films to be considered "Best Picture". But at the time of this *writing*, I am anxiously awaiting the night of the Academy Awards to see who has been chosen for Best Actor, Actress, Director, and of course, Picture. While I admit that I don't get out to the movies nearly as often as I did, say, a mere two years ago, the marvels of modern technology – i.e. Netflix and RedBox – have granted me access to new releases fairly frequently. I haven't had a chance (yet) to see all, or even a majority, of the nominees, but there are a few that I have had the chance to watch that have stood out, not only as films, but for amazing landscapes, for feats of the imagination, for the way a mix of craftsmanship and technology have collaborated to fill a screen with worlds both wholly familiar and completely unrecognizable. Two that have stood out in my limited exposure are *Inception* and *Alice in Wonderland*. The built environment plays an instrumental role in both, with imaginary dream cityscapes filling the frames of the former and the latter featuring the legendary Wonderland reimagined in ways only Tim Burton could. Film has been giving audiences entry into unknown and impossible worlds for decades, peaks into future and distant dimensions, and the latest technologies have continually been applied in the industry to wow audiences over and over.

continued page 2

MAR/11

In this Issue |



(new) Skin in the Game: Re-skinning systems

offer rich opportunities page 6 | A Race with Technology: How do architects

keep up? page 24 | Habitat: Exploring the places where architects work page 14 |

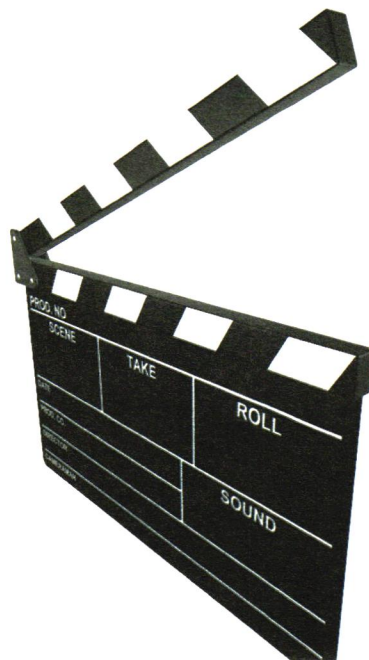
Breaking Ground page 16



Here in the real world, it's not quite as easy to adopt new technologies so quickly (nor, perhaps, should it be). The implications of how software translates to the physical environment is not always apparent. It is easy to be impressed by all of the possibilities you can see on a screen, without fully grasping the long term ramifications. This issue, writer Courtney Patterson tackles how the multiple generations making up the profession of architecture approach changes in technology and in working style. How have firms addressed the adoption of new software? How have the generations learned to work together to best utilize each individual's talent and knowledge?

Also within these pages is our cover story, "(new) Skin in the Game", which introduces a new type of building envelope – a Pressure Equalized Rainscreen – that is starting to gain popularity as a new, energy efficient way to reskin older buildings. This building makeover not only greatly improves energy performance, but also gives the building a second chance, a fresh start with a more modern and contextually appropriate appearance. Solutions such as this will (hopefully) help breathe new life into the existing infrastructure, saving in materials, money, and most importantly, resources.

Films have long shown us a future of flying cars and über-mod cities. But that future is now, and our cars are firmly grounded. The future that was envisioned 50 years ago is not what has become our present-day, but that doesn't mean that the advances we have made aren't stunning nonetheless. As quickly as new technologies are being developed, I think it's safe to say that the next 5 to 10 years hold a lot in store. I'm excited to see what the future may bring. **C**



OUR SURVIVAL, OUR SUCCESS

BY ERIC OSTH, AIA

Indeed, we are in challenging times for the field of architecture. The good news is that, historically, great industries have been both established and rejuvenated in challenging times. In the face of adversity, problem solving and critical thinking are often at their peak. As architects, we are all engaged in creative problem solving, and as we adapt to new methods and look forward to rejuvenated business, we have the opportunity to become even more valuable to our communities. As I attend more and more AIA events, talk to my fellow practitioners, and hear predictions of future needs, I find myself equally passionate about our survival and our success. I believe that the following three points are essential for our profession to remain vital and respected:




1) Architects need to collaborate more. At Build Pittsburgh 2009, I was impressed to hear about the collaborative process for the Carnegie Libraries by local architecture firms of EDGE studio, Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, Pfaffmann + Associates, and Lubetz Architects. Although each firm provided services to an individual library, they all shared their knowledge in a collaborative process with complementary disciplines. Each resulting library is very unique, but collectively, the network has been re-branded for an improved user experience. As a result, the entire system has been transformed in the eyes of the public. Collaboration can be transformative to clients, consultants, constituents, and communities.

2) Architects need to focus on cities. Above all else, architects fear marginalization and the standardization of our tools and solutions. By focusing our work on urban infill sites, where skillful and custom solutions are required, architects will continue to be an essential part of develop-

ment work. My neighborhood library, the Squirrel Hill branch of the Carnegie Library, is a great example. As part of the Carnegie Library initiative, Art Lubetz, AIA transformed an unassuming and unremarkable structure into a signature landmark in the heart of the neighborhood. It is now the community anchor of Squirrel Hill.

3) We need young architects. Statistical data from AIA National tells us that 70% of all practicing architects will retire in the next 10 years. When that is considered alongside the research of my fellow board member, Dick Rittlemann, FAIA,

which finds that, at even modest growth rates, the U.S. may double its square footage by the year 2030*, it is clear that there will not be enough architects to satisfy the demand for growth. This is not good news. If we do not have young, collaborative, creative, and energetic architects in the coming years, and enough architects to defend the State regulations under which we practice, the nation will build without our input.

This year, the Board and the fantastic AIA staff have solidified a strategy for three new bold initiatives to prepare our organization for the future. The first is the development of a new, comprehensive communications program that will allow our members to connect, exchange information, and stay informed even better than before. We plan to implement the program this year, and we look forward to your feedback. The second is a long-term strategy to further enhance our Continuing Education program, to provide members with access to new technology, information, and skills. And last, but certainly not least, we want to empower and energize the AIA with young interns and architects. Our future depends on it. 

*Columns, April 2006, documentation provided by Reed Construction Data

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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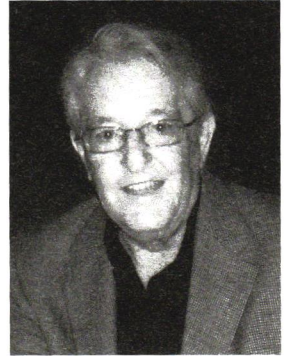
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Volume 25, No. 1

IN MEMORIAM: LEANDER MINNERLY


Leander H. Minnerly passed away December 26, 2010, in Vero Beach, FL. Lea was born in Jamaica, NY. He initially enrolled in Electrical Engineering at Cornell University, though he quickly changed to Architecture, which became his lifelong love. He graduated from Cornell in 1959, and 1961 with a Master's Degree of Architecture. In 1961, Lea came to Pittsburgh, joining the architectural firm of Deeter Ritchey Sippel, later becoming a Principal. In the 70's, he co-founded the Selck-Minnerly Group. Lea became a Principal of The Design Alliance Architects in 1981, remaining with TDA until retiring in 1993.



Lea was a talented and dedicated designer, participating in the execution of many regionally important projects. His efforts included working on the design of the original Three Rivers Stadium and the design of Harmarville Rehabilitation Center. While at TDA, Lea was Design Principal for the award-winning entry in the competition for the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts master plan and the award-winning Mine Safety Appliances Corporate Headquarters in Fox Chapel.

Upon his retirement, Lea and his wife, Rosalie, relocated to New Hampshire to run a small lodging community. Ten years later they retired to Florida.

While at Cornell, Lea was a founding member of the Sherwoods, a men's triple quartet a cappella group, which toured the world performing for servicemen and the public. From 1998 until his death, Lea was instrumental in promoting the Sherwoods performing in various cities several times a year.

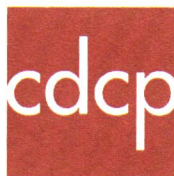
A memorial celebration will be held in Pittsburgh at Phipps Conservatory on May 20th at 5:30 p.m. 



DESIGN EXCELLENCE LECTURE SERIES: MARYSUE BARRETT

Connecting the Dots – Communities and Partners Creating Change

Great neighborhoods and cities do not happen by coincidence – a perfect mixture of active citizens, visionary leaders, and organizations often align to create change. Civic connector, intellectual, and political strategist, MarySue Barrett is the final lecturer in the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh's 2010/11 Design Excellence Lecture Series, speaking on Monday, April 4th at Point Park University. MarySue is the president of the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) in Chicago and connects the dots between regional needs and the individuals and organizations that can make change happen.



DESIGN
EXCELLENCE
LECTURE
SERIES

One of MPC's current projects, *Placemaking Chicago*, has educated and empowered citizens to begin thinking about their neighborhoods and offering simple ways to make them a better place to live. MarySue and MPC work at the neighborhood level by assisting groups in remaking and connecting their neighborhoods, work at the local government level by influencing policy, and work at the national level with by advocating for federal investment reform. Tickets for MarySue's lecture can be purchased through the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh's website. (www.cdcp.org)

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April 7, 2011

Keynote Address: Kermit Baker, PhD, Hon. AIA, Chief Economist for the American Institute of Architects

When: Thursday, April 7th, 2011

Where: David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Who: Anyone passionate about the built environment, looking to learn more about the industry, and connect with fellow design professionals. (And earn those AIA Learning Units!)