

C O L U M N S



Designing for Children and youth

VOLUME 15, NO. 8 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS OCTOBER 2001



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A Personal Note

by Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA



“What you can do, though, is to remember how your designs can add immeasurably to people’s lives...”

To me, the World Trade Center Towers

represented the New York City skyline and a place I wanted to see. They did not represent our capitalistic greed but then I am an American. Skyscrapers, to me, are part of the wonderful density that makes up cities. People pour into them and out of them at predictable times of day. They offer views that you cannot get anywhere else and on rainy and cold days they are cities unto themselves. I am disturbed by the conversations that have followed the multiple tragedies of September 11 about the death of the skyscraper as a building form, and yet I understand why it is unlikely that the World Trade Center Towers will be rebuilt.

On Tuesday, September 11, we closed our offices after the plane crashed in Somerset County. None of us could work and with the enormity of what was happening and what might happen, the best decision was to send everyone home to their families. Mt. Lebanon Schools did not release the children early. This left my husband and I plenty of time to watch history unfold and talk about what we might say to the children. Henry, as a senior in high school is old enough to comprehend the enormity of the events but Ellen, age 5, is blessedly clueless.

Because of a viral infection at 10 days of age, which caused brain damage, Ellen has a variety of special needs. While Ellen’s gross motor skills and speech production have been compromised, she still has many capabilities. She is quite bright and inquisitive. Over the past year and a half, she has learned to walk but she still falls easily with any grade change. Stairs are a challenge and much on play surfaces is barely navigable. More than anything, she wants to be just like every other child and so she practices walking all the time and every place she goes. All of the grammar schools in Mt. Lebanon are identical, a perfect example of *stock school plans*. Ellen loves her special kindergarten class for speech and language delayed children. However, she is the only one in the class with significant mobility

problems. She has to have an aide to go to the restroom because the door is too heavy to open. She can’t wash her hands by herself because she can’t reach the knobs and doesn’t have the strength to turn them. On good days Ellen will tell you she is five and goes to kindergarten. On bad days, when she thinks more about what she can’t do than what she can do, she says she is three. She just wants some extra time to be like everyone else.

There are so many children like Ellen entering the public schools. Contrary to what you might believe, the surge in the special needs population is not due to over-diagnosing syndromes such as ADD. It is because we can save children like Ellen with medicine or techniques that are ever evolving. While she has a number of challenges to overcome, we want her to have the chance to grow up to be a remarkable person.

In this month’s *Columns*, Tracy Certo has written a fascinating story on the designs a number of firms are doing for child specific places. It was uplifting to read about the care and attention the architects are putting into such space and to realize that these new spaces can accommodate a number of different children with a variety of needs. So many of our feelings about ourselves can be tied to the spaces which we have inhabited.

I am sure many of you felt like I did on Wednesday, September 12. So much of what I do immediately felt insignificant. I am not a doctor who can save lives or a fireman who can rescue people from buildings and neither are most of you. What you can do, though, is to remember how your designs can add immeasurably to people’s lives and, when you consider how long most buildings stand, that adds up to a whole lot of people.

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On the cover: Kelly Street Childcare Center in Homewood by EDGE studio.

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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In Perspective : An Insider's View of Architecture Exhibitions

By Tracy Meyers, Associate Curator, Heinz Architectural Center

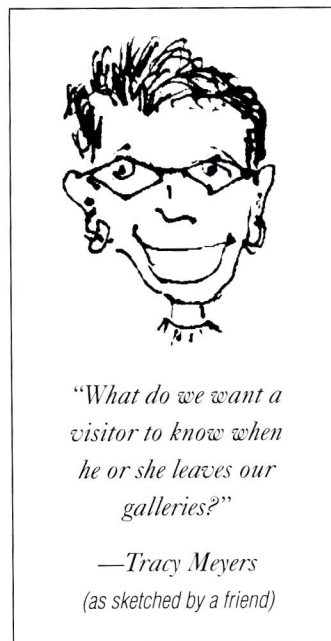
The past summer produced an unusually rich vein of architecture exhibitions in the Northeast. At the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Robert Venturi, FAIA and Denise Scott Brown were the subject of a retrospective that surveyed their architectural and planning work and their delightfully whimsical designs for the decorative arts. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe — against whose ascetic “less is more” Modernist orthodoxy Venturi very deliberately pitched his ethos of “messy vitality” — was treated to two large exhibitions in New York: *Mies in Berlin*, at the Museum of Modern Art, and *Mies in America*, at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The spiral ramp galleries of New York’s Guggenheim Museum were given over to a stunning paean to Frank Gehry, FAIA. And on a considerably smaller scale, the Van Alen Institute in New York was the site of *Architecture + Water*, which presented five recent projects that innovatively address the interface between the tectonic and the aquatic.

At the time these exhibitions were on view elsewhere, the Heinz Architectural Center was showing two exhibitions of a very different sort. *Landscapes of Retrospection* featured eighteenth- and nineteenth-century drawings and prints that depicted Britain’s built and natural environments and were made for publication in books that self-consciously championed the nation’s unique heritage. *Still Rooms & Excavations*, an installation of black-and-white photographs by Richard Barnes, documented the 1990s expansion of a San Francisco museum and the excavation of a gold rush-era potter’s field that was discovered beneath the museum during construction.

Collectively, the exhibitions mentioned here, together with HAC’s spring show *Folds Blobs + Boxes: Architecture in the Digital Era* and the current *Perfect Acts of Architecture*, constitute a large portion of what might be thought of as a menu of types of architecture exhibitions. Typically, such shows treat a single architect,

or a period or style of architecture, or a particular building type, or a way of theorizing about or approaching design. Each of these kinds of exhibitions offers the visitor a different way of understanding the broad practice and diverse results of this thing we call “architecture.” A monographic study, for example, allows the visitor to see the evolution of its subject’s sensibility and mastery, while a typological survey offers a cross-section of various architects’ solutions to similar design problems. Often, of course, an exhibition is a hybrid of these: a study of a form-giver like Mies inevitably addresses the “style” (a problematic term for historians) with which the architect is associated. In the case of *Landscapes of Retrospection* and *Still Rooms & Excavations*, the subject is not buildings *per se*, but rather the meanings we project onto them or which they come to embody in the course of their sometimes difficult histories. Although the arsenal of curatorial tools for presenting architecture in a museum or gallery setting has recently expanded to include virtual walk-throughs of buildings and other technology-based media, curators’ principal vehicles continue to be drawings, models, and photographs.

As I dutifully waded through *Mies in America* in August, I was struck by how deeply unsatisfying the show was in comparison to the Gehry exhibition and *Mies in Berlin*. There were several reasons for this, not least of which was that this was the fifth architecture exhibition I had seen in a two-day museum blitz and that I was thus suffering a bit of museum fatigue. But the question it prompted was one with which architecture curators grapple each day: How can we represent something whose most notable feature in the exhibition context is its absence? For me, this question is subsumed by the more fundamental one of exactly what it is that we aim to do in a show about architecture. What do we



(continued on next page)

(IN PERSPECTIVE continued from page 4)

want a visitor to know when he or she leaves our galleries? How do we engage our various audiences — the practicing architect, the student, the general museum visitor, the visitor specifically interested in architecture — such that the professional is not bored and the visitor who accidentally happens into our galleries is not frustrated by a visual language he or she does not understand? What exhibition strategies can we employ to achieve this outcome?

The default to models and virtual tours of buildings is greatly tempting (and very expensive) — the former, of course, because they are three-dimensional concretizations of something that in two-dimensional form is abstract, and the latter because they give access to the inner sanctum of what is too often seen only as surface or container. In reflecting on the Gehry exhibition and the Whitney's Mies show, I realized that what made the Gehry show so, well, *exciting* was the profundity and variety of forms of representation and information: drawings of all types, including shop drawings; photographs, both analog and digital; countless massing models, design process models, and presentation models; video tours; graphic and written explanations of the complex engineering and construction of Gehry's recent projects.

If a visitor was impressed by nothing but the forty small maquettes studying a concert hall for the purpose of perfecting its acoustics, he or she will have understood one half of what is to me the central fact of architecture: that it is the *product* of a process. The other half is that architecture is also the *initiator* of a process — the process by which a building comes to have meaning for the people who use it or interact with it, however tangentially. Nudging our visitors toward this realization is the great challenge of organizing an architecture exhibition; successfully meeting the challenge is the even greater reward.

Note: ARCHITECTURE + WATER will be on view at the Heinz Architectural Center from February 9 through May 12, 2002. An abridged version of the Venturi retrospective will come to the Center next November.

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Clarification

In the June issue of Columns, the caption for the photo of the Brodhead Apartments in Beaver stated that Edward Hancock, AIA is the architect. Hancock is working on the exterior of the building while Foreman Architects, Engineers, Inc. completed the design work this past year for the extensive interior renovation.

Upcoming Issues

WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

November – Untraditional Residential Architecture:
A look at urban dwellings, lofts, and converted spaces.
Unusual interior treatments.

December – Design Awards 2001

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Designing for Children and Youth

A Chance to Think Like a Kid Again



Every aspect of the Cyert Center at Carnegie Mellon was viewed as an opportunity to stimulate curiosity and support creative activity. The design team at Perkins Eastman worked closely with the director and teaching staff, observed the children, studied information and attended lectures and exhibits on the Reggio Emilia approach.

It's enough to make you want to be a kid again. From elementary schools to daycare and youth centers, the opportunities to design with kids in mind are plentiful. The results are sometimes bold and colorful, sometimes soothing and therapeutic and in the case of good design, always well conceived to enhance children's development, performance and comfort.

Not to mention sense of fun.

By Tracy Certo

Marsha Poster calls it the third teacher. The physical environment of the Cyert Center for Early Education at Carnegie Mellon University, where Poster is the director, was designed in every measure to be part of the children's educational experience. The rich variety of spaces and surfaces, from textured tiles that invite touch to tiled mirrors that invite reflection, supply elements of discovery, wonder, and—how's this for a concept—just plain fun. What kid could ask for more? This is a world that is touchable, a "yes" environment, with lots of natural light, child-height windows and a central "piazza" for performances and group projects.

Cyert Center, the first in the country to be modeled after the renowned Reggio Emilia teaching philosophy in Italy, is a prime example of how good architecture can enrich a child's experience. In a conference on *children, spaces, relations* held last September at Carnegie Mellon, architect Stefani Danes, AIA of Perkins Eastman Architects PC and project architect for Cyert Center, spoke of the environment as a tool. Light, color, material, smell, sound and microclimate all play a role in helping children to touch, see and explore. To invite discovery, said Danes, "the richness of sensorial material is fundamental."

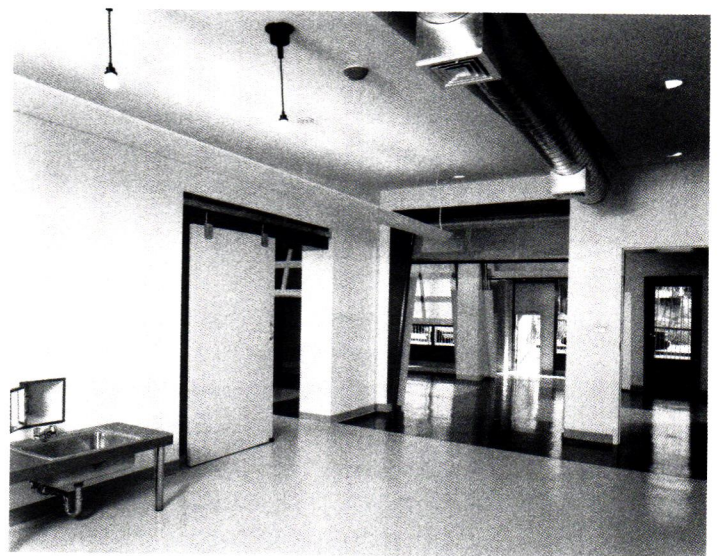
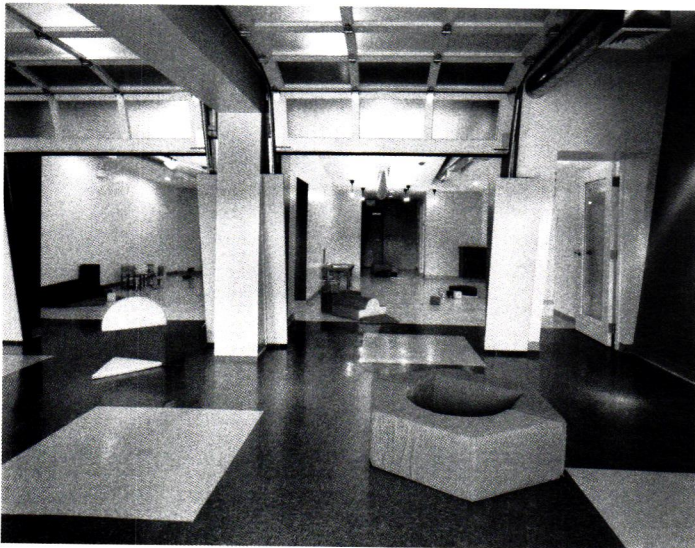
The concept is taking hold in Pittsburgh as other centers and schools, such as the addition and renovation of Shady Lane School at Penn and Braddock, adopt the Reggio Emilia principles. For example, art is a critical and integral part of learning; consequently white walls are utilized for the

display of the many student art projects, says Gary Carlough, AIA of EDGE studio, project architect for the addition of Shady Lane School. Another important element, he adds, is "the layering of spaces to ignite imagination."

In his book, *The Hundred Languages of Children*, author Loris Malaguzzi writes: "We value space because of its power to organize, promote pleasant relationships between people of different ages, create a handsome environment, provide changes, promote choices and activity, and its potential for sparking all kinds of well being and security in children. We also think that the space has to be a sort of aquarium that mirrors the ideas, values, attitudes and cultures of the people who live within it."

Schools are of course, prime candidates for such design concepts. In the introduction to his book, *elementary and secondary schools*, author and architect Brad Perkins, AIA writes that, "there is a growing rediscovery of the fact that the quality of the physical environment has a major role to play in the future of our children's education." Designed as a sourcebook for all essential information an architect needs in designing schools, the book runs the gamut from site planning and codes to different mechanical systems for elementary, and middle and secondary schools.

How the physical environment relates to and can support the learning process is the most important issue for school designers to understand, says Perkins. "A well-designed



Limited budgets for childcare centers mean making the most of space. At the Kelly Street Childcare Center in Homewood, EDGE studio opted for garage doors to provide flexibility in utilizing space. They also offer an element of invention and fun.

PHOTO COPYRIGHT JIM SHAEFER



LEFT: Rocky River Middle School. The design challenge was placing a large institutional building in an established suburb of Cleveland. Selection of building materials, sensitive lighting, roof scape and fenestration all work together to tie the school into the neighborhood context. Hayes Large Architects.

How the physical environment relates to and can support the learning process is the most important issue for school designers to understand, says Perkins. "A well-designed environment can help stimulate and support teaching, whereas a poorly designed school can inhibit learning."

environment can help stimulate and support teaching, whereas a poorly designed school can inhibit learning."

In some cases, that translates to making students feel more secure and comfortable in their environment. That's why some schools are looking less like schools and more like home these days. The design for Hance Elementary School in the Pine Richland School District was formulated from the point of view of a student, according to architect Daniel Engen, Jr., AIA of Eckles Architecture. The theme led to the use of the children's perspective of looking through their bedroom windows. Three neighborhood images are used throughout the school: the shape of a traditional home, the soft waves of chimney smoke and the image of a bedroom window.

The comfort and security elements continued in the design of classrooms that are clustered like bedrooms around a private living space; the library as a home backyard with large shade trees; and the multi-purpose room with its cul-de-sac streetscape theme where "neighbors" play games and socialize.

"Schools have a great impact on the lives of our children," says Jim Thompson, AIA, project manager at Hayes Large Architects. It's a huge commitment on the part of the community in investing in children, he says, "and it becomes a landmark and critical architectural feature of their childhood."

Unlike most elementary schools, middle schools tend to be designed in classroom clusters for the team concept and different teachers. It makes for a transitional environment as students leave the comfort and security of a single classroom in elementary school, says Thompson. "Historically, schools have been similar to the point of being formulaic. Today the educational program issues are much more complex and more customized to the specific grade level and community."

For a new middle school in Bay Village, Ohio, "The overwhelming majority of our time on that project has been spent addressing the program issues of a modern middle school," says Thompson. (See School Trends) In this case, the school is beautifully sited, overlooking Lake Erie. To effectively tie the largest building (two football fields long) in the community into the single-family residential neighborhood, classic forms were employed in the design, along with materials found in the nearby houses, such as brick and shingled roofs.

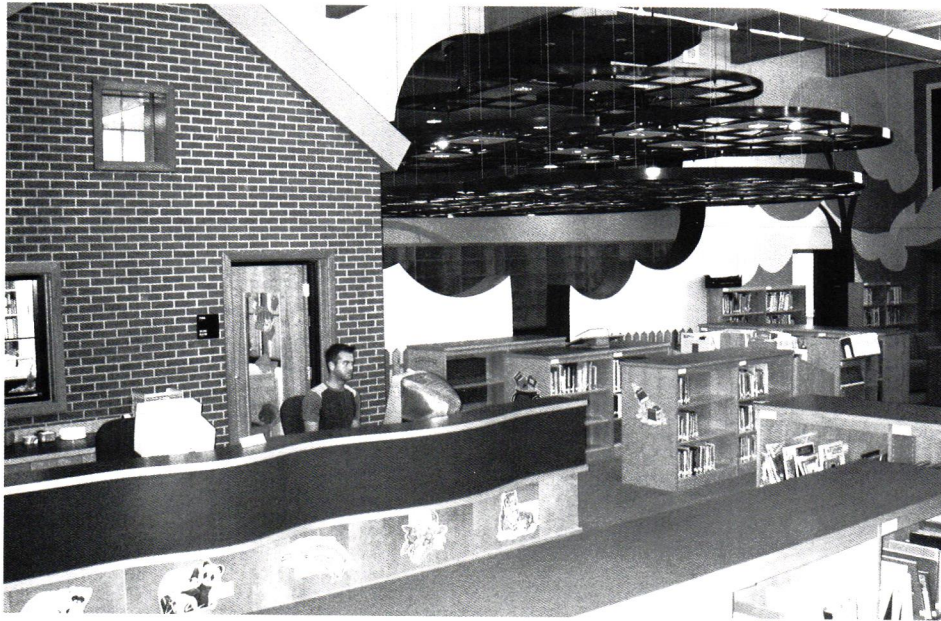
The Building (and Re-Building) of American Schools

Question: What generates the single major source of fee income for the profession, according to the AIA?

Answer: Public school construction, which exceeded \$17 billion in 1998.

As Brad Perkins, AIA points out in his book, *elementary and secondary education*, "The General Accounting Office estimated in 1996 that it will take \$112 billion to return existing facilities to good overall condition and bring them into compliance with federal mandates. Moreover, it is estimated that one-third of the nation's schools require extensive repair or replacement, and 60 percent have at least one major building component in need of major repair."

Other factors are fueling the growth of school construction, among them a surge in population expected to continue through 2007, and the evolving nature of K-12 education. "As of the year 2000, many schools must accommodate a broader curriculum, reduced class sizes, and more special programs, such as preschool, special education, and English as a second language, as well as new technology," cites the author. "All of these developments have generated the need for significant additions to and reconfigurations of existing facilities. Schools constitute one of the building types whose built environment has a direct impact on the quality of the functions they accommodate — in this case, teaching, learning and related activities."



LEFT: Neighborhood images can be found throughout Hance Elementary School in Pine Richland Twp. The library is designed as a home backyard with a large shade tree for telling stories underneath.

Special Needs Children

If schools are prime candidates for design impacting children and development, so are medical facilities for obvious reasons. Pittsburgh boasts a unique facility in Child's Way, a pediatric extended care facility for rehabilitation to support medically fragile children up to age three. The facility is a joint project of the Children's Home of Pittsburgh and the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh. Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates was the architect firm with Project Manager Bruce Knepper, AIA and Project Designer Jill Swensen, AIA.

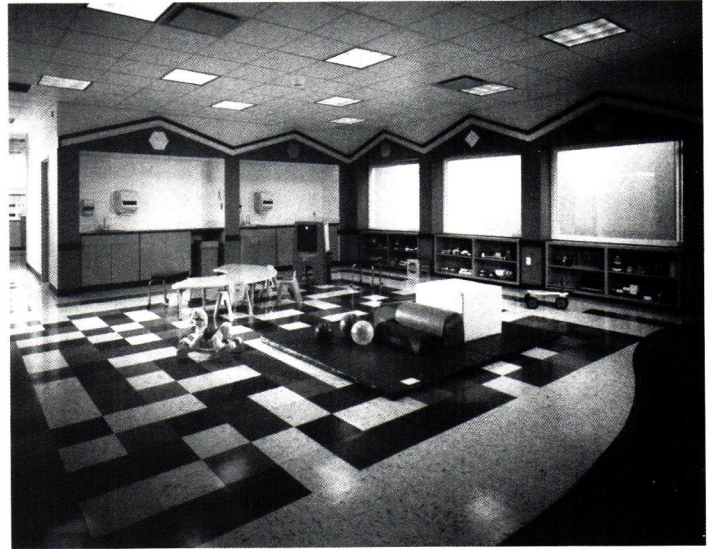
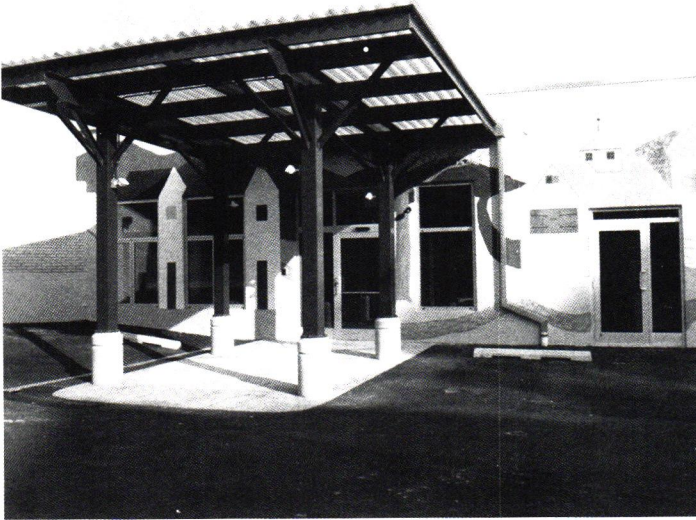
From a concrete monolithic structure, an aging 6,000 sf two-level warehouse with a hockey stick shaped footprint, the design challenge was to create an environment with a hospital infrastructure as well as a stimulating and enriching setting for the children. Every detail of the design was chosen with young children in mind, note the architects.

The Child Therapy Area on the second floor is broken into two rooms, one for rest and one for play. An exam/treatment room fitted with essential medical equipment is inbetween the two rooms, isolating medical care so other children are shielded from it. Color and shape played essential roles in the development and playfulness of the Child Therapy Area. Doors were painted different colors, for instance, to help children identify places and function. And because children spend so much time

Emerging Trends in School Construction

An excerpt from *elementary and secondary schools* by Bradford Perkins, AIA

- Larger classrooms: to accommodate a more multidisciplinary approach to learning.
- Lifelong learning: adults going back to school to update and expand knowledge.
- Smaller high schools: large high schools will be broken up into more intimate units along the lines of "houses" in colleges and boarding schools.
- Extended school hours to realize 24-hour benefit from a costly facility.
- Security as a key design factor.
- More stringent promotion and graduation standards.
 - To lure good teachers as shortages affect areas, school plants and teaching technology must be made more attractive.
 - As voucher programs and other policy changes spur schools to compete for top students, the quality of their environments will be raised to entice students and parents.
- With energy crises always on the horizon and "green" issues drawing sizable groups of citizens to their cause, schools will integrate sustainable design to accommodate their concerns.
- Flexibility will be built into the schools to allow for changes in curricula and teaching technology.
- High-profile philanthropists, such as Bill Gates, are giving large sums to support public school systems, mainly in inner-city districts and aimed chiefly at state of the art learning equipment and technology. It will inevitably serve to enhance the impact of freshly conceived physical facilities.



Pittsburgh has a unique facility in Child's Way, a pediatric extended care facility for rehabilitation to support medically fragile children up to age three. At Child's Way, the design challenge was to create an environment with a hospital infrastructure as well as a stimulating and enriching setting for the children. Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

on the floor, a radiant floor heating system was added for greater comfort.

At the new pediatric suite at St. Clair Hospital, a tiled floor featuring different patterns and colors not only helps break the monotony and intimidation of a long, scary hospital corridor, but it also helps children identify which room is theirs.

Museums and children's centers are other candidates for thoughtful design with children's development in mind. The Pittsburgh Children's Museum, for instance is a place where children "learn, play and create" and where their innate joy, creativity and curiosity is nurtured. As previously reported in *Columns*, much time and effort has been devoted to the new design for the upcoming Pittsburgh Children's Center.

After School Places

What about older children? Where do youth, ages 13 to 18, get together outside of school? For most kids, options are limited — which is why Word of Life, a church in Greensburg, PA, insisted on a teen space when designing a community center.

"They were driven by their ministry to youth and the community in Greensburg," says Kevin Hayes, president of Hayes Design Group, project architects.

The Youth Café, which will feature videogames, pool tables, booths and serving counters, is in a 3,000 sf dedicated space. It's part of a gathering building for the church which includes a worship hall that can be easily converted after services to a gymnasium for physical recreation. It is expected to be completed by the first of the year.

The Fun Element

With the sense of play evoked in designing for children, is it more fun to design for the youngest set? There is certain liberation in designing for children, says Gary Carlough, who has been involved in three projects for children. "You allow yourself to think like a kid. The codes don't allow you to do that entirely but yes, you do get to play around a bit." Codes tend to be very particular where children are involved. There is a distinction, for instance, for the age group two and a half years and under who are not capable of exiting buildings themselves. "They don't have to be constraints," Carlough says of the codes some find restrictive. Instead, he says they "can direct the opportunity in designing the space."

Carlough, clearly enthusiastic about designing for children, notes that the clients are a plus. "Their attitude about the world is very optimistic. They tend to be very wonderful to work with," he says. He adds quickly and with a laugh that certainly all his other clients are, too.

“Schools have a great impact on the lives of our children,” says Jim Thompson, AIA, project manager at Hayes Large Architects. It’s a huge commitment on the part of the community in investing in children, he says, “and it becomes a landmark and critical architectural feature of their childhood.”

Pioneer Middle School, Pittsburgh

The City of Pittsburgh just built its first new school in a quarter of a century (with the second new school, CAPA, under construction). Pioneer Middle School incorporates the goals of the district’s technology program: each classroom is equipped with six computer stations and the computer resource room accommodates 30 computer stations.

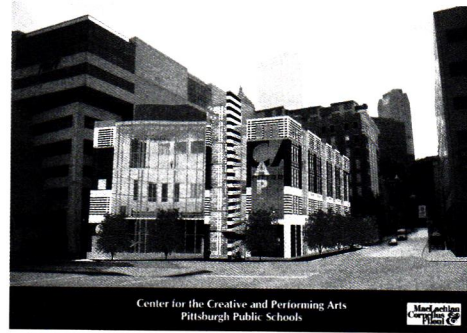
Designed by Radelet McCarthy, Inc., the completion of Pioneer Middle School in August 2001, created a campus with the existing West Liberty School (formerly a middle school, now an elementary) and the Pioneer Education Center, a school for severely physically handicapped students. The connection of the middle school to the special education building allows for shared programs and multiple use of spaces, one of the many elements of flexibility built into the design.

Radelet McCarthy Principal Janet McCarthy notes that classrooms are organized in pods of six that surround a student “commons” area. This design element is based on research that shows the smaller the group, the higher the student performance. It allows for group identity on a smaller than building-wide scale, according to McCarthy.

In addition, the various shapes of classrooms accommodate a range of furniture arrangement for different ages and different programs. The school also has a full-size gym, designed with a separate area for community use during off-school hours, and a traditional as well as a non-traditional computer resource lab.

Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School

The riverside façade of the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA) features a six-story glass wall to showcase the dance studio, orchestra rehearsal hall, and the black box theater. A seven-story leaning patterned wall and glass block stair tower act as a theater marquee. The dramatic curved glass

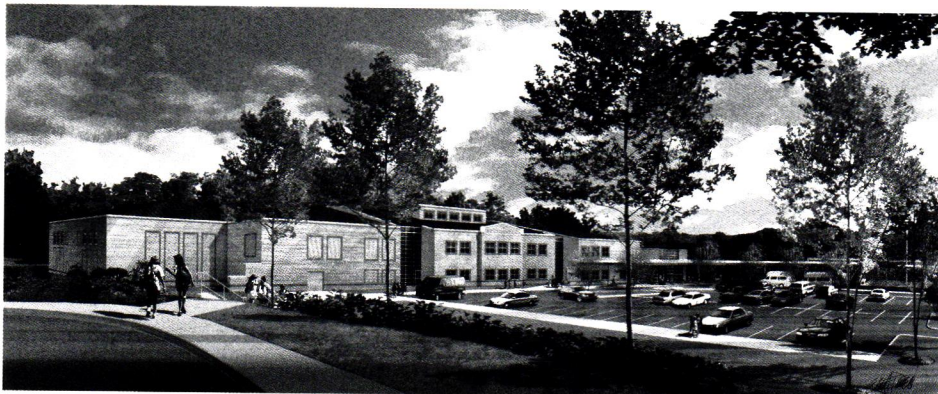


walls not only opens the school to the Allegheny River, but also allows the students to turn the interior spaces into a dramatic exhibit for the City.

Principal-in-Charge: Albert L. Filoni, AIA, President and Project Manager; Kenneth K. Lee, AIA, Vice President of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Architects, Inc.

Other design elements to enhance student performance include:

- Maximized daylighting opportunities both in teaching and public spaces: research shows that daylight enhances student achievement.
- Round tables in cafeterias instead of long rectangular tables which encourage shouting aid in noise control.
- Mild, more soothing colors for classrooms to help students better concentrate with bolder colors for more active areas such as cafeteria and hallways.
- An entryway that sets the tone for the students upon arrival.



The new Pioneer School for the City of Pittsburgh incorporates many of the trends in school design, including elements to enhance student performance such as maximum daylighting, use of color to calm or enliven spaces and various shapes of classrooms to accommodate a range of programs. Illustration by Ed Dumont.

Shanghied to Nanjing

Story and photos by John Missell, AIA

While packing up my equipment for a presentation I made last fall to an international schools conference in Europe, my wife, Judy, was busy speaking to the workshop attendees. She wanted me to meet one in particular, the director of an international school in the Peoples Republic of China. Originally from Britain, the brilliant and colorful educator and I shared a brief conversation about school planning and the challenges facing contemporary learning facilities in a third world culture. He asked for my e-mail which I gave to him, and then bid us goodbye.

Over the course of the next several months, we struck up a conversation electronically, which evolved into a serious professional dialogue. The upshot? The board of trustees invited my wife and I to Nanjing to assist the Nanjing International School. The project entailed the planning and preparation of a new K-12 school for expatriots from all over the world involved in long-term business contracts in the Peoples Republic of China.

We jumped in not knowing what to expect. With the typical contingent of children, dogs, lizards and busy lives we made swift arrangements for visas as well as babysitters and pet care for two weeks abroad. Twenty-one hours and three planes later, we arrived in Shanghai.

With a population of more than 20 million, Shanghai at 1:00 in the morning was strangely silent, officious and



solemn. Our first view of the city's sights was impressive: the airport is a stunning piece of contemporary architecture and engineering. The airport personnel and police were young, courteous and serious moving the large 747 crowd through customs. With our driver waiting, we collapsed into the van for a three-hour drive west to Nanjing, the historic southern Capital city along the banks of the famous Yangzee River.

We were courteously deposited at the Dingshan Garden Hotel in Nanjing where a beautiful suite was prepared. My internal clock was so screwed up that I was ready for work even though we were exhausted. The next morning, breakfast was arranged with the school board at the hotel coffee shop. We met people from Belgium, Denver, France, Germany, Great Britain and New Zealand, all anxious to get started with this American architect who could help them with their ambitious school plans. By the end of breakfast, I was ready to go back to sleep — but there was much to do. We fought off the jet lag and toured the existing school in rented facilities outgrown long ago. Then we toured Nanjing. The city of four million is the home of Sun Yat Sen, the provisional capital of Chiang Kai-Chek and the Koumantang who briefly conspired with Mao to fend off the Japanese before retreating to Taiwan. It has a balmy





Most notable and awe inspiring was the ongoing and recently completed construction underway in Nanjing on almost every city block — literally billions and billions of dollars of construction by the Peoples Republic of China, the local government and foreign investment. This was not the third world country we expected.

sub tropical climate and magnificent tree-lined boulevards with trees arching over the streets from each side creating an eerie, other world feeling.

Most notable and awe inspiring was the ongoing and recently completed construction underway in Nanjing on almost every city block — literally billions and billions of dollars of construction by the Peoples Republic of China, the local government and foreign investment. This was not the third world country we expected. Instead, we saw new chemical processing plants, hotels, schools, housing, a children's dramatic and cultural arts center, beautiful new parks and handsomely restored old treasures — acres of recreational facilities for Nanjing.

We stopped at an outdoor marketplace, approximately one-third the size of the central business district of Pittsburgh. It was brimming with small shops specializing in teapots, knock off designer clothes, chops, ivory, art, and live chickens, fish, snakes, dogs and birds — not to mention spices, silk and tiny restaurants and cafes. Thousands of healthy, happy people were smiling and staring at the "foreign devils" awed by their most interesting culture. The people, who are very open, loved the fact that Judy and I were Americans. Although we couldn't directly communicate we found all sorts of ways to get a message across — even if it was a smile and a look expressing friendship and goodwill.

While I did my workshops with faculty and staff the following days, Judy, a RN and health professional, toured the city and visited one of over 40 orphanages in Nanjing alone. She witnessed first hand the sad truth of the plight of little girls in the Peoples Republic of China and the social and long term cultural effects of the one child policy. In some provinces, the ratio of boys to girls is so disproportionate that some predict serious long-term social consequences for family life.

Together, we toured the serene and beautiful area of Souzou and its many gardens and temples along the expansive Lake Tai. I was able to get a sense of traditional Chinese proportioning in architecture, their building tradition (at least in the Eastern Provinces) and the exquisite role of the Chinese garden in ceremony and in day to day life.



The ancient water village of Shoushu was breathtaking: Venice-like canals of shops and residences culminated in an ochre and vermilion Buddhist temple complex. It boasted rivers and ponds and handsomely crafted stone bridges accented by barberries, junipers and hollyhocks. Beautiful.

Back at the ranch (Nanjing International School), I met with officials of the Chinese Communist Party, representatives of the City planning and regional development offices, and local architects to intercede on behalf of my client on the issues of zoning, subsurface investigations and environmental review. Most fascinating was a conversation (of course with all the requisite contingent of interpreters) with two Chinese architects. We got so frustrated with the interpreters that we went into the school and found a marker board then sketched wall sections and laughed ourselves silly with our groping attempts to find common ground and my understanding of how "they do it in China".

I returned to Hayes Large Architects with a great project to design and unforgettable memories of a culture that has one foot in the 19th century and one in the 21st. The sad 20th century, "the great leap forward", "the cultural revolution" and the huge dislocation of native Chinese was a great mistake. Today, the Chinese are eager to move on, their own way, and join the world community as a leader in the Pacific.

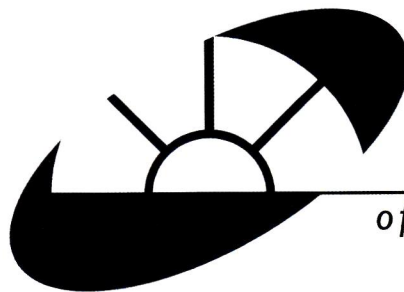
John A. Missell, AIA is a partner in the firm of Hayes Large Architects, with offices in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Altoona, State College, Harrisburg and Leesburg, Virginia.

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From the Firms

→ **Ruprecht Schroeder Hoffman Architects** was selected to design the Mt. Oliver Elderly Housing Hi-Rise Apartments, a 30-unit, four-story building in Mt. Oliver, PA. Repal Construction Co., Inc. is the general contractor.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design recently completed a renovation project for the Westmoreland County Community College at their Indiana, PA campus in White Township, Indiana County. The project consisted of the renovation of a former state police barracks into 8,000 square feet of new classrooms, office space and future expansion area. Project architect was **Scott Womack, AIA**.

Valentour English Bodnar & Howell, Registered Architects, designed the new Cardiology Diagnostic Center at Forbes Regional Hospital in Monroeville.

Valentour English Bodnar & Howell also designed the recently completed pediatrics suite at St. Clair Hospital, serving the needs of patients from the age of six months to 18 years.

General Industries is the contractor for the new Washington Community Federal Credit Union building which just broke ground in the Meadowlands, PA. Woods Associates is the architect.

Repal Construction Co, Inc. has been awarded the contract for a 6,000 square foot Panera Bread Store in the South Park Shops in Bethel Park. The architect is Phillips/Sekanick Architects of Warren, Ohio.

Business Briefs

→ **Perfido Weiskopf Architects** announced the appointment of Sergei Matveiev to the firm. He is a Pittsburgh native, a graduate of Taylor Allderidge High School and a 1997 graduate of Tulane University. His special interest areas are performing arts and cultural facilities.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design announced the hiring of two new staff members: Schewanda Russell, a 1989 graduate of Tuskegee University School of Architecture, has been hired as an intern architect. John N. Frizzi, PE has been hired as an electrical engineer.

Renaissance 3 Architects, P.C., announced two new additions to their staff: Sanela Bajramovic as interior designer and Arati Kirtikar as an intern project architect.

Hornfeck Engineering, Inc. Consulting Electrical Engineers recently named Nicholas DeJames, Jr. as vice president; Ben F. Walker, P.E. has retired as a principal after 34 years

of service and is now a consulting engineer; Richard E. Kraus, Jr. joined the firm as senior electrical designer, Michael J. Pschirer as electrical designer and Diane L. Venaleck assumes the position of secretary/receptionist.

John J. Wilhelm, owner and managing principal of Dynamic Design Engineering, Inc. announced the following promotions: James M. Vizzini, Matthew R. Sotosky, and Rodney A. Wolfe as principals.

Climatech announced the opening of a new sales and service center at One Northgate Square in Greensburg. The HVAC company has an office in Pittsburgh.

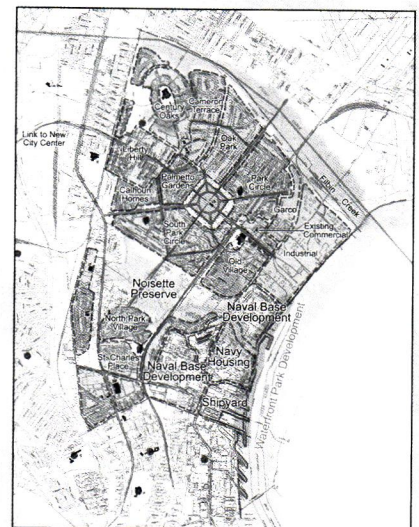
Kudos

→ **Burt Hill Kosar**

Rittelmann Associates have

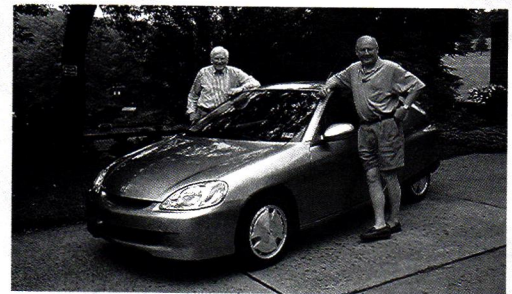
been named master planners for the largest and most comprehensive urban redevelopment project in the country in North Charleston, South Carolina with clearly established goals to showcase long-term sustainability. The project is named "Noisette" for famed French botanist Phillippe Noisette, whose name also graces a saltwater creek that runs through the heart of the area. The 2,800-acre project will

include a three-quarter mile waterfront park at a former Naval Base on the Cooper River, a connecting 200+-acre urban park surrounding Noisette Creek, 7,000 new housing units, 3,000 rehabilitated housing units, and six to eight million square feet of commercial and retail space.



To help share the message of sustainable living with their colleagues, two veteran **Burt Hill** architects have just completed a 1,400-mile

tour of the firm's five eastern U.S. offices. Rather than racking up frequent flyer miles, however, **Alva Hill, AIA** and **Frank McCurdy, AIA** made the trip in McCurdy's electric Honda Insight, an ultra-



(continued on page 17)

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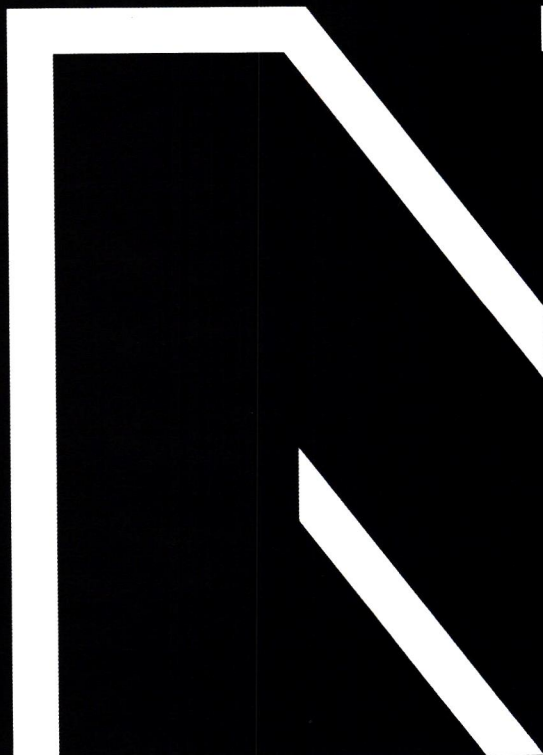
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(BREAKING GROUND continued from page 15)

low-emission vehicle that also boasts high mileage. In each of the five stops, Hill and McCurdy met with staff, shared anecdotes from Burt Hill's early days, and viewed the innovative work that is currently underway firm wide. Along the way, they averaged 60 miles per gallon, or better. "While we felt a bit as though we were preaching to the choir," says McCurdy, "we wanted to reinforce the message that sustainable living begins with a personal commitment to make responsible consumer decisions and interact positively with the environment." Alva Hill, who joined the firm of Howard & Murphy in 1952 and whose name was adopted when the firm became Burt Hill & Associates in 1968, is now retired, but maintains a keen interest in its growth. Frank McCurdy, who is partially retired from the firm, has enjoyed an illustrious 40-year career including stints as national director of design for Henningson Durham Richardson (HDR) and design principal for Hellmuth Obata Kassabaum (HOK). Both are graduates of Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University.

Bruce Knepper, AIA and **Scott Hazlett, AIA** both of **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** have achieved the status of "board certified" and were recently named as founding members of the American College of Healthcare Architects.



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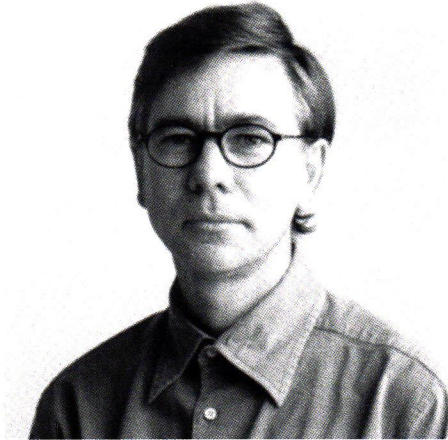
McMurray, PA 724-941-4800 Contact:
 Rt.19 South • Donaldson's Crossroads David Alderson
 or Chris Peters

Wexford, PA 724-933-3220 Contact:
 Perry Hwy. (Rt.19) • across from Wright Jett Sanner or
 Warren Terhorst

Design Pittsburgh 2001

Hank Koning, FAIA

Design Awards Lead Juror



Hank Koning, FAIA, will be the Lead Juror for this year's AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards. Mr. Koning is Principal of Koning Eizenberg Architecture, an award-winning Santa Monica-based architecture and planning firm.

His experience includes design of the 25th Street Studio in Santa Monica; Electric ArtBlock housing in Venice; and Simone Hotel, a single room residency hotel on Skid Row, in Los Angeles.

Many of Koning Eizenberg Architecture's buildings have won multiple awards and have been published in architectural and general interest publications in the U.S. and abroad. Also, the firm recently won The Pittsburgh Children's Museum Competition and the Chicago Public Schools Design Competition.

Mr. Koning and two colleagues will jury entries and offer their comments at the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards on November 1 at the USX Tower Theater.

Architects' Saturday

Touring South Side Firms

Architects' Saturday, sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture, offers a unique occasion for the public to learn about the work and workspaces of Pittsburgh's architecture and design community. This year's tour on Saturday, October 13 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm features six firms on Pittsburgh's South Side:

Gardner + Pope Architects
Hanson Design Group, Ltd.
LaQuatra Bonci Associates
Lynch & Associates, Architects
Renaissance 3 Architects
The CCI Center

From a renovated convent to a former drugstore, the firms' offices are great examples of how buildings can be effectively adapted and reused.

Photo Forum Gallery

An Exhibit at USX Tower

This year, firms entering AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards will receive an additional opportunity to gain recognition for their work. The 40" x 40" boards representing entries in this year's awards program will be displayed at the Photo Forum Gallery, located in USX Tower, from October 8 through October 12 and October 29 through November 1.

The exhibit is an excellent opportunity for firms to show their work to the business community. Centrally located in USX Tower's lobby, the Photo Forum Gallery is accessible to the general public and 9,000 employees who work in the building.

Entries will also be displayed at the Carnegie Museum of Art from October 15 through October 25.

Teresa Heinz

A Special Award at the Gala

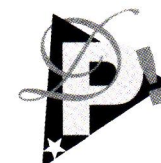


For the first time, AIA Pittsburgh Board of Directors will award a Gold Medal to a community leader who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of quality architectural design.

Teresa Heinz will make a special appearance at the Design Pittsburgh Gala on October 23 at Carnegie Museum of Art. She will be honored for her efforts in promoting the importance of sustainable design and raising national awareness of Pittsburgh as a leading center for green building and architectural design.

For More Information...

...about Design Pittsburgh events, please visit AIA Pittsburgh's website at www.AIAPGH.org or call 412 471-9548.



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*Continuing
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October 11, Thursday **Universal Design Workshop**

This seminar will discuss the new ADAG guidelines, universal design, retrofitting old structures with new accessibility and new voice and light activated interior features.

Sheraton Station Square 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
\$100 first registration, \$75 second registration from same firm. After October 8th the cost is \$125.00.
To register or for information call 412-471-9548.

4 H/S/W L.U.s

Please send your information to the attention of Joan Kubancek, AIA Pittsburgh, 211 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or fax it to Joan at 412/471-9501. The deadline for inclusion is normally six weeks prior to publication. If you would like information describing qualified continuing education programs, please call the AIA office at 412-471-9548.

AIA Pittsburgh is using e-mail to keep our members informed of the chapter's activities. If you would like to be included and are a member, please send your address to aiaiphg@sgi.net.

AIA ACTIVITIES

October 5, Friday

Communications Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

October 8, Monday

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

October 9, Tuesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

October 18, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 724-452-9690.

October 24, Wednesday

AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture, Contact Ed Shriver, AIA, 263-3800.

Design Pittsburgh 2001!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 2 Boards due by 5:00 p.m.

October 8 – 12 Entries will be displayed at Photo Forum Gallery in USX Tower

October 13 Architects' Saturday
Tour South Side offices of architects and other members of the design community.

October 15 – 25 Entries will be displayed at Carnegie Museum of Art Hall of Architecture

October 23 Design Pittsburgh Gala at the Carnegie Museum of Art Hall of Architecture

October 29 – November 1 Entries will be displayed at the Photo Forum Gallery in USX Tower

November 1 Jury critique and presentation of awards at the USX Theater in the USX Tower

2 C O L U M N S

AROUND TOWN

October 5, Friday

ASLA Third Annual Western Golf Outing. The Links at Spring Church, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. For more information call 412-374-9996.

October 6-7

ULI Pittsburgh Symposium on Sustainable Design. For information go to ULI.org

October 9, Tuesday

CSI Meeting: Golf Course Design. Greentree Holiday Inn, social at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. \$20. Contact Deborah Merges at 724-375-2113 or dmerg@home.com by October 5 for reservations.

October 10, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators. Suzie McConnell-Serio will speak on Managing Life's Balancing Act. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch \$17 members; \$19.50 non-members. Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337

October 13, Saturday

ASLA House and Garden Tour at Kentucky Knob and Fallingwater at 11:30 a.m. For more information call 412-374-9996.

November 1, Thursday

AIA Middle PA Chapter Symposium
A daylong symposium, **Addressing Changes in the Architectural and Engineering Fields**, in Toitrees, State College. There will be two seminars; one on architecture and one on engineering and vendors will be on site to discuss new materials and building systems. For information call Marsha Nee at 814-943-7979 or e-mail her at event@nb.net.

November 27, Tuesday

ULI Pittsburgh session on Brain Power and Real Estate. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Rivers Club. For information go to ULI.org

Through January 6

Perfect Acts of Architecture at HAC. During the 1970s and '80s, a group of talented young architects created a radical, visionary "paper architecture" that redefined the role and nature of architectural drawing. These "perfect acts of architecture" launched Peter Eisenman, FAIA, Rem Koolhaas, Daniel Libeskind, Thom Mayne, AIA, and Bernard Tschumi, AIA to the forefront of a new conceptual architecture. At The Heinz Architectural Center.

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FIRM: Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck Architecture

HOBBIES: Slowly renovating my 100-year-old home in the Friendship neighborhood and camping, especially backpacking with my friends and Boy Scout Troop 284.

YEARS IN PRACTICE: Seven, not counting the years helping out with family home renovation projects.

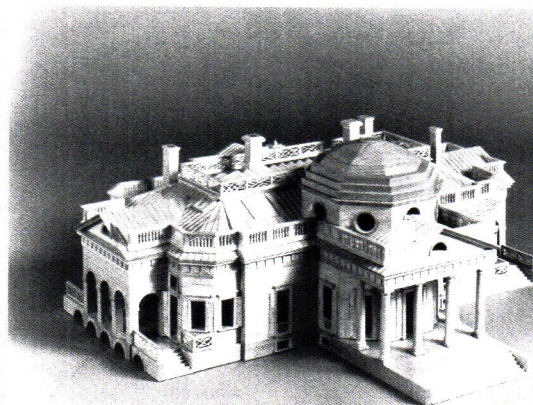
EDUCATION: B. Arch, Carnegie Mellon University

FIRST JOB: Data entry for Castle Keepers cleaning service using an IBM Portable computer. I have been working on computers since my father brought home our first computer, a Radio Shack TRS-80 Model 1.

FAVORITE BUILDING: Any of my projects that are completed on schedule and within the budget. Especially those projects where the client is satisfied and appreciates the value that we brought to the project. If I were to choose a more widely known building it would be the courtyard of the Salk Institute by Louis Kahn. It is both beautiful to behold and innovatively functional for the period in which it was designed.

SOME DAY I'D LIKE TO: "through hike" the Appalachian Trail both for the physical and mental challenge as well as for the opportunity for contemplation and reflection.

WHY DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH DESIGN PITTSBURGH: I became involved with the design awards to encourage a broad group of firms to present a diverse selection of projects to the Pittsburgh community, to showcase the talents of Pittsburgh architects and to promote the value of good design.



A model of Monticello constructed by the students in the Model Making in Wood class at Carnegie Mellon University for the Heinz Architectural Center. This was one of the first projects Bruce worked on that required the efforts of a dedicated team.

CONTRACTORS' DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF AREA CONTRACTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. To include your firm in this directory, call AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548.

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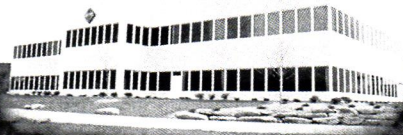
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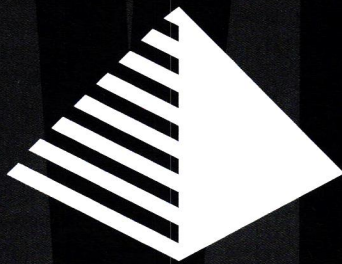
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