

COLUMNS

Vol. 2, No. 2

American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter

February, 1988

PITTSBURGH HOSTS REMAKING CITIES

By David Lewis, FAIA

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA will host an international forum March 2-5, 1988. Remaking Cities has been convened by the AIA and the Royal Institute of British Architects to strategize on the future of older industrial cities in the wake of the decline of traditional industries like steel, shipbuilding and textiles.

Pittsburgh was chosen as the most appropriate site in the United States for this meeting because of its extraordinary self-transformation from a dirty, polluted, heavy industry city into America's #1 most livable metropolitan area.

Pittsburgh has been fortunate. While other cities have experienced huge disinvestments by the companies that made fortunes in them, Pittsburgh has retained the leadership and commitment of its corporations. The public

and private sectors have worked well together here, and the result is a role model for other United States and European cities.

Remaking Cities will bring together some of the finest minds from Britain and the United States as plenary speakers, workshop leaders and panelists. Among these will be internationally recognized bankers, politicians, economists, developers, and environmentalists.

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, has been a consistent advocate for new and comprehensive approaches to rebuilding cities. He has enthusiastically agreed to be the honorary chairman of Remaking Cities, and to come to Pittsburgh to give the forum's concluding address.

[For a preview of Remaking Cities, please turn to page 8.]



Flying Solo

This is the first in a series of occasional forums which tries to capture the flavor of the architectural profession as it is practiced in and around Pittsburgh.

The Question: Could you describe your work as a solo practitioner? What are the plus and minus sides? The challenges and the limitations? The size and complexity of your projects?

Donald Liss, AIA, Wellbe Design: I have always enjoyed the challenge of doing the whole job, from picking up the telephone at the very beginning through having the client happy with a completed project. As a sole practitioner, I have the freedom to do that. I especially enjoy the business development aspect which in a large practice is separate from the design process.

But the negatives exist with the positives. Coming from a large firm, I never worried where the next job would come from; there was a preponderance of work and long, long hours. Here, you juggle. It's easy to get buried in a project and forget that you need to be out looking for your next job at the same time. There's a discipline you need to develop when you're on your own. Time management is more critical.

(Continued on page 12)

The Prince Is the Key



"The Prince of Wales is perhaps the only head of state who speaks out on the quality of the inner city," says David Lewis, the driving force behind Remaking Cities. His Royal Highness is involved in the issues and concerns of ordinary people and how they live their lives in the modern city. In his pursuit of understanding how cities work, Prince

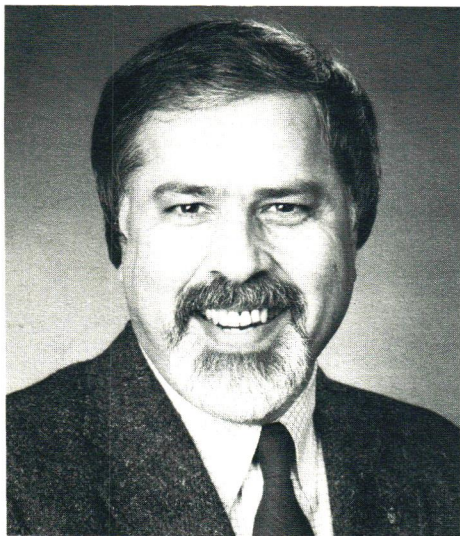
Charles traveled to the United States in November of 1985 for a seminar at the National AIA Headquarters in Washington. He brought with him several questions of mutual concern to our two countries.

- How do community development organizations and not-for-profit groups work to give people a voice in the shaping of their environments?
- How do we "gentrify" our historic neighborhoods without relocating the poor?
- How do we get public and private funding sources to work together?
- What techniques work best to foster citizen involvement in urban planning and design?

Nine participants, including David Lewis of UDA Architects and Charles Redmon of Cambridge Seven, met with the Prince for an hour in Washington. From that meeting, Lewis "caught the gem of an idea. . ." to pull together the finest minds on both sides of the Atlantic to discuss strategies for improving the quality of life in industrial cities. And so it has grown and developed, but Prince Charles was the key. He brought together the right people with the right questions at the right time. We hope that his presence here will be a catalyst for implementing the recommendations of the conference.

BREAKING GROUND

Members on the Move



Syl Damianos, FAIA, recently took office as a National AIA Vice President, heading the Design Commission.

Almost before he can assume his current duties, however, Damianos has been nominated for another office, First Vice President of the National AIA. If elected in May at the National Meeting in New York, Damianos would serve as First VP in 1989 and as AIA President in 1990.

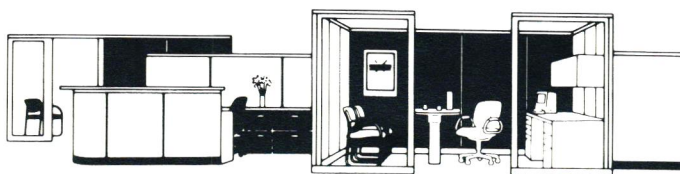


Steve George, AIA, was installed as *President of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects on January 1 for a one year term. He has ended his tenure as Director of Aviation, and has assumed a new position, Director for Airport Area Development. His new office is temporarily located at 1 Thorn Run Center, Coraopolis, 264-4422.*



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Transitions

Jerry Gzesh and Ivan Santa-Cruz announce the incorporation of Gzesh Santa-Cruz Schointuch, the successor firm to J. Gzesh Associates with offices in Pittsburgh and Baltimore. Principals are Jerry Gzesh, AIA and Ivan Santa-Cruz, AIA, (Pittsburgh) and Richard L. Schointuch, AIA, (Baltimore). Local offices are at 1130 Oliver Building downtown. Telephone: 281-1414.

Schafer and Slowik has announced the retirement of Alvin F. Schafer. The firm will continue as W.D. Slowik & Associates under the direction of Mr. Slowik. Offices are at 806 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, 15237.

Business Briefs

Dorin and Mijlin Associates, a local architecture and interior design firm, has opened a showroom for **Techline** furniture systems at 501 Freeport Road near the Waterworks Shopping Center. The firm is the local representative for Techline, a versatile system of modular components for custom-look commercial and residential installations, including kitchens and baths. The showroom is open to both the contract and retail trades. Techline components are designed and manufactured by Marshall Erdman Associates, an architectural firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Architects and designers will be invited to a Grand Opening reception planned for early February. For more information, call 781-3151.

Allegheny Millwork, a manufacturer of custom cabinetry, casework, wood mouldings and architectural woodwork since 1979, is moving to the old MacIntosh Hemphill Steel Company building at Muriel and the 10th Street Bridge on the Southside.

The **Ceco Corporation** has moved the concrete construction division of its Pittsburgh district offices from Greentree to Verona. Ceco, headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, is the nation's largest structural concrete construction company. Local district manager is Fred Swearingen, Jr.

In Print

The National Roofing Contractors Association and the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association have issued a **Joint Technical Bulletin** concerning in-service R-Values for polyisocyanurate and polyurethane roof insulation boards.

The Bulletin recommends that designers of roofing systems use an R-Value of 5.6 per inch of foam thickness as a reasonable guide when calculating thermal resistance for polyisocyanurate and polyurethane insulation boards over their normal life in a roofing system. MRCA strongly supports this recommendation, and urges all architects, engineers and design specifiers to adopt this standard when

designing a roofing system using one of these insulations.

For the complete analysis, you may request a copy of the bulletin by calling the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA at 471-9548.

Babcock Lumber Company has announced the publication of "Tools Tips and Techniques," a new technical bulletin on Corian and Formica fabrication and use of proper tools. Written by Vince Tramonti, Babcock's Fabrication Technician, the bulletin is available free of charge by calling Glen Dowd, 351-3515.

The Department of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University has published a twelve page catalog of research articles and conference papers available for general purchase. Topics include Computer Aided Design, Science of Design, Architectural Education, Building Performance and Project Management. For a copy, call Liz Fox, Research Administrator, 268-2353.

Here and There



IKM's renovation of the State Office Building is more than a "facelift." In addition to the new curtainwall, an emergency generator and emergency lighting have been added, the HVAC system has been upgraded, and improvements will be made to the main lobby and plaza. Contractor Elwin G. Smith will soon begin work on the low two-story portion of the building.

Kudos

The Board of Directors of the **Charitable Association** of the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA presented its \$1500 Scholarship award to **Gregory A. Smith**, a final year student at Florida A & M University. Greg, of 36 Iroquois Drive, Pittsburgh, received the award at the January membership meeting.

Congratulations and best of luck!

Call for Entries

Pennsbury Manor, a Colonial Revival reconstruction of the 17th century county seat of William Penn, will hold a competition to select the architect for an addition to the visitor center and major alterations to the present facility. The competition is open only to architects registered in Pennsylvania with in-state offices or residences. Applicants may register through February 15 by contacting Pennsbury Manor, 400 Pennsbury Memorial Road, Morrisville, Pa. 19067. Entries are due May 23; awards will be announced May 27.

Cash prizes totalling \$2500 will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in the **1988 AIA Architectural Photography Competition**, organized by the St. Louis Chapter in cooperation with the National AIA. Members of the American Institute of Architects may submit photos of any architectural subject or some element of the man-built environment to: St. Louis Chapter AIA, 911 Washington Avenue, St. Louis MO, 63101, 314/621-3484. (Call for details.) Winning photos will be exhibited at the National Convention in New York, May 15-18 and will be published in *Architecture* magazine.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we go to press this month, all eyes are on March and the International Conference, Remaking Cities. We hope that our cover story and center spread preview will whet your appetite for coming attractions, and that you will take part in this important milestone for both the Chapter and the city of Pittsburgh. On page nine we will tell you how you can get involved as a donor or volunteer. Registration packets and conference schedules will be arriving shortly in the mail. Let's have a strong show of members!

This just in from our sister chapter in Boston: "Dear Colleague, It occurs to me that your members may wish to visit Gorbachev in the Spring." Gorbachev? we wondered. Has the Boston Society of Architects arranged an audience with Mikhail and Raisa? Well, not exactly. It has, however, planned a fascinating architectural odyssey throughout the Soviet Union and Finland, April 8-23, which we thought was too good to keep a secret.

The tour is called An Exploration of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design and Planning in the Soviet Union and Finland. In the true spirit of Glasnost, it will be a forum for an exchange of ideas and friendships between American and Soviet professionals involved in all facets of architecture and planning.

Highlights include meetings with local chapters of the Union of Soviet architects;

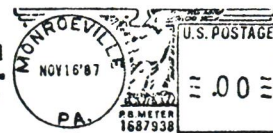
personal tours by Soviet architects emphasizing preservation and innovation in Moscow, Leningrad, Tbilisi and Helsinki; excursions to Soviet and Finnish schools of architecture; guided museum tours; a complete study guide; language tapes; and three nights of the theatre including the famed Bolshoi Ballet.

What price for this privilege? \$2499. Not bad when you consider that airfare, first class hotels and all meals are included. Lisa Sautner at the BSA can give you more details: 617/267-5175.

And finally—we've seen it on bumper stickers, so why not on envelopes? Don Lightner

of Design 3 in Monroeville sent us his catchy postage meter message:

do it with an
ARCHITECT



"We're doing our part to promote Architecture," Don says proudly. Anyone else care to follow?

INSITES

Letters to the Editor:

To the Chapter:

I love the newsletter format. It's great!

Mary Heindl
Former Exec. Secretary
Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA

COLUMNS welcomes your opinions. Please address letters to: COLUMNS, Pgh. Chapter AIA, 307 Fourth Ave., Pgh., PA 15222



Attention Chapter Members:

Planning to attend the May AIA Convention in New York City? Be sure to call Lana (471-9548) so she can submit a listing for publication in the Convention Edition of F. W. Dodge Construction News.

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POINT OF VIEW

Park Rankin, AIA, Chapter President

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Chapter members, particularly new members, often ask the president, "What does the AIA have to offer me? Is it just a social organization for architects?" In fact, the social side to our meetings is important to us all, but the focus of our Chapter's activity is *service*.

As part of the National AIA, members benefit from the legislative activities and information exchange between professionals. On a local level, we represent our members' opinions on local legislative issues and on the role of architects in our changing environment.



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Your dues support our primary function, providing service to members, on two levels. First, you support the operational side, including full time staff and office facilities. The operational side is the backbone of our Chapter, providing continuity, organization and support to succeeding slates of volunteer elected officers and board members. These expenses account for 89% of our annual budget. Second, you support a wide variety of committees, the heart of local Chapter activity. Committees are organized by the members to respond to professional needs such as legislation, programs, education and public awareness. Many of you support the Chapter and its activities not only with dues, but with volunteer time. Without both types of support, our overall effectiveness would be greatly reduced.

Each year, the Chapter experiences a demand for expanded services to members and increased committee activity while the costs for these services escalate. In 1987, for example, we undertook a major objective. We expanded and restyled our monthly newsletter to facilitate communication, increase membership and expand document sales. In the short time since its beginnings, COLUMNS has proven successful in all respects. Since membership dues and document sales account for 58% and 26% of our annual income respectively, such increases should help to cover a portion of our growing expenses. However, current dues are not sufficient to support our current objectives and the growth of Chapter activities.

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee, upon review of past activities and expenses, decided that our Chapter should continue to be an organization of growth and expanding services. We should not reduce our activities to meet an annual budget based on dues established in 1980. The Chapter is proud that it has been able to maintain a growing level of activity without a dues increase for the past eight years. Now, due to rising costs, we have elected to make a dues adjustment and eliminate graduated dues. We hope this increase will provide for the Chapter's healthy growth for the next eight years. The increase will help us meet such objectives as:

- Continuing the publication of COLUMNS
 - Expanding services to outlying areas
 - Expanding operational facilities and staff to service document sales
 - Broadening involvement in community and professional organizations
 - Supporting the Charitable Foundation
- In addition, we will provide new services, health insurance, legal counsel and accounting services through a referral service system managed by the Chapter and available to all members.

Your Chapter's future looks bright. As we plan for the 21st century, we want to broaden our horizons and maintain a leading role as a professional organization. Your continuing support, both physical and financial, will make these goals attainable.

BRICKS AND MORTAR / COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership

Chair: Kent Edwards, AIA, Apostolou Architects, 381-1400

The Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA is growing! In 1987, Chapter membership totalled 395, a healthy 10% increase over 1986. Please welcome the following new members as we look for an even stronger showing for 1988:

Mr. S. C. Allen, Associate
1413 Coal St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Ms. Susan E. Bertas, Prof. Affiliate
224 Bradford Park Road
Baden, PA 15005

Mr. James R. Firrell, Prof. Affiliate
McDonough Caperton Pittsburgh
650 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Ms. LuAnn Holmes, Prof. Affiliate
Franklin Interiors
100 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mr. Paul F. Knell, AIA
Williams/Trebilcock/Whitehead
Timber Court
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Mr. Bruce C. Knepper, AIA
Reid & Stuhldreher, P.C.
239 Fourth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Ms. Miriam T. Lee, Prof. Affiliate
Franklin Interiors
100 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Ms. Lynn L. Manion, Prof. Affiliate
Community Design Center of Pittsburgh
470 The Landmarks Bldg., 1 Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mrs. Carla D. McGowan, Associate
110 West Eighth Avenue
Tarentum, PA 15144

Mr. John L. Sencak, Prof. Affiliate
Berkman Ruslander Pohl Lieber & Engel
40th Floor, One Oxford Centre
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mr. Richard A. Starr, Prof. Affiliate
Starr Engineering
424 S. Main Street., P.O. Box 8581
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Mr. Michael O. Toole, Prof. Affiliate
Allegheny Installations, Inc.
3600 William Flynn Highway
Allison Park, PA 15101

From Associate to AIA Member:

Mr. Gary P. Moshier, AIA
1224 Trevanion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Mr. Larry G. Smitley, AIA
1058 Cranston Dr.
Greensburg, PA 15601

Public Awareness

Chair: Ivan Santa-Cruz, AIA, Williams Trebilcock Whitehead, 321-0550

The Public Awareness Committee functions to highlight Pittsburgh architects and architecture in the public forum. The committee is busy planning three architectural tours for the weekend following the Remaking Cities conference:

Renaissance Pittsburgh, a bus tour of Downtown, Oakland, North and South sides (Saturday, March 5).

Industrial Pittsburgh via the Gateway Clipper on the Mon River (Saturday, March 5).

Fallingwater, an all-day tour, including lunch (Sunday, March 6).

Tours are open to all conference participants. For registration or information, call Jan Reicher, 829-2942.

Legislative

Chair: Bernard Liff, FAIA, 361-4742

The AIA Board of Directors has approved a letter drafted by the Legislative Committee to send to the municipalities of the 12 county Chapter area. This letter reminds officials of their role in observing and enforcing Pennsylvania's Architects Law (Act 281) which re-

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quires a registered architect's seal on plans for new construction.

Tom Celli is assembling his new subcommittee to develop a new owner-architect agreement for use by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Watch for more news as this group begins its task.

Bernie Liff is beginning a review of the City of Pittsburgh's architectural consultant selection process. Several firms will be polled in order to identify problems. A memo from the Department of Engineering indicates that the city acknowledges some of the drawbacks of the present system and welcomes further dialogue between the City and professional architects and engineers.

Bob Lynch has been asked to testify at the the State House hearings on State Bill 730 regarding handicapped access. This bill has passed the State Senate and is now scheduled for a hearing in the House.

No response has been received to the request for more specific information on illegal architectural practice in COLUMNS December issue. PSA will not act on this issue without more information.

Fred Denig has been appointed to the Western Pennsylvania Legislative Council, replacing Paul Tellers who has resigned to join the AIA/CMU Liaison Committee.

Education & Professional Development

Chair: Ana Guzman, AIA, Univ. of Pgh., 624-9535

The Architect Registration Exam (ARE) Refresher Courses will begin Saturday, March 5 and continue for 9 sessions through May 28. The first course, "General Test Taking Strategies" will be taught by Tom Harley, AIA, at CMU's Frick Fine Arts Building, 9 AM to 12 noon. Registration fee is \$95 for all nine sessions or \$15 each. Call Lana Andrews at the Chapter office (471-9548) for registration details.

Ways and Means

Chair: Jon Grant, AIA, Williams Trebilcock Whitehead, 321-0550

The Ways and Means Committee is exploring options for a new location for the Pittsburgh Chapter Office. Committee members are considering 3 or 4 buildings located in the Penn/Liberty Historic District. Such a location would provide storefront visibility and proximity to the convention center.

The Committee is communicating with other professional organizations in the design industry. Their offices, the AIA Chapter Office and an architectural/design bookstore could occupy approximately 2500 square feet. Depending on the site selected, an additional 1500-3500 square feet could be available for lease, preferably to small firms in architecture, design or related fields.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project as a potential tenant or as a committee member, call Jon Grant, 321-0550.

AIA/CMU Liaison

Chair: Steve Quick, AIA, Quick Ledewitz Architects, 687-7070

The program committee has invited the Liaison Committee to work more closely with it in sponsoring activities with CMU. These two committees will work together in the coming months. A small group of students will attend the monthly AIA Chapter meetings. Please make them welcome! Planning continues for the Hornbostel/Student Awards dinner and lecture in April, and for the Student Chapter TGIF Seminar series, beginning shortly.

The committee welcomes Paul Tellers, University Architect at CMU, as its newest member.

PHYSICAL PLANT DIRECTOR

Carnegie Mellon's Campus Operations Division is seeking a resourceful and well-organized individual to administer the Physical Plant department. Specific responsibilities include employee supervision and safety, buildings and grounds maintenance, renovation and new construction, utility systems and energy management, receiving, and housekeeping services. The Physical Plant Director reports to the Director of Campus Operations.

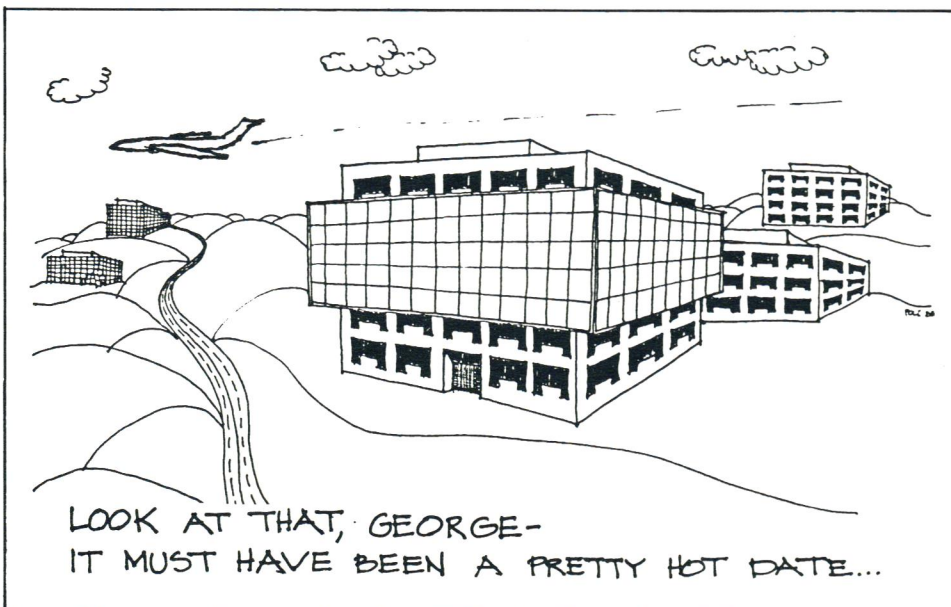
Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree, preferably in engineering or architecture, and significant experience as a senior facilities manager. Experience in a large institutional or non-profit environment, in a multiple building setting, and an additional degree in business or public management, all will be beneficial to the candidates for this position.

The selected candidate will have documented experience in budget planning and management, collective bargaining, and personnel supervision. The successful candidate also will have excellent oral and written communication skills, and will have demonstrated the ability to identify and implement solutions to complex problems.

The Carnegie Mellon University campus is located in southwestern Pennsylvania and encompasses approximately 100 acres, including 50 residential, research, and administrative buildings. The campus population consists of 4,700 undergraduates, 2,000 graduate students, 2,000 staff and 500 faculty members.

Carnegie Mellon University offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package. The decision target date for this position is March 1, 1988. Qualified candidates should send resume and cover letter to Jill Diskin, Employment Manager, Building B, **CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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OPENING SESSION: Plenary Speakers

Wednesday afternoon, March 2: Leading thinkers from the United States and England will set the groundwork for the conference as a whole. They will provide the economic, political and environmental context for the issues and prepare delegates for active planning in the workshop sessions which follow.

From the USA:

Frank V. Cahouet	Chairman and CEO, Mellon Bank
Paul Goldberger	Architecture Critic, New York Times
Senator John Heinz	Senior Senator from Pennsylvania
Richard Nathan	Professor of Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
Pamela Plumb	President, National League of Cities
Robert Wood	Former Secretary, HUD; past President, University of Massachusetts; Professor of Government, Wesleyan University

From the United Kingdom:

Lord Bishop Bowlby of Southwark	Chaired Church of England Commission on Inner Cities. Revered in inner city movement.
Simon Jenkins	Sunday Times (London); leading journalist on inner cities.
Duncan McLennan	Chief consultant on inner city housing to European Council on Governments; Professor, University of Glasgow.
Lord Scarman	UK Chairman, International Year of the Homeless; Chairman, Royal Commission of Inner Cities.
Norman Wakefield	Chairman, Y.J. Lovell (Holdings) PLC, one of Britain's largest construction/development corporations.

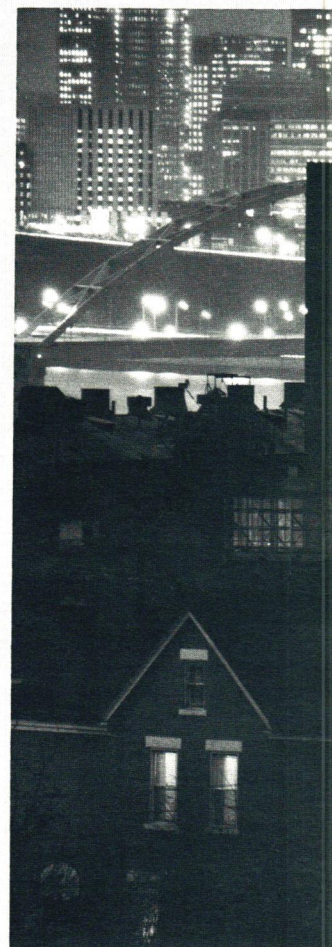
THE MON VALLEY R/UDAT

A four day intensive, multi-disciplinary study of the Mon Valley will immediately precede the conference and will provide a major case study in dealing with opportunities created by industrial obsolescence.

Co-sponsored by the AIA and the Pittsburgh Chapter, this Regional Urban Design Assistance Team, (R/UDAT) will make comprehensive economic and urban design projections for the future of the valley at three selected sites. The team will identify and analyze issues, develop alternative courses of action, prepare specific recommendations and produce an action plan. The findings will form the core case study for the conference and will be presented at the opening session.



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through local leadership ar
metaphor for urban change

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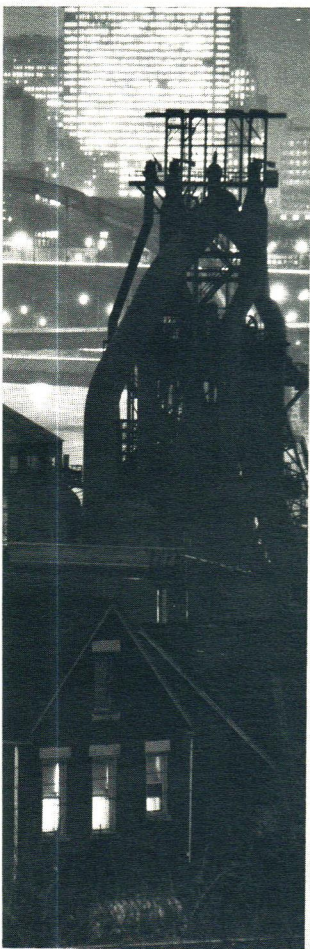


Photo by Mark Perrott

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Become a conference contributor. Only one third of the conference's cost will be covered by registration. Two thirds must be met by foundation, corporate, government and individual support. Tax-deductible donations in all amounts are welcome. Larger gifts (\$2500 and up) receive special public recognition, and at higher levels, an invitation to a private reception with HRH the Prince of Wales.

Other ways to become involved? Offer your time. Volunteer coordinator Marsha Berger would be happy to tell you how. Call her at 441-4282. Or contact Remaking Cities, c/o The Marketing Place, Gateway Three, 11th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222, 412/642-2626.

WORKING SESSIONS

Remaking Cities will be a working conference. Its goal is to discuss new strategies and make recommendations on urban futures to the governments and private sectors of both the United States and Britain. Delegates will register for one of the following five workshops and stick with it throughout the conference:

1. NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIES

Does the future lie in the hands of multi-national conglomerates? How will the new economics affect older industrial cities?

2. THE EVOLVING METROPOLIS: CITY CENTERS VS. SUBURBAN EXPANSION

In an era of decentralization, can a balanced multi-nodal metropolitan form emerge? What then is the future of traditional downtowns? Are metro-governments a solution?

3. PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

Is the traditional neighborhood the essential building block of older city revival? How can citizens, community development corporations and historic district commissions develop comprehensive agendas and generate development? What is the future of inner city housing?

4. CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

How can local government agencies be more entrepreneurial with public funds in making public-private partnerships work? Should national governments target incentives so that older cities can generate new economic bases?

5. URBAN FUTURES: DEVELOPING A VISION FOR THE CITY OF TOMORROW

What kind of city are we aiming at as we enter the 21st century? What is the relation of the city to rural conservation? What about the energy, water pollution, acid rain, the ozone layer, and the disposal of urban/industrial waste?

Out of each workshop will emerge numerous goals and strategies. These findings will be presented for final debate at the closing session. Following the conference, the materials will be incorporated into a book, *Remaking Cities*, which will include case studies, white papers and discussions of all policy recommendations.

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Lisa Ficarra

Architectural Representative



PROFILE

Park L. Rankin, AIA, Chapter President

Firm: Damianos and Associates

Training: Kent State University, Bachelor of Architecture.

Personals: Married, one child.

Leisure Time Activities: I enjoy tennis, golf, and ceramics. I also like to play around with architectural design problems, without the budget constraints you have on the job.

Specialty: I combine construction administration and business management with the technical end of putting a building together. We've done a lot of health care projects and research laboratories. These are complicated projects which require a lot of interface between the architect and a large number of consultants.

When and Why You Chose Architecture as a Career: My family has always been involved in the building industry. I'm the third generation Rankin in construction. I started out college in engineering but fell in love with architecture after my freshman year. Architecture allows you to meld art with engineering.

Favorite Project or Building: The most enjoyable and satisfying was Canonsburg General Hospital. It's a community hospital, complicated, but not extremely large. It had some strong design components. Canonsburg is also the community I was raised in, so I enjoyed returning to my hometown and building a new hospital.

Favorite Pittsburgh Building: There are a lot of historic buildings that I admire, but about five years ago I discovered some fine buildings at Duquesne University. I particularly like Schweikher's Student Union and Mias van der Rohe's science building. It's a fanciful building, a monument to a style.

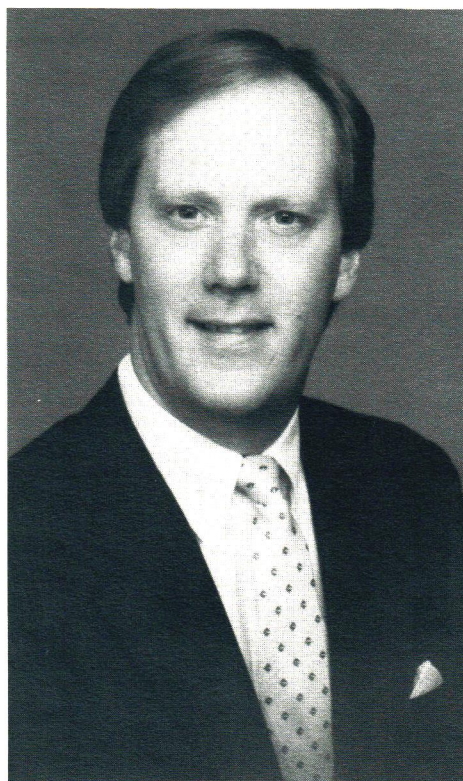
Favorite Building in the World: The National Gallery in Washington by I.M. Pei.

Most Enjoyable Aspect of Architecture: Successful completion. It's not so much the accolades, but the feeling you get when the owner walks into the building and says, you've done a good job, you've satisfied the needs, we're satisfied with the product.

Least Enjoyable: The period of construction: getting the contractors and subcontractors together, meeting the budget by bidding the job and actually going through the process from the foundation up. We itemize it in our budget as administration. It's enjoyable in the sense that you're out there putting it together, but that's where most of the problems occur. It's very much a hands-on problem solving process and there's an urgency to it so you have to respond quickly. It's like eating spinach. Once you acquire a taste for it, is it really all that bad?

World's Greatest Architect: I look back to Le Corbusier as a person who fine-tuned a style of architecture and technology.

Most Aesthetically Pleasing City: I need to judge a city by spending a lot of time there, to explore the fabric of a city. Many urban centers in the United States have their



"Architecture allows you to meld art with engineering."

problems, but I most enjoy Washington, D.C. It's the only U.S. city which is a city-state. Some of the great European cities were once city-states. From that history of wealth and power they developed a grandeur. Our urban development is only about 200 years old. Washington, as the head of government, is probably one of the wealthiest cities we have. It's the only city covered with marble, laid out with an elaborate plan. I think it's the most beautiful city we have because of its grandeur, its planning.

Advice to a Student of Architecture: The most important thing a student needs to develop is patience. The career is not obtained by receiving a diploma. The three year internship is an in-depth training process for actual practice. Use that time to gain as much experience as you can. Learn to question, judge, value, challenge and improve yourself and the profession.



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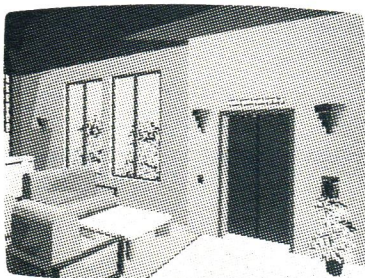
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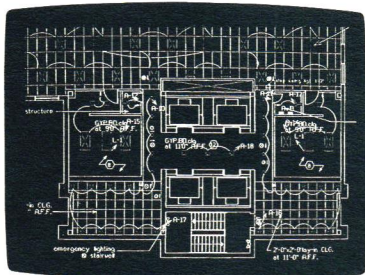
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Flying Solo (Continued from page 1)

My background is varied. I had my own practice in Monroeville for five years followed by eight years with Parsons Brinkerhof. I learned a lot from both experiences. Six months ago, I came back into practice for myself with more management strength. Eight years in a large, well run firm was very formative.

"The AIA serves the very important function of providing a chance for professional contact that is not present in solo practice." Donald Liss, AIA

Building a practice means working on a variety of projects: a residential addition, a church, classroom, dining hall or sheet metal fabricating plant. I'm comfortable in both new construction and renovation, but have always enjoyed the challenge of reorganizing spaces within an existing building.

My personal commitment is Building Accessibility. I am active with several organizations which carry that banner. It's important work, whether it involves retrofitting buildings or working with the codes to see that there's a new attitude toward providing access for the disabled, the elderly, the young. Buildings need to serve the maximum number of people for the maximum duration of their lives.

I've belonged to the AIA for a long time, but I'm committed to becoming more active. It serves the very important function of providing a chance for professional contact that is not present in solo practice.



Claire Basset, AIA, Architectural Services: I've been practicing at home for 30 years. With a big family, I've done very well, because with a home office you can still take care of house chores, children and work. And the work just kept coming in.

"With one person, the jobs usually don't go over \$300,000. I make a decent living though. I really don't have to get bigger than I am." Claire Basset, AIA

I worked for other architects when I had the opportunity. As soon as our last child went to school I went out full time with an architectural firm, then I was offered a teaching position at the Butler Community College and taught there for 16 years. About 2 years ago, when my practice got ahead of my teaching, I decided to concentrate on the practice. I miss the teaching, but I've picked it up with the Explorers group in Pittsburgh and I do a program every spring, Awareness of Architecture, here in the Franklin Regional High School.

My professional contact is through the AIA. There's nothing better than the Pittsburgh Chapter. I've been active over the years, on the board, belonging to committees, heading committees, working with PSA.

I get a number of applications every year from graduating students who want to start in small firms because they get to see everything—not just sit at a board and trace somebody else's work for a year or so. But I'm not considering taking in a partner. We'd get too large for my shoes!

I've done projects from nightclubs to churches, from a 2 car garage to a 3 story condominium apartment. I would never have the ambition or the desire to do a highrise. I think it would be sterile, cold. With one person, the jobs usually don't go over \$300,000. I make a decent living though. I really don't have to get bigger than I am.

Twenty years ago, I got interested in old houses working with a 150 year old home in New Alexandria. I really love residential work, both historic and contemporary. You know, for many years, I was one of the few architects designing houses. I remember once at a Chapter meeting, I asked someone in a big firm if he'd ever done residential work. He said, "We can't touch a job in our office for less than a million." Well, that was a long time ago, and that was a big million. I just decided I'd better do these little houses then.

Peter J. Brown, AIA, Architect: In solo practice you're your own boss as far as the design aspects are concerned. You're given a problem by your client and the solution is your own. It's not a committee and you're not producing a design for someone to review, so you have to live or die by the design solution you come up with. I like to be involved with the initial planning and programming of a project and carry it through until the keys are turned over to the owner.

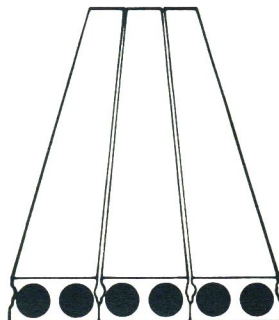
The drawback is that there's a lot of drafting and repetitive work, in addition to the creative side. It's a mixture. There's another drawback: you miss interaction with other architects that you'd have in a firm. You don't get different ideas bouncing round. You have the client as a sounding board and there is a dialogue, but it's not on the same level that it would be with colleagues. This hasn't been too much a problem for me, I just go with my own gut reaction and it works out.

"I like to be involved with the initial planning and programming of a project and carry it through until the keys are turned over to the owner." Peter Brown, AIA

(Continued on page 16)

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, Pittsburgh Design Marketing Professionals invite the design marketing community to an Informal Networking Session at Chukkers, 209 4th Avenue, 5:30-7:30. Reservations: \$15, includes hors d'oeuvres and open bar. Call Janet McCarthy, 281-1337.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, Computer Research CAD seminar series, "DataCAD." Introduction to Microtecture CAD software for architects and interior designers. 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Sessions are free with advance reservation. Contact Larry Diurba, AIA, ASID, at 262-4430.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, Reception for Pittsburgh area women in architecture — an informal get together for registered, graduate and graduating women architects. Host: Karen Madigan (Poli & Madigan), Chapter Liaison to the AIA Women in Architecture Committee. Call 471-8008 for reservation and full details, 5:30-7:30 1 Mt. St. & 1st. Hett.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, Chapter Dinner Meeting, Guest Speaker: Maynard Dalton, Senior Project Engineer for NASA Space Station group. Mr. Dalton will discuss architectural and space station design and new ways of thinking about interior architecture. Recently, he spoke to the Philadelphia Chapter, and was extremely well received. Gateway Center Club, Gateway 3; 5:30 Cocktails, 6:30 Dinner; Cost: \$18 members, \$20 non-members. See page 15 for reservation details.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, Lunchtime Seminar: Guest speaker, Robert Dale Lynch will discuss "Proposed Amendments to Act 235—Pennsylvania Handicapped Accessibility Law." YWCA Downtown, 12 noon to 1:30 PM. AIA Members: \$25; non-members: \$30. See page 15 for reservation details.

THREE THURSDAYS IN FEBRUARY: Carnegie Mellon Department of Architecture Lecture Series: February 11: "Three Views of Corbusier," Howard Saalman, Andrew Mellon Prof. of Architecture, CMU; February 18: Helmut Lorenz, Prof., University of Berlin; February 25: Francesco Passanti, Ass't. Prof. of Architectural History, M.I.T. All lectures will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the Multi-purpose room, Hunt Library basement. Free and open to the public. More information, contact: 268-2355.



PLAN AHEAD:

MARCH 2-5, Pittsburgh Chapter AIA hosts the International Conference, Remaking Cities, co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects. For registration information and conference schedule, contact: Sally Mizerak, c/o The Marketing Place, Gateway Three, Pittsburgh, Pa 15222. Telephone: 642-2626.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, First ARE Refresher Course, "General Test Taking Strategies," Tom Harley, AIA, instructor. CMU Fine Arts Building, 9 AM to 12 noon. Fee: \$15 (\$95 for 9 sessions through May 28). For registration and further information, contact Lana Andrews at the Chapter office: 471-9548.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, Hands-on-History Education Fair, sponsored by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, featuring architectural projects research, interviews and building contests by area school children. The Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA is seeking volunteers to assist with architectural exhibits and judging. Interested persons, please contact Dave Davis, 923-2255.

COLUMNS will announce upcoming events/activities relevant to its readers. Send **typewritten** copy to: CALENDAR, AIA Pittsburgh Chapter, 307 Fourth Avenue, Pgh., Pa. 15222. Deadline is 10th of month prior to month of publication.



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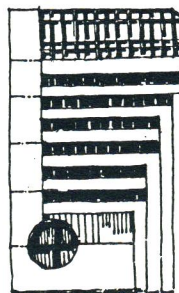


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FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

GUEST

SPEAKER:

Maynard Dalton

Mr. Dalton is the Senior Project Engineer for NASA Space Station Group. He has worked on concept design and integration of advanced projects including space stations, Apollo missions, Skylab and lunar colonies.

TOPIC:

"Outer and Inner Space"

Mr. Dalton will discuss architectural and space station design and new ways of thinking about interior architecture.

DATE:

Tuesday, February 16

TIME:

5:30 Cocktails

6:30 Dinner followed by guest speaker

PLACE:

Gateway Center Club

Gateway Three, 24th Floor

ENTREE:

Roast Loin of Pork

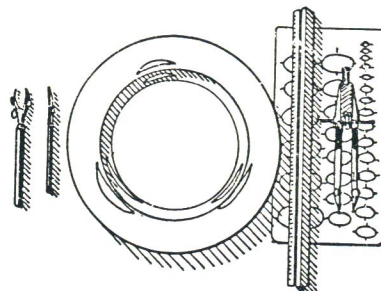
COST:

AIA Members: \$18

Non-members: \$20

RSVP:

By February 11



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

Organized by the AIA Professional Development Committee

GUEST

SPEAKER:

Mr. Robert D. Lynch, A.I.A.

Mr. Lynch is the principal of his own architectural firm that specializes in design for the disabled. He is a consultant to the task force that produced Senate Bill 730, and has done numerous presentations and workshops on removing architectural barriers and designing for handicapped persons.

TOPIC:

"Proposed Amendments to Act 325—Pennsylvania Handicapped Accessibility Law."

Senate Bill 730, about to be enacted, will amend Act 235 by expanding its scope and providing for enforcement. This seminar will discuss the major provisions, scope and the intent of Bill 730.

DATE:

Friday, February 26

TIME:

12 noon to 1:30 PM

PLACE:

YWCA Downtown - corner of Fourth and Wood Streets

COST:

AIA Members: \$25

Non-members: \$30

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Flying Solo (Continued from page 12)

I've been a solo practitioner since 1979.
Before that, I worked in a firm of about 8 or
9 people in general practice. I made the
change to increase my income and it worked.
Your income increases dramatically when you
move from a staff job to your own practice.
You put in more hours in a week though.
There was a time when I was young enough
to promise projects at a certain time and I
had to fulfill that commitment. I worked be-
tween 60 and 70 hours a week to do it. That

mitted in residential work, more than you find
in commercial projects because of code re-
strictions.

I work on various size projects. It can be
as small as a \$5,000 or \$10,000 remodeling
of a room or a third floor, all the way up to
a dream house on a Florida island.

The practice isn't only residential though.
It's about 40% commercial which helps
bridge the gaps between individual residen-
tial projects. I even do jobs you wouldn't usual-
ly associate with an architect: a parking lot
of the University of Pittsburgh which had a
difficult site with grading problems, and the
sidewalk replacement for the Westinghouse
building downtown. In both projects, I was
instrumental in getting trees into the project
as well as meeting the public works standards.
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