


C O L U M N S

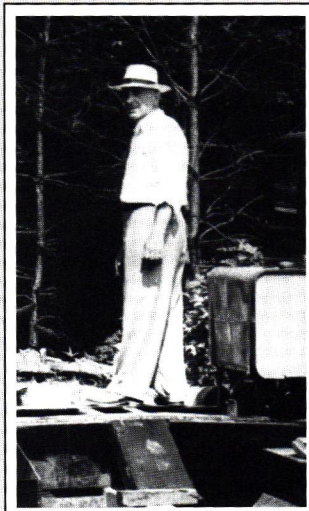


VOLUME 7, NO. 5 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS MAY 1993



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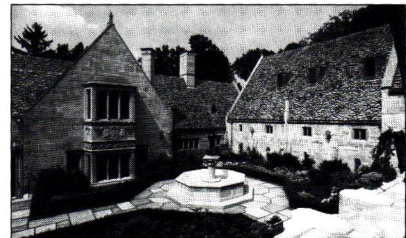
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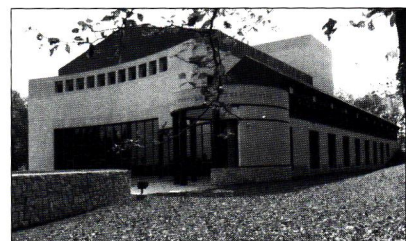
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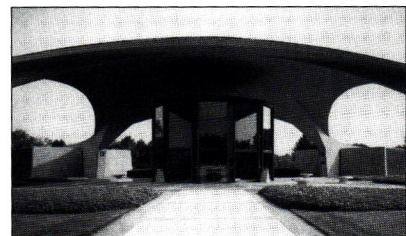
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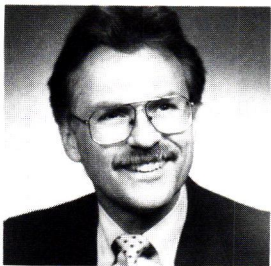
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Something to Gain

By Douglas Shuck, AIA, President

Living in Findlay, Ohio developed in me



The most successful projects will be those in which there are significant contributions by all of the parties toward a common goal.

an enhanced appreciation of historic preservation and restoration. This western Ohio community developed during the gas boom days of the late 1800s and many wealthy industrialists built beautiful Queen Anne, second empire, and federalist period homes on the main street of this city. During the '70s and '80s many of these homes' original families left and the houses were purchased by new owners for preservation and renovation. Most of the new owners were young professionals and executives with Cooper Tire and Marathon Oil who restored these homes to their once rich grandeur and created a main street entrance for the city. But whether we are restoring turn-of-the-century homes, preserving the character of a North Side neighborhood, renovating the Priory Inn and St. Mary's Church or redesigning a former Sears department store in Allegheny Center for Integra Bank, we are in the process of providing new economic stimulus and growth, and returning quality of life to neighborhoods and structures which otherwise have fallen into disrepair or stagnate economic growth.

Owners are always requesting that we renovate their buildings and provide a new image, increased space, and

business efficiency. In essence, we are creating a new environment for that client that will fit into the neighborhood, encourage those using the facility to greater achievement, and stimulate surrounding neighbors to continue the renovation momentum. As professionals we should be the stimulus for responsible preservation and restoration for our clients. Owners can provide opportunities for renewed growth and enhanced quality of life. City, state and federal governments can provide financial incentives for many of these projects to take place through tax incentive programs, enterprise zones and unique buy-back arrangements. Lending institutions can offer creative financial programs, reduced points and eliminate miscellaneous fees to favor preservation and restoration of older structures and neighborhood areas.

The most successful projects will be those in which there are significant contributions by all of the above named parties toward a common goal in which everyone has something to gain. The owner gains a renovated structure with new vitality which will enhance its function. The neighborhood gains because there is new growth,

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On the cover:

The one that didn't make it: The wrecking ball hovers above the mangled remains of the now extinct Syria Mosque—only one of many endangered historic landmarks in the area. *Photo by Michelle Fanzo.*

The Pittsburgh Chapter AIA serves 12 Western Pennsylvania counties as the local component of the American Institute of Architects and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. The objective of the Chapter 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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Keeping the Past for the Future

Update on the Historic Review Commission

The Historic Review Commission, established in 1979, had another busy year in 1992. The commission issued 83 Certificates of Appropriateness (the commission's permit), presently bringing the number of structures it oversees to 1700 located in the city's seven historic districts, thirty landmarks and one historic site. The preliminary compilation of a Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places was the largest undertaking last year for the commission. The group expects to finish the survey and publish a final Pittsburgh Register by the end of this year.

The preliminary compilation of a Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places was the largest undertaking last year for the commission.

GAI Consultants, Inc. has been hired by the Department of City Planning to prepare a plan to review the impact of development projects on underground historic resources. The study will cover downtown, Oakland and the riverfronts—the sections of the city where most early settlements and developments were located and may have left evidence of themselves.

The biggest preservation news in the last two years is the state Supreme Court ruling in July 1991 concerning the United Artists (or Boyd Theater) case, stating that historic designation of private property without the owner's consent is a "taking" under the Pennsylvania Constitution. Though the case was re-heard in October 1991, no decision has yet been reached and the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission continues to operate under the assumption that historic districts, if not individual structures, may still be nominated and designated without prior consent of all owners.

The commission and City Council dealt with a number of historic nominations in 1992, involving a wide range of potential landmarks, districts and sites. The following received historic designation status in 1992. The Oakland Civic Center Historic District, 311 Lowenhill Street (Lowen-Shaffer Farmhouse), 118 Woodland Road (the Giovannitti House), Site of Fort McKinley, 1251 N. Negley Avenue (the King Estate), 344 Boulevard of the Allies (Engine House Number 1).

The commission's annual awards for outstanding preservation projects will be announced this month. 🏠

Mailbox

PHLF Speaks Out On Charette

We wish to make the following points regarding the design produced at the Wabash Bridge charette:

Our recollection is that the buildings on the east side of Market Street were to be demolished as far as the Boulevard of the Allies, whether for a roadway or a park strip. This would be a willing sacrifice of historic buildings and historic street scale.

At Station Square, there would be an open area just east of the new bridge. This, of course, is something wanted by some charette participants, not something that will happen.

Just inland from the railroad, the charette creates a bifurcation, with two level roadways to the old Pennsylvania right-of-way, one central roadway to the tunnel, and two-level bus platforms. The rise of the tunnel roadway at

this point would be visually discordant and the roadway would widen to about 50 feet, not including the bus-stop platforms. This would create blight where we intend to build. A suggestion by Paul Farmer that the bifurcation begin south of Station Square Drive, where it might somehow be muffled by construction, would mitigate the situation, though thought still has to be given to noise and fume abatement over the whole width of Station Square.

Perhaps I should have objected to these conclusions at the time, but I felt myself in a minority where consensus prevailed, and decided to comment on the published document.

Yours truly,
Walter C. Kidney, Historian
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

Will the Next Mayor Please Stand Up?

The March membership meeting—a pre-primary question and answer session with mayoral candidates—gave architects the opportunity to have the next mayor of Pittsburgh directly address questions about the built environment. A true slice of Pittsburgh life was visible at the Engineers' Club on March 24th, with the responses of Gary Henderson, City Council President Jack Wagner, Chaston Roston, Jr., State Representative Tom Murphy and Robert Pirchesky being as varied as the city's architecture.

This cross-section of candidates made what was initially considered a "fluffy" question one of the more revealing queries of the evening. What is your favorite building or place in the city and why? elicited insightful answers from three of the men under scrutiny. Wagner responded with PPG Plaza for its representation of the past and future of the city. "That building put the city on the map to a great degree—it stands alone." Murphy chose Beech Avenue on the North Side: "Pick any house—it's Pittsburgh," said Murphy noting that this formerly rundown street is one of the few places in the city that's increased its population in the past few years. In yet another perspective, Henderson picked the East Liberty Presbyterian Church because it represents higher moral values. "We have to get back to character building in our youth," says the candidate, who feels the church must nurture and teach right and wrong in the community.


On other topics Henderson, a proponent of historic preservation, felt the city has done a poor job of marketing itself and should provide tax incentives to keep businesses in the city, develop riverfront housing "better than anything the suburbs could offer," and spur more economic development in neighborhoods.

Pirchesky, who emerged as the poor man's Ross Perot, was a strong advocate of gun control and more police walking the streets. He took a very down home approach to his

views, frequently not answering the moderators question in preference to driving home his "safety first" message.

Roston advocates keeping businesses in the city, cutting the mercantile and entertainment taxes, stopping city contracts to private contractors, restructuring the police force, and building affordable housing for lower and middle income households. He is unhappy Crawford Square public housing costs \$80-105,000 while comparable homes in Boston go for \$40,000. "This has got to change," he says.

According to Wagner the next renaissance in Pittsburgh will be its rivers, stating he would like to push the ailing Armstrong Project forward and build more boat docks. Expansion of the convention center is his top priority and he is a proponent of the Mon Valley Expressway, but is against the Southern Beltway. Wagner feels reopening the Wabash tunnel is crucial to the city's growth and advocates loft style apartments downtown.

Murphy wants to take advantage of Pittsburgh's tourism possibilities, is a strong and active proponent of riverfront development, feels jobs are not physically available within the city for young people in lower and middle income communities, and says the opportunity to own, rather than rent, is critical to rebuild neighborhoods. "The economic base has shifted," says Murphy, "we can't continue operating a city of the 1950s." 

A true slice of Pittsburgh life was visible at the debate.

Something to Gain - Continued from page 3

enhanced image, and a sign of prosperity. The community or city gains the economic stimulation and improved long term tax base. The architect is recognized for accomplishing a successful project and a potential repeat client, and establishing possible referrals for new projects. The financial institution has an economic asset in lieu of a bad debt.

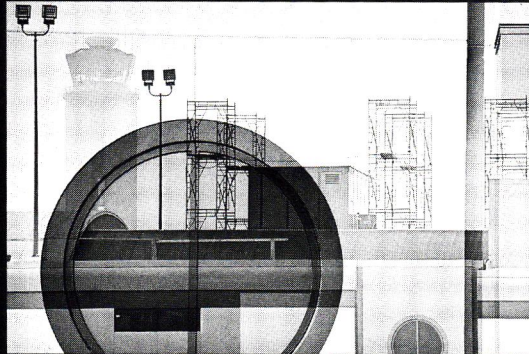
Historic preservation does not always have to deal with structures which are old, but can also deal with preserving the beauty of nature in open spaces, surrounding hillsides, wooded ravines, views of neighborhoods, city and regional parks, office buildings framed with trees, and tunnel and bridge approaches which span many of our rivers. These are

views which need to be preserved and restored to work in concert with the structured environment.

The North Side, the South Side, and Findlay, Ohio will all survive, but those communities and neighborhoods that have concert with all players working together will have a renewed richness of spirit, sense of community, and quality of life.

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HERE TODAY HERE TOMORROW?

A look at some of Pittsburgh's most endangered buildings

by Michelle Fanzo

Area architects have been keeping an eye

on some well known, and some not so well known, structures as yet another cornice detail chips off, as the roof bows further, or as weeds replace residents. Concern over endangered structures in Pittsburgh is aimed at everything from a signature skyscraper to a neighborhood farmhouse. Causes of the buildings' conditions are just as varied: bureaucratic red tape, neglect, "progress."

AIA Pittsburgh's Historic Resources Committee and other concerned individuals compiled the following "top ten" list of area historic structures or places that presently have

no clear commitment to their fate. This is not meant to be a definitive list and the buildings cited are in no particular order of endangerment. Though Pittsburgh is architecturally diverse, these structures are a sampling of the Pittsburgh that was once an even larger mosaic of homes, commercial buildings and public structures. With every tile that is lost, the mosaic's picture becomes a little bit more obscure, a little less interesting.

This article is meant to raise awareness of historic structures (some virtually unknown), tell why they are important, and what is threatening them. The committee encourages input to expand the list as well as will offer updates when a commitment is made to protect one or more of the sites. What follows is a look at pieces of historic Pittsburgh most in danger of being added to the city's legacy of things that aren't there any more.

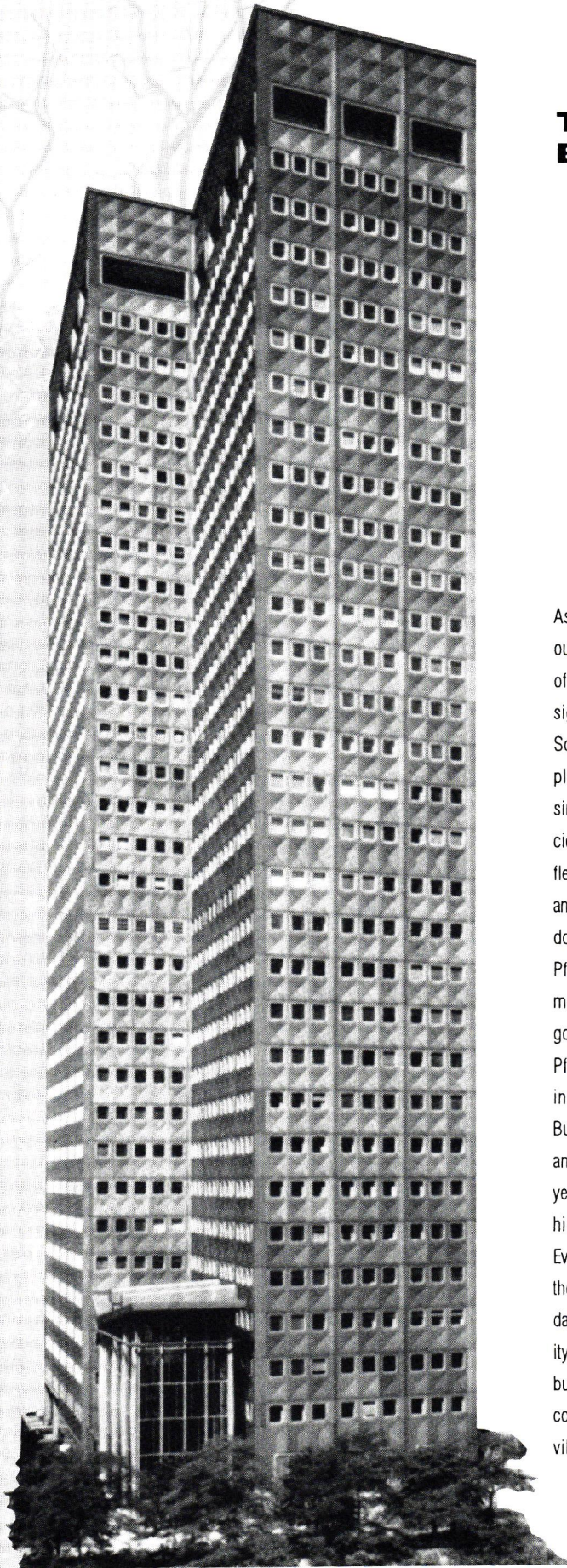
Schenley Park

While the recent issue of privatizing the park's golf course drew some attention to threats to the 104 year old green space, its Panther Hollow and Schenley Park bridges as well as the woodland are degrading rapidly with little attention or funds to do anything about it. Eloise Hirsh, whose firm, Iron Hill Associates, developed a master restoration plan for the park, feels the lack of a coherent management strategy places many aspects of the park in danger. The city's lack of money and manpower has led to erosion, inadequate drainage systems, disrepair and wild grape infestation—the insidiously destructive kudzu of the north. Hirsh feels revenue was the overriding concern with the golf course and that historic preservation concerns in and around the bridges are not taken into consideration. As Schenley doesn't have its own supervisor, Hirsh feels issues are played out without the park in mind, leading to arbitrary cost cutting.



The Alcoa Building

As Alcoa is considering moving out of Pittsburgh, the question of a new tenant for the 30 story signature structure on Mellon Square is in question. The floor plan in the skyscraper built for a single tenant in 1953, is inefficient and unable to adapt to the flex space demands of other tenants. "It seems outrageous to tear down a high-rise," says Rob Pfaffmann, AIA of BCJ, "but more people are saying we're going to start seeing just that." Pfaffmann cites the Lever House in New York City, the Alcoa Building's brother so to speak, and its threat of demolition a few years ago that was resolved by historic preservation efforts. Even if new tenants can be found, they may wish to upgrade the dated structure without sensitivity to historic aspects like the building's pioneering panelized construction and its classical pavilion style lobby.



The Allegheny City Fire Station

One of only two remaining City of Allegheny fire houses, this rare High Victorian Gothic two story building with a three story tower, is heading towards the point of collapse. Built in 1877 on the corner of Arch and Jacksonia streets, the privately owned building ceased acting as a fire house many years ago and though the owner says he has given thought to doing some work on it, nothing has happened and the red brick structure with sandstone trim continues to fall into disrepair. While it is a detrimental element in the area due to its present condition, it would be a great loss to the North Side neighborhood should it be left to fall down or be demolished.



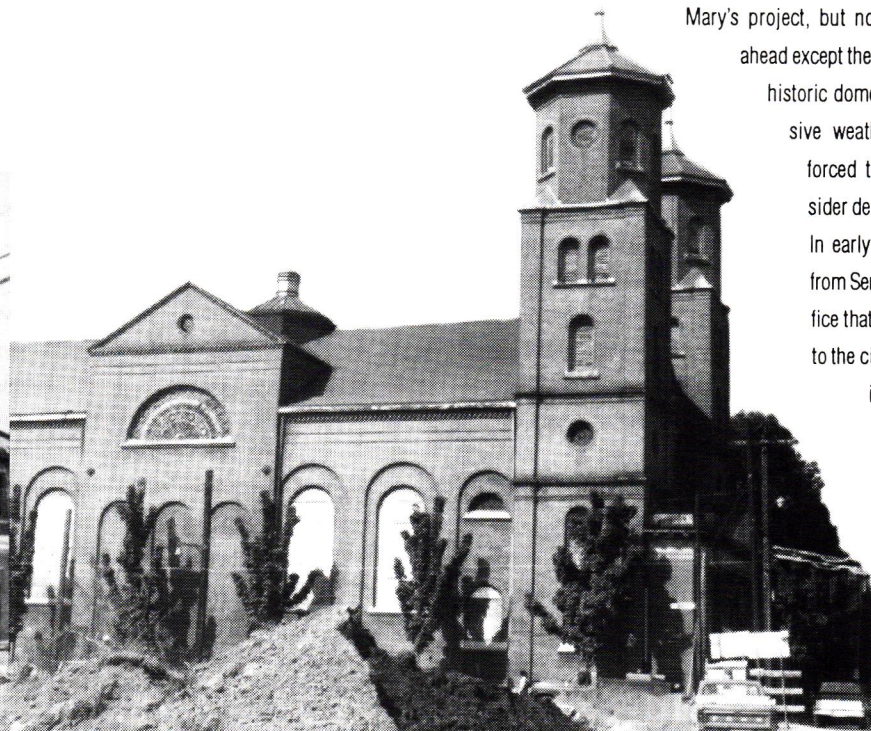
Religious Structures Owned by the Catholic Diocese

Due to the consolidation plans of the Catholic Diocese, all buildings no longer used as parish meeting places are being turned back to local parishes for disposal or adaptive reuse. Most local parishes do not have the resources to consider alternatives for the buildings, leaving many empty, their fates unknown. Churches are trying to work with other religious groups, such as religious orders or congregations looking for space, but if this isn't effective other tenants may decide to alter historically significant structures that have become a key element to Pittsburgh's skyline and ethnic communities.

St. Mary's Church

What makes St. Mary's stand apart from other threatened churches is it has an owner with money, a \$1 million attractive reuse concept, and the approval of North Side neighbors to make the richly Roman structure with a handsome Corinthian pillared hall a banquet facility. The problem is government bureaucracy. Owners Mary Ann and Edward Graf (also owners of the adjacent inn, The Priory) need more parking before they can get city zoning approval for the 139 year old structure. They are seeking to use a nearby vacant strip of land acquired, but ultimately not needed, by PennDOT. The land is presently used as an unofficial parking lot by local residents and employees of area businesses. As far back as 1985 the state has said it would eventually convey the land to the city for parking and the city has already designated much of the space for the St.

Mary's project, but nothing is moving ahead except the deterioration of a historic domed church. Extensive weather damage has forced the Grafts to consider demolition this year. In early April Graf heard from Senator Wofford's office that deeding the land to the city would be moving ahead soon. "I'll believe it when I see it," she says.

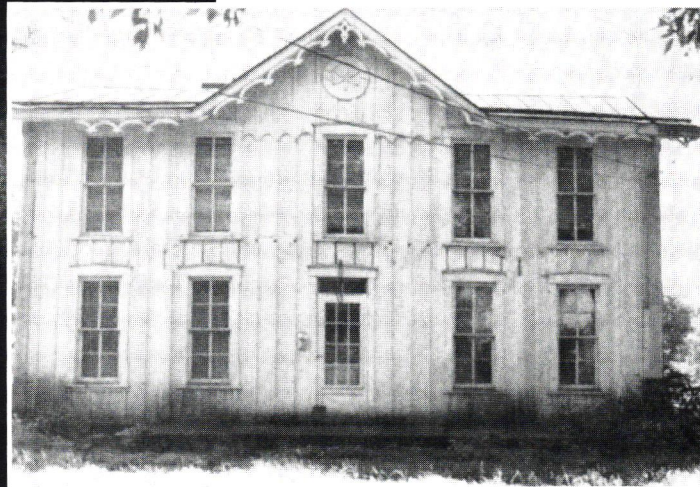


The Allegheny County Jail

One of the most distinguished buildings of the nineteenth century, H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Jail (1884-1888) is facing an unknown future. Though the granite structure, based on a star shaped design, has received high praise through the years, it has also been threatened with demolition a number of times. In the 1920s, businessmen considered it gloomy; in 1954 it was suggested as a site for the Hilton hotel; in the early 1970s, the building's effectiveness as a jail was questioned. Now the construction of a new jail once again puts the downtown structure in a defensive position. If it is not to be used as a jail, then as what? IKM has been looking at reuse possibilities for the facility with suggestions of county offices and a library/archives for county and government documents being among the ideas proposed. In the past, there has not been a high level of sensitivity during renovations. The uncertainty of the jail's use and how it will be modified casts a shadow on what many people consider the city's masterpiece.

The Lowen-Shaffer Farmhouse

311 Lowenhill Street in Beechview was a farmhouse for an active six acre farm until only a few years ago, but the structure looks like it was abandoned decades ago. The 1860s building, situated on a slope with a beautiful view overlooking a ravine and the back of Mt. Washington, was sold to a church after the owners died. The new owners wanted to tear down the unusual gothic revival house, constructed of vertical boards and batten siding, to build a new church, but the farmhouse was declared a historical landmark last year despite the owner's objections. The church has shown no interest in refurbishing or selling the structure, which is presently in danger of being demolished due to neglect.



14 East General Robinson Street

Number 14 is the oldest home amid what was once a block of rowhouses down the street and across from the Volkwein Building on the North Side. Some of the homes have been torn down, leaving gaps like missing teeth. At first glance number 14 looks like a modest two story residence, says City Planning's Michael Eversmeyer, AIA, but closer examination suggests it dates from the 1830s or 40s. The doorway's rounded brick arch and wood moldings resembling pilasters create a federal style affect. "This is one of the very few federal style buildings left in the city," says Eversmeyer. The building, like its neighbors, is not being maintained and though Eversmeyer feels it would be a great location for artists' housing, he fears the structure will not remain standing much longer in its present condition.

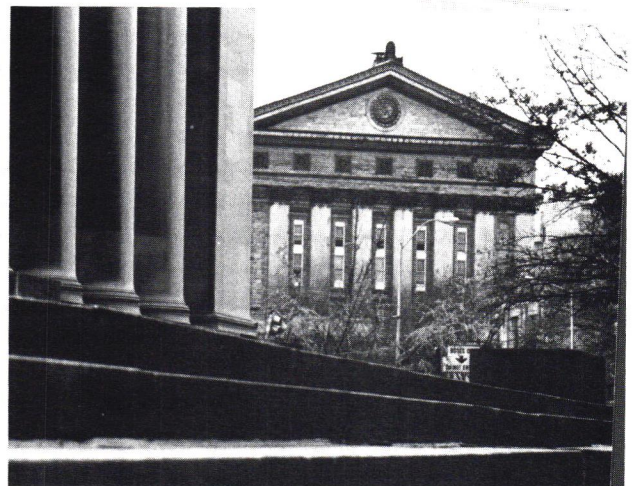


Cornices

Cornices define many of Pittsburgh's historic buildings but unfortunately many of them have been lost and many others are in danger because they are made from fragile terracotta. Presently Kaufmann's downtown is replacing its cornice with a fiberglass version, a sensitive and practical approach to preserving the architectural decoration. Freeze and thaw cycles have caused terracotta detailing to crack and break across the city, and while fiberglass reproductions are an option, they are not always well executed and in many cases owners have opted for removing cornices rather than fixing them. In other cases, city building inspectors have insisted cornices be removed immediately because of their danger of falling, leaving owners with no time to consider renovation techniques. A few of the notable buildings with attractive detailing are the Frick, Gimbels, Oliver and Arrott Buildings. The Revco Building, next to G. C. Murphy's downtown, is a good example of architectural detailing sensitively replaced with fiberglass.

The Masonic Temple

Architect Benno Janssen's 1914 companion to the nearby Pittsburgh Athletic Association is one of the city's principal examples of turn of the century eclectic style. An intricate group of meeting and ceremonial rooms in the oversize Greek temple are constructed with extremely high ceilings and rendered in varying motifs such as Gothic, Corinthian and Egyptian. While the structure's limestone exterior is protected by the area's historic district status, there is no protection for the highly decorative interior. The University of Pittsburgh has expressed interest in purchasing the four story temple, but as of April negotiations were moving slowly. Even if the school buys it, there's no guarantee the interior would not be altered. There are few other viable alternatives for a building so unusual and expensive to maintain. If left to deteriorate, even its historic designation wouldn't save it from demolition—though this possibility is unlikely. Until the temple is in someone's hands, its fate is unknown. ■

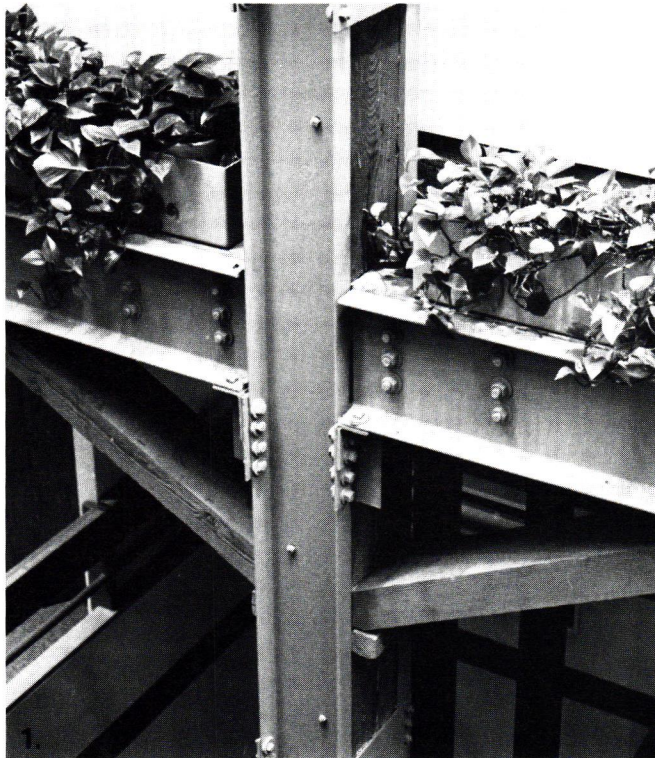


Saving Structures:

By J. Gilbert Kaufman, Vice President, Structural Engineering Corporation

Congratulations! You've landed that big restoration project, the one that will make your portfolio so much nicer. Now you get a chance to do some interesting work preserving a fine old building. Except...you've just walked through the building, or maybe walked around the outside, and now you're a little concerned with what you've seen. How competent are the basic structural elements of the building? How much preservation is going to end up as reconstruction?

From a structural perspective, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation all involve the same basic principals: maintaining the portions of the structure which are adequate, performing necessary maintenance repairs to masonry materials, reinforcing or fortifying any areas with minor structural deficiencies, and taking corrective measures (including reconstruction) to remedy major problem situations. The real key is to discern quickly which components of the building fit into which particular category so that the project and the budget can be developed realistically.



So before you head back in for a closer look, keep a few things in mind. Look at all the exposed structural elements that are accessible and visible. Building structures are usually very good at telegraphing their conditions and problems if you know what to look for. Older buildings, done in the

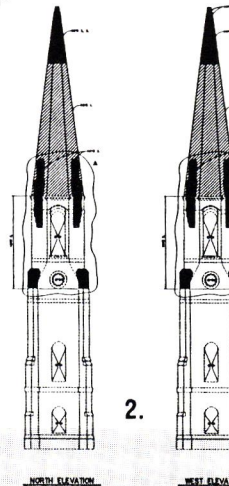
period before architects and engineers became intoxicated with the use of exotic structural features, are often the easiest to diagnose.

- Watch for unusual or excessive deflections of building members, floors and roofs, especially in steel framed buildings. Excessive deflection of a steel frame is a sign of real trouble. Though wood framing develops a permanent deflection under occupancy load, it is not necessarily a structural problem.

- Take note of floor vibrations as you walk around the building. Deflections and vibrations are different aspects of the structure's behavior. A floor which vibrates under foot traffic may be perfectly safe and may not deflect excessively. However, unless the vibration is substantially damped, it may be annoying and unnerving to occupants.

- Look for cracks in wood members. Cracks and splits in beams will usually require reinforcement of one form or another. Cracked floor joists should be replaced. Checks and splits in columns may not be problems unless the check is deep. The nature of these repairs will depend to a large extent upon your intentions to expose or conceal the framing, but they range from adhesive resin injection to directly applying steel or wood members for additional strength.

- Investigate for the presence of wet wood framing or other signs of excessive moisture such as fungi, staining and surface mold. A high moisture level will significantly reduce the strength of wood members and will invite the growth of decay producing bacteria and attract damaging insects.



S u c c e s s S t o r i e s

A hospital recently purchased an adjacent wood framed school with detailed limestone banding for offices. They spent \$24,000 to reinforce floors, \$37,000 to reconstruct stairwells, and got 16,000 square feet of usable office space with high ceilings, arched windows and a splendid masonry facade.

A notable five story masonry apartment building with wood framed floors, dating to the 1890s, was saved by developing a transfer framing system in the space afforded by the building's tall first floor. New steel transfer framing allowed wood bearing walls and corridors to be relocated on the upper floors.

What To Look For



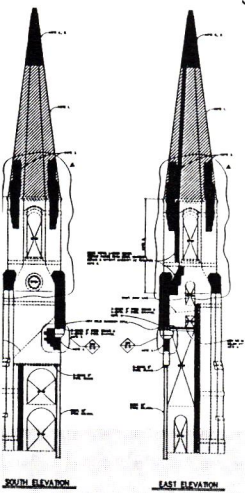
3.

- Cracks in masonry walls develop for many reasons. Look for patterns of cracking in masonry. The cracking pattern develops as a result of load and deformation, and the cracks themselves may not be as important as the load/deflection situation which they represent. A significant cracking distribution may suggest other remedial work.

- Pay careful attention to rusted steel. Typically, the corrosion found on steel framing will be surface scaling and will have little effect on the members' capacity. But significant

section loss is possible in areas exposed to continued water infiltration, requiring replacement or reinforcement of the deteriorated member. Older steel may not be weldable.

- Be cautious of the adaptive re-use of old schools, particularly wooden ones. Although these buildings can have remarkable architectural qualities, school occupancy loads are among the lightest in a non-residential situation. These structures will be significantly under-designed for use as medical or commercial offices. School floors can be reinforced with steel beams to reduce spans and increase load carrying capacity.



- Stairways and stairwells, particularly in wood framed buildings, are often poorly built and are unlikely to meet the occupancy codes. Expect to see excessive deflections and vibrations, and budget for major reconstruction of the structural framing. If the trim is particularly striking, it can be saved and reused in reconstruction.



4.

- And finally, don't panic! You are still right in estimating that the renovation of this building should be significantly more economical than the construction of an equal amount of new square footage, even if the work is more involved than you first thought. If the building has noteworthy features then the preservation of the building will provide its users with the bonus of an environment adorned with irreplaceable treasures.

Sometimes the structural solution to a building's inadequacy can provide a unique architectural feature. While this may not always be in keeping with strict preservation philosophy, the need to maintain building safety can at least be treated architecturally and sympathetically. Existing wood trusses can be detailed so that joint reconstruction and member reinforcement are not only consistent with the original construction but can provide architectural embellishment as well. Wood members which have cracked or split can either be reinforced with steel or wood elements, or can be effectively healed using adhesive resins for exposed conditions.

Preservation, even in the face of potential structural rehabilitation, can be economically achieved. But the real key is to carefully survey the building to evaluate the condition of the structure. Timely identification and consideration of the structural issues involved will help you establish and maintain the project schedule and budget. 🏠

A lovely church in western New York was threatened with demolition of its twin granite clad steeples. A structural solution was developed which provided a thin new reinforced concrete liner in each tower, to which the exterior stonework could be pinned, restored and saved.

(1) Shadyside Place, Pittsburgh, PA—interior wood frame reinforcement. (2) West Steeple elevations, St. Mary of the Angel's Parish, Olean, N.Y. (3) Fifth Avenue renovation, Pittsburgh, PA—corroded beam seat. (4) Granite Building, Pittsburgh, PA—exterior detail.

Archive Acquisitions Announced

By Michelle Fanzo

Files are too often associated with those over-stuffed imposing black cabinets with pull drawers. The word archives conjures even gloomier, more vast images of musty paper in worn folders. At Carnegie Mellon University's Architecture Archives, these terms take on a whole new meaning. Among some of the most recent acquisitions to this enlightening collection are a diary and sketchbook recordings of Henry Hornbostel's European travels of 1893, along with a partial transcript of his autobiography; sketches from William Boyd's 1907-1908 European travels; and rare 1909 blueprints of one of Pittsburgh's greatest things that aren't there any more: Forbes Field.

The Architecture Archives was created in 1984 to collect, conserve, and promote the use of architectural records that document the architects and architecture of Pittsburgh and the tri-state area. The collection is ever expanding and presently includes thousands of blueprints, drawings, manuscripts, photographs and a number of architectural models. Other recent acquisitions include: sketches by Dahlen K. Ritchey, FAIA; drawings of the old United States Court House and Post Office (1880-1890); hand-colored linen blueprints of Daniel Burnham's Union Station (1900); drawings of the old Schenley Oval Grandstand (1906); drawings of projects by Paul Schweikher including the Duquesne University Union (1964) and WQED (1967-1968); renderings and other records of projects by

Arthur Lubetz; and selected entries for the New Urban Housing Competition (1992) sponsored by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

The Architecture Archives actively seeks new collections and needs architects' help in identifying prospective acquisitions. Many chapter members have assisted the Archives in the past. Records and memorabilia relating to AIA Pittsburgh and examples of student work completed at Carnegie Tech are particularly desired.

The Architecture Archives has produced a new illustrated brochure and list of collections, available upon request. The publication, *Pittsburgh Architecture: A Guide to Research*, is also still available at a cost of \$5. To request these items or to offer information about architectural records please contact Martin Aurand at (412) 268-8165. 🏠

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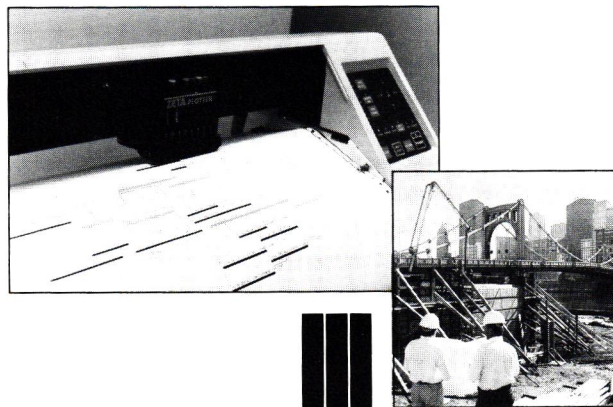
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Kudos

• **Celli Flynn and Associates** have been awarded a 1992 IFRAA International Architectural Design Award for their renovation of Pittsburgh's Bellefield Presbyterian Church. The jury referred to the project as "a brilliant piece of work."

The Design Alliance Architects has been awarded the design commission for a new Systems and Research Center for Union Switch & Signal, Inc. to be located in the Pittsburgh Technology Center. The 170,000 square foot building will have a metal panel and glass skin on a structural steel frame, reflecting the company's high-tech image.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann has been honored by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. as the Architect/Engineer of the Year. The organization annually recognizes projects and design firms related to the construction industry.

Transitions

• **Alan B. Tisdale, AIA** announces the formation of ABT Associates, an architectural and planning firm at 927 Heberton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

From the firms

• Respironics has contracted **Williams Trebilcock Whitehead** to design a new 30,000 square foot addition to their Murrysville headquarters.

Hayes Large Architects has been retained to direct the restoration of the Embassy Theater in Lewistown, PA. The firm will implement the restoration of the 1920s, 600-seat theater as well as design the adjacent building that will provide support facilities for the new theater.

Hayes Large is in the midst of another theater renovation, the richly ornamented Capitol Theater in Williamsport, PA. The 1928 structure will be renovated and expanded to establish a regional arts center in the 2,100-seat theater. The construction cost is \$6.5 million with completion scheduled for later this year.

The firm has also been retained to design the Bedford County Community Center at Everett of the Allegheny Community College. The \$1.3 million, 12,500 square foot project is scheduled to begin this summer with completion in the spring of 1994.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates has been contracted to provide full design services for the 276-bed "Dorm of the Future" at Wheeling Jesuit College. The building's neo-classical design takes advantage of the sloping site and will be one of the most technologically advanced dormitories in the nation when completed.

The design/build team of Marsico Corporation and **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann** has been selected to complete the final design and construction of the new educational complex within the Pittsburgh Zoo. Ground was broken on March 1 for the 17,000 square foot facility, budgeted at \$2.2 million. The design of the project was developed by design architect **Indovina Associates Architects**, who will also serve as the administrative architect and owner's representative during the construction process.

The Pennsylvania Department of General Services has selected Burt Hill to provide design services for a major addition to the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic on the University of Pittsburgh campus, part of the Operation Jump Start program. Design work will start shortly and construction is estimated to begin in 1994.

Monongalia General Hospital has contracted Burt Hill to provide masterplanning and design services for an \$8.7 million expansion and renovation project. Construction and renovations will begin in the fall of 1993.

Business Briefs

• William C. Curry, former president and CEO of Curry Corporation, Pittsburgh, has joined CIS of Oakmont, as Director of Business Development. Bill Curry is responsible for developing CIS corporate structure and capitalization to support and foster future growth plans. Along with his management position, Bill is also a new equity partner in CIS.

Meeting Notice

• **The Oakland community speaks!** A community forum on the University of Pittsburgh's Master Plan and Jump Start Capital projects will be held Saturday, May 15th from 9 AM to noon in the Assembly Room, William Pitt Student Union on Forbes Ave. and Bigelow Blvd. The forum will be moderated by Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. Refreshments will be served. For info call: 621-7863.

Membership Committee

• **Warren Bulseco, Associate AIA, 321-0550**

I would like to thank Anne Swager, Gwen Williams and Doug Shuck for making the transition successful and fun for me as the new membership committee chair. I look forward to the opportunity and involvement with AIA Pittsburgh.

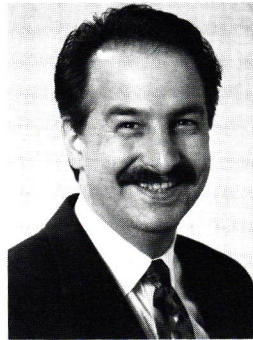
Short term goals are to maintain communications and close involvement with new and prospective members while the transition is still underway and to start development of a local brochure for the chapter. We have recently submitted six applications for approval and reinstatement.

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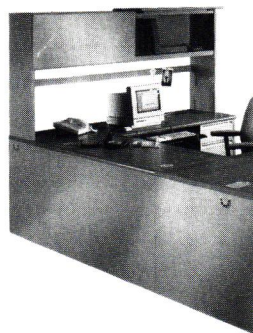
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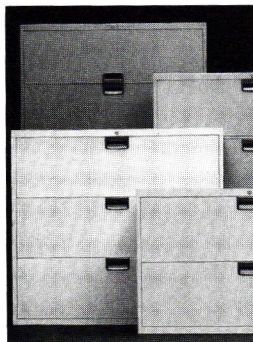
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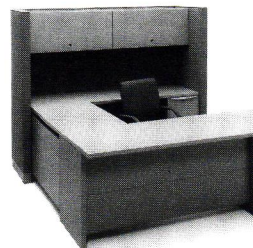
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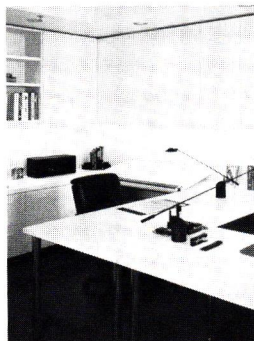
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CALENDAR

AIA ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, May 3

Architrave Board Meeting, 5:15 PM at the offices of Reid & Stuhldreher, Anne Swager, 471-9548.

TUESDAY, May 4

Communications Committee Meeting, 12:30 PM at the Chapter office, Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, 765-3890.

TUESDAY, May 11

Pittsburgh Chapter AIA Board Meeting, 5 PM at the Chapter office. All members are welcome, Anne Swager, 471-9548

WEDNESDAY, May 12

Historic Resources Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, John Martine, AIA, 227-6100.

WEDNESDAY, May 12

WIA Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office, Susan Tusick, AIA, 394-7069.

MONDAY, May 17

AIA/CMU Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM in the architectural office at CMU, Steve Quick, AIA, 687-7070.

MONDAY, May 17

Exhibit Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at Rosebud Cafe, David Roth, AIA, 261-1663.

MONDAY, May 17

Interiors Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Chapter office, Charles DeLisio, AIA, 488-0307.

TUESDAY, May 18

Urban Design Committee Meeting, 5:45 PM at the Chapter office, Steven Hawkins, AIA, 521-9399.

THURSDAY, May 20

Professional Development Committee Meeting, 12 PM in the Chapter office, Dave Brenenborg, AIA, 683-0202.

WEDNESDAY, May 26

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, 6 PM at the Building Industry Center, Conference Room #1, 2270 Noblestown Road, James Kling, AIA, 391-4850.

TUESDAY, May 25

May Chapter Meeting, "Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings." (See page 23 for details.)

AROUND TOWN

SATURDAY, May 8

The Hands-On History Festival, 10 AM - 3 PM, at the Station Square Festival Tent, sponsored by PHLF.

TUESDAY, May 11

Society of Architectural Administrators Meeting, Perity Waleko, 381-1400 for information.

TUESDAY, May 11

Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) Monthly Meeting, 5:30 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Sheila Cartiff, 823-5063 for information.

SATURDAY, May 15

University of Pittsburgh Master Plan community forum, 9 AM - noon, Assembly Room, William Pitt Student Union.

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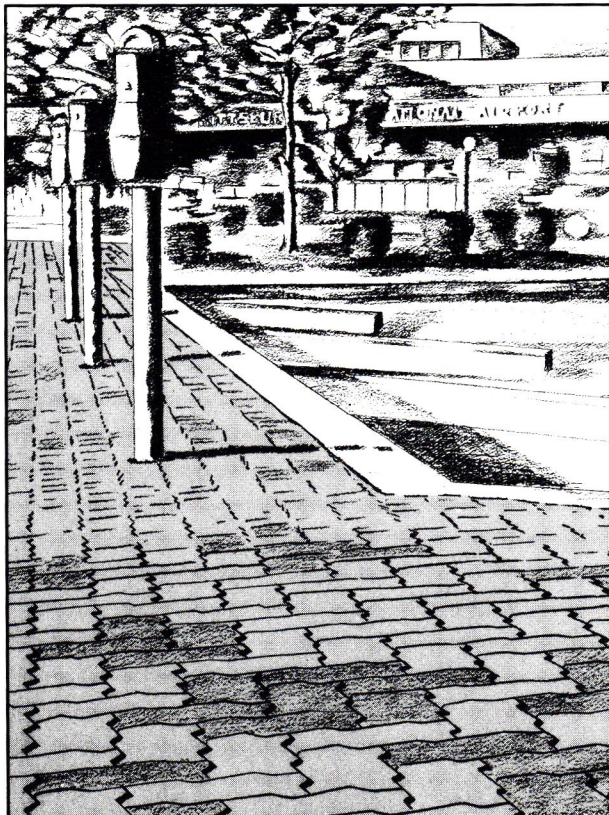
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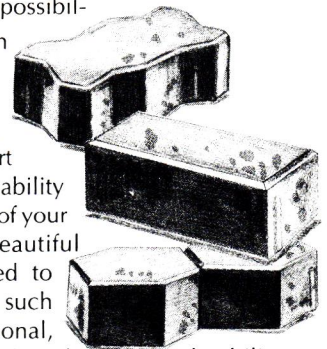


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Michael Eversmeyer, AIA

Firm: Department of City Planning, City of Pittsburgh (Historic Preservation Planner);
Eversmeyer Design Associates (Partner)



Advice to young architects: Learn as much as you can about everything other than architecture.

Family info: Married to Janna Smith Eversmeyer (landscape designer); two children, Alex (11) and James (6).

School/Education: University of Chicago (history); Tulane University (architecture).

Project you're proudest of: The city's Streetface facade rehab program (upcoming: the Pittsburgh Register of Historic Places).

Building you wish you had designed: Monticello (locally, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial).

Building you'd like to tear down: Gateway View Plaza (it was all a bad dream...).

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? Either a historian or a librarian (whichever paid the most).

What have you always wanted to tell your boss? Depending on the day, either "I'm pedaling as fast as I can" or "We're all bozos on this bus."

Advice to young architects: Learn as much as you can about everything other than architecture.

The one thing you wish they had taught you in school: How to design in the Classical style.

Favorite building, and why: The Robie House, because it made me fall in love with architecture.

Best gift to give an architect: Two items: an independent income, and a copy of "Banister Fletcher."

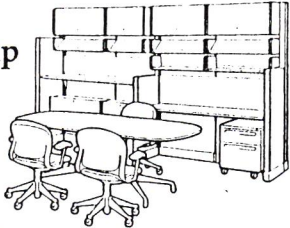
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Call for Entries! 1993 Awards for Religious Structures

The Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFRAA), an organization affiliated with the AIA, is seeking to encourage design excellence through its annual awards program. This unique program will judge religious projects on their design excellence, liturgical sensitivity, programmatic solutions, budget/site constraints and community impact.

To be eligible for entry, a built or unbuilt structure must be designed by a registered architect (North American) and must be a work of architecture, a renovation, a restoration or an interior design project completed after 1988 that serves as, or supports, a religious facility. The program is open to projects of all religious faiths.

For entry form and requirements write to:

IFRAA National Headquarters, Doris Justis, Executive Secretary, 1777 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, phone: (202) 387-8333.

Note: Entry forms due by July 1, 1993 and submissions due by August 2, 1993. 🏠

Marketplace

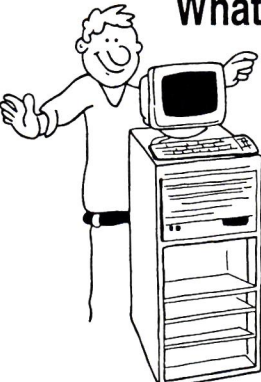
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To place your ad in Marketplace: Classified

Rates: AIA Members: \$.50/word; non-members: \$.75/word. Mail typewritten copy to: The Cantor Group, 1225 Farragut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. **Check must accompany copy.** Deadline for Classifieds for the June issue is May 5.




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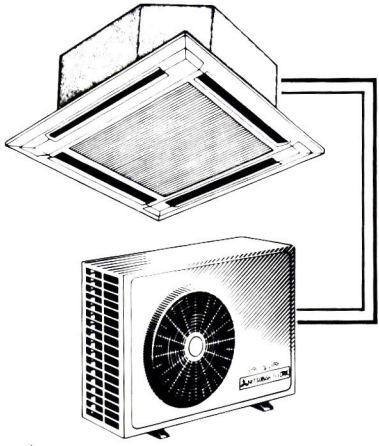
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May Chapter Meeting: Don't Let History Pass You By...

Things that might not be there any more and things that will be around but looking mighty different. These are the themes of the May chapter meeting, which will explore various structures in danger of demolition or alteration, as well as some of the creative, adaptive reuses of Pittsburgh's historic buildings. Various speakers will touch on museums, signature structures, residences, and hidden treasures, with possible insight into one of the area's most mysterious structures (hint: it hasn't been open to the public in 77 years).

Come to the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society's home in Oakland to hear the future of the city's historic built environment. Don't let a chance to change history pass you by.

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Here's your chance to showcase your work in COLUMNS! Projects must be designed by a member or member firm and may be in any stage of development, but no more than one year old. **The deadline for July submissions is May 25th.** Artwork will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.

Send your project to:

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AIA Pittsburgh, Preservation Pittsburgh, and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Cordially Invite You To The May Meeting "Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings"

Tuesday, May 25

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Boulevard in Oakland
(parking available at the Holiday Inn indoor lot or on the street)

5:30 pm Registration

Members and Guests: \$5

6:00 pm Program

RSVP by Friday, May 21

RSVP

"Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings"

Tuesday, May 25

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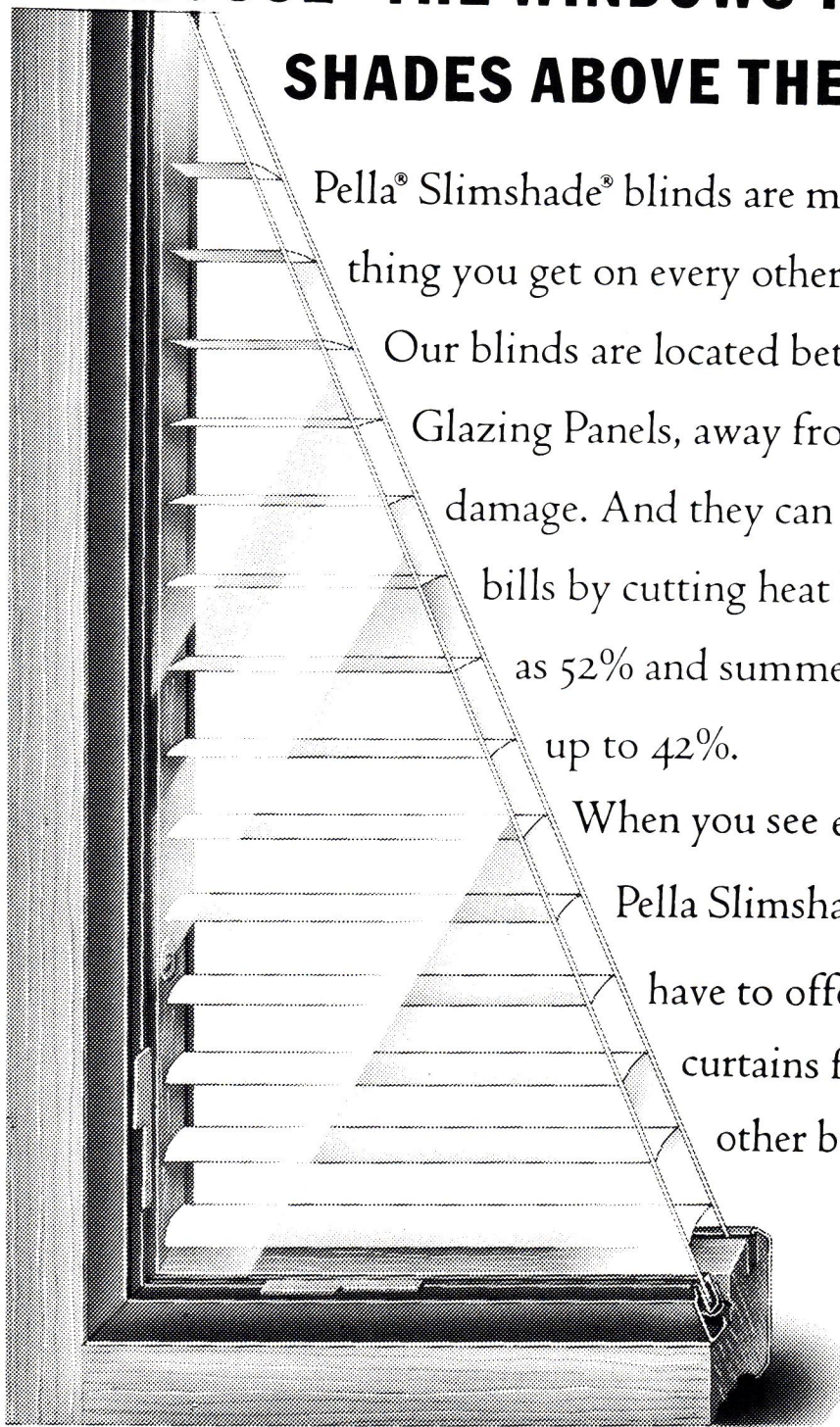
Names of Members:

Names of Guests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____

Clip/copy this form and send with check (payable to "AIA Pittsburgh") to: AIA Pittsburgh, CNG Tower, Suite 200, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or FAX to (412) 471-9501 by **Friday, May 21.**

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