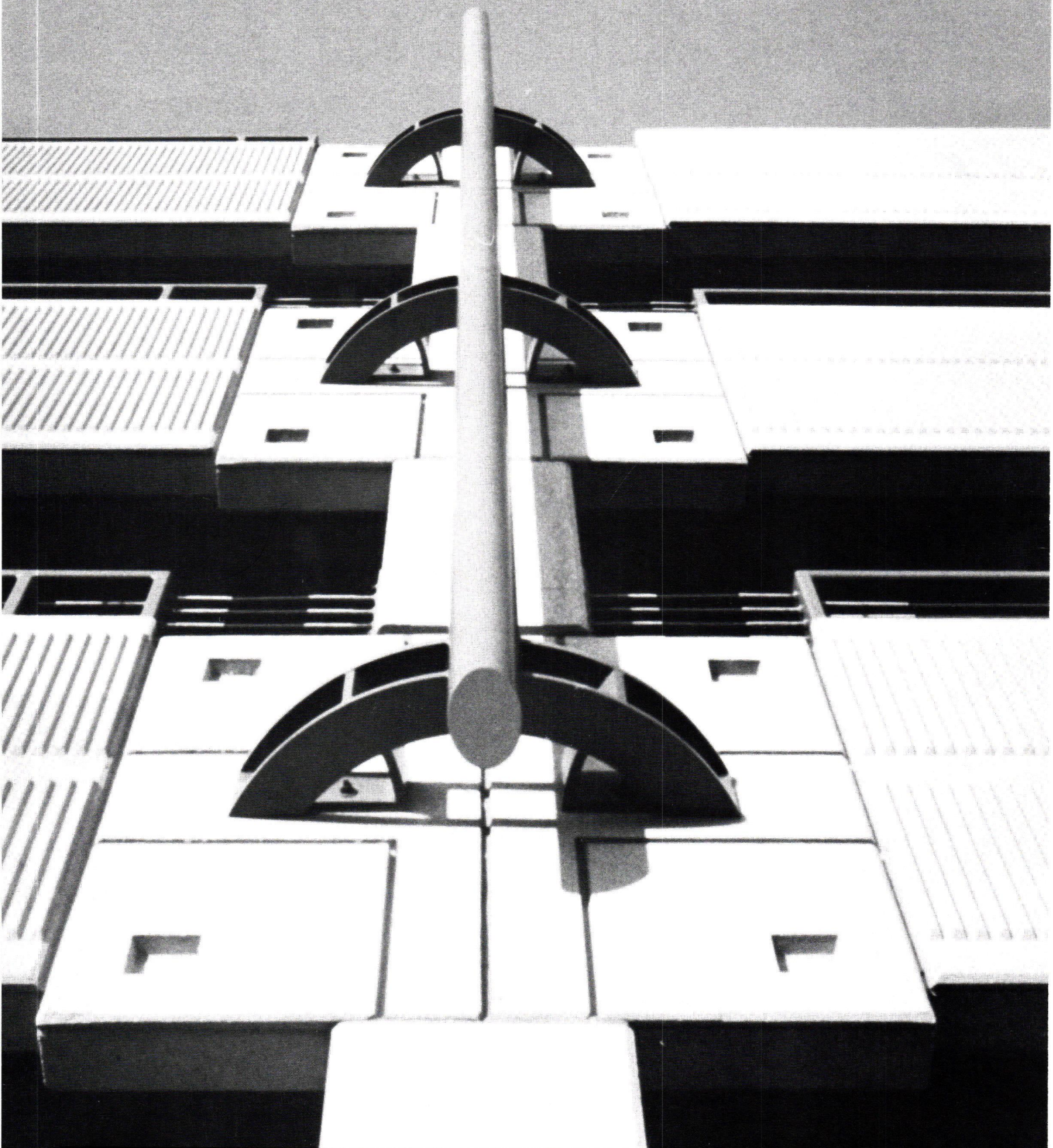


COLUMNS



VOLUME 9, NO. 3 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS MARCH 1995

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Grassroots Experience

by Maureen Guttman, AIA First Vice President



When you consider the impact of 600 architects meeting with nearly every representative in Washington, the potential we have as an organization becomes clear.

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On the cover: A plane? A train? No, a dynamic detail of WTW's recently completed parking garage at The Pittsburgh Technology Center.

So, you pass your licensing exam and apply

for membership in the AIA. They congratulate you, accept your check and application, and send you a certificate suitable for framing. They also send you a little gold pin. You think, "Nice touch," toss it in the old jewelry box and hang your certificate in a prominent location. Sound familiar?

Like most of you, I gave no more thought to that little pin after filing it so ceremoniously. But as I was packing for a recent trip to Washington, D.C.—to attend the AIA Grassroots 1995 conference—it caught my attention while untangling the jewelry I wanted to take with me. On the theory that a national conference of AIA leadership might be an acceptable occasion to wear it, I decided to take it along. I hate to see good gold go to waste.

I arrived at my first Grassroots with limited expectations. I had a notion that leadership training was the underlying purpose, and that there might be some drinking involved. Understatements, both.

Grassroots is an annual four-day gathering of the executive director, president and first vice president from each state and local AIA chapter in the nation. Nearly every waking hour is packed with educational workshops, formal discussion groups, speeches by Important People (this year: Secretary of Education Richard Riley and Jane Alexander, Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts), and networking opportunities.

Pittsburgh delegates attended presentations on the AIA's Continued Education System, increasing our influence on public policy at all levels of government, and motivating volunteers (look out!). I participated in a heated group discussion on licensing for interior designers that included tips from states that have successfully defeated the issue and strategies for damage control from others where such efforts have failed.

We also spent an afternoon on Capitol Hill meeting with our various legislators. Anne Swager and I met with Rep. Mike Doyle to inform him of AIA's position on the Capital Gains tax cut (for), tax credits for business revitalization spending (for), and the Brooks Act (don't mess with it, it's great). When you consider the impact of 600 architects meeting with nearly every representative in Washington, the potential we have as an organization becomes clear.

A conference high point was the unveiling of the national advertising campaign commissioned by AIA CEO Terry McDermott. These powerful ads, promoting the value of architecture, will run in selected business magazines such as *Forbes* and *Inc.* throughout 1995. If you haven't seen the February 20 issue of *Business Week*, get a copy today. In a very exciting way, McDermott has answered the popular question, "What does the AIA do for me?"

The most rewarding aspect of the trip for me was the discovery of the incredible resource AIA members can be to one another. As a cultural buzz word, "networking" has come to mean everything from making contact in pursuit of professional enrichment to having drinks with your pals and expensing it as business development. I am happy to report that Grassroots networking covered the range of opportunities from purely social to intense exchanges of ideas, suggestions, inquiries and solutions. Seldom was heard a discouraging word, and there was no hint of the competitiveness and rivalry sometimes seen when architects congregate. It is a most remarkable thing to find yourself among colleagues whose passions are focused not on the individual needs of their business, but on the collective needs of our profession.

I wore my gold eagle pin on the first day of the conference, despite a fear that it would label me as an AIA junkie. When I saw 600 eagles on 600 jackets, I realized that there is no such thing as an inappropriate occasion for such a nice little piece of jewelry. ■

AIA Pittsburgh serves 12 Western Pennsylvania counties as the local component of the American Institute of Architects and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. The objective of AIA Pittsburgh is to improve, for society, the quality of the built environment by further raising the standards of architectural education, training and practice; fostering design excellence; and promoting the value of architectural services to the public. AIA membership is open to all registered architects, architectural interns, and a limited number of professionals in supporting fields.

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COLUMNS is published ten times a year by, and primarily for, members of AIA Pittsburgh. A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Preference may be given to the selection of works, articles, opinions, letters, etc. of members for publication. However, in the interest of furthering the goals of the Chapter, as stated monthly at the top of the masthead and in the membership directory, COLUMNS will publish the names of and properly credit non-members, whether as participants in the design of works submitted by a member, or as designers of their own work, or as authors of articles, opinion or letters.

Opinions expressed by editors and contributors are not necessarily those of AIA Pittsburgh. The Chapter has made every reasonable effort to provide accurate and authoritative information, but assumes no liability for the contents.



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The Art of Publishing

by Anne Swager

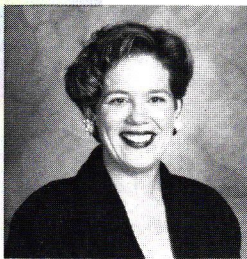
As a kid, I was always the shortest,

skinniest, and downright scrawniest in my class. Neither of my kids inherited this deficit of stature, which I think is due to growth hormones in chicken as opposed to an anomaly in their gene pool. Their size is of little or no issue to them. I was grateful to grow up to be of more or less average height and weight, which I can only maintain now by eating food best designed for rabbits. I never thought being able to eat anything I wanted (mostly refined sugars) and still looking like a starving refugee was an advantage, especially when it came time to be chosen for a team for one of our pickup kickball, kick the can, or other neighborhood games. You guessed it! I was almost always one of the last to be chosen. This did not sit well with me. What I might have lacked in athletic prowess, I made up for in sheer determination. I was a ferocious competitor, who was not scared of much and covered up everything else with bravado. Not content

to let my small stature dictate my place in the pecking order, I soon learned the best way not to be chosen last for a pickup game was to be the captain of one of the teams and do the picking. Given my verbose nature, I was usually able to engineer this circumstance and, therefore, forego the inevitable embarrassment of being chosen last.

Nowadays, I would like to think that I have earned my place on the team and no longer need to resort to obnoxious, pushy behavior to get my way. I reserve my shrieking for the kids and the dog but nevertheless, have found that I still need to continually speak up for myself and for the architects I represent.

In the January issue of *Columns*, we inserted a questionnaire to garner your feedback on what we were or were not doing right. One complaint we heard, though not often, was that we focus on the larger firms' work at the expense of the smaller firms. While this is never intentional, it does sometimes occur for a variety of reasons. Since taking



One complaint we heard, although not often, was that we focus on the larger firms' work at the expense of the smaller.

Columns in-house I have a new appreciation for the art form of publishing a magazine. For example: often, we go up to a day or two before we must go to the printer counting on a particular vendor to advertise in the upcoming issue. For whatever unfathomable reason, the advertiser chooses to withdraw at the last possible minute creating a large blank space which we must be prepared to fill instantly. Since we receive enough press releases from the firms with active marketing departments to paper several walls of the office, in goes one or several of these releases because no one this close to deadline has the time to produce a whole new article. We are attempting to remedy this by developing a backlog of non-time sensitive stories written in conjunction with members, which could be dropped in at a moments notice. However, this won't solve the problem completely.

Which firms we feature in an article or who we interview as an expert on a particular subject relies upon the knowledge of staff and the editorial board as to who is doing what. Simply put, to feature you, we have to know about you. Unfortunately, once we do know about you, getting the information from you can be similar to pulling a sore molar from a raging bull. In a recent issue, we had a picture of a project from a firm which has almost never been featured, because I had buttonholed one of its employees at a cocktail party and followed through the next day. However, Michelle spent four days and eight phone calls trying to get information from a firm who had enthusiastically agreed to be interviewed on a particular subject, yet made no effort to respond to her requests. Unable to make the contact, we had to substitute someone else. We understand your busy schedules and, within reason, we hope to accommodate you. However, resources are short for us as well. One member implied that we did not work hard enough to get information from small firms. I think we work mighty hard to do just that but often end up empty handed, having expended valuable hours and dollars fruitlessly. We would dearly love to feature each firm at least once a year. To be a

continued on page 5

FROM THE TOP continued from page 4

part of it, you don't even have to know how to write a press release, you just have to tell us about yourselves. Ask us to stop by your office and learn more about you or tell us about your firm at the next membership meeting.

Columns is a member publication, not an exclusive club. To be a part of the team, all you have to do is step up to the plate. It's too bad that in this day and age, pickup games have given way to activities mostly organized by adults. Everyone needs to learn how to make his own opportunities especially when the playing field is mostly level. 🏠

The AIA Needs Your Help When Christmas Arrives in April



AIA Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the national charity, Christmas in April, is sponsoring a house which will be repaired by volunteers during a one-day event the last Saturday of April. AIA invites any member firm to contribute a donation (\$200 per firm) and volunteers to assist. (This is a great way to fulfill those public service IDP credits.) We hope you will join us as apart of this annual national charitable event.

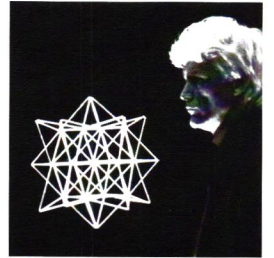
To participate or if you have questions, call Todd Havekotte, AIA at KSBH Architects: 321-1500.

Lloyd Wilson: Creating new spaces between architecture and sculpture

Wilson is an artist with an uncanny ability to think in three dimensions, to grasp the relationship of complex geometries, and to appreciate the visual potential they provide. He is also a craftsman who understands his material, relishes a seamless fit, and knows how to make color perform. The AIA Gallery is pleased to host an exhibit of the sculptor's work March 24th through April 7th. An opening reception will be held at the gallery on Friday, March 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Often working with hundreds of pieces of glass at, Wilson needs a large space in which to pursue the juxtapositions and unexpected compositions that are the hallmark of his work. For many years he made his studio in the old Duquesne Brewery on the city's South Side. Now he works from his Mission Street studio in the same neighborhood.

The simplest of the artist's 20 works to be exhibited is comprised of 94 pieces of glass. The most complex uses just under 400. While Italian colored glass is currently his preferred material, Wilson formerly worked in wood, with explorations in stone and specialty steel as well. A fascination with geometry, reminiscent of Buckminster Fuller, is the unifying element to his work, regardless what the material. —M.F.



Architects' Sunday Office Tours

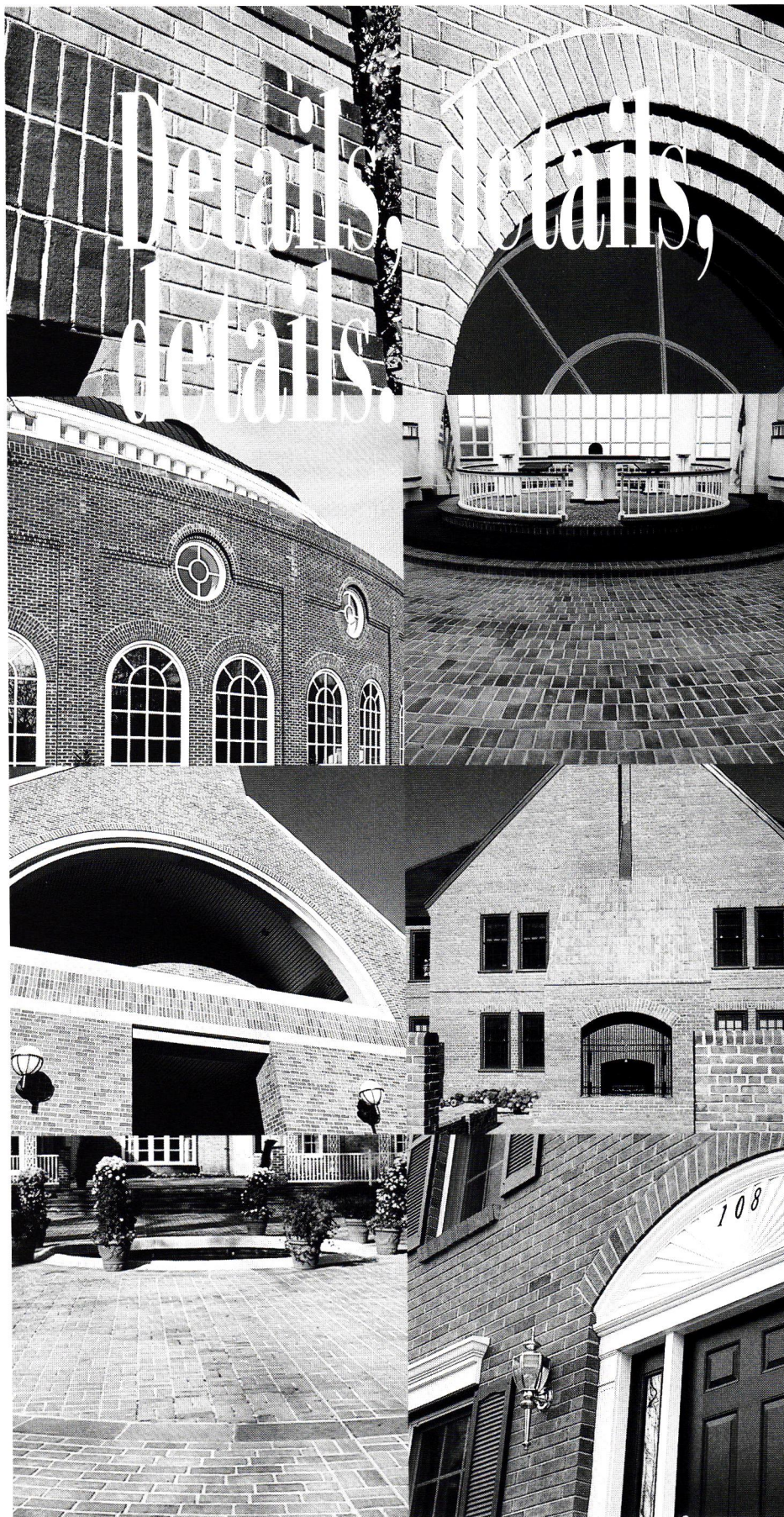
Join Pittsburgh's first walking tour of six downtown architects' offices, followed by a party and exhibit at AIA Pittsburgh's gallery.

A representative group of offices—large and small, young and long-established, in old and new buildings—that can be visited in a three hour period were chosen. Different offices will be visited in subsequent years.

This year's tour includes:

L.D. Astorino and Associates, Ltd.
 Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
 MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Inc.
 McCormick Architects, Designers and Planners, Inc.
 Poli and Cuteri Architects
 Reid and Stuhldreher, Inc.

The **Sunday, April 2** event, 2 - 5 p.m., is a benefit for scholarships supported by Architrave and the Pittsburgh Wellesley Club. Tickets will be available at AIA Pittsburgh the day of the tour, or held there by advanced paid reservation. Tour only is \$8 (tax deductible), tour and party is \$12. Checks should be made payable to Architrave and must be received at AIA Pittsburgh, 211 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, by **March 29th**. VISA and MasterCard also accepted.



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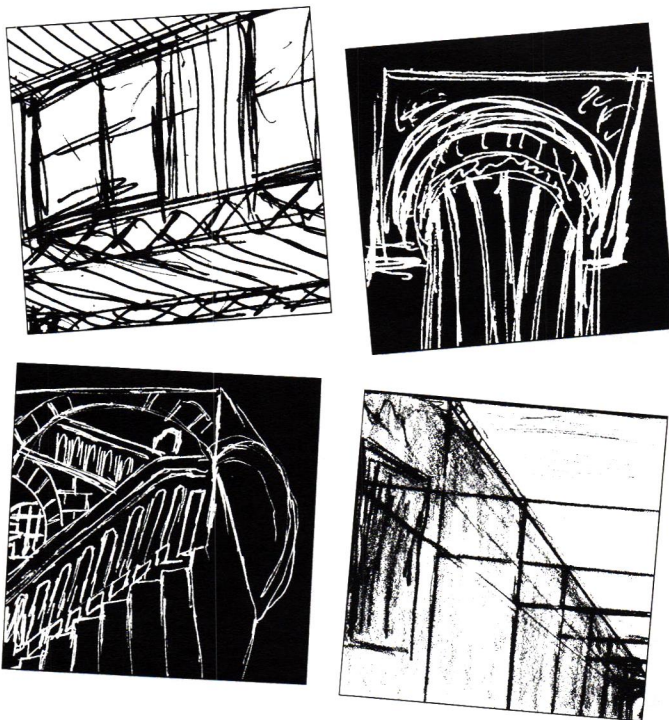


Building It BetterSM

AIA Gallery Show Highlights Architectural Apprentices

Come see what young minds are thinking. Twenty-two area high school seniors will exhibit work, completed over a five month Architectural Apprenticeship program, at the AIA Gallery from March 13-17. Sponsored by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, students with a special interest in architecture were selected by teachers for the October through February program. PHLF has been offering the apprenticeship program, team taught with an area architect, for ten years.

Students attended sessions on architecture and drawing taught by **David Roth, AIA**, visited the offices of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, IAS, and Radlet McCarthy as well as went on a downtown walking and drawing tour. They have also met with **Dennis McFadden, Associate AIA** at the Heinz Architectural Center, where they attended a lecture/slide show on Renzo Piano and toured the new Scaife Galleries and Frank Lloyd Wright's office. For their final meeting, students visited Carnegie Mellon's Architecture Department and had their work critiqued by faculty and students. —M.F.



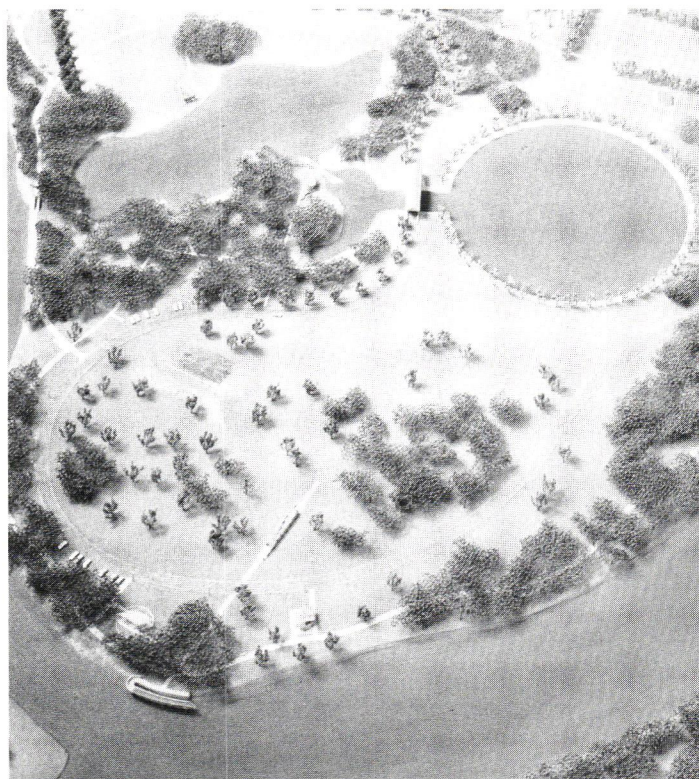
Architect of Downtown Riverfront Park Speaks in Oakland

As riverfront development gains increasing attention in Pittsburgh, waterside projects are starting to move ahead. Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates in Cambridge, MA, was recently selected by The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to design the city's Waterfront Park stretching from Point State Park to the Convention Center. Along with artist Ann Hamilton and engineers Ove Arup & Partners, Van Valkenburgh envisions the public park as a centerpiece of contemporary Pittsburgh civic life.

Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, Van Valkenburgh will talk about his experience designing public landscapes in a lecture at The Carnegie at 6:30 p.m. on March 13. His firm focuses on large and complex public and institutional projects. They have completed work in France, Korea, and the United States. Most recently he completed a four-year collaborative project to design a courtyard for the New School for Social Research in New York City.

Van Valkenburgh, a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is an author as well as the recipient of numerous honors, awards and research grants. —M.F.

► *This model of Van Valkenburgh's award-winning Mill Race Park in Columbus, Indiana shows an urban landscape yielding to natural forms as the park approaches the East Fork of the White River. Similar to the proposed Pittsburgh Waterfront Park, this 85-acre site is situated on a flood plain. The need to mitigate flooding resulted in the creation of the 450-foot-diameter Round Lake, surrounded by cherry trees.*



ARCHITECT

by Michelle Fanzo

It may not be readily visible, but technology's role in building design is gaining momentum.



Pittsburgh's Comstock Center, built 12 years ago, was cited by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the most energy-efficient buildings in the country and a prime example of Green Architecture. A pet project of Dick Rittelmann, FAIA, the energy-saving mechanical/electrical systems and airflow windows saved \$500,000 in first costs over conventional systems.

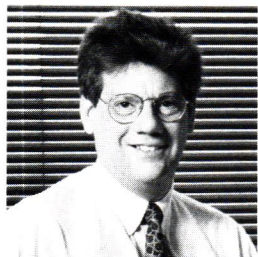
An architect recently designed a Wal-Mart store with adaptive re-use to housing in mind—adopting a level of energy and material efficiency not previously seen in a warehouse outlet. It is not only computer systems and electronic components that are evolving rapidly, the very use of the structures being built today is changing more quickly than ever. What does this mean for architects? Flexibility, say some professionals; not as much as you think, say others. Some chapter members suggested it heralds a need to rely more on consultants, still others are cautious of untested products. There is no one answer about how the technology revolution has effected such an age-old profession, but there is no question it will continue.

Columns recently talked to three architects about the impact technology has had on their profession. Each individual speaks from a different area of expertise, confirming there are as many perspectives on technology as there are facets to technology.

Tony Poli, AIA, Poli & Cuteri Architects

Technology-driven changes are often based on energy efficiency, says Tony Poli, AIA. "And there are problems with that. We tightened up buildings in the 1970s and then we ended up with sick building syndrome because they didn't breathe enough." High energy-efficient building systems and electrical and mechanical systems are areas Poli feels architects pay much more attention to now than a few years ago. Fiber optic systems that control the level of output from light fixtures are an example of these technological innovations. The lights automatically dim when more sunlight is available.

"We've tried to maximize the use of those kinds of technologies for our clients. We recently did a lab in the North Hills where we took basic mechanical systems as far as they would go for a reasonable amount of money. This means we're depending a lot more on our engineers to know about this stuff. Architects have always been generalists that have had to know enough about various systems to communicate with engineers but I think we're depending more on them now. I think it makes us more selective about consultants. It also makes us more vulnerable because we have the same liability we always had, but we expect our consultants to support us more. There's no way for an architect to keep up the latest information on all building systems and products. I wouldn't have any time left to practice architecture."



One of the major impacts of technology on buildings has been the need to keep them flexible enough to accept newer and better systems as they are developed.

—TONY POLI

With an increased amount of technology used in buildings, explains Poli, the architect has to make basic decisions early on that hopefully do not hinder a client from future improvements. "One of the major impacts of technology on buildings has been the need to keep them flexible enough to accept newer and better systems as they are developed. For example, a few years ago we moved the Statistics Department at Carnegie Mellon and we designed a flexible system of cable trays and bulkheads—ways to get wiring into these computer systems. They changed the wiring twice before completing the project. And they've changed it again since then." The architects had to devise a way to lay new wires and cables with minimal disruption to the environment, while maintaining the architectural integrity of one of the campus' historic Hornbostel buildings.

When it comes to new technology, Poli feels the profession is hesitant, and for good reason. "I think a lot of architects *like* to think they are pioneers, but I'm not sure how much we really are. We're driven by the needs of the marketplace and our clients to make things work for them. We're more reactive than proactive with respect to these kinds of issues. With design we're on the forefront, making the decisions about how spaces should look and feel. But as far as how they function, that's driven by forces other than us, and we have to adapt to that."

Bob Hallstrom, AIA, KTH Architects

There have been surprisingly few technological changes in the building industry, says Bob Hallstrom, AIA. "There *have been* a lot of advancements in the way we go about constructing—such as using a cherry picker rather than elaborate scaffolding. Now that you know that a contractor can do certain things relatively efficiently, it may change the way you design a project."

Hallstrom sees the greatest technological changes in HVAC systems. "We're just giving people *far* more sophisticated systems than ever before, and it has been a bit of a mixed blessing. We have the technology to give people more comfort and control, but the price tag goes up too. They cost a lot more, but they also do a much better job—much like cars cost so much not just because of inflation, but because of the increasing amount of technology inside."

Hallstrom agrees with Poli that liability plays some role in the industry resistance to technology. "My old boss, who I consider a wise designer, told me 'don't be a pioneer in anything.' Every so often there's another whiz-bang product that comes out and it's going to answer all your problems. Then it doesn't work and you end up with a red face as the

designer who specified it. I'm a little skeptical of new products. There's probably some inherent caution that keeps most people from jumping at new technology."

As a firm that produces a significant amount of industrial work, Hallstrom feels KTH Architects deals with technology concerns on site specific projects, rather than as a major force impacting his DuBois-based office. "We did a power plant with internal combustion engines working in a high ceiling room. It was tremendously hot and deafening, literally. It was just absolutely numbing it was so loud. We had to pay special attention to acoustics and figure out a way to cool the engines. It was like taking an automobile engine and sitting it out in the middle of the floor, except these engines were 30 feet long and 15 feet high and weigh 100 tons. We had to work around that kind of technology."

Confronting technology, says Hallstrom, brings an architect's problem solving abilities to the fore. As this skill becomes a more obvious part of projects, he is concerned that architects are encountering less respect for their problem solving ability than they deserve. "We need to sell our problem solving abilities better to the client base. Now, I find people call engineers if they want something worked out, and don't even think to call an architect."

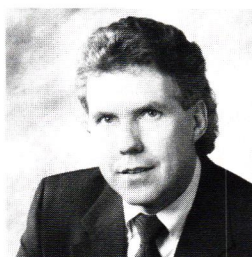
Richard Rittelmann, FAIA, Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates

Dick Rittelmann, FAIA, was instrumental in the founding, four years ago, of IBACOS—a research consortium for companies in the home building industry. The need for such a collaborative effort is felt the most, he says, by product manufacturers with new ideas. "The path to market is so lengthy and torturous that only companies with extremely deep pockets can weather the process. We're the most innovative country in the world but everyone else makes money on our innovations."

Some of the reasons for this, says Rittelmann, are a very litigious society and the lack of a national building code. "It's political. Everyone in the industry agrees we need one code, so when a product is developed it can be examined and approved in one place and move on. As it is now, it sometimes takes ten years to get all the code approvals on a product."

Most of the sophistication that has been integrated into the market is in electronics, says Rittelmann. "This does not have much of an effect on architecture except in one area, the pollution of the fourth environment. Over the years we've polluted the air, the land and the water. Now we're doing an excruciatingly good job of polluting the electromagnetic envi-

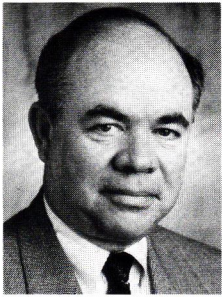
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—BOB HALLSTROM

continued from page 9



Over the years we've polluted the air, the land and the water. Now we're doing an excruciatingly good job of polluting the electromagnetic environment with electromagnetic interferences and radio frequencies.

—RICHARD RITTELMANN

ronment with electromagnetic interferences and radio frequencies. More and more we have all become dependent on the electromagnetic environment we live in. This is very true for researchers and the healthcare field. Heart monitoring equipment doesn't work very well in EMI-RFI polluted areas, like a hospital. Computers are sometimes their own worse enemies because they emit a lot of dirt, demanding a lot of shielding." For example, says Rittelmann, the orange on-light on electrical outlet strips is a gaseous discharge bulb and is extremely dirty electromagnetically. That dirt has adversely affected an enormous amount of research, he says.

He has seen inadequate shielding create problems with heart monitors, electric motors, and large chiller motors. "If you're remodeling in a hospital and hook up a welder, you

mess up heart monitors like crazy. This problem is going on all over but people don't know why it's happening. We're seeing a heavy technology impact in this area and are having to do more shielding to prevent RFI and EMI contamination. This effects office buildings too, not just labs and hospitals. We frequently use a sophisticated antenna to do site analysis before we do the design to know the level of electromagnetic interference we're dealing with."

Rittelmann has also noticed problems with new plastic electrical boxes and panels. "In many ways they are safer because they won't conduct electricity. But the old metal panels were very good electronic shields. Even plastic wall outlet boxes don't have any shielding, and sometimes all it takes is a flick of a switch to drop a computer off-line. We can't even look to our traditional consultants for these solutions; it's a whole new area. It's really an architectural problem. We're going to have to do more shielding and we have to design the shields."

There are many new ideas on drawing boards across the country that will have significant impact on building design, they just aren't on the market yet, says Rittelmann. One intriguing innovation in development is a very high-efficiency gas-fed fuel cell that can provide all the electricity, heat and clean drinking water a home needs in one small unit. It is an example of nearly "invisible" technology making an impact on our built environment. ■

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Technologies That Influence Building Design

AIA Professional Affiliates offer views on how technological innovations in their areas of expertise effect building design and construction.

Jeff Lancaster, Professional Affiliate

Premier Security Systems

Lancaster says the popularity of security systems as well as a variety of automated systems require greater coordination between systems consultants and architects, as well as greater coordination of the systems themselves. If planned for during design, home system coordination—such as security, climate control, lighting—can be placed on one electrical panel, says Lancaster, saving the client the expense of later duplicating system wiring. “The homes we build today will last longer than we do,” he says. “They should be wired to accommodate services of the future, as well as what the client wants now.”

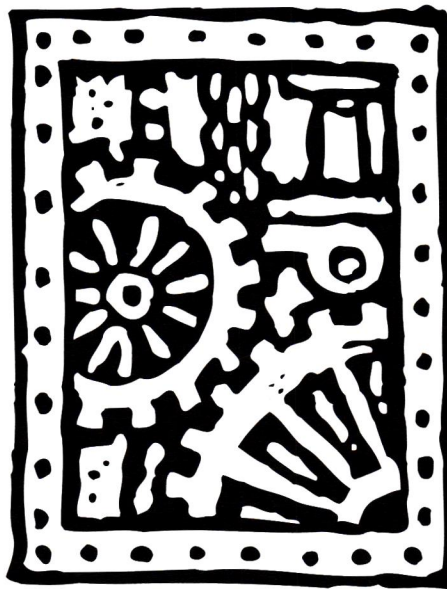
In the area of security, the most sophisticated technology has emerged in cost-effective glass breakage detection. Individual windows no longer need to be wired; a sensor; is positioned to cover a number of windows. The sensor is programmed with a computer chip designed to ignore the 20 most common false alarms, such as lightening or a glass in the sink breaking. The system showing the greatest gain in interest is gas detection. “People ask for gas detectors in 1995 like they asked for smoke detectors in 1975,” says Lancaster.

John Kraemer, Professional Affiliate

Duquesne Light

Kraemer offers the following energy and cost saving tips for commercial projects:

- Cool Thermal Storage with Low Temperature Air Distribution—when the two systems work together the customer can save on operating costs and initial costs. Using a chiller during off-peak periods results in lower energy costs. Distribution ductwork and motor sizes are also reduced.
- Enthalpy Wheels—total energy recovery equipment for preconditioning outside air; important because of the increased ventilation requirements of ASHRAE 62-89 and



indoor air quality concerns.

- Adjustable Speed Drives (ASDs)—offer energy savings for mechanical systems motors operating fans and pumps.
- T-8 lamps with Electronic Ballasts—reduce energy consumption by 40% compared to conventional fluorescent systems with the same light output. Electronic Ballasts can operate on DC and therefore can be used with Photovoltaic panels and/or off-peak battery charging.

Kraemer says many electric utilities offer customer rebates for installing T-8 lighting, thermal storage systems and ASDs. Most Pennsylvania utilities, however, do not have such rebate programs.

Tony Sadar, Professional Affiliate

Center of Hazardous Materials Research

Sadar sees greater attention being paid to the impact of emissions on new and existing buildings, with issues of odor and emissions returning into a building and the effect of emissions on nearby structures as key concerns.

“I’ve seen emissions get trapped between two buildings and the gas is pushed down along the side of a structure rather than disbursed into the air,” Sadar says. He suggests many of these concerns can be offset by one of two technological solutions: reduce emissions by installing an internal control process that dilutes the emissions before they are propelled through a stack, or build the stack higher to move emissions discharge to a higher point.

Sensitive to the fact that many architects and clients do not want a 50 foot stack on all their labs, hospitals or university research facilities, Sadar says new technology has produced exhaust systems that propel the emissions higher when leaving the stack, dispelling the emissions further up into the air. These high velocity fans also serve to reduce the concentration of gas. “Without wind, the fans can throw 50% of the stack’s emissions 60 feet into the air,” he says.

Gae Galza, Professional Affiliate

Thermal Industries

Innovations in vinyl manufacturing are offering architects products that are environmentally safe, cost-saving and low maintenance—qualities in great demand today, says Galza. Windows have been developed with warm, stained wood on the interior and durable vinyl on the exterior, cutting down considerably on maintenance. These windows do not conduct the cold like traditional metal windows or deteriorate like wood and have fusion welded corners to eliminate air filtration.

Galza also sees improvements in vinyl decking/boat dock material affecting architecture. The dock/decking uses recycled vinyl with a virgin vinyl co-extrusion, one of its environmental pluses. “If you are designing a boat dock, it will be lighter, it won’t rot or splinter, and you’re not putting a chemically treated surface into the water.” For residential decks the vinyl is easily maintained and safer than wood, she says.—M.F.

The Intelligent Workplace

by Michelle Fanzo

The beginning of the twentieth century meets the beginning of the twenty-first.

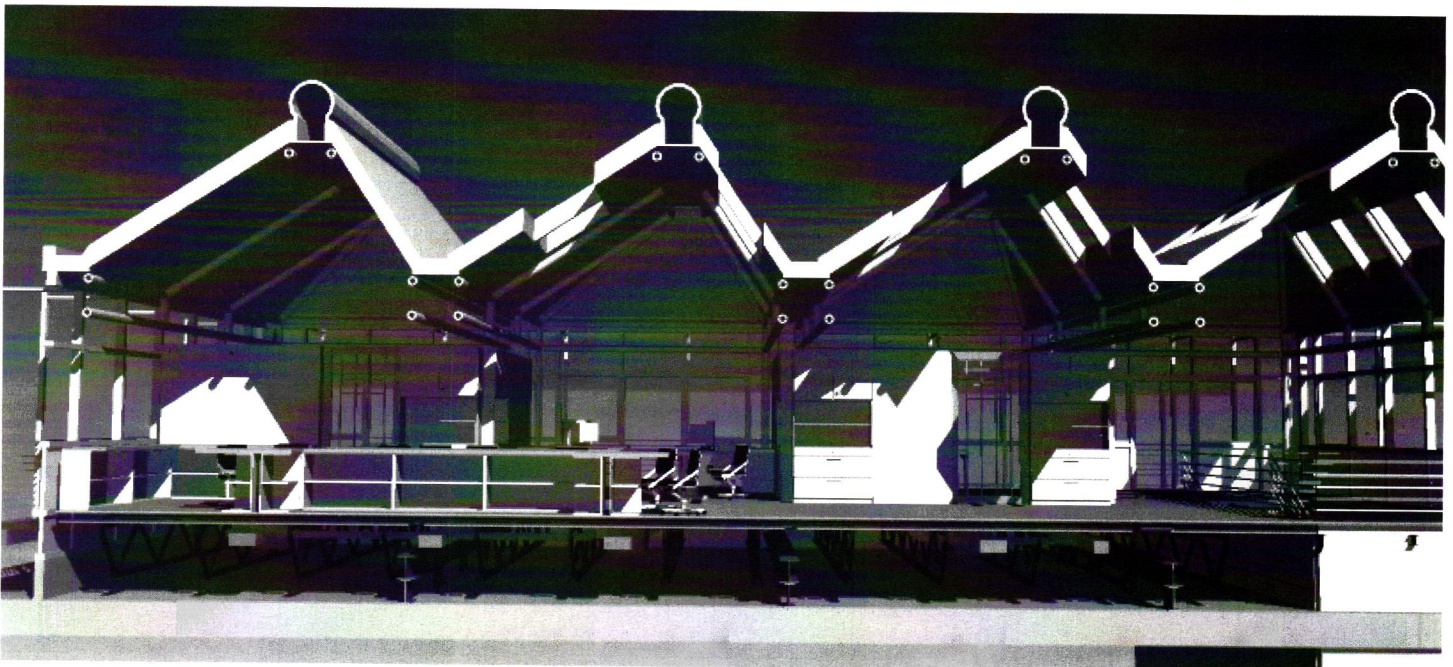
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets the loss to the economy due to sick building syndrome at \$60 billion annually. The avoidance of this and other workplace illnesses will be just one of the areas explored at CMU's Intelligent Workplace.

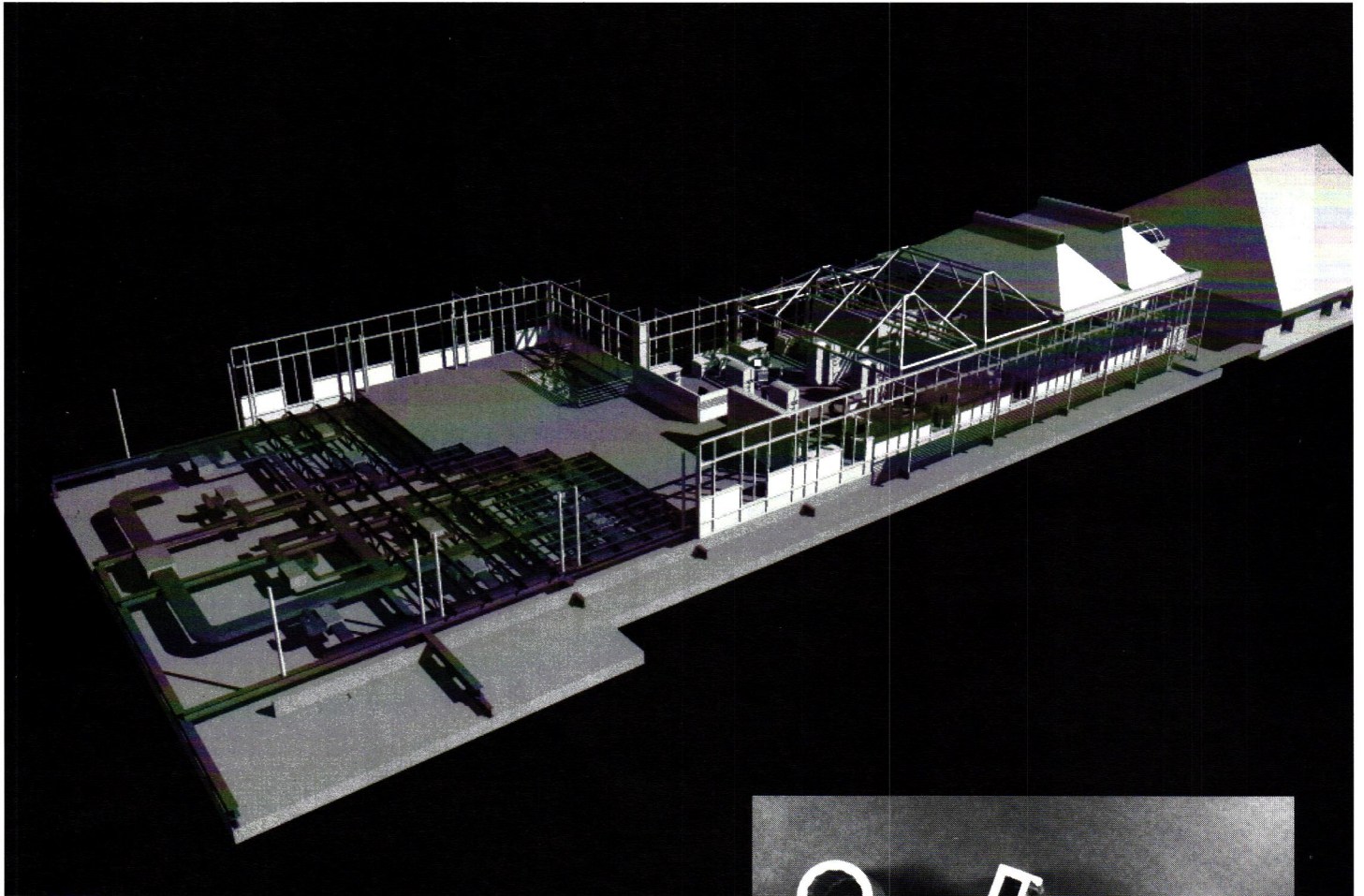
When someone says "flexibility," a bendable, stretchable image is suggested. Buildings do not leap to mind. Buildings don't bend or stretch, in fact, they have a thousand-year tradition of staying in one place and looking basically the same. But flexibility is one of the driving components behind making office buildings and workplaces more "intelligent." The market demands spaces that will adapt quickly and easily to new systems, new hardware, and accommodate multiple-uses over short periods of time.

Carnegie Mellon University joined forces a few years ago with a consortium of federally funded agencies and leaders in the building industry to create "The Intelligent Workplace." The \$3.8 million project will showcase the latest innovations in office building components and systems, and will test the performance of these innovations when integrated into a realistic office setting, explains Dr. Volker Hartkopf, CMU professor of architecture and director of the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics.

The 7,000 square foot facility will be a rooftop extension of Margaret Morrison Carnegie Hall. Phase III of the project, completing the rooftop enclosure, begins this month and is expected to be finished and ready for ongoing interior outfitting by the end of the summer.

Despite technological innovations affecting the workplace, there has been much less innovation *within* the workplace. Though they may have state-of-the-art computers on their desks, American employees still suffer from basic job-related illnesses, such as carpal tunnel and sick building syndromes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets the loss to the economy due to sick building syndrome alone at \$60 billion annually. One of the key innovations to be demonstrated at the Intelligent Workplace includes an advanced HVAC system with individual controls for each workstation, called Personal Environmental Modules (PEMs). In businesses where these models have been tested, productivity and health have increased.



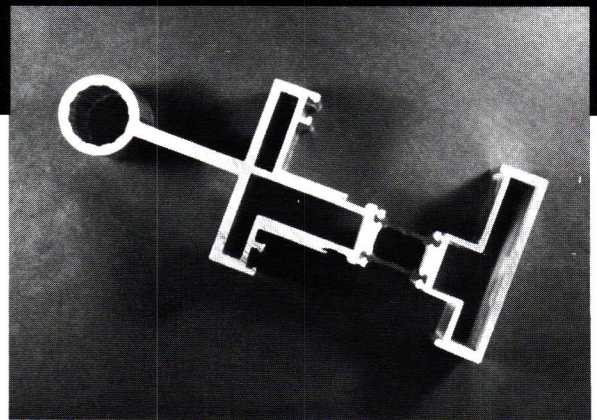


The facility will also evaluate lighting schemes, insulation, electrical systems, office furniture, optimal temperatures, and optimal natural/artificial lighting levels, among many other products and systems. The energy-efficiency of various office equipment, such as a computer, coffee-pot, or radio, will be measured and office furniture configurations will be examined.

Stephen Lee, AIA, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Architecture professor, emphasizes the facility is not a place for product research but rather an integrated setting for products to be tested. It is not about patching together the latest bells and whistles on the market, but initiating a multi-disciplinary approach to designing a workplace. Contractors, furniture manufacturers, engineers, facility managers, architects, and electricians all need to start planning at the same time, he says, to make a building efficient and flexible for current and projected needs.

The hard-sell side to the evolution of the office, says Lee, is higher up-front cost. After a few years a business should recoup these costs in operating expenses and employee productivity, but the initial sticker shock has sent even forward-thinking companies running. "Until people take a longer view of buildings," says Lee, "it will be difficult to bring about these improvements."

The Intelligent Workplace may start to change that attitude in another way: education. CMU architecture students will have the opportunity to participate in product evaluations, learning first-hand that system integration is an important principle of good design. ■



(left) A raised floor for easy access to wiring doubles as plenum for air. (above) This "peel-away" aerial view of the Intelligent Workplace illustrates that the facility is constructed so that building components and even entire assemblies can be replaced as new ones become available for study.

(inset) A cross-section of a curtainwall mullion shows the integration of heating and cooling systems, part of the Intelligent Workplace's dynamic envelope.

Kudos

→ **Larry Simpson, Professional Affiliate**, has been named President of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP). He is also the first recipient of NAIOP's "Building the Bridge" National Public Affairs Award. Simpson is the Director of Marketing at **Johnson/Schmidt and Associates**.

From the Firms

→ **Johnson/Schmidt and Associates (JSA)** has been commissioned by the Development Dimensions International (DDI) to provide design services associated with DDI's proposed 96,000 square foot, \$8 million Center for Advanced Technology to be located adjacent to DDI's world headquarters in Bridgeville. The four-story building's architecture will be consistent with the existing headquarters, yet will introduce details that reflect a more contemporary statement. Together, the structures will create the feeling of a corporate campus.

Kingsland Scott Bauer Havekotte (KSBH) Architects has been retained by the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (PAA) to conduct a long-term master plan for the renovation and modernization of the PAA's Oakland headquarters. The landmark, six-story struc-

ture is one of the region's oldest buildings and finest examples of the classical style of architecture.

KSBH has also been hired by the University of Pittsburgh to conduct facility condition assessment surveys on each building within the University's system. Encompassing over seven million square feet among 100-plus buildings, the comprehensive assessment began last month and is expected to take over two years.

Mavrovic Architects PC is designing a new home for Griff Hair Salon atop Shadyside's Hartwell Building. Interior highlights include high tech audio and video equipment, dynamic neon lighting, and a handicapped access that was not possible in the salon's previous location. Project completion is expected this month.

Business Briefs

→ Trafalgar House Construction recently announced the addition of three estimators to their staff: Roger Beck, Anthony R. Pugliese and Susan Borek.

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Thanks!

AIA Pittsburgh would like to thank Marsico Corporation for sponsoring the March Architecture on Film gallery exhibit and the accompanying opening reception.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Good news, except for the Northeast

Though construction activity fell 8 percent nationwide in December, the annual total for 1994 was \$285 billion for the industry, up 6 percent from 1993. The growth reported for last year, the third full year of recovery for construction, was consistent with moderate gains shown during the previous two years—9 percent in 1992 and 7 percent in 1993. Unfortunately, while the construction upturn showed similar strength across four of the nation's five regions, the Northeast lagged far behind, resulting in a year-to-year decline of 4 percent.

On the Waterfront

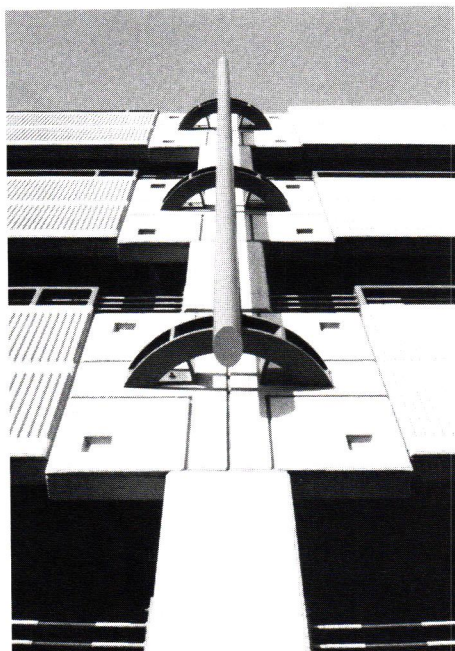
The recent completion of three more buildings at The Pittsburgh Technology Center highlights the merger of two of the city's leading resources—its rediscovered riverfront and a burgeoning high-tech industry.



Carnegie Mellon Research Institute
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

The Research Institute (CMRI) conducts interdisciplinary applied research for business and government in such areas as semiconductor sensors, artificial intelligence and biotechnology. The 90,000 square foot building includes wet and dry labs, industrial labs, offices, conference rooms, a 110-seat auditorium and service and security spaces. Bohlin Cywinski Jackson was asked to design a building that would unify what are currently several different CMRI sites, and create a new identity for the Institute while providing a stimulating environment for research.

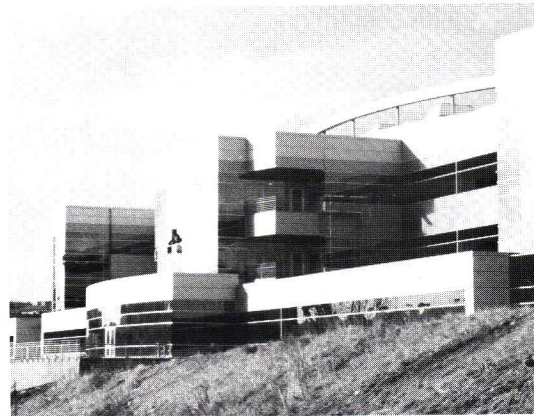
Project Manager: Rob Pfaffmann, AIA



The Pittsburgh Technology Center Parking Garage
WTW Architects

Taking cues from newly erected buildings and the site's previous steel-making heritage, WTW designed the garage's structural system to reflect a harmonious balance of strongly expressed elements. Along the base, split-face concrete block mimics a rusticated stone wall along Second Avenue, while colored metal railings, window security screens and strategically placed decorative tubing make the entire composition highly reflective of its neighbors, and the overall image projected by the development.

Project Architect: Rich Bamburak, AIA



The Union Switch & Signal Systems and Research Center
The Design Alliance Architects

The 173,000 square foot office/research facility began a phased move-in on Monday, February 6th. The building exemplifies an emerging "new breed" of high performance manufacturing facilities, where systems and ideas are the end product. It includes a model shop for development of full-sized prototypes, a hardware and software assembly area where systems are "checked out" prior to shipping, and state-of-the art computer room and communications systems.

Principle in Charge of Design: Robert W. Grubb

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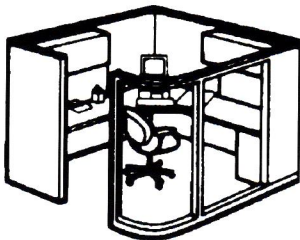
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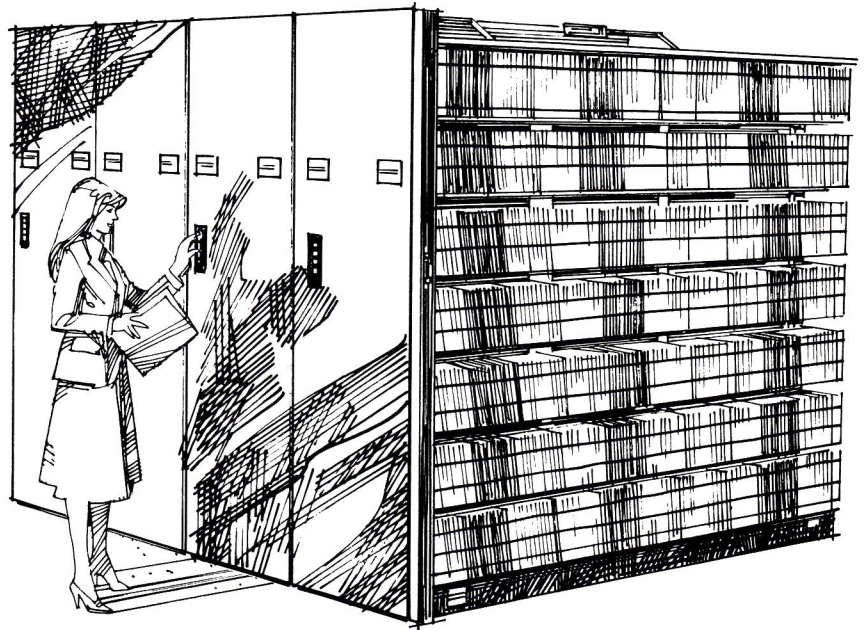
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Gerald Malky 1940-1995

Gerald W. Malky, 54, a director at Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates, died of cancer at his Fox Chapel residence in late January. Founder of Paul Planert Design Associates, his firm merged with Burt Hill in 1986. Malky was director of interior design and space planning at Burt Hill.

Born in New Kensington, PA, Malky was a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. He was a member of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh, the Building Owners and Managers Association, and had served on the Oakmont Country Club's house committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Institute of Architects has decided to suspend the Licensed Printers Program for 1995. Architectural firms will no longer be able to have their printers reproduce AIA documents for inclusion in project manuals. Original documents can be purchased through AIA Pittsburgh or the necessary document can be referenced within the project manual.

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AIA ACTIVITIES

March 1, Wednesday

Communications Committee, 12 p.m. at the Chapter office, Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, 765-3890.
Agenda: historic preservation.

March 1, Wednesday

Committee of Committees, 5:30 p.m. at the Chapter office, Roger Kingsland, AIA, 231-1500.

March 2, Thursday

Architectural Photography Forum, 5:30 p.m. at the Chapter office. Edward Massery, Dennis Marsico and Michael Haritan will discuss issues related to photographing buildings. 471-9548 for reservations.

March 4, Saturday

Committee on the Environment, 9:00 a.m. at the ECO-Center, Gary Moshier, AIA, 231-1500.

March 14, Tuesday

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

March 15, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting, 12 p.m. in the Chapter office, Carl Freedman, 281-6568.

March 16, Thursday

Membership Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Chapter office, Al Cuteri, AIA, 471-8008.

March 21, Tuesday

Urban Design Committee Meeting, 5:45 p.m. at the Chapter office, Kevin Wagstaff, AIA, 391-2884.

March 27, Monday

Architrave Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m. at the Chapter office, Anne Swager, 471-9548.

1 C 9 A 9 L 5 E N D A R

March 29, Wednesday

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Building Industry Center, Conference Room #1, 2270 Noblestown Road, Kay Lamison, 922-4750.

March 29, Wednesday

Chapter Meeting, Richard Gluckman, AIA, Warhol Museum architect is the lecturer. (See page 23 for details.)

AROUND TOWN

March 7, Tuesday

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh is hosting a wine and cheese reception to help architects, CDCP board members, and community organization representatives get to know each other better. Please join us: 5:30-7:00 p.m. at 211 Ninth Street. RSVP 391-4144.

March 8, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators Meeting, Leslie Fisher, 281-1337 for information.

March 13, Monday

Landscape Architect **Michael Van Valkenburgh**, designer of The Cultural Trust-sponsored Pittsburgh Waterfront Park, will speak at The Carnegie Museum of Art Theater at 6:30 p.m. as part of the AIA/CMU/Heinz Architectural Center lecture series.

March 14, Tuesday

Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), Embassy Suites Hotel; RSVP to Sheila Cartiff, 823-5063.

Ongoing

Karl Friedrich Schinkel 1781-1841. The Drama of Architecture at the Heinz Architectural Center.

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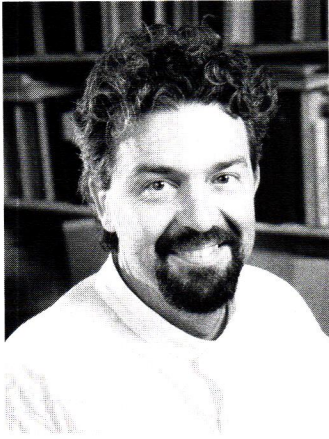


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Stephen R. Lee, AIA



Someday Lee would like to paddle the Nahanni River in the Northwest Territories.

Firm: Carnegie Mellon University Department of Architecture; Tai + Lee, Architects P.C.

Family: Wife: Yoko Tai; daughter: Oka; son: Garick; cats: Tasha and Little One; Iguana: Turquoise.

Years in practice: 18.

Education: B.Arch, CMU 1975; M.Arch, CMU 1976.

First job: Stock person at Century Housewares in Clarence, NY. (It was called stockboy back then.)

Project you are proudest of: Fineview Crest Homes, Fineview, Pittsburgh, PA.

Building you wish you had designed: Monadnock Block, Burnham & Root, Chicago, IL.

Building you'd like to tear down: The new Allegheny County Jail (easy choice).

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? An industrial arts teacher.

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? John Cleese.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? Part-time in both Pittsburgh and Japan. (That's what I'm doing now.)

What's the best part of your job? Constant exposure to the diverse ideas of my students and many opportunities to interact with international visitors at CMU.

What's the most annoying thing architects do? Whine about their fees and look for the next fad.

Advice to young architects: Work construction to gain a new perspective on buildings.

Favorite interior: Ronchamp, Le Corbusier, Belfort, France.

Favorite building: Shokin Tei, Katsura Imperial Villa, Kyoto, Japan—the ultimate expression of refinement and simplicity in the use of materials.

Favorite city: Barcelona, Spain.

Favorite architect: Renzo Piano.

Favorite architecture book: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Robert Pirsig.

Most architecturally appealing restaurant in Pittsburgh: Grant's Bar, Millvale.

Best gift to give an architect: A book.

Wish list for Pittsburgh/downtown: An unpretentious central market.

What's the next big architectural trend? Sustainable design—unfortunately that will be just the way architects treat it, as a trend!

Someday you'd like to: Paddle the Nahanni River, located in the Northwest Territories.

You would like to be remembered for: My contributions to redeveloping Pittsburgh's neighborhoods and the education of the next generation of architects.

Contractors' Directory

	Commercial	Construction Management	Electrical	Exterior	General	Highway	Industrial	Interior	Mechanical	Renovations	Residential
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Engineers' Directory

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To include your firm in the Engineers' or Contractors' Directory call Tom Lavelle at 882-3410.

River Talk

by Michelle Fanzo

An all-day public riverfront forum, co-sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh, attracted a full-house at The Carnegie.

With nearly 70 percent of Allegheny County's

130 municipalities touching a river, the issue of how to develop the area's newly available waterfront property is drawing increasing attention. What to do with 35 miles of City riverfront was the topic for *Reclaiming Our Urban Riverfront: A Work in Progress*, held at The Carnegie Museum of Art in late January.

"The more Pittsburgh enhances what makes it unique, the more people will come to see it. The more it looks like anywhere else, the fewer people will come," stated Edward McMahon, the forum's keynote speaker and Director of the American Greenways Program at the Conservation Fund. While the U.S. is the world leader in environmental protection, we are losing our countryside, and our regional individuality, faster than ever, he stated. "Growth is inevitable. The question is will a particular kind of development make an area better or worse?"

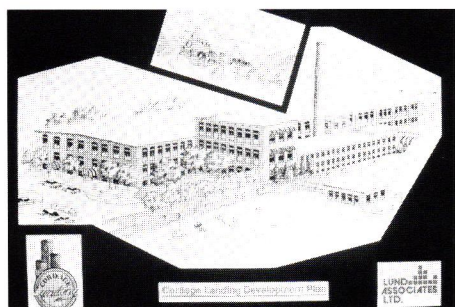
Making excellent use of a visually dynamic slide show, McMahon advocated for public spaces and greenways that will provide recreational uses and economic opportunities. He presented images and information on public projects—such as a walking/biking trail in Stowe, VT that single-handedly increased tourism in that town—that not only made places more appealing, but had significant economic impact. San Antonio's riverfront esplanade—which, before it became the region's primary attraction was an oozing brown stream citizen's avoided—was a particularly poignant example of successful urban waterfront development.

Plans to define the southern portion of the Golden Triangle with parks and greenways, rather than roadways, was discussed by Pittsburgh Director of City Planning Eloise Hirsh. Projects mentioned included turning the Mon Wharf parking lot into a public greens space, and the Pittsburgh Waterfront Park, which will stretch from Point State Park to the Convention Center.

The lack of coordinated planning and communication among local, regional and state agencies and organizations was lamented by a number of the forum's 15 speakers. Jack Ridenour, of the Allegheny County Planning Department, acknowledged that a number of good plans were already in existence for riverfront development, but that they get lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. "We don't have a lot of patience in this county to see things through," he said.

The day concluded with a presentation by AIA Pittsburgh on riverfront gambling. **Karen Loysen, AIA** and **Kevin Wagstaff, AIA** offered a look at how other cities have handled the issue. Slides of Disney-like Pirate ships moored to outlandish structures on other city's waterfronts elicited groans from the audience. Loysen explained cities with loose guidelines on riverboat gambling tend to be the ones sporting casinos in the shapes of (floating) antebellum mansions, Irish castles, and stuff that looks like it should be sprouting out of a drink at a Polynesian restaurant. Cities, such as St. Louis, which made long-term plans for riverboat gambling sites and tighter restrictions on operators generally have more visually harmonious structures in their rivers. Yet, she also discovered that cities with more restrictions have had casinos float away to areas that have fewer restrictions—which is what has happened in St. Louis.

The program drew such a large audience (about 200), organizers are considering producing a series of public forums centering around architectural issues. The conference was coordinated by Friends of the Riverfront, hosted by The Heinz Architectural Center and co-sponsored in part by AIA Pittsburgh. ■



(top) **Cordage Landing in Plymouth, MA is an example of abandoned waterfront industry.** (bottom) **This proposed renovation of the area is a strong example of a site plan that takes into account the historical integrity of the location/architecture. This plan, designed by Lund Associates, of Rapid City, SD., was shown at the conference as a model for successful waterfront development.**

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AIA Pittsburgh invites you to hear:

Richard Gluckman architect of The Warhol Museum

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

The Warhol Museum, North Side

5:30 pm registration
6:00 pm Richard Gluckman lecture
7:00 pm tour of the museum and cocktail reception
cost: \$10 members, \$15 non-members

AIA Pittsburgh would like to thank its sponsors for funding this event:
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RSVP by Monday, March 27, 1995

Richard Gluckman is the designer of numerous commercial art galleries in New York City as well as galleries in London and Madrid; he is also the architect of the award-winning Dia Center for the Arts. Recently completed projects in Pittsburgh include both The Andy Warhol Museum and the renovated Scaife Galleries at The Carnegie Museum of Art.

RSVP Richard Gluckman

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412/471-9501 by **Monday, March 27, 1995.**

Upcoming Issues

The following is a preview of the feature articles in upcoming issues of Columns. We encourage all firms to submit projects for our portfolio issues or call if you think you have something to contribute to a topic. The deadline for submissions is always five weeks prior to the publication date.

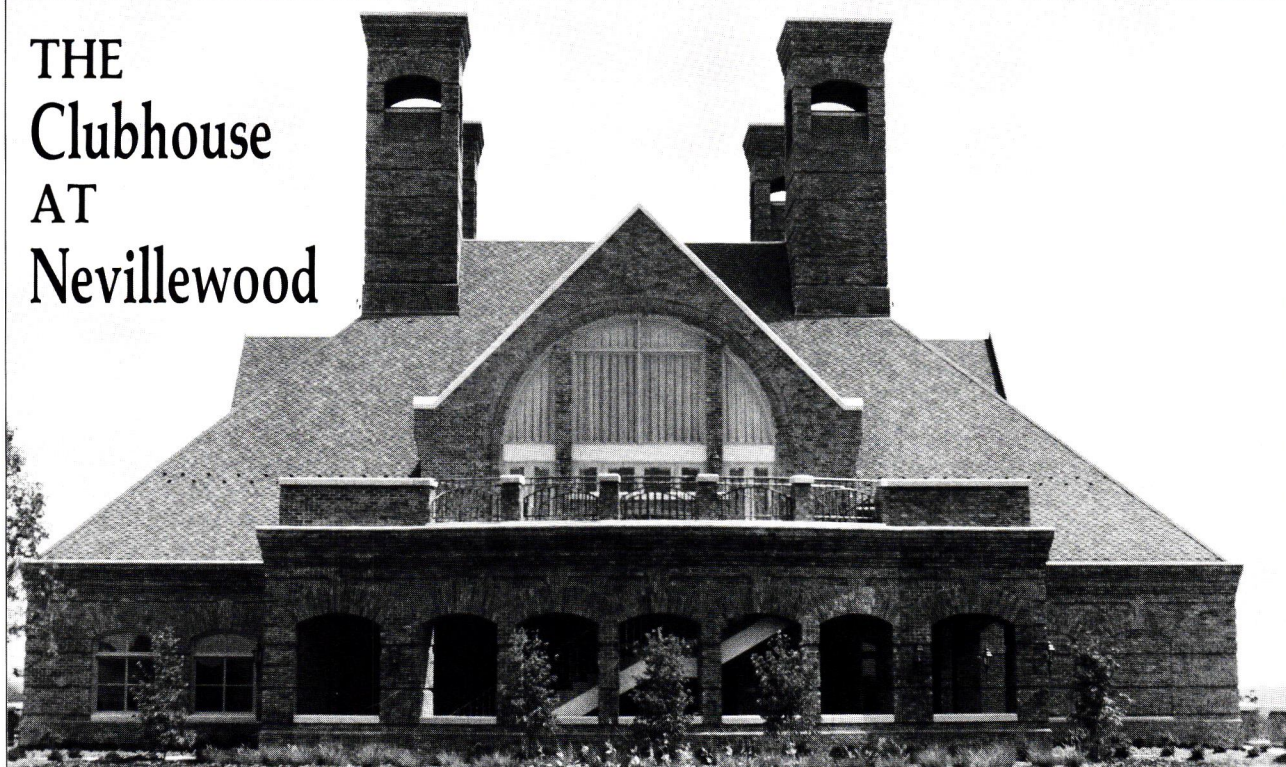
April—Interiors portfolio; member projects

May—Preservation; adaptive-reuse of historic buildings

June—Future of urban housing; what are members designing in this area?

July—Healthcare portfolio; what are some of the design/build issues in healthcare?

THE Clubhouse AT Nevillewood



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