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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS
Finally warmer weather has returned to Pittsburgh.

The smell of fresh cut grass, the visual delight of a cornucopia of tulips, iris and spring roses, and the desire to simply be outside blankets the city. This month, *Columns* builds its theme around inside and outside spaces, looking at both natural beauty and the appeal of well-designed interior spaces.

As of May, there is a new day trip for Pittsburgh residents who want to visit one of the region’s best examples of combining nature and the man-made. The long inaccessible Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home, Kentuck Knob, has recently been opened to the public. The U-shaped 1956 house lies eight miles from Wright’s more well-known Fallingwater.

In celebration of the season and the opening of Kentuck Knob, *Columns* decided to expand its annual Interiors Portfolio to include outside spaces as well—reflecting Wright’s interest in bringing the outside inside and vice versa. Starting on page 8 we bring you a number of inside and outside spaces created by our members, ranging from a Japanese Garden in Squirrel Hill to a new approach to the traditional drug store in Upper St. Clair. In addition, we asked a number of members and Pittsburgh people who work in a field related to architecture to identify their favorite space in the city. The responses are varied and sometimes thought-provoking, such as the sanctuary discovered by one architect in a city parking garage.

Buildings have often been studied in space but a recent book studies buildings in time. Robert Bailey, AIA offers readers his view on *How Buildings Learn*; a far-ranging survey of how buildings can improve with time, if they are allowed to. Additionally, Dennis McFadden, Director of the Heinz Architectural Center, provides readers with his insights on, and a recap of, James Wines’s recent speech at the Hornbostel Lecture in April.

Looking forward to next month, a number of members have recently chosen to open their own practices and we will be asking them and others to share their experiences with *Columns* readers. How do you strike out on your own? What must you have in your new office? Where did you find advice? What would you do differently? Any member who would like to share their trials and successes as an independent architect give us a call. See you all next month, but in the meantime, get outside and enjoy the weather.

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On the Cusp of Change  
by Dennis McFadden, Associate AIA

While James Wines makes a strong case for greater integration between architecture and the environment, some of his other ideas elude such natural conclusions.

J
ames Wines came to Pittsburgh in April for the annual Hornbostel lecture. Wines's reputation and provocative talk, "New Wave Organic Architecture: Architecture in the Age of Information and Ecology," filled the Carnegie Museum of Art theater, drawing CMU students as well as members of the professional community and the general public. The talk was organized as most architecture lectures are: beginning with a critique of the speaker's forebears and contemporaries, followed by a theoretical rationale for his current work, and ending with examples of that work.

Wines suggested that we are "at the cusp of change." He sees the architectural profession at a point of transition from the age of industry and technology to one of information and ecology. According to his schema, buildings of the previous era can be characterized as expressions of service and function, as formal abstractions and design objects. In the new era, buildings will be seen as expressions of social, psychological and contextual ideas that take on narrative meaning. Buildings will become an extension of their own environment and embody critical commentary and narrative content.

Wines's critique took many of the twentieth century's big names to task. He feels that a line of thinking defined by the tenets of modernism and constructivism, "dominates some of the most successful and talented architects of our time." He finds LeCorbusier reflected in Meier, Chernikov in Tschumi, and Eiffel in Rogers. Wines sees all these architects linked by a preoccupation with form and the desire to create anew and on a large scale. In contrast, he calls for the investigation of the evolutionary and sustainable and a greater concern with the environment as a component of architecture. He predicts that within 20 years architects will no longer demand to create new buildings but rather will begin to focus on smaller structures in clusters and will design for future reuse.
To guide tomorrow's architects, Wines provided a list of green principles to be pursued in design. These included the use of harvested lumber and recycled materials, easy access to public transportation, and solar orientation, among others. Noting that one of the problems with environmental technology is that it is ugly, Wines presented his audience with the challenge of "Developing a [formal] language or vocabulary that someone would like to keep around."

In surveying his own work, Wines began with several of his recent shopping center projects for the Best Company, where vegetation on the building sites was incorporated into the design. Two projects for the Seville World Expo were examples of, in Wines's words, "climate control as art." One of these, a half-kilometer long water wall, provided visitors to the fair with respite from the heat through an elevated landscape providing shade and cooling. The final project shown was the decommissioning of a nuclear power station at Trawsfynydd in northern Wales. There were two parts to this project: one, the use of bioremediation to clean the outside of the reactor structures and second, the creation of an international research and information center near the site.

Listening to Wines, it was impossible not to conclude that he is tired of being remembered for his witty work for the Best Company in the 1970s and that he wants, at last, to be taken seriously. When he refers to his early works as the antithesis of his current beliefs, it has the ring of apology: "I started in the junk world of America doing shopping centers. I couldn't get any other jobs. I was just starting."

He speaks with great conviction and style but the content is problematic. His use of the conversion of classical Roman ruins into a Baroque church as a good example of adaptability is troubling. His analysis is purely formal and allows for neither a socio-political interpretation of the event—the Catholic church may have been demonstrating its domination over the pagan world, nor the possibility that in the process an important classical building may have been lost.

Claiming Duchamp as an influence and stating that he wanted to design buildings as a point of synthesis, in the Hegelian sense, feels contrived. He suggests that most modernist or constructivist architects, having been taught that buildings are only abstract objects, would reject the idea of buildings as the embodiment of critical commentary and narrative content. This is hard to reconcile with much of the work of the last 30 years, beginning with Venturi and Scott Brown and continuing at least through deconstruction. (Interestingly, in his lecture Wines used an illustration from Venturi and Scott Brown's essay "Theory of Ugly and Ordinary and Related and Contrary Theories" though unacknowledged and out of context.) It is striking that while he describes his last projects for the Best Company and the Seville water wall as creating buildings that are neither inside nor out, neither above ground or below, he never categorized them as ambiguous. Perhaps the term is too closely associated with those architect/theorists from whom he seeks to distance himself.

James Wines's environmental concerns are legitimate. The world is going to hell in a hand basket and we all have a responsibility to contribute as much as we can to improving the situation. However, it is probably at just such times that we most need a little wit in architecture. If Wines has truly renounced his earlier work that is his business. But if someone of his intelligence and creativity feels compelled to disavow what may be his greatest gift in order to appear more relevant, the architectural profession is in trouble.

Dennis McFadden is Director of the Heinz Architectural Center.

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Subtlety and Power  by Michelle Fanzo

While organic architecture—often linked with Frank Lloyd Wright—has gained increased recognition in journals and classrooms, nature has always influenced how people live.

"I addresses the future not with the heavy feet that produced the pyramids, seeking justification by outlasting time itself, but with the recursive movement of the regenerative cycles of living species." It is organic architecture, according to Sidney K. Robinson in his 1993 Architecture Digest article "The Continuous Presence of Organic Architecture." Most frequently associated with Frank Lloyd Wright, organic architecture has received increased attention and recognition in recent years, and is often linked to green and sustainable architecture as a path forward in a time of ecological concern.

The recent opening of Wright's Kentuck Knob coincided with the time of Columns' annual Interiors Portfolio, and suggested to us that we expand our project submissions to include outdoor space. We were particularly interested in outdoor projects that interact with interior spaces, and vice versa—reflecting Wright's desire to blur the boundaries between the natural and built environments. Philip Hearn, Director of Architectural Studies and Professor of the History of Architecture at the University of Pittsburgh, shared some of his thoughts on organic architecture with us. He provides a context for one of the major themes evident at Kentuck Knob as well as many of the projects on the following pages.

"Frank Lloyd Wright was long a great admirer of Japanese architecture, but the formative moment came in 1893 when he visited the Tea House at the Columbia Exposition in Chicago," explains Hearn. "In 1905 he finally had enough money to go to Japan, where he was taken by residential buildings that had sliding rice paper screens. The walls fold away and there you are, looking at a beautiful garden. The relationship of interior-exterior was important to him ever after."

Organic architecture emerged partially out of Wright's Japanese experience and partially out of his great admiration for Eugene Viollet-le-Duc, the father of architectural theory, says Hearn. "Wright subscribed to it completely. One of Viollet-le-Duc's great metaphors is the machine, to which Wright did not subscribe, and the other is the organism, which he did adopt. (LeCorbusier, Wright's rival, picked up the theme of the machine.) Wright's master, Louis Sullivan, claimed form follows function, which comes from Viollet-le-Duc." Sullivan may have been the person who turned Wright on to Viollet-le-Duc, but Hearn guesses Wright was already reading him on his own. Robinson, in his Architecture Digest article, identifies Sullivan as the father of organic architecture and points to the architect's interest in Walt Whitman's sprawling energetic poetry as an influence on the style.

Though Wright wrote copiously, he and his ideas of organic architecture did not actually catch the imagination of people in architecture schools until about 1980, Hearn continues. "Wright is now much read by architecture students; he's been very much rediscovered. One begins to find complete issues of architecture magazines devoted to organic architecture."
Inside Out

A portfolio of member projects showcases new interiors while also capturing the natural relationships between inside and outside space.

STUDIO DeLISIO
Exterior gardens and trelliswork,
Private Residence, Fayette County, PA

The owners wanted a framework to mark the entry of the house as well as the ability to plant a lush garden around it. The redwood trellis and custom glasswork, together, create an enticing entry that provides privacy (by the use of textured glass), as well as a connection to the garden (with the plantlike motif). In the evening, light from within the house highlights the organic motif of the glass entry. Copper lanterns and toadstool fixtures gently light the brick pathway and the redwood columns, keeping the focus on the highlighted glass entry. Upon entering the house, the rear garden can be viewed through the tall windows and French doors of the great room beyond. From within this room, the trelliswork continues the form of the window openings, drawing attention to the terrace and brick garden walls. This connection of front and rear garden spaces was principal throughout the design.
MAVROVIC ARCHITECTS PC
Lebovitz Residence, Pittsburgh, PA

The owners of this home in Point Breeze wanted a multi-functional backyard that opened off the kitchen and family room for use by the entire family. Additionally, the owners wanted a cleaner, low maintenance planting area at the front entrance. The driveway and an off-street parking space in the backyard were eliminated allowing for flower beds, a grassy lawn, and a raised brick patio area by incorporating a rough stone, dry set retaining wall. A two car tandem garage accessed from the front was added in the basement. A new front porch and brick planters were designed to enhance the street side elevation and entry approach.

DAVID JULIAN ROTH, AIA
THE DOWNTOWN DESIGN COMPANY
Tile Backsplash, Pittsburgh, PA

This tile backsplash, created by Red Clay Tileworks of Bellevue, was commissioned for the new kitchen of a downtown condominium. The 400 sq. ft. room overlooks the West End and Point Park but has no real view of the east. At the owner's request, the design offers "views" of our city. The view created by the tile design are "windows" into Pittsburgh's past and present.

The design was inspired by the work of prominent Pittsburgh photographer Clyde Hare. The scenes illustrate the city's smoky steel mills of the past and sparkling skyline of the present. The actual designs are an abstraction of the original compositions, but do still bear a connection.
GARDNER + POPE ARCHITECTS

TCG, Pittsburgh, PA

TCG, formerly Penn Access, is a new phone company headquartered in Pittsburgh. A high-tech space with a Pittsburgh traditional feel were their requirements. The design was accomplished through the use of color and textures, such as the use of warm earth tones with splashes of vibrant color, like a bright red English-style telephone booth in a hallway or colorful expressionistic art on the wall. The company occupies 20,000 sq. ft. at Allegheny Center office complex.
JOËL C. LEGALL, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE, ASLA
Ann Jannetta's Japanese Garden, Pittsburgh, PA

Three 8-foot panels of Shimizu bamboo fence help create privacy and a Japanese mood for this small Squirrel Hill side yard. Yellow Groove bamboo from a Baltimore nursery will eventually screen the neighbor's house. The lower branches will be pruned off to create a vertical grove effect. Eroded gray sandstones from Ligonier were hand selected and placed above grade in a traditional dynamic asymmetrical pattern which carries the viewer through the Shirori-Do gate into the Western style garden. Moss will be planted to replace the mulch. The Yotsumi fence creates a transition between garden styles while acting as a support for existing wisteria plants and a screen for the air conditioning unit.

TONY MUSTACHIO
LAMI • GRUBB • ARCHITECTS
Pinebridge Apothecary, Upper St. Clair, PA

Drug stores are changing. Due to increasing competition in the retail prescription market, many smaller drug stores need to diversify their business. This store felt that the pharmacy should no longer be its only focus. A soda fountain, coffee bar, and retail display were added to one side of the space. The curved bulkhead, neon, and backlit glass block define the various areas, while the dramatic colors draw the customers' focus. The apothecary, located within a mall that serves a number of doctors as well as retail stores, is the focus of the shopping center.
Burt Hill Kosar Rittemann Associates
Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C., Pittsburgh, PA

The law firm wanted space-saving and productivity-enhancing design options and technologies in order to respond to today's extremely competitive business climate. The results include:

- Moving support services and administrative offices into a more economical building with a large floorplate, producing reduced occupancy costs, improved efficiency and a more relaxed work environment;
- Moving attorneys into a new space in an adjacent Class "A" office building. To save space and equipment costs and improve work distribution, secretaries were teamed in groups;
- All client contact spaces were concentrated on one floor;
- To save on utility charges, a supplemental cooling system was installed in the main library where attorneys can work in the evenings or weekends without requiring use of the building's central HVAC system.

LaQuatra Bonci Associates (LBA)
Legent Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA

LBA was a member of an interdisciplinary team that designed the new corporate headquarters for the Legent Corporation. The design used the geometric grid established for the building footprint to organize the exterior spaces. The circular geometry of the loggia's arrival area and the rear courtyard reflect the arc and interior lobby of the building. All arrival areas have this similar shape. The grid organizes all other spaces. Plantings vary from geometric patterns with ornamentals to sweeps of natural, indigenous species. LBA provided the design services for all exterior courtyards and all other site and landscape improvements. ADD Inc. and The Design Alliance provided architectural services.
How Buildings Learn

By Robert J. Bailey, AIA

A look at how architects and their buildings can work with time, rather than against it.

This is an intelligent, engaging book written in ordinary language; pleasant, yet offering some propositions that are indictments of architecture: “People cannot believe that something so obviously important and permanent as buildings can be designed so badly.” Those of you who blindly carry the torch for the omniscience of architecture will not want to read this book. Those of you who worship at the pantheon of Modern architecture, will find deities such as Sullivan (“Sullivan’s form-follows-function misled a century of architects into believing that they could really anticipate function”), Wright (“...the very compositity of his decrees helped inflate a fatal egotism in generations of architects”), and Pei have not been spared.

My only problem with the book is its title. Its anthropomorphism bothers me. Outside of a poetic sense, buildings cannot learn, and this book has less to do with poetics, I think, than it does with common sense. What Can We Learn From Buildings?, or perhaps, What Buildings Tell Us About Themselves would more accurately indicate the book’s contents.

To author Stewart Brand, How Buildings Learn is about how buildings are adapted over time, whether it is simply a matter of the structure burgeoning over the years to accommodate the original function, or whether it is a case of adaptive reuse. Building trends support Brand’s arguments that structures change. $200 billion, or five percent of the gross national product, was spent on renovation and rehabilitation in 1989; and 25 percent of architects’ revenues come from rehab.

Assuming structural soundness and an effective envelope, the difference between a good building and a bad building for Brand is that a good building allows for and fosters adaptation while a bad building imposes its rigidity through overdesign. While architecture is an art (or, Brand tells us, a craft), the building itself should not be a piece of art in the manner of a piece of sculpture. Rather, according to British architect Sir Richard Rogers, whom Brand cites, as in music or poetry the building design should be the composition, allowing interpretation and improvisation by the user.

To show what we can learn from two very different buildings, Brand contrasts MIT’s venerable old Building 20 (1943) with another campus structure, I.M. Pei’s Media Lab (Weisner Building, 1986). Building 20—designed in an afternoon, built in six months—is 250,000 square feet of heavy timber-framed laboratory-office-classroom-experiment-incubator-type space that Brand bills as “the most loved” building of all at MIT. The building facilitates interaction between the users as well as adaptivity. It is one of those rare structures where the value of the space far exceeds the physical value of the building. It is what Brand calls a classical “Low Road” building: “Nobody cares what you do in there.” Brand asked users of Building 20, including the president of MIT, why they liked this building so much. Their answers will intrigue you, such as former MIT president Jerome Weisner’s response that “it puts on the personality of the people in it.”

Chapter Five begins with a discussion of Pei’s Media Lab: “pretentious, ill-functionality, and non-adaptability.” Brand continues, “The Media Lab building, I discovered, is not unusually bad. Its badness is the norm in new buildings overdesigned by architects...the massive atrium...hogs space, isolates and overwhelms people, and provides no amenities...from nowhere can you see other humans in the five-story-high space. The atrium uses up so much of the building that actual working office and lab space is severely limited, making growth and new programs nearly impossible.”

Titled “Magazine Architecture: No Road,” this chapter discusses how architects abandon convention in the name of art, obsess over what a building looks like from the exterior, and disdain building occupancy evaluations. An additional problem, he says, is the way architects are paid: “The percent approach is a conflict of interest for the architect; it encourages buildings that try to be too perfect and too large too soon.”

This provocative book is one of the best I have ever read on the subject of what a building is and/or should be. I think every architect should force himself to swallow his ego for an evening, lock himself in a room alone and read this book, have a good cry, and learn from it. And after you do? Brand’s address, telephone number and fax number are in the acknowledgments; he encourages feedback.
Favorite Spaces

Architects and professionals in architecture-related fields identify a diverse collection of inspiring places when asked, “What is your favorite Pittsburgh space?”

Martin Aurand, Architecture Librarian and Archivist, Carnegie Mellon University

The courtyard of the Highland Towers Apartment Building on Highland Avenue. It’s a small swatch of nature in an urban setting and at the same time you’re being washed by Frederick Scheibler’s wonderful architecture.

Deborah Elliot and Charles DeLisio, AIA, STUDIO DeLisio

Scaife Gallery, seated on the bench in front of Monet’s Waterlilies.

Jack LaQuatra and Fred Bonci, Professional Affiliates, LaQuatra Bonci Associates

Chatham Village. It’s probably the best local example of architecture and landscape integration in the city. It offers not only the quality of life that so many neighborhoods everywhere lack, but also has nature and woodland trails readily accessible to the homes. Many of the amenities that people are trying to build into their neighborhoods now have existed for decades in Chatham Village. We’re surprised it has not been repeated.

Joël LeGall, Professional Affiliate

Landscape Consultant

The vernacular shrine and garden to the Virgin Mary on a cliff overlooking the highway in South Oakland. You can see it on the parkway when you’re driving east, especially in the winter, but part of the charm is that few people really know where it is or how to get there. It’s sort of a relaxing little secret place. There are benches where you can sit and look over the city, meditate, pray, or just enjoy the natural setting.

Patricia Lowry, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Cultural Arts Critic

Phipps Conservatory, especially its historic interiors with many rooms dating to its founding in 1893. It’s one of the best preserved late 19th century conservatories in America, and perhaps the best preserved.

Karen Loysen, AIA, Loysen & Associates

The Rotunda at the Pennsylvania. I just love to be inside the space; it’s so cavernous. I particularly like to walk through the middle of it and step on the brick that’s exactly in the center.

The other great place to be is on some of the top floors of the older office buildings downtown, like Benedum Trees or Alcoa which aren’t too tall. You’re just at the height where you can see the articulation of the buildings. That’s a great architectural experience.

Anthony Lucarelli, AIA, L. D. Astorino & Associates

The pedestrian way connecting Fisk and 40th streets in Lawrenceville. It’s not a formal space but rather an experience. You might catch a glimpse of someone sleeping on a back porch swing or working on a garden. The space is an example of the kind of serenity that can be found in an urban context.
Dennis McFadden, Associate AIA, Director, Heinz Architectural Center

Winifred Lutz's ongoing garden project at the Mattress Factory. It confronts my expectations of what a garden is. It's gritty. It's just right for Pittsburgh in many ways. I find it very powerful and I love its evocative quality and character. It takes what is found on the site and weaves it into something else. In terms of outdoor space that is almost articulated as a room, the garden does it. That's something traditional gardens did with high hedges, but the Mattress Factory garden achieves that end effectively in a very different way.

Paul Rosenblatt, AIA, Paul Rosenblatt Architects

The Hall of Casts in the Carnegie Museum of Art. Stop in there on your way to somewhere else and you are transported to another time and place, before photographs made all buildings almost equally accessible as information. I imagine the countless hours required to cast each building, and the countless eyes which have pored over these for the secrets which images of architecture conceal. I like them because they smell of past time and because they speak about all time.

Dan Rothschild, AIA, Rothschild Architects

The circular ramp of the Gimbel's building parking garage. A perfect example of a Louis Kahn type of servant-served organizational space. I wonder how many people walk through that space (at the bottom of the ramps at the entrance to the garage) and crane their heads back and see that conical structure. Look up and you feel like you're in a sanctuary. It's an incredibly ordered space.

Kevin Silson, AIA, Oxford Development Corp.

The Food Court at One Oxford Center—and I felt this way before I started working for Oxford Development! It's very urban. The inside is a nice scale—a lot of trees and activity create a strong relationship to the outside patio. It is like a year-round outdoor cafe, but it's inside.
Kudos

Robert Harald Tarasovich, AIA of Johnson/Schmidt and Associates was recently awarded a scholarship from the Victorian Society Summer School of Newport, RI. The program, offered with the cooperation of the University of Virginia, includes a two week study tour led by UVA faculty and will focus on nineteenth century architecture, landscapes, decorative and fine arts and material cultures.

Transitions

Rob Pfaffmann, AIA announces the formation of a new Pittsburgh-based practice, Pfaffmann + Associates. He will continue work in the areas of high technology-oriented workspace design, preservation, adaptive reuse and civic infrastructure. Pfaffmann + Associates and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, where Pfaffmann formerly worked for 13 years, hope to jointly collaborate on a number of projects. Pfaffmann is pursuing an independent practice to allow a more Pittsburgh and preservation-based focus to his work. Pfaffmann + Associates is located at 604 Filbert Street in Pittsburgh; phone and fax: 683-3880.

Jimi Yucas, AIA announces the relocation of his firm from Forest Hills to the Strip District. The new address is: 1901 Penn Avenue, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Phone: 434-7102; fax: 434-7106.

From the Firms

Cherie Mosier, AIA hosted a tenth grade Girl Scout in the second annual Take A Girl Scout to Work Day in April. Mosier, a former Girl Scout herself, got involved with the program through the Zonta Club and served this year for the second time as a sponsoring Captain. She also recently helped design new facilities for Girl Scouts of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Hayes Large Architects announces the addition of John Missell, AIA as Senior Associate; Susan Kasun as Director of Interior Design; and Stephen Sobina and Donna Merritt as Project Managers.

Poli & Cuteri Architects announces that as of January the firm has incorporated and now operates as Poli & Cuteri Architects, Inc. The firm is also pleased to announce the addition of J. Lyle Irvin, AIA as a Project Manager.

Celli-Flynn and Associates is currently working on the Master Plan for the Sciences at Juniata College and the Master Plan for Seton Hill College. They were the first Pittsburgh architecture firm with a home page and invite members to contact them at their email address: tcc@celli-flynn.com.

Farther Afield

Construction Technology '96, the first annual conference and exhibition for new technologies in the building industry, will be held June 17-20 in Anaheim, CA. The show is the Sweet's Catalog come to life and will feature the latest building products for architects, engineers and others in the building industry. Construction Technology '96 will be held in conjunction with A/E/C SYSTEMS '96, the world's largest computer event for the design and construction industry. For more information, call 1-800-451-1196.

Competitions

GREENSPORT WATERFRONT PARK COMPETITION The Village of Greensport in Long Island, NY is a waterfront community 100 miles from New York City. The challenge is to propose creative and innovative design ideas for a 4-acre park and harbor walk. This is a great opportunity to provide physical and visual access from a commercial center to the waterfront and harbor walk. Site visits are encouraged. Registration closes October 19, submissions are due November 15. Prizes are $20,000 (total). For more information, contact the competition at 516-477-3000.

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Local Architect Advances to College of Fellows

Robert Dale Lynch, of Lynch & Associates, Architects, is one of 91 architects nationwide to be elevated to the AIA College of Fellows at a ceremony last month in Minneapolis. With the exception of the Gold Medal, fellowship is the highest honor the AIA can bestow on a member. There are less than 2,000 FAIA members recognized with this honor out of 58,000 members. The award is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of continuous membership who have made significant contributions in one of a variety of areas. Mr. Lynch was honored in the category: to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society.

A graduate of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and a Pittsburgh native, Mr. Lynch has responded to the need to construct and reconstruct an environment for the broad spectrum of human abilities and disabilities. For twenty-two years he has reached out beyond architecture to legislature, design standards, teaching, and research to give articulation and power to his thinking and to share his views with others. He has helped to write the state Universal Access Law and participated in its implementation over the past eleven years as the architect member of the Pennsylvania Access Board. Mr. Lynch helped to prepare and present testimony before Congress on behalf of the AIA and its members during important final refinements of the ADA. He has also consulted on such projects as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Pittsburgh International Airport’s Mid-Field Terminal.

Update on Interior Design Legislation

The ongoing question of interior design licensure remains, largely, ongoing. “It’s not a pressing issue right now because it is still in committee,” says Al Cuteri, AIA, State Legislative Committee Chairman. The House Bill introduced this year (No. 1892) calls for a licensure bill for interior designers. PSA supports a title registration bill. According to Pennsylvania law, licensed professionals are those whose livelihood can place the health, safety and/or welfare of the public at risk—a criteria that interior designers do not meet, explains Cuteri. “Interior designers do not design work where issues of health, safety and welfare of the public are imminent. If they are doing work like that, then they are probably practicing architecture.”

Negotiations are currently stalled over the language of the law, particularly over the definition of interior designer. PSA seeks a definition clarifying the qualifications necessary to be an interior designer, while the Interior Design Legislative Council (IDLCl) wishes a definition of practice. The latter is only required for professional licensure and, says Cuteri, is more appropriately handled in the regulations as opposed to the law. “What they [IDLCl] are really trying to do is create a Practice Act, but they say they want a Title Act. We are currently working to resolve this disagreement.” The key concern is that the IDLC is attempting to modify the architect’s law, without meeting PSA’s requirements.

PSA has identified five non-negotiable terms for acceptance of a registration bill:
- the definition of interior designer must meet PSA approval
- the bill must be a Title Act
- interior designers are not authorized to use a seal on documents
- interior designers can be represented on the architecture licensure board—but the board will expand by as many architects as interior designers
- architects are exempt from interior design title registration requirements.

The hope is that the bill will be addressed fully in the summer with a resolution by fall, but this, says Cuteri, may be optimistic due to other pressing legislative issues of the Commonwealth.—M.F.
Membership Committee
Frank McCurdy, AIA, 394-7000

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes two new members this month:

John A. Missell, AIA
Hayes Large Architects

SCHOOL: Colgate University, Rhode Island School of
Design
SPOUSE: Judith
CHILDREN: Catherine, 14; James, 3.

PAST PROJECTS: College and university facilities, such
as Bates College, Bucknell University, University of
Maine, and Allegheny College, among others.

INTERESTS: Family, hiking, jazz, Cape Cod, gardens,
collecting art and artifacts.

Jay McPartland, Professional Affiliate
Precision Science and Consulting, Inc.

SCHOOL: New York University, BEEE '71
SPOUSE: Debbie
CHILDREN: Sean, 15; Lauren, 10.

PAST PROJECTS: Westinghouse: Fort Payne

INTERESTS: Renovation, new construction inspection,
electrical and mechanical design, among others.

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Education/Professional
Development; Programs.

AIA ACTIVITIES

June 3, Monday
Architrave Board Meeting
5:15 p.m. at the Chapter office, John Martine,
AIA, 227-6100.

June 5, Wednesday
Committee of Committees Meeting
12 noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

June 11, Tuesday
AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting
5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are
welcome, 471-9548.

June 12, Wednesday
Professional Development Committee
Meeting. 12 noon at the Chapter office, Carl
Freedman, AIA, 281-6568.

June 13, Thursday
Committee on the Environment, 5 p.m. at
the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 231-1500.

June 14, Friday
Communications Committee Meeting,
12 noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

June 18, Tuesday
Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
at the Chapter office, Jim Sheehan, AIA,
882-6508.

June 19, Wednesday
Public Relations Committee Meeting,
12 noon at the Chapter office, Dewey
Nichols, AIA, 394-7000.

June 22, Saturday
AIA Pittsburgh Picnic at the Pittsburgh
Zoo, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; lunch will be served in
the tent at 12 noon, $10 for adults, $5 for
children, includes admission, parking and lunch.
RSVP and pre-pay by Monday, June 17. (See
page 23 for more information.)

June 24, Monday
Architrave Board Meeting
5:15 p.m. at the Chapter office, John Martine,
AIA, 227-6100.

AROUND TOWN

June 5, Wednesday
The Japan-American Society of Pennsylvania
will present a film of Frank Lloyd Wright’s
Fallingwater by the local producer Kenneth
Love. This video will be shown at 5:30 pm in
the USX Auditorium, concourse level of the
USX Tower, 600 Grant Street. $10, students
free. Please call 433-5020 to make
reservations.

June 6, Thursday
Pittsburgh Urban Zoning Code Seminar;
Langley High School, 7-9 p.m., 255-8699.

June 25, Tuesday
Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Students' Exhibit, through July 1, at the
Chapter office gallery.
A LISTING OF AREA CONTRACTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. To include your firm in this directory, call Tom Lavelle at 882-3410.
THE AIA/MBA Joint Committee
Improving Our Construction Product for the Client

For over 30 years, twelve MBA contractors and twelve AIA members have been meeting ten times a year, to improve the design/construction product provided to the construction client. This group of professionals, known as the AIA/MBA Joint Committee, investigates, researches and develops recommended construction practices for the Western Pennsylvania area.

The AIA/MBA Joint Committee takes a close look at the issues impacting the way we do business. They develop positions and often reach consensus on issues such as bidding by fax...advertising and receiving bids...non-refundable deposits on drawings...and design/build.

This group publishes the AIA/MBA Yellow Book of Recommended Construction Practices, which reflects the existing industry customs and procedures involving drawings and specifications, bidding, contract documents and administrative procedures during construction.

Today, the Yellow Book serves as a respected, valid source of information. This book may not be riveting late-night reading, but it has proven to be an invaluable tool used by both architects and contractors to substantiate positions taken on jobsite and administrative issues. Every AIA firm should have a copy of this book. If you would like a complimentary copy, call Jack Ramage at (412) 922-3912.

Watch for details on a Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Seminar coming this Fall, sponsored by the AIA/MBA Joint Committee.
PROJECT HITTING ROUGH WATER?

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1996 DESIGN AWARDS

It's here! Get your project portfolios ready because the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards Program is out. The call for entries was mailed to all AIA members on May 31. Submission binder kits will be available at the AIA Chapter office on June 3. Submittals are due July 23. Awards will be presented on the night of October 21 at the Byham Theatre. Categories will be the same as last year: Architectural, Open Plan, and Timeless Award. The Timeless Award may be submitted by AIA Pittsburgh members whether successor firm or not. This is the only change from last year.

AIA Pittsburgh Cordially invites you to a:

Picnic at the Zoo!

Saturday, June 22

Food, fun and frolic from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Lunch will be served in the tent at 12 noon
$10.00 for adults, $5.00 for children, includes admission, parking and lunch. Space is limited, please reserve early.

RSVP and PRE-PAY by MONDAY, JUNE 17

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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. We encourage members to write articles and call with story ideas. When submitting photographs please submit a self-addressed stamped envelope for their return, and write firm and project name on back of drawings or photographs. The deadline for submission is always five weeks prior to publication date.


ALSO: Starting your own practice.

August—we all go to Paris (we wish); see you in September.

September—Travel sketchbook. Submit your travel sketches, landscape drawings and other architectural scribbles from far away (or not so far away) places. ALSO: Follow-up on the Reshaping the Region Charrette.
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- Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- D.T. Watson Rehabilitation Center
- Curry Senior Citizens Home
- Grace Manor Nursing Home

Al Lorenzi
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<td>McMurray, PA</td>
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