

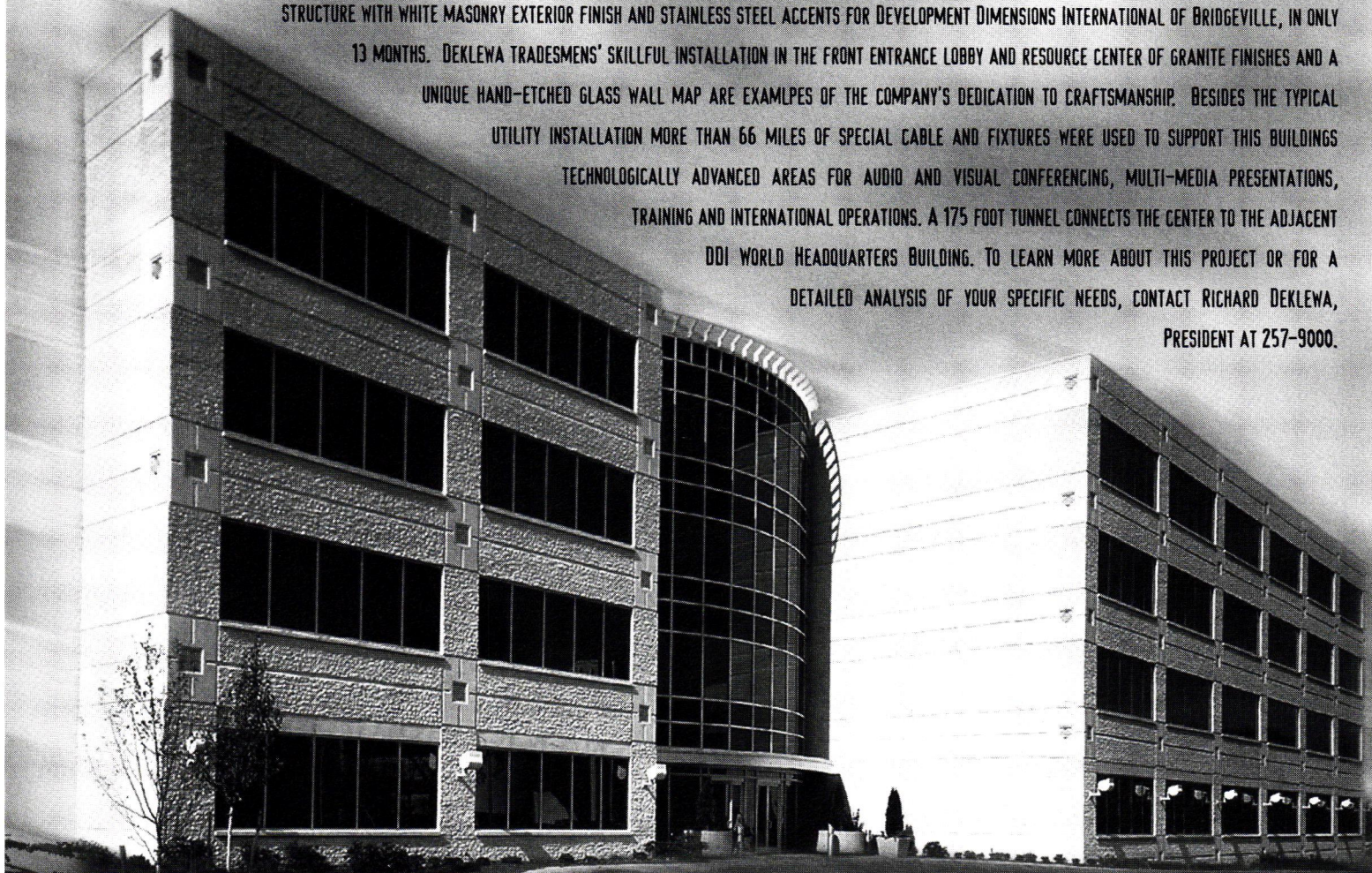
C O L U M N S





DEKLEWA DEVELOPS A NEW DIMENSION

THE RECENT COMPLETION BY JOHN DEKLEWA & SONS, INC. OF THE NEW CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY SIGNALS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIRM'S LONG HISTORY OF PROJECTS FOR HIGH PROFILE CLIENTS. DEKLEWA CONTRACTORS ERECTED THIS "STATE OF THE ART" FOUR STORY STEEL FRAME STRUCTURE WITH WHITE MASONRY EXTERIOR FINISH AND STAINLESS STEEL ACCENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT DIMENSIONS INTERNATIONAL OF BRIDGEVILLE, IN ONLY 13 MONTHS. DEKLEWA TRADESMEN'S SKILLFUL INSTALLATION IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE LOBBY AND RESOURCE CENTER OF GRANITE FINISHES AND A UNIQUE HAND-ETCHED GLASS WALL MAP ARE EXAMPLES OF THE COMPANY'S DEDICATION TO CRAFTSMANSHIP. BESIDES THE TYPICAL UTILITY INSTALLATION MORE THAN 66 MILES OF SPECIAL CABLE AND FIXTURES WERE USED TO SUPPORT THIS BUILDING'S TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AREAS FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL CONFERENCING, MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATIONS, TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. A 175 FOOT TUNNEL CONNECTS THE CENTER TO THE ADJACENT DDI WORLD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT OR FOR A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS, CONTACT RICHARD DEKLEWA, PRESIDENT AT 257-9000.



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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Who's Gonna Live Here?

by Michelle Fanzo, Editor



As more young professionals make living choices based on quality of life, rather than proximity to a particular job, our cities have an opportunity for renewal in offering urban amenities that the suburbs cannot duplicate.

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This month *Columns* begins a four part series

exploring the vision and context for current building and renovation projects in and around Pittsburgh. The placement of a new baseball stadium, apartments on the North Shore, and the downtown Lazarus department store are but a few of the initiatives and projects currently underway. *Columns*, with the assistance of a number of AIA Pittsburgh's members, will train a spotlight on downtown, neighborhood and regional development over the next three months.

We start this series by looking at Pittsburgh's future through the lens of New Urbanism. New Urbanism is often associated with baby-boom architects and their vision for neotraditional suburban projects, like Andres Duany and Elizabeth Platter-Zyberk's Seaside, Florida development, or Disney's Celebration. Recently, however, the New Urbanists have expanded their vision to include reinvesting in America's aging cities.

New Urbanist architects like Peter Calthorpe, Elizabeth Moule, Dan Solomon, and locally UDA Architects, speak of reweaving the urban fabric by focusing on citizen participation and neighborhoods as the essential unit of development. This includes increasing residential density, reconfiguring zoning laws to allow more mixed-use, and facilities, like food stores, within walking distances of where people live. How, if at all, do these principles work in Pittsburgh? Is it a new idea? Are we looking backwards to go forwards? Is that bad? Do current plans for Pittsburgh embrace any of these ideas? Are we planning for a sustainable city? What does that mean? These and other questions will be explored further on page 6.

On the cover: Projects such as UDA Architects' Crawford Square pictured here, embrace New Urbanism principles of pre-war neighborhood design in an effort to revitalize our cities.

One aspect of a sustainable future that is often not discussed in architectural terms, is the need to have people to live and work in the new structures envisioned by New Urbanists, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the mayor and architects. Without forward-thinking decisions now, the Pittsburgh region is in danger of losing a critical number of its population, both to aging and attrition of its young people. Who will fill the empty homes or start the new businesses needed for the region to remain viable?

When discussing visions and design principles for a sustainable city, it must be remembered that the client is not just the client of today, but the client of tomorrow as well. The built and natural environments need to appeal to people who will be making decisions of where to buy their first house in the next ten years, as well as to people buying today. As more young professionals make living choices based on quality of life, rather than proximity to a particular job, our cities have an opportunity for renewal in offering urban amenities that suburbs cannot duplicate. Where are the home office trends, collaborative work environments, and technological innovations leading how we live and work? I encourage architects, planners and others who want a say in the future of Pittsburgh to read the following four issues of *Columns* and consider where the city and region are headed. Ask yourself if it is a vision that is appealing to you. Then ask if it is a vision appealing to the next generation as well. 🏠

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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Land Use Lessons by Anne Swager, Executive Director

This morning was one of the two mornings

a year that I dashed out to get the paper still in my bathrobe. This is not a pretty sight, but my curiosity beats my vanity twice a year—the day after election day. Always an optimist, I opened the paper this morning sure that finally most of the candidates for whom I voted would be winners. Not so. I have a consistent record of almost always voting for the losers which began back in 1972 when, full of youthful idealism, I voted for George McGovern. My father was aghast that I would ignore my Republican upbringing and I've held true ever since by always voting a split ticket. Unfortunately, my record of picking more losers than winners has also held steady. This year, I did a little better, a couple of candidates for whom I voted made it, but, the one race that I cared about the most, my candidate lost.

My choice was a hardworking, levelheaded representative for our area. He was by far the best person in recent history to fill the position. The other party ran a very effective smear campaign. He rode the higher ground by refusing to engage in mudslinging, and now he's history. His opponent backs taxpayer referendums for new school construction. So, not only did we lose a good representative but many of us will spend a lot of time trying to educate the victor, who ran on a platform of family values, on why we need new school buildings and how they can be more efficient and actually save taxpayer money in the end. Let's hope we are successful. By the way, in my house, education is a family value.

To me, this year's candidates slung an unprecedented amount of mud. TV ads are the ideal spots for innuendoes and falsehoods, and speeches were all rhetoric. I even got tired of listening to NPR in the morning. Hearing a politician spew on his/her view of an issue, which invariably was what they thought we wanted to hear, did nothing to boost my confidence in the wisdom of anyone running for office. The entire election from President on down through state rep was really a primer on how to get elected by running a slick marketing campaign.



*I'm all for partnering
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However, I have to
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resources in the name of
growth.*

On a local level, there has been a lot of press surrounding the renaming of the County Planning Department to the County Economic Development Department. Once again rhetoric, but also, a signal, to me, of a shift away from traditional government responsibilities. I'm all for *partnering* with anyone who can deliver new solid development which builds upon the resources we have to offer. However, I have to question the wisdom of giving away our resources in the name of growth. Using up a resource is detrimental in the long haul.

Like all of you, I spend way too much time in my car. When I am not yelling at the bonehead who just cut me off, I actually take time to think and to look. Fall is a spectacular season and shows Allegheny County in its Sunday best. It's almost possible to ignore the billboards and the mish-mash of the roadside. It's also not hard to see how much of our hillsides are eaten up each year for new development. Land is a resource and there is scant talk in government of good land use, much less appropriate land use. As a non-renewable resource, I would like to see the County focusing on land use as the basis and the beginning for economic development decisions. The government is charged with the stewardship of public interest. After all, it is your tax dollars and mine that they are spending when they make infrastructure improvements or forgive taxes to a new entity. When you give equal weight to the ordinary citizen who foots a good part of the bill, good land use planning which protects view sheds and water sheds is no longer an expendable part of the equation. We should not be trading short term gains for long term damage to our area.

In Mt. Lebanon, we just elected a new state rep who spent most of the campaign talking about how he received his inspiration to enter the political life from his father who recently died. His father was a realtor and developer, who I am sure did pass on to his son many valuable lessons. However, I hope his son does not share his father's views on community building. Why? Because, fortunately, for Mt. Lebanon, the father failed in his efforts to bring a trailer park development to our community. 🏠

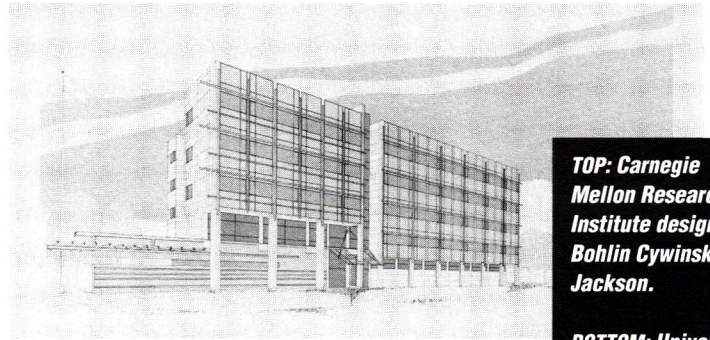


Exhibit and Lecture to Mark New CMU Architecture

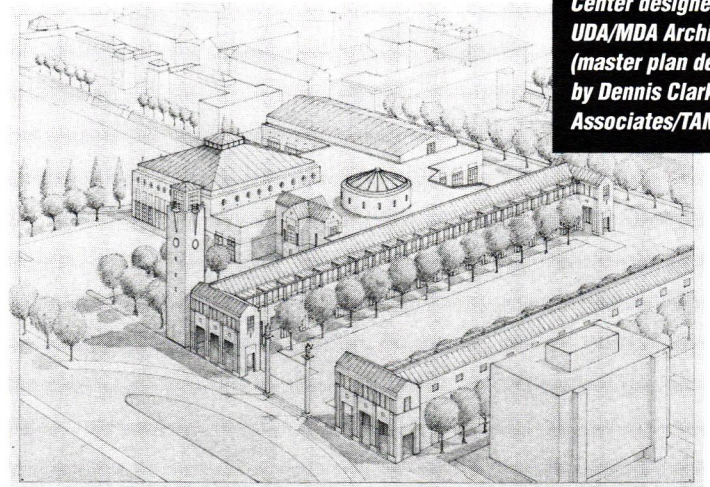
The Hewlett Gallery and the Carnegie Mellon Architecture Archives present "A Campus Renewed: A Decade of Building at Carnegie Mellon, 1986-1996." The exhibit is curated by Martin Aurand, CMU's Architecture Librarian and Archivist of the CMU Architecture Archives.

"A Campus Renewed" will be on view at the Gallery from December 3-21 with an opening reception held on December 5 from 5-8 p.m. A lecture by architects Peter Bohlin, FAIA and Michael Dennis will be presented on December 5 at 5 p.m. in the McConomy Auditorium of Carnegie Mellon University Center. Bohlin and Dennis have played important roles in shaping the present day campus and will talk about university architecture. Admission to all events is free.

Since 1986 CMU has undertaken a major building program that has substantially reshaped, extended, and renewed the campus. The exhibit examines the new buildings and their contributions to the campus environment, with a look at their historical contexts, and investigation of the architects' creative processes, and some assessment of the results. 

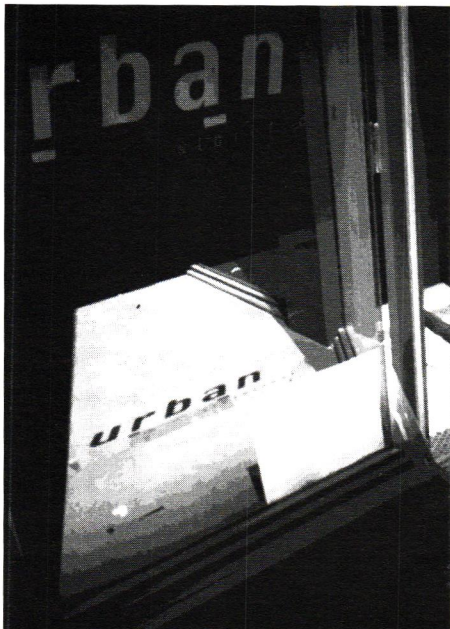


TOP: Carnegie Mellon Research Institute designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.



BOTTOM: University Center designed by UDA/MDA Architects, (master plan design by Dennis Clark & Associates/TAMS).


PHOTOS COURTESY CMU ARCHITECTURE ARCHIVES



ABOVE: The new storefront urban design studio on Penn Avenue, downtown. RIGHT: A typical studio discussion group.

Urban Design Studio Explores New Strategies for Public Art

Paul Rosenblatt, AIA, assistant professor in Carnegie Mellon's Department of Architecture, and ten fifth-year architecture students have set up an urban design studio in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District. Housed in a storefront at 907 Penn Avenue, the studio gives the students an opportunity to participate in a plan for a comprehensive series of public art projects. The studio is an outgrowth of a planning process sponsored by the Trust in which Rosenblatt and local artist Michael Pestel participated this summer. The Trust commissioned renowned artist/designer Robert Wilson and architect Richard Gluckman, AIA to lead a two week planning process in Watermill, NY that focused on how to develop a series of public art projects for Pittsburgh. The multi-disciplinary workshop was a success, says Rosenblatt, and now he is sharing that process with the public through the studio class. "We see the Cultural District as unique material to work with," he says.

The storefront studio is a large space where students may explore this process via website, video, audio, interviews, surveys, discussions, models, drawings and mock-ups. Digital cameras record the studio's activities and transmit them to the studio's website. The studio, which opened in August, will be running through May. Rosenblatt says it will be the site of lectures and lunch time gatherings. Currently student projects are on exhibit, reflecting their first stage proposals for a comprehensive plan for art, such as alternative strategies to integrate art into the public realm. 



The Future May Look Very Familiar

by Michelle Fanzo

DEVELOPMENT: PART ONE IN A SERIES OF FOUR

New Urbanism rejects the car-oriented, impersonal designs of the post-war era and turns back to human-scale streets, porches, stoops and mixed-use buildings of the pre-war era to reweave our frayed urban fabric. COLUMNS begins a four-part series on development by exploring what potential this movement could have on Pittsburgh, and on our built environment in general.



New Urbanism in Richmond, VA. UDA Architects' Randolph Neighborhood.

It is no secret that many American cities are in trouble. Dwindling finances, urban flight, and crumbling infrastructure are but a few of the contemporary urban ills that unravel the fabric of our neighborhoods, metropolises, and even many of our suburbs. For decades, revitalization and redevelopment strategies have emerged to counteract such shortcomings. The result, unfortunately, is largely not which efforts have succeeded more than others, but which have failed less miserably.

Recently, New Urbanism has emerged as a prescription for residential and urban concerns that, in its simplest form, looks backwards to go forwards. Its overall objective: to overcome the Modernist machine-age images of logical cities and get back to denser, civic-oriented living reminiscent of Norman Rockwell and Andy Griffith. It has been

heralded both as a return to good, common sense, as well as the Family Values vernacular for the late 20th century.

New Urbanism looks to traditional American town planning and forms of architecture that place their emphasis on community, rather than commuting. It is an effort to get away from 50 years of post-World War II designs that can be reduced, according to Peter Eisner, AIA, to "form follows parking." At the root of New Urbanism are two principles: citizen-based, participatory planning and design, and the neighborhood as the essential element of development. These principals are expanded upon and refined when applied to regions, neighborhoods, or a block, street or building.

The most widely publicized examples of New Urbanism, also called neo-urbanism, or neo-traditionalism, are Seaside and Celebration, Florida. While the Congress for the New Urbanism, formed in 1993, initially focused on neotraditional suburban developments like Seaside, in May 1996 the group publicly expanded its mission to include "the restoration of existing urban centers and towns." The New Urbanists—architects like Peter Calthorpe, AIA, Andres Duany, AIA, UDA Architects—view the disinvestment in central cities, the spread of placeless sprawl, increasing separation by race and income, environmental deterioration, and the erosion of our built heritage as one interrelated community-building challenge.

According to *New York Times* architecture critic Herbert Muschamp, the Congress on New Urbanism is the most important phenomenon to emerge in American architecture in the post-Cold War era. However, others are more

skeptical. Textbooks are filled with ideal visions put forth by planners and architects from Patrick Geddes and Ebenezer Howard to Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier—yet few have met the challenges of reality, and even fewer have stood the test of time. What makes New Urbanism different, if anything? Are these principles emerging in and around Pittsburgh? Could New Urbanism guide Pittsburgh through its transition to a more sustainable, harmonized city? Do we need to look back and find our national soul, as New Urbanists suggest, in a time less complicated by late 20th century events? Or are we rejecting who we have become in the last five decades—attempting to make ourselves more secure by denying the parts of us we don't like?

New Urbanism is a revival of traditional American urbanism," says Ray Gindroz, AIA, principal of UDA Architects, one of the national leaders in the movement. "Revivals always take a past form and bring it back in some new way. The Renaissance in Italy was a Classical revival that adapted classical Greek forms to local Italian vernacular. New Urbanism offers principals of traditional American urbanism in a way that is adapted to contemporary needs."

New Urbanist images are comfortable, familiar—tree-lined neighborhood streets, human scale mixed-use structures, places that feel like home: grandma's house writ large. The original Celebration sales motto was "Come home to Celebration, just like the home town you grew up in, or wish you had." Sounds comfortable yes, but some ask, comfortable to whom?

One common concern about New Urbanism is that it paves over differences, and that this uniformity is part of the reason for its success. "We're living in a time of change," says Val Zarro, AIA, principal of Zarro & Associates: Architectural Design & Research. "A lot of people are finding the familiarity of New Urbanist images reassuring. They conjure visions of stability and coherence. I think a lot of it is nostalgic and escapist. Yet if that's true, then is it any different than escaping to the suburbs?"

Gindroz disagrees with criticisms that New Urbanism imposes cultural consensus and elitism. "It's *just* the opposite. If you went to any New Urbanist community and said

it was sterile and homogenous, you would be very embarrassed." New Urbanists recognized the mind-numbing uniformity of new urban subdivisions, he says, and carefully chose principles to counteract this. "New Urbanism developments offer a great choice and palette. In fact, [architecture historian] Vincent Scully worries that there is too much variety in the size, style, and color of the houses.

"And it is absolutely not true, as is commonly thought, that New Urbanism only works with upper income and like-minded folks," he continues. "For example, UDA is redoing public housing with New Urbanism. How is that different from other post-war visions of public housing? We're not inventing anything new. We're returning to principles of our society that we know work. It's unbelievably simple."

What the People Want

Paul Rosenblatt, AIA, principal of Paul Rosenblatt Architects offers another view on the familiarity of New Urbanism. "If you ask people what they want, they'll say they want something that they already know. But what they need may or may not relate to what has come before. Some of the problems in our cities and communities are new." The question, he says, is more one of identifying peoples' needs, and finding creative solutions to meet those needs.

Rosenblatt cautions against overplanning something as organic as a city. "No 'ism' offers a total solution," he says. Research, discussion and dialogue with people, are key to sensitive, successful urban developments and cannot be achieved as well with preconceived formulas. Some activities in Pittsburgh, he says, particularly the new zoning code, are moving towards this more contextual understanding of development.

Others raise similar concerns, not so much of theory, but of the practical applications of the principles. "To some degree, my resistance to whole-heartedly embracing New Urbanism gets to the issue of the authentic," says Dennis McFadden, Associate AIA, Director of the Heinz Architectural Center. "I fear it will be reduced to a series of formulas. Before you do something you need to physically and socially understand a place. Part of this has to come from the city valuing its own uniqueness. It gets back to the

The success of more suburban New Urbanist developments like Celebration are important for cities, as they have pushed developers, planners and citizens to think in new ways.



PHOTOS COURTESY UDA ARCHITECTS

Located in the Lower Hill District of Pittsburgh, Crawford Village by UDA Architects is Pittsburgh's largest completed New Urbanism project.

reflective rather than active parts of city building. What I do thoroughly endorse about the movement is its process of study, investigation and analyses to come up with a strategy."

New Urbanism, while promoting community, also promotes mixed-income development, a mix of rental, sale, subsidized and unsubsidized, and mixed-use structure, says Gindroz. It is not about steadfast rules, but rather guidelines that can be applied and adapted to different settings. Part of why this is not readily understood, he says, is often these principles cannot legally be applied. Zoning ordinances, street standards and real estate practices will not allow it. The Congress on New Urbanism was formed, in part, to change the things that make realization of these principles and ideas impossible.

Back to the Future

Why are we looking backwards? "I think we lost sight of some of the principles of what people want," says Zarro. "Modernists felt they had to turn their backs on history in order to explore the future. Society now realizes some of what we rejected worked just fine."

Zarro cautions that while we may not like much of what the last 50 years of design and urban trends has wrought, erasing it outright may generate similar pitfalls to the Modernist, who felt the need to dismiss all that had come before them. To say one time period was wrong and another right,

he says, suggests a rejection of all that has evolved socially and culturally.

He feels the urban infill component of New Urbanism is the most successful as it can derive its vocabulary from the existing neighborhood. "It doesn't have to copy something from somewhere else or another time. It's a way to repair a city, and in that aspect, I think New Urbanism works very well towards creating sustainable cities." In the area of sustainability, Zarro and others give high marks to New Urbanists' desire for mixed-use and pedestrian-friendly thoroughfares. Zarro points to Nine Mile Run, where the anomaly of a slag heap is being integrated into the development, as a local example of sustainable, New Urbanist principles.

Though New Urbanism addresses both new suburban developments like Celebration and inner city redevelopment, they cannot be viewed separately. Says Gindroz, the success of Celebration is important for cities, as it has pushed developers, planners and citizens to think in new ways. "They said no one would want to live at Celebration," he says. "Now there's a two year waiting list." Before the first home was built, 1,200 people had placed deposits on the 470 homes and apartments to be built. He expects this will have a spillover effect on financing, architectural, zoning, and real estate thinking that will allow more innovative and sustainable development principles to enter the urban market.

New Urbanism looks to traditional American town planning and forms of architecture that place their emphasis on community, rather than commuting.

As for Pittsburgh, New Urbanism is already here, with Crawford Square as the most complete example. Renovation currently underway at Bedford Dwellings and Allequippa Terrace are also reflecting New Urbanist principles, says Gindroz. "I would hope the efforts to reinforce downtown and our riverfronts would move in that direction as well. What I think Pittsburgh is lacking is a clear comprehensive vision of how all these parts fit together. It's not unusual. New Orleans is in the same boat. Sometimes when you have it all you don't see it, you keep looking for something else. All Pittsburgh has to do is look to its traditions. It has some of the best neighborhoods in the world. The topography naturally creates neighborhoods of scale."

It is premature to say whether New Urbanism, old ways of thinking, or something yet undefined is the answer to reweaving our urban and community fabric. However, what is clearer, is a desire to return to a context for how we live and work. Those sold on New Urbanism and those more skeptical speak of the same issues—it is from acknowledging who we are and where we live that a successful urban environment will emerge. ■

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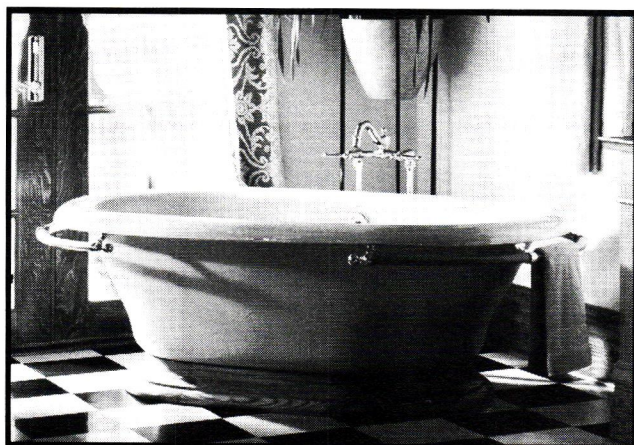
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A Longing to Connect by Cheryl Towers, Professional Affiliate

The current dialogue on rebuilding stronger community life is an opportunity for architects to have a prominent voice in land use and urban policy decisions.

If we are to repair what ails our communities we will have to recreate places where we can converse with each other once again.

Fads are short term (think hula hoop). Trends are long lasting (think Pacific Rim commerce). Fads are fleeting fashions (think acid green Hush Puppies). Trends are paradigm shifts (think post-industrial economy). Fads are micro. Trends are macro.

How do you recognize a trend when you see one? A trend may sneak up on us—it may not result in obvious saturation (those green Hush Puppies again). John Naisbitt and Patricia Auberdene identified a number of trends heading toward the millennium in their book *Megatrends 2000*—the increasing importance of the Pacific Rim, for instance, and the rising dominance of small and women-owned businesses, as well as the increasing importance of high technology. And many have noted a huge paradigm shift in the way we think, live, do business and formulate public policy, as we have moved from a federal-state-local model of thinking to one that is global-regional-neighborhood oriented.

In Western Pennsylvania, many of us continue to react to events as though we were the Pittsburgh of old, looking to hierarchical decision makers to solve problems. It's a style handed down from the days of a few very large industrial corporations who, combined with a few powerful civic and political leaders, made things happen here and elsewhere. The trend toward smaller businesses and more diverse decision-making still feels new to us, and is a trend still much in progress.

A sure-fire way to recognize that a trend is occurring is to listen to who's discussing it. If it's a few folks in a back room or an academic department somewhere, it may be more wishful thinking than a trend. But when those voices are joined by voices from many different sectors, and the media is repeating what these voices are saying, a trend is probably upon us.

A trend that is making the rounds these days and which has direct impact on architects is the public yearning for community. In its earliest manifestation, it was primarily nostalgia for the post-World War II "good old days", an era severely distorted through the lens of time. Certainly, while the 1950s were years of powerful economic growth and an optimism born of winning a war, it wasn't a time so terrific for minorities who faced blatant racism, women whose personal ambitions were stifled, anyone whose political views caught the attention of Joe McCarthy, and everyone who lived under the pall of the Cold War (remember "duck and cover"?).

But this longing for community is more than nostalgia for an imagined age when things were more or less right with the world. There is a longing to connect with others and to feel a sense of place as well as a need to feel shared responsibility—these are missing elements for many of us.

What makes this fascinating as a trend is the variety of outlets for discussion. The Communitarian Movement and guru John McKnight have circulated in social work circles for years. Hillary Clinton says it takes a village to raise a child, actually an old African proverb whose truth any of us born into closely-knit village or neighborhood life can attest to—I shudder to think of the number of even dumber things I might have done had not the whole town been watching!

Mary Pipher, author of *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* says in her 1994 book that, "If I want my family to have good mental health, we have to live in a viable community...I like front porches, neighborhood parties, potlucks—ways people mingle and get to know each other. We can make fewer people strangers."

KEITH TOWERS

Cohousing pioneers are developing their own communities, such as the Pioneer Valley in Amherst, MA. As Mark Harris reported in a recent article in *Vegetarian Times*, "What these people sought was community, a place where neighbors regularly stopped to chat, kids ran with playmates who lived within shouting distance, and families felt a sense of belonging. It would not be a commune or an intentional community—all participants wanted to own their homes, retain a measure of privacy and not adhere to any fixed creed—but a living, dynamic community."

Even *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* columnists Brian O'Neill and Bill Steigerwald are joining the chorus, whether they realize it or not. In a September 15 column, O'Neill tells the story of the difficulties a parent in suburban Bethel Park faced in putting a basketball hoop at the end of the cul-de-sac where he lives. O'Neill describes his story as "a tale of modern suburbia, a place with too many rules and not enough sidewalks." Earlier, he says this is "an age when suburban parents too often have to drive their children to Activities with a capital A so adults with whistles can separate them into groups with shirts of different colors..."

Steigerwald's column cites a recent look at our need for community presented in a September *Atlantic Monthly* article by James Howard Kunstler entitled, "Home From Nowhere: How to Make Our Cities and Towns Livable." Kunstler supports the "new-urbanist movement", and endorses the effort to create "places that are worthy of our affection."

Any of you who attended last May's Reshaping the Region charrette, a project to encourage more sustainable patterns of development in the West Hills, were fortunate to hear Thomas Hylton, author of *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns: A Plan for Pennsylvania*, speak. Hylton, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and life-long Pennsylvanian, argues persuasively for adopting policy strategies which stop the negative effects of continued population dispersal which gobble up land at an alarming rate, and instead focusing on rebuilding our existing communities.

Robert R. Archibald, President of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), notes from his historian's perspective the need to revive what author Ray Oldenburg calls "third places." These are the places away from home and work such as coffee shops, barbershops, beauty parlors, and community centers where equality reigns, "habits of decency are acquired," and where "face to face unmediated conversations between friends, acquaintances and even strangers," take place. Archibald notes that "in the past fifty years changes in our communities have decimated the numbers of 'third places' that once were focal points of neighborhood and community life.... Their demise is the result of multiple factors, including suburbanization given impetus by our automobile culture, zoning laws that have segregated where we live from places conducive to community life, the creation of mass marketing on a national and global scale that has made it difficult for 'third places' to compete, and the fast pace of our lives that leaves little time for sitting in a barbershop conversing. Yet if we are to repair what ails our communities we will have to recreate places where we can converse with each other once again."

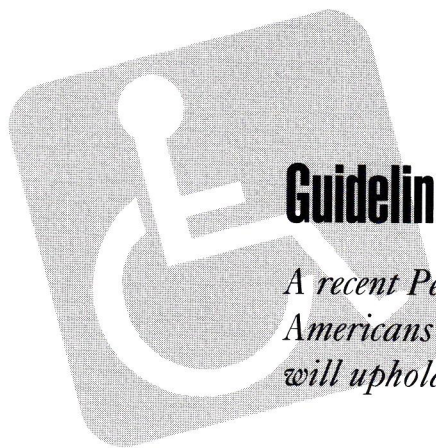
Clearly, architects as designers of the built environment have a place in this trend, and it represents a potentially very large market. UDA Architects are members of the team working on Celebration, Florida, a Disney-backed planned community that sold out almost before it came to market. Seaside is another Florida project which has won rave reviews for reintroducing a more community-oriented, less automobile-focused way of life. Locally, Washington's Landing (Montgomery Rust) includes walking and biking paths and other features which encourage a sense of place and community among residents. In-fill projects such as Crawford Square (UDA Architects) increase urban density on a human scale, and include features such as porches. And future projects, such as the LTV site on the South Side, are anticipated to feature mixed-use (RTKL Architects) to create a more complete feeling of community for local residents and the city at large. Projects such as these may risk some sterility, born as they are full feathered, but they are clearly filling a void.



The longing for community is more than nostalgia for an imagined age when things were more or less right with the world. There is a longing to connect with others and to feel a sense of place as well as a need to feel shared responsibility.

Architects can respond to this trend for rebuilding stronger community life by leading as well as by reacting to specific projects. Architects are positioned through knowledge and experience to lend their voices to the policy debate. The public wants to regain some of the good things that were lost from the past. After all, for thousands of years, as Tom Hylton points out, people lived in towns and on farms. Only recently have we scattered and shut ourselves off from each other to the degree that we see in modern life, and we are paying a very high social price for that. The popularity of projects which help to foster community is undisputed, and the market is growing for the architect who wants to participate. ■

Cheryl R. Towers, Professional Affiliate, consults in planning, project development and participation. She is a partner in the firm of Mizerak Towers and Associates, Inc., and is seeking a pair of acid green Hush Puppies.



Guidelines for ADA

by Robert Dale Lynch, FAIA

A recent Pennsylvania lawsuit for non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act shows how strictly the courts will uphold ADA.

Should the architect of an accessible building be sued in federal court, accept responsibility and pay fines for construction which does not measure up to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? The results of a recent out of court settlement concerning the Parkside Professional Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania indicate it can happen. They can also give design professionals some important guidance for future practice. In a broader sense, the outcome of this case should give the entire construction industry incentive to be part of an important process of ADA implementation which the American Institute of Architects worked very hard to create and include in the ADA when it was enacted in 1992.

Architects should work for the accessibility provisions of the three national model building codes to become certified by the Attorney General of the United States as equivalent to the accessibility provisions of the ADA. In enforcement proceedings, this certification will constitute refutable evidence that the requirements of the BOCA National Building Code and the other model codes meet or exceed ADA requirements. Let us examine a case here in Pennsylvania, the first in the nation under the ADA requiring an architect to pay a penalty for not complying with the law.

The case involves a new, two-story medical office building on a sloped site. Each floor has an accessible building entrance from grade to its lobby, two entrances to each of the five tenant spaces, and toilet rooms. An internal stairway was constructed and hoistway space was provided for an elevator between the upper and lower building lobbies; but, the elevator was not installed with the initial construction. In July 1994, a complaint was filed with the United States Department of Justice. On June 13 of this year, Physorthorad Associates, the owner of the new Parkside Professional Center in Hershey, Pennsylv-

nia, and the architectural firm for the project, Bradley, Chambers and Frye, agreed to make the facility accessible in accordance with the intent of ADA under separate agreements.

A Justice Department investigation of the complaint verified not only lack of the elevator, but went on to find several other violations of the ADA, including inaccessible staff restrooms and showers, as well as several violations in the parking lot. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by private businesses. The law requires that all facilities constructed after January 26, 1993, be built in compliance with architectural standards known as the ADA's Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Under the agreement, the parties have installed an elevator in the building and have completed other structural modifications to comply with the ADAAG. Physorthorad Associates will pay a \$10,000 civil penalty, and J. Wylie Bradley and Bradley, Chambers and Frye will pay an \$8,000 penalty to the United States. This is the first case under the ADA where an architect has paid a civil penalty.

Physorthorad Associates, J. Wylie Bradley, and Bradley, Chambers and Frye, cooperated fully. They entered into negotiations promptly after being notified of the alleged violations, and completed many of the structural modifications to the building before the parties agreed on the final terms of the agreements.

The Physorthorad Associates' medical building was one of the early new construction projects in Pennsylvania required to comply with the ADA. Even though the ADAAG was not yet a well-known standard, the architects did a credible job of designing an accessible facility. In fact, they exceeded the ADAAG minimum requirements in several ways:

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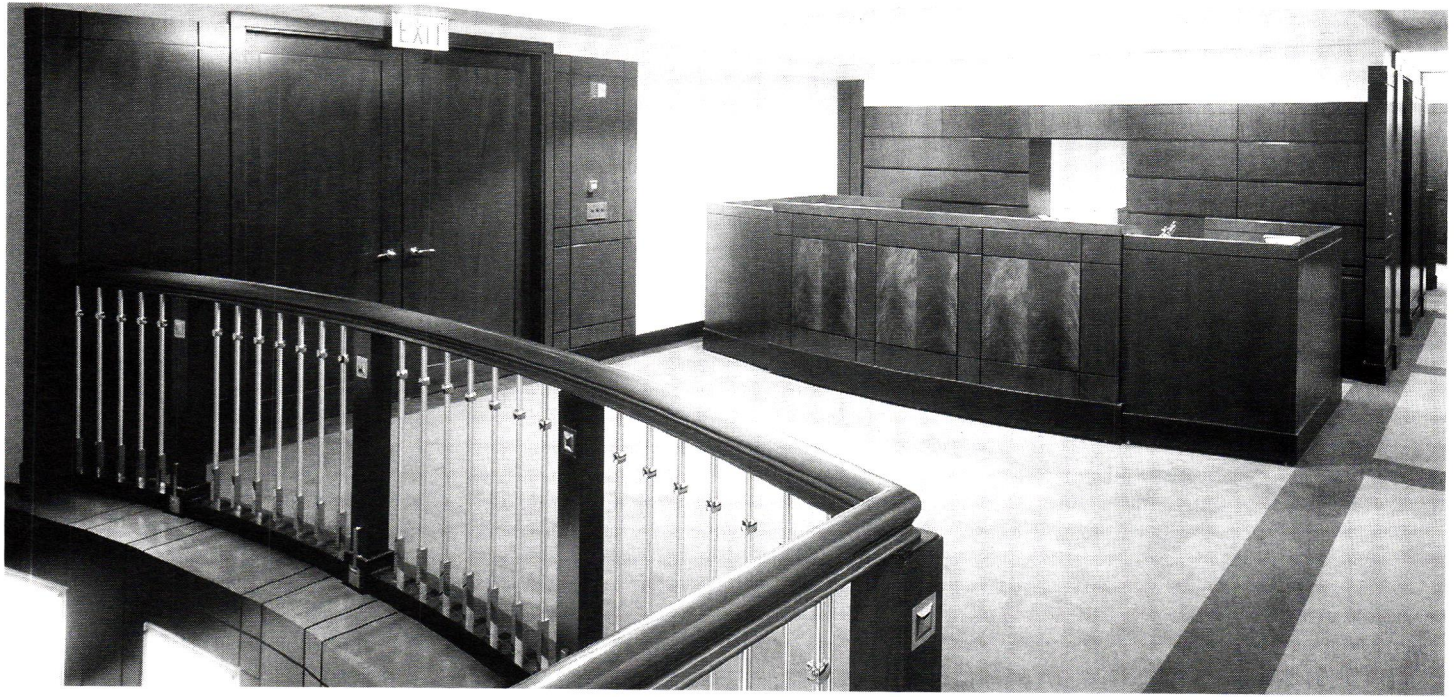
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Astorino Branch Engineers, Inc. 227 Fort Pitt Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 765-1700 Contact: Patrick I. Branch, P.E., President			●		●	●	●		●	●		
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Conway Engineering Investment Building, 235 4th Ave., Suite 1408, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 765-0988 Contact: Bob Conway					●					●		
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Elwood S. Tower Corporation 8150 Perry Highway, Suite 319, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 931-8888 Contact: David E. Tower					●	●			●		●	
Engineering Mechanics, Inc. 4636 Campbells Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 923-1950 Contact: Daniel Grieco, Jr., P.E.		●	●		●		●	●				
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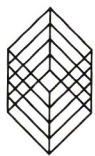
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Nevertheless, the building was constructed in late 1993 with its only internal connection between floors being a stairway. The building owners, a group of doctors and other health services providers, had decided to delay elevator installation until some undetermined future time. When the day came for Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) to issue a certificate of occupancy, the state inspector refused to do so because the elevator hoistway contained no elevator.

In January of 1994, the Lancaster-based architects petitioned the state on the owners' behalf, for a variance relieving it of the obligation to install the elevator under Pennsylvania law. The Pennsylvania Universal Accessibility Advisory Board of L&I denied the request, and in March, the doctors sent their architect and builder in person to request a public hearing before the Board. In the meantime, to obtain an occupancy permit, a barricade was erected at the stairway to prohibit all interior pedestrian traffic between levels, a draconian, but effective way to avoid discrimination against some by "discriminating" against all. The March meeting of the Pennsylvania Board produced significant airing of the issues and resulted in a tempering of its earlier flat denial of any variance, to one allowing Physorthorad Associates two years, until March 28, 1996, to install the elevator. The motion to allow the variance in this form, by the way, was made by a member who uses a wheelchair herself. Two other board members having disabilities voted to deny this latest variance request. The other members, including its mandated architect, voted for it.

Another item of significance about the March 1994 meeting of Pennsylvania's Access Board is that Physorthorad had been informed that internal vertical circulation in the new building must be accessible as required by the ADA. Although there is no di-

rect linkage between ADA, a federal civil rights law, and Pennsylvania's Act 166 of 1988, an accessibility building code, discussion at the public hearing made it quite clear that delay in installing the elevator while allowing the stairway barricade to be removed would likely be interpreted as an ADA violation. Finally, the mere presence at this meeting (as at almost every meeting) of representatives of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA), based in New York, and the Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy Agency, was an omen that the whole issue might well be raised in the arena of federal civil rights compliance. The fact that a "voice from the audience" inquired specifically—and was told that indeed obtaining the variance would mean removal of the stairway barricade—seems now a clear window to the events that would follow. It was EPVA who filed the complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice in the weeks following the March 1994 meeting of the Pennsylvania Universal Accessibility Advisory Board.

What are the lessons to be derived from these events?

- An order from a client to design, change design, or construct in contravention to the ADAAG—even if allowed to do so by state law or variance—will be no protection to federal lawsuits or fines brought through the civil rights enforcement process under the ADA.
- The construction phase should not allow changes to the project without a careful examination of the ADA compliance implications before doing so.
- Architects should be participating in developing and implementing accessibility design standards and building code compliance requirements into a cohesive whole. Hence, building code compliance can be congruent with avoiding violation of the civil right of access for persons with disabilities.

A specific step in this direction would be to support the enactment of a statewide building code law for Pennsylvania, and the adoption of the BOCA National Building Code as the regulatory implementation of this law. The Legislative Committee of the Pittsburgh Chapter of AIA, and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects, have been working for many years to this end. Your support of their efforts could be vital to success. 🏠



An order from a client to design, change design, or construct in contravention to the ADAAG—even if allowed to do so by state law or variance—will be no protection to federal lawsuits or fines brought through the civil rights enforcement process under the ADA.

Kudos

→ The Awards Committee selected the Indiana County Jimmy Stewart Airport Terminal project, by **Thomas R. Harley, AIA**, for a 1995 Excellence in Transportation Design/Construction Award. The airport, named after Indiana's native son and famous actor, won in the category of Business Airports.

Johnson/Schmidt and Associates announces that **Dawn R. Cindric, AIA** and **Edward A. Kundla, AIA** have successfully passed the Architectural Registration Exam and are now Registered Architects in Pennsylvania.

Transitions

→ KTH Architects announces the promotion of **John P. Adams, AIA** to an Associate. John joined the firm in 1994.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann and Associates recently promoted Donald R. Rimer to Principal of the Pittsburgh Engineering Division. Don joined the firm in 1983.

J. Richard Fruth, **Robert E. Wedge, AIA**, and Richard L. Karcher are pleased to announce that G. Randolph Hudson, S. Dwight Knouse, II, and Vern L. McKissick, III have been selected to join the partnership of Hayes Large Architects.

Robert Dale Lynch, FAIA announces the relocation of Lynch & Associates, Architects from Coraopolis to 2338 E. Carson Street on Pittsburgh's South Side. Phone: 488-9711; fax: 381-0851. The firm is expanding its number of employees and its market base. A grand-opening in the new location is planned.

From the Firms

→ **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann and Associates** announces the addition of Josephine B. Moore as Director of Business Development of its Interiors Division.

Foreman Architects Engineers announces it is expanding and enhancing the Rodman Street Baptist Church in East Liberty.

UDA Architects has been selected by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to help site a new stadium for the Bengals and the Reds. UDA will also prepare an urban design plan for the central Ohio River waterfront of Cincinnati. Other attractions to be planned on the riverfront include an aquarium, National Museum for the Underground Railroad, 3DI-Max Theater, an urban entertainment center, housing, retail and a riverfront park.

Alan L. Fishman, AIA, Vice President of IKM Incorporated, is participating in a project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh to design and construct a primary health care clinic in a remote region of Nicaragua.

Bernard V. Holnailer has joined **Ruprecht Schroeder Hoffman Architects** as an intern architect. He received his BA in Architecture in 1993 from Penn State University.

Announcements

→ **The Hewlett Gallery** at CMU is accepting proposals for exhibitions, performances, installations and other events for its 1997-98 season. For applications, forms and additional information, contact Petra Fallaux at (412) 268-3877. Deadline: December 6, 1996.

Donald Miller, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* art and architecture critic, is in the final months of writing a monograph on **Benno Janssen**. He would be grateful for any information on Janssen's first partner, **Franklin Abbott**, active 1895-1934. Abbott left Janssen & Abbott in 1918 and lived in New York City. There is no record of him with the national AIA library or AIA Albany. Abbott first worked for Alden & Harlow. Please write or call Miller at the PG, 34 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, 15222; phone 263-1575.

Harper and Schuman, the leading provider of project control and financial management software to design firms, recently announced the results of their **Operating Statistic Survey**. The results are culled from 226 firms ranging in size from 2 to 1,228 employees. Free copies of the survey are available by calling Bettianne Eldridge at (617)492-4110 x321; or fax her at (617)876-2973. Just a few of the results are:

- Most firms were more successful in 1995 than 1994 (most increased business by 5%).
- Increased overhead is more than offset by increased revenue per employee.
- Clients benefit from investment in automation (investment in automation increased again this year and now stands at \$3,500 per person).
- Many firms share profits with employees (150 reported providing bonuses to employees).

Business Briefs

→ One of Allegheny County's longest jury trials involving a construction-industry case was recently completed in favor of Michigan-based Sylvan Industrial Piping, Inc. and two other plaintiffs against Wheeling-Nisshin Steel Corp. Pittsburgh-based **Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott** represented Sylvan in the jury trial, which began the first week of January 1996. The verdict for Sylvan was \$3.6 million. The recovery was for over 80 percent of their original subcontracted amount.

The case primarily involved the recovery of significant uncompensated labor overruns incurred by Sylvan due to Wheeling-Nisshin's failure to issue extensions of time required because of extensive problems and delays associated with owner-furnished piping equipment. These problems impacted the critical completion deadline. In addition to this being one of the longest jury trials in Allegheny County, it resulted in one of the largest total awards to plaintiffs for a construction-related case.

Michael Baker Corporation invites people to visit its website at [HTTP://WWW.MBAKERCORP.COM](http://WWW.MBAKERCORP.COM).

Beth A. Cheberenchick has joined **TEDCO Construction Corporation** as a marketing director.

Survey Says...

Inserted in this month's *Columns* (did you check your envelope?) is a short survey asking our readers about their participation in public organizations. AIA Pittsburgh firmly believes architects must be an integral part of the city/suburbs planning process. Please complete the survey and mail or fax to the Chapter office. AIA PITTSBURGH, 211 NINTH STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA 15222. FAX: (412) 471-9501. Thanks!

A Day Without Art

The greater Pittsburgh arts community, including AIA Pittsburgh, will be participating in A Day Without Art, Sunday, December 1. A Day Without Art commemorates the people who have died from AIDS and recognizes those that are HIV positive. This year's event theme is "I Am the Face of AIDS," which encourages people to reflect on how the existence of the disease has affected their lives.

In Pittsburgh, A Day Without Art will be celebrated in a public gathering at Market Square on Sunday, December 1 at 1 p.m. Clergy, AIDS advocates, and the arts community will join with the public in honor of those living with HIV and those no longer with us.

Speakers include the Very Reverend George L. Werner from Trinity Cathedral, civic officials, and members of Pittsburgh's arts community. The event is organized by Tom Sokolowski, Director of the Andy Warhol Museum, who is one of the founders of A Day Without Art. For more information please call Gloria Forouzan, 471-9548.

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SCHOOL: Elmira College,
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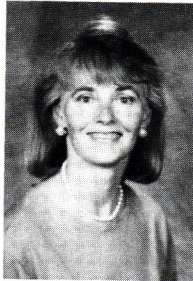
SPOUSE: Harold Maguire

CHILDREN: Harry Maguire
(28)

PAST PROJECTS: Three
Rivers Parkway Project,
Visual Interactive Code

INTERESTS: Windsurfing,
skiing and trying to do my bit
to improve the community...not to mention giving my
architect friends a hard time!

COMMITTEE INTEREST: Environment



Robert M. Pillar, AIA **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann and Associates**

SCHOOL: Kent State
University

SPOUSE: Ginger

CHILDREN: Rachel (12),
John (7)

PAST PROJECTS: Center Ave.
Elementary, Mars Schools,
Grafton High School

INTERESTS: Backpacking,
bicycling, home improvement, Bible study, parenting,
husbanding

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Design Awards



John Sieminski, Professional Affiliate **Wayman, Irvin & McAuley**

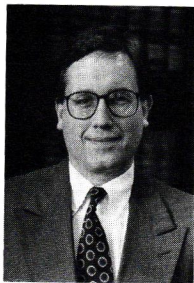
SCHOOL: Penn State;
Duquesne University School
of Law

SPOUSE: Susanne

CHILDREN: Paul (3), Matthew
(18 months)

INTERESTS: Music (I play
drums and am learning
piano), cooking, exercise and
yoga, surfing the Internet

COMMITTEE INTEREST: Legislative



Frederick C. Watts, AIA **IKM Corporation**

SCHOOL: CMU

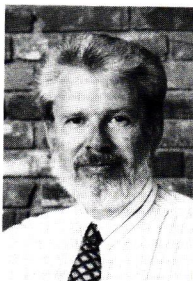
SPOUSE: Betty

CHILDREN: Lesley (25);
Eric (21)

PAST PROJECTS: Liberty
Center, Frick Int'l Studies
Academy Addition, Spina
Bifida's Camp Variety Aquatic
Center

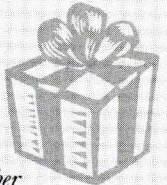
INTERESTS: Church choir and instrumental work,
fishing, skiing

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Historic Resource, Environ-
ment, Urban Design



Happy Holidays!

*If you missed the
President's Party
on December 2, it must
be because you didn't
want to go. We inserted
an invitation in November
COLUMNS and faxed you invites twice.
Hope to see you at 1997's meetings!*



Coming Up in 1997

JANUARY – No member meeting

FEBRUARY – This one's bound to be celestially
pleasing (Hint: it'll be held at a Heavenly spot.)

MARCH/APRIL – This one's a blowout! (Hint: What
does the downtown Lazarus need? Room! What's
going to happen on Fifth Avenue? Boom!)

Master of Science in Sustainable Systems Faculty Position

Slippery Rock University invites applications for a tenure-track appointment in an innovative Master of Science in Sustainable Systems program beginning August, 1997.

The program provides a holistic approach to sustainability with emphasis on permaculture, agroecology, and built environments. Harmony Homestead, a living laboratory integrates sustainable applications and is a site for student/faculty class and research projects.

A doctorate degree in environmental design or a master's degree in architecture is required, with an emphasis in sustainable building systems. Preference will be given to registered architects. Permaculture certification must be secured within one year. Preference will be given to candidates demonstrating familiarity with a broad range of continuous assessment techniques, the use of instructional technology in the teaching/learning process, and the role of faculty in student success and retention. Slippery Rock University is building a diverse academic community and encourages minorities, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities to apply.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide leadership to the program, teach graduate/undergraduate courses, supervise student research/classroom projects and internships, recruit and advise students, and supervise the Harmony House laboratory.

Send letter application, resume, transcripts and three current letters of recommendation to:

Bruce G. Boliver • Parks and Recreation/Environmental Education
Slippery Rock University • Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Review of applications will begin February 1, 1997 and will continue until the position is filled or closed.

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and an affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Competitions/Events

ARTCHITECTURE '97 (ART BY ARCHITECTS).

Many architects spend their loads of free time making art. We think it's about time that their artwork be displayed for public adoration. Do you make visual art? If so, we want you. (Sorry, you synchronized swimming aficionados will have to wait for *WATERchitecture*.) *ARTchitecture '97* will be exhibited in the AIA Gallery during June 1997. We plan to hook into the Three Rivers Arts Festival's schedule and publicity. Entry is free for AIA members, \$50 for non-members. You don't need a Warhol-size body of work to participate; we'll gladly display just one or two of your masterworks. If interested, please contact the AIA chapter office (471-9548) and give us your name, address, work phone and type of visual art you make.

Healthcare, urban design, and sustainable design are the subjects of three **BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS** 1997 design awards programs. The sustainable design program is open to any designer anywhere in the world. The healthcare design program is open to all New England architects and to any architect who has designed in New England. The urban design program is open to every Massachusetts architect as well as any architect who has designed a project in Massachusetts. Submission deadlines are all in early 1997. Submission guidelines can be obtained by calling BSA at (617) 951-1433 x221 or faxing requests to (617) 951-0845.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVISTS announces its architecture drawing competition, *Architecture in Perspective 12*, with two categories of entry: Informal Sketches and Formal Presentation Drawings. Chosen entries will comprise a traveling exhibit that will premiere in Memphis, TN and tour for one and a half years. All entries must be **received by January 17, 1997**. Entrants may obtain more information and a submission form by writing or calling: American Society of Architectural Perspectivists, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA 02109-4301; phone (617)951-1433 x225.

AIA ACTIVITIES

December 3 - January 2

McMurray Art League Show.

Opening reception December 3, 6-8 p.m.

December 4, Wednesday

Committee of Committees Meeting

12 noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

December 10, Tuesday

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting

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

December 11, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee

Meeting, 12 noon at the Chapter office, Carl Freedman, AIA, 462-9300.

December 12, Thursday

Committee on the Environment, 5:15 p.m. at the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 231-1500.

December 12, Thursday

Holiday Open House, at the AIA Gallery, 4-8 p.m.

December 17, Tuesday

Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

at the Chapter office, Jim Sheehan, AIA, 682-6008

Communications Committee will not meet this month.

1 C A L E N D A R

AROUND TOWN

December 3-21

At CMU's Hewlett Gallery: **"A Decade of Building at Carnegie Mellon,"** curated by Martin Aurand. Opening reception **Thursday, December 5** at CMU's Hewlett Gallery, 5-8 p.m. Lecture by Peter Bohlin, FAIA and Michael Dennis at 5 p.m. in McConomy Auditorium in the new Student Center. 268-3618 for more information.

December 10, Tuesday

CSI/ASID Member meeting. "Color Trends Approaching 2000." Wyndam Gardens Hotel-Pittsburgh Airport. 6 p.m. drinks, 6:30 dinner (\$20), 7:30 program. Please RSVP Roger Mallory, 561-7682 by Friday, Dec. 6.

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Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile

Jill Watson 1964-1996

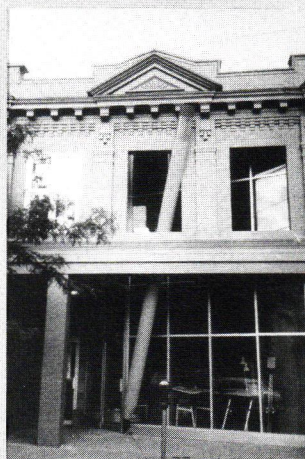
Jill Watson, a partner in Arthur Lubetz Associates, was one of the victims of TWA Flight 800. Her brief, award-winning architectural career included the design of the Addison Terrace Community Center, the Penzer House, the Allegheny Valley YMCA, Top Notch Art Supply, and the historic preservation of mixed-use buildings on Penn Avenue.

She was an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University, where she received her Bachelors of Architecture, was a Master of Fine Arts candidate, and taught studio courses. Jill was cited by the AIA as one of the outstanding women architects in western Pennsylvania.

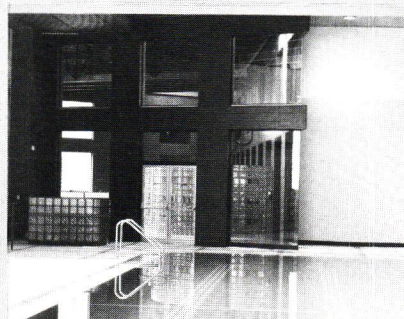
"Jill Watson was more than a partner in my firm," said Arthur Lubetz. "She was a vital part of its heart, and its vision. Wise beyond her years, Jill could see a project's intricacies and translate them into concrete forms. She will be extraordinarily missed."

Jill, 32, was the daughter of Janice and James Watson of Minneapolis.

A fund has been created in her memory to pursue the ideas which were so vital to Jill's life. The Jill Watson Endowment for Innovation at the Intersection of the Arts will support multi-disciplinary activity at the CMU College of Fine Arts, including a celebration held twice each year to amplify the intersection of the arts. Donations are being accepted by the Jill Watson Fund, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
Top Notch, the Penzer House, Penn & Graham building renovation and mural collaboration, and Allegheny Valley YMCA.



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Hold Harmless Clauses Should Never Be Used

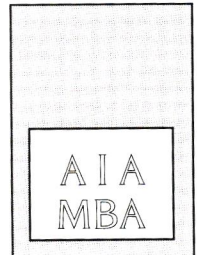
- Owners, Design Professionals and contractors each have their own contractual responsibilities
- Each entity should carry appropriate and adequate insurance coverages (Recommendation F-2)

Hold Harmless clauses tend to:

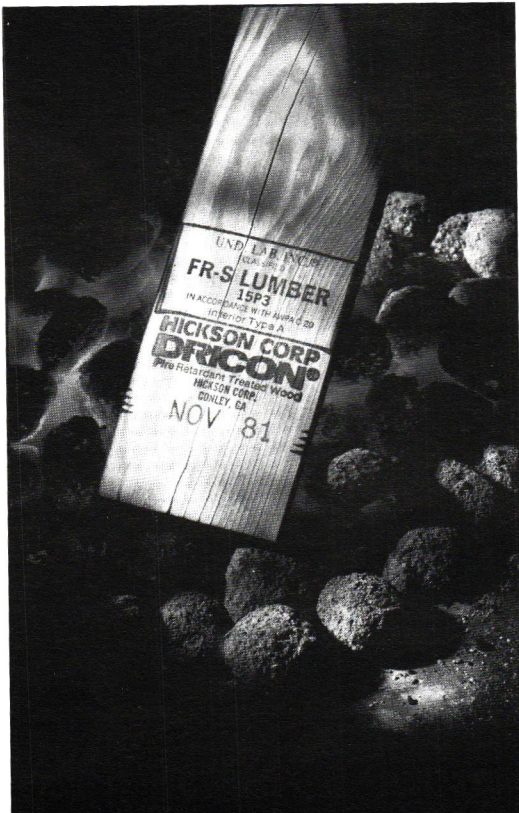
- create adversarial relationships before a project begins.
- unreasonably shift responsibility (risk) upon another entity.
- artificially inflate cost of the project.

For further insight on this or other recommendations, or for a complimentary copy of the AIA/MBA Joint Committee's "Yellow Book of Recommended Construction Practices", call Jack Ramage at (412) 922-3912.

AIA/MBA Joint Committee...Working together to provide better value for the construction dollar



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