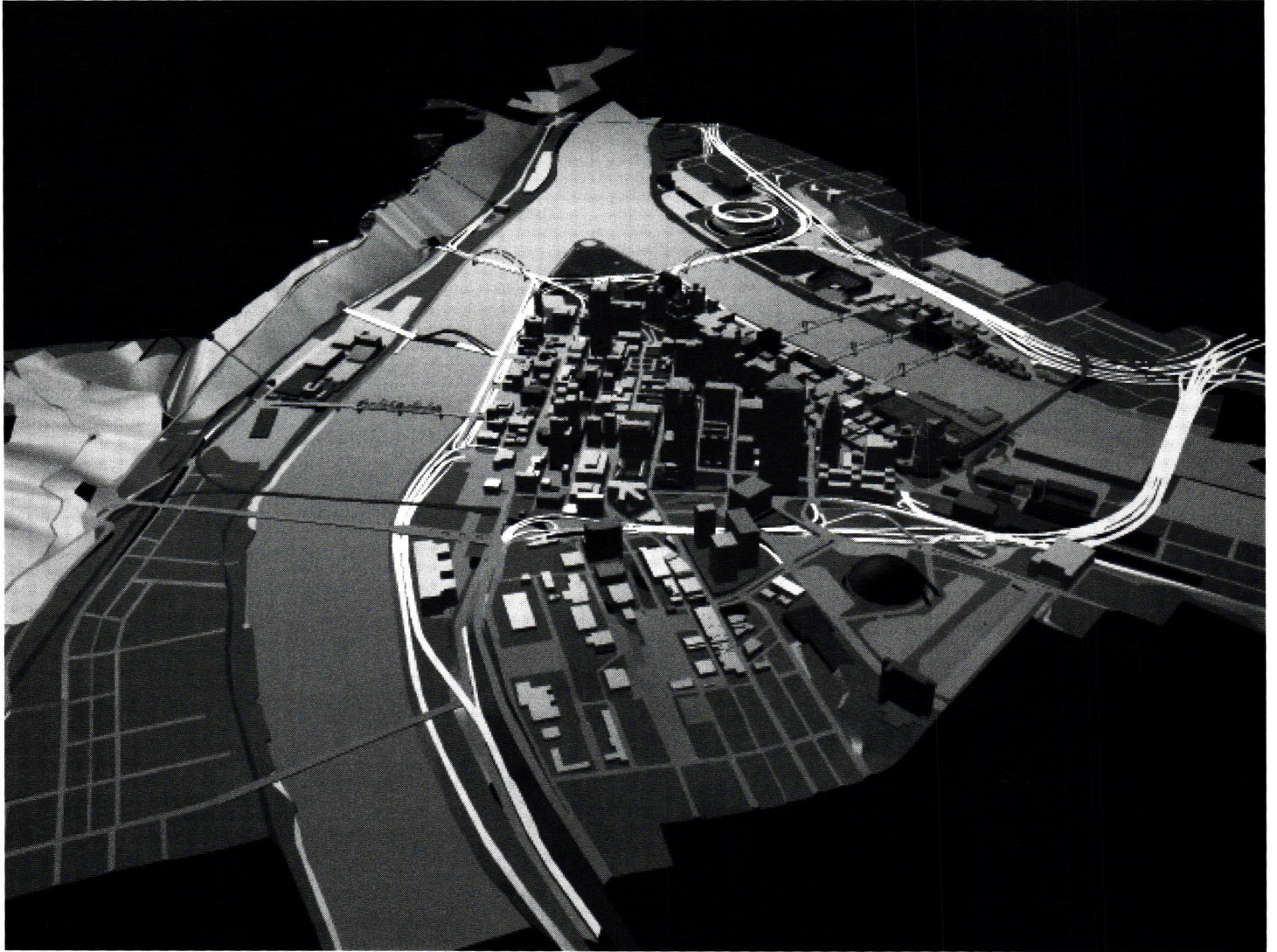
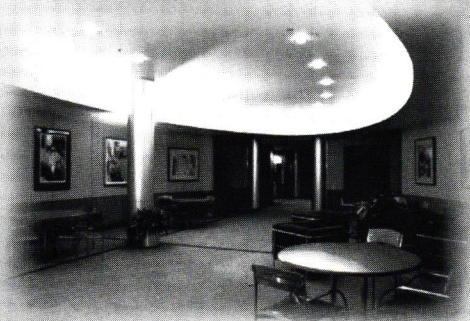
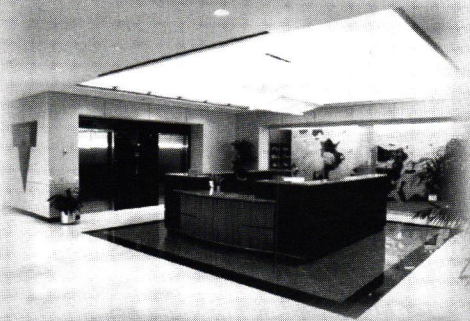


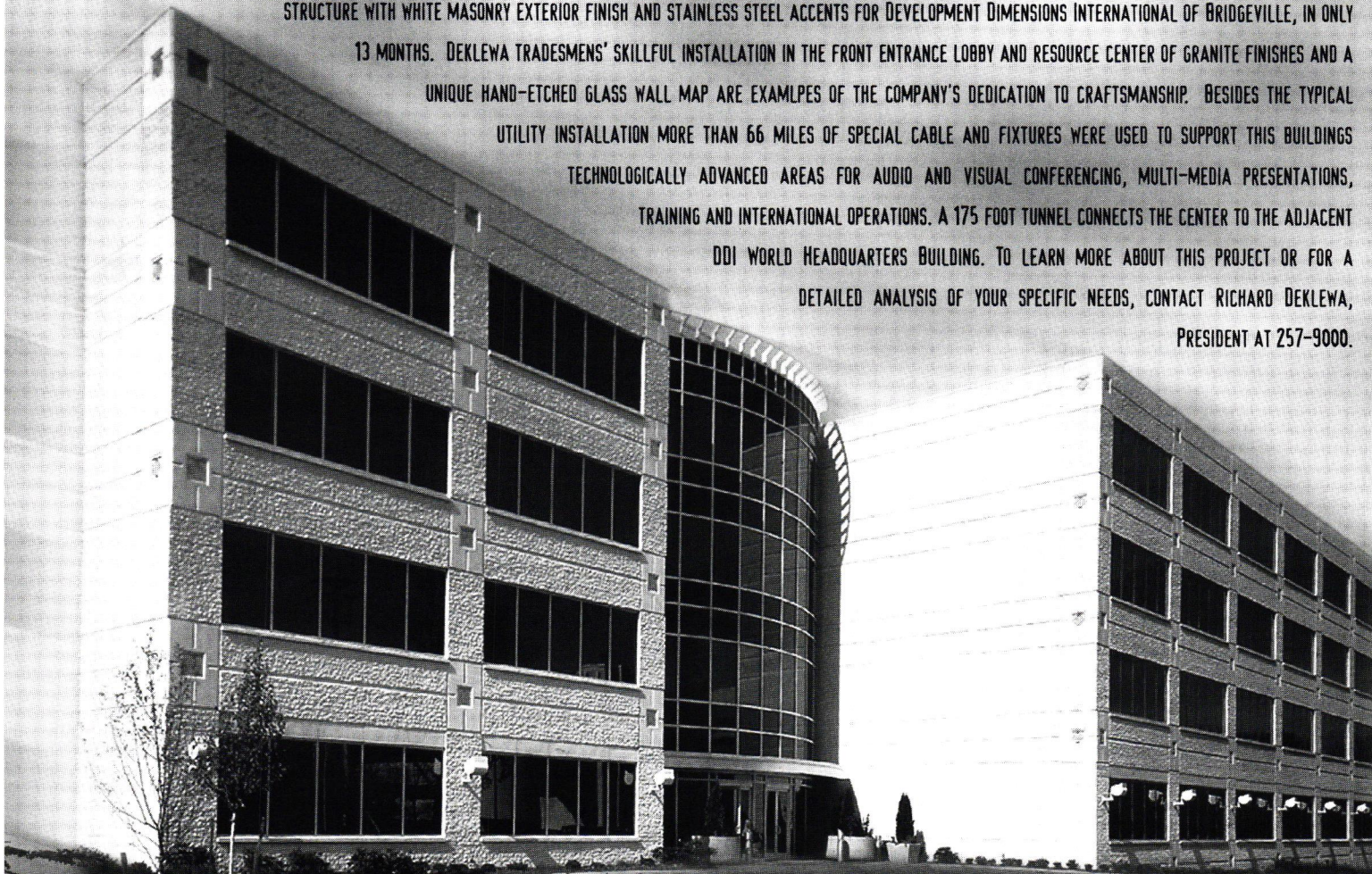
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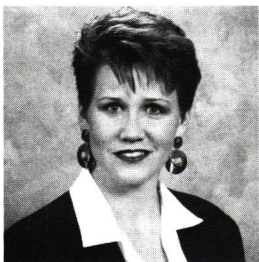
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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

What's It Worth?

by Maura Guttman, Immediate Past President, AIA



Simply put, there's no reason for panic, or to consider dropping your AIA membership. Any activity for which you can state a "learning objective" qualifies as continuing education.

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On the cover: Part two of our four-part series on Pittsburgh Development focuses on what's up and what's down in downtown. Illustration by John Decker, Associate AIA.

For those of you who read your magazines

back to front (as I do), and you've just finished an hour cuddled up with *Columns* (don't we all?), I think you'll be pleased to know that you've just earned one AIA Learning Unit (LU) to apply towards the 36 you'll need this year to maintain membership in the Institute.

Early in December, hundreds of members of AIA Pittsburgh received a letter from AIA President Skipper Post, FAIA. His intent was to remind us that accrual of continuing education credits has been set by us, the members, as a condition of membership. (Judging from the number of phone calls we got after this letter arrived, he scared you but good!) Not only is continuing education a membership requirement, but several states (Florida, Alabama and Iowa) have imposed this requirement for maintaining licensure. As there are eleven other states with similar legislation pending (including Ohio and New Jersey), you begin to view the AIA CES program as a benefit of membership rather than a burden. If and when Pennsylvania might impose such a mandate, we will be tapped into a readily available source of educational opportunities, and already be in the habit of tracking our learning activities.

The actual acquisition of these Learning Units is easy. I've always heard that architecture is "an old man's profession," meaning that every project involves new skills, and that the entire career of an architect is one long learning process. The daily activities of research, reading professional journals, keeping up with relevant legislation, attending box lunch presentations by sales reps, and mastering new computer applications are all painless opportunities for gathering credits. Other sources for gaining LUs are the more formal seminars and classes for which you may pay a fee, but which will also earn you more LUs per hour. The tricky part is keeping track of the LUs and sending them to National to be recorded. Included in this issue of *Columns* is a copy of the Self-Report form that must be filled out for each learning effort. Make copies of it, and get in the routine of recording your self-directed education.

The most frequent question related to the AIA's Continuing Education System is "How do I know how many units this activity is worth?" According to Carl Freedman, AIA, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, determining this is easy too. On the back of the Self-Report form is a series of questions to help you evaluate the Quality Level (QL) of your learning experience. Essentially, passive learning (reading, listening) will earn one LU per hour, while interactive learning (group discussion, college classes) earns two or even three LUs per hour, depending on the activity.

Carl also reminds us that 12 out of the annual 36 required LUs must be in the category of Health, Safety and Welfare. Loosely defined, this would be anything covered as a topic on a licensure exam (structural, mechanical/electrical/plumbing, contracts, codes, etc.)

Simply put, there's no reason for panic, or to consider dropping your AIA membership. Any activity for which you can state a "learning objective" qualifies as continuing education. You can meet these obligations all on your own, or take advantage of some of the programming offered by our chapter for your professional development. Last year the chapter committees offered several seminars and activities worth four to six LUs each, for an average cost of \$5 per LU. Additionally, the thousands of hours of volunteer time needed to operate AIA Pittsburgh will earn LUs for those individuals who are gaining organizational and leadership skills while generously donating their free time to their professional association.

Speaking of which, as I put a lid on this terrific year as president of the chapter, I reflected on all the accomplishments of the organization, and the personal enrichment the position has offered me. Now that I have conquered this pinnacle and know more than I ever wanted to know about the inner workings of the AIA, I am left with only one burning question: how many Learning Units was this worth? 🏠

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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Unifying Principles

by Anne Swager, Executive Director

I finally gave in the other day and after

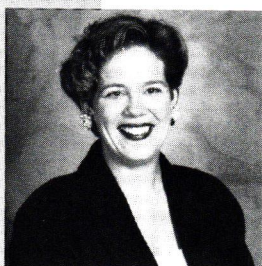
standing in the time planner section of Office Depot for 40 minutes mulling each and every type of time planner and their many nuances, I bought one. I was forgetting phone conversations, losing notes and feeling too disorganized. My pocket is now some \$50 lighter and I feel moderately more organized. Everything is in one place and I am keeping better track of what I've said to whom, promises I've made and where I am supposed to be next Wednesday at 3 pm. However, there has been no magical redux of my work style. I confess, I am still so baffled by some of the pages that I have not filled them out. I ordered the free video on what to do how and when but it has not arrived. So, I limp along with a half used book and a nagging sense of guilt that I should be doing this better. My favorites are the pages where you list your unifying principles, your personal life goals, and your company goals. These pages have a lovely little time-power insignia to remind you to make the most of your time, a.k.a. your life. The assumption seems to be that a state of bliss will be achieved if every minute of your day is organized toward reaching your goals. I'm quite clear on the overlying principles that guide my life, and the way I try to achieve them daily. I'd just feel silly writing some of them down. I don't want anyone to look over my shoulder and see that I'm trying to perfect my steering wheel drumming accompaniment to my favorite song, or that I'm going to try to be more patient when my son Henry slams the door and asks me for the seventh time, "why?", when I don't answer him the way he wants me to. After all, this is my book and if some of my plans really are firmly in my head, all that should count is whether I feel personally satisfied.

January is a big time for plans. I'm already making vacation plans. The AIA staff is reviewing work plans and goals for the coming year. In the region, we're starting to see real unified, focused hopes under the mantra of economic development which in some cases are a result of plans and in other instances will require more plans. The City of Pittsburgh Planning Department and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development have launched a planning

process for the Golden Triangle called the Downtown Plan. The Allegheny Conference on Community Development has developed a Regional Investment Strategy in response to the changing nature of the economy of the Pittsburgh region. Simultaneously the Port Authority, PennDOT and the City of Pittsburgh are planning major infrastructure improvements. What's missing is a unifying comprehensive vision into which all of these initiatives can fit. Hence, the Downtown Plan was born. The mission of the plan is to *develop an integrating vision for the next phase of growth of downtown Pittsburgh as it moves into the 21st century.* This vision is expected to provide a coordinating thread to the many projects that are now being undertaken and to provide a framework for prioritizing future projects. The challenge is to get all the stakeholders to buy in and channel their energies towards a common end rather than their own special agenda. I was particularly heartened to see the emphasis the Downtown Plan process is putting on strengthening the downtown area's role as an economic and social core. Implicit in the core concept is social diversity and what better place than the shared urban core.

There are plenty of opportunities to participate on the six different task forces that have been formed to deal with particular issues and how they relate to the whole. It's not too late to join in and I have the complete list including times, places and dates in my office but not in my time planner. Feel free to call me for further information. This is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that successful, sustainable economic development is a result of sound urban planning and good design. Besides, there will even be charrettes and lots of other fun ways to show what architects know best.

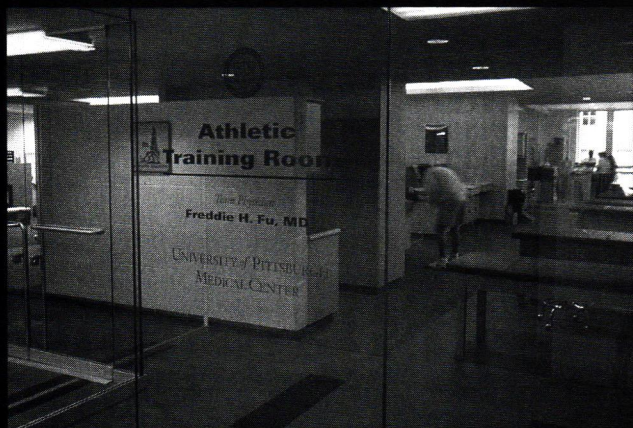
My hat is off to the City and Allegheny Conference for their newest planning effort. I have learned that it isn't just the end result that counts. The process is just as important, and in some cases maybe even more so. Writing this plan down is also necessary. It puts everyone on the same page and compliments each others efforts. I have high hopes it will give us the focus to launch Renaissance 3. I have a much lower expectation of those extra pages in my time planner. I think they will most likely start the next fire in my fireplace. 🏠



The Downtown Plan is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that successful, sustainable economic development is a result of sound urban planning and good design.

Let's Try this Again

Every year the fabulous Design Awards submissions turn the Chapter office topsy-turvy. This year was no exception. Unfortunately, one entry, L.D. Astorino & Associate's Pitt Stadium exterior rendering, wound up upside down in the November *Columns*. Our apologies to this gracious firm. Here's a more detailed look at just part of the interior facilities.



Congratulations to the following architects who passed their licensing exam in 1996:

DAWN CINDRIC - Johnson/Schmidt Associates
TOM STANKO - Valentour English Bodnar
EDWARD KUNDLA - Johnson/Schmidt Associates
JOHN DECKER - Carnegie Mellon University
ANDY FORTNA - Jeffrey Wyant Kline
JULIE REKER - Lami • Grubb • Architects

THANKS A BUNCH!

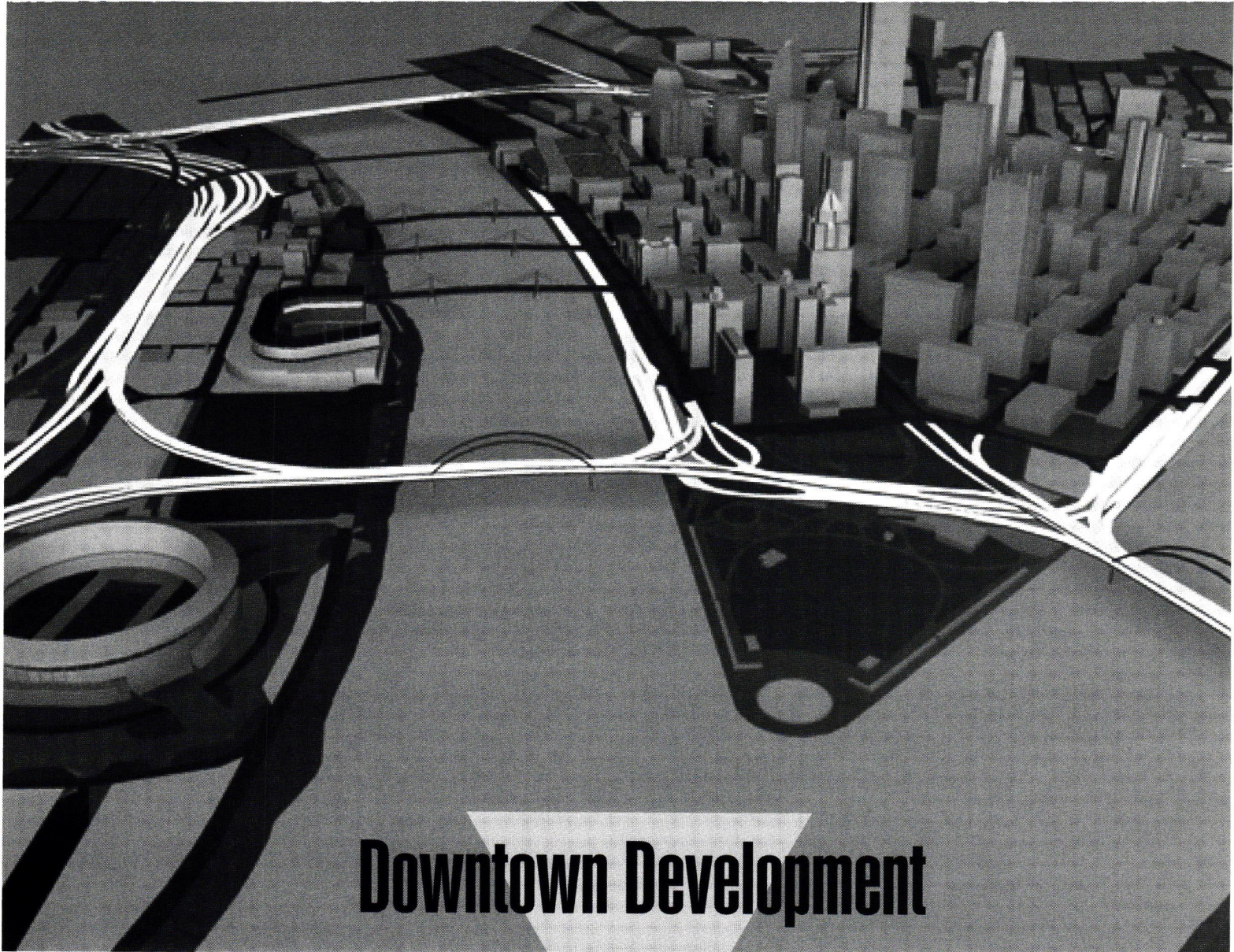
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Downtown Development

All roads lead to downtown, literally. Now a coordinated effort is trying to make the Golden Triangle the figurative center of the city as well.

While politics, parking, financing, and negative perceptions remain obstacles to some changes in the Golden Triangle, the consensus is that the climate for development has improved. The City, County, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Cultural Trust, potential residents, and developers are said to be exhibiting a strong commitment to cooperate that was not evident as recently as a year ago. An area that is receiving quite a bit of new attention in recent months is downtown housing. Why the change?

"People who have been investing in downtown, like the City and the Cultural Trust, realize they need to get people to live downtown to make sure all the money they've been pouring into the Golden Triangle doesn't go to waste," says Chris Lasky, of the Design Alliance who has been studying the downtown housing situa-

tion for a year and a half. "I think [a revitalized] downtown has the possibility of happening and happening big, yet I think that Pittsburgh has also tried to catch a number of waves in recent years and missed them."

When it comes to downtown housing hesitancy is still a key word, but many feel significant support exists to bring a sense of community to the Golden Triangle. Bob Hurley, Economic Development Manager for the City of Pittsburgh, offers an optimistic picture of downtown development when he discusses the retail, commercial, infrastructure and recreational developments expected in the next few years. Market rate housing, he feels, will develop as a part of a revitalized and energetic downtown, both for professionals and for students who attend downtown schools. In turn, he and others expect support services, like food stores and dry cleaners, will follow.

Boutique shops, he adds, will open once the new Lazarus department store is built, offering a variety of products and goods not currently available downtown. The creation of Fort Pitt Park (along the Monongahela) and the Cultural Trust's Fort Duquesne Boulevard Park (along the Allegheny) will add new public and recreational spaces to the Golden Triangle. Hurley also anticipates a significant office building will be constructed in the next three to five years as the demand for more, and more modern, office space is approaching a level to support a new structure.

This demand comes from a trend in the growing number of companies choosing to keep their businesses in the city, or even returning to the city, instead of moving to the suburbs. "There is a great concern about disrupting the workforce—making people abandon public transportation and deal with tunnel construction. It's a deterrent for a lot of workers," says Hurley. "Larger firms are paying more attention to this now than in recent years."

Compact City

We've been fortunate that downtown is such a confined area," says Michael Stern, Project Director of the Pittsburgh Downtown Plan, a group created to coordinate the efforts of the many entities interested in downtown development. "It's probably why downtown has survived as it has." Traditionally, downtown has been defined as Grant Street down to the Point. Now, the Downtown Plan views downtown as extending beyond the central business district. "The rivers are probably the city's greatest assets," says Stern, "and they need to be seen as the heart of things rather than as dividers."

Coordinating development of the north and south shores and well into the Strip, Stern suggests, can help the city take advantage of more opportunities. While he feels a clustering of large retail businesses outside of downtown would hurt the downtown revitalization effort, he feels cultural, recreational and entertainment venues on the shores create linkages, energy, and spin-off opportunities. Other opportunities, such as hotel and restaurant development, are also suggested by the \$262 million convention center expansion, which will triple the city's convention space.

The Cultural Trust continues its work on the Cultural District, and is approximately half way through its 10 to 12-

year plan to revitalize the Penn-Liberty corridor. Some of the largest and most challenging components of that plan are underway or will begin within the next year. These include the bi-level Riverfront Park, stretching 3,500 feet along the Allegheny, Theater Square—the Michael Graves' designed building on the corner of Penn and Seventh that will be the new 650-seat home of Pittsburgh Public Theater, a 250-400,000 square foot office building, a central park, and a parking garage with first floor retail and entertainment space.

Obstacles to Tackle

While numerous projects are planned, there are still obstacles to tackle for downtown development to have the long term vitality and sustainability desired. Greater cooperation and communication among entities—from the zoning board to the Mayors' office to the Allegheny Conference—is beginning to streamline the process. Yet there are issues beyond granting variances and piecing together support that many feel still need improvement.

These improvements center around a need for more action, risk taking, still greater cooperation among development groups, a better financing climate, and people living downtown.

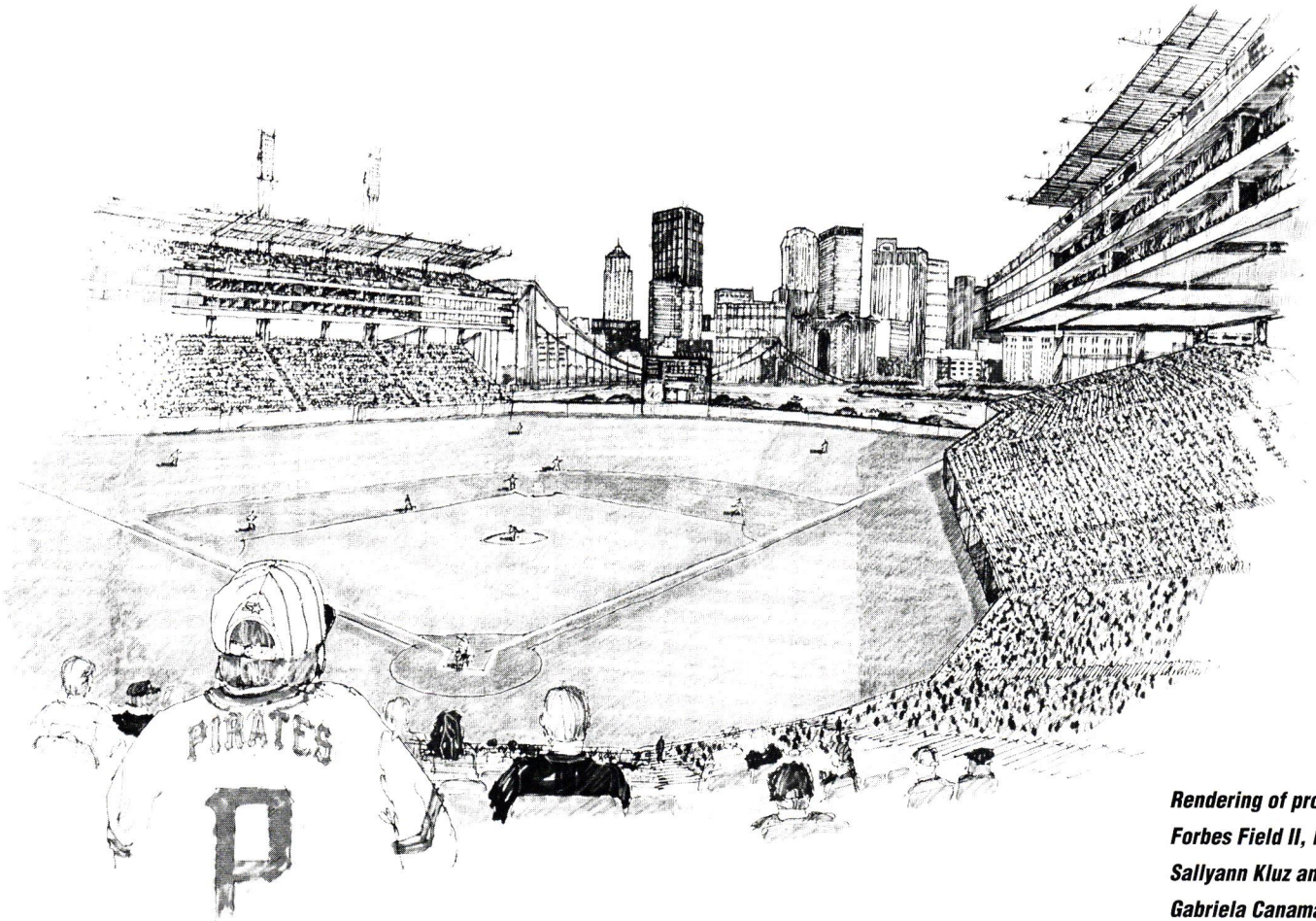
"Enough surveys have been done," says Lasky. "It's time to do something or miss another opportunity. I think there's an enormous amount of potential to really see downtown Pittsburgh take off, but people have to get beyond the petty issues and realize this is good for the whole city. Everyone needs to chip in and work together to make it happen. It's not just about a few developers, or a few institutions."

Lasky and others point to a need for the people who have traditionally directed city development to trust younger Pittsburghers and their visions of the city's future. "I know what a 30-year old wants in downtown housing," says Lasky. "But I wouldn't pretend to know what a retired person wants." A greater variety of people need to be embraced into the development process, he says.

Others ask the city to be more discerning in its acceptance of developments. A number of people, who asked that their names not be used, voiced concern that the city is so eager to receive development proposals, that it is not enforc-

"The rivers are probably the city's greatest assets and they need to be seen as the heart of things rather than as dividers."

—MICHAEL STERN,
DOWNTOWN PLAN



Rendering of proposed Forbes Field II, by Sallyann Kluz and Gabriela Canamar of The Downtown Planning Project, Planning Department, City of Pittsburgh.

ing design guidelines or recommendations, or bows too quickly to political considerations.

"The development climate in Pittsburgh has definitely improved," says Steve Nesterak, Vice President of Development for Forest City Enterprises, the developer of Station Square, Liberty Center and other Pittsburgh area sites. He praised the Downtown Partnership and the City's new undertaking of a master planning process, which includes marketing and design aspects of development, among others. "I think it was smart not to just focus on bricks and mortar but on lots of pieces, like marketing to corporations. That's been missing in Pittsburgh."

Nesterak, however, agrees that development activities could be better integrated, especially with smaller projects. "There's a tendency to focus on the next big project, while there are smaller projects that aren't being connected with other plans in the same area. I've seen three different groups planning different uses for the same spot, but they haven't talked to each other. It's some of the smaller projects that really give flavor to a city and they need to receive attention too."

Eve Picker, Associate AIA, who is working on a downtown loft project agrees. "I think the way to encourage reinvestment is to do incremental projects. Little projects don't make as big a splash, they're not quite as sexy, but they are the leaders in the market. Someone's got to go out there and try it. If it works, there won't be a problem getting more people to invest and reinvest."

Cars and People

A shortage of parking is perceived as one of the most tangible obstacles to development. "What people are saying is there's no *free* parking," says Stern. "The key to solving the 'parking' problems is making downtown a place people want to be. Three dollars for parking is not a deterrent if you want to be there. People continue to go to the South Side, Shadyside and the Strip and find places to park or pay for a parking garage. They do this because it's worth it. Once downtown has the same payoff, parking in the evening will not be an issue." More than 200 new street meters have been added to downtown in the last year, and existing parking garages, as well as the one the Cultural Trust will build, have many

spaces available in the evenings for downtown visitors.

Parking for people living downtown is a different topic, says Picker. "It's a hard question because no one yet understands the market," she says. "Will downtown dwellers still want to put their chair out on the street? Can Pittsburghers live without cars?"

Most people believe the market for living, shopping, and going out downtown is young professionals. Picker, however, has noted a wide variety of people have expressed interest in her downtown lofts, from young and established professionals, to a couple near retirement who, because of handicap needs, are looking to live on one floor. "We really don't know what the market is," says Picker. "That's part of why I advocate for small projects alongside the larger projects. That's where you can take the risks and gauge the market."

Part of the problem with small projects is the time consuming process of filing and receiving multiple variances for redevelopment of many downtown buildings. Another problem is the high cost of installing elevators in old structures, which can increase square footage cost by \$10-12. Public funding is needed to get the initial projects off the ground, suggest a number of architects and developers.

Picker suggests "an elevator grant", while Dutch McDonald of Edge Architects suggests packaging the renovations of a series of older buildings where the circulation core can be shared, creating a need for fewer elevators and new stairways.

"If you're doing downtown housing without public financing, all you can get is 800 square feet for \$1200 a month," says Lasky. "That just won't work. It really needs to be 1200 square feet for \$800 a month." To get the ball rolling, he suggests special low interest loans from banks, design-to-suit construction, or high-tech housing with Internet hookups to reflect the new high-tech Pittsburgh.

Architect Assistance

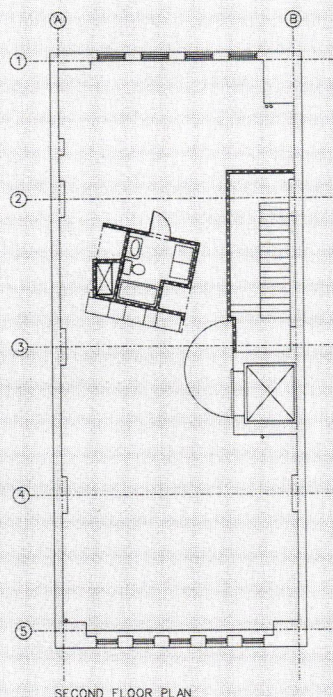
It will take some creative solutions to overcome the obstacles of redevelopment, but one of the most useful changes could come from architects, says Bernie Liff, FAIA.

The number of variances needed for each site that is redeveloped creates a laborious process both for the developer and the building code board. A study of downtown buildings is needed, says Liff, to devise broad guidelines that would counteract so many individual code questions.

"The downtown housing market is people who want a place that works for their lifestyle. I think a good size space, 1000-1500 feet that's basically open, is what will work. People will create their own environment. That's one of the bonuses of downtown space."

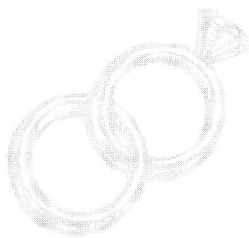
—CHRIS LASKY, THE DESIGN ALLIANCE

continued on page 19



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

A large percentage of downtown buildings have a narrow yet very deep layout that is not attractive to commercial development. They are difficult spaces to reconfigure and do not have much natural light, and have in many cases fallen into deterioration because they are not being used. Eve Picker, Associate AIA, has taken one of these structures, 429 First Avenue, and is in the process of creating eight 1800 square foot loft spaces, like the one shown here. She cites a changing viewpoint downtown as having helped her make the project work.



Architecture Partners by Michelle Fanzo

Husband and wife architects talk about being married, and sometimes working hand in hand, with some one as particular about details as they are.



Suzan Lami, AIA and Bob Grubb, AIA (right) collaborated on THE BREADBASKET, as one of their first projects together.

“There is this old-fashioned idea that the architect is a 19th century Romantic genius who works alone,” said Robert Venturi, AIA in a recent *Architecture* interview. “But in fact, it is an intensely collaborative effort.” More and more that collaboration is between architects who are also husband and wife.

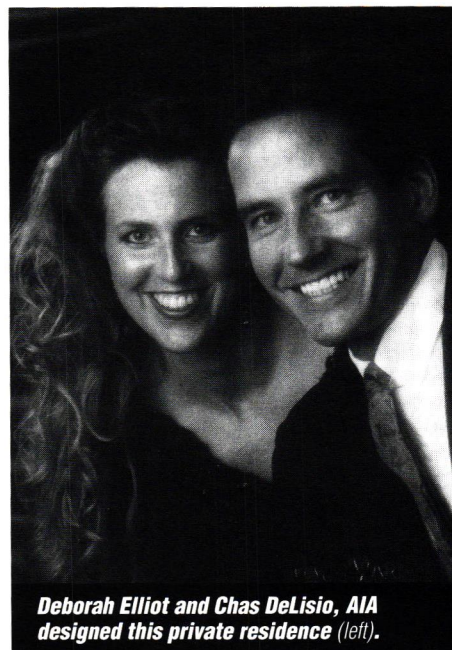
More women entering the field, combined with the general increase in women in the work force, has altered the view of architecture as a historically male career path. Women who were a part of the first generation of females to enter architecture school in large numbers are now approaching mid-career, and making their marks on the built environment. Some architects and watchers of the industry say architects couple up more than other professionals, in great part because of the demands of the career.

Rather than just providing a wider diversity of faces in the office, the proliferation of husband and wife architects has altered the work place in a number of ways. Many such teams who work for the same firm find greater flexibility in

“It’s a real turn-off on date when someone says, ‘What’s the big deal? It’s just a building.’”

— JAY GLUNT,
ASSOCIATE AIA





Deborah Elliot and Chas DeLisio, AIA designed this private residence (left).

their work hours, greater understanding in their personal life for the demands of an architecture career, and stronger levels of communication with their partners. Much of this carries over to architects who do not work together, but share a love of the field. "I don't feel guilty planning a vacation to look at buildings," says Bob Grubb, AIA of Lami•Grubb•Architects.

Columns talked to 15 architect couples about the benefits and struggles of working in the same field, and in some cases working together. Most couples met in architecture school, though some met on the job. Only two couples interviewed met through an alternative means (friends and sports).

The vast majority of architect couples working together, whether in partnership or at the same firm, did not plan to work together. A few had even made a concerted effort not to work together, fearing putting their eggs all in one basket was too much of a risk. Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships emerged for most of these couples, who then decided to give working and living together a try. Of those working together, they most often described their styles as complementary, building on each other's strengths. Most architects describe the decision making processes at work and at home as similar, with each part-

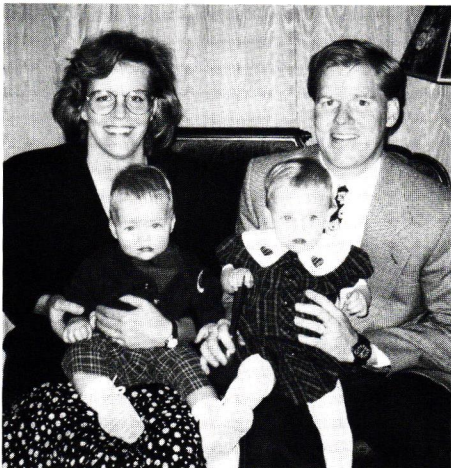
ner taking the lead in the areas in which he or she is strongest or most knowledgeable.

For couples with children, the advantage of working together, especially owning a partnership together, was very strongly supported. Currently, Charles Coltharp, AIA is able to function as a liaison between home and KSBH Architects, where he and his wife Molly work, while she stays home half the week to take care of their newborn son. Suzan Lami, AIA agrees. "It's been really nice for us to take turns and spend time with the kids on an odd holiday. I don't know how families do it that don't have the flexibility we have."

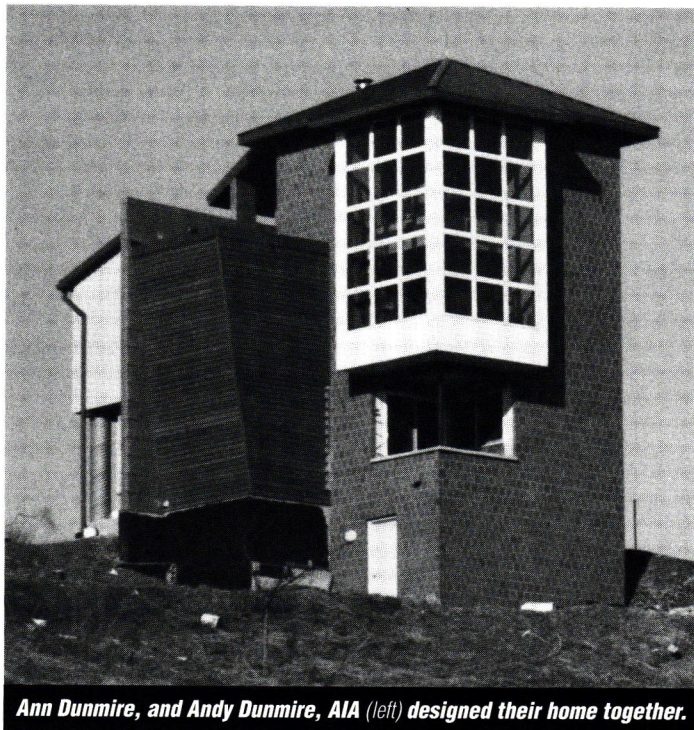
A downside to working and living together, say some architects, can be that you never get away from your job as it becomes too easy to talk about work at home. In a smaller firm, says Mary Cerrone, there is the danger of spouses comparing themselves to each other and causing stress on the relationship. It is also hard to take vacations together when it means half the firm is gone at the same time.

Other couples are content having separate work lives, yet sharing the intimacies of understanding the demands of being an architect. Specifically, couples talk about the joy of being able to go out and behave like architects without

"Communication that's required in a marriage—who's going to do what—carries over to working on projects together. They're the same kind of problems." —CHARLES COLTHARP, AIA



Richard Forsythe, AIA, and Jessica Forsythe AIA.



Ann Dunmire, and Andy Dunmire, AIA (left) designed their home together.

worrying what the other person is thinking. "When we go out to a restaurant for dinner, we'll ask things like, 'who makes that light fixture?' We've actually turned chairs over in public places to see who made them," says Lami. "I think this would probably drive another spouse nuts."

Most couples have found collaborating on projects to be a rewarding experience. While there is sometimes a struggle over who will be the "Project Architect," many members spoke of the satisfaction of creating something with the person they most enjoy being with. "We built a home and an addition together, and it was fine," says Richard Forsythe, AIA. "The only problem now is explaining our design decisions to our 18 year old daughter, who wants to become an architect."

At the same time, say other architects, working together, particularly on design competitions, can cause tempers to flare more than with a non-spouse partner because, says Jay Glunt, Associate AIA, "between spouses there is no pretense of civility."

Being an architect defines your personality and guides major decisions such as where to live, say other architects. Architects also hold views that are not commonly

held, add others. All these defining characteristics lead to architects seeking soul mates that understand these differences, partially explaining what some people see as a high rate of architects marrying within the profession.

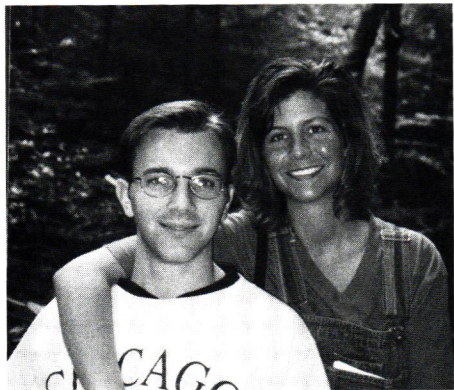
Other members said they did not feel architects were marrying architects any more than any other profession. Still others point to the long hours, particularly in school, where architecture students' schedules are so rigorous that there is no time to meet people in other departments as a reason for

architects marrying architects. "Our schedule was very much dictated by the architecture courses, there was no time to meet anyone else," says Grubb.

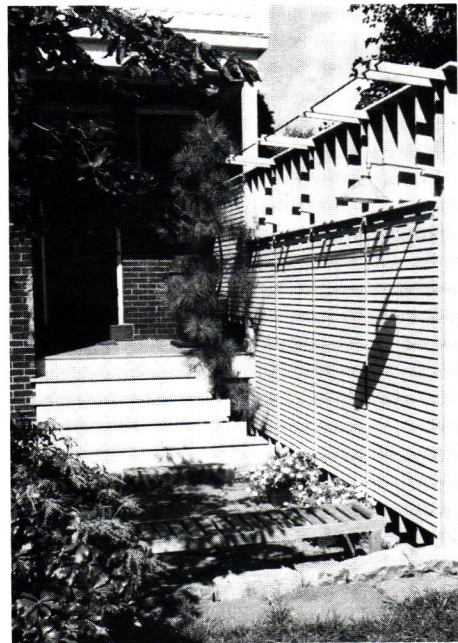
The nearly 50-50 ratio of women to men in architecture programs was another reason cited for the possible rise of architect couples.

The benefits identified to being married to an architect include understanding about the profession, which can be a very time consuming career, shared interests, and brainstorming ideas. "What's good about being married to an architect? I wouldn't have it any other way," says Jessica Forsythe, AIA, who built her own home with her husband Richard. "Architects tend to be outgoing and involved, so they get out with non-architects in social settings—so being married to an architect isn't insular." Yet a danger of marrying an architect, Forsythe continues, is that they tend to share two potentially volatile traits: procrastination and a strong ego orientation (not in a negative sense, she adds). "I can see how two people very much alike in those ways could potentially cause problems for each other."

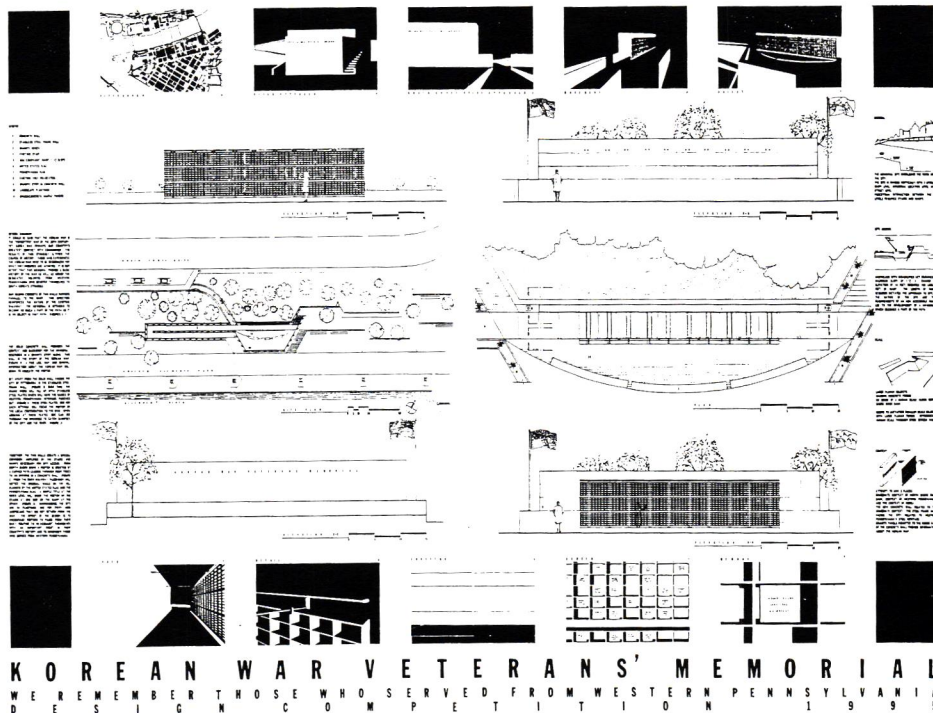
Other concerns have centered on non-architects. As architects tend to talk about architecture, some members have



Jay Glunt, Associate AIA, and Kelly Orendi Glunt, Associate AIA, collaborated on a design competition entry for the Korean War Veterans' Memorial.



Kevin Wagstaff, AIA, and his wife Mary Cerrone, (not pictured) collaborated on this Garden Screen Wall for their backyard.



noticed it is difficult to go out in groups with some spouses who are not architects, as they feel left out.

In comparing dating non-architects to architects, same career partners receive higher marks from most people interviewed. "It's a real turn-off on a date when someone says, 'What's the big deal? It's just a building,'" says Glunt. Others say dating non-architects has expanded their world view, but there can be downsides to marrying a non-architect too. There are some architects married to non-architects, says Kevin Wagstaff, AIA, "and these spouses want to do the most awful things to their homes."

While some couples who work as partners point to their complementary strengths as the reason they enjoy working together, others say it is the strength of communicating that comes from marriage that assists them most in working together. "Chas (DeLisio) and I don't agree a lot of times on projects," says Deborah Elliott. "Because we are married, we already know how to deal with each other and it is an advantage when we don't agree in the office realm." Elliott also noted that many of their residential clients, who are couples, prefer to work with an architect couple.

DeLisio and Elliott feel partnership of married architects can be an exceptional experience if both people are interested. "I would advise people that there will be things that come out in your relationship because you work with them and see another side of them, and this can be good or not so good," says Elliott. "You really can't separate work and home," adds DeLisio. "Once you're in you're in. You can't go home and pretend you don't work together."

"As a couple, we're very complimentary," says Ann Dunmire. "Andy's the one that always says it's going to cost too much. I always say yeah, but it'll be so neat! I think our styles are similar, which probably comes from being in school together. There's a tendency of people you go to school with to have similar architecture philosophies and approaches."

As an architect," says Andy Dunmire, AIA, "You have a tendency to be a little bit of a cocky-eyed optimist using a nuts and bolts way to get there. You try to come up with the best solution. How to do it and the details to make it happen are intertwined. It's great to share that with someone." ■

Changing Public Perceptions: *Some Practical Opportunities*

by Hugh Hachmeister, AIA, Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, Design Review Committee Chair

In November *Columns*, Maureen Guttman, AIA stressed the need for architects to change public perceptions, play more visible roles as problem solvers and build bridges between communities. The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (an independent non-profit that encourages the use of design in community revitalization) offers practical opportunities to do just that—while also generating more work for architects in the long-run.

Design Fund—1997 Request for Qualifications. Through its Design Fund, the CDCP makes funds available to help Pittsburgh's community-based organizations hire architectural, landscape architectural, and other planning services at the earliest stages of revitalization projects. This early assistance is small (\$500 to \$10,000) but it sets design direction and helps determine whether or not a project will go ahead.

To be eligible for projects, firms need to provide the CDCP with qualifications information. During January, we'll send out a RFQ Packet. If you are not currently on our list of eligible firms, we encourage you to participate. If you are on our list, please make sure your materials are up to date.

The CDCP's Design Review Committee short-lists firms for final selection by community-based organizations. As part of that process, we make visits to familiarize ourselves with firms we know less well. Let us know if you would like a visit.

Renovation Information Network—Architecture and the Average Homeowner. Almost 60 architects and intern architects now participate in the CDCP's Renovation Information Network. For a token fee, the program provides Pittsburgh homeowners with consultations—not drawings and specifications—to help plan effective, sensitive home renovations.



PHOTO BY REBECCA FLORA

The 32-unit New Birmingham development on the South Side is just one of eight Design Fund projects that progressed from schematic design to construction in 1996, collectively valued at \$8 million.

Architect: **Perkins Eastman Architects**

Developer: **South Side Local Development Corporation/Alton Properties**

Some participating homeowners—who never would have contemplated working with an architect—go on to hire one. Additionally, the Network helps preserve Pittsburgh's architectural character. Last year, for instance, one consultation prevented a homeowner from covering a Scheibler-designed residence with perma-stone.

Building Communities and Public Image. To participate in the Renovation Information Network or get involved with Design Fund projects, please call the CDCP at 391-4144. It's a practical way to build Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, the visibility of architects and, ultimately, your own business. ■

Kudos

→ **Perkins Eastman Architects PC** has received a Grand Award for Fox Way Commons on Pittsburgh's South Side in the National Builder's Choice Competition.

From the Firms

→ **Ligo Architects** has been awarded design contracts for a four-practice medical office complex in New Bern, NC. The \$2 million project also includes site development and interior design responsibilities. Ligo Architects also recently completed the Corporate Office Building for Allegheny Valley School in Coraopolis Heights, and has started construction on the Corporate Offices for Electralloy Steel in Oil City.

A newly renovated facility for the Carnegie Mellon Child Center is being designed by **Perkins Eastman Architects PC**. The facility will become an international demonstration site for environmental education. Perkins Eastman is currently working on renovations of St. Paul's Baptist Church in Pt. Breeze, and a Downtown Revitalization Strategy for West Newton, PA.

Moir E. Breen, AIA, has recently joined the staff of **Radelet McCarthy**, Architects and Interior Designers. She received her Masters in Architecture from the University of Maryland.

Call for Volunteers

→ The Chapter needs architects to volunteer to staff our booth at the Home & Garden Show. Dates: March 7-16, 1997. Call the Chapter office at 471-9548, if interested.

Upcoming Symposium

→ **THE LEGACY OF JAMES D. VAN TRUMP, Friday, March 21, 1997, 9-12:30 a.m. Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh.** James D. Van Trump, teacher and activist on behalf of Pittsburgh's architecture and urban fabric, will be commemorated along with the presentation of three architecture lectures. Mr. Van Trump, who had written and taught widely on Pittsburgh's unique built environment, died in 1995 at the age of 87. Speakers will be: Margaret Henderson Floyd, Professor of Architectural History and American Art, Tufts University, speaking on "The Heart of American Architecture: Regionalism Beyond the Veil of Style;" Franz Schulze, Professor of Art History, Lake Forrest College, will speak on "Notes on the Art of Architectural Criticism;" and David DeLong, Professor of Architecture, University of Pittsburgh, will speak on "The Place of History in Historic Preservation."

Contact Anne Weis at the University of Pittsburgh for more information: (412)648-2405; E-mail: Weis+@pitt.edu.

Sponsored by: The Heinz Architectural Center, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Friends of Frick Fine Arts of the University of Pittsburgh.

Competition

→ **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.

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Frank McCurdy, AIA, 394-7000

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes two new members:

Cas Pellegrini, AIA
Poli & Cuteri Architects, Inc.

SCHOOL: Carnegie Mellon University

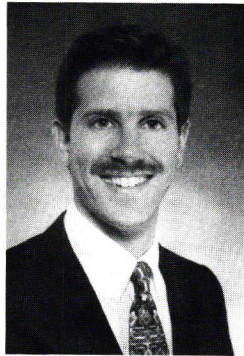
SPOUSE: Beth

CHILDREN: C.J. IV, 2 years old

PAST PROJECTS: Summit Bank, Sheraden & Oakland Senior Centers, Warrington Rec. Center

INTERESTS: Sculpture, painting, hiking, golf

COMMITTEE INTEREST: Legislative, Education/Professional Development



Sarah D. Drake, AIA
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

SCHOOL: North Carolina State

SPOUSE: John E. Drake

INTERESTS: AIA/CMU, Design Awards and Programs/Exhibits committees

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AIA ACTIVITIES

January 3, Friday

Communications Committee Meeting,
noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

January 6, Monday

Committee of Committees Meeting
noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

January 7, Tuesday

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

January 8, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Carl Freedman, AIA, 462-9300.

January 9, Thursday

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

January 21, Tuesday

Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m. at the Chapter office, Jim Sheehan, AIA, 682-6008.

February 7, Friday

Communications Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

February 11, Tuesday

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

February 12, Wednesday

Committee of Committees Meeting
noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

February 12, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Carl Freedman, AIA, 462-9300.

February 13, Thursday

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

February 18, Tuesday

Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m. at the Chapter office, Jim Sheehan, AIA, 682-6008.

February 20, Thursday

Town Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Heaven, RSVP to Chapter office by February 13, 471-9548.

CALNDAR

AROUND TOWN

January 14, Tuesday

CSI, Pittsburgh Chapter meeting: Preservation and Renovation of The Allegheny County Jail, with speaker Fred Watts, AIA, Project Manager with IKM, Inc., drinks at 6 p.m., dinner (\$20) at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m., at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Pittsburgh Airport. Call 823-5063 for reservations by Friday, Jan. 10.

January 15, Wednesday

SMPS Meeting: Construction Seminar. Rivers Club, One Oxford Center; registration 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, program 12:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call Paul Messineo, Jr. at (412) 823-2020 or fax him at 824-7302.

January 23, Thursday

Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture by Neil Levine of Harvard University. At Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. A reception follows. This event is free and open to the public. Call 648-2400 for more information.

February 19, Wednesday

SMPS Meeting: Humor in Presentations. Rivers Club, One Oxford Center; registration 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, program 12:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call Paul Messineo, Jr. at (412) 823-2020 or fax him at 824-7302.

February 26, Wednesday

AIA/CMU/HEINZ Lecture Series, Claudia Zazzaro, Cornell Art Historian, speaks on "Arts of Reform and Persuasion", Carnegie Institute Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, Friday

The Legacy of James D. Van Trump; 9-12:30 a.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh. Contact Anne Weis at the University of Pittsburgh for more information: (412) 648-2405.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"This study would provide a set of standards that people could build upon without having to get special permission for each project. It needs to happen soon though," he adds, "for it should dovetail with the new zoning code." Lack of funding has held up the project so far. If funding is found, Liff suggests hiring local architects to do the study.

McDonald agrees that a new code is needed, and encourages architects to lobby the zoning and building code boards to establish a more readily usable code, especially for residential use. David DeSimone, Real Estate Development Director for the Cultural Trust, feels interested architects can assist the development process "by taking a building that no one's been able to do anything with and devise a plan for development."

Others suggest architects should continue public education efforts, like last spring's Reshaping the Region charrette, to encourage well-designed development, both in land-use as well as material choices and aesthetic appearance. A number of architects have taken the initiative and are active in the Downtown Plan task forces, particularly in the areas of housing and urban design. Stern and others encourage architects to add their voices to the development process in these and other forums. ■



Liberty Avenue. Illustration courtesy of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

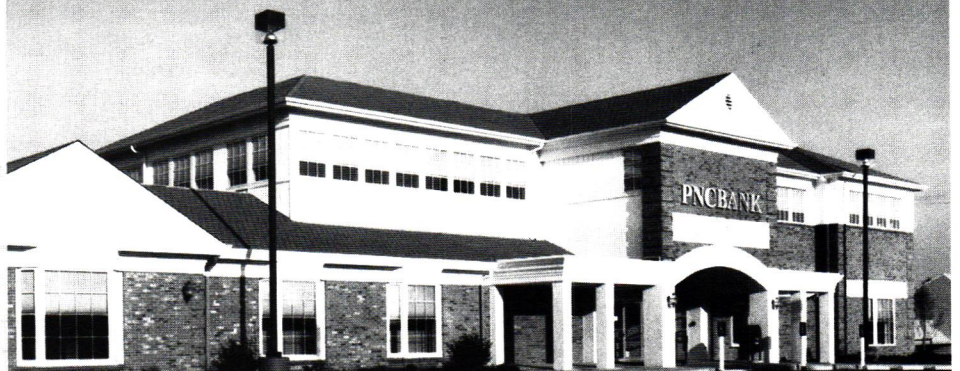
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CONTACT: Raymond A. Volpatt

*Commercial / Construction management
General / Industrial / Interior / Renovations*

The AIA/MBA Joint Committee recommends:

The Use of Alternates Should Be Avoided

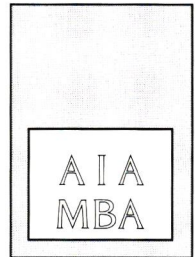
If it is determined that alternates are a must:

- Use only deductible alternates
- List alternates in priority sequence
- Select alternates based upon the priority list (Recommendation C-3)

Preparation of alternate bids requires effort on the part of the design professional and contractor. In many cases, confusion results. Minimizing the number of alternates minimizes bid preparation mistakes, facilitating the start of an efficient, cost-effective job.

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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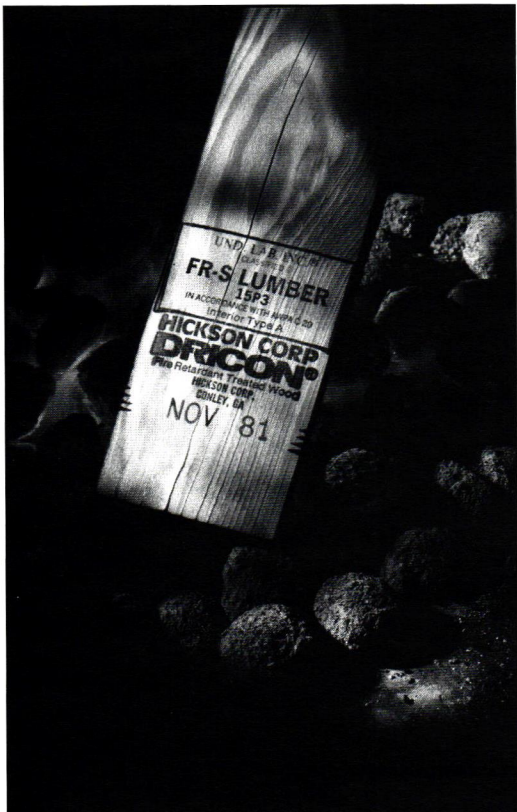
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Upcoming Issues

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.

March: **Development Series Part III: Neighborhoods**

April: **Development Series Part IV: Region**

May: **Historic renovation/preservation**

June: **Interiors portfolio**

1997 Member Meetings & Events

February 20

TOWN MEETING

at Heaven, 107 Slxth Street, at 5:30 p.m. Food, fun & by-laws!

Cost: Free to all members, \$20 all others

RSVP by February 13.

February 26

AIA/CMU/HEINZ LECTURE SERIES

Claudia Zazzaro, Cornell Art Historian, speaks on "Arts of Reform and Persuasion." Carnegie Institute Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m.

March 12

AIA/CMU/HEINZ LECTURE SERIES

Speaker TBA

Carnegie Institute Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m.

April 16

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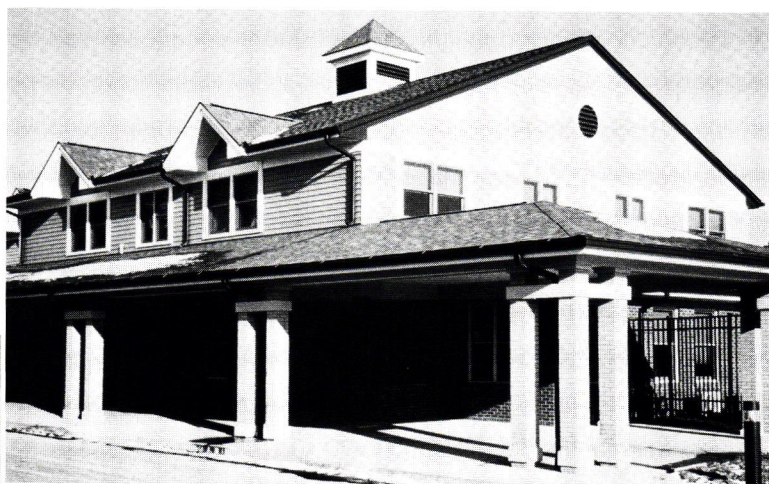
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