COLUMNS



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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCES

Columns March 1997 3 viewpoint

Battling Anonymity by Frank McCurdy, AIA President



If we are asking the courts to protect our profession from external threats, we may have lost the battle with the public already.

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On the cover: The renovation of an old South Side theater into a new retail space is one of a number of recent signs that the neighborhood's commercial market is seeing a resurgence of activity. Rendering: John Martine, AIA, Integrated Architectural Services Corp.

In the last year or so I have found myself

traveling quite a lot, both for business and professional reasons. I serve on a few national AIA committees that meet in different locations, including other countries. This allows me a view of architecture through the eyes of the English, the Spanish, the Japanese, etc. The role of the architect in most of these countries is more broad and better defined than in this country. In fact, in the United States people are not sure what architects do! Our jobs are illdefined by society and law. Universities aren't sure what courses to offer, or how to structure their curriculum to serve the needs of future architects. The law of the land (at least in Pennsylvania) isn't sure what architects do versus what designers or engineers or accountants or builders do. In fact, architects aren't sure what they do anymore!

I am concerned that as a profession we have allowed ourselves to be perceived by the public very narrowly. Because of this, we have relinquished roles that were formerly ours. The great number of new housing starts around the country should be a sign of rejoicing for architects. Yet very few of the houses ever had the benefit of an architect.

Perception: "Architects are only for the wealthy." "Architects are going to add unnecessary costs to the house." "Architects don't understand the housing market; they don't know what sells!" Does this sound familiar? How many times have Construction Managers or General Contractors been advising school boards on the selection of architects? How many times have major infrastructure projects been formulated without the input of an architect?

In a recent talk, Robert Peck, Director of Public Building Services of the General Services Administration, stated that as long as architects acted as if their only legitimate expertise was "coloring facades" they would be paid accordingly. He bemoaned the fact that architects, with all their training, have given up so much to others who do not understand the far-reaching environmental implications of their decisions; they merely stepped up to the plate.

In the coming year there will be a number of bills introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature that will dramatically affect the practice of architecture. Probably the most significant will be a state-wide building code. Next in importance is not a bill, but rather the legal definition of what an architect is licensed to do, versus what an engineer, or designer can do. Currently, plans sent to Labor and Industry for approval are processed as long as they are stamped with a professional license, be it an architect, engineer or barber! "Barber" may be a bit of a stretch, but the point is the L & I maintain that it is impossible to police whether an architect, designer or engineer should seal documents. This is especially true in a lot of gray areas that have not had precedent-setting cases to define who should be the responsible party.

You can be sure that AIA Pittsburgh, PSA, and AIA National will do everything they can to protect architects' rights and public safety. This is what they are chartered to do. However, if we are asking the courts to protect our profession from external threats, we may have lost the battle with the public already. We have to define our professional activities not only by legislation, but more importantly by example. In other words-get involved. Get on building committees, zoning boards, or public affairs councils. Become visible. Get into politics. We are quick to criticize lawyers who seem ready to run for office at a drop of a hat. But where are the architects on school boards who can advise the accountants and attorneys to use qualifications based selection to insure quality and reasonable fees.

Most architects were attracted to the profession because they liked to design. As we matured in the learning process, we came to see that design was just one facet, and that creativity is inherent in all facets. And we came to see that we have to go beyond buildings if we are going to have an environment that we can truly say was made better because of us. m

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 membershin is open to all registered architects architectural interns, and a limited number of professionals in supporting fields.

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

The Vision Thing

bv Michelle Fanzo, Editor

This month, Columns takes a look at

neighborhood development, the third feature in our fourpart series on development in our city and region. We found more projects and discussion underway than expected. As

> we do not pretend to offer a comprehensive list of neighborhood projects in our "What's Up?" sidebar (p. 6), there is still plenty of ground to be covered by raising questions in your community, or calling a colleague in Perry Hilltop or Mt. Washington to find out what is in the works.

> We unearthed a number of positive forces encouraging well-designed development, such as the recently formed partnership of eight community-based organizations in the East End that are working together on nine neighborhood projects. While traditional support systems for neighborhoods, such as government funding and civic involvement, continue to dwindle, it is just these kinds of new partnerships that will aid Pittsburgh in realizing its potential. Though frustrating, limited resources are encouraging people to coordinate their efforts who have not previously shared ideas—a breeding ground for creative solutions to perennial problems.

We also, unfortunately, uncovered a number of forces that hinder quality neighborhood development: political cache is not high for many community projects, funding is dwindling, need and costs are growing, historic preservation is expensive, community turf battles generate hostilities and competition for limited resources, distressed areas that are too expensive to tackle breed greater community disinvestment. Still others point to a lack of cohesive vision for the city and region as the primary disincentive for quality development.

Said one community organizer who asked not to be named, "When people say there isn't enough vision in development, it usually means that the vision isn't *their* vision. We have no lack of vision in Pittsburgh, it's just that everyone has one and they're going in different directions."

In an effort to coordinate plans for neighborhoods, Mayor Murphy recently encouraged community development corporations to create strategic plans for their neighborhoods. The goal is for the community to have a coherent vision of, and significant input into, the future of their neighborhood. Some community development players sense this effort has taken a back seat to emphasis on Downtown and North Side developments.

Also this month, Carl Freedman, AIA provides individuals and firms with ideas on gaining Continuing Education credits. Just reading his article beginning on page 12 should be worth a couple of Learning Units! We also take a look at our new AIA Board members, and hear the viewpoint of new AIA Pittsburgh president, Frank McCurdy.

Next month *Columns* concludes its development series with a peek at projects and trends underway in the region. We encourage members to call us with information on projects in western Pennsylvania that are outside City of Pittsburgh limits. What are the trends and issues in surrounding counties? Is coordination increasing between the city and region? What mechanisms are in place to foster this kind of discourse? Are they working? We want to know.



"When people say there isn't enough vision in development, it usually means that the vision isn't their vision. We have no lack of vision in Pittsburgh, it's just that everyone has one and they're going in different directions."

Government Affairs

The New Government Affairs Homepage is now up and running and can be found at: http://www.aia.org/govtaffs/ or by visiting the main AIA site. The homepage features information on federal, state and local government affairs, including the latest publications, programs, and issue briefs. A section called Federal Government Resources on the Web includes: House and Senate websites, Congressional Record sections, "Who is my Member of Congress?", "Write Your Member of Congress Today!", federal agencies and the official White House site. Check it out.

The AIA and Art

AIA Pittsburgh, as a member of the newly formed Downtown Art Gallery Association (DAGA), took part in a multigallery Holiday Open House in December. We would like to thank the LAB Company Dance (LABCO), a new dance collective, for performing at the AIA during the Open House. LABCO will create their fluid sculptures at the AIA at the opening reception for ARTchitecture on June 11. You won't want to miss this!



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

ARTchitecture '97

You've still got time to enter ARTchitecture '97-an exhibit of art by architects. Entry deadline is Friday, March 21. For an entry form call 471-9548.

In Memorium: Peter Galdi

Peter Galdi's many friends in Pittsburgh were shocked to learn of his death in early September. Peter was a practicing New York City engineer, educated at Rutgers and Cooper Union, when he chose to enroll in the mid-1970s at Carnegie Mellon's graduate program in architecture. He was an outstanding and popular student, breezing easily through his assigned courses. The faculty gave him his own course to teach as part of the civil engineering component in the architecture curriculum.

Armed with his CMU degree, Peter created Peter Galdi and Associates as a firm working both in architecture and engineering in New York. He had a small but distinguished clientele, both in New York and nationally, and was repeatedly invited by Columbia University to be an adjunct professor of engineering in their architecture school. It was on Columbia's grounds that he died while jogging in September, not yet 50. Peter was that rare person, learned both in the humanities and the sciences, an enthusiastic amateur musician and tenaciously well-read. He is survived by his widow, the dancer Robin Becker, in New York. Robin hopes to complete the home Peter designed and was building for them in the Berkshires. Her address is 345 Riverside Drive, #5A, New York, NY 10025; 212-316-2958.

-Franklin Toker, University of Pittsburgh

MAILBOX



Plus Tai+Lee

The Columns article on New Urbanism and Crawford Square (December 1996) was very well done and presented the various points of view in a thoughtful and objective way. This is a complicated subject and needs to be dealt with carefully. It was good to see Columns do a first rate job.

There is, however, one omission in the article which I feel is important to correct. The forsale houses were designed by the firm of Tai+Lee. UDA provided the urban design for the whole complex, full architectural services for phase I rental units, schematic design for phase II rental units, and a Pattern Book which set the design elements for the for-sale houses. Tai+Lee designed the houses using this book and did so with great creativity and skill. I believe they should be recognized and applauded for their work. Thank you for continuing good work on behalf of our profession.

— Raymond L. Gindroz, AIA

Local News is Essential

I did want to tell you how much I enjoy Columns and appreciate the work you do. Since I left active practice (I still do pro-bono work for non-profits and small projects with extremely flexible time frames) I am hungry for all the architectural news I can find. There are the national journals for technology, trends and such-but local news is essential to me. Who is doing what? What firms have transformed/specialized? Who are the local GCS and product reps? What are we doing in Pittsburgh? I love the news you bring!

Also, I was a member way back when we had a flimsy, xeroxed newsletter (not to knock the members, back then, who put it together. I don't know what AIA finances were at that time). Columns is such a great improvement, and a great PR vehicle for our profession...well done!

— Claire Wallace Kist

Neighborhood Development by Michelle Fanzo

PART THREE IN A FOUR PART SERIES ON DEVELOPMENT IN PITTSBURGH

Our neighborhoods. New Urbanists call them the essential unit of development. Mayor Tom Murphy calls them the heartbeat of the city. More than 300,000 Pittsburgh residents call them home. Where are they headed?

eighborhoods are once more a focal point of transition in American cities, and Pittsburgh is no exception. Efforts are underway locally to make infill housing more affordable, though there are mixed reports on the viability of this plan. There are also efforts at the federal level to disperse low-income housing throughout cities and regions, as opposed to the concentration of public housing high-rises that have been the norm for the past 40 years.

Yet a lack of coordinated vision is often cited as the basis for inefficiencies in local neighborhood development in Pittsburgh. Large, highly visible projects—like a new stadium or department store—can also divert attention away from community needs. Politically, neighborhood projects are often not beneficial to champion. At the grassroots level, community development corporations are facing major development issues with slashed budgets. Where are these trends and challenges leading Pittsburgh's neighborhoods?



The packaging—or clustering—of small, generally residential, projects in neighborhoods is one of the most recent trends in neighborhood development. Packaging is encouraged by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) as it allows neighborhoods to do small projects by pooling what would otherwise be prohibitive individual administrative and soft construction costs.

"Administratively, doing single units and especially multifamily houses just kills you," says Dennis Davon, Director of Housing for the URA, who cites funding cutbacks as the key impetus for packaging projects. "We want the limited funds we get to go towards projects that really make a difference. We want to see development of ten units of moreeither by packaging projects in a scatter site manner, or by having tax credit development like the recent multi-unit project on Stanton Avenue in Highland Park."

Though public sector agencies are encouraging developments with greater concentrated impact, the resources are not always available to implement such projects. Community groups share the desire for visible, high-impact projects but, says Rick St. John, Executive Director of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, site control and other issues often dictate that they take a more incremental approach.

"I think there is an emerging conflict between the demands of larger middle and upper income developments and the need to continue small scale improvements in more distressed neighborhoods," says St. John. "It is primarily an issue of limited resources."

While ten units is the optimal number, says Davon, in certain circumstances the URA will support projects with fewer units, such as an eight-unit project currently underway on Penn Avenue in Garfield. Public sector funding for neighborhood projects, he adds, will continue to be in short supply. He expects his office will increasingly assist community development corporations to try to raise funding from other sources, such as foundations and banks.

An increased interest in funding open space projects, like playgrounds and parks, adds St. John, is another trend in

"I think that there's a very important line we try not to cross on private development projects. Some projects are public purview and others are not. It is sometimes difficult for people to clearly define on which side of the line a project falls. It is important that we uphold that line." — JOHN RAHAIM, DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING







neighborhood development. These projects ranges from very small spaces to those with regional importance, like Grandview Avenue and the West End Overlook. "Community groups sense these are important spaces in their neighborhoods," says St. John. "We are beginning to see funders support these spaces as well."

Taking a broader perspective, John Rahaim, Associate Director for Development and Design at the Department of City Planning, sees a growing desire to return to more urban development in the city. "City neighborhoods are realizing that they have distinct advantages based on pedestrian orientation and mass transit, and that there are people who want to live in those environments if they are done with quality," says Rahaim. Presently, an East Liberty project to reconnect streets and bring back a neighborhood feel is an example of this, he says.

Challenges

Funding, or rather the lack of it, is the greatest challenge to neighborhood development, say many architects and community development organizers. Securing affordable construction costs, raising more money from foundations than in the past, the use of up-to-date technology and maintaining historical integrity at a reasonable cost, are all challenges made worse by funding shortages.

"The neighborhood units we've been working on," says Stephen Hawkins, AIA, "have cost \$100-105,000 to build. If they could be \$80,000 that would be a big help." He suggests, though with some reservations, that manufactured housing holds possibilities.

Don Carter, FAIA, principal of UDA Architects, feels creating neighborhoods that are whole is one of the great chal-



lenges for an architect today. In addition to a community having diverse housing types, amenities, services, retail, recreation, and cultural activities, it needs to be connected to the greater resources of the city and region, he says. For example, the stronger the public schools are, the stronger the community becomes. He advocates for greater collaboration between cities and school boards nationally and points to Cleveland, where the mayor has made a commitment to improve schools as a neighborhood development issue.

A fragmented power base and competition between neighborhoods and municipalities is the primary hindrance to establishing a quality standard for development, says Rebecca Flora, Executive Director of the South Side Local Development Corporation. Prioritizing where development should occur, she says, is another concern. "There seems to be a lot of resistance and barriers to doing development right," she says. "We have a zoning code, though I know it is being revamped, that advocates suburban style development. I have repeatedly seen traffic planning that supports wider and bigger as better, and small scale options get pushed aside. I think it's crucial to change the resistance in the system to good development—to keep neighborhoods at a human and community scale."

BEFORE & AFTER: The white stucco, boxy Rite Aid (left) was the company's typical prototype store. The neighborhood of Mt. Washington did not want such a suburban style strip store. Lami•Grubb• Architects designed the more urban style store (above) to balance the desires of the community with the needs of Rite Aid. The company accepted the idea of adding a bus stop with community bulletin boards to their property as well as altering their "big box" style.

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Enforcement of existing development guidelines is another major challenge. Many architects and community leadership feel short-term economic considerations tend to override long-term benefits.

"Small projects are very costly," says Yoko Tai of Tai + Lee Architects, "but what needs to be recognized is that they are really important to keep the urban fabric from decaying even further. These projects are what often encourage people to stay in the city because they are personal, they feel an ownership of them." Tai worries that the City has allowed too much suburban-style development within its borders and encourages careful consideration of plans for neighborhood projects like Nine Mile Run, especially when the developers are from outside the region. "I don't want to see another Rosemont {a new Squirrel Hill residential development}. Architects need to take an educated stance and make sure neighborhoods aren't turned into suburbletts," she says.

Quality Control

Design standards are a common concern of the architectural community. Even if funding exists for a project, what guidelines exist for quality control? There is a belief that good design begets future support for strong design stan-

dards. However, quality is difficult to legislate, and most design review opportunities are meant to enforce code requirements and not a particular aesthetic. For example, the basis for City Planning's design review is the zoning ordinance. The review depends on where and what is being built, as the review process is not consistent throughout the city, says Rahaim. In Downtown and much of Oakland, any project in excess of \$50,000 is reviewed by the Planning Commission. In other parts of the city, a building's use and type determine the amount of scrutiny it receives. A higher level of review occurs for projects that must go far for approval. Big institutional projects, for example, go all the way to City Council for approval.

If the URA is involved in a project, its Engineering and Construction Department reviews building phases from infrastructure to construction, says Davon. On housing projects, the Department will also make suggestions on the design. It is, however, unable to enforce these suggestions. "We're here to facilitate development, especially market rate development," says Davon. "We aren't here to halt development. We can't always get what we want."

The actual design review available from a zoning perspective is relatively limited, says St. John. "There's often more

"There seems to be a lot of resistance and barriers to doing development right...I think it's crucial to change the resistance in the system to good development—to keep neighborhoods at a human and community scale." — REBECCA FLORA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTH SIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

What's Up?

Here's a look at just some of the projects in the works in Pittsburgh neighborhoods...

Manchester: The Manchester Citizens Corporation has obtained funds from HUD to purchase and demolish much of the public housing in Manchester. Construction of new units designed to fit in with the community's 19th century vernacular will occur in the near future.

Allegheny West: The Allegheny West Civic Council is trying to get the largest chunk of unrenovated buildings in that neighborhood, called Denny Row, renovated. The group has obtained funds to restore the facades and porches and make the buildings structurally sound in hopes of attracting investors to renovate the interiors.

South Side: New Birmingham development, 32-units (at 16-17th streets at Muriel St.), currently in marketing and construction phases. These units are seen as a model project for environmental sustainability.

E. Carson St.: infill in 1300 block, one story commercial storefront; at 1801, 2-story building that will house a Bruegger's Bagels; 2000 block, converting an old theater into store front/retail space.

South Side Works: 130-acre steel mill site, in midst of rezoning. Site preparation work to begin this spring with construction to begin on two buildings this year. IKM will begin work on the first building on the site, the Life Sciences Incubator Building.

Duquesne Brewery: the SSCDC with Brewhouse artists have submitted a proposal to renovate the vast brewery spaces in response to the URA's RFP for the site. One other proposal has been submitted as well.

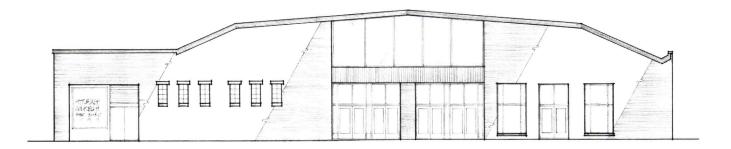
Foxway Commons: all but one unit is completed and all but four units have been purchased.

Heights of South Hills: 600-acre site on the Mon River, adjacent to Baldwin, is being developed into possibly 1000 residential units with some retail support. It is the biggest undeveloped site in the City and is in the planning and feasibility stage.

Allentown (above South Side): Renovation underway for Pittsburgh's first Youth Hostel.

Lawrenceville: Townhouses are being built in the 3800 block of Penn Avenue.

Bedford Dwellings: The Housing Authority received a \$30 million grant to create mixed-income housing on the site. It was the highest ranked grant of its kind (HOPE 6) in the country due to its master plan and urban design.



leverage for design input from publicly funded projects. For private development, it seems that a lot has to do with the commitment of the developer to architectural quality in the immediate neighborhood, and that varies greatly."

According to Rahaim, large privately developed projects, like Lincoln Properties on the North Shore, receive a review by the URA and the City at multiple places along the development process. "What often happens on such projects is that the review is on the broad brush level, not at the level to influence what the windows will look like. I think that there's a very important line we try not to cross on private development projects. Some projects are public purview and others are not. It is sometimes difficult for people to clearly define on which side of the line a project falls. It is important that we uphold that line."

Design quality is subjective, says Rahaim. "Everybody has a different opinion about what's hideous. Zoning guidelines can only be objective. They cannot address subjective responses."

While funding shortages will continue to impact neighborhood development in coming years, many communities are trying to counteract tighter resources by developing strategic plans. Various community groups and organizations are working closely with their counterparts in neighboring communities to get more bang for the buck. Recently eight community based groups in the East End have been working together on nine projects, including a Friendship playground, the Negley Corridor Project and the redevelopment of a vacant showroom for the Dance Alloy, forging new alliances along the way.

The future of Pittsburgh neighborhoods has major challenges ahead. Effective development will occur in neighborhoods with organized and focused community organizations. Team efforts and community participation are needed to create opportunities for originality as well as hard work. The overarching challenge, say many architects and community leaders, is to get people to realize the potential in their own backyard.

The Greater Pittsburgh
Coliseum Complex in
Homewood-Brushton
was once a series of
car barns for the Transit
Authority. Steven G.
Hawkins/Architects is
rehabilitating the
massive structure into
an exhibit and events
facility.

The Hill District: The NAACP Building renovation is underway.

Homewood-Brushton: The old Port Authority bus barn is being renovated as an event facility, called The Greater Pittsburgh Coliseum Complex.

Nine Mile Run: URA has selected a developer, and is heading into the next phase of marketing and preliminary engineering. Mid-March is the target date to go public with a site plan. CMU's Studio for Creative Inquiry will assist the design of the 90-acre park portion of the project.

North Shore: *Lincoln Properties*, 232-units of market rate housing designed by a Texas-based architect is under construction and will begin leasing this year.

The Strip: Armstrong Cork Building was purchased by Pitt Ohio Express; no development plans have been announced.

North Side: Federal North, the first physical activity, the demolition of the old public safety building, will begin in March. The URA has purchased most properties on the second block of the project, which will be a parking garage. Allegheny General's office building will go on the third block of the project.

Perry Hilltop: Mixed residential and commercial project underway.

East Liberty: *Pennley Park Project*, to redevelop 314 units of low-income, medium-rises on Negley and Penn into low-rise, mixed-income housing. There will be some renovation of existing buildings.

700 block of Mellon, renovation in discussion.

Negley Corridor, a comprehensive development plan for the 1.7 mile corridor has just been completed by the Eastside Alliance.

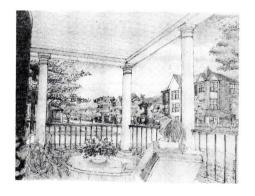
Garfield/East Liberty: The Studebaker Showroom, a three-story building on Penn Avenue is being renovated for use by the Dance Alloy, as well as for commercial and loft apartment spaces. Project completion is expected in August 1997.

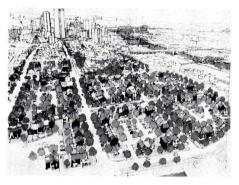
Garfield: 5408-20 Penn Avenue, renovation of Victorian homes into mixed-use buildings and affordable housing. Completion expected September 1997.

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HOPE for Mixed Income Neighborhoods

A competitive federal initiative offers grants to reclaim distressed communities





UDA Architects is currently working on the redevelopment of Pittsburgh's Bedford

Dwellings, funded by a federal HOPE 6 grant.

The top image illustrates the "community feel" of tomorrow's Bedford Avenue, while the bottom image is an aerial perspective of the proposed design.

fter nearly 50 years of creating centralized low-income housing developments, the federal government has shifted gears. A two year-old program, called HOPE 6 grants, aims to decentralize public housing by dispersing low-income developments throughout a city.

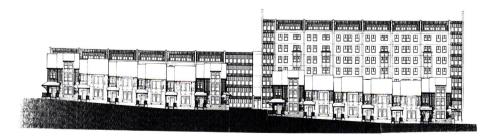
An initiative of former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, the HOPE 6 program was created to ease public housing restructuring. Until recently, public housing money to cities was earmarked for modernization programs. After decades of patching existing buildings it was clear that such efforts were not addressing the larger problem of such structures—that residents were isolated from the broader community. "High-rise public housing was a bad idea from the '50s and we're trying to recover from that," says Don Carter, FAIA, principal of UDA Architects. "We are now working to end the isolation of public housing and to dedensify low-income residents."

This means tearing down high-rise buildings and creating new neighborhoods. Many cities are eager to begin this process, making HOPE 6 an extremely competitive program. Local housing authorities, with a private developer as a partner, make a grant application to HUD in Washington. The best proposals are then chosen to receive one of

the limited number of grants. The goal of such proposals is to have a mix of market-rate and low-income units designed so that they are indistinguishable from each other.

ittsburgh was recently awarded a HOPE 6 grant to redevelop Bedford Dwellings, and in a previous round of grant giving was awarded a grant for Allequippa Terrace, designed by Perfido Weiskopf Architects. UDA is working on Bedford Dwellings, as well as complexes in Louisville, KY, Baltimore, MD, Portsmouth, VA, and Charlotte, NC also funded by HOPE 6 funds. A similar project is underway in Manchester where the Manchester Citizens Corporation is demolishing dilapidated townhomes with the assistance of HUD funding to be replaced by units that better mesh with the community's historic vernacular. Perkins Eastman Architects is currently working on the Pennley Park Project in East Liberty. Though not funded by HOPE 6, this project has a similar mission to turn high-rise public housing into low-rise, mixed-income dwellings.

"Economic integration is happening as a result of these programs," says Carter, who also noted that HUD recently adopted principles of New Urbanism for judging master plans and is targeting HOPE 6 and other initiatives at rebuilding traditional mixed-income neighborhoods.— M.E.



Perkins Eastman PC's Pennley Park Apartments redevelopment in East Liberty will transform the current 314-unit, medium-rise site into a 250-280-unit low-rise site. Three wings of existing apartments will be demolished, five wings will be renovated, and new construction of townhouses on the site will complete the project. Pennley Park, currently in schematic design, will begin first phase construction this summer and is expected to be completed in 3-4 years.

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12 Columns March 1997

Whadaya Know? by Carl Freedman, AIA

Growing attention to continuing education requirements has spurred new ways of learning a thing or two.

ncreasingly, states are considering Continuing Education (CE) requirements to maintain licensure. The AIA foresaw this trend, and established viable CE requirements before each state established its own. The AIA has been successful in convincing states to adopt its program in great part by presenting the alternative—50 different CF requirements across the country!

In the five years since the AIA began developing the CE program, seven states have adopted CE requirements, three more are writing regulations for CE, and at least one other is entering the process this year. In addition, at least five other states have begun the legislative process. Locally, West Virginia has adopted a CE requirement starting in 1998. New Jer-

sey is expected to pass legislation this summer, and Ohio is strongly considering a requirement. If all of these states adopt a program, one-third of all states will have a CE requirement.

As you know, members should have 36 Learning Units (LUs) for AIA membership by the end of this year. I say should because if you do not have all the LUs you need, members have until the end of 1998 to make up the difference and earn 36 LUs for that year. (If you have earned more than 36 LUs for this year, the extra LUs will be applied to your 1998 requirements, up to 36 LUs.) If you are still searching for a significant number of LUs for this year, there are several ways of attaining them. One of the best places to start is your own firm.

For an annual fee of \$150, any AIA member firm can become a "Registered Provider" for Continuing Education programs. This allows the firm to record LUs for seminars or other group learning

activities that it organizes for its AIA members. For example, your firm can count LUs for a lunch time vendor presentation, provided certain rules are followed:

- The firm must direct the speaker to discuss topics that are of importance to the attendees.
- The presentation cannot be a sales call where the presenter provides information only about his or her "wonderful product."
- There must be some discussion about the industry in general, and how the product fits in to the marketplace.
- There must be discussion about installation techniques and procedures.
- There must be a significant amount of time devoted to questions and answers.

irms can provide other CE programs as well. Several Pittsburgh offices have asked their employees or consultants to give seminars on topics in which they have expertise, or on a conference they attended. At Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates, one office member spent a summer in Mongolia teaching English. She presented a seminar about her experience, the culture of Mongolia, and the native architectural styles. Additionally, the firm hosts weekly lunch seminars from September through May, and afternoon and evening seminars throughout the year.

MacLachlan Cornelius and Filoni, Inc. formed a committee that organizes approximately six evening seminars per year, plus a variety of lunch time product presentations. Seminar

> topics focus on the market sector in which the firm competes, and consultants or office staff are asked to make presentations. The firm also organizes visits to recently completed projects to discuss areas that went smoothly and areas where improvement was needed.

> Another reason for a firm to become a Registered Provider is that they can often meet Health Safety and Welfare (HSW) requirements at the state level. States will not accept Self-Reported self-directed seminars to meet the HSW requirements because it is difficult for them to verify the standards of Self-Reported study endeavors. It is important, however, to understand that if you are a Registered Provider, there is a chance that your seminars will be audited for quality.

Becoming a Registered Provider many not be an option for very small firms, where the \$150 fee may be better spent on attending seminars provided by others. You can still Self-Report self-directed

study or any seminar you attend for all of your non-HSW LUs. In addition, a number of product vendors are Registered Providers, so their seminars will be applied to your requirements. AIA Pittsburgh and AIA National offer a wide range of seminars, video learning topics and other opportunities at a very reasonable cost on a wide range of topics. Also remember that seminars which you attend for CADD training or from community colleges can also be used. If these seminars cover an HSW topic, the contact hours will be accepted because, although they are Self-Reported, they are not self-directed study programs.

here are also ways for you to gain LUs at no cost. As a member of the AIA, you receive Architectural Record as a benefit. AR has begun including articles which are written to specifically provide LUs. For example, January's issue offered three

There are ways for you to gain LUs at no cost. As a member of the AIA, you receive Architectural Record as a benefit. **Architectural Record has** begun including articles which are written to specifically provide LUs.

feature Columns March 1997 13

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articles that could be applied to your learning requirements. Just read the articles, answer six questions at the end of each article, fill in the Self-Report Form at the back of the magazine, and fax it to the University of Oklahoma. Each article will earn you one contact hour of HSW credit for the state requirements and two LUs toward your AIA requirements. Since most states with mandatory CE require eight contact hours per year, by reading all three articles you will have completed over one-third of your obligation. *Architectural Record* will offer at least two articles a month for this purpose and will usually provide HSW credits.

It should be noted that there is a difference between the AIA's LU system and the Contact Hour System adopted by states and NCARB. The AIA's LUs are basically the number of Contact Hours multiplied by the Quality Level (QL) of the program. State requirements are easier to calculate because one hour of a QL1 program and a QL2 program count equally as one Contact Hour.

Being a member of the AIA will have an added benefit as more states pass legislation requiring CE licensure. The AIA will continually coordinate with states to ensure that your

AIA transcript will be accepted as proof of completion of the state's CE requirements. If you are registered in more than one state, you do not need to complete multiple forms. You will be able to submit your AIA Continuing Education transcript with your license renewal and know that you have met your requirements.

The Professional Development Committee of AIA Pittsburgh plans to develop a User's Group for CE issues. Due to the changing nature of requirements in various states, the CE program may change. We want to invite each office to participate in this forum to enable us to easily distribute information, maintain a record of AIA Registered Providers in our region, critique the quality of seminars provided, and answer questions and discuss successes and failures of your CE programs. Please contact me at P.J. Dick Inc., (412) 462-9300 for more information.

I want to emphasize that completing your CE requirements can be relatively easy. AIA membership approved CE as a requirement of membership to underscore the philosophy of education for life. On the way, architects can improve the quality of services we provide. $\hat{\mathbf{m}}$

Getting To Know You

At a recent AIA Pittsburgh Board retreat, members were asked to draw themselves as children. As we introduce you to our 1997 Board, we wanted to share some of those drawings with you. Also, please welcome the following new board members:



Elmer Burger, AIA - Principal at L.D. Astorino & Associates, LTD. with 25 years of design experience. While he attended CMU, he graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. He has most recently been active in the AIA by serving on the MBA/AIA Committee.

David Hoglund, AIA - Principal-in-Charge of gerontology projects for Perkins Eastman PC. He is a leader in the senior housing industry and is a graduate of Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute.

John Missell, AIA - Senior Associate Project Director for Hayes Large Architects' Pittsburgh Office. He is a new resident of Pittsburgh as he moved here from Albany, NY, where he was a Board member of the Westchester-Mid-Hudson AIA Chapter.

Art Ruprecht, AIA - Principal at Ruprecht Schroeder Hoffman Architects, a diversified firm which creates multiunit housing for people with special needs, hi-tech industrial facilities, and a bit of everything else. He is a graduate of CMU, is involved in the Chapter's Legislative Committee, and has actively lobbied his state representative and senator on architectural issues.

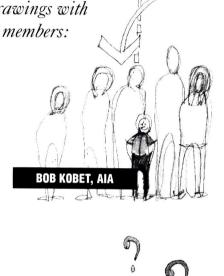
Bob Kobet, AIA - Director of Green Building Services for Conservation Consultants, Inc. He is an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at CMU. Bob has been active in the Chapter's Committee on the Environment.





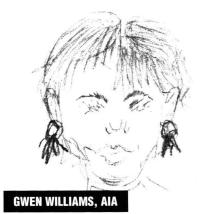


You'll have to directly contact Frank McCurdy, AIA President, Art Ruprecht, AIA, and David Hoglund, AIA (top to bottom) if you want to find out what that their childhoods looked like.

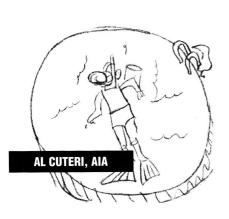


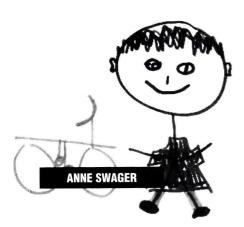












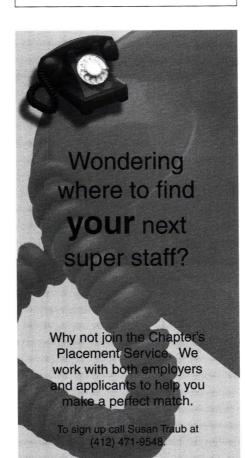


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Membership Committee

Frank McCurdy, AIA, 394-7000 AIA Pittsburgh welcomes three new members:

Andy Jamron, AIA Andrew Jamron, AIA

SCHOOL: Boston U., U. of Pittsburgh, La Roche College, Hard Knocks (14 year architectural apprentice).

SPOUSE'S NAME: Unsure at this point

CHILDREN: I'm doing my bit for population control



PAST PROJECTS: Altmeyer addition, my house, (acted in) "The Elephant Man," "American Buffalo"

INTERESTS: Acting, guitars, Frederick Scheibler

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Design Awards

James L. Wehner, AIA EADS Architects, Inc.

SCHOOL: University of Notre Dame

SPOUSE: Becky

CHILDREN: Jesse, 6 months

PAST PROJECTS: Carnegie Museum exterior renovation, vacation home

at Hidden Valley, New Somerset County office building

INTERESTS: Athletics, family vacations, southwestern PA heritage

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Design Awards, Professional Development

Andy Williams, AIA Affiliate Avonite Distributor

SCHOOL: Wagner College; Univ. of Pittsburgh: Katz Graduate School of Business

SPOUSE: Krisi

PAST PROJECTS: My brother, Craig, and I own H.O.P. Lumber TE

INTERESTS: Squash, skiing, golf, scuba diving, travel

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Public relations, environment, legislative, urban design, programs/exhibits

16 Columns March 1997

Kudos

► Glen A. Schultz, AIA of WTW, has been named a Fellow at the Institute for Urban Design. The program brings together architects, developers, and public sector leaders at least twice a year to debate ideas and policy for the improvement of North American cities.

KSBH's Samantha Ciotti, Associate AIA, an architecture intern, has been selected the 1997 Associate Board Member for PSA.

Transitions

► Claire Bassett Architectural Services has moved to 4064 William Penn Highway, Murraysville, PA 15668.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann and Associates has moved to a new Pittsburgh location: 650 Smithfield Street, Suite 2600.

As of January 1, 1997, Valentour English Bodnar Registered Architects changed their name to **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell Registered Architects**. **James D. Howell, AIA** has been with the firm since 1975 and became a principal in 1987.

Michael J. Stern, landscape architecture/urban design/planning, announces the opening of offices at 1337 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217; 521-7740, fax: 521-3384.

From the Firms

The Nied Funeral Home of Murraysville, designed by **Claire Bassett, AIA**, went out for bids in February.

Hayes Large Architects has been selected to design a new corporate office/research and development center for Extrude Hone of Irwin, PA.

Poli & Cuteri Architects, Inc. announces the addition of **Casimir J. Pellegrini III, AIA** as project manger of the firm. Matthew E. Johnson has also joined as staff architect.

KSBH Architects announces the completion of a new 132-representative customer dispatch center in Fairmont, WV for Allegheny Power.

News

According to The McGraw-Hill Companies, the annual construction total for 1996 reached \$324.5 billion, up 6 percent from 1995.

Dennis Doordan, renowned architect and design historian, has been named Nierenberg Professor of Design in Carnegie Mellon's Department of Design.

Call for Information

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is making a final call for information about landscape sites, especially private gardens, for its two-year survey of historic designed landscapes in Allegheny County. Anyone wishing to share knowledge of such as garden created before 1950, please call Landmarks at 471-5808.

Author Alfred M. Kemper, AIA Emeritus, is seeking submissions for a new book, *Alternative Architecture: American Pioneers of Energy Conscious Design*. This book will be a comprehensive history of energy design as well as a tribute to architects (or pioneers) who actually practiced their ideas by example. If you have any information to share, please contact Alfred Kemper, 155 East C St., Upland, CA 91786, (909)920-9753.

Design Competitions

Town Center Design Competition seeks submissions for its 300-acre Town Center in the historic Village of Plainfield, IL. The Village needs a vision of the new Center and a feasible development plan. Competitors' solutions should also address land-scape architecture and planning. First prize is \$10,000. Registration closes March 30 and submissions are due May 1. To register, send a \$90 check to The Plainfield Competition, Village of Plainfield, 23145 West Lincoln Highway, Plainfield, IL 60544.

DESIGN A NEW FOOTBALL STADIUM FOR LOS ANGELES Competition. Submissions are due May 31 and the prizes total \$25,000. Entry fee is \$75, send to the Academy of Architecture Arts & Sciences, Box 10662, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.

Business Briefs

▶ Burchick Construction Company has been selected to build the new dock expansion at the Pittsburgh Bulk Mail Center in Warrendale, PA, designed by Burt Hill Kosar Rittlemann Associates.

SEC Companies—**Structural Engineering Corp**. and SEC/Geotech, Inc.—have moved into expanded quarters at Center City Tower.

Conferences

The U.S. Institute for Theater Technology will hold its annual conference at Pittsburgh's Convention Center March 19-22. As part of the conference, the Architecture Commission will host a number of presentations that may be of interest to architects, such as International Theater Design Charette, Pittsburgh Theaters: Past, Present, Future, Affordable Arts/Theater Economics, among many others. For additional information, call Mary Buffum at 315-463-6463.





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AIA ACTIVITIES

March 7, Friday

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

March 11, Tuesday

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting

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

March 12, Wednesday

Professional Development Committee

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

March 13, Thursday

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

March 18, Tuesday

Legislative Committee Meeting

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

March 26, Wednesday

AIA-MBA Meeting, 6 p.m. at Building Industry Center, Jack Ramage, 922-3912 for more information

AROUND TOWN

March 11, Tuesday

CSI Meeting: "ADA Updates, the Universal Design Question," presented by Robert Dale Lynch, FAIA. 5 p.m. Board Meeting, 6 p.m. cocktails, 6:45 dinner; Wyndham Gardens Hotel - Pittsburgh Airport. \$20/per person, please call 823-5063 to RSVP.

March 11 & 12

"Jill Watson Festival of The Arts" celebrates the 5 disciplines of CMU's College of Fine Arts. For information call 268-2349.

March 12, Wednesday

AIA/HAC/CMU Architecture Lecture

Series: "An Alternate Sustainable Architecture," Alan Short of Short, Fort and Associates, London, Carnegie Museum of Art theatre, 6 p.m. For more information: 268-1541.

March 13, Thursday

Patricia Moore of Gunes Design, Phoenix, AZ, speaks on "Design Reform Today". Carnegie Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m. Call 622-3288 for reservations.

1 C 9 A 9 L 7 E

March 15, Friday

"Designing Modernity: Symposium", moderated by Dennis Doordan. Carnegie Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m.

March 19, Wednesday

SMPS Meeting: "Doing Business with the Government" - Mayor Murphy. Rivers Club, One Oxford Center; registration 11:30, lunch 12, program 12:30. For more information or to RSVP, call Paul Messineo, Jr. at (412) 823-2020 or fax him at 824-7302.

Additional SMPS Meetings:

"Industrial Panel" - April 16 at Rivers Club and "8 on 8", (8 different comapnies/ organizations) - May 21 at Rivers Club.

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.

March 21, Friday

Deadline to enter ARTchitecture - An Exhibit of Art By Architects. Information 471-9548.

March 24, Monday

AIA Gallery Opening: Sixth Annual Fitz Awards for the Advancement of Women Art Show, held by the Greater Pittsburgh Commission for Women, Reception, 6-8 p.m.. Through April 4.

April 2, Wednesday

Robert Rosenfeld, NCARB, "Bridging the Gap, the future of the profession," CMU at 6:30 p.m. (See page 23 for details or call Rebecca Henn at 765-3890.)

April 3, Thursday

Robert Grudin lectures on "Design And Aspiration," Carnegie Museum of Art Theater at 6 p.m.

ONGOING

Through April 20

The Old World Builds the New: The Guastavino Company and the Technology of the Catalan Vault, 1889-1962, at the Heinz Architectural Center.

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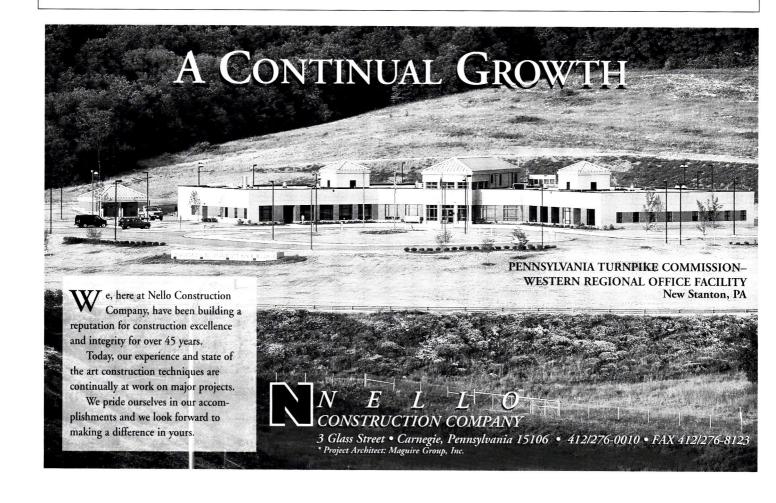
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dossier Columns March 1997 19

John Missell, AIA

Hayes Large Architects



Master Builders' Association of Western Pa. 1996 Building Excellence Awards

BEST PROJECT OVER \$5 MILLIONCarnegie Mellon University Center

CONTRACTOR – Turner Construction Co. ARCHITECT – Michael Dennis & Associates/ UDA Architects, A Joint Venture OWNER – Carnegie Mellon University

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CONTRACTOR – Landau Building Company ARCHITECT – Indovina Associates, Architects OWNER – The Pittsburgh Zoo

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2270 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 412/922-3912 • FAX 412/922-3729 **Family:** Wife — Judy, gardener and book and art collector; daughter — Catherine, 15 going on 4, Lacrosse player; son — James, 4 going on 15, bug collector.

Years in practice: 20

Education: BA Political Science, Colgate University; B.Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design.

First job: Washing dishes at the Sea 'n Surf Restaurant, Boston, MA at 14.

Building(s) you wish you had designed: Either the Ford Foundation or the Chrysler Building.

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? An anthropologist.

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? Depends on my state of mind, Richard Dreyfus or Danny DeVito.

What is the building you would most like to tear down? The ugly parking garage flanking the Sixth Street Bridge adjacent to the Fulton Building.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? The high desert, north of Santa Fe.

What's the best part of your job? Being charged with focusing on the big picture; keeping your practice relevant; keeping design professionals inspired; constantly reviewing the firm; business development and making deals.

What's the worst part of your job? Business development and making deals.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? I promise, the check is in the mail.

What's the most annoying thing architects do? Giving services away and the unfortunate inability to define our own profession.

Advice to young architects: Get an education about the world, literature, history, and the sciences before considering a career in architecture. Or marry rich.

Favorite interior(s): The Bradbury Building in Los Angeles, and the Old Reading Room, University of Pennsylvania Library.

Favorite city: Boston.

Favorite architecture: Gerhard Kallmann and Michael McKinnell.

Favorite architecture book: Experiencing Architecture by Rasmussen.

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Dahntan.

Best gift to give an architect: A patron.

I belong to the AIA because: It is an organization best positioned to elevate the visibility and perceived value of the architect in our society. Unfortunately, we're just scratching the surface of how to do this.

CONTRACTORS' DIRECTORY

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P.O. Box 243, Washington, PA 15301 PHONE: 223-8211 FAX: 225-5990 CONTACT: Jim Bunn

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CONTACT: Samuel E. DiCicco
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General / Industrial / Interior Renovations

■ DICK CORPORATION

900 U.S. Route 51, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 PHONE: 384-1320 FAX: 384-1215 CONTACT: John R. Bonassi

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■ P.J. DICK INCORPORATED*

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TEDCO Place, Carnegie, PA 15106 PHONE: 276-8080 FAX: 276-6804 CONTACT: Beth Cheberenchick

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■ TRAFALGAR HOUSE CONSTRUCTION*

Suite 345, One Oliver Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 PHONE: 566-5300 FAX: 566-5323 CONTACT: Mark Makary

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P.O. Box 8 – 4912 Vernon Drive Allison Park, PA 15101 PHONE: 443-0600 FAX:443-7966 CONTACT: Lisa Hengelsberg Commercial / Construction management

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■ JOSEPH VACCARELLO, JR., INC.*

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250 Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236
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CONTACT: Raymond A. Volpatt
Commercial / Construction management
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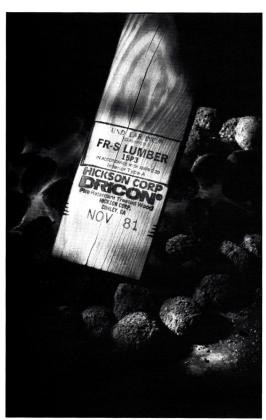
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Four Triangle Drive, Suite 200 Export, PA 15632 PHONE: 327-5200 FAX: 327-5280 CONTACT: Lewis W. Ernest, P.E.

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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.

APRIL— Development Series Part IV: The Region

MAY — Impact of Transportation on

Development and

Historic renovation/

preservation

JUNE — Interiors portfolio

Upcoming Member Meetings

APRIL 2, WEDNESDAY

Robert Rosenfeld, NCARB Director of Intern Services leads a discussion on "Bridging the Gap, the future of the profession". Carnegie Mellon University at 6:30 p.m. A project of The Pittsburgh Intern and Young Architect's Forum, a subcommittee of AIA Pittsburgh's Professional Development Committee.

Cost: \$20 for AIA members, \$10 for interns.

For more information call Rebecca Henn, 765-3890.

LATE APRIL (Exact Date T.B.A.)

Implosion for new Lazarus Department store, is tentatively scheduled for late April. Please call the Chapter office in late March for information.

We plan to have a member meeting at a downtown site to watch the implosion.

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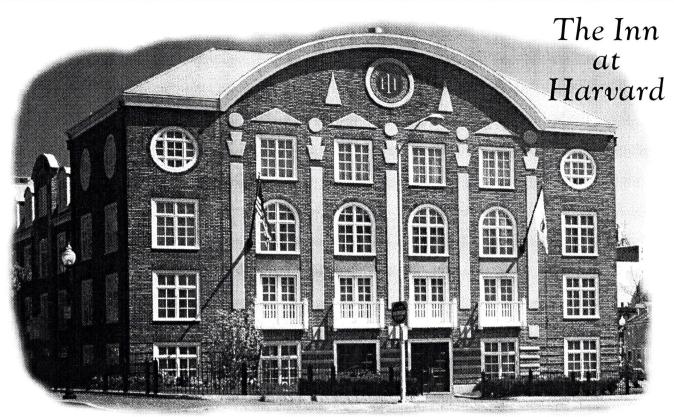
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