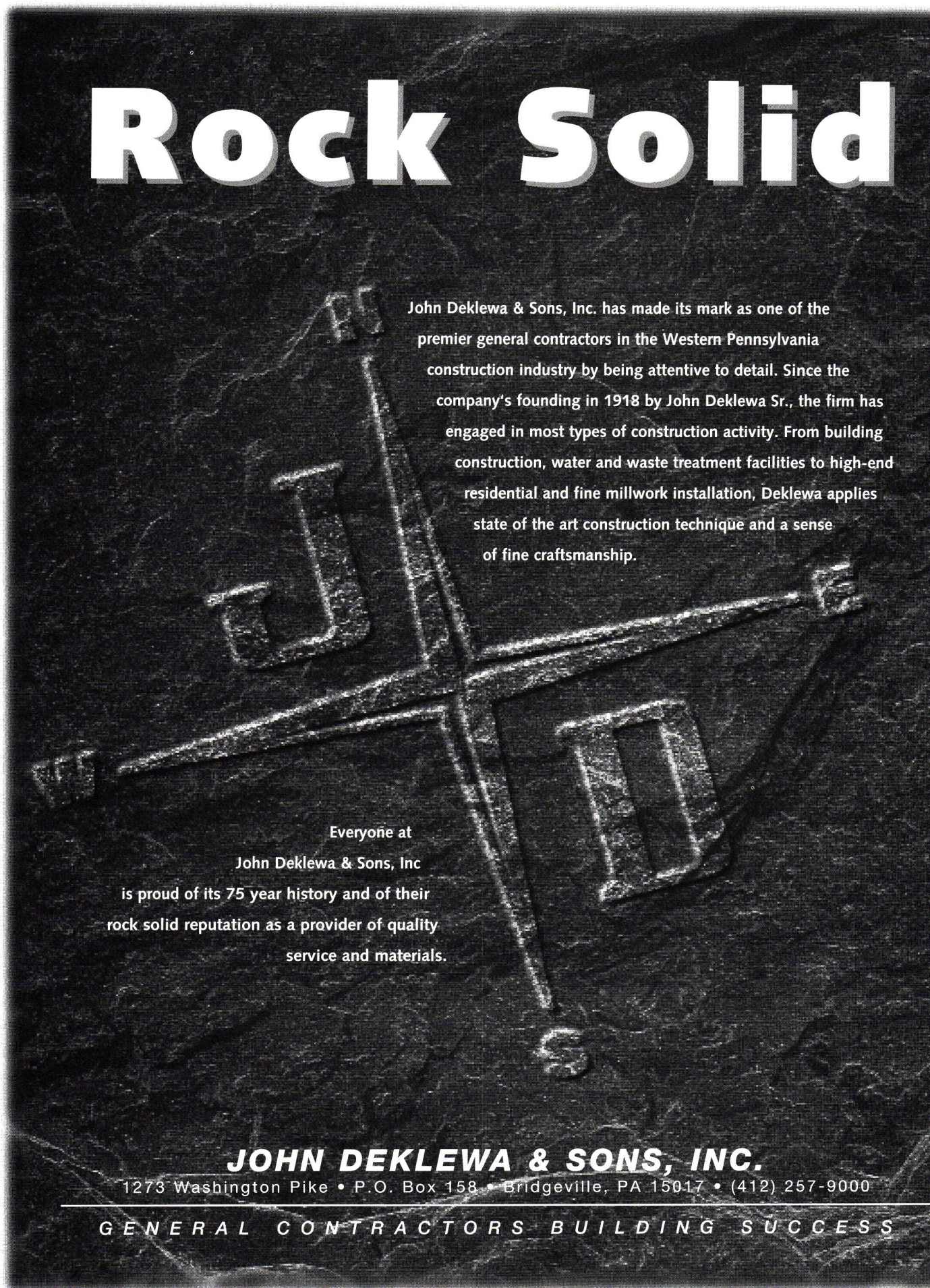




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**Seminar 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

## **Proposed Changes to ADAAG (Americans with Disability Act)**

**Sheraton Station Square, 7 Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219**

**Santa Fe Room**

**Speaker: Robert Dale Lynch, FAIA**

**Lynch & Associates Architects**

Mr. Lynch is the Principal of Lynch & Associates, and was an instrumental force in the creation and development of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Lynch is able to not only discuss the current law and the amendments which have been introduced, but, can provide a history and reasoning behind the law and what forces have been working behind the scenes.

This seminar will focus on the proposed changes to ADAAG as reported in the "Final Report, Recommendations for a New ADAAG". This is the design community's (architects, engineers, graphic designers, interior designers, etc.) chance to listen to what changes are being proposed and voicing your opinion of the changes. Topics covered will include:

- Presentation of the proposed changes.
- Presentation of the AIA National concerns, a summary of the June national seminar concerning this same issue.
- Discussion of the issues.
- Discussion of action to take place as local chapter, our unified voice.
- Discussion of how you can voice your concerns independently.

Individuals interested in obtaining the "Final Report" prior to the seminar should contact:

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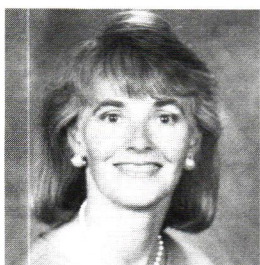
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**Refreshments will be provided at both seminars.**

**Space is limited for both seminars. For reservations, complete the form on the back of this sheet.**

# On the Inside

by Cheryl R. Towers, Editor



*Basic protection for consumers and an understanding of why involvement by architects is critical to safe, cost-effective buildings, especially residences, are at the heart of the PSA's proposed bill.*

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Proposed changes to Pennsylvania's Architects Licensure Law will either give the public greater protection or eviscerate that protection.

### *Planning and Constructing a Health Clinic for the LaReforma Community in Nicaragua* . . . . . 14

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**On the cover:** Penn Avenue Place by Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates is the renovation of the Joseph Horne Department store. Photo by Ed Massery.

## The last four issues of *Columns* focused on

regional development issues ranging from what's going on in the neighborhoods to the link between economic development and transportation. Now it's time to go back to the building level and see what's inside. For this year's focus on interiors, we decided to get caught up on green building practices meant to improve the quality of interior life. In some cases, this means improving air quality by using non-toxic materials. In other cases, it means making workers more productive by the choice of paint color, the arrangement of furniture and improving light. The exciting part is that many of these practices are beginning to happen in Pittsburgh, as our guest writer and green building expert, Bob Kobet, AIA, explains. As someone who has personally suffered as the result of "sick building syndrome" (poor paint and carpeting in a student apartment which landed me in the hospital emergency room), I can only applaud those of you working in the field and look forward to seeing this work become ever more the norm.

Interior quality provides a nice segue into the continuing battle over architects' licensure. AIA Pittsburgh executive director Anne Swager brings us up to date on the goings on in Harrisburg, complete with competing house bills, one sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Architects, the other by the Pennsylvania Builders Association. Basic protection for consumers and an understanding of why involvement by architects is critical to safe, cost-effective

buildings, especially residences, are at the heart of the PSA's proposed bill. Read more beginning on p. 12

Finally in this issue, Alan Fishman, AIA, shares with us his recent experiences in Nicaragua designing a health clinic for a poor, remote village. Alan could write a dissertation on his adventures (and almost did, but was foiled by the editor's pen), a fascinating tale that reminds us all that the old adage is true: we can do well by doing good.

What strikes me most about this issue is the demonstration of inherent good that architects can do, whether joining the fight for healthier buildings, insisting on licensing laws which protect the public good, or getting involved in a noble cause. Like any profession, this one has had its low moments, and there are always practitioners who are more interested in profit than doing the right thing. Overall, though, the level of dedication to seeking really good solutions to the challenges of the profession is impressive and something you can point to with pride.

Along those lines, please continue to share your experiences with your colleagues through *Columns*, whether it's via articles, story ideas or participation in portfolio issues. I'm continually reminded that your competition isn't from your colleagues, it's from outside the profession. Consequently, information shared from within can only assist everyone. ■

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

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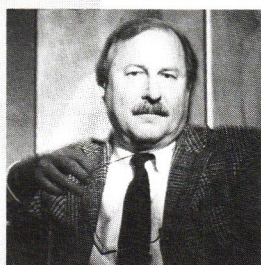


Columns is printed on recycled paper.

## Random Thoughts 2 by Frank McCurdy, AIA, President

### Recently, when my firm moved its Pittsburgh

office from one location to another, we decided the new office design would reflect the new "us". Different leaders, different attitude, different outlook (moving up to the 26th floor from 7) and different technology. The last item is certainly one we have been talking about for years if not decades. And now that it's here, we may have a tiger by the tail. Gone are the old "Mayline" drafting tables and parallel edges that were the staple a few years ago. Gone the way of the slide rule, that marvelously archaic device that few today have ever used and fewer understand. Everyone has a computer or two. Yes, we have become what we set out to be a few years ago, completely computerized! Oh, there are a few portable drafting tables for the old fossils like myself and some other archaic designers that still think with their pencils, but our numbers are dwindling.



*Our young architects won't absorb these skills by osmosis; they must see buildings being constructed and client concerns being addressed to fully understand the many skills it takes to be a successful architect.*

Small firms see the computer as the "Great Equalizer", the Colt 45 of the architectural West. "With our computers, we can compete with the SOMs and the HOKs — We're linked to the Web!" The large firms are caught in the whirlpool of computer investment; the more computers they buy, the more servers and software licenses and so on. They have to stay ahead or someone will be as productive and fast as they are. "Those small firms are catching up!" We've urged, nay, demanded our architectural schools teach their students how to use the latest and greatest computer hardware and software. The student that isn't proficient in CADD has a real problem to overcome in joining the professional workplace. Although we have a policy of hiring the best students regardless of their CADD capabilities and training them ourselves, in the face of critical deadlines it's obvious we would hire someone with CADD skills first. So, now we have what we want, or do we?

With limited time and resources, our schools of architecture and their students have placed the emphasis in the study program where we have asked them to, on computer technology. The graduates are certainly graphically proficient, but do they truly understand what the implications

are of the "clip art" they are pulling from our detail library? I'm concerned about this, and I know most of my colleagues are as well. Fewer and fewer architectural students are actually working in or around construction during their training. Is it no wonder that they have a hard time understanding the construction sequence or methodology? Just as architecture is changing radically in our design and delivery systems, so is the construction industry. Do we and/or young architects fully understand these changes?

The construction industry is, like us, made up of many different types of contractors with delivery systems as far apart as the pyramids and NASA. It is important that the young architect be exposed to as many techniques as possible. The AIA and NCARB have instituted a very good program called the Intern Development Program or IDP. The program tries to ensure that the intern will acquire a balanced work load during the apprenticeship. We can help by making it possible for the intern to go to the construction meetings so they better understand those shop drawings they are reviewing, and explaining to our clients why the intern is attending the meeting. My experience has been that most clients feel comfortable with the explanation, and some even feel honored. Obviously, you have to exercise some common sense about the appropriateness of the involving the intern in the meeting. Other professionals such as medical doctors have far less concerns about this mentoring than we do. Our young architects won't absorb these skills by osmosis; they must see buildings being constructed and client concerns being addressed to fully understand the many skills it takes to be a successful architect. Computers are great for what they are, very fast tools that do what we tell them to do. But, architects need to know what to tell the computers to do.

How can we enhance the IDP effort? How about really getting interns involved with the major building contractors in our region? I would like to explore with you the notion of an exchange program with builders to place our young architects and builders in each other's offices for a select period of time. Those chosen would be assigned to tasks commensurate with their abilities so their time would be productive as well as educational. It would build on the

(continued on next page)

## Competitions

■ The Aliquippa Embraces Art community-based art exhibition announces its **Crystal Market Pavilion Competition**. AEA requests ideas and images for the revitalization of a site in Aliquippa's redeveloping business district. Entries will comprise an exhibit that will premiere July 26, 1997 at the opening of Aliquippa Embraces Art. Chosen entries will be shown in April 1998 at the AIA Pittsburgh gallery. All entries must be received by July 18, 1997. Entrants may obtain more information and a prospectus by writing or calling Crystal Pavilion, Aliquippa Embraces Art, 300 Main Ave., West Aliquippa, PA 15001 or phone 412/378-7422 or 412/243-0790.

■ The Visiting Nurse Association Foundation invites the talented Pittsburgh community, including its architects, to design and donate a birdhouse or quilt for the annual VNA Foundation Auction entitled **Home Tweet Home**. Items

entered will be exhibited at One Oxford Centre from September 7 - 19. On September 19th, the "Flights of Fancy" Gala will include a limited live auction and raffle and will precede an announcement of the "Best of Show" Awards. Over \$1,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. All media are eligible. No birdhouse can be larger than 5' x 5' x 5'. For more information and an entry form, call Terri West, executive director of the VNA Foundation at 937-8350. The preregistration deadline is August 1.

## News

According to the F.W. Dodge Division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, the value of new construction contracts in March remained virtually unchanged from the previous month. Residential building in March fell 6 percent to \$138.1 billion, while nonresidential building increased by 1 percent and nonbuilding construction (mostly bridges and highways) increased by 11 percent.

### RANDOM THOUGHTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

existing IDP and would enhance the building technology component of the program. A few years ago, the AIA and the Master Builders Association (MBA) got together to place young architects in their offices during a day when bids were due. From what I understand, it was a success. I would like to see us build on this first limited effort and initiate a more formalized program with the MBA to help both major players in the creation of architecture become true partners. I will begin exploring this notion with both builders and architects to see if others feel the same way on this issue. I welcome your input and help. ☮

### Corrections

- Tim Weyand is an associate member of AIA.
- The rendering of the Pittsburgh International Airport in the May issue should have been credited to Tasso Katselas and Associates Inc., architects' rendering by Ed Dumont.

## THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (MBA)

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PITTSBURGH  
CHAPTER OF



# Renovation/Conservation

*Pittsburgh firms demonstrate the use of healthy building techniques and changing standards in building renovation.*



PHOTOS ON PAGE 6 BY ED MASSERY

## **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates (BHKRA)**

PENN AVENUE PLACE (former Joseph Horne and Lazarus Department Stores)  
Contractor: P. J. Dick Corporation

The renovation of the former Joseph Horne (later Lazarus) Department store into a mixed-use office and retail complex was under a severe time constraint (12 months from the start of base building design to the move in of the first tenant user groups). As the A/E/I full service firm for all three clients involved (owner Oxford Development Company, major tenant Highmark/Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and also the Civic Light Opera), Burt Hill created the concept of a universal design configuration used from floor to floor. There was significant challenge in meeting modern building codes and using modern building practices in an old, well used building built for an entirely different purpose.



### Landmark Design Associates

*(in collaboration with Gary Goodson and Chris Leininger of Conservation Consultants, Inc. and Steve Lee, AIA (team leader), Volker Hartkopf, Vivian Loftness, AIA, and Paul Matthews form the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics, Carnegie Mellon University)*

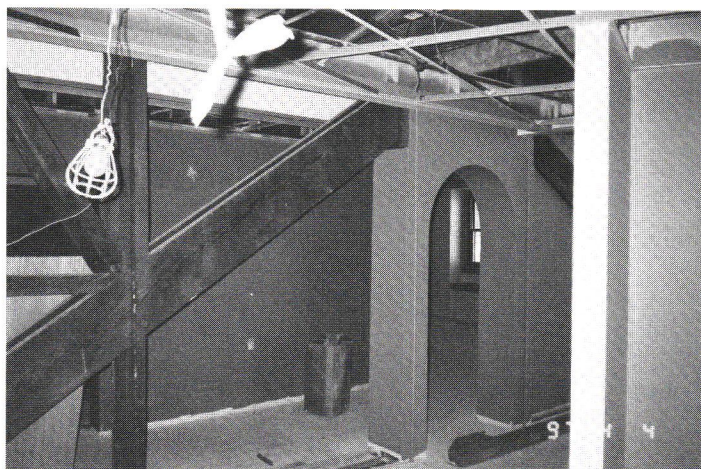
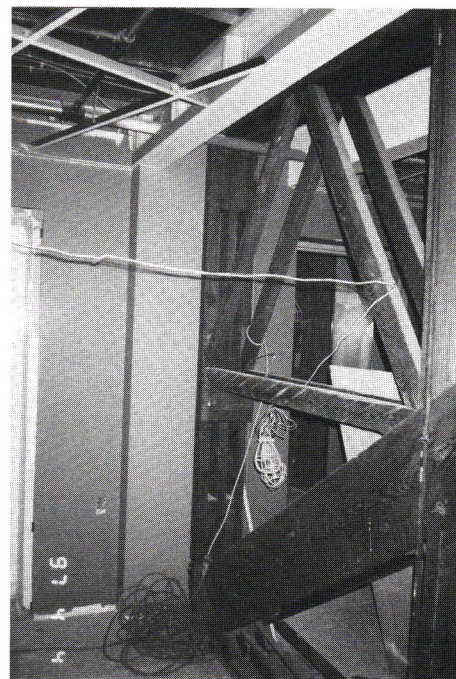
THE BURKE BUILDING, 209 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA

Architects: Landmark Design Associates, Ellis Schmidlapp;

Robert J. Kobet, AIA

Contractor: John C. Hegnes

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy acquired the Burke Building, downtown Pittsburgh's oldest office building, to renovate as its headquarters. Throughout the building, techniques used include energy conservation, energy efficient lighting and mechanical systems, non-toxic finishes, daylighting and the psychology of color. The building is ventilated with a natural gas-fired chiller/heater system and uses recycled or sustainable construction methods and products wherever feasible. Transoms and clerestories in the front offices increase the flow of light throughout the building.



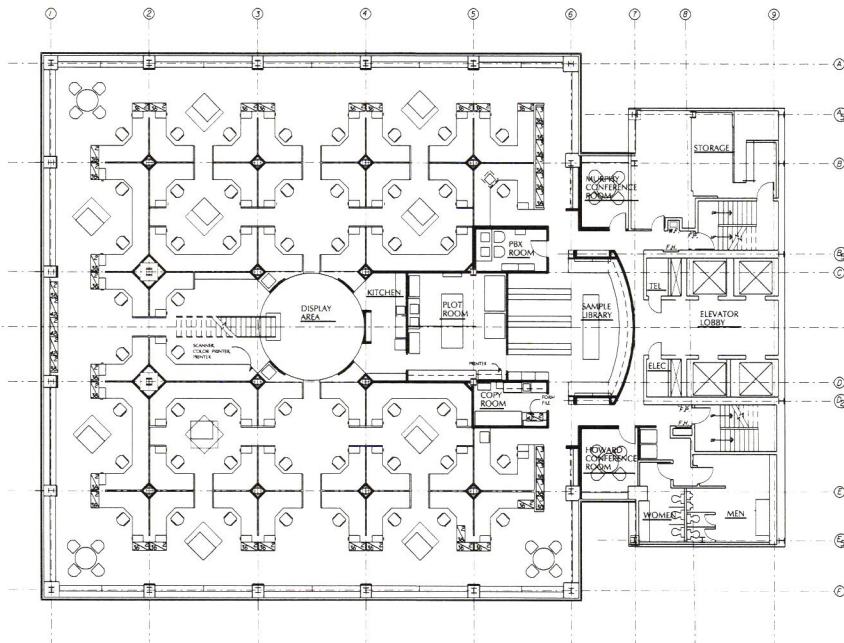
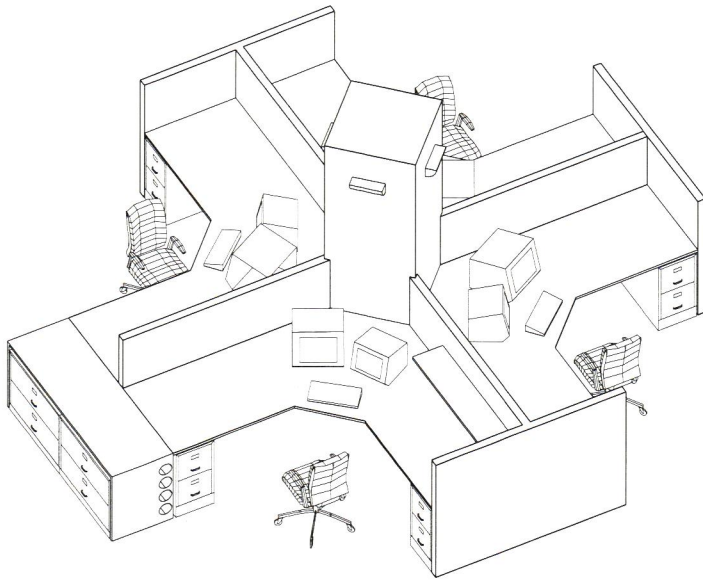
### **Lami • Grubb • Architects**

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTEL, PITTSBURGH, PA

Architect: Antony Mustachio, Project Manager

Contractor: Waller Corporation

Pittsburgh's first youth hostel is in a 100 year old building in the Allentown section of the City. In order to follow a sustainable design and save money for the hostel, a number of steps were followed. The building shell was reused as were a number of materials recovered from the interior demolition. This reduced the amount of waste going to a landfill and the amount of materials and energy needed to make new products. Materials recovered from other building demolitions were also used. Wherever possible, building products that had recycled content were used, as were low flow plumbing fixtures. A high efficiency HVAC system was installed, the thermal envelope upgraded, all cracks and openings were carefully sealed, smoke detectors that require low energy usage were installed, and all hot and cold water pipes were insulated. Items from the building that were not needed were sold and some metal was recycled from the demolition (mostly copper). Efficient lighting was installed to conserve energy and provide a visually healthy interior environment.



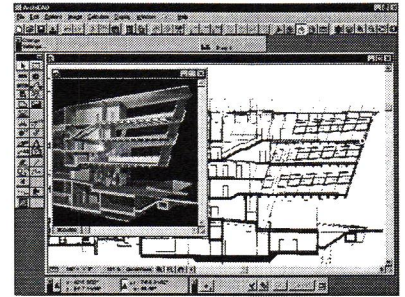
### Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates (BHKRA)

BHKRA OFFICES AT CENTRE CITY TOWER

Contractors: F. J. Busse, King Contracting, National Casework, Commercial Floors, Gerson Electric

BHKRA explored the use of sustainable design in its new office environment. "Green" finishes were used from floor coverings (slate, carpet) to walls (glass, plaster, fabric). The use of an all open plan permits views for everyone and also permits the extensive use of daylighting for most tasks. Because of the existing building's single pane glazing system, workstations were moved off the perimeter wall and replaced by the main circulation path along the walls. The HVAC system was controlled and designed by the building's engineers based on BHKRA's criteria. BHKRA designed the lighting which utilizes a combination of direct, indirect and accent lighting as required by particular tasks. The proper light level is accomplished with a new generation of high-output and low-energy lamps.

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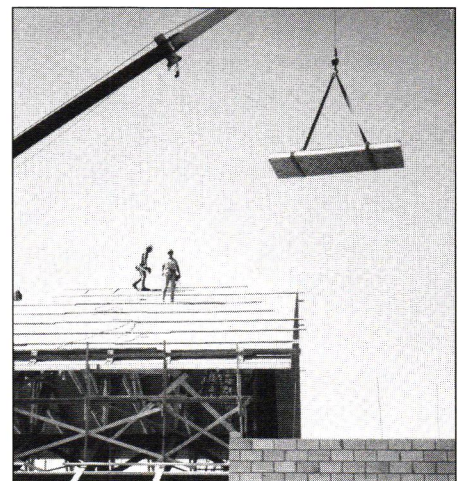


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# "Sick Building Syndrome" Update

by Robert Kobet, AIA

*Concern about "sick buildings" has been around for almost fifty years. How far have we come and what are Pittsburgh architects doing about it?*

In 1962, about the time Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*, Dr. Theron Randolph authored his first work, *Human Ecology*. In it the Chicago physician discussed the relationship between the incidence of chronic illness and the built environment he had begun to notice in his patients as early as 1950. His simple premise was that it was more effective to remedy the causes of his patients' maladies than to continually treat the symptoms. Not surprisingly, lessons learned in his practice initially fell mostly on deaf ears. Eventually Dr. Randolph became renowned for his alternative approach and is recognized today as one of the founders of clinical ecology. His influence and that of his followers are manifest in the American Medical Association's College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

As I see it, there are strong parallels to Dr. Randolph's career and his contributions relative to interior air quality (IAQ) issues and the sick building syndrome underway in the design and engineering professions. Consider the following:

- There is a growing body of literature and increasing number of successful case studies that evidence the cost effectiveness and marketability of combining resource efficiency and human ecology considerations in the built environment. One need only access the Net to see the sheer number of projects completed or being planned that deal with these determinants. The clear message is that creating healthy interiors in buildings constructed using sustainable design and development practices has the potential for multiple benefits beyond simple resource conservation.

- Interior air quality concerns as a subset of green building or high performance architecture or interior design have been adopted by ASHRAE and to a lesser extent by the

ASID and the AIA as a priority in professional development and ongoing education. It is not unusual to attend conferences sponsored jointly by IFMA, IBD, ASID, the AIA and others. I believe this speaks to the complexity of the subject as well as the potential for collaboration in addressing the need for better built environments.

- Universities with design programs are beginning to integrate sustainable design and development into their curriculums in response to student interest, licensing requirements, the needs of surrounding communities and the growing number of IAQ related lawsuits.

- Allied organizations such as the Energy Efficient Building Association, The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, the U.S. Green Building Council, the Human Ecology Action League, the Rocky Mountain Institute and several others all recognize the importance of good interior air quality and the benefits that are derived from healthy interiors.

So, if all of this is technically possible, cost effective, aesthetically pleasing, and generally wholesome, why aren't we seeing more of it Pittsburgh? 'Fact is, we are. Like pioneer plants drifting into a changing ecosystem, green

buildings with healthy interiors are making their way into Pittsburgh. They are taking their place amidst Green Neighborhood and Environmental City Initiatives, undergraduate and masters degree programs featuring sustainable design and development course offerings, an emerging public dialogue via the Studio For Creative Inquiry, an active AIA committee on the Environment, generous support from foundations and several other encouraging indicators. At this time, however, it is not surprising that the following examples have been commissioned by individuals or organizations concerned with the environment.

- The **Burke Building**, located on Fourth Street across from PPG Plaza, is Pittsburgh's oldest office building. It was acquired by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and subjected to a complete gut rehab to accommodate the offices and programs of that organization. Landmark Design Associates worked in collaboration with Conservation Consultants Incorporated and a contingent of consultants from Carnegie Mellon University to complete this project. Items considered include energy conservation, energy efficient lighting and mechanical systems, nontoxic finishes, daylighting and the psychology of color. The Conservancy has been encouraged to maintain the building with environmentally benign cleaning products.

- The **Heinz Corporate Offices and Board Room** in the CNG Tower on Liberty Avenue has been featured in Architectural Record for its environmental agenda. Project Architect William McDonough, AIA, internationally known for his expertise in ecologically sensitive design, set a bench mark in the discipline with this Pittsburgh project. Interior finishes, furnishings, daylight and artificial lighting, embodied energy, material packaging and recycling all played a part in this effort. Access to fresh air and adequate ventilation work in combination with interior pollution source control to insure good interior air quality.

- The **Intelligent Workplace at Carnegie Mellon University** represents an ongoing effort to research and implement innovative ideas, materials and systems in an integrated manner. By rethinking the traditional approach to office construction via an international consortium of industrial and governmental members, CMU hopes to advance such concepts as high performance enclosures, innovative approaches to personalized microclimates at work stations, interior pollution source control, effective ventilation and several other commercial and office building interior concerns. The project is housed in the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics under the guidance of Vivian Loftness, AIA, Volker Hartkopf, Steve Lee, AIA, Ardeshir Mahdavi, and a host of graduate students.

*"The clear message is that creating healthy interiors in buildings constructed using sustainable design and development practices has the potential for multiple benefits beyond simple resource conservation."*

—ROBERT J. KOBET, AIA

Other projects on the boards or under construction that have healthy interiors and good interior air quality as design priorities are:

- **Conservation Consultants Incorporated.** CCI, located on 14th Street on the South Side, is about to undergo a complete gut rehab and building addition similar in intensity to the Burke Building renovation. Tai + Lee and CCI are collaborating on a project that will comprehensively address the buildings' current IAQ problems and insure good interior air quality throughout while maintaining equally high priorities for reduced resource utilization, energy efficiency, urban gardening, composting and recycling.

- **The New Birmingham Project.** This new infill housing currently under construction on the Southside is the product of looking at what makes sense in attempting sustainable design and development in the urban context. Stefani Ledewitz, AIA, of Perkins Eastman worked closely with the South Side Local Development Company to package units that are energy efficient, well ventilated and effectively daylighted. The use of low VOC paint, hardwood floors and a commitment to educating the occupants about environmentally responsible cleaning practices should help the tenants enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

- Suzan Lami, AIA was able to help Susan Miller, a Slippery Rock Sustainable Systems major, complete her masters degree while gaining a helping hand in researching what could be incorporated into the renovation of the **American Youth Hostel** building on Arlington Avenue. The design includes operable windows, low VOC carpet and paint, and reused furniture to reduce interior pollutants.

- The author has designed or consulted on a number of residences, including several in western Pennsylvania, for clients with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities. Most of these projects began as referrals from physicians. Each involves accommodating the needs of the client with materials and construction practices that are readily available and easily understood. The success of these projects and the degree to which the occupants enjoy an increased quality of life underscores the merits of doing this kind of work.

There is no attempt to pass each of the above mentioned projects as completely correct or as comprehensive as they might be given the state of the art in healthy building design. It is most unfortunate, considering these noble attempts, that much of the conversation surrounding interior air quality and green building is still prompted by fear of litigation. F. Todd Silver, in the April, 1997, issue of *Indoor Environment Review* cites Leslie O'Neil, a Florida attorney, who claims a steady increase has occurred in interior air quality litigation filed by individuals, groups, and the government against builders, mechanical engineers and contractors. Mark Diamond, an environmental lawyer in Stamford, Connecticut, notes that these cases are becoming more popular because municipalities are bringing more lawsuits against contractors, and individuals are suing more under workman's compensation. According to Mr. Diamond, "Those claims are definitely on the rise and people are winning them."

Contrasted against this legal carnage is the growing number of designers, building ecologists, consultants, builders and suppliers that have found growing prosperity in the pursuit of green buildings with healthy interiors. The same awareness that drives litigation implies an increasingly educated public cognizant of the benefits of living and working in high performance buildings. This in turn should translate eventually to a growing clientele for architects and designers willing to educate themselves and market their ability to provide the same. Principles and practices necessary to create green buildings with healthy interiors are easily understood. A wealth of information on the subject is currently available and easily accessible (see reference list). Several conferences with AIA and ASID Continuing Learning Units occur each year. It is significant to me that many of my architectural students are genuinely interested in the potential for this discipline to provide the foundation of a meaningful and stimulating practice. It is perhaps more significant to realize that a dialogue has begun that is yielding contributions to the built environment that speak to these issues in the Pittsburgh region. Dr. Randolph would be pleased. So would Rachel Carson. Her home in Springdale may soon benefit from a refurbishing that will do for the interior environment what she did for our natural surroundings. 🏡

## For more information...

### Energy Resource Guide (ERG)

John Wiley & Sons Inc.  
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Somerset, NJ 08875  
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### The Rocky Mountain Institute

Green Building Services  
1739 Snowmass Creek Rd.  
Snowmass, CO 81654-9199  
970/927-3851  
970/927-4510 FAX  
wdbrowning@rmi.org

### U.S. Green Building Council

c/o S. Richard Fedrizzi  
Chairman USGBC  
Carrier Parkway A & R  
PO Box 4808  
Syracuse, NY 13221  
315/432-6177  
315/432-6555 FAX

### The Sourcebook for Sustainable Design

A Guide to Environmentally Responsible Building Materials and Processes  
Andrew St. John, AIA, editor  
Architects for Social Responsibility  
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617/951-0845 FAX orders

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Celestial Arts  
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Berkeley, CA 94707

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[greenbuilding@crest.org](mailto:greenbuilding@crest.org)

Robert J. Kobet, AIA, is director of Green Building Services for Conservation Consultants, Inc., assistant adjunct professor in the Carnegie Mellon University Department of Architecture, and a member of AIA Pittsburgh's board of directors.

# Changing the Architects Licensure Law in Pennsylvania

by Anne J. Swager

*Proposed changes to Pennsylvania's Architects Licensure Law will either give the public greater protection or eviscerate that protection.*

I spent what felt like the better part of April driving my oldest child, Betsy, around to colleges to which she had been accepted but had not visited. On our first trip, we spent much of our time in West Virginia, where in parts, interstate highways are still a novelty. Betsy deftly negotiated the hairpin turns of the Midland Trail while I hung on for dear life. During these brushes with death I had plenty of time to fill my eyes with the local housing genre. I was treated to an occasional gable front, or gable front with wing, but the overwhelming housing choice was the mobile home or its more expensive cousin, the prefab home. My personal favorite was the house with the cement block first floor with two large garage doors at grade and the second floor a prefab house. The door in the middle of the second floor led to nowhere and there was also no visible means of access to it. I saw an addition to a church with much the same result. One door was usable but someone forgot the steps for entrance number two. In Pennsylvania, builder track houses were the number one choice for our residents. It seems we don't often opt to live in mobile homes but we sure do like them as vacation homes. There seems to be a big market for back-to-nature, vacation communities of mobile homes set next to a lovely sparkling brook.

Putting the aesthetics of good design aside, much of what I saw was at the worst, not safe, and at the best, merely ugly and wasteful. Obviously, much of what is done is beyond the purview of architects, landscape architects or even engineers.

The AIA is currently involved in an ongoing battle with the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA), which has proposed changes to the Architects Licensure Law. These changes would totally exempt one and two-family residential buildings from the requirement of an architect's seal. Where are we in this fight? Since the vast majority of homes are already being built without an architect's seal, will it make any difference if we are able to thwart the builders' attempts to exempt single and two family residential struc-

tures? What efforts have we taken to have the state discipline builders who continue to design and build homes without the benefit of an architect's seal?

In 1996, the PBA introduced a bill into the state legislature which would have significantly changed the Architects Licensure Law by exempting the design of one and two family housing and also allowing construction companies and engineers to hire architects as staff for their organizations. In response, the Pennsylvania Society for Architects (PSA) notified you, our members, through the PSA Newsletter and AIA Pittsburgh's weekly faxes, about the bill. We asked you to notify your legislators and tell them why this was a bad bill. You did and it worked. The Professional Licensure Committee held the bill in committee until we had a chance to work on a compromise with the PBA. While a compromise was reached with the PBA task force assigned to work with us, the PBA Board never accepted this compromise.

In 1997, PSA introduced HB 1271 which would modify the Architects Licensure Law to include (1) design/build language which has the support of the general contractors; (2) provisions for limited liability partnerships and companies; and (3), the compromise which we had worked out with the PBA task force for single and two family structure design. The compromise language incorporated into the new bill would permit builders to use pre-prepared, commercially published, construction drawings and model home plans which bear a certification that they were originally prepared by an architect licensed in any United States jurisdiction. These documents would need to be reviewed, signed, sealed and adapted to the specific site by an architect authorized to practice architecture. By signing and sealing these documents, the architect would assume full responsibility just as if the documents were prepared under the direct supervision of the architect, thereby assuring public safety. By not requiring the architect to prepare complete residential drawings from concept through construction documents, presumably the cost to the

homeowner would be reduced. PBA retaliated with HB 1291 reiterating their bill from 1996 which would exclude one and two family dwellings from architect's seals and would allow architects to become subcontractors or employees to construction firms. Both of these bills are in committee, specifically the Professional Licensure Board Committee which will be holding hearings on both bills in June. No date has been set. However, PSA is poised with testimony from several well informed architects to present our side on the issue during both hearings.

The PBA published an article in their statewide magazine, *PA Builder*, pushing for residential design/build as a cost effective solution to construction of one and two family dwellings. Titled "Blueprint for Efficiency", the article makes several points. The Architects Licensure Law has been on the books for 15 years; it was the rising number of complaints filed against builders for advertising and providing design services that prompted the builders to challenge the law. According to Lela Shultz, at PSA "the number of complaints filed by PSA in recent years has not increased." Complaints against builders are substantially up (250%) as a result of those filed by municipalities and clients. Because builders are not licensed, filing a complaint of illegal practice with the Architects Licensure Board is one of the few avenues open to disgruntled clients. The builders also express concern that including an architect slows down the process and adds to the cost. Alan J. Cuteri, AIA, a director on PSA's Board and Chairman of the PSA Legislative Committee, replied to this allegation saying, "not only can architects make a project more cost effective but because the architect represents the client, they can serve as a watchdog to insure that a builder is not taking an exorbitant profit. In the end, the home buyer gets a higher quality product that will have a higher resale value 7 years or more down the line."

The builders also point out in their article that "the architects licensure laws in some states already provide an exemption for single and two-family home construction."

While this is true in ten nearby states, these states have enacted other measures to protect the public such as licensing builders and having a statewide building code. Pennsylvania does not have a statewide building code, though there is a bill (HB 1173) currently in committee. A statewide building code may not be enough to protect the public's interest unless it contains provisions for training and certification of the inspectors as does HB 1173. Cuteri cites a case in which his firm is currently involved. "Our firm was hired to assess an addition on a home that was designed and built by a non-licensed design/build entity. The addition is incomplete and uninhabitable despite ongoing inspections during construction by both the bank and the municipal inspector." Building codes in PA are often so inadequate that according to Bob Nalls, AIA, "you could plumb a house with a garden hose and wire it with an extension cord and still pass inspection."

PBA's article calls for design/build as a satisfactory, cost effective means to build homes. However, by their definition, the architect would work for their firm and thus be responsible to them. They have carried this solution over into their HB 1291 which would change the ownership provisions of our Architects Licensure Law. PSA addresses the issue of design/build in their proposed HB 1271. Design/build entities that are not architectural firms are allowed as long as they separately contract with an architectural firm to participate "substantially in all material aspects of the practice of architecture" and the client is notified in writing of this arrangement. Further, this definition is supported by the Associated General Contractors.

No law can be a panacea for all of the problems that can go wrong in the residential building process. However, PSA's proposed changes to the Architects Licensure Law (HB 1271) go much farther in protecting the interest of Pennsylvania's citizens. With the proposed statewide building code (HB 1173), these two bills would provide the necessary protection to PA homeowners. For the first time, they could be assured that their money was well spent, invested wisely, and that their families were safe. ■

*If you wish to help in this effort, contact Anne Swager at AIA Pittsburgh (471-9548).*

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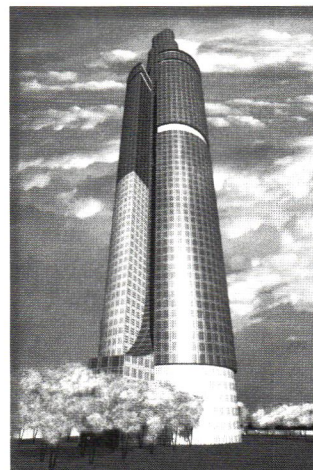
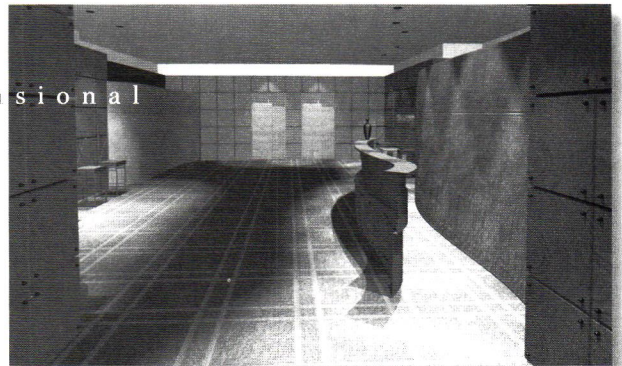
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# Planning and Constructing a Health Clinic for the LaReforma Community in Nicaragua

by Alan L. Fishman, AIA

*Local architect Alan Fishman, AIA goes more than the extra mile for the experience of a lifetime.*

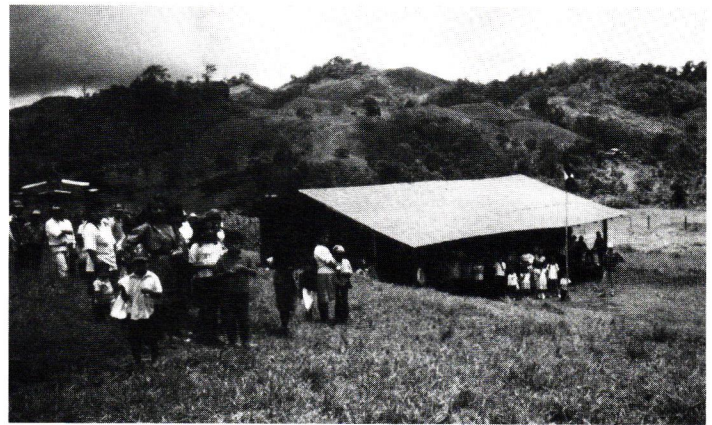
The Rotary Club of Pittsburgh, of which I am a member, takes on an international project once every few years. Through one of our club members, Joel Nagel, Rotary became committed to building a health clinic in Nicaragua which would serve the rural community of LaReforma, with a population of 5,000. LaReforma is located in the northern, remote part of the country, approximately 2 hours drive north from the capitol city of Jinotega, and is reached by using 4 wheel drive vehicles traversing unpaved, dirt roads, up and down the hills and mountains. These roads become almost impassable during the rainy season which is May through November.

*"It is only a small project, but the experience of working in the second poorest country in Central and South America has been most interesting and challenging."*

The citizens of the LaReforma community, who are mainly indigenous Indians, are poor and there are no services or utilities whatsoever to their area, including running water, electricity and sewers. The community receives no health care now, and if an emergency arises, they must find a way to get transportation to the hospital in Jinotega. If the roads are impassable, or transportation cannot be found, the emergency cannot be treated properly and deaths often result. The new clinic will provide much needed health care services, including preventative care, immunization, maternal and child care and prevention and cure of diseases of the region such as cholera and dysentery, as well as dehydration.

I volunteered my services as architect for the project and received a program of requirements prepared by the Ministry of Health. I discovered that we had in the office files a set of architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical construction drawings for a prototypical rural community primary care health clinic which had been prepared for the Ministry of Health a few years earlier.

Mike Marcu, AIA, the CEO of our firm, IKM Incorporated, had received these drawings from the Health Ministry on a visit he made to Nicaragua in 1992 with representatives of



**Scene in the La Reforma area.** Photo by Alan Fishman, AIA.

Allegheny General Hospital to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new hospital. The floor plan layout on the drawings matched identically with the program I had received. I made two trips to Nicaragua and LaReforma, the first in September of 1996, to verify the program, design and construction methods, and the second in January of this year to attend the ground breaking ceremony and determine with the Managua Tiscapa Rotary Club how and when we were going to get the project constructed.

The clinic will only be 108 square meters in area (1,200 SF), with an outdoor waiting area under roof, doctor's office and exam room, reception and general office areas, emergency treatment area, storage room, oral dehydration treatment room, toilet rooms and outdoor laundry area. These spaces are adequate to serve the community's needs.

The structure will be a reinforced concrete frame designed to withstand earthquakes, infilled with concrete block which will receive an exterior stucco finish. The roof will have a light steel framing system and light gauge corrugated galvanized metal deck. This is typical construction for the entire country with soft clay brick sometimes being substituted for concrete block. Windows will be the jalousie type

## From the Firms

→ **Kingsland Scott Bauer Associates (KSBA)** announces a name change from KSBH Architects to **KSBA Architects**.

**Kerry Solomon, AIA**, has formed his own company, Kerry E. Solomon Architect, Inc. The main focus of the firm will be recreational facilities and entertainment/dining structures. The firm is located at 624 Rock Springs Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228, 412/563-7656.

## Business Briefs

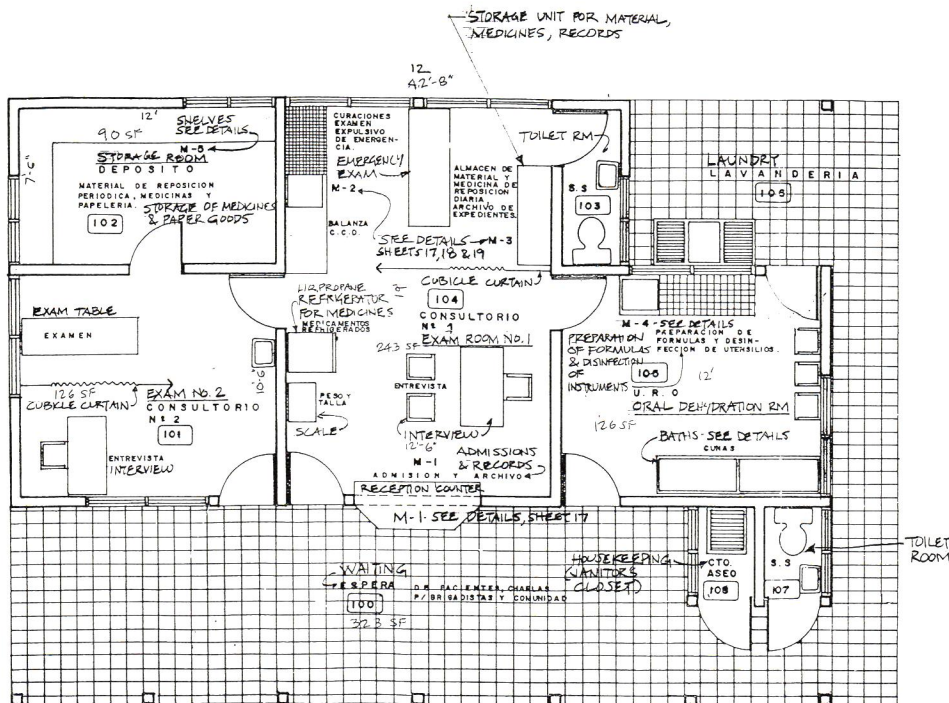
→ **BRIDGES** announces the addition of Paul A. Marquart to their professional staff as Senior Project Manager and Director of Business Development.

**IKM Incorporated** announces the addition of **Greg George, Associate AIA**, as a new designer, and **Roger Hartung, AIA** and Paul J. Greb as project architects.

Massaro Company has appointed **Thomas E. Kennedy, AIA**, to the position of Vice President of construction.

**John E. Kosar, AIA**, President of **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** has been elected Vice President of the Board of Directors of DPRCG, a design professionals risk control group insurance company headquartered in Monterey, CA.

**SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc.** announced the appointment of Ahmad K. Ahmadi to the position of Manager—Structures Design. Richard B. Kauffman will assume the position of Project Manager in the Engineering Division.



**Proposed new family health clinic for La Reforma Community, Jinotega Dept., Nicaragua.**

Drawing by Alan Fishman, AIA.

to allow cross ventilation and light into the building. Due to the temperate climate, heating is not required, and power is not available for air conditioning. Floors will be concrete. Concrete appears to be a readily available material in the country with a knowledgeable and inexpensive labor force to install it.

A water well and sewage disposal system (septic tank and tile field) will be provided. Since there is no electricity available to the site and it is difficult and unreliable to transport fuel over the roads, a solar power system with battery back-up will be provided to deliver electricity to the well pump and purification system, refrigerator for medicines, small sterilizer, hot water heater, compact fluorescent light fixtures and a very limited number of convenience receptacles.

The Pittsburgh Rotary Club has raised sufficient funds to pay for the project and we have now received a low bid from a reputable, experienced contractor who has built in the area. His bid is within our construction budget of \$30,000 (\$25/SF). As soon as the contract can be worked out (in Spanish and English), construction will start and should take 3 to 4 months. It is only a small project, but

the experience of working in the second poorest country in Central and South America has been most interesting and challenging. There is the frustration of making things happen, that "mañana" factor we do not experience here in the U.S. The Nicaraguan people, however, are warm, good-hearted and friendly, and deserve better conditions than they have experienced over the past fifty years, during which wars erupted and the country was practically destroyed.

Rotary is helping the Ministry of Health take one of its first steps in establishing its rural health care delivery program, which it has been unable to do because of lack of funding.

We have now named the clinic the "Roberto Clemente Health Clinic" after the great Pirates baseball star who lost his life trying to help Nicaragua in 1972 when his plane crashed on its way to deliver supplies to the earthquake devastated country. ☪

Alan Fishman, AIA, is with IKM Incorporated.

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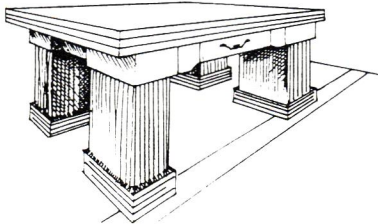
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## AIA ACTIVITIES

### June 6, Friday

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

### June 10, Tuesday

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

### June 11, Wednesday

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

### June 11, Wednesday

**AIA Pittsburgh Membership Meeting – ARTchitecture Opening Reception.** Enjoy your fellow architects' artistic ventures and perhaps be inspired to do some creating of your own. More than twenty area architects are exhibiting a variety of their work, including sculpture, paintings and sketches. Opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit runs through June 24.

### June 13, Friday

**Committee on the Environment,** noon at the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 231-1500.

### June 19, Thursday

**Urban Design Committee Meeting –** noon at the Chapter office, Arch Pelley, AIA, 456-0900.

### June 24, Tuesday

**ADAAG Accessibility Law Review,** 8-11:30 a.m., at the Sheraton Station Square. This seminar will review proposed changes to the ADAAG Law. You will earn 6 LU's and 3 HSW Contact Hours. For fee information call Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 231-1500.

### June 25, Wednesday

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

## 1 C 9 A 9 L 7 E N D A R

## AROUND TOWN

### Through June 13

**Silver Eye Center for Photography exhibit,** includes Jack Schlechter's award-winning photo of the Chrysler Building and a 19th Century photo of the Arc du Triomphe. Reception May 16, 7-9 p.m. For information call 431-1800.

### June 10, Tuesday

**CSI Chapter Meeting:** It's a night at the races to be held at Ladbroke at the Meadows. The cost of \$20 per person includes admission, tax & gratuities, and an official program. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Call Sheila Cartiff at 823-5063 to make your reservations. Be sure to leave your name, phone number and number attending.

### June 24, Tuesday

**Creating and Recreating Communities,** an educational conference to be held at Robert Morris College from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explores topics related to innovative and alternative development strategies to today's suburban sprawl. Sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Southwest Pennsylvania Community Tree Association and the American Planning Association. Registration is \$45 per person. Send to Mark Remcheck, Washington County Cooperative Extension, 100 West Beau St., Ste. 601, Washington, PA 15301-4473 by June 5, or call him at (412) 228-6940 for further information.



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# Eve Picker, Associate AIA

*Eve Picker, Planning • Design • Development and no walls productions, Inc.*



**Family:** My nuclear family consists of husband John, a historian and philosopher of science, son Jon and daughter Josie. Our average age is 26.75 years.

**Years in practice:** I practiced architecture with some urban design thrown in for 4 years. After graduate school, I practiced art for 4 years. Finally, I started practicing development and urban design and have been for the last 8 years.

**Education:** Architecture degree, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and Masters in Urban Design, Columbia University.

**First job:** Sewing curtains for my parents.

**Project you're proudest of:** The one I'm working on now—429 First Avenue Lofts, Downtown.

**Public space I wish I'd designed:** Any Italian piazza.

**Building I'd like to tear down:** Pittsburgh's biggest blight is its empty lots. Let's not tear any more buildings down.

**If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been:** What I am—an urban designer and developer.

**If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you:** Me, or Michelle Pfeiffer with reconstructive surgery.

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where?** Italy.

**What's the best part of your job:** I'm my own boss, and I get to decide what projects I will work on. I love what I do.

**What's the worst part of your job?** My boss is a tyrant.

**What have you always wanted to tell your boss?** Take the afternoon off.

**What have you always wanted to tell your clients?** Take the afternoon off.

**What's the most annoying thing architects do?** Put down good developers.

**What's the most annoying thing developers do?** Not care enough about design.

**Advice to young architects?** 1) All developers aren't bad. Only bad developers are bad. 2) Care about the public space that your buildings will be part of.

**The two things you wish they'd teach in school?** See above.

**Favorite interior:** Philip Starck's Paramount Hotel in New York, and my lofts on 429 First Avenue in Pittsburgh.

**Favorite city:** Pittsburgh. Close seconds—Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, Sydney, Perugia, Castiglioncello

**Favorite architect:** Gary Carlough and Dutch MacDonald, EDGE architecture.

**Favorite architecture book:** *Great Streets* by Allan B. Jacobs, MIT, 1993.

**Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood:** Downtown, with Friendship a close second.

**Best gift to give an urban designer:** A trip to Italy.

**Wish list for Pittsburgh's downtown:** Lots of lofts by no wall productions inc. Lots of other inventive residential projects. Lots more restaurants willing to remain open later and on weekends. A movie theater in addition to the Harris. A small food market. Reduction of bus penetration into downtown and the addition of a free loop shuttle service along Grant St., down to the Point and back up to the Strip. No more saying that Pittsburgh isn't ready for it.

**Someday I'd like to:** learn to brake on my Rollerblades.

**People would be surprised to know that:** my favorite candy is licorice allsorts and my favorite color is black (surprise, surprise!).

**I belong to the AIA because:** even though I am no longer a practicing architect, design touches everything I do. And *Columns* makes a great paper glider.

## Upcoming Member Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11**

**AIA Pittsburgh Membership Meeting  
ARTchitecture Opening Reception**

Enjoy your fellow architects' artistic ventures and perhaps be inspired to do some creating of your own. More than twenty area architects are exhibiting a variety of their work, including sculpture, paintings and sketches. Opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit runs through June 24.

# CONTRACTORS' DIRECTORY

A LISTING OF AREA CONTRACTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. To include your firm in this directory, call Tom Lavelle at 882-3410.

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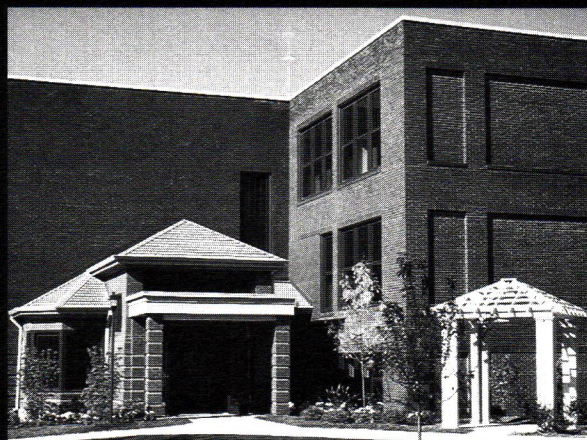
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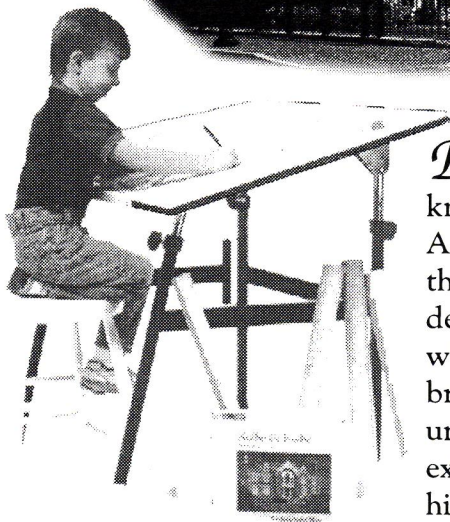
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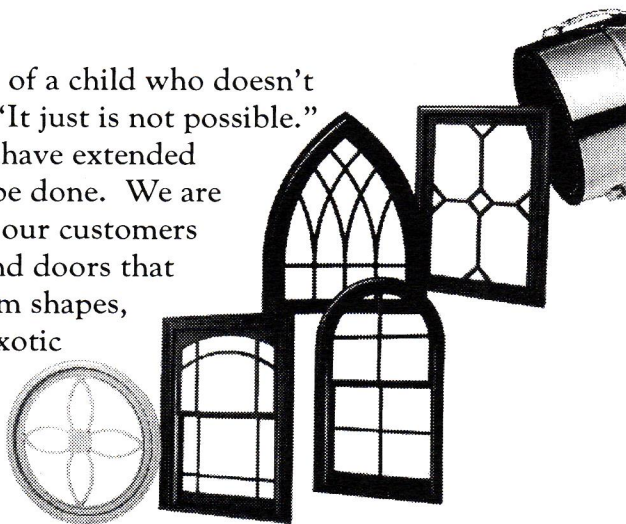


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