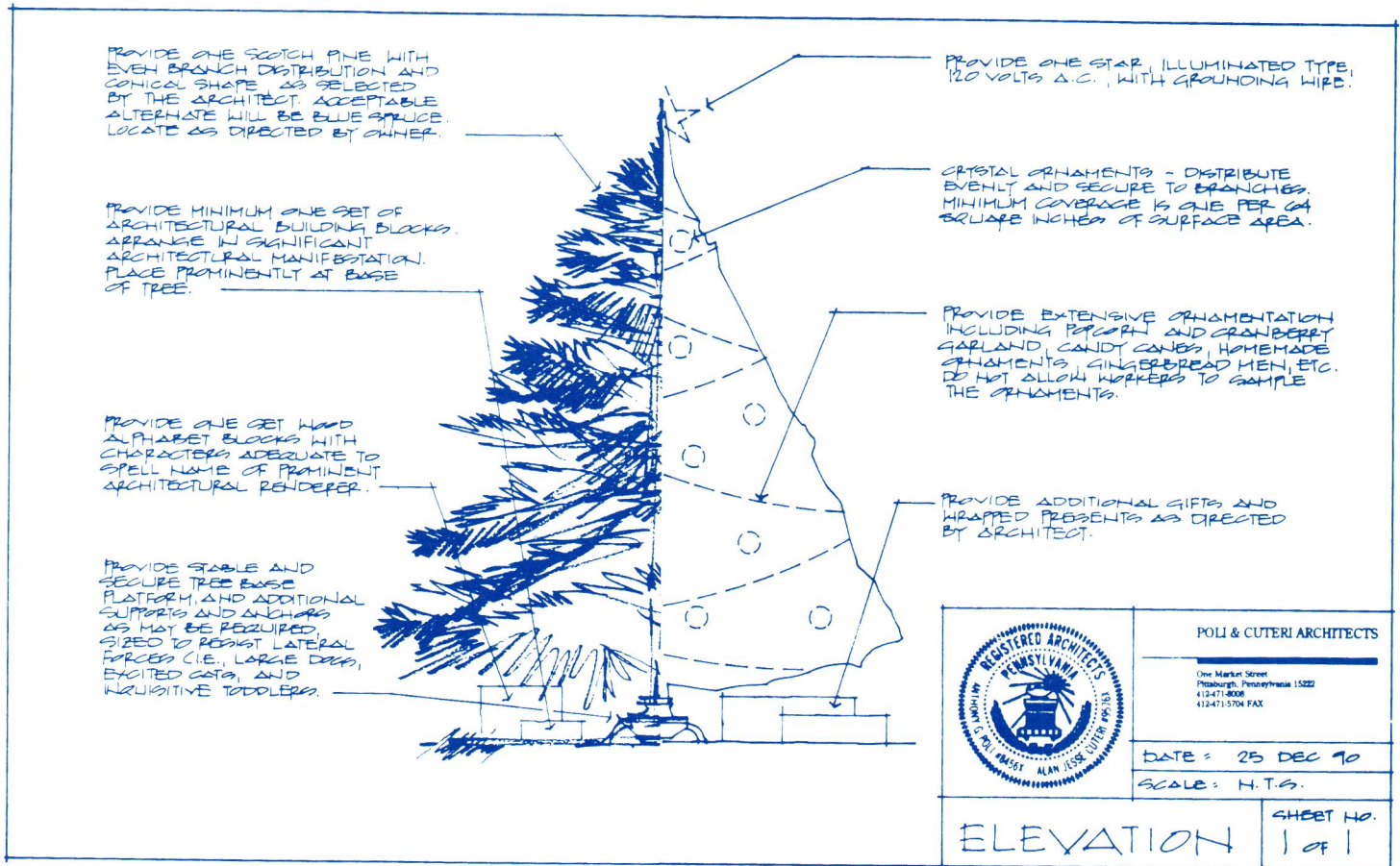
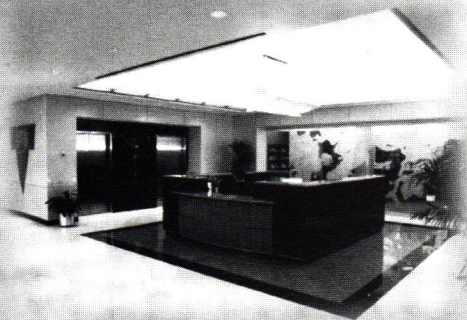


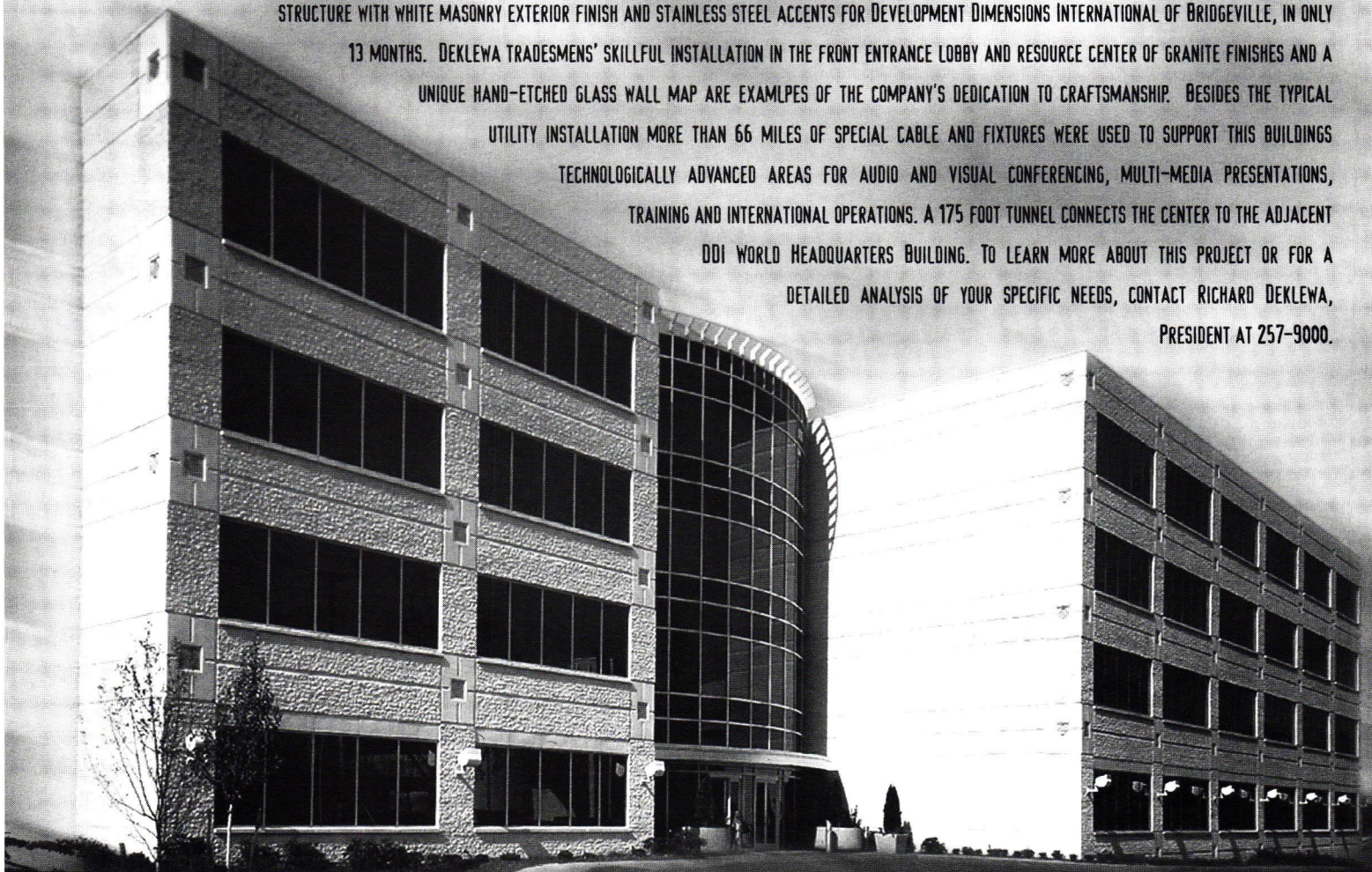
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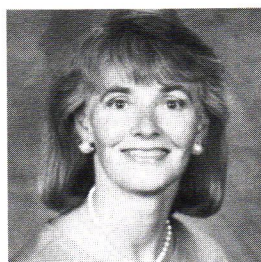
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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS

Random Thoughts from a Frequently Random Mind

by Cheryl R. Towers, Editor



"This is the only environment we've got. Use it up, and you'd better have someplace else to go."

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates and Short Subjects 6
Catching up on the year's unfinished business.

Architects and Schools: Where Do We Stand In Pennsylvania?
Architects face today's challenges to build tomorrow's schools. 8

Fighting Discrimination by Design
Years after the passage of accessibility legislation, many new structures are still not in compliance. 10

Sacred Architecture
Two recent books add to our understanding of an important architectural form. 14

From the top 4
News 5
Breaking Ground 17
Calendar 19
AIA Crossword Puzzle 20
Dossier. 21

On the cover: Christmas Card by Poli & Cuteri Architects.

My homage to Frank McCurdy's presidency

is to steal his headline. If Frank's mind is frequently rational, mine is often random.

For a random mind, an end of the year issue is a dream, allowing me to roam through where we've been since last January, selecting a few interesting stopping points, and seeing how things have changed. As you'll see in "Updates and Short Subjects", there was some "no news" on that road. And you'll have to wait until January to see where we are with some of our regional planning efforts. After last month's defeat of the Regional Renaissance Initiative, there are those who would say that we're nowhere or less (I believe the term used by our County Coroner was "Jerkwater"), but the Pollyanna in me wants to be more optimistic than that. The jury is out and the fat lady hasn't even begun to think about singing.

Time art critic Robert Hughes authored a special edition in the spring of this year entitled "American Visions: What America's Greatest Art Reveals about Our National Character." He notes that Thomas Cole, painting in the first half of the 19th century, "introduced into painting the terms of the great debate over natural resources that has divided Americans ever since. America's columns were trees, its forums were groves, and its invasive barbarian was the wrong sort of American, the developer, the Man with the Ax."

Hughes later discusses Thomas Moran's painting of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, completed years after Moran visited it, and states that the painting "became a symbol of wilderness tourism and helped ratify the growing American desire to set aside tracts of land as museums of a threatened wilderness."

According to Hughes, "by the mid-19th century, landscape was the national religious symbol." and that "the American promise" has always been "great space." Now comes the random thought: for those who would downplay the importance of environmental protections, that is like denying us our national heritage. No one found that out faster than Republicans in the 104th Congress who tried to gut

environmental regulations and were met by a huge public backlash. Perhaps most perplexing to them, some of the strongest words came from religious groups who reminded them that a basic tenet of the Judeo-Christian faiths, not to mention many others, is stewardship of God's earth. So if you're in denial on the "great American promise," maybe you'd better start supporting NASA. This is the only environment we've got. Use it up, and you'd better have someplace else to go.

Random Thought #3 came as a result of a Pennsylvania Speakers Association meeting when another participant and I got into a discussion about personality modeling. The most common model is based on Jung's "Theory of Personality Type" and is known to most of us as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. There are sixteen different indicators which are organized into four "temperaments" (how a person is energized, what a person pays attention to, how a person makes decisions, and the life style a person adopts) called the Keirsey Temperament Sorter. I ran home, found it on the Internet and came up an ENFP, nicknamed the "Journalist". How appropriate, said I. The next week in a Communications Committee meeting, I looked around and said, "Who are these people?", speaking temperamentally, of course.

Not unexpectedly, Anne knew hers off the top of her head—ENTJ, the "Field Marshall". Gloria is an INFJ, "Author", and Bob Bailey, the only architect reporting in, emerged an EXFJ. The "X" comes up when the test taker does not have a clear preference, the equivalent of "I don't know". Does this mean Bob doesn't know what he pays attention to? I don't know. If you feel compelled to sort out your temperament, look for the Keirsey Temperament Sorter at <<http://sunsite.unc.edu/jembin/mb.pl>>. But, use the information wisely—it's not an indicator of mental health, only personality type. And let me know if anyone actually comes up as the "Architect" temperament. I assure you that I have many more random thoughts, but the fat lady has sung. Have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year. 🏠

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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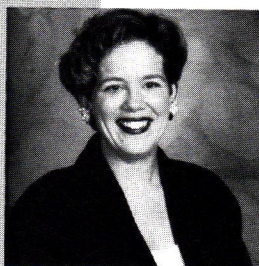
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"Some people are restrained and even artful about decorating but my favorites are the ones who put every possible type of decoration on the lawn and on the house."

Visions of Flamingos Dance In This Head

by Anne Swager, Executive Director

As I sit to write this month's offering

for *Columns*, I am already a week late. The editor is looking for my head on a platter and the graphic designer is threatening me with later and later publication dates. It's our busy time of year and I am too overwhelmed pulling all the loose threads together to be able to concentrate on a written piece. Just to add to my stress level, looming just around the corner are the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Despite my best intentions, I have done almost nothing. I have no idea what I will feed my visiting family during Thanksgiving weekend. For Christmas, I have some gift ideas for family members scattered as far away as Seattle, but I haven't put the credit card to the store counter and so have very few gifts in my possession. Of course, once I've bought everything, I still have to wrap and ship. Thank heavens for Mailboxes USA which bails me out every holiday season, albeit for a very high toll. Realistically I don't have all that much to do. Not wanting to give Martha Stewart a run for her money, there's no chance of extravagant parties or even card sending at my house during the holiday season. I have even given up cookie baking, realizing that I am the primary eater of the product which just means bigger pants in January. The decorations come out of the box from the attic and we know just where to put them. Over the years, I have made a conscientious effort to de-stress the holiday season and it has worked.

When I met my husband, he claimed to be a holiday hater, a "bah humbug" kind of guy. I was baffled but he was the even more surprised party after he spent a holiday season with us. He actually enjoyed himself. We feast on real food. (A big treat in our house where we hope pizza fills the necessary daily vitamin requirements.) We build fires, read books and fall asleep in our chairs. In short, we take the time off and do exactly what we want to do.

But now, in November is when the complaining and the stress begins. Who took the Christ out of Christmas? What used to be a religious holiday, and not nearly as important to the Christian religion as Easter, has become a full scale toy-buying, party-going, card-sending orgy. Even Chanukah has evolved from candle lighting to receiving far more attention than ever before, probably in large part to counter Christmas. While all of this is true, nothing is going to change. The retailers rely on the holiday season to make their year end profits. And I dare say that many of us would miss the hustle and bustle, the parties and the fun, if it really went away. The holiday season has evolved into a national holiday, a sort of end of the year vacation.

Life at AIA Pittsburgh winds down considerably. The whole business community goes on a mini hiatus, only doing what has to be done with plenty of glasses of good cheer or lunch with your office buddies thrown in for good measure. People stop and visit. In Mt. Lebanon, house decorating becomes a competitive sport. It's considered poor taste to light up any earlier than the Friday after Thanksgiving, but on that Friday night, all lights break loose and after a quick trip through the neighborhood you know what the hot sellers are at Rolliers this year. Some people are restrained and even artful about decorating but my favorites are the ones who put every possible type of decoration on the lawn and on the house. Cover all your bases...Santa Claus, the Virgin Mary and a flamingo with a lighted nose. Yes, in my house, young and old, we wait with great anticipation to cruise the streets gawking at our favorite holiday displays.

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, I wish all of you the best of holiday cheer, long visits with your loved ones and plenty of Santa Claus sightings. 🏠

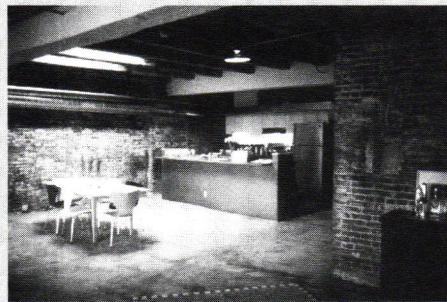


FirstSide Lofts Completed

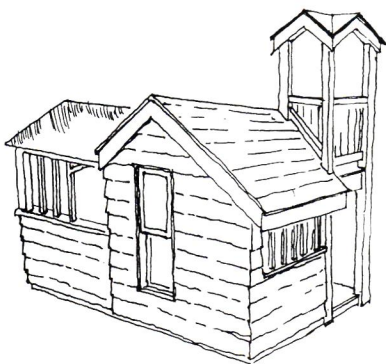
Congrats to No Wall Productions and EDGE Architects on the successful completion of FirstSide Lofts, Pittsburgh's first downtown residential loft project at 429 First Avenue. No Wall president, **Eve Picker, Associate AIA**, will begin work soon on a second loft project in the Cultural District. The project fact sheet notes that 280 Twinkies and 40 gallons of iced tea were consumed during construction.

TOP: Mayor Murphy leads the "unwrapping" of Pittsburgh's first downtown loft project.

BOTTOM: Interior view of raised kitchen and waxed concrete floors.



PHOTOS BY JOHN NORTON



Win This Playhouse!

Christmas In April, which provides home repairs for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners, is conducting a playhouse raffle. The 8 ft. x 8 ft. Children's Playhouse was designed by **Scott Keener, AIA, Hayes Large Architects** and built by P.J. Dick. The Playhouse is valued at \$7500 and raffle tickets are only \$5! The Playhouse will be on display on the third level of Oxford Center from November 21-December 20, when the winner will be drawn at 1 pm. Information: 922-3912.

Theater Construction To Begin

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust announced that construction will begin on the 650-seat O'Reilly Theater at the Seventh and Penn parking lots next to the Roosevelt Hotel sometime between mid-December of this year and January 2, 1998. The O'Reilly Theater, designed by **Michael Graves, FAIA**, is part of a larger development planned for the entire parking lot area that includes an office building, public plaza and a 600-car parking garage.

New Publications

If you're stumped for a nifty holiday present, pick up a copy of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's new release, *Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture: The Historic Buildings of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* by Walter C. Kidney. If you own the previous edition, there are enough updates and other changes to merit a new copy.

UK architect and professor Robert Kronenburg is the author of an architectural monograph entitled *FTL ARCHITECTS: Softness, Movement and Light*. Kronenburg recounts and explores the work of FTL Architects, a New York-based firm that is an acknowledged leader in tensile structure technological innovation. To order call 1-800-462-6420 and ask for Architectural Monograph #48. Price \$38.00.

Call for Entries

The American Society of Architectural Perspectivists announces "Architecture in Perspective 13", an international competition and exhibition of architectural illustration. For information and an entry form, call 1-617-951-1433 ext. 225. The deadline is January 16, 1998.

Traveling Scholarship Available

The **Rotch Traveling Scholarship**, one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country, is inviting applications for 1998. A stipend of \$30,000 is awarded to the first prize winner of a two-stage design competition for nine months of travel throughout the world. Applicants must be U.S. citizens under 35 years of age on March 13, 1998 and must meet one of these requirements: **1.** A degree from an accredited school of architecture and one year in a Massachusetts architectural firm; or **2.** A degree from an accredited Massachusetts school of architecture plus one year in any U.S. architectural firm. For more information and an application, contact the Boston Society of Architects, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA 02109.

Correction

Gerard Damiani, AIA writes to let us know that the name of Brock Onque, co-author of *Building Documentation: A Student Exercise Produces A Valuable Resource*, was inadvertently omitted in the September issue. Brock, we apologize for the slip and hope that won't discourage you from writing for us in the future!

Passages

Edward K. Schade, AIA Emeritus, passed away this summer. A partner in the firm of Alfred D. Reid Associates, now Reid and Stuhldreher, Mr. Schade was considered an "architect's architect" and practiced for many years in the region. As his widow, Rachel Frisbee Schade, noted, "He delighted in telling people that he began practicing in Pittsburgh before they invented plywood!"

Two prominent architectural historians also recently passed away. G. E. Kidder Smith, trained as an architect, chronicled the modern architectural movement through books such as *Brazil Builds*. Margaret Henderson Floyd visited and wrote significantly about Pittsburgh. Her new book, *H.H. Richardson: A Genius for Architecture*, will be reviewed in *Columns* in the spring.

Updates and Short Subjects

Construction Management

We reported in the October issue on construction management as a growth area for the industry. As a follow-up, we took a quick look at architectural firms offering construction management services in the Pittsburgh area. In the 1996 - 97 directory, only two firms identified themselves as offering CM — one in the listing and one in an advertisement. That information was compiled in 1995. Calls to 16 firms this fall found only one firm offering CM in its "purist" sense — that is, exclusive of all other services offered by the firm. And, even in that case, CM only amounts to 5 - 10% of business and is not seen as a growth area. One firm has a sister firm offering CM services, but only on projects it designs. Three other firms that responded reported that construction management ranged up to 50% of their business, but was restricted to projects of their design. Pittsburgh, in other words, seems to be bucking the national trend of CM as a growth area for architects.

Intellectual Property

This just in from the "no news is no news" department: still no word from the Federal Appeals Court on the trademark case pitting photographer Chuck Gentile against the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum® for his commercial poster using an image of the Hall. According to the Hall's attorney, Regan Fay, "It's not unusual for the judges to take six months or more in a case like this. Trademark cases are fairly rare, and this one isn't the usual run of the mill situation." The original injunction against Gentile was granted in 1996; the appeal was heard in June of this year.

We noted in our article about the case that trademark law requires the holder to diligently pursue alleged violators, lest rights be lost in future cases. An amusing, albeit nonarchitectural, example of this is the recent case of Spelling Entertainment Group Inc. against one Ken Hart, creator and master of a website devoted to *Melrose Place*. Spelling General Counsel Sally Suchil states in a letter to the editor of *Time* that "unless we actively police the use of our trademarks and copyrights, we risk diluting our prop-

erty rights." Watch for information about challenges to AIA copyrighted documents in an upcoming issue.

Panther Hollow Bridge

No news can also be bad news. We reported in the May issue of *Columns* that the commencement of badly needed restoration work on the Panther Hollow Bridge in Schenley Park was tied up in the court system. Six months later, it's still tied up in the courts. A hearing was scheduled for November 9, but a continuance was granted and as of our publication date, a new hearing date had yet to be set, and almost certainly won't occur until 1998.

NCARB Works to Coordinate Codes with State Registration Laws

As code committees look toward adopting the International Building Code (IBC), NCARB continues to work on behalf of registered architects to protect state laws that regulate the practice of architecture.

"When proposals have the ability to weaken the role of the architect or public safety, NCARB works to maintain its position of public safety and compliance with laws and regulations," said Thomas Kollaja, NCARB Director of Professional Services.

Of particular concern is protecting provisions in the present building codes that require construction documents submitted for building permits to be prepared by an architect or engineer. The new language in the proposed IBC eliminates the words "architect" and "engineer," changing the code requirement and ignoring the current standard and Council position on this issue.

Despite testimony from NCARB Regional Director Renis Jones, who spoke against the proposal, the committee approved the language allowing plans to be prepared by a "Registered Design Professional," without a clear definition that the registered design professional should be an architect or an engineer. The draft defines "registered design professionals" as those individuals registered by the professional registration law in the state in which the project is constructed.

"The definition does not include which professionals are permitted to prepare such documents," said Kollaja. "This confuses the issue for the public and has the potential for creating discord among architects, engineers, landscape architects, structural engineers and interior designers."

Public hearings of the IBC's first draft are scheduled for April 1998 and will be followed by a full code change cycle leading to consideration for adoption by all three building code organizations in the year 2000. "NCARB will continue to follow the IBC development process and strive to coordinate the IBC requirements with those in state registration laws," said Kollaja. "Cooperation between building officials and registration boards is key to regulating the unlicensed practice of architecture."

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Architects and Schools: Where Do We Stand in Pennsylvania?

Architects face today's challenges to build tomorrow's schools.

"Perhaps the most critical indicator of a school facility's success lies in whether it can be labeled a 'community' project — one that represents the unique values of a local community."

— JOHN MISSELL, AIA
AND BRAD FUREY

Dilapidated. Archaic. Too difficult to learn in, too difficult to teach in: these words reflect the popular image of public schools portrayed by the media. But just how much do educational buildings contribute to the educational process—particularly for the workforce of tomorrow—and how does Pennsylvania stack up nationally in the debate over the future of our schools?

Our children who attend school today are very different from those of previous generations; they reflect our culture's social and economic changes. So, too, is the world in which they now live and the world in which they will soon live and work. Two major changes should affect the design of our schools' buildings: the availability of instantaneous, multimedia information at almost every level of our daily routines—from the unlimited choices of cable television to home computers to Internet access—and the dramatically changed expectations of employers. Tomorrow's workers will need different and far more technical skills than workers of past generations. School facilities can't be expected to serve this generation of students in a manner similar to 20 years ago, or even five years ago.

When children can understand that a building is designed to be used by them, as opposed to control them, and when collaborative and independent learning opportunities are created in schools more reflective of the society at large—only then can schools begin to engage our children and assist the teachers in the learning process.

Pennsylvania has a history of laying the groundwork for the accomplishment of these objectives. Quietly and consistently, the state has distinguished itself by providing the opportunities to renew a school district's facilities as a matter of public policy for many years. Although not without its critics either in the method or level of state and local funding and participation, public school districts in Pennsylvania can participate in a 20-year cycle of facility upgrades based on the perceived need at the local level through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Three distinguishing features characterize the planning and

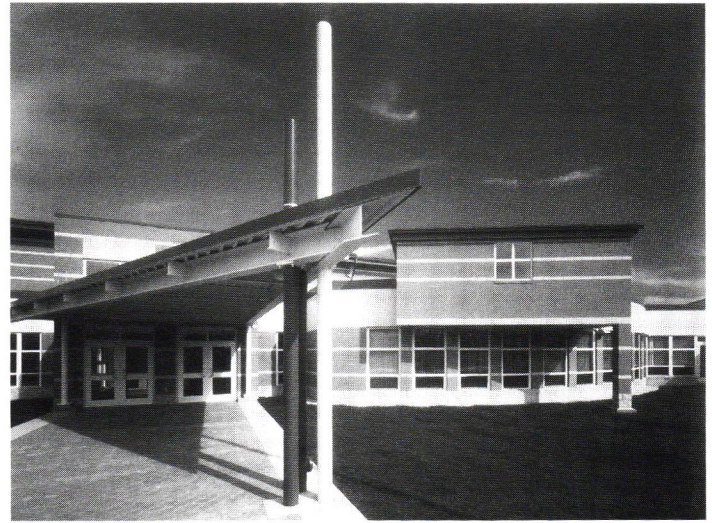
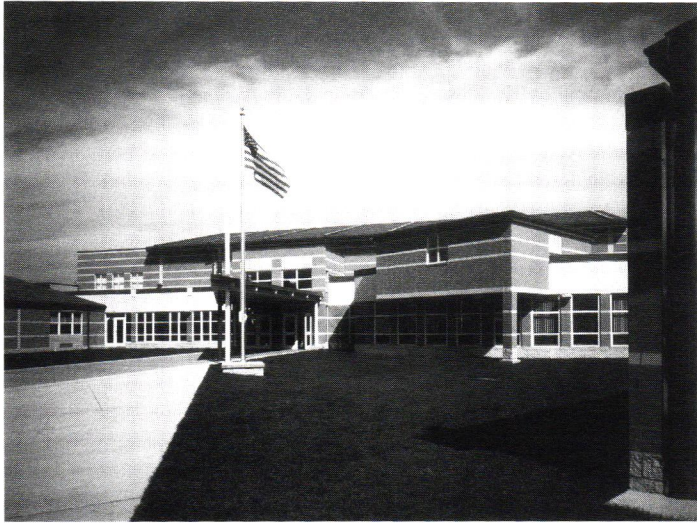
eventual construction of school facilities in Pennsylvania. Unlike many northeastern states, Pennsylvania requires no local referendum to approve funding for projects; a referendum is required only for new construction that exceeds certain pre-established limits. Although public meetings, and in some instances public hearings, are a requirement of the PDE process, essentially the elected nine-member school board approves facility improvements and the resulting local tax impact.

The second feature setting Pennsylvania apart from some of its neighboring states is the built-in additional funding for poorer school districts (districts where the assessed land values are lower than other communities). The level of state reimbursement for a school construction project is the mechanism by which the state accommodates a district financially unable to fund facility improvements, some to the level of 80 percent or more.

Ohio and New Jersey's State Supreme Courts have recently struck down their state's school funding mechanism as unconstitutional because of the wide gap in local communities' ability to leverage facility improvements. Although Pennsylvania has its critics on this issue, it has put forward a consistent policy to address the wide differences at the local level.

The third distinguishing feature is the requirements by the Commonwealth for a thorough planning and evaluation process that is open to public scrutiny. The state, in essence, assists districts by requiring this process, known as PlanCon (for Planning Construction Workbook), as a condition for receiving reimbursement. This process benefits the school district and its students by requiring the district to strategically plan for the future.

That future places demands on all of those who participate in the process, particularly at the facilities level. Shaping students' minds in a technologically sophisticated, information-rich society that grows exponentially requires foresight in planning not only the curriculum, but also the environment that supports it.



STO-ROX PHOTOS BY ED MASSERY

PHOTOS ABOVE: **Sto-Rox Elementary School, by Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.**

CENTRAL GREENE PHOTOS BY LOCKWOOD HOEHL

PHOTOS ABOVE: **Central Greene School District New Elementary School, by Hayes Large Architects.**

For example, new school facilities emphasize an abundance of natural lighting to enliven classroom, corridor and core spaces. More than ever before, educational environments are being organized like work environments, encouraging team decision making and "problem-based learning." Technology has evolved beyond designated "computer rooms" to data ports in every space, connecting the student to the building's local area network or the district's wide area network with access to information from the media center, the local college or beyond.

Perhaps the most critical indicator of a school facility's success lies in whether it can be labeled a "community"

project — one that represents the unique values of a local community. Buildings that look welcoming and present themselves as part of the local context function that way, reinforcing America's commitment to public education and a literate society. ■

John Missell, AIA, is the Pittsburgh office director and Brad Furey (former chief of the state Department of Education's school construction program) is the director of facility planning for Hayes Large Architects, a leading educational facility architectural firm in the northeastern United States. Hayes Large is designing educational facilities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Fighting Discrimination by Design by Betty Rowland

Years after the passage of accessibility legislation, many new structures are still not in compliance.

There is good news for renters or buyers who are persons with disabilities. Because of Federal law, the number of accessible units being built will increase as years pass. All architects should know that all multifamily housing of four or more units built after March 13, 1991 must be accessible to persons with disabilities. This mandate is part of the Fair Housing Act of 1988 and is found in the Fair Housing Act Accessibility Guidelines (FHAAG) 24 CFR Chapter I.

As a protected class, people with disabilities are unique in at least one respect. They are the only minority that can be discriminated against solely by the design of the built environment. The Fair Housing Act remedies that in part by establishing design and construction requirements for multifamily housing built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991. The law provides that failure to design and construct certain multifamily dwellings to include certain features of accessible design will be regarded as unlawful discrimination.

The design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act apply to all new multifamily housing consisting of four or more dwelling units. Such buildings must meet specific design requirements so public and common use spaces and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, the interiors of dwelling units covered by the Fair Housing Act must be designed so they meet certain requirements.

The Fair Housing Act is intended to place 'modest' accessibility requirements on covered multifamily dwellings. These modest requirements will be incorporated into the design of new buildings, resulting in features which do not look unusual and will not add significant additional costs.¹ Fair Housing units are not fully accessible, nor are they purported to be. However, new multifamily housing built to comply with the Guidelines will be a dramatic improvement over units built in the past.

The Fair Housing Act gives people with disabilities greater freedom to choose where they will live and greater freedom to visit friends and relatives. But the Fair Housing Act has other broad implications. It proactively addresses the needs of an evolving population, looking ahead at future needs. With the aging of the population and the increase in incidence of disability that accompanies aging, significant numbers of people will be able to remain in and safely use their dwellings longer. For example, housing designed in accordance with the Fair Housing Act will have accessible entrances, wider doors, and provisions to allow for easy installation of grab bars around toilets and bathtubs, i.e., features that make housing safer and more responsive to all users.²

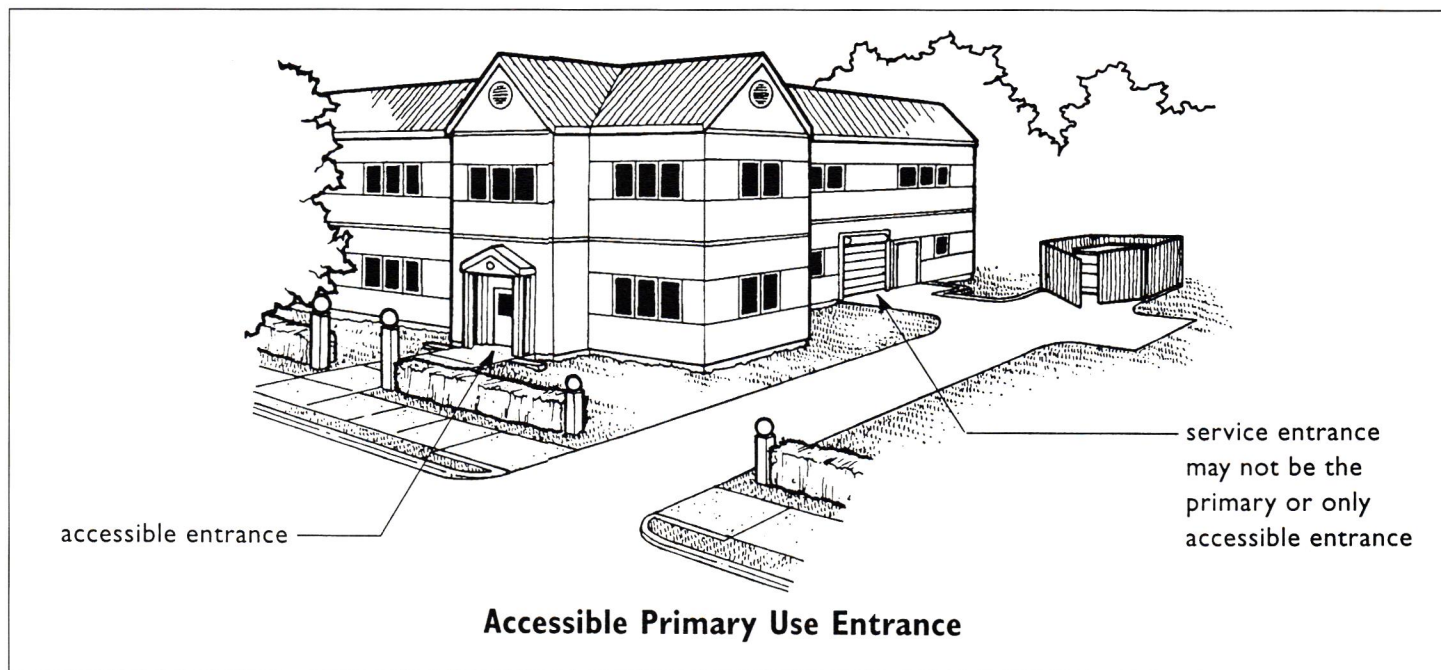
"The accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act are intended to provide usable housing for persons with disabilities without necessarily being significantly different from conventional housing. The Fair Housing Act specifies certain features of adaptable design. These basic design features are essential for equal access and to avoid future de facto exclusion of persons with disabilities, as well as being easy to incorporate into housing design and construction. These design features assist not only persons with disabilities but also other persons to use and enjoy all aspects of a residential development."³

The Fair Housing Act Accessibility Guidelines contain seven technical requirements for accessibility:

1. There must be at least one accessible entrance on an accessible route that is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.
2. Public and common-use areas must also be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.
3. All doors for passage must be wide enough to accommodate individuals who use wheelchairs.

"As a protected class, people with disabilities are unique in at least one respect. They are the only minority that can be discriminated against solely by the design of the built environment."

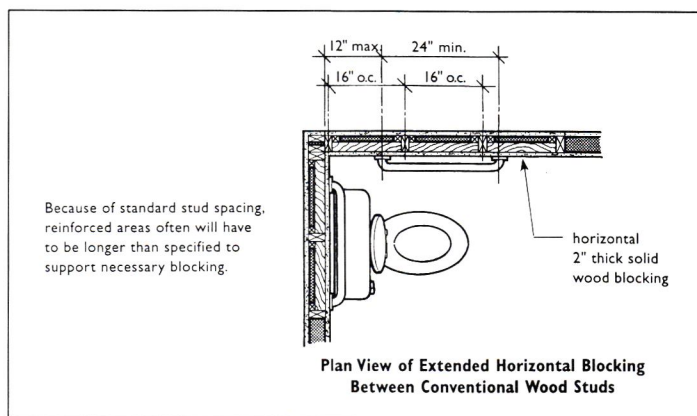
— BETTY ROWLAND



4. There must be an accessible route into and through the dwelling unit.
5. Light switches, electrical outlets, environmental controls and other similar controls must be placed in accessible locations.
6. Bathroom walls must be reinforced to permit the installation of grab bars.
7. Kitchens and bathrooms must contain sufficient floor space to allow individuals in wheelchairs to operate them.

Unfortunately, not all builders and designers of new multifamily housing are yet aware of these accessibility guidelines, and continue building units not in compliance with the law. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice have joined with the states' Attorneys General in notifying local municipal building permitting officials about the accessibility guidelines. In addition, the Department of Justice has been warning and prosecuting builders who have violated this law.

HUD has published two pamphlets *Seven Technical Requirements* and *Architects and Builders, Are you in compliance with the Fair Housing Act?* HUD has also pub-



lished the *Fair Housing Act Design Manual* to assist designers and builders. The pamphlets are available for free and the manual for \$10 by calling the Fair Housing Information Clearing House at 1-800-343-3442 (voice) or 1-800-483-2209 TTY/TTD). Questions about the FHAAG may be directed to the Pittsburgh HUD office at 1 412-644-6965 For information on any applicable state or local laws, contact the local municipality or the state's Attorney General's office, respectively. ■

Betty Rowland is an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the Pittsburgh Office of HUD and can be reached at (412) 644-5449.

¹ House Report No. 711, 100th Congress, 2nd Edition

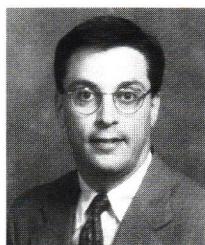
² Fair Housing Act Design Manual

³ House Report No. 711, 100th Congress, 2nd Edition, as quoted by the Fair Housing Act Design Manual

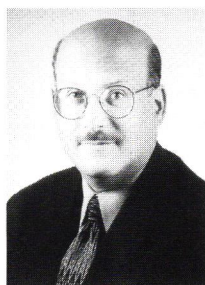
New Board Members To Assume Office in January



Charles DeLisio, AIA is a partner with Deborah Elliot at STUDIO DeLisio Architecture & Design. Much of the firm's work is in residential design, interiors, lighting and furniture. Chuck has 12 years of professional experience in New York, California and PA prior to STUDIO DeLisio. He is a member of AIA's National Interiors Committee and taught Lighting Design at LaRoche College and Architectural Engineering at Penn State. When asked what he thought should be AIA Pittsburgh's most important function, he replied that "It's to encourage, support and promote very good design, through a variety of means, including communicating the benefits that architects bring to individual projects and the community."



Carl Freedman, AIA received his Bachelor of Architecture from CMU in 1982, and has been registered since 1986. Carl has served as the chairman of AIA Pittsburgh's Professional Development Committee for the past 2 1/2 years and oversaw the creation of the Pittsburgh Intern & Young Architects' Forum. Carl states that "A primary goal of my tenure on the Board will be to increase the awareness of the AIA to our members and to encourage members to become active in the chapter's activities."



John Missell, AIA is the Office Director/Sr. Associate at Hayes Large Architects. He received a BA in Political Science from Colgate U. and a BARCH from the Rhode Island School of Design. After early work in high density low rise housing in Southern California, he now dedicates his career to education, with emphasis on K-12 and university clients. John feels that AIA Pittsburgh has an exciting newer initiative in its long range commitment to public awareness of the key role a design professional plays in society and their value. "We're creating bigger, more broadly understood themes with more relevance and frequency in the media."

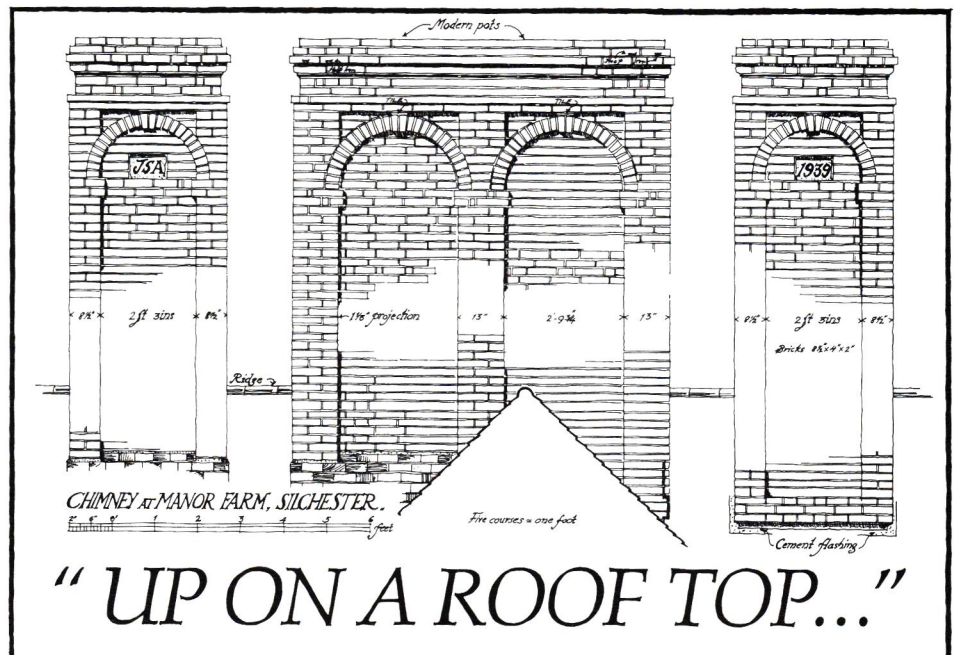
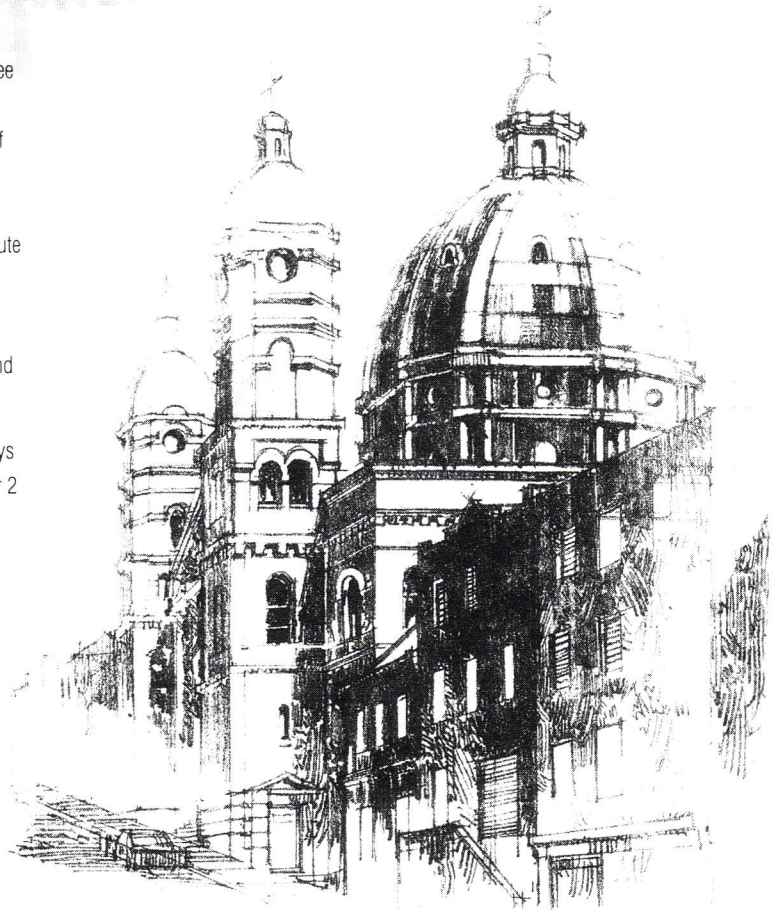
SPARKLEchitecture

AIA Pittsburgh's front window display will feature a tree festooned with architecturally themed holiday decorations. We will also display a limited number of original design holiday cards in the window. Like the tree ornaments, the cards will be original designs by architects or by an architectural firm. (Hurry, last minute submissions are still welcome!)

Decorations and cards for all winter holidays are welcome, including Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and the Winter Solstice.

Don't forget to visit the Chapter office over the holidays to see the SPARKLEchitecture display from December 2 – January 7.

For more information and to participate, call Gloria Forouzan at the Chapter office, 471-9548.



TOP: **Drawing of church on Polish Hill by Margaret Cannell, IKM Inc.**

RIGHT: **One of several holiday greeting cards submitted by Johnson/Schmidt and Associates**

Sacred Architecture

by Robert J. Bailey, AIA

Two recent books add to our understanding of an important architectural form

All cultures around the world and throughout history have had a belief in the influence of a higher power. The motivation to address and express this belief through building has produced what are arguably the world's greatest monuments. Happily, there are two recent books on this far-reaching subject. A.T. Mann's *Sacred Architecture* by anthropologists Caroline Humphrey & Piers Vitebsky was published in 1993. In 1997, a book also titled *Sacred Architecture* was published as part of Little, Brown & Co.'s "Living Wisdom" series. It is a straightforward catalog of everything religious or ceremonial, with the nice color photographs you'd expect in such a book.

In contrast, Mann's book is definitely not a straightforward book by an author with a straightforward intent. Nor is it a book for the narrow-minded. It is important to first

understand Mann's approach to the subject. He openly states that his intention is not to create an encyclopedic history but rather to state his very personal view of what he believes sacred architecture to be and to explain how it came about. Mann challenges our cozy notion of "churchy" as sacred.

The difficulty I encountered was the amount of background material that I was unfamiliar with, and that I felt obligated to learn more about by referencing other publications and reading the Humphrey & Vitebsky book. There are many curious diagrams and charts in

as the common) terms he uses. For further reading, he references a bibliography of over 80 publications, including seven of his own astrological-based books.

As an architectural student, A.T. Mann yearned to understand the "secrets" of sacred architecture that he was certain must exist, believing that "certain shapes in specific buildings evoked deep feelings, ancient drives and powerful realizations...." His frustration continued from school to practice as neither his professors nor his employers could reveal the secrets of sacred architecture and furthermore showed no interest in the subject. He writes, "I discovered that the notable architects I met or heard about were even further away from the core of architecture than I was. The same was true of the Modern movement in general."

Mann states that he had to leave the world of architecture to "discover seeds of meaning" in the field he loves. So began his twenty-year hiatus from architecture. He became a professional astrologer, which "reactivated a quest to understand architecture and the mysteries of number, proportion, and form." This book resulted from his personal quest.

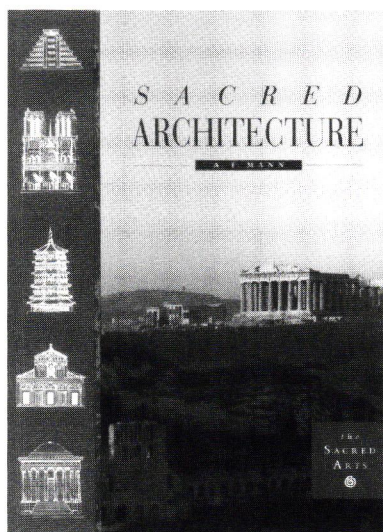
It is also necessary to consider the book in terms of Mann's viewpoint as an astrologer and as one who ascribes to mystical philosophies. Mann cites "lack of personal development" as the source of primary separation between architects and everybody else. Architects, asserts Mann, lag behind in terms of rediscovering and accepting "the reality of the unconscious" and integrating this concept into their personal and professional world views.

The buildings that Mann considers sacred are those that are constructed according to timeless and universal principles of orientation, geometry, and form that go beyond mere symbolism. He states three ways in which the symbolic/spiritual is expressed through architecture.

First, the architecture is a reflection of the structure of the cosmos. Mann explores, for instance, how all megalithic

"Mann's respect of the ancient traditions and his embrace of mystical arts is equaled by his disdain for modern-day architects."

ROBERT J. BAILEY, AIA



SACRED ARCHITECTURE by A.T. Mann. Published by Element, Inc., 1993. Paperback, 192 pages, \$19.95

the book, some drawn by Mann. Illustrations tend much less toward the "standard photo" of a building and much more toward excerpts from paintings, murals and books (although there are outstanding photographs, particularly those of ancient Egyptian architecture and of some of the rose windows from the great cathedrals). Thankfully, Mann provides a welcome glossary of the uncommon (as well

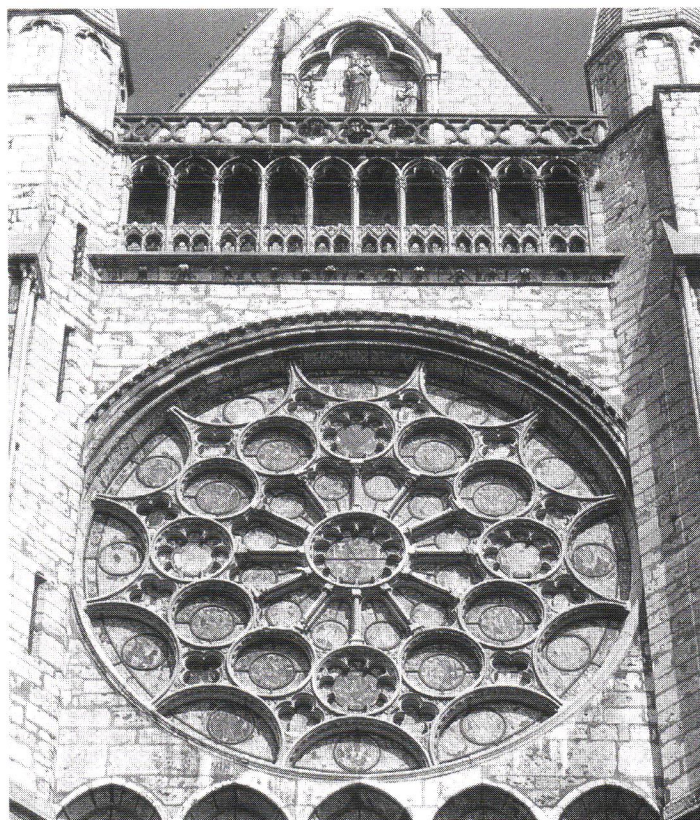
stone rings and burial mounds are characterized by alignments with celestial objects—the sun, moon, pole star, planets, constellations.

Second, the architecture is organized using primary shapes and proportions, described by number symbolism. Mann declares it a universal characteristic of sacred architecture that the square and the circle are the predominant shapes and it is through the reconciliation of these two shapes that the essence of sacred architecture emerges.

Third, the architecture's structure and decoration follow clear and basic patterns derived from the four elements, forms of nature, and energies and geometries derived from them. Mann includes, for example, Vitruvius' diagram showing the Greek theater to be inscribed within a circle, in which four equilateral triangles (representing the four elements) defined the exits, the plane of the proscenium, and the size of the stage and orchestra.

The sacred can be expressed by a number of different methodologies described in the book: The Canon, an ancient esoteric system of measurement; Gematria, sacred numerology which attributed to each letter an equivalent number value; The Golden Mean; mathematically expressed as a rectangle with sides whose ratio is 1:1.618, the primary proportion found in sacred buildings and monuments; Feng Shui, the ancient Chinese belief that seeks the most favorable position of a building in its environment with respect to the spiritual properties of the land; and Geomancy, the art of divination using figures, lines or geographical features.

A fascinating reference is the "renegade" Egyptologist R.A. Schwaller de Lubicz, who fifty years ago "presented ideas which the mass of humanity are only now beginning to glimpse, and which are the primary themes of this book". These ideas suggest that the builders of ancient Egypt had a much more profound and advanced view of the laws of the universe and humanity than anyone in the 20th century had imagined. These views include the assumption that humanity had descended from a more perfect state and that the object of symbolism is to awaken the original understanding of this paradise-state rather than educate the ignorant.



TOP: Chartres Cathedral, South Front.

BOTTOM: St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. The light pouring into the basilica through the cupola is astonishing in its purity.

A concept that continually emerges from Mann's discussions is the dichotomy of advanced knowledge expressed by primitive means. Some of the intriguing questions to which you'll want to seek answers by reading this book:

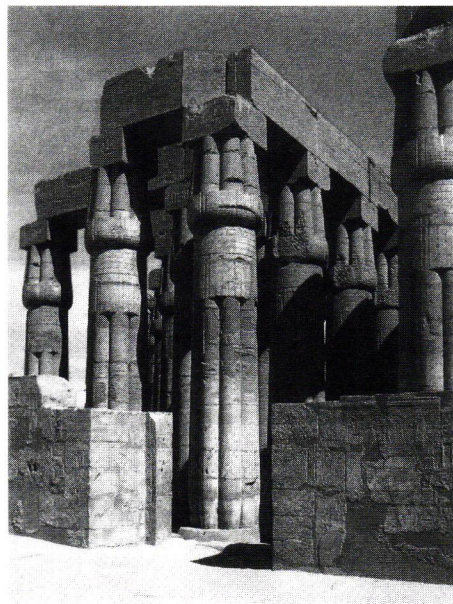
- Why the alignment of the Mayan city of Teotihuacán deviates from the north-south and east-west axes by more than 15 degrees to intentionally align with the axes of the rising and setting points of the major constellation known as Pleiades.
- How it is possible, in the great cathedrals, to determine, from the orientation of the building, the saint in whose honor it was built.
- Why, at sunrise, the rays of the sun illuminate the Taurus zone of the zodiacal circle on the nave floor of the Florentine basilica of San Miniato al Monte.

A second pattern that emerges the further one reads, and which you've doubtless picked up on by now, is that those buildings that Mann deems appropriate to the realm of sacred architecture are all **OLD!** Ancient, actually, in most cases. Mann declares that not only is the sacred in architecture dead but has been so for over four hundred years. Why? Blame it on religion, the Renaissance, and the dawning of the scientific era at the start of the 17th century.

The Renaissance saw the ascendancy of architecture as an individual pursuit. Religion began to exert less of a hold over the people, and, in Christianity, the Church began to break away from the influence of the cosmos. The sacred traditions of numerology and geometry shifted, becoming the province of alchemists, astrologers, and similar mystical types.

Another interesting reference, astrologer Robert Hand in 1987 identified two types of religions (world views, actually): Type I—polytheistic, viewing nature as an ally, believing in cyclical time; examples being Hinduism and Buddhism; and Type II—against individuality, suppressing alternative views, believing the past to be primitive; examples being Christianity, Judaism, Islam—and, Science, which Mann states, "took its rightful place as the primary Type II religion."

Science conflicted with spirituality: what cannot be seen cannot exist; abstract ideas do not exist unless they can be proven; the laws of nature are absolute; everything in the universe is uniform. The critical summation of this argument is that science promulgated regularity and standardization. Hand credits this belief system with the rise of the "expert without expertise", such as the child psychologist



Temple of Luxor, Egypt

who has never been a parent. Mann adds, "the architect who has no interest in or understanding of the sacred."

Mann's respect of the ancient traditions and his embrace of mystical arts is equaled by his disdain for modern-day architects. The only architect between Palladio and Le Corbusier that Mann seems to find worth noting is the Austrian social philosopher Dr. Rudolph Steiner, who designed in the early part of the 20th century and who is known mostly as the creator of a mystical doctrine known as anthroposophy.

Mann sees Frank Lloyd Wright as "virtually the only ray of light" among modern architects. As a work of sacred architecture, Mann views the chapel at Ronchamp merely as "one of the more organic and effective of Le Corbusier's buildings." Sir Norman Foster's gesture to Feng Shui in the design of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Mann comments, "is exactly that and no more." Equating modern architecture to the pursuit of style, Mann writes, "The conspicuous absence of essence, and the elimination of the sacred in any form is the achievement of twentieth-century architecture."

Mann concludes that mankind still needs to have structures that are profoundly evocative of the sacred—far beyond mere decoration—and that they are waiting for us as architects to lead the resurgence. 🏠

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From the Firms

► **Design 3 Architecture, PC** has been awarded the contract to design a new 35,000 square foot retail strip center being developed at The Pointe in North Fayette Township.

Johnson/Schmidt and Associates, JSA, recently completed architectural, interior design, and engineering services to provide Century National Bank with a new banking and office building located near the Cranberry Square Mall. The new Century National Bank is a two story 8,300 SF facility designed to provide general banking services on the first floor and office support spaces on the second floor. The project was commissioned to expand and consolidate banking branches previously existing in the area. Century National Bank began operation from its new home on November 10, 1997.

JSA has also received a commission from The May Department Stores Company to replan Foley's headquarters offices in Houston, TX. This project provides interior design and engineering services to master plan and remodel existing office spaces. JSA has performed similar Strategic Facilities planning for several other May Company locations.

Construction is underway for the Merryheart Residence project, a new 79,000 square foot, 90 bed senior independent living center in Baldwin Borough. **Rothschild Architects** are project architects and **BRIDGES** has been part of the project team from design development through construction.

WTW Architects completed a master plan, addition and renovation work at Friendship Village, a lifecare retirement community in Upper St. Clair. The firm is also designing a new entrance for the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck and **BRIDGES** are part of the team to construct a new 7,000 square foot office and 15,000 square foot production facility for Yerecic Label Company in the Westmoreland Business and Research Park.

Ligo Architects, with an office located in Slippery Rock, has named **Brett W. Ligo, AIA** as an Associate in the architectural firm.

Renaissance 3 Architects is a new venture of principals: **Robert P. Murray, AIA**, of **R3A Architects**; **Deepak Wadhvani, AIA**, formerly with **WTW Architects**; and James A. Sheehan of Sheehan & Holler Architects. **Renaissance 3 Architects** and Renaissance 3 Developers will seek to differentiate themselves by offering vertically integrated services that go beyond design and engineering to include value added throughout the economic life cycle of a building, from financing to marketing and management.

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. has appointed Kevin Lettrich to the position of Project Manager.

Kudos

► **Apostolou Associates** announced that Dennis Buirge is the recipient of the 1997 Roswell H. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of Construction Specification Institute. Dennis has won five of the last six specification competitions.

Paul Kossman, AIA was named the Penn State College of Arts and Architecture 1997 Alumni Fellow. He is also the sponsor of a noted lecture series at Penn State.

Lami • Grubb • Architects has been named one of Pittsburgh's fastest growing companies in the "Pittsburgh 100" competition held by the Pittsburgh Business Times and the Center for Economic Development at Carnegie Mellon University.

The International Masonry Institute presented the 1997 Western PA Golden Trowel Masonry Awards for Outstanding Achievements in Architectural Masonry Design and Construction to the following:

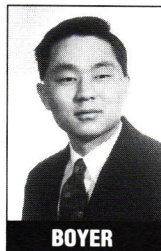
- Michael Dennis & Assoc./**UDA Architects** and Franco for the University Center at Carnegie Mellon University
- **David J. Vater, RA, Inc.** and Harris Masonry, Inc. for the Pittsburgh Oratory/Ryan Catholic Newman Center
- **WTW Architects** and Franco the Mt. Lebanon North Garage Transportation Center
- Crowner/King Architects and J. William Pustelak for the Marquette Savings Bank, Erie, PA
- **L. D. Astorino and Associates** and Harris Masonry, Inc. for the Pittsburgh Municipal Courts Building.

Business Briefs

► **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** promoted Samuel K. Boyer to Director of Human Resources in their Butler office.

Johnson/Schmidt and Associates, JSA announced the addition of three new staff members: **Maria A. Viteri, AIA**, **Mark I. Lighthall, AIA** and Thomas A. Wippenbeck, Intern Architect.

In addition, Viteri has assumed the position of Director of Marketing. **JSA** also announced that Robert J. Cortopassi, Jr. successfully completed the Professional Engineers Examination.



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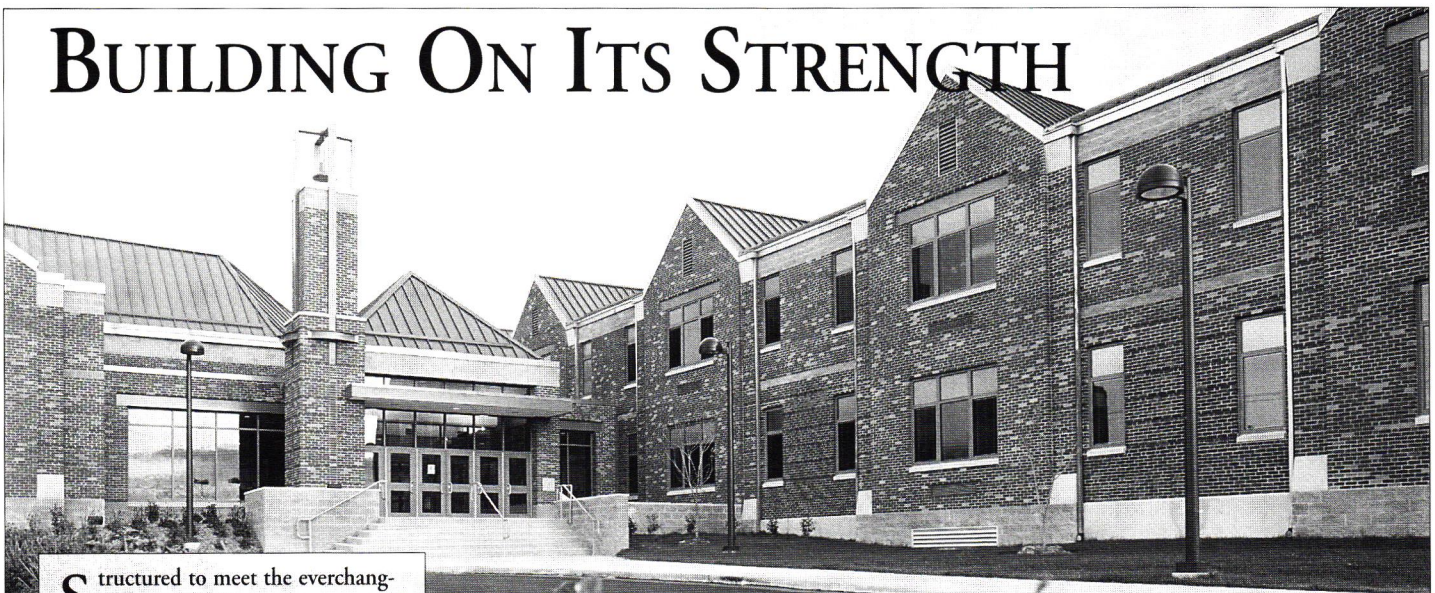


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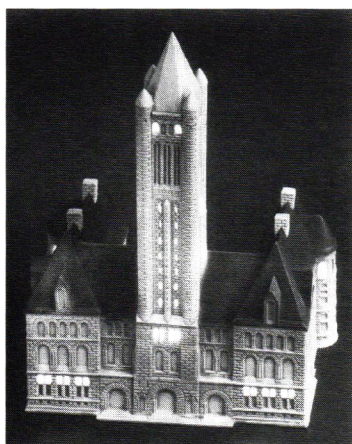
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AIA ACTIVITIES

Through December 31

1997 Design Awards Exhibit
at the AIA gallery.

December 1, Monday

President's Party, 6 p.m., RSVP 471-9548.

December 5, Friday

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

December 10, Wednesday

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

December 12, Friday

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

December 9, Tuesday

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

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

AROUND TOWN

December 1 - January 12

Sparkle Season lights up downtown with plenty of things to see and do. Make certain one of them is to visit the AIA office for **SPARKLE**itecture!

December 6, Saturday

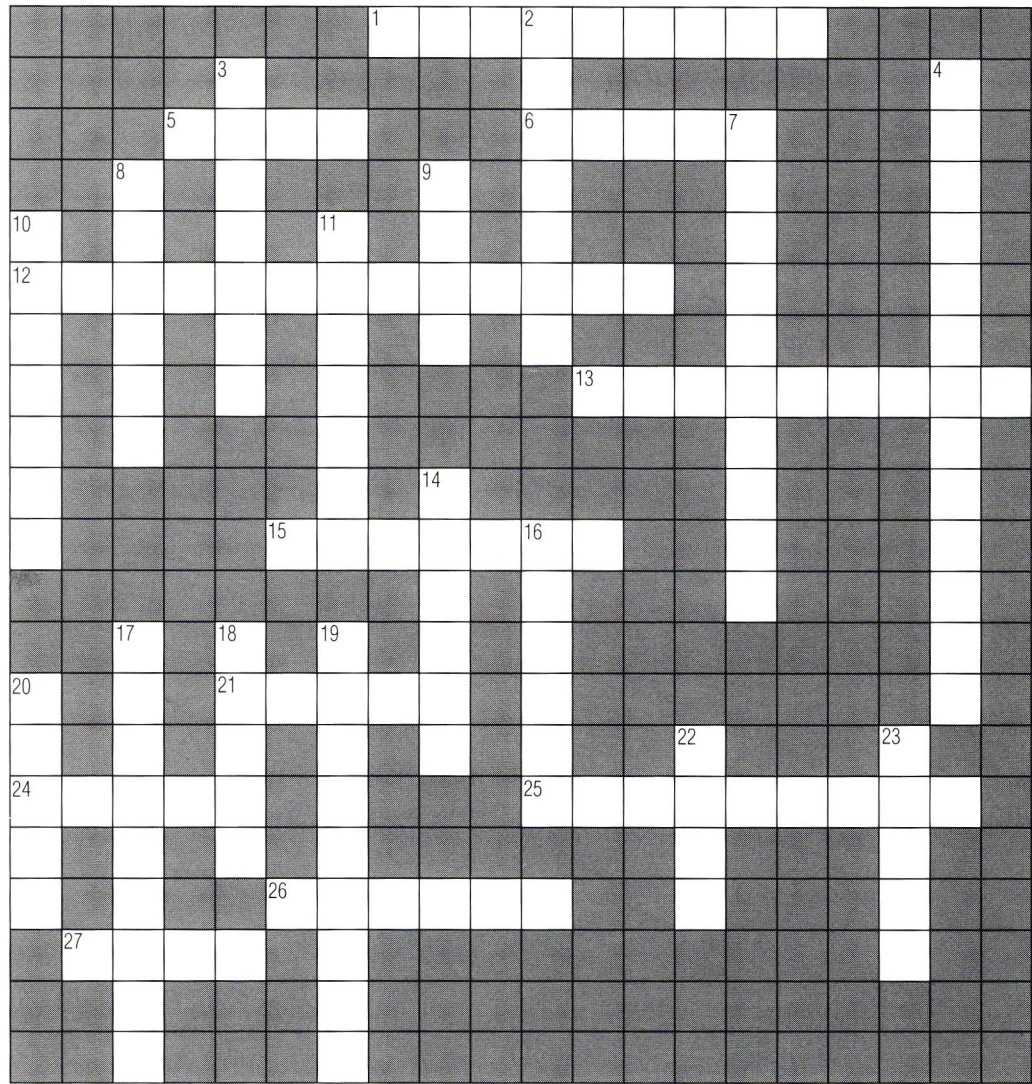
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation will host its second annual **Downtown Holiday Walking Tour and High Tea** from noon to 3 p.m. Cost is \$25 for PHLF members and \$35 for non-members. Call Mary Lu Denny at PHLF, 471-5808 for information and reservations.

December 21, Sunday

The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation annual **Holiday Church Tour and Carol Sing** will be held from 2 - 6:30 p.m. The tour bus will depart from Station Square at 2 p.m. The fee is \$15 for PHLF members and \$25 for non-members. Call Mary Lu Denny at PHLF, 471-5808 for information and reservations.

AIA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Test your crossword puzzle skills and your AIA Pittsburgh knowledge at the same time



ACROSS

1. A Chapter Service
5. This syndrome describes some buildings
6. Author of a book on a local sculptor
12. Word Columns ed. loves to hate
13. Our favorite party this year
15. The devil is in them
21. What Anne Swager likes to do
24. Former Columns Editor
25. Alan Fishman, AIA volunteered here
26. A contractor or a Schenley Park notable
27. Clinton's hometown or a federal grant program

DOWN

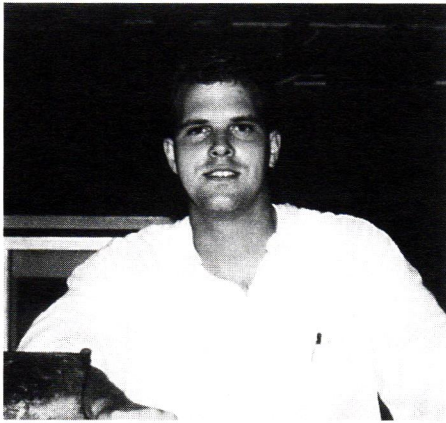
2. Another word for slowing down traffic
3. He was a dossier subject
4. What new urbanists call the essential units of development
7. New member J.E.
8. Allegheny Co.'s ranking in PA for miles of state-owned roads
9. What some people think some architects do
10. Issue in which the Downtown Plan was first discussed
11. The Chapter is developing one

14. Over 80,000 of these were in and out of the area in 1995
16. Where the 1997 Brown Award winner travelled
17. Site of the 30 minute architect
18. Blueprints
19. A staff member's favorite architect
20. New type of downtown housing in Pgh.
22. Heinz and Rock and Roll share this
23. Building architects "greened" in '97

Solution to puzzle appears on page 23.

Kenneth M. Stehle, Associate AIA

*Co-chair, Pittsburgh Intern and Young Architect Forum
WTW Architects*



*Best gift to give an architect:
in New York, a lint brush; in Chicago, a
comb; in Pittsburgh, another road map.*

Family: Single

Years in Practice: five with Legos, six at school, 1 1/2 at work

Education: B. Architecture, Kent State University. Graduate study abroad in Florence, Venice, and Rome. Masters thesis in progress.

First job: "Single combo with fries..." and King's Court Theater "Rocky Horror Picture Show"!

Projects you're proudest of: Penn State University Student Union, University of Southern Mississippi Student Union

Most embarrassing project/moment: haven't had one yet...

Building you wish you had designed: The Uffizi and corridorio by Vasari

Building you'd like to tear down: Sixth Street Parking garage, adjacent to the bridge

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? Shuttle pilot for NASA

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? Bern, Switzerland or Wurzburg, Germany

What's the best part of your job? permission to design

What have you always wanted to tell your boss? THANK YOU!...(can I go golfing now?)

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? Let's go golfing!

What's the most annoying thing architects do? critique 'everything'

Advice to students/interns: Don't complain without suggesting, don't suggest without doing.

Favorite author: Dr. Seuss

Favorite interior: Castel Vecchio, Carlo Scarpa

Favorite building: Sagrada Familia, Antonio Gaudi

Favorite city: Pompeii, Italy

Favorite architect: (too difficult...)

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Ben Avon

What's the next big architectural trend? Architects in public office

Someday I'd like to: pay off my loans, pay back my scholarships, and walk down the 18th on Augusta, Sunday afternoon.

The secret to my success is: getting involved in Pittsburgh during the week, getting out of Pittsburgh on weekends, and beginning the company golf league.

I belong to AIA because: In college, the AIA assisted friends and me through scholarship funding and academic events. As an intern, they have assisted us (PIYAF) with setting up other programs and events in the area. In all, they are a good group of professional mentors to all of us.

People I would like to thank: All those involved with the Pittsburgh Intern and Young Architect Forum, the AIA Chapter, and Laura Lee at CMU.

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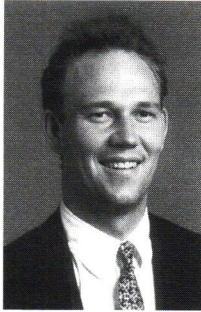
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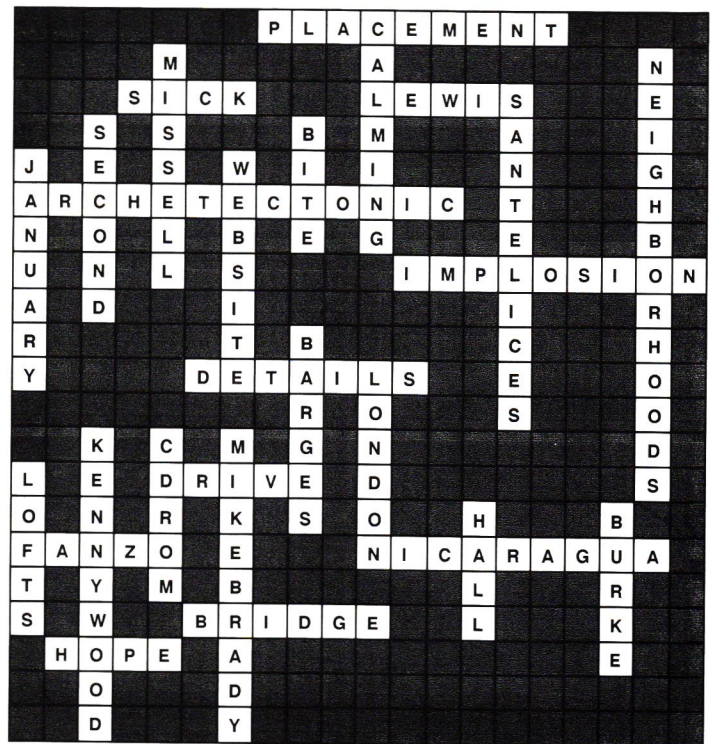
Brett W. Ligo, AIA

N. Lee Ligo & Associates

Brett came to the Slippery Rock firm in 1992 following five years of employment by architectural firms in the City of Pittsburgh. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University in 1986, Mr. Ligo resides with his wife, the former Cynthia Cerchie and their son, Hunter, on Edgewood Road in Butler Township. He recently completed Leadership Butler and serves on the March of Dimes board. Brett reports that when not practicing architecture, he enjoys look for architectural artifacts, traveling and gardening. Welcome, Brett!



*Solution to puzzle
on page 20.*



Upcoming Issues

**JANUARY: The Pittsburgh Region as a Design Hub
(Part 1)**

**MARCH: The Pittsburgh Region as a Design Hub
(Part 2)**

Guidelines for Submissions:

We're eager to hear from you with story ideas and articles. Before completing an article, please contact Gloria Forouzan at AIA (471-9548) or fax her a brief outline or description (471-9501). Final articles must be accompanied by photos and/or sketches; identify the subject and the project architect and contractor (if appropriate).

Once an article is accepted, submit a hardcopy and a copy of it on a disk, along with any illustrations. We prefer a MAC format (Clarworks or Microsoft Word v. 3.0 or 4.0) or Word for Windows. Copy should also be emailed to the editor at cyberjyber@aol.com. *We reserve the right to accept or reject all submissions and to edit all accepted submissions.*

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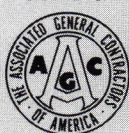
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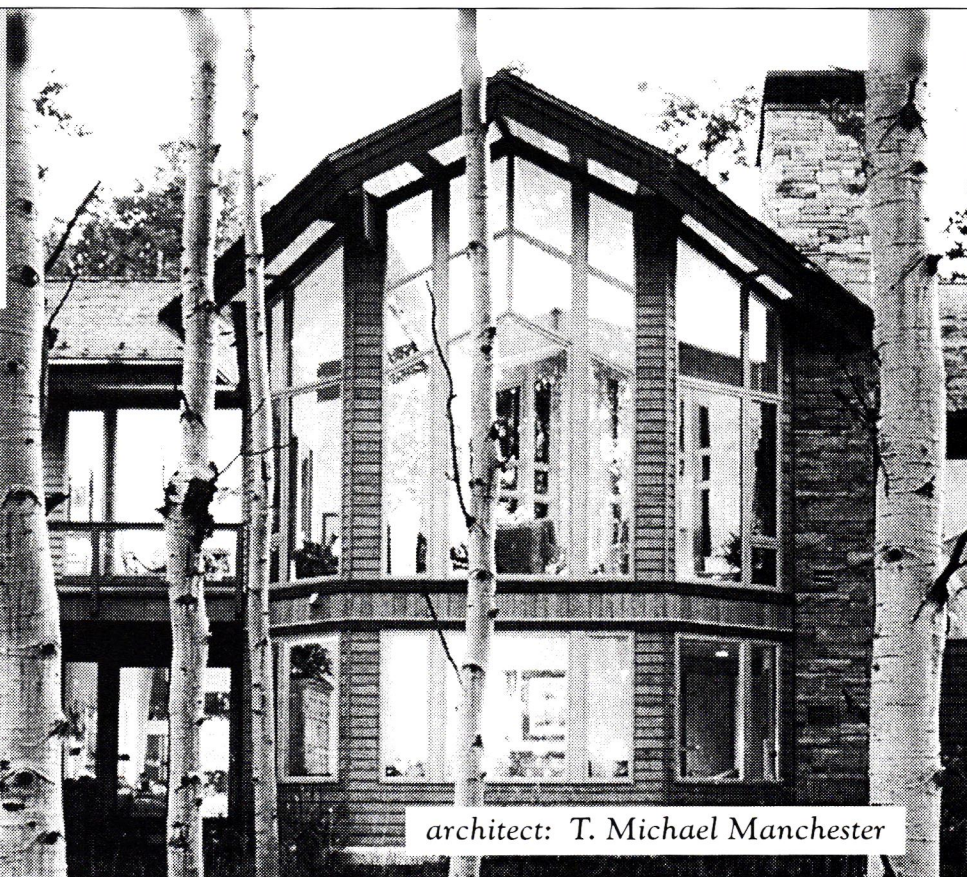
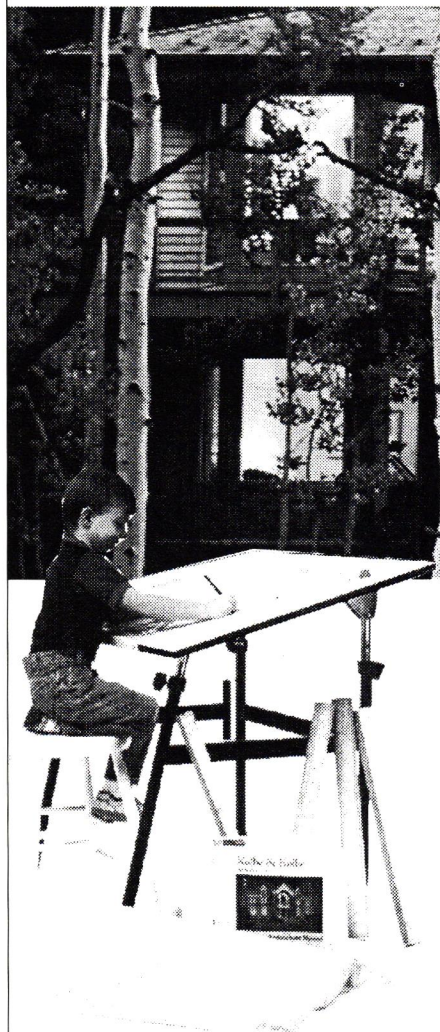
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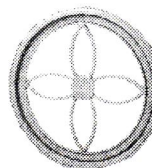
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