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In Search of Justice

by Cheryl R. Towers

Joanie is a bright little girl whom I met a few years ago. She was bouncing around inside the foster care system among parents who neglected her and foster families who couldn't or wouldn't keep her permanently. Joanie owned a couple of changes of clothes and a few tattered toys that went with her from temporary home to temporary home. My stomach headed for my throat when I heard about her preparations to leave yet another family for the next unknown stop.

The social worker—a well meaning but harried bureaucrat with no resources and even less spare energy—blew into the house, handed the little girl a black garbage bag and told her that she had 15 minutes to pack up her "stuff" and get into the waiting car. I can only imagine in the sickest recesses of my mind what would possess us to treat anyone this way, much less a child. This poor kid wasn't going to stand a chance until someone, somewhere had the understanding and took the time to treat her like a human being instead of a little piece of human garbage, complete with her own bag. What on earth are we thinking as a society?

Fast forward to our Family Courts and you get the big picture. Thousands of Joanies and their families parade through Family Court every year, at best accidents waiting to happen. In this case, the visible culprits are the facilities: old, overcrowded, inadequate in every way. Juvenile Court in Oakland is a nightmare, in spite of the involvement of many caring and committed individuals in the judicial system. In some ways, the Sixth Floor of the City County Building where Adult Family Court is located is even worse because of the potential consequences of adult temperaments and egos flaring under the pressures of divorce and custody proceedings. Victims and victimizers hurled through the halls cheek to jowl, scowling, jostling, trading insults. Not a pretty picture.

Fortunately, Allegheny County's three Commissioners are committed to upgrading the County Court facilities. Work on the County Courthouse is in the planning stages with advice from the County Historic Buildings Advisory Committee chaired by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. IKM is working on plans for the old Jail, slated to become the new home of Family Court, and Karen Loyson, AIA, then with UDA, beautifully guided restoration of Courtroom 321, a model for other projects.

L.D. Astorino and Associates designed the Pittsburgh Municipal Courts Building that opened in 1995. The facility is secure, spacious, airy, well lighted, and technologically current.

Just down the road, Richard Glance, AIA oversaw the restoration of the Washington, PA County Courthouse twenty years ago, and is now working there again to upgrade electrical capacity without destroying the building's historic character. Glance is also responsible for improvements to the Huntington County Courthouse.

We laud architects for their part in solving these difficult problems and encourage all of our elected officials to recognize the importance of maintaining important historical properties as well as the need to create new ones.

Finally, please note that the July/August issue of Columns will feature a residential portfolio and is designed to be used as a marketing piece by firms that submitted examples of their work. Consequently, some regular features contained in Columns will not appear in that issue. Submittals will appear in the September issue.

Enjoy the equinox as you slip into a summer mode.

P.S. A mighty "mea culpa" for past glaring grammatical errors and thanks to all of you members of the Lexicographic irregulars who wrote to point them out!
The Winds of Change
by Anne Swager

Upon graduation from college, I headed off
to the venerable Greenbrier Hotel for a six week hiatus
before starting my banking career in Pittsburgh. Since my
boyfriend at the time was one of several assistant manag-
ers, my trip was largely free. Even so, my father
was anything but pleased about my vacation choice,
even though it certainly made me. Grudgingly,
Dad told me I’d better enjoy it because soon sum-
er would be just another season in which I would
work instead of seeking the grand adventure that he
knew I had come to expect.

I realized the unpreventable time that he was right. Most of my time is pretty well committed
through the Fourth of July and I’ll be working really
hard. I had a moment’s pang realizing I wouldn’t
have ten legs again this year (but then I really wasn’t
anxious to show the world my spider veins), and
the tomatoes would probably get planted late once
more. If I manage to get an awning ordered, it will
be mid-July before it goes up and I still haven’t
solved the problem of empty, yawning flower beds.

My schedule, busy as it is, reflects a time of change at the
AIA and exciting growth in the Pittsburgh architectural community. Both AIA Pennsylvania and AIA Pittsburgh are
experiencing significant staff changes. At the end of June,
after 20 years of dedicated service, Lela Shultz is retiring
from AIA Pennsylvania. I will miss Lela’s “handle” on the
latest legislative bills, her knowledge of the key players
in Harrisburg, and her stories. She knows all the history in-
cluding where the bodies are buried, and has been an in-
valuable source for what you really need to know when
operating in legislative circles.

Similarly as of June 1, long time AIA Pittsburgh employee
Susan Traub is moving on to greener pastures and larger
responsibilities. Many of you are familiar with Susan
through her work on the placement service. If so, I am
sure you will miss her dedication, quick wit and genuine
desire to help. She’s been the best editor I have ever had.
Cleaning up many of my written grammatical gaffs, she’s
also helped me keep my perspective (and temper) when
the going felt particularly rough. I am lucky to be able to
count on our continuing friendship as I wish Susan the
success she deserves.

As hard as these changes will be, we are moving on in
very positive ways. The Legislative Committee has planned
their first legislative breakfast for Tuesday, June 23. In part-
nership with ASLA, seventeen state senators and legisla-
tors have been invited to come meet their architect con-
stituents and hear about the issues we consider to be
important. Since the proposed Home Rule charter for
Allegheny County passed, we will also be unveiling
our proposed statute for the companion administrat-
ive code which will call for qualifications based selec-
tion for architectural work. Once complete, we will
push for the adoption of this model statute in other
municipalities and school districts in our area.

John Martine, AIA and I continue our work with the archi-
tectural tourism committee. John has a number of won-
derful and cost effective suggestions for fixing up the
Courthouse for visitors. By the end of summer, we hope to
have a report for the foundation community on the viability
of architectural tourism in Pittsburgh. Another planning group
that will meet throughout the summer has been formed to
consider additional events and exhibits to complement the
Heinz Architectural Center’s Kaufmann-Wright exhibit
planned for the spring and summer of 1999. Working to-
gether, we have a terrific opportunity to shine the spotlight
on Pittsburgh’s architectural gems and highlight our archi-
tectural community.

While summer chores and work related tasks are hardly
the stuff of grand adventures, I’m enjoying the ride. With a
strong economy and the growing recognition of architects
as problem solvers, it feels as if the sky is the limit. I won’t
be straying too far from home this summer, and certainly
not to the Greenbrier, but you can probably catch me with
my hands in the air, screaming with glee at the top of the
Thunderbolt at least once this season. See you at
Kennywood!
Call for Sketches!
Hate those empty spaces around town? Wish you could in-fill a poorly thought out development? Fantasizing about your dream house? Spending your time drawing everything in sight? Making caricatures of your partners and clients? This is your chance to go public—send sketches to Gloria at AIA for inclusion in a future issue of Columns.

New Construction Recedes
F. W. Dodge, a Division of McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group reports that new construction contracts receded 5% in March following a drop of 1% in February. According to Robert A. Murray, vice president of economic affairs for F. W. Dodge, “The first three months of 1998 produced an index reading down 3 percent from the previous quarter. This depicts an industry that has lost some momentum from last year’s brisk pace, but not to an excessive degree.”

Call for Entries
The Boston Society of Architects announces the seventh annual call for entries of architectural design work that to date remains unbuilt; theoretical and client-sponsored projects are eligible. Call for Entry forms are available by contacting BSA at 617/951-1433 x232. Submissions must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on August 17.

Insurer Announces Profit-sharing Returns
CNA/Schinnerer announced the distribution of nearly $41 million in profit-sharing returns to insureds through its COMMITMENT PLUS® profit-sharing plan covering the 1989-1994 policy years. According to CNA/Schinnerer, COMMITMENT PLUS® is the only profit-sharing program of its kind in the architects and engineers insurance marketplace.

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Courthouse Design: Present Realities and Future Challenges

A look at the issues driving the design of modern courthouses.

by Cheryl R. Towers

Most of us have an image of the traditional courthouse—large, imposing, columns in front, a high-ceiling entrance, heavy stone, big windows—typified by the Washington County Courthouse. Everything about it says that this is a serious place. There are a number of bland modern courthouses that don’t follow this model—you could be in court or in Wal-Mart—especially in areas of the country where rapid growth and a “tough on crime” philosophy intersect, creating a courthouse building boom. Unfortunately, cost rather than design often serves as the prime motivator. Even so, there are contemporary courthouses that have clearly taken pains to reflect civic importance, yet give off an aura of user-friendliness inside, such as the Pittsburgh Municipal Courts opened in 1995 and designed by L.D. Astorino & Associates, Ltd.

Many issues for modern courthouse design are very different than they were in 1883 when H. H. Richardson won the competition to design the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail. The concern for security still exists, of course, but Richardson didn’t have to comply with ADA standards or factor in television reporters and computers.

The first rule of security is to separate the detainee, the public and the judicial staff as much as possible. The result is multiple numbers of virtually everything, including elevators; hallways; and rooms for client meetings, counseling sessions, child care, offices, bathrooms, etc. A quick look at any courtroom floor plan illustrates this. The challenge is in creating what amounts to a rabbit Warren of spaces that doesn’t feel that way.

Security is enhanced by procedures standard to many of-
Glance and Associates, Inc.

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Client: Washington County

"The Washington County Courthouse is a wonderful building," states Richard Glance, AIA who designed a $2 million restoration to the building 20 years ago and who is now working with electrical engineer Bill Smith to re-wire the building in order to upgrade technology without destroying the historical design. "The Commissioners deserve kudos for recognizing the value of the building and their willingness to do things the right way."

Features include:

- Listing on the National Register of Historical Places.
- A Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission award for restoration work.
- Original design by Frederick Osterling in the Beaux Arts classical style.

Office buildings and airports—metal detectors, doors opened by electronic keys, I.D. cards for employees, separate entrances for staff and judges. Security involves bullet proof glass at strategic points, panic buttons on desks and at the bench, obstacles such as fences between the bench and the public, and placing police who are waiting to testify near the action in case guards require additional assistance. It is also critical to secure standard maintenance points such as electrical boxes.

In the past, there wasn’t a great deal of thought given to separating the accused and their supporters from victims. That is no longer the case. In the Pittsburgh Municipal Courts, for instance, the victim and witness waiting room is entered off the main courtroom by going through the police waiting room. Protecting the victim is a much higher priority in current design.

The more challenging issue is technology. There is the immediate concern for accommodating electronic-based systems in existing facilities—something that ICM faces in adapting the Jail to the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas, and challenges Richard Glance, AIA at the Washington County Courthouse. In some cases, the job is reduced to squashing as many cables as possible into spaces that no one sees. "Plug and play" technology is almost impossible to install in an older building without a major renovation such as is happening with the Jail/Family Court. Older court buildings have a difficult time adapting their facilities for standard electronic office automation for case management, centralizing the recording of testimony and performing legal research.

An excellent article appeared in the Summer 1997 issue of The Court Manager. The authors of "Technologies & Courthouse Design: Challenges for Today and Tomorrow" explore bringing technology into the courthouse. They also look at building performance and explore the possibilities in designing to meet tomorrow’s court technological needs. As Charles E. Boxwell, AIA, Todd S. Phillips, AIA, and Lawrence Webster note, technology offers the promise of "transforming three traditional barriers to change—time, distance, and organizational structure...The needs of the parties in a case do not have to be dependent on the work schedules of court employees." Likewise, in many instances, there is no longer a need to travel to the courthouse. Everything from videoconferencing to putting back room operations in distant, less expensive, and possibly centralized locations changes the way we think about the traditional courthouse facility.

The authors point out that technology can potentially transform "an organizational structure that is too often difficult for the individual citizen to understand." They note that traditional jurisdictional barriers may no longer apply—the Internet is a prime example. Who has jurisdiction over a website in one state and a user in another?

Boxwell, et al. make two other points that bear repeating. The first is that a great deal more collaboration is needed between the justice system and design professionals. The second is a recognition that "Some of the most innovative research and testing for improved workplace environments is taking place at the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics at Carnegie Mellon University." These two points suggest opportunities for Pittsburgh firms.
The conflict between the architectural profession and the justice system was demonstrated in remarks by Minneapolis District Judge James Rosenbaum at the Second International Conference on Courthouse Design held in 1995: "Design/build is a system remarkably out of sync with the way judges tend to do their work. We are probably the last and the final cobblers who hand-last shoes. When you come before a judge you do not wish standardized decision making. You wish a custom piece. Economy and speed are not core values which judges define themselves under. These are core values which inhere in the design/build process."

There is a vast amount of difference among the courts at the city, county, state and federal levels. According to Ken Ricci, AIA, a specialist in justice facilities, "The biggest challenge in Family Court is the amount of emotion. This is where custody and divorce cases are heard and where a battered wife comes to file for protection. It's a very difficult environment for everyone, including the designer. In Federal Court, you simply don't have a high volume of criminal cases. It tends to be more of a 'business' court with cases such as bankruptcy proceedings. There's still emotion involved, but nothing like Family Court."

Ricci notes other differences on the federal level. There are published guidelines for court design, for instance, and while these guidelines may be outdated in many ways, especially where technology is concerned, they at least exist. Some states and local courts follow them, some don't. And funding for federal courts is also a far less convoluted process than at the state and local level.

Ron Emanuele, AIA, project manager for the Pittsburgh Municipal Court Building says that city courts are distinct because of the high volume of low impact cases. This nullifies the need for a lot of high technology that other courts face, and even the need to accommodate juries, since there are only magistrate hearings held in the building. "The big thing in this building is Traffic Court and arraignments at Night Court. However, because so many City residents visit Traffic Court or just come in to pay tickets, this is a key place for interaction between the public and the City, and we wanted them to have as positive an experience as possible from a facility standpoint."

(continued on page 11)
IKM Incorporated

ADAPTIVE REUSE AND PRESERVATION OF THE FORMER ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL AND CONVERSION INTO THE FAMILY DIVISION OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Client: Allegheny County

According to project manager Fred Watts, AIA, plans call for doubling the square footage of usable space from approximately 100,000 s.f. to 200,000 s.f. IKM is able to do this largely by building out to the walls (Richardson's original design created a cage system for cells that were separated from the exterior walls by corridors). Construction is scheduled to begin in early 1999.

Features include:

- Provides much-needed courtrooms and hearing room space with appropriate support spaces, waiting areas and security for the needs of the adult and juvenile sections of Family Court. Relieves congestion at present facilities and consolidates Family Court operations in a central facility. This includes ten new courtrooms, twelve new hearing rooms, administrative offices, and a collegial floor housing judges chambers to enable flexible scheduling of all courtrooms. Support facilities include child care for adult and juvenile sections.

- The plan features two separate entrances and security check points, one for the adult section and another for the juvenile section. There are secure holding areas for adults, juveniles, and criminal court defendants. Access from the Criminal Court holding area across the historic Bridge of Sighs to the courthouse will be maintained.

- The former exercise yards are developed and accessible for public use.

- The Rotunda is preserved and featured as the primary public space with an attached museum space which includes a two story display of Osterling era cells and a reconstruction of Richardson era cells along with other jail memorabilia.

- The overarching effect of the above is the enabling of restoration of the entire historic building exterior including its masonry work, and tile roof, and the preservation of important portions of the interior including the rotunda and the former warden's residence.

Cell cages were centrally located with a corridor running along the exterior walls. The Richardson-designed cells are on the far left with the larger, Osterling designed cells in the middle and right.
"Siting and location were the biggest challenges on this project," states Ron Emanuele, AIA, project manager. "The building had to be squeezed between the new County Jail, the Liberty Bridge, the Parkway and the street. Plus, there were other siting restrictions for security reasons and we had to physically connect the Court to the County Jail for prisoner transport." A unique aspect of the Court is its joint management by the City and County through a negotiated agreement. The City controls the building during standard daytime business hours, and the County manages it after 5 p.m. when Night Court is in session to arraign detainees brought over from the Jail.

The building is 50,000 s.f. It opened in 1995 and the firm received a Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Design of a Court Facility in 1994 from AIA.

Features include:

- Electronic tie-ins with various resource data systems, including a direct link to the Public Safety Building for security.
- Circuitry from the Jail running into the Courthouse to coordinate the two systems.
- Potential to establish video links with magistrates in their district offices.
- A pneumatic tube linking the Courts to the Jail to transfer papers.
- Daylighting staff offices.
- An open staircase design to the second floor providing a positive aesthetic and facilitating the high volume of people coming to Traffic Court.

(although Night Court and Common Pleas Court serve a lower volume of cases, they needed to be on the first floor in order to have a direct link to the Jail).
Courthouse designers face other considerations resulting from our modern age. Media coverage is far more extensive than in the past, the O.J. trial notwithstanding. Our local courts got a taste of this during several high profile cases, including athletes tried for drug use, and more recently, the trial of the police officers accused of killing Johnny Gammage. Technology can make the press of reporters more manageable, if the technology can be accommodated.

The occasional mega-trial offers interesting challenges. An asbestos trial with claims of $37 billion involved 82 attorneys, hundreds of defendants and thousands of exhibits. A trial stemming from a landslide involved 250 attorneys. The prevalence of liability cases and class action suits can quickly turn a trial into a stadium event. How do you make facilities flexible enough to manage something like this without building a facility that is almost never used? In many cases, technology is again the answer, since megatrails often have to be moved out of the courthouse.

Another interesting challenge involves the language barrier. In Richardson's day, the trial proceeded in English, and if the defendant didn't understand what was going on, that was not the court's problem. Society now takes a different view of things and as in many things, California is the precursor to a multi-cultural explosion. There are said to be 224 languages spoken in California, and the Los Angeles courts have more than 100 interpreters in a variety of languages on call.

Our region may not be the hotbed of change that California is, but area firms undertaking courthouse design clearly have to be innovative thinkers in melding cost concerns with the needs of an increasingly complex justice system.

For further information, contact the AIA Committee on Architecture for Justice, Eileen Czaplewski, Director

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(continued from page 8)

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Court Consultant: Ken Ricci and Associates
UNITED STATES FEDERAL COURT, SCRANTON, PA
Client: United States General Services Administration
Contractor: Mascaro Construction

"The design of a federal courthouse reflects the low level of trials of violent criminals and the emphasis on business cases," according to Ken Ricci, AIA.

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The Richardson Courthouse: A Progress Report  by Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

The rise and fall and (we hope) the rising again of one of the region’s finest buildings.

In our city of significant architecture, the buildings that command an international reputation, the "architectural lions of Pittsburgh" as the late James D. Van Trump called them, are the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail by H. H. Richardson.

Richardson won the competition of 1883 because of the simple rationality of his plan whose details led directly to the picturesque features of his compositions. Yet his forceful use of the textures and crisp detailing of granite, different in each of the two buildings, have been especially impressive to the public. In our County Buildings, Richardson came closest to the overall coherence he sought with decorative work subordinated but not suppressed. The County Buildings, together with Fallingwater, are the buildings that people associate most with Pittsburgh, and people come from many nations to visit them. Unhappily, the Courthouse is not in the best condition, though the County has maintained the exteriors of both buildings reasonably well through the years.

The Jail, long to be visited only under special circumstances, is about to undergo renovation as Family Court (see accompanying article on Courthouse Design).

The Courthouse itself has been another matter. Over a decade ago, the Commissioners appointed a Committee to provide advice to the County on the restoration of the building and its maintenance, and the Committee advised about roof repair and pointing of some of the masonry. Several years ago, the murals in the front hall were restored under the auspices of this Committee, a new directory was installed in the lobby (the old one listed judges that had been dead between eight and seventeen years), and the County Records Bureau removed stacks of poorly stored records in the attic and moved them into a building on the North Side.

A fine example was established by the renovation of Courtroom 321, used by Judge Raymond Novak, under the guidance of Karen Loysen, AIA, then of UDA. This was fol-
lowed by an effort on Judge Novak's part to restore his chambers, and he has done so with great sensitivity, creating a model for other court-related offices.

Otherwise, lack of progress has been frustrating. The Committee tried in vain to save the tree planters around the building as well as the trees that had grown four stories high in the courtyard park. Unfortunately, those trees were cut to the ground, though new ones have been planted. The Committee was successful in its recommendation to remove a home-made metal vestibule that intruded into the courtyard park. Today, we are pleased to report that the current three Commissioners are united in their desire to have the building look its finest, and have asked the Committee to begin an intensive review.

Entering the Courthouse today is a depressing experience. The ground floor, where visitors get their first experience of the building, sends a message of indifference and deterioration. It is poorly lit with dingy walls, and serves as a storeroom for benches in the winter. Consequently, this area is now a high priority for the Committee. In fact, last year the Committee approved alternative lighting for the ground floor, though selection has not been implemented.

On the upper floors, the Committee is addressing signage. All kind of signs are pasted on the walls, hung from various fixtures, and stenciled on doors with no control and frequently with inappropriate graphics. Over the years, ceilings have been dropped in hallways and offices, and re-lit with tube fluorescent fixtures. Walls are painted colors that H. H. Richardson did not use (Pittsburgh History & Landmarks is now trying to determine the original colors of the hallways so that they can be specified in repainting). Vending machines have been installed in the hallways with their bright lights. No waste receptacles have been added, and corridor window sills and floors are lined with empty cans and other litter.

Inappropriate fenestration has at times been installed, visible from the exterior and the interior, and major public rooms like the Gold Room and meeting rooms have been reduced to the non-descript through dropped ceilings and uninspired color treatment, lighting, and carpeting.

We are fortunate that we have three Commissioners deeply committed to the restoration of the Courthouse, and a Committee of architects and County, private, and preservation representatives committed to volunteer their time to assist the Commissioners and to guide the County agencies and work crews. We have recommended to the Commissioners that all work on the building be approved by the Committee for appropriateness. Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is providing some cost underwriting when research is necessary, and the County is now more committed to restoration versus remodeling.

A new effort is now underway to bring visitors to Pittsburgh to see the splendid collection of historic architecture that we possess. But if we are going to do so, we must make our foremost landmark a statement of our commitment to preserve and restore our major buildings.

Grant Street could be an architectural magnet; the private historic buildings are in excellent condition. The experience of walking through the Frick Building, Union Trust Building, William Penn Hotel, and Koppers Building is inspiring, and the Courthouse should be the best of all.

Not so far away, in Warren, Ohio, the County Commissioners have totally, in the utmost detail and with enormous personal pride, restored their Courthouse. They personally take many visitors through their elegant building, which a few years ago was in the same condition as our Courthouse is now. We recommend that everyone interested in what can be done on a practical basis to restore a Courthouse and keep it functional visit Warren.

The Commissioners there, like the Commissioners here, recognized that a restored Courthouse sets forth in the most public way the community commitment to architectural preservation, public pride, and economic development through visitation. We are glad to be moving forward and pleased with the support of the Commissioners and the County agency heads and work force.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. is Chairman of the County Historic Buildings Advisory Committee and President of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.
We’re out to improve Labor-Management Relations for all time. We’re the building trades unions – laborers, operating engineers, carpenters and 20 other trades unions – and we’re reinventing ourselves, starting right now. We’re taking a unilateral step to forge a new partnership with management, and in so doing, to improve the living standards for our members and for everyone in Western Pennsylvania.

Undoing business as usual. Unions arose as the legitimate response to the abuse of industrialists in the 19th Century. While protecting perceived interests, labor and management drew a line between themselves. Over time this line grew into a brick wall. A brick wall that precluded any reasonable discussion of wages, working conditions, benefits and ultimately, the quality of life. It doesn’t matter who built the wall. It’s time to tear it down. And we’re removing the first brick.

We’re recalling our past... Our forebears were the medieval guildsmen whose genius and craftsmanship were responsible for the world’s enduring monuments. Membership in a guild was highly sought and nobly earned – a prize won after years of apprenticeship under a master’s tutelage. Since trade union members must complete a similar education process today, we’re creating a new entity – the Builders Guild. It is a tribute to our members’ training and craftsmanship. It also is a promise of quality that is, quite simply, unequaled.

...And we’re changing our style. There will be no more management and labor – no more “us” and “them.” Instead, it will be all of us. We acknowledge that management’s need for fair profit and our need for fair wages are different aspects of a common goal. To reach this goal, we’ve established an advisory council comprised of guildsmen, contractors, architects, educators and businesspeople. They’ll see that we fulfill our obligation to listen to management – and make sure management accords us the same respect. It won’t change things overnight, but it’s the first step in forging a partnership.

Enough talk. It’s time to act. The Builders Guild is going to work for you by encouraging cooperation among labor, management and owners. It’s going to work to put an end to this area’s reputation for difficult management/labor relations. It’s going to work to rebuild this area’s infrastructure. It’s going to work to provide more employment, not only in the trades, but in all support business as well. It’s going to work to make Western Pennsylvania, once again, one of the most prosperous regions in the nation.

For more information, or to find out how you can get involved, please call: 1-800-352-2407.

An Initiative Endorsed by The Building Trades Council and its affiliates – Building Trade Members of Western Pennsylvania.
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Membership Committee

ARCHITECTS

ELIZABETH A. BUCHANAN, AIA came to Pittsburgh from the Washington D. C. area via Sidney, Ohio, and is currently affiliated with Hanson Associates on the South Side. Elizabeth is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Art and the University of Virginia, enjoys art, music, photography, gardening, birding, history and cities. She admits to being "very opinionated about architecture and its manifestations within a just regime." That sounds like a great lunch topic—you should call her. She is also very interested in the work of the Committee on the Environment. Welcome to The 'burgh, Elizabeth!!

GREGORY R. MOTTOLA, AIA is an architect with Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and a graduate of CMU. Gregory offers no other information on himself other than to list the University of Washington Oceanography Building, the Harris Theater, The Heinz Regional History Center and the CMU Intelligent Workplace among projects he has worked on. Perhaps that says it all. Who has time for golf?? Hope you have time to get to a member meeting sometime, Greg, so we can get to know you better.

GARY C. HABEYANK, AIA is with the firm of Welcover, Mitchell, Bontempo & Associates, Inc. in Beaver Falls. He is a graduate of Penn State University, has three grown children, has a list of projects as long as your arm and still has time to enjoy astronomy, gardening, hunting, fishing, golf and archery.

FREDERICK BISHOP, AIA is another new member in an outlying firm. He is with the Eckels Company Architects in New Castle and many of our members had the opportunity to meet him at the February member meeting. We hope he comes back often and brings the rest of the firm too. He is a graduate of Washington & Lee University and Ohio University. He has four grown children, is interested in music and woodworking and is very involved with community groups. As to his interest in AIA committees—he says, just pick one and call if help is needed!! Welcome aboard, Fred, you're our kind of guy!!

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES

TONY MOSCOLIC is a graduate of Penn State and Robert Morris College which prepared him for his position at The Kachele Group as a structural engineer. He and Rhonda are the parents of a 3 year old boy name Ray, and he is a golf and sports enthusiast. Tony works tirelessly to make The Kachele Group a top service oriented consulting engineering company. Welcome Tony.

DAN TRIMBLE of Dan Trimle & Co. is another new member and an advertiser in Columns. Perhaps you have seen his custom made furniture and/or architectural products! Dan says he "bleeds wood" and operates his custom shop in Penn Run, PA. A graduate of IUP and CSU he also represents Riverbend Timber Framing. Dan is married and has two children—Zachary (9) and, appropriately for a man who "bleeds wood", Forrest (5).

THEODORE S. KERR has jumped right into the AIA as a professional affiliate member. He is representing Hefren-Tillotson, Inc. on the Professional Development committee, has attended several member meetings, and is already becoming a familiar face to the staff and our members. He says he is "dedicated to helping architects and architectural firms reach their financial goals through a unique, entrepreneurial approach to retirement planning and investment management". When asked what he'd like his fellow AIA members to know about him he responds "I am smarter than I look!". We know that, Ted. You joined the AIA!! Welcome aboard.

CLUE #2: Looks like everyone in Pittsburgh will have a chance to see the AIA Design Awards submissions this year Watson. They will even get to vote on a special "People's Choice" Award!
HENRY HOBSON RICHARDSON: A Genius for Architecture  
by Alan L. Fishman, AIA


This is one of the most recent books on H.H. Richardson, the outstanding late nineteenth century American architect, who, as all Pittsburgh architects will undoubtedly know, designed the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail. The author, Margaret Henderson Floyd, a professor in the Department of Art and the History of Art at Tufts University, has written widely on the impact of the architecture of England and Spain in the Americas. This expertise plus her location in Boston have led her to undertake a scholarly work on Richardson. She combines her text with magnificent color photographs of the interior and exterior of selected Richardson projects by architectural photographer Paul Rocheleau, along with archival material. The latter includes Richardson's and other architects' sketch perspectives and plans, and photographs of buildings Richardson visited during his European travels. These architectural photographs, purchased by Richardson at the various sites he visited, were a major influence on his design philosophy and approach.

Floyd's scholarly approach, backed up by extremely thorough and extensive research, reassesses Richardson's relationship to his own epoch in order to compare his work to that of other contemporary architects and to attempt to understand the derivation of his stylistic forms and decoration. This includes European and American architectural influences on his methods, his influence on subsequent architectural developments, and his unique architectural fusions in which he synthesized eclectic sources.

The book is divided into seven sections or chapters. In the first, "Introduction, The Janus Faces of H.H. Richardson", she describes Richardson as looking back to the distant past and forward to the twentieth century, where he became an inspiration for architects such as Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Two years after his death, he was the subject of the first monograph ever to be published on an American architect and his works. He was also recognized by his fellow architects in 1885 when five of his projects were voted among the ten best for that year.

In "Origins", Floyd traces Richardson's life from his birth into a well-to-do family in New Orleans to his attendance at Harvard University where he received a B.A. degree, and to his attendance at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, where he studied architecture. Richardson then traveled through France and England, and finally returned to New York where he established his own practice, one that he eventually moved to Boston.

The next five sections deal with Richardson's projects by type; each section has text, color photographs, and plans and sections of various projects. The first of the five deals with Richardson's churches, which formed his earliest work, including the remarkable Trinity Church in Boston. This is followed by a section on his civic buildings, including the Buffalo (N.Y.) State Hospital, New York State Capitol in Albany and the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail. Next follows a chapter on his libraries and railroad stations, then a section on his crafted brick and ashlar projects that include churches, college buildings and houses. The last chapter deals with his country houses that were experiments in shingles and clapboards, as well as his more conventional use of ashlar stone.

The stylistic derivation of each project is explained, as well as the application of Richardson's own design principles and how they evolved through his relatively brief career (1865 until his death in 1886). Also explained is how Richardson was awarded the commission for each project and his relationship with his client. It is interesting to note that many of his projects ran over budget.

Richardson melded medieval, vernacular, provincial and primitive sources, including Romanesque, French, English Norman and early Gothic into strong, handsome forms in a unique and even contemporary manner. His projects bore an elemental consciousness of the natural environment, a
sense of the force of gravity, and made full use of the tactile qualities of local building materials such as granite, sandstone and brick. His ingenious combinations of seemingly disconnected elements yielded a series of powerful, unified structures, culminating in the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail.

Urban planning considerations were important to Richardson, including the relationship of individual buildings within his projects and adjoining buildings. His polychromatic stone facades with handsomely proportioned fenestration and surrounds such as arches, columns and decorated capitals are extraordinary. Richardson gave as much attention to the interior architecture of his buildings as he did the exterior including proportions, spatial qualities, use of materials, texture and color.

The circumstances of the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail project are worthy of note. The County Commissioners decided to hold a competition, and Richardson failed to respond to an invitation from them. He was therefore not included in the five finalists. However, when one of the five withdrew, an influential Pittsburgh industrialist and Harvard classmate of Richardson obtained an invitation for him to enter and submit a design, subsequently selected. Richardson's vision as stated in his competition entry, was "to create a sense of solidity, requisite in a dignified, monumental work, in which elaborate carvings and capitals are to be avoided". Richardson expanded his office to do this project and became highly energized after he received the contract. His associates stayed in his office to complete the project before leaving for independent practices in 1884. The construction of the Jail was finished first in 1886 because the County was desperate for it; the Courthouse was erected and completed posthumously from 1886 to 1888. The Courthouse was constructed faithfully to Richardson's design under the direction of the successor firm, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge (which survives today as Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott).

Floyd's coffee table quality book is well worth owning by aficionados of Richardson. I cannot stress enough the outstanding quality of the color photographs by Rocheleau. The text is interesting in the later chapters where projects are described, although reading the first several chapters was an arduous task. It is overly scholarly and pedantic where Floyd discusses derivatives and makes comparisons. Even so, it is worth having this book to pick up from time to time to become inspired by really wonderful and great architecture.

Alan L. Fishman, AIA is vice president and principal at IKM Incorporated.
From the Firms

**Paul Fackler, AIA** of Foreman Architects & Engineers, Inc. and BRIDGES have been awarded the contract to renovate the eight-story Renewal, Inc. facility in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh.

**Lorenzi, Dodds & Gunnill, Inc.**, provided services to the Washington County Redevelopment Authority's Ingersoll Rand Brownfield Redevelopment Project. The project has won a Phoenix Award, which is a national award of distinction for brownfield redevelopment.

**Ross Schoneder Sterzinger Cupcheck** were architects and Regal Construction Co., Inc. general contractors for the tenant space retrofit for Gerbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. at the Cranberry Corporate Center.

**WTW Architects** was selected to complete the $13.6 million Deer Lakes School District renovation projects.

General Industries is the general contractor for the new showroom and facility under construction for Renaissance Glassworks, Inc. in Peters Township. (pictured below, right)

Med-Builders has completed the build-out of a 5,000 square foot satellite medical office space located in Murrysville, PA for Allegheny University Hospitals.

**Johnson/Schmidt and Associates** has promoted **Thomas J. Mrozenski, Jr., AIA** to Vice President and leader of J/SA's major project team that includes architecture, engineering, and interior design. **Anthony G. Poli, AIA** has joined J/SA as Director of Business Development.

Valeria Fackler and Jeff Tsuda have joined the architecture staff at **Perkins Eastman Architects**, along with interior designers Dana Ceraso and Barbara Moore, and database administrator and CAD technician Craig Sesti.

**Radelet McCarthy Architects** and Interior Designers recently welcomed **Douglas L. Schlauch, AIA** to the staff along with interior designer Melissa Shrimplin.

Kudos

**Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** was recently listed among the top 31 "Interior Design Giants" in the country and the top five companies in government institution design. Burt Hill was the only Pittsburgh-based firm to appear in the annual listing of 100 leaders in the field and the only Pennsylvania firm in the top 33. The listing was published in the January 1998 issue of Interior Design Magazine.

The Family Enterprise Center at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business announced that **Ted Frantz, professional affiliate**, and the TEDCO Construction Corporation won in the small enterprise category of the 1998 Family Business of the Year Awards.

Business Briefs

**Todd Havekotte, AIA** has been named director of architecture for **Baker and Associates**.

**Anton Germishuizen, AIA** has been promoted to principal in charge of architectural design, and **Josephine B. Moore, professional affiliate**. **Sara Moore, ASLA** and **John C. Grzybek, AIA** have been promoted to senior associate at **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates**.

**Charles H. Parker, AIA** has joined the firm's Butler office as a project architect for the health care division.

**Ground breaking for Renaissance Glassworks. Pictured are Don Ivill, Ched Mertz, H.B. Mertz, Rob Mertz, and Jim Ray.**
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**Calendar**

**June 5, Friday**

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

**June 9, Tuesday**

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

**June 10, Wednesday**

Architrave Fundraising Committee Meeting, at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapter office. Information: Traci McGavitt (724) 935-8000.

Professional Development Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Scott Keener, AIA, 391-3086.


**June 12, Friday**

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

**June 18, Thursday**

Legislative Committee, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Collinapp, AIA, 231-1500.

**June 23, Tuesday**

Legislative Breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m. at the Engineers Club, 337 Fourth Avenue. For members only. Cost: $15. Reservations: 471-9548.

**June 24, Wednesday**

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting, 6 p.m. at Building & Industry Center, 922-3912.

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**June 9, Tuesday**

CSI Meeting, Island Adventure Dinner Cruise, 6-10 p.m. Cost: $20. Information: 823-5063.

**June 3 – 17**

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**June 24, Wednesday**


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Betsy Bell Martin, Associate AIA

I belong to AIA because it’s been good to me and it’s payback time.

Firm: less than I used to be.
Family: Four children and ten grandchildren.
Years in practice: 45, off and on.
Education: B.A., Wellesley College; B. Arch., Carnegie Institute of Technology
First job: “Gofer” for Bowers & Barbalat, Alfred Hopkins & Assoc. — V.A. Hospital
Project you’re proudest of: A spa for a client with M.S.
Building you wish you had designed: William Turnbull Jr.‘s weekend house in Northern California.
Building you’d like to tear down: Mellon Bank Center.
If you hadn’t been an architect, what would you have been? a Senator.
If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? Dustin Hoffman or Robin Williams.
If you could live anywhere in the world, where? right here.
What’s the best part of your job? solving the problem.
What would you change about your job? my computer skills.
What have you always wanted to tell your clients? do it my way.
What’s the most annoying thing architects do? procrastinate.
Advice to young architects: unionize.
The one thing you wish that they would teach in school is: Architectural criticism.
Favorite interior: M.I.T. Chapel.
Favorite building: Monticello.
Favorite cities: Venice and Toronto.
Favorite architect: Eero Saarinen.
Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Sewickley.
Most architecturally appealing restaurant in Pittsburgh: Juno’s Trattoria in Oxford Centre.
Best gift to give an architect: a Mediterranean cruise.
Wish list for Pittsburgh/Downtown: extend the subway to the Convention Center.
What’s the next big architectural trend? smaller is better.
Someday I’d like to: learn Italian.
I want to be remembered for: improving the visual quality of life where I live.
People would be surprised to know that: I wrote a book.
The secret to my success is: good health and lots of energy.
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