DEKLEWA DEVELOPS A NEW DIMENSION

The recent completion by John Deklewa & Sons, Inc. of the new Center for Advanced Learning and Assessment Technology signals another milestone in the construction firm's long history of projects for high-profile clients. Deklewa contractors erected this "state of the art" four-story steel frame structure with white masonry exterior finish and stainless steel accents for Development Dimensions International of Bridgeville, in only 13 months. Deklewa tradesmen's skillful installation in the front entrance lobby and resource center of granite finishes and a unique hand-etched glass wall map are examples of the company's dedication to craftsmanship. Besides the typical utility installation more than 66 miles of special cable and fixtures were used to support this building's technologically advanced areas for audio and visual conferencing, multi-media presentations, training and international operations. A 175-foot tunnel connects the center to the adjacent DDI World Headquarters Building. To learn more about this project or for a detailed analysis of your specific needs, contact Richard Deklewa, President at 257-9000.

Project Architect: Johnson/Schmidt & Associates

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS BUILDING SUCCESS
Everything That's Old Is New Again  by Cheryl R. Towers

My mother used to tell me never to throw away anything in my closet — wait long enough, and whatever it is, it will become fashionable again. I wouldn’t have believed that platform shoes and tie dye would work their way back into our fashion consciousness, but here we are. It takes a new generation to risk life and limb — or at least ankle — to go where many have gone before. Who would have thought that a new generation would discover Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, martinis, cigars and ballroom dancing?

The same thing happens in the design world, of course. The AT&T Building with its Chippendale top gave us a hint of things to come. It also happens with materials. In the drive for high performance and meeting technological needs, we’ve often created as many problems as we’ve solved, thereby causing us to re-visit all but forgotten solutions.

Consequently, it’s fascinating to see the use of classic design and materials re-discovered. Dale Stewart, ASLA told me a story told to him about canvas awnings made from hemp designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. They lasted for 25 years and were finally replaced by fiberglass. Those lasted for 7. Along with his interest in historical sailmaking, Stewart used that as inspiration in his experiments at Slippery Rock University. They have led back to designing hemp canvas canopies coated with mineral spirits and paraffin, all materials that have been around for centuries, cost less than many more ‘advanced’ materials, and are far more environmentally friendly.

This issue brings old and new full circle. The technology sampler demonstrates some very innovative solutions by Pittsburgh firms as well as Stewart’s “low tech” solution for a rooftop garden canopy. A report from Masonry Camp illustrates the appreciation architects developed for the work of those in the “trowel” trades. And David Vater’s review of The Houses of Sewickley reminds us of the beauty of grand residential architecture preserved.

The old and the new collide head on in September, as always. Although everyone I’ve spoken with seems to have had their busiest summer in years, we all know that the “real” new year starts this month. That said, we welcome the Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter to the fold in this new year. This venture serves as an exciting prototype for other chapters, and also offers interesting opportunities to expand Columns along with ever important ad sales. We look forward to covering the nine counties served by Northwest and will begin that coverage in a later issue with a look at the changes in the Erie waterfront. Chapter president Bill Heisley, AIA shares the details of this arrangement in his letter on page 7.

Finally, I am delighted at the number of you who have contacted us looking for opportunities to contribute to articles and features in Columns. We occasionally print a snapshot of topics for upcoming issues as space allows, but as you can see from this issue, space didn’t allow. If you’re interested, we’ll be more than happy to fax you a copy of our draft editorial schedule — just call the AIA office and leave a message for me. Remember that we work at least 2 months in advance and that all topics are working topics. Things have a way of changing at the last minute, so call first before submitting articles or information for a proposed story. And if you have an idea for a story, please pass that along. Much of what makes its way into print originated with you, so please keep up the good work.
Designing Change by Anne Swagger

Architects are purists about design, especially if it's not their own. I have a wonderful time with them critiquing buildings, interiors, and public spaces. Being overly opinionated, it's one of my favorite sports — I even do it when I'm with my children, much to their chagrin. Hanging around with architects has taught me to see spaces in a new light and given me a better architectural vocabulary. It's also taught me to recognize the effects of budget or "value engineering," and the many ways that design decisions can be compromised. I've learned, though, to put a governor on my tongue. Except when I'm with my best architect friends, my husband, or the kids (who just wish I'd be quiet). I'm increasingly careful about what I say. It's too easy for my companions of the moment to take my comments seriously and then, worse yet, use my words to reinforce their stereotyped, misguided opinions of the profession. I don't need to be convinced that almost any project is better when an architect is involved, but I do need to be more persuasive on that point, and so do you.

This brings me in my usual, long-winded way to my point. Why do we do Design Awards every year? What do they mean? Does anyone really care? Should you care? Are the Awards valid?

Simply put, Design Awards are our public face. The media cares enough about them to consistently give us very good coverage. If no one cared who won, the media wouldn't report on the winners. If you believe that design makes a difference, then you should care, too. Judged by a jury of your peers, Design Awards are as valid as they can be, given the limitations of the contest. Having said all this, there is room for improvement in everything we do, and this year we have endeavored to improve the Design Awards.

Several new elements have been added to the overall program to engage the public, your clients, the media and YOU in events beginning October 18 and concluding on October 24. To energize the program, the committee has added a significant public element. All the Design Award entries will be exhibited on 40x40" boards in the Hall of Architecture at The Carnegie, and the public will be encouraged to vote for their favorite entries. The Pittsburgh Business Times, with its weekly circulation of nearly 200,000 decision makers, will do a special feature covering every entry and highlighting the winners.

Local firms are invited to submit any work they've done, and AIA members from across the country are invited to submit any built work they've designed in the Pittsburgh area. While this is an opportunity to show lots of people the wide diversity and breadth of the local architectural talent, it's also an opportunity to celebrate great buildings designed by architects from outside of the area.

The opening event will bring players in the construction and design worlds together to celebrate what you do, what you can do and what is being done. Inspired by the Mayor's wish for a first day attraction, drawing space will be available for you to show us your ideas. The food will transcend the usual cheese chunks and tired veggies — the latest Pittsburgh construction projects provided our inspiration (you'll have to come to the event to see how we pulled this off). The invitation list has been widely expanded and, if you aren't there, you'll miss a lot of fun and we'll all talk about you.

Awards will be presented on yet another night when the jury will conclude its efforts with a critique of what they've seen.

Next year, we plan to involve your clients in the winning process. We hope to add to the criteria for winning by soliciting the opinions of those who live with what you design. Putting our best foot forward to convince your future clients of the importance of good design is a team sport. I hope you will help us show Pittsburgh why good architecture is good business by submitting your work, attending the events, and talking up the planned festivities. This is one time to forget purity and collectively shout about what a difference you make.
AIA PA Charters COTE
AIA PA became the first state chapter to charter a Committee on the Environment. Serving from the Pittsburgh area are Robert Kobet, AIA, Steve Lee, AIA, Gary Moshier, AIA and David Pecharka, AIA.

AutoDesk University Courses
Scott Womack, AIA of Johnson/Schmidt and Associates will be offering four courses at AutoDesk University, held as part of the AutoDesk Design World Conference in Philadelphia, September 12-15. Womack's courses will center around 3-D rendering and animation. For more information, call 1-888/397-0123.

Architectural Woodwork Institute Award Program
The deadline for submissions to the 1998 Wood Design Award Program is September 18. Entry materials can be obtained from Judy Durham 703/733-0600, fax 703/733-0584 or email: jdurham@awinet.org.

More Buildings Trademark Images
The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Transamerica Corp. pyramid, Chicago's Wrigley Building, Citicorp Center and the Guggenheim Museum are not alone in enjoying trademarked images. As reported recently in The Wall Street Journal, the Chrysler Building's new owner is seeking trademark registration for that famous exterior, and Donald Trump trademarks all of his buildings. We haven't heard of any Pittsburgh buildings that are trademarked, but who knows?

Foundation Makes Preservation Loan
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is celebrating its 34th anniversary with a loan of $34,000 to the Manchester Citizens Corporation. Funds will be used to further restoration of Liverpool Street houses, creation of front yard gardens to complement the historic architecture, and completion of restoration work of the new Manchester Citizens Corporation offices and Community Center in the Rippl Building. The Foundation and Corporation have enjoyed a close working relationship dating back to the 1960s.

Building Trades Unions Launch New Initiative
The Building Trades Unions, representing 23 building trades of Western Pennsylvania, are launching a major initiative to forge new working partnerships between labor and management throughout the region. Called the Builders Guild, this initiative strives to create new jobs, bring new business into Pittsburgh, and provide employment opportunities for the region's young people. This concept could serve as a national model for unique cooperative partnerships among building trades unions, architects, engineers, business owners, and contractors.

The Builders Guild Initiative is spearheaded by the Pittsburgh Building Trades Council and the Foundation for Fair Contracting. It is being supported by rank and file members of the building trades within 33 counties of Pennsylvania.

Neighborhoods Conference To Be Held in Philadelphia
The Foundation for Architecture and Philadelphia's Office of Housing and Community Development are sponsoring a conference on October 7 & 8. To obtain registration materials for the "21st Century Neighborhoods Conference: Assets & Advantages of the Older American City", contact the Foundation at 215/569-3187.

Pictured from Left: Leo P. Petrone, Administrator, Foundation for Fair Contracting of Western PA; William R. Waterkotte, Director of Organizing, Western PA Regional District Council of Carpenters; John Turyan, former executive, H.J. Heinz Company.

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An open letter from AIA Northwestern Pennsylvania to the members and staff of AIA Pittsburgh

Fellow Members of the AIA,

AIA Northwestern Pennsylvania is honored to be the first unstaffed chapter in Pennsylvania to have initiated an arrangement with a staffed chapter to provide services. This was initiative was put forth at the AIA PA Board last fall by Alan Weiskopf, AIA, who encouraged the six unstaffed chapters in the state to enter into negotiations with one of the two staffed chapters. The goal is for all chapters to function without having to rely on the overly extensive commitment by volunteers.

This arrangement provides Northwestern PA members with access to AIA Pittsburgh staff via the “800” number. We will also receive Columns, which will begin to include news from the NW chapter later this fall. Perhaps most importantly, NW members will receive the promotion benefits from the new AIA national ad campaign, including referrals to potential clients who contact AIA. Previously, only staffed chapters received these referrals and had directories to send out.

What does AIA Pittsburgh get out of this arrangement? In addition to the dues AIA Northwestern PA has paid AIA Pittsburgh to provide these most basic services for the third and fourth quarters of 1998, advertisement opportunities in Columns will open in the ten Northwestern counties. With a commitment of cooperation, we can work together to provide all of our members with the services and representation that we all expect and deserve. The cooperation between our chapters is just the beginning of a relationship that will benefit both chapters and the members they represent.

With only about forty members, we have a hard time keeping members active. Even so, we are strongly committed to the benefits of AIA membership, the national ad campaign and mandatory continuing education. We are the AIA, each one of us. We must firmly embrace the opportunities we have made for ourselves, show that an AIA architect is a leader in the profession as well as the community. We, as members of the AIA in Pennsylvania, are the core, the life blood of an organization that has rightfully positioned itself to protect the “health, safety and welfare” of the public. You as members of AIA Pittsburgh should be proud of the abilities of your staff and elected officers, and how they represent Pittsburgh at the state and national levels. AIA Pittsburgh and AIA Pennsylvania are highly respected components. Your views have inspired both regional and national debate on the issues that matter to this profession. AIA NWPA is grateful to have the opportunity to work with a chapter with such a rich tradition of commitment to its members. We are looking forward to having combined events to help us all get to know one another better. Our sincerest thanks go out to all AIA Pittsburgh members; we anticipate a great relationship.

Sincerely,

William J. Helsley, AIA,
President, AIA Northwestern Pennsylvania
Technology Sampler

by Cheryl R. Towers

Pittsburgh architects are designing buildings to meet numerous needs.

technology (tēk′nəl′əjē)
1. The application of science, especially to industrial or commercial objectives.
   a. The scientific method and material used to achieve a commercial or industrial objective.
2. Anthropology. The body of knowledge available to a civilization that is of use in fashioning implements, practicing manual arts and skills, and extracting or collecting materials.

To paraphrase Tina Turner, "What's technology got to do with it?" Technology may not be a second-hand emotion, but prestige and the likelihood of gaining a new commission is often judged by a firm's perceived ability to design successful technology-based projects.

"Technology" is usually interpreted to mean "high tech", but that's only a small part of the story. In this day and age, new buildings are high tech almost by definition in order to accommodate data communications and advanced HVAC systems. Mark Valent of The Sextant Group, Inc. takes this a step further. "Architects have to think in broader terms than in the past," says Valent. "Individuals are no longer just consumers of multi-media — they are also producers. In our work, we call them 'prosumers'."

"From a design standpoint, the room becomes an in/out device and requires a great deal more user control." He notes that this expands to include every aspect of a room, including HVAC, acoustics, lighting and power. While power might seem like a "no brainer", Valent points out that his firm is constantly trouble-shooting power grids. "We commonly find situations, for instance, where communications and mechanical systems are working from the same grid causing noise in the lines. These are all things that should be carefully thought through in the design phase."

Many of these issues are tested at CMU's Intelligent Workplace, a "living" laboratory that is a unique research, development and demonstration project seeking to improve the health, motivation and productivity of the more than 50 million members of the U.S. office workforce. At the same time, the IW also seeks to improve the organizational flexibility and technological adaptability of facilities at a fraction of the energy requirements and with less environmental impact of existing facilities.

"Lest we be thoroughly lost in high technology, though, an old fashioned "low tech" solution is sometimes the best solution, as CCI, Inc.'s rooftop structure demonstrates. Or, in the case of FORE Systems, the design is as much about image as it is the accommodation of technological systems, although the latter are important. Whatever the case, Pittsburgh architects are in the forefront of this new era of building as exemplified by this sample of current projects. As Jon Jackson, AIA notes, "I think that Pittsburgh architects rise to the challenge effectively."

1 The American Heritage® Electronic Dictionary.
FIRM: BURT HILL KOSAR RITTELMANN
PROJECT: Mellon Client Service Center
CONTRACTOR: (contract not yet awarded by publication date)

This operations facility fills a long-vacant and important piece of the cityscape and is in an interesting juxtaposition between existing contemporary buildings and diagonally from the H.H. Richardson Courthouse. The design corresponds to Richardson's block masonry motif and will at the same time internally fully integrate with Mellon's existing global infrastructure. Given the ever-changing and volatile nature of business, all floor plates support heavy floor loading for 200 pounds of live load to allow maximum flexibility when locating people and equipment. Completion is projected for fall 2000.

FIRM: KINGSLAND SCOTT BAUER ASSOCIATES
PROJECT: Valspar Corp. Packaging Coatings Technology Center
CONTRACTOR: Marsico Corporation

The design required KSBA to develop a flexible space to meet the client's changing testing and research needs with minimal disruption of ongoing operations. The design had to allow for future expansion(s) and for safety to protect the firm's employees from exposure to hazardous materials. In addition, KSBA wanted to create as attractive a facility as possible within the confines of an industrial project/setting and budgetary limits. The solution to the design problem is based on functional zoning of Valspar's major program components including common support space and lab space.

FIRM: PERKINS EASTMAN ARCHITECTS
PROJECT: University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock
CONTRACTOR: Baldwin & Shell Construction Co.

The Donald W. Reynolds Center is a state-of-the-art laboratory, research, education and primary care medical and teaching facility focused on issues facing the rapidly aging "Baby Boomer" population, and the maintenance of functional independence among the elderly.
FIRM: L.D. ASTORINO & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
PROJECT: PNC Bank Firstside Center
CONTRACTOR: (not yet awarded by publication date)

PNC Bank Firstside Center is projected to open by late 2000 and will house bank operations, treasury management, corporate loan operations, network services, disaster recovery, and training. The Center will employ state-of-the-art technology to provide flexible high speed data lines and fiber optics as well as to allow for future technological upgrades. The building is environmentally and user friendly. Each employee will be able to control the air temperature in his or her area with maximum use made of natural light. The location close by the Grant Street entrance/exit of the Parkway East will help to minimize vehicular traffic in the downtown area. There is also discussion of an inter-modal garage and an LRT station at First Avenue.

FIRM: HAYES LARGE ARCHITECTS
PROJECT: NASA Independent Verification and Validation Facility/West Virginia University, Fairmont, WV
CONTRACTOR: Turner Construction Company

This 55,000 SF award winning facility is home to aerospace industry contractors who test and verify the accuracy of software used by NASA in its Space Station Freedom program. The equivalent of the total contents of the Library of Congress flows from satellites to its supercomputer center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every week, for 17 years. This exceptional volume of data is processed and stored at the facility. Because the building and its operations never close, redundant mechanical and electrical systems had to be incorporated into the design - the facility has 5 independent electrical power systems, for example. The design accommodates significant technology - mechanical and electrical systems account for nearly 1/3 of the total SF and 50% of the construction budget - without compromising the human need for an open, light work environment.
FIRM: **RENAISSANCE 3 ARCHITECTS**  
**PROJECT:** Proposed Media Consulting Firm Creative Suite

A media consulting firm needs two levels of its facility connected for the creative department. This proposed solution requires cutting an opening into the existing slab to add an intercommunicating stair. A metal grid ceiling and vibrantly colored floor tiles and walls establish a dynamic character for the technology-based company’s space.

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**DESIGNERS:** **DALE STEWART, ASLA (CANOPY); ROBERT KOBET, AIA,**  
**BUILDING RENOVATION**  
**PROJECT:** Rooftop Garden Canopy for Conservation Consultants, Inc.

This fabric-on-frame structure is constructed largely from renewable resources that are bonded and coated with non-toxic materials. Because of the rooftop location, the canopy had to be highly durable and also portable in order to be hoisted to the roof in prefabricated sections. Nautical concepts guide the design — the canopy is essentially battened sails on masts. The use of airplane cabling removes the need for poles on the terrace itself. The project is a delightful combination of the low tech ("deploy the sails") with modern materials. Carrying the nautical theme further, the materials were tested by Stewart in high winds on Pamlico Sound off the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Sketch by Dale Stewart, ASLA.
FIRM: JOHNSON/SCHMIDT AND ASSOCIATES
PROJECT: Distribution Center for Lord & Taylor, a division of the May Department Store Company
CONTRACTOR: Poerio Construction

The 409,000 s.f. building serves as the east coast distribution center servicing all Lord & Taylor stores. The fully automated center utilizes modern technology to process merchandise from wholesalers into truck containers bound for each store. It also houses accounting and purchasing departments that were re-located from the corporate headquarters in New York. Equally strong emphasis was placed on creating a work environment that was employee centered, primarily through the use of well lit, brightly colored common areas.

FIRMS: Project Architect: STUDIO ARCHITECTS
Associated Architect: PERFIDO WEISKOPF ARCHITECTS
PROJECT: FORE Systems Corporate Headquarters
CONTRACTOR: Mascaro Construction

The primary mission was to architecturally capture the innovative, yet relaxed culture that has sustained FORE Systems during its meteoric growth. The playful composition provides a stimulating environment that also supports the unique creative work processes of the company and the almost constant change inherent in the high tech industry. Each building on the campus has its own unique personality, while the interiors are knit together with a strong architectural continuity. Unusual for the Pittsburgh region, but not to the high tech community with which FORE competes for employees, are employee amenities ranging from workout facilities to free soda machines to the outdoor volleyball court.
Masonry Camp  

by Erin Sweeney

Local participants declare the experience a hit!

When you ask Ken Stehle and CMU architectural student Gavin Ross what they did on their summer vacation, they can give a pretty good answer. They and 96 other participants ventured to Swan’s Island, Maine to share the experiences of Masonry Camp. The Camp is engineered by International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC) president John T. Joyce to bring together architects and journeymen in a forum that helps eliminate the gap between building designers and craft workers.

This year, they bridged the gap, and built a Visitors Center, too.

The camp operates on the premise that the most promising architects and masons together can educate one another. In recent years, schools have not always introduced students of architecture to collaborative projects or the realities of brick and mortar, nor have masons been fully exposed to the designing process. Camp seeks to change the perceptions each holds of the other’s work. IMI has created a forum for the students of both fields to come to respect and appreciate the work of the other to build partnerships, camaraderie and better buildings.

Through the week, the campers learned techniques of terrazzo, tile and stone setting, as well as other design concepts. The demonstrations of these skills by the IMI instructors were well received by all participants. “I was looking forward to hands-on experience. It was great not to have an instructor stand up there and tell me what it’s all about, but to actually be doing it,” said Ken Stehle. Many students were awed by the pride and skill each craftsman displayed in his exhibition. “They (the instructors) put a pride into their work that was great for both apprentices and architects to see,” added BAC bricklayer Craig Murphy of Berlin, PA.

The design/build challenge brings together teams composed of four designers and four masons. This year the students were challenged to design and build a Visitor’s Center for the island. Each group spends time in the studio drafting, and in many cases, redrafting ideas.

Stanley Tigerman, FAIA of Chicago feels the bonding of each team is a very important element of the Camp. “The issue of breaking down barriers is great, unusual, important, because, it is the wave of the future,” Tigerman said. Tigerman asserts that when a team bonds, it is reflected in the design and the construction, and it usually makes for a more interesting piece. He hopes the lessons learned here will translate to the future of construction.

The students then head to the building element to cement their designs. Here the learning process emulated reality. Blueprints cannot always be carried out as designed. BAC Tile setter Michael Spatz of Chicago said, “It was interesting to address changes that had to be made in our design.” Though not everyone felt they had completed their project successfully, most felt it was a worthwhile learning experience. Stehle of WTW Architects, agreed: “It’s a great cooperative mentoring opportunity. I’ve always like stone and terrazzo, but now I have a better understanding of how they work.”

Erin Sweeney is on the staff of the International Masonry Institute.
A Glimpse of Sewickley’s Houses

by David J. Vater, AIA

A review of a fine Edgeworth Preservation publication.

Eleven miles northwest of Pittsburgh on a broad bend of the Ohio River lies the charming town of Sewickley, bordered by the wooded communities of Edgeworth and Sewickley Heights. The town of Sewickley has remained wonderfully intact and has retained an attractive business district and a fashionable residential community of period homes. The domains of Edgeworth and Sewickley Heights became populated with country house retreats of wealthy Pittsburgh industrialist families of the late 19th and early 20th century and those communities still contain some of the most interesting and expensive homes in the region.

Historic Houses of the Sewickley Valley offers a glimpse of this often private world so long held at a distance by gatehouses, fences, stone walls, expansive yards, and long tree-shaded drives. The book has superb photographs and a descriptive text outlining some of the best remaining examples of the domestic architecture in the Sewickley area. Published by Edgeworth Preservation, PO Box 290X, Sewickley, PA, 15143, the 180 page, hardcover book is available for $69.55 tax included.

The text was written by Stephen Neal Dennis, a Washington, DC, attorney and preservation consultant, who has long had ties to Edgeworth Preservation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of the public regarding architectural history and preservation issues.

The author had the difficult task of selecting only 140 homes to represent over six hundred structures of historical and architectural merit in the Sewickley area. His text provides a concise exterior description of each selected home, often pointing out the unique details which give each particular home its distinctive personality, while also relating its overall features to the larger context of the stylistic vocabulary of American architecture.

Among the highlights are the renowned David Shield’s house and gardens called Newington, the pristine Greek Revival style Abishai Way house, the grand shingle style country house called Wilpen Hall, the handsomely understated shingle style John McKinney house, the charming French Eclectic style home called Sunnymead by architects Ingham and Boyd, the wonderful picturesque Tudor Revival style homes for Ralph Dravo and Harry Higgin both by architects Janssen and Coken, and the surprisingly authentic French Norman style home for James Orr by architects Sterling and Hannah.

With such a broad topic to cover, the book limits itself to only existing single-family homes built before the Second World War. Unfortunately this means that the other great Sewickley homes lost through demolition, such as the magnificent B.F. Jones estate at Franklin Farm, and his son B.F. Jones, Jr’s incomparable Renaissance Revival mansion called Fairacres, are simply not mentioned. Also forgotten are the Rea Mansion Farmhill; Thawmont, the estate of William Thaw; Poplar Hill, the home of Mrs. A.M. Byers; and the Tudor Revival home “Goodwood” of her son, J. Frederick Byers, later owned by H.J. Heinz II. Certainly the author has done well in adhering to his stated intention of only discussing existing homes, but I would argue that recalling these many other lost mansions could have provided a fuller picture and dramatically underscored how pressing the need for the continued preservation of domestic architecture remains.

The book is illustrated by 157 color photographs by William J. Penberthy, who spent two years taking the photographs in an effort to capture each house in the most favorable conditions. The pictures do much to express the Western Pennsylvania climate and settings by showing backgrounds of spring gardens, summer greenery, lawns of fallen autumn leaves, and the cold snow-covered yards of winter.

The photographs for the most part provide one image to illustrate each house, with just a few garden views and a very few interior views of stained glass window designs. What exists beyond the exterior walls is not shown or discussed; floor plan layouts, interior finishes, interior decorations, street addresses, and current property owners; names are all discreetly omitted.

Edgeworth Preservation is to be commended for producing such a handsome volume that offers a deferential glimpse toward the many exceptional private homes of the elite well-to-do families of the Sewickley Valley.
Membership Committee

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes the following new members.

**ARCHITECTS**

Robert K. Miller, AIA has recently joined the firm of Ruprecht Schroeder Hoffman and is returning to the 'burgh after 20 years of living elsewhere. He is a Michigan grad who earned his BS, Arch in 1988 and his M. Arch in 1990. Robert and his wife Brenda have three sons: Daniel, Thomas and Alec. He spends his free time with his family, enjoys sports and outdoor activities, and still wants to volunteer for the Professional Development and Urban Design Committees. Welcome home, Robert.

Heidi R. White is the national director of business development for the R. E. Crawford Company, Recco Corporation, and our newest professional affiliate member. Heidi is a Pitt grad with a B.A. in Communications with seven years of marketing and sales experience. She is interested in our Communications Committee. In her spare time, she enjoys golf, skiing, antiques and travel. Welcome aboard, Heidi — we're glad you've joined our team!

Paul J. Messineo, Jr. is business development manager for STV Incorporated and received his BSCE and MBA degrees from Pitt. He reports that he's always wanted to be an architect, and that's more, that he survived driving his family (wife Terri and sons Paul III, Brandon and Jordan) to Myrtle Beach and Disney World this spring. Obviously a man of good taste and strong constitution, we welcome Paul and look forward to seeing him get involved with the Membership Committee.

Jennifer Beck, Associate AIA is with the firm of Perido Weiskopf Architects and holds dual degrees from CMU — a B. Arch and a Masters of Sustainable Economic Development. Along with interests in urban history, new urbanism and preservation, she plays the flute and finds time to spend with husband Matthew. We'll look for her on the Legislative and Urban Design Committees when she's not preparing to sit for the PA Licensing Exam by the turn of the millennium — here's wishing you a Y2K free future, Jennifer.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES**

Daniel T. Kiefer of Crawford Consulting Services, Inc. provides construction management/owner's rep services along with preconstruction estimates and budgets. He, too, is a Pitt grad and is married to Janet. Daniel reports that he's interested in the Professional Development and AIA/MBA Committees.
From the Firms

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates announces the expansion of its Landscape Architecture department to provide full service capabilities in-house at the firm’s Pittsburgh office. The new department is under the direction of Sara Moore, ASLA.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates are designing renovations for the Woodland Place Nursing Center and Landau Building Company is the contractor. BHKR are also project architects for an assisted living facility owned by Ohio Valley General Hospital. TEDCO Construction Corporation will construct the new facility.

N. John Cunzolo Associates, Inc. are project architects for additions and renovations to the Sewickley Library; Landau Building Company holds the general construction contract.

Hayes Large Architects opened an office in State College to serve the Central Pennsylvania region.

LDA Companies announced a new corporate image as a result of the completion of a strategic plan for the firm. LDA Companies consists of L.D. Astorino & Associates, Ltd., Architects, Astorino Branch Engineers, Inc., and Astorino Branch Environmental, Inc.

Landau Building Company, general contractor, and L.D. Astorino & Associates Ltd., Architects are renovating the St. Paul Episcopal Church Nursery School, along with the pipe organ support system and acoustical modifications to the sanctuary.

Perkins Eastman Architects completed preliminary design work for the Repsol Central Research Facility, Mestoles, Spain.

Renaissance 3 Architects recently completed the Technology Briefing Center for RPS Inc. in Moon Township, a medical office building for Prudential Realty in Salem Township and a municipal services building for the Borough of Murrysville.

Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck Associates are project architects and Landau Building Company was awarded the general construction contract for Magee Plastics Company’s new warehouse addition.

Urban Design Associates has relocated to the Gulf Tower.

WTW Architects are developing a master plan for the Campus of West Liberty State College, the oldest college in the state of West Virginia.

BRIDGES Investment Company, L.P. is building a 78,000 s.f. self-storage facility in Marshall Township. The company is also building a new kidney dialysis center for Bio Medical Applications in Mercer, PA.

General Industries is constructing new corporate headquarters for Rose Plastic in California, PA. Moore Associates are providing architectural services.


Repsol Research Park, designed by Perkins Eastman Architects.

(continued on page 18)
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(l-r) Richard Kacin, president, Jeff Ferris, vice president, and Bruce Corna, vice president.

www.kacin.com
Business Briefs

Erik W. Hokanson, Associate AIA, joined Pfaffmann + Associates as an associate.

Melissa J. Barnes joined Poli & Cuteri Architects, Inc. as an intern architect. Richard L. Bartles also joined the firm as controller.

Maria Viteri, AIA is now Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of Market Development for the International Masonry Institute.

Gary Atcheson is an architectural intern with Lami • Grubb • Architects. Ron Slaughter has also joined the firm as a CAD draftsman.

James R. Platt, AIA was promoted to principal in the Pittsburgh office of Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

LDA Companies announced a number of staff promotions and additions. Richard L. Andersen, Ronald J. Emanuele, AIA, Sandra A. Konsugar, and Marigil M. Walsh have all been promoted to principal. Thomas J. Briney, AIA and William P. Joyce were promoted to senior associate, and Victor M. Beltran, Kirk P. Capristo, John R. Dietz, Nicholas Kampo, and John M. Maresca became associates. Michael G. Brennan became department head of the Structural Division.

LDA has added fourteen new employees: Robert E. Beckjord, design architect; Christopher M. Chiussano, construction administrator; Michael G. Rett, senior plumbing designer; Mary Kay Barrett, project manager, Interior Design Dept.; Wendy W. Brassart, marketing coordinator; William E. Chamberlin, CAD designer/draftsman; C. Dian Larsen, department secretary; Brian D. Leet, graduate architect; Anne H. Macdonald, project designer for residential Interiors; Corey L. Patterson, PC technician; Ryan M. Pierce, project manager in the architectural division; Scott R. Radakovich, graphic design assistant; Joseph M. Sepic, project manager for the architectural health care segment; and Nancy A. Smith, department secretary.

Richard O. Kernick joined WTW Architects on the design team for the Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Building. Also joining WTW's architectural staff are Betsy L. Garrity and Brian E. Kaminski. Diana Rudoy has been named marketing coordinator.

A. H. Mathias & Co., Inc., the oldest blueprint/reprographics company in the United States, elected the fourth generation of the Mathias family to executive management and corporate positions. Todd A. Mathias serves as president, Mark C. Mathias as vice president/treasurer as well as manager of Mathias Reprographics Division, and Chris Mathias as vice president/secretary and manager of MVP (Mathias Visual Products) Division. Herbert A. Mathias, Jr. remains chairman of the board.

Kudos

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates and Innovative Building and Construction Solutions (IBACOS) have been recognized by Architecturermagazine's Awards for Architectural Research. The goal of the awards program is to recognize outstanding research in architecture and urban design and to publish it for the architectural profession. Burt Hill and IBACOS' EDA Home research project was selected in the Energy and Sustainable Design category. The EDA Home is energy efficient and environmentally responsive, quick to build and top quality, affordable and adaptable.

Suzan M. Lami, AIA was named by Governor Ridge as one of the Best 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania. Lami • Grubb • Architects was recently honored by Pittsburgh Magazine in their juried interior of the year contest. Don Radutz of Relco Construction was the general contractor.

Perkins Eastman Architects was honored with the Assisted Living Federation of America's "Best of Home" design award in the renovation category for Chestnut Hill Residence, an assisted living facility located in Philadelphia. "Too many projects simply assemble standardized cliches of home, such as grand staircases, fireplaces and front porches," said Cornelia Hodgson, AIA, a juror for the awards program. "The winning designers created projects that demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the assisted living philosophy and carried these elements a step further."


General Industries won the hall of Fame Award from Varco-Pruden Buildings for outstanding construction of the new 66,000 s.f. Timberline Packaging building located in the California Technology Park in California, PA.

The Master Builders' Association (MBA) was recognized nationally for its safe job sites, receiving third place honors from the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC).

R. E. Crawford Company was named the #3 Neighborhood Center Retail Contractor as polled by Shopping Center World Magazine. The company also ranked #13 in retail shell construction and #20 in interior retail construction.
Pittsburgh is rich in human resources. The city is packed with creative, highly skilled designers, craftspeople and artists who spend their days (and nights) honing their craft, perfecting their skills, and searching for new creative directions. In many cases, these same people are largely invisible to the general public, to other related professionals, and even among themselves. For a city to evolve into a design hub that is respected inside as well as outside its own borders, a synergy must first exist among the designers, craftspeople, and artists who execute the designs, and the patrons and consumers of the products. By building bridges to provide easier access and familiarity among these groups, they can inspire and support one another, thereby increasing their effectiveness and standards of quality.

This exhibition of furniture designed and crafted by five Pittsburgh furniture makers not only spotlights their work, but also may serve as an inspiration to others to stage similar events to showcase the best talent of the region.

In paying close attention to the details of their discipline, the creators search for the synergy that transforms an object into something much greater than the sum of its parts. It is this magic, this orchestration of details, that elevates everyday objects such as furniture into prized possessions, even unique art.

The exhibition in the AIA Gallery runs the entire month of September. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The five participants invite you to join them for a special reception in the Gallery on Thursday, September 17 from 5-8 p.m.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: 1) Nude with Two Heads, boxwood, African blackwood, aluminum, glass and marble by Mark Blaustein. 2) Dresser of cherry, mahogany and aromatic cedar by Craig Marcus/Marcus Studio. 3) Entertainment Center of olive ash burl, rosewood and black lacquer by Max Peterson/Peterson Associates. 4) Dyx Table, ash, Macassar ebony, ebonized maple and dyed curly maple by Craig Elias/ Elias Studios. 5) Custom veneered cabinet by Bill James/James Wood Works.
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AIA ACTIVITIES

September 2, 9, 16, Wednesdays
Architrate Fundraising Committee Meeting, at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapter office. Information: Traci McGavitt (724) 935-8800.

September 4, Friday
Communications Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, 471-9548.

September 8, Tuesday
AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting
5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome, 471-9548.

September 9, Wednesday
Professional Development Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office. Scott Keener, AIA, 391-3086.

September 11, Friday
Committee on the Environment, noon at the Chapter office. Gary Mosliher, AIA, 231-1500.

September 14, Monday
AIA Annual Town Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Chapter Office. Members will vote on new members of the Board of Directors and also ratify the bylaws for Architrate and bylaw changes for AIA Pittsburgh. No charge, however, registrations are requested. Call 471-9548.

September 17, Thursday
Legislative Committee, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 231-1500.

AROUND TOWN

September 1 – 30
“Details” an exhibit of unique furniture crafted by Mark Allen Blausstein, Craig Elias, Bill James, Craig Marcus, and Max Peterson, five Pittsburgh furniture makers at the AIA gallery. Reception September 17, 5-7 p.m.

September 8, Tuesday
CSI Pittsburgh “Construction Cost Estimating” presentation by Crawford Consulting Services. Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, social at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. and program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is $20 by reservation. Call Les Cartill at 823-5603.

September 13, Sunday
Oakland Walking Tour 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Sponsored by PHLF. For reservations contact Mary Lu Denny at 471-5808.

September 16, Wednesday

September 19 & 20
“Wildlife and Sporting Art – The Masters Show” sponsored by the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday, Ligonier Valley YMCA, 110 W. Church St. Ligonier.

Historic Religious Properties Seminar: The Care and Restoration of Stained Glass. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by PHLF. For reservations contact Cathy Broucek at 471-5808.

UPCOMING

October 18-25
Suzan Lami, AIA
Lami • Grubb • Architects

Family: married to Bob Grubb, AIA, children: Alex, 12, future AIA, and Gina, 10, future rock star drummer.

Years in practice: 19.

Education: Cornell University and Carnegie Mellon University.

First job: Ingot mold draftsman; we did drawings with ink ruling pens on linen (I am not kidding!).

Project you’re proudest of: The American Youth Hostel in the Allentown neighborhood. The project has spurred improvements in the neighborhood, and won high praise from hostellers across the world.

Most embarrassing project: renovations of our own office - we don’t have time to draw them, so we all wave our arms around a lot.

Building you wish you had designed: John Martine’s steel storefront on Carson Street.

Building you’d like to tear down: my neighbor’s house — I always wanted a bigger garden.

If you hadn’t been an architect, what would you have been? a Disney Imagineer.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? where I am now: my commute is only 2 minutes if I actually stop at all the stop signs.

What’s the best part of your job: giving employees bonuses.

What would you change about your job: I wouldn’t work so much.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? I’ll be happy to put you on our waiting list. (I’ve actually been saying this a lot lately — it’s surprising how it creates an instant demand for your services!)

Advice to young architects: send me your resume.

The one thing you wish that they would teach in school is: mind reading.

Favorite city: Florence: great architecture and Italian food.

Favorite architect: Bob Grubb.


Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Squirrel Hill because of its endless variety.

Best gift to give an architect: a sunny day off with orders not to go to the office.

Wish list for downtown: a vibrant restaurant and retail district open every night.

What’s the next big architectural trend: Green building practices.

Someday I’d like to: start another business or two, master all of my grandmother’s recipes, look like I work out without actually having to sweat, remember how to program the VCR, and end my compulsion to make lists.

I want to be remembered for: being a great mom.

People would be surprised to know that: we currently have projects under construction from Los Angeles to New York, and from Tampa to Edmonton, Canada.

The secret to my success is that: my enthusiasm is real.

I belong to AIA because: I just love that red eagle.
ENGINEERS’ DIRECTORY

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

- BRACE ENGINEERING, INC.
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  CONTACT: Frank C. Brace
  Structural

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  PHONE: (724) 285-4761  FAX: (724) 285-6815
  CONTACT: David R. Linamen, P.E.
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- BURT HILL KOSAR RITTELLENN ASSOCIATES
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  CONTACT: Don Ritter
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  Pittsburgh, PA 15223
  PHONE: 921-3402  FAX: 921-1815
  CONTACT: Gregory P. Quatchak, P.E.
  Testing & Inspection / Civil / Construction Consulting / Environmental / Geotechnical

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  1340 Old Fortwood Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239
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  CONTACT: Robert Rosenthal
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  PHONE: 261-8615  FAX: 261-6527
  CONTACT: Herbert J. Brankley, P.E., Gregory L. Calabria, P.E.
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- ENGINEERING MECHANICS, INC.
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  PHONE: 923-1950  FAX: 787-5981
  CONTACT: Daniel Grieco, Jr., P.E.
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- FISCHING, RUSBARSKY AND WOLF ENGINEERING, INC.
  4240 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15271
  PHONE: 271-5900  FAX: 271-5935
  CONTACT: Daniel J. Wolf / David O. Rusbarsky
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- FOREMAN ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS, INC.
  P.O. Box 186, Zelienople, PA 16063
  PHONE: 724-452-9690  FAX: 724-452-0136
  CONTACT: David E. Foreman, P.E.
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  Moon Township, PA 15108
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  CONTACT: Thomas L. Blank, C.H. CSP
  Joseph F. Moon, PE
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  CONTACT: Stephan V. Konefal, P.E.
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  Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4407
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  Civil / Consulting / Electrical / Mechanical Structural / Telecommunications
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  CONTACT: Michael C. Moore
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  CONTACT: Walter S. Krasneski, Jr.
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- TRANS ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING
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  PHONE: 412-937-8070  FAX: 412-937-8071
  CONTACT: Sandra A. Sabo
  Civil / Consulting / Transportation
Construction Activity Up in the Pittsburgh SMA

The F.W. Dodge Division of The McGraw-Hill companies reports that total building activity for June of this year is up 42% over June 1997, and that year-to-date cumulative activity is up 47%. In both cases, most of the activity is for nonresidential projects: up 72% for June and up a whopping 94% cumulatively for the year.

Society Moves to New Location/Announces Deadline for Submission


News from NCARB

NCARB has compiled a series of articles in response to frequently asked questions about four NCARB services: compiling a Council record, completing IDP, becoming NCARB-certified, and transmitting your record for reciprocal registration. NCARB has also added the practice software for the Architect Registration Examination to its website. Exam candidates can download the software directly into their computers by signing on to the site at http://www.ncarb.org and following the links to the examination information.

House Pins Aid the Homeless

Uniquely handcrafted "house pins" are available to benefit the Bethlehem Haven Shelter for homeless women. The pins are $12 each. Call Mimi Jong, AIA, at 269-4330.

CLUE #4: The games afoot, Watson, and everyone needs to be there to find out who's done what! Food, drinks, and suspects galore. Mark your calendar now for Sunday, October 18th at the Carnegie Museum, to find out what all the fuss is about.

THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (MBA)

Building Value Through Excellence

WANTED — Projects with award-winning potential for submission in the 1998 Master Builders Association (MBA) Building Excellence Awards Program. Projects must be built by MBA contractors. Judging is based on how well the building team works together to enhance the owner's investment in the project, design and craftsmanship, innovation and customer satisfaction.

A flyer featuring quality color photos of all submissions is published and distributed through AIA Pittsburgh's Columns, the Pittsburgh Business Times and the Master Builders Association Newsletter.

The MBA is proud to showcase the quality work performed by its members. Call Ann Billak at (412) 922-3912 for information on entering an award-winning project in this prestigious competition.
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