

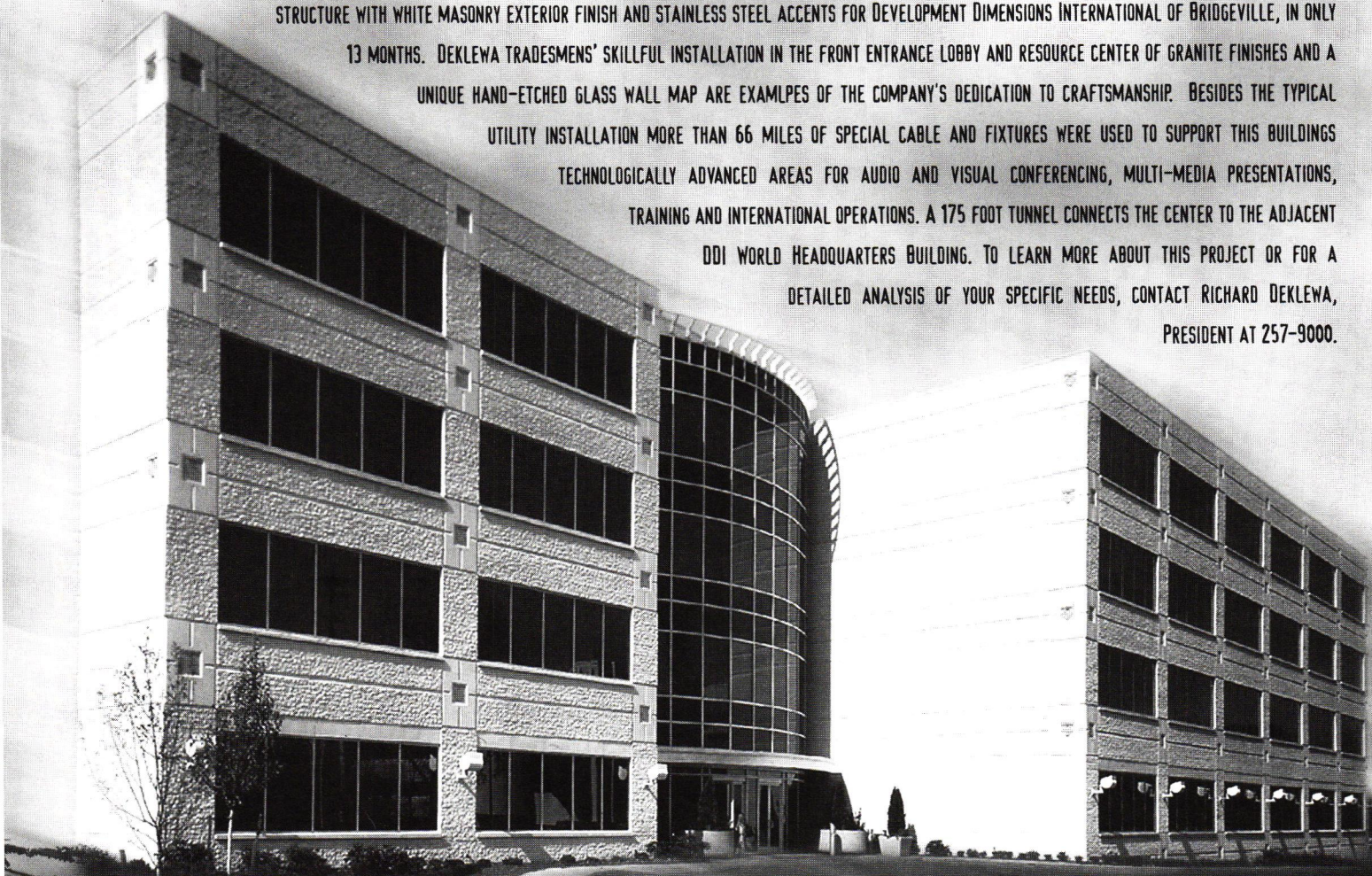
C O L U M N S





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

Dog Daze

by Cheryl R. Towers

I don't have a father-in-law, I have a

clipping service. Dad devours his local San Francisco newspapers, which means we can count on regular servings of the interesting, the quirky and the downright weird. Given my own commitment to same, his packets are always good for a chuckle, if not an outright cry of "where does he find this stuff?"

We have found several points of bonding over the years, initially centered around mysteries (Patricia Cornwall was an early favorite) and food. A recent contribution involved a debate in the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Special Millennium Issue Food Section between those who believe a brave new world will mean dining on pills, and the hopeful hold-outs looking forward to renewed pleasures of the hearth. The same issue had a dyn-o-mite recipe for yellow curry paste involving 16 ingredients, but I digress.

A few years ago, our relationship grew beyond murder and gastronomic mayhem to include Frank Lloyd Wright. For some reason we couldn't identify, my husband and I had never taken Hal to see Fallingwater in the almost twenty years that we've lived in Pittsburgh and that, therefore, he's been visiting us. I think it had something to do with his dislike of riding more than an hour in a car only to wind up in the middle of nowhere, far from the nearest pub (this is a city boy of Irish heritage, after all). Anyway, off we went, first to Kentuck Knob and then on to Fallingwater and boy, were they a hit. What was interesting to me was Hal's innate understanding of the architecture and what made these buildings so spectacular. He visited a friend in Chicago after leaving us, and found himself in FLW heaven. Obviously, we were on to something.

Now to the other end of the spectrum. This year's trip involved hot dog parlors, inspired by Rick Sebak's PBS special. The high point was hanging out in the O and hearing that familiar narrator's voice behind us in line. Good to know that he practices what he preaches.

Back in the City on the Bay, however, a hot dog tale of another kind was unfolding. The crux of the controversy as described on the *Chronicle's* editorial page was this: "Is a 10-foot-tall, grinning dachshund in a chef's hat really a San Francisco landmark? You bet it is, and hold the mustard. Hokey and hilarious, it represents a neon era of burger stands and kitschy fun.

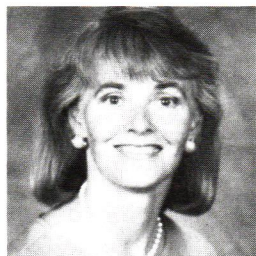
"Preserving the Doggie Diner as an official city landmark definitely bends the concept. Usually civic leaders lay the label on columned buildings or Victorians in the path of bulldozers. Ancient pedigrees and distinguished design are required.

"But what about an everyday, slightly goofy fast-food joint? If there were dozens of diners dotting the town, there wouldn't be an argument. But this Doggie Diner at the far end of Sloat Boulevard is the last of the litter....

"Whatever the reason, the smiling pooch is worth keeping. San Francisco's Landmarks Preservation Board was right to save a gaudy memento of the past. The shining face and ridiculous nose are a warm snapshot of city history, a daub of color worth saving."

The tale of the dog is, I suppose, a lesson of caution for us here at home. Cities don't become vital, interesting places only through grand schemes. Planning, economic stimulation, signature attractions and all the rest are often needed, as Pittsburgh's various Renaissances have demonstrated. Heaven (or Goofy) only knows, Pittsburgh is a far more attractive city than it was not very many years ago. But in our zeal to become a city for the new millennium, let's not forget that along with the stadiums and shiny new buildings, it's the Doggie Diners of the world that humanize our town not so much to outsiders as to ourselves. Long live the Dog!

Visit our website at www.aiapgh.org.



"Is a 10-foot-tall, grinning dachshund in a chef's hat really a San Francisco landmark?"—

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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On the cover: Perry Yacht Club Observation Tower, Erie, PA, designed by Weber Murphy Fox, 1988. Photo by Art Becker.

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

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

The Great Leap Forward

by Anne J. Swager

There's a sense of anticipation in our region.

Perhaps it's the long-standing bull market or the blissfully long expansion of the economy. Maybe it's the building boom of the new stadiums, the expansion of the Convention Center or the new projects slated for the Cultural District. Whatever the reason, many people feel Pittsburgh is poised to be one of the next "hot cities". Weather aside, the critical mass for the city to leap forward appears to be slowly but steadily coming together. There are almost enough high tech firms that techies don't have to worry about jumping to a new city if their firm goes belly up. The architectural community has been full tilt boogie for several years. There's plenty of work and not enough architects to do it all. Other sectors are expanding as well, making it hard to imagine that bad economic times will ever be here again.

When I go out for lunch now, I see strangers, visitors, people with out-of-town T-shirts. People carry maps and ponder street signs with the bewildered look of the locationally challenged tourist. It's a great sight. For the longest time, it's felt like those of us who live here are the only ones that know we exist. Many of these tourists are actually here checking out our architectural treasures. Due to generous gifts from Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann, WTW Architects, JSA Architects, UDA Architects, Gerald Lee Morosco Architects and L.D. Astorino & Associates, we have been able to sustain a national public relations campaign highlighting all that Pittsburgh has to offer. It's paying off. The latest issue of *Discerning Traveler* is completely dedicated to Pittsburgh. Past issues of this publication have featured cities such as Savannah, Key West, Charleston, and Montreal. It's a heady feeling indeed to be in such august company.

In a nod to the tourist economy, the new wayfinder pedestrian signs for Downtown went up recently. They are clear

and concise and best of all, human. Instead of the typical, so-many-parts-of-a-mile-to-walk, they tell you how many blocks you are from your destination. At the kiosks, you can see every place that is within a 10 minute walk from where you're standing. The signs are noticeable but compact and, best of all, easily understandable. The signs are a product of the design genius of Agnew, Moyer and Smith, the same firm that redid AIA's graphic identity 8 or so years ago. It's nice to see recognition that good design makes for a better Downtown.

The quality of the riverfronts is on the Mayor's front burner at present. He has organized a Riverlife Task Force to consider design standards for all the development happening up and down our three rivers. It is certainly not a moment too soon for this important task to be undertaken. The AIA was pleased when I was asked to be on the task force but disappointed that there were no design professionals included. While we might have launched a massive letter writing campaign to try and remedy the oversight, one of our members took a much more positive, and in the end, successful stance. Don Carter, FAIA approached the powers that be and offered the services of the Chapter as an advisory committee to the Riverlife Task Force. His strategy worked. Board member Rich DeYoung, AIA from WTW Architects will chair this group who will work with Alex Cooper and the task force.

Done right, as I have no doubt it will be, the advisory committee can serve as a resource while demonstrating the creative problem-solving ability that architects bring to the table. If our city truly is on the precipice of leaping forward, we need to ensure that a strong ethic for the best of design is included in the plans. Thanks to Don's foresight, we will be at the table to push this agenda.



"It's nice to see recognition that good design makes for a better Downtown."



Firm Pioneers Global Technology

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates have unveiled a revolutionary creative/technical presentation delivery process. According to Burt Hill's chief information officer, Mark Dietrick, AIA, "These new processes and systems will enable architects, engineers, consultants and clients to work over the Internet worldwide to execute building projects faster, better and less expensively. This will set the standard for the industry." The foundation of this technology is 3-D modeling as the standard design approach for all disciplines with automatic links to specification and cost data.

New from Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

The Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania to support the creation of *Landmark Survivors*, a poster series and exhibit featuring historic buildings and places in the Pittsburgh region. PH&LF has also released a new book, *Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family* by Evelyn Bitner Pearson. In it, Mrs. Pearson recalls much of life in Pittsburgh from 1910 to the present. The book is available for \$8.95 from the Foundation or in area bookstores.

NCARB Certification Vote

Member Boards of NCARB voted at the annual meeting in June to lift the sunset provision on the Broadly Experienced Architect (BEA) alternative for satisfying the NCARB education standard. This program will not end on July 1, 2000, and architects who do not hold a degree that is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) may take advantage of the BEA avenue to NCARB certification indefinitely. In order to participate in the BEA, you must have been registered an architect for at least ten years, and you must also have practiced as a principal or been in responsible charge of the practice of architecture in the jurisdiction where you are registered for ten or more years.

For further details on procedures and requirements for the BEA, please see pages 3-4 of the NCARB *Education Standard* which is available on the NCARB web site (www.ncarb.org), or contact the Council offices at 202/783-6500.



Technology and preservation intersect in Lawrenceville.
Photo by Robert S. Pfaffmann, AIA.

letters to the editor

■ I've just finished perusing the *Columns* issue entitled "Visitor's Guide to Modern Architecture." At the risk of sounding provincial, I was disappointed that your "Tomorrow's Stars" article featured projects being designed by "visitors." And while I understand your reasons for highlighting major public works, it is, nevertheless, a sad commentary.

I must respectfully offer a correction. Despite Messrs. Pfaffmann and Axtell's exhaustive research, their article, "Mending the Moderns", contains an erroneous credit. Lobby additions for Two and Three Gateway Center were designed by Deeter Ritchey Sippel Associates in 1984 (although we won't take credit for the interior renovations currently underway).

James D. Kling, AIA
Principal, DRS ARCHITECTS

■ I wanted to thank you for the several recent issues of *Columns* in which you mention the Living Architecture: Alive in Pittsburgh initiative. We appreciate your support of this program and your ongoing excellent work as the editor of *Columns*.

Al Tannler mentioned that he helped you recently with information for the "Visitors Guide to Modern Architecture", but we were a little disappointed that our publications were not listed at the end of that article. Although I recognize that most people correctly think of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks in association with historic buildings, we do have some publications that speak to modern architecture as well and I believe those were the reference books Al gave you.

Thank you so much and keep up the good work.

Cathy Broucek, Assistant to the President
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

(ed. note: PH&LF references were inadvertently omitted. Mr. Tannler especially recommends *A List of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Buildings and Architects 1950-1996*, which sells for \$2 per copy and is available from PH&LF.)

RESHAPING THE REGION II: Focus on Northwest PA



PHOTOS PAGES 6-10 BY ART BECKER

Perry's Landing Yacht Club. The tower/observation deck provides a strong focal point for Perry's Landing development.

A few years ago, AIA Pittsburgh conducted a series of public forums and a charrette that demonstrated more sustainable methods of development using actual sites in Western Allegheny County. The project was called *Reshaping the Region: Planning for a Sustainable Future*, and was organized by the Chapter's Committee on the Environment. Since then, the Chapter, through organized activities and through the influence of individual members and firms, has had an increasingly large and positive impact on the area.

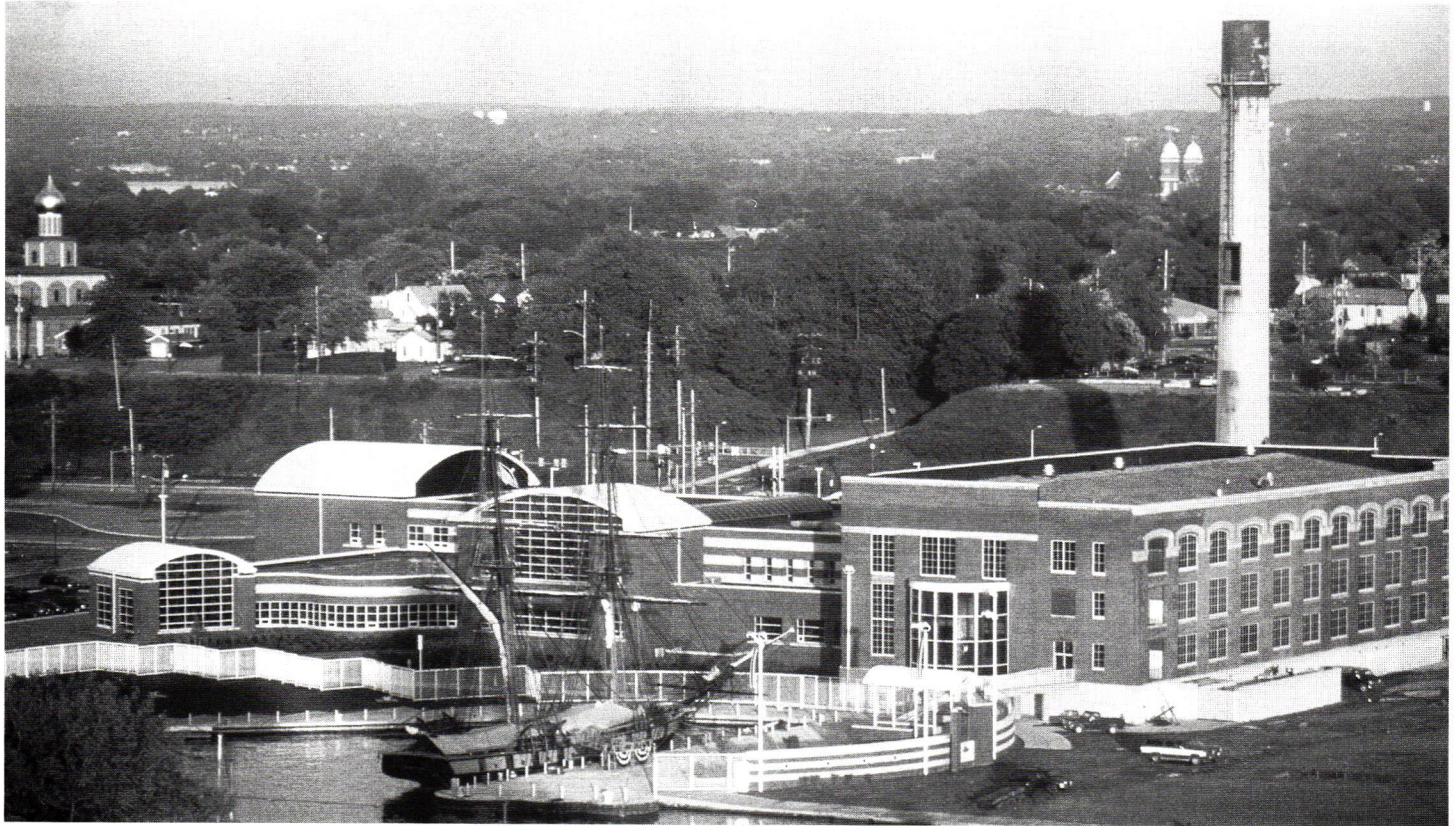
With this experience in mind, we at *Columns* wondered how our colleagues in our sister chapters that we serve — Northwest and Middle — were influencing their respective regions. As a result, we invited members from both chapters to submit projects and to tell us about their activities. Our first installment looks at the Northwest Chapter; we will feature the Middle PA Chapter in the October issue.

THE CHANGING FACE OF ERIE Weber Murphy Fox

OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Not very many years ago, Erie, PA was typical of many tired rust belt cities. Industries had died or fled, sprawl was the order of the day, and the inner city was decaying. Erie had a few major strengths, however. The first was a downtown core that had managed to retain three significant anchors: the Erie Insurance Co. headquarters campus, Hamot Hospital, and Gannon University. All could have fled to outlying areas; none did. Second, Erie had its waterfront along Presque Isle Bay and a body politic along with civic leaders who recognized that it was a valuable asset. Third, the City had home grown architectural talent available to provide planning and design services.

In addition, transportation improvements were changing the traditional entry into downtown Erie. Now, instead of entering on State Street or one of the major east-west routes, the main entry was via the new Bayfront Highway accessed from Rts. 5 and 20 and I-79.



***Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library, H.O. Hirt Auditorium, and the Niagara Museum.
This 140,000 s.f. cultural center also serves as the mooring for the Flagship Niagara.***

State Street Basin Master Plan (1992)

The purpose of this study was to provide the master plan and development framework for proposed future development of Erie's bayfront. The planning study involved analysis of the existing conditions including land use, parking, waterfront usage, and proposed developments including Penelec-sponsored private development.

The final study called for a mix of private and public development, an aggressive menu of public access, a necklace of public parks themed to Erie's history, public marina development, public transportation and expanded parking. The study is currently being used as the framework for ongoing waterfront development projects.

West Dock Development (1997)

The Port Authority retained Weber Murphy Fox to develop a feasibility/highest use plan for the west dock at Erie's bayfront. The scheme, defined largely by parking and zoning, identifies a four-story, mixed-use building set on a podium of parking which could be developed on a phased basis.

The firm is currently designing the first phase which is a four story building with first floor covered parking and small commercial kiosks, a 6,000 sq. ft. restaurant on the second level and professional and Port Authority offices on portions of the second, third and fourth floors. The project will be surrounded by the public access, water-edged promenade and will provide transient boat dockage from adjacent existing slips in the west basin. This building will be used to establish the character and momentum which the Authority wishes to carry through development of future projects on the west and east docks.

Dobbins Landing (1996)

Dobbins Landing, Erie's Public Dock, is the terminus of Erie's main street (State) at the bayfront. This public dock serves as a boat landing and a location for commercial and tour boats. It also is one of the first places locals take visitors, and is the place where the public goes to look out onto the bay, across at the Peninsula and back at the City.

In 1990, the Port Authority retained Weber Murphy Fox to prepare a number of development schemes for Dobbins



Perry's Landing Yacht Club. The Private marina-yacht club has become a community and navigational landmark.

Landing. Intensive programming called for enhancement of existing uses including public pedestrian access, maritime usage, festivals, fairs and various summer and winter activities. The goal was to provide a design that would recognize the importance of this site as both a gateway to the City from the water and a strong terminus to State St.

This project was selected by a citizen's committee as the City's Bicentennial gift (1995). It includes an infrastructure phase involving new sheet piling edge, concrete capping and utility development for the entire pier. Surface improvements included construction of a 180 ft. observation tower with a support building for concessions, tower access and public toilets. An existing second floor structure was preserved and incorporated as a way of expanding pedestrian space.

Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library, H.O. Hirt Auditorium, and Niagara Museum (1996)

This 140,000 sq. ft. cultural center consists of three separate elements in an integrated facility with four separate clients — the County of Erie, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Northwest Pennsylvania Technical Institute and the Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority. The project includes a 95,000 sq. ft. central County Library, a 40,000 sq. ft. Museum, office facilities for the Institute, a

300 seat auditorium and performance space with state of the art audio-visual systems and a new mooring and exhibit basin for the reconstructed Flagship Niagara.

This project serves as a public anchor for surrounding private development projects including hotels, residences, shops and commercial space, and involved restoration and new construction, interior design, theater design, plus planning and landscape architecture.

Waterworks Administration Building (1996)

Weber Murphy Fox in conjunction with Crowner/King Architects completed a master plan study for the Erie Water Authority in 1994. The purpose was to examine the Authority's facilities at multiple sites and develop a master plan for consolidation of activities at a single site. The bayfront site at the foot of Chestnut Street was selected for development and consolidation.

The first element of the master plan — additions and renovations to the administration building — was designed by Weber Murphy Fox. New stair and elevator towers were added to the east and west of the building. Administrative offices on the top floor were created by adding roof dormers and a new clerestory. The second floor contains engineering, financial and accounting offices. The first floor



Jerry Uht Ballpark. The ballpark provides a new home for an old Erie tradition.

houses the billings and collections department, board room and conference rooms and other facilities.

The building is designed to act as a focal point for the complex and to reflect the handsome Italianate Renaissance revival style of the existing buildings. In addition, the new adjacent walkway, fountain and garden along the water provides another element in Erie's waterfront development.

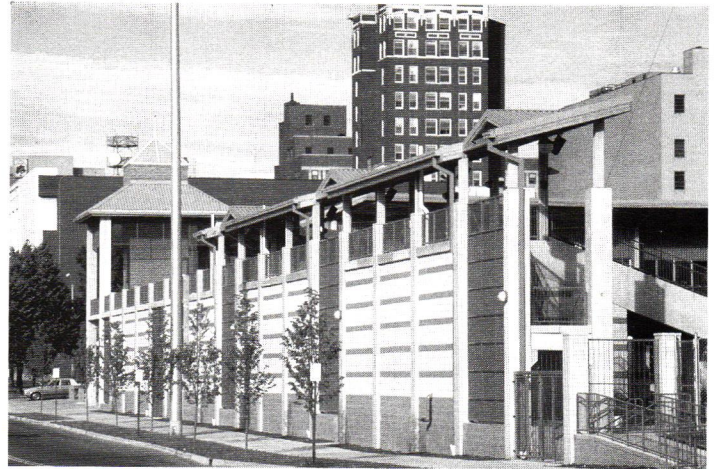
Perry's Landing Yacht Club (1988)

The yacht club building is the focal facility of a private marina-yacht club presently containing 200 slips and scheduled to build out at 500-600 slips. The building was designed primarily for summer use and contains a bar, restaurant, and lounge spaces on the upper level with access directly onto an open swimming pool deck. The lower level contains locker rooms and kitchen facilities. Second floor decks cantilever out over the public access walkway which surrounds the perimeter of the pier.

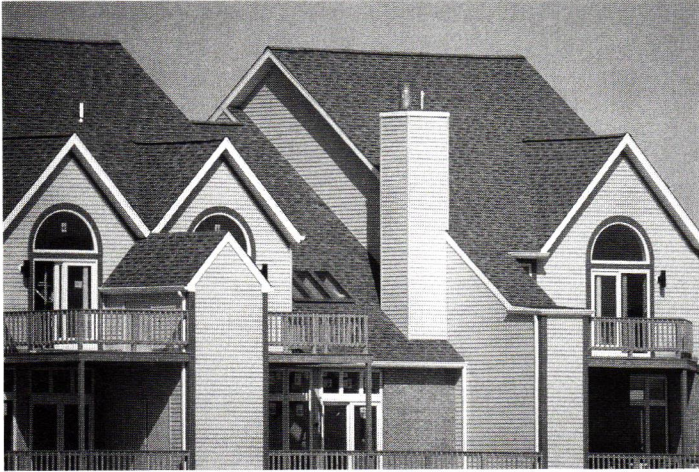
A private observation deck provides a strong symbol and focal point for the entire Perry's Landing development and has become a community as well as a navigational landmark.

Jerry Uht Ballpark (1995)

Erie has long had a minor league team, and this new stadium recaptures the intimacy of old-time baseball.



Waterworks Administration Building. This facility consolidates the Erie Water Authority's operations into a single site.



Niagara Pier Condos. Waterfront living on Presque Isle Bay, Erie.

About The NWPA Chapter

BY DANA S. MINTSIVERIS, AIA, CHAPTER TREASURER

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PAST PRESIDENT: William J. Helsley, AIA, Weber Murphy Fox Architects, Erie
(current President of AIA PA)

AIA PA DIRECTOR: Shelane Beuhler, AIA, Weborg Rectenwald Architects, Erie

PROGRAMS:

- The Chapter hosted an AIA PA board meeting over a long weekend in mid-July. Among other events, NW sponsored a legislative breakfast at the Erie Club, with state representative Tom Scrimenti in attendance, along with the AIA PA Board and NW members. Some issues discussed were the statewide building code and legislation affecting green building practices and limiting urban sprawl.

- Shelane Buehler, AIA is heading up an effort to market the services of AIA architects in our chapter's region, to correspond with the national ad campaign of the AIA. Ads will be placed in local newspapers and radio in the months to come.

- Exploring Architecture is a very meaningful program that NW has been involved with for years. The Explorers program for high school students is run by the Boy Scouts of America (the program is co-ed), who asked our chapter to team with them to supervise the Architecture Explorers, a group of high school students interested in architecture as a career. NW chapter members Dana Mintsiveris, AIA, MC Restifo, AIA, and Jerry Karle, AIA take the students on tours of local architecture offices, buildings and projects under construction. We also bring in speakers to talk to the students about related fields such as landscape architecture, and give them small projects to complete. The program runs for about 3-4 months with meetings twice a month in the Erie Historical Society Building downtown. Several students have gone on to architecture school after going through our program, including two this year.

- NW members Richard Speicher, AIA and Victor King, AIA head the annual chapter awards program, which not only recognizes member firms for their work, but more importantly provides an opportunity for our clients to come to a chapter meeting and be recognized for their collaboration with member firms. This goes a long way to bolster the standing of the chapter and of AIA architects in general in the eyes of our local clients. Judging is always done by chapters or individuals outside our own region.

THORNTON WOODS CONDOMINIUMS (Hermitage, PA, 1996) Donald E. Hunter, AIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

"This is my first and only project since I retired as President of Hunter, Heiges, Sabo, Douglass, Rogers in 1990.

"When I retired, my wife and I became interested in purchasing a condominium since we intended to travel considerably and also spend more time at our Florida residence. We could not find the quality of condo, nor the design we desired, and after much consideration, I decided to become a developer as well as an architect in order to satisfy our requirements.

"I found a beautiful wooded site with the proper zoning located adjacent to F.H. Buhl Farm Park and Golf Course and across the street from Sharon County Club. The site was extremely interesting but presented many challenges such as lack of utilities, terrain which did not permit a normal street pattern, and the need to relocate a log cabin to a more appropriate site.

"One of my prime considerations was that each building be different. Six basic designs were developed, and each of these was varied to suit owners' needs and to vary appearance. The common design elements were uniform brick, stone, natural siding, roofing and color of windows and trim. Owners were able to complete the interiors to suit their own tastes.

"I would like to encourage young architects starting their professional careers to consider becoming developers or joining with a progressive developer in order to better control the design and quality of residential development, which too often does not have the benefit of quality architectural design services."



**SHENANGO VALLEY MULTI-SERVICE
CENTER (funding pending)
HHS DR Architects/Engineers**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

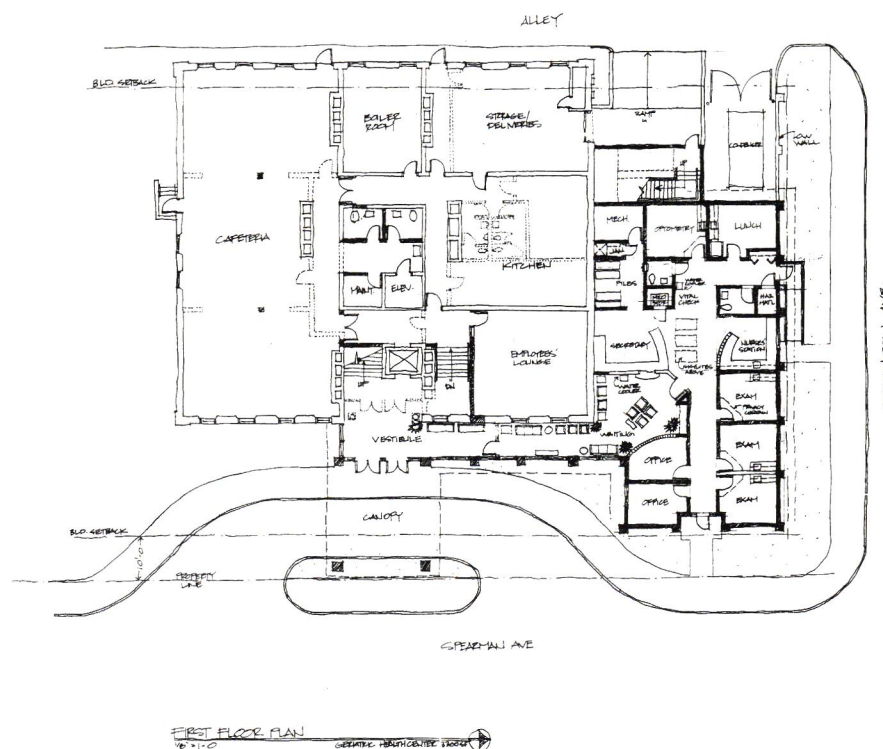
The present building is the former J. A. Farrell School, constructed during the 1920's and now utilized as the Shenango Valley Multi-Service Center. The building is a three story structure that contains 22,800 square feet on a one acre city block that slopes from north to south. Parking is presently provided both on site and along the surrounding streets.

The scope of the project renovates the Multi-Service Center which will serve as the focal point of the complex. The renovations will include, but not be limited to, new HVAC, electrical, plumbing, windows, doors, ceiling, painting, floor coverings, asbestos removal, and food service equipment.

The Geriatric Health Center will be a one-story new structure containing approximately 3,500 sq. ft. with grade level access. Waiting, reception, nurse's station, examination rooms, optometry room and physician's office space will be housed in this portion.

The design theme for the entire complex will be that of a home. The exterior will be a blend of brick and siding to compliment the existing facility while at the same time introducing residential features to scale down the structure. The entrance portico will be the focal point of the Multi-Service Center, but with a soft and inviting appeal. Interior spaces will be light and airy, taking advantage of natural light through windows and skylights at key locations. Carpeting, painted wood trim and doors, papered walls with borders and non-grid ceilings will be utilized to achieve an intimate scale and materials.

Merger County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has successfully operated the Shenango Valley MultiService Center, 1020 Spearman Avenue, Farrell, PA, for approximately twenty years. The Center serves thirteen municipalities, which represent the most substantial population base in our primarily rural county. It also has the highest concentrations of poor and minority elderly. Approximately 100 individuals per day attend the Multi-Service Center, which offers a full range of social services to the surrounding community.





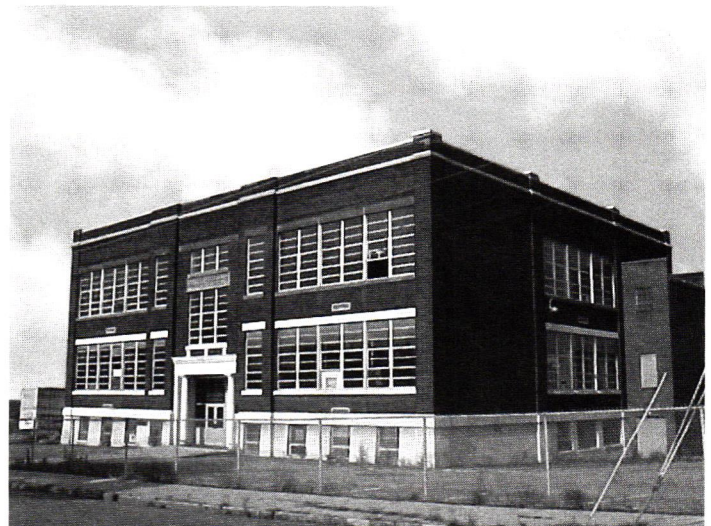
After

The Shenango Valley Multi-Service Center houses a senior center, a district licensed older Adult Day Care Center, care management offices and a nutrition site.

The Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.'s past initiatives in providing creative ways to meet the needs of Senior Citizens in Mercer County were recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has entered a partnership with Primary Health Network, Inc. a non-profit corporation administratively based in Sharon, Pennsylvania, to develop a Geriatric Health Center at the Shenango Valley Multi-Service Center, which will provide an array of medical services for older residents of Mercer County.

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. also has entered into a partnership with Mercer County Housing Authority, Inc. to develop an assisted living community adjacent to the Shenango Valley Multi-Service Center and Geriatric Health Center. This will provide aging services, social programs, and health services to enhance the lives of the residents of the assisted living community.



Before

COURTROOM H

ERIE COUNTY COURT HOUSE (1998)

Crowner/King Architects

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In June of 1996, the County of Erie applied for a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) in order to undertake improvements to preserve the historical integrity of Erie County's oldest courtroom — Courtroom H. The courtroom is located in the west wing of the Erie County Court House which was constructed during the years 1852-55. Although no plans exist to verify the architect, County records indicate a payment to Thomas U. Walter for architectural plans in 1852. Several modifications were made to the building over the years, including construction of the rear addition (1889), removal of the clock towers (1894), construction of an east wing to match the west wing (1929-30), and construction of a modern annex (1977). The Court House has been identified as a contributing building in the West 6th Street Historic District, which functioned as Erie's "Millionaires Row" during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The structure is also the oldest government building in continuous use in Erie County.

Courtroom H has been in continuous use since May 1855 — more than 140 years — serving the community in a variety of important ways. It is used for trials, hearings, and other legal proceedings, and it serves as the County's only Jury Assembly Room, averaging 6,000 jurors per year since 1988. Many other events are held in the courtroom, including Sheriff sales, public auctions, annual meetings for local political parties and other civic groups, live plays by a local theater league, educational seminars, and conferences. For its entire history, Courtroom H has been the ceremonial courtroom for the swearing in of public officials, robing ceremonies for new judges, the admission to the Bar of new attorneys, and weddings for members of the Erie community. Given its extensive public use, County officials decided that it was imperative that the courtroom be preserved in a way that respects and understands its history, is sensitive to the original architecture, and ensures that the courtroom continues to function as the civic and ceremonial heart of the Court House complex.

A preservation rather than restoration approach was recommended for Courtroom H because of the changes to the room over the years and lack of documentation of what existed prior to the changes. With constant use came several changes to keep the courtroom functional. Suffering from acoustical problems from the beginning, the ornamental ceiling was removed in 1873 and pillars behind the judge's bench were replaced with the existing recessed alcove. At some unknown date, 286 theater-style seats replaced the earlier spectator seating. In the 1970's, the original wood double hung windows were replaced with the current aluminum windows. Despite these changes, Courtroom H and its grand stairwell retain the most original fabric and feeling of the 1855 Court House.

Based upon a preliminary analysis of the courtroom conducted by Crowner/King Architects, the County's 1996 grant application to the PHMC proposed that various improvements be undertaken as part of the Courtroom H Preservation Project.

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LISTEN, LEARN & LEGISLATE

AIA Pittsburgh's 1999 Town Meeting

All members are invited and encouraged to attend!!!

*Members will vote on new members of the Board of Directors

*Meet Harry Rutledge, AIA
AIA Pennsylvania's Director to AIA National's Board

*Maureen Guttman, AIA
AIA Pennsylvania Director
Updates on AIA PA legislative initiatives

When: Thursday, Sept. 30, 1999
Where: The Society of Contemporary Crafts
(2100 Smallman St.- The Strip)
Time: 5:30 - 8:00
Cost: Free of charge

Registration deadline:
Monday, September 27, 1999
For information call AIA Pittsburgh
412.471.9548

Detach this form and fax c/o Allyson Foerster,
AIA Pittsburgh

FAX to: 412.471.9501

AIA Town Meeting

Member Name: _____

Firm: _____

Tel. No.: _____

**Thanks for your participation,
we look forward to seeing
you all there!**

Mark Zweig Presents The New Rules for Managing an A/E/P or Environmental Consulting Firm

Join SMPS-Pittsburgh in welcoming Mark Zweig of Zweig, White & Associates as he presents on the changing rules in management.

This is an opportunity CEOs, principals, and managers won't want to miss!

When: Monday, Sept. 13, 1999
Where: Rivers Club,
Oxford Center
Time: 5:30--Registration & Cocktails
6:30--Program
7:30--Adjourn
Cost: SMPS member - \$45.00
Non member - \$55.00

Registration deadline:
Tuesday, September 7, 1999
If you need special assistance, call:
Lee Ann Anderson - Turner Construction Co.
412.255.5400

2 LU's available!!

Detach this form and fax c/o Lee Ann Anderson,
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FAX to: 412.255.0249

Mark Zweig Presentation to SMPS

Name: _____

Company: _____

Tel. No.: _____

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Payment (credit cards not accepted):
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1400 Koppers Bldg.
436 Seventh Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

ASCE's Annual Fall Kickoff Meeting

Featuring
Robert Sinn, P.E., S.E.
Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP-Structural Engineers
Chicago, Illinois

Structural Engineering for
"The Greatest Building of Our Time":
The Guggenheim Museum of
Bilbao, Spain

When: Wed., Sept. 22, 1999
Where: Greentree Holiday Inn
Time: 5:30-Social
6:30-Dinner
7:30-Honorees
8:15-Speaker

Cost: \$23 - ASCE, AISC, AIA,
AEI and SEI members
\$26 - non members
\$15 - students

(Note: no shows will be billed.)

Entrees: Stuffed Chicken
or London Broil

RSVP deadline:
Monday, September 20, 1999
Contact Cheryl Epperson of
Michael Baker Jr., Inc. at 412.269.7943

2 LU's available!!

Detach this form and fax c/o Cheryl Epperson,
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

FAX to: 412.269.7915

ASCE's Fall Kickoff Meeting

Name: _____

Company: _____

Tel. No.: _____

Circle one of the following:

ASCE AISC AIA AEI SEI

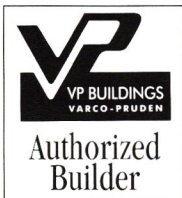
Non-member Student

If you are an AIA Member, please
include your AIA Member #:

**Payment will be taken at
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Selecting General Industries Sent a Clear Message. . .

Crown Communications wanted the best design and construction for their office complex at Southpointe. Designed by L.D. Astorino Associates, the building combines form and function. The construction was done on-time and on-budget, with the professionalism, quality and attention to detail that are General Industries trademarks.



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Crown Communications, Canonsburg, PA
Architect: L.D. Astorino Associates



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ARCHITECT: CORNERSTONE DESIGN, LTD. - ARCHITECTS. DEVELOPER: KEVIN BROWN/CLABELL MANAGEMENT

Angelo DiNardo 724-864-1458
Angelo Petricca 724-334-0622



Claude Dilanni
330-758-6793

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From the Firms

➔ **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** designed an innovative underground treatment center for the new \$6.5 million, 14,500 s.f. Schiffler Oncology Center at Wheeling Hospital. The solution involved removing 37,000 cubic yards of shale from beneath the six story hospital, a feat made possible and practical by structural reinforcements made twenty years ago to resist the forces of expanding stone beneath the building.

Burt Hill also designed a rejuvenating makeover for The Spa at Nemacolin Woodlands in conjunction with Clodagh Design International.

The Design Alliance is architect for additions and alterations to the Kay Program Center, a neighborhood child care/activity center owned and managed by the Hill House Association in Pittsburgh. Repal Construction Co., Inc. has been awarded the construction contract.

Edge Architecture is designing the new regional call center and technical facility in Pittsburgh that has resulted from the merger of AT&T and TCI. In addition, the firm recently concluded phase one of renovations to the Bruno Building at 945 Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh and 8,000 s.f. of new office space for Jack Horner Communications, Inc. in the former Westinghouse Building in Forest Hills.

Glance & Associates was awarded a contract for the development of a comprehensive parks, recreation and open space plan for the City of Aliquippa.

Hayes Large Architects announced two new educational projects plus the relocation of their Pittsburgh office. The firm is designing a new 150,000 s.f. high school for the South Fayette Township School District and will also design a new science and technology institute for the Community College of Allegheny County's Allegheny Campus. Hayes Large is now located on the seventh floor of the Ewart Building, 925 Liberty Avenue. Phone and fax numbers remain the same.

The Hayes Design Group - Architects was selected to perform A/E/I services for the \$10,000,000 renovation of the Charleroi Area Middle School/High School complex.

Renaissance 3 Architects principals **Robert P. Murray, AIA** and **Deepak Wadhvani, AIA** completed the renovation of the former Hamilton School in Ross Township into the Bill Few Associates Financial Center.

Weber Murphy Fox, Inc. has opened an office in State College, PA. Douglas R. Hoffman, AIA, head of the firm's Religious Facilities Studio, is principal-in-charge of the office which is located at 315 South Allen St., Suite 420 State College, PA 16801. Telephone: 814/867-3508; Fax 814/867-3563.

Weber Murphy Fox, Inc. also recently completed the design and construction of an 18,000 s.f. community center in Bethel Park, PA.

WTW Architects teamed with KKE Architects of Minneapolis to design a \$37.5 million renovation of the landmark Coffman Memorial Union at the University of Minnesota. WTW is also teaming with Gensler Architects of Denver to design a \$23 million renovation and

addition for the University of Colorado's University Memorial Center in Boulder, and with Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson Architects of Little Rock to design a new student union and renovation of the existing student center.

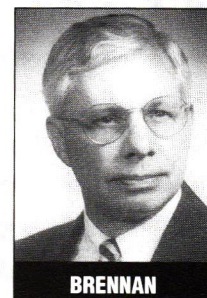
Closer to home, **WTW** is designing the master plan and building renovations estimated at \$10 million for the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA.

Business Briefs

➔ Hershel L. Phares has joined the Butler office of **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** as a senior mechanical engineer. Karen D. Benzo was hired as a plumbing designer and technical specialist, while Jeffrey J. Brands was appointed information technology manager. Nickolette N. Schneider was hired as an interior designer, as was Mark W. Studeny. The Pittsburgh office has added David A. Hornicak as a civil engineer and landscape developer, and Melissa K. Passafiume as a graphic designer. Dawn C. Pierce joined the firm as an information systems analyst, while Jan Andrews was hired as information technology manager and help desk coordinator.

William P. Brennan, AIA has joined **Celli-Flynn and Associates** as a principal and vice president.

Michael W. Smith, AIA has joined **Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.** as owner-in-charge of higher education facility design. Prior to this, he was most recently director of facilities engineering at the University of Notre Dame.



BRENNAN

Maureen Brady has joined **Glance & Associates** as a part-time project manager for a comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan for the City of Aliquippa.

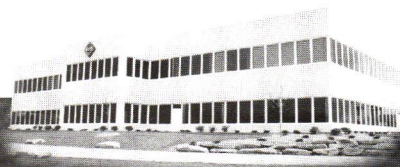
Ann M. Stacey has been appointed director of community and strategic development with **Hayes Large Architects** based in the Altoona office. Ken Witmer is now senior associate and director of operations for the Harrisburg office, where Bruce Watts is an associate and technical leader for the Educational Studio. Karl Kessler fills the position of director of electrical engineering and will provide services for all four of the firm's offices.

Antony Mustachio was promoted to associate architect at **Lami•Grubb•Architects**. Aline Wei Funari joined the firm as project architect, and Kimberly Finney came on board as interior designer.

David E. Noss, AIA, a project architect with **RSH Architects**, was recently granted licensure as a registered architect in Pennsylvania. Mathew W. Webber recently joined RSH as a graduate architect.

Orlando J. Salata, AIA is now devoting full time to ACM studioworks, formerly known as Architectural Construction Management. The name change is designed to reflect the collaboration with architectural subsidiaries in Santiago, Chile and Montevideo, Uruguay. ACM is now headquartered at 5631 Clinton St., Erie, PA 16509. Telephone: 814/455-8091 and Fax: 707/516-4547.

(continued on page 19)



VEKA Inc., Zelienople, PA
Architect: John D. Gailey, R.A.

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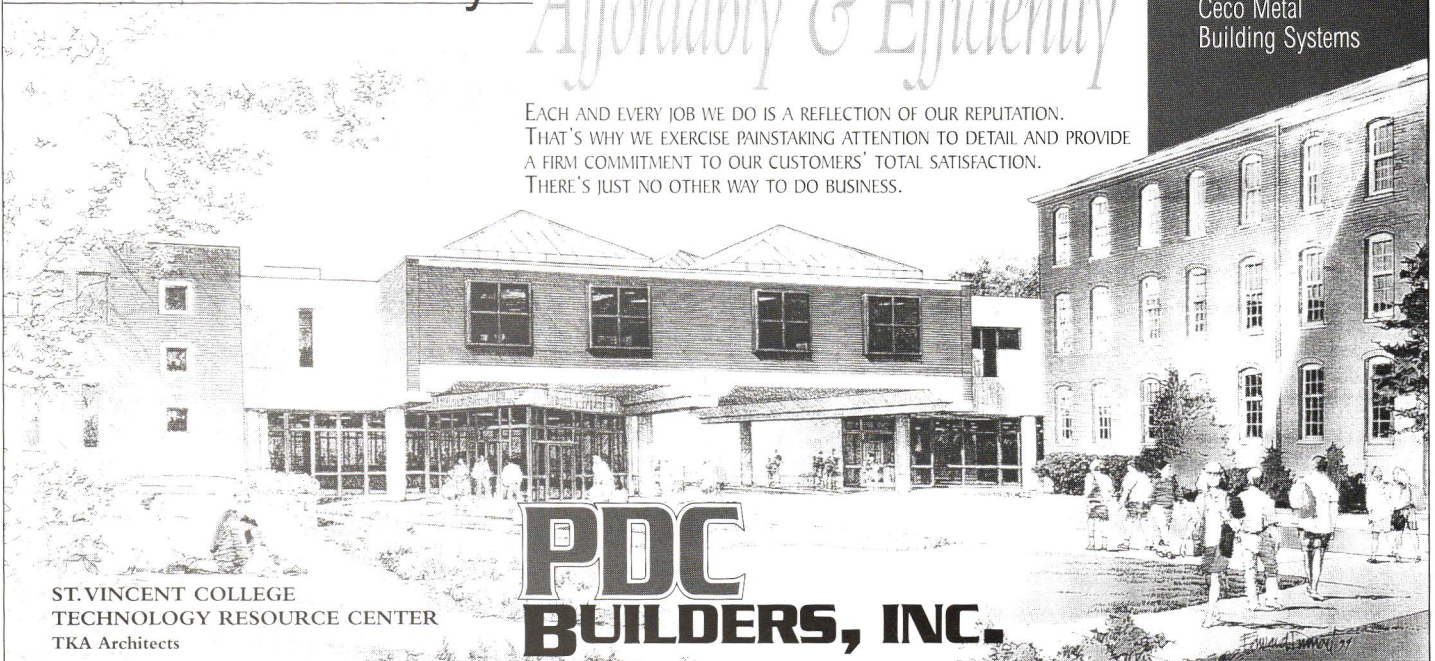
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Gordon Macshane is the newest addition to the professional staff at **WTW Architects**.

Jackee Ging is now marketing coordinator for **Weber Murphy Fox** in the Pittsburgh office.

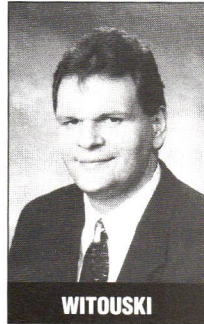
Mark A. Witouski is now director of marketing, Pittsburgh region, for Baker and Associates.

John W. Zang III was promoted to vice president of Jendoco Construction Corporation.

TEDCO Construction Corporation hired Jim Majernik as project manager.

Bunting Graphics Inc. has acquired a 3500 Watt Turbo-DC Laser to provide laser to provide faster and higher quality products.

Dennis W. Okorn was elected president of GAI Consultants, Inc. Anthony M. DiGioia, Jr. was elected as chairman of the board of director of GAI Consultants, Inc., and president and chairman of the board of Affiliated GAI Companies, Inc.



WITOUSKI

Kudos

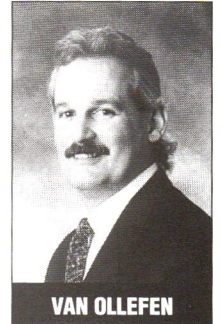
► **Donald Van Ollefen, AIA, Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.**, has been selected by the Council of Educational Facilities Planners, International as a Recognized Educational Facility Professional.

Engineering News Record has ranked **Hayes Large Architects** among its "Top 20 in Education". The firm was also ranked among the "Top 500 Design Firms."

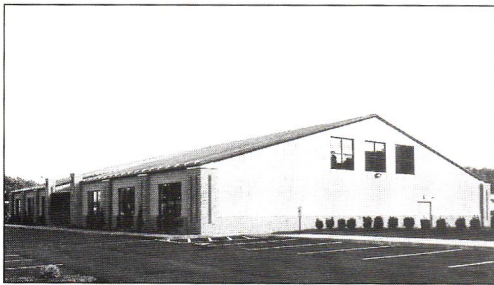
Building Design & Construction magazine ranked the following firms in its July 1999 issue (ranks are based upon dollar values): Architect/Engineer, #26 **Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann**; Contractors, #64 Dick Corporation; Engineers, #32 H.F. Lenz Co.; Engineer/Architects #22 Baker and Associates, #32 L. Robert Kimball & Associates; and Specialty Contractors #62 Sauer Inc.

Thomas Hansz of Facility Planning & Resources recently served as lead speaker for the International Congress for Contamination Control Technology in Frankfurt, Germany.

General Industries received a Hall of Fame Award from VP Buildings, an international pre-engineered buildings company, for the construction of Fitness Factory located in Seven Fields, PA.



VAN OLLEFEN



Fitness Factory, constructed by General Industries



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September 14, Tuesday CSI Meeting

"Portfolio of Color – The New Millennium"

Presented by Barbara Richardson, Director of Color and Design for ICI Dulux Paints and a chair holder on the Color Marketing Group. Color can maximize space, create identification and disguise unwanted elements. Please join us as we look back at the history of color and explore new choices for the 2000s. Social 6 p.m. Dinner (\$20) 6:30 p.m. Program 7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Greentree Reservation call Les Catiff at 412-823-5063 by September 10th.
(2 L.U.'s)

September 16 & 17 Alzheimer's Disease: Bridging Brain to Environment.

Fifth Annual Conference on Aging. Keynote Speakers are Jeanette Takamura, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Dept. of Health & Human Services and Margaret P. Calkins, Ph.D., AIA, President, IDEAS-Innovative Designs in Environments for an Aging Society. Sheraton Inn North, Reservations required 724-625-4851.
(9.75 L.U.'s 8.75 H/S/W)

October 29, Friday Pennsylvania Construction Law: Can This Job Be Saved?

Creative Strategies for Project Completion & Litigation Avoidance. A one-day seminar designed for contractors, developers, subcontractors, owners, architects, engineers and other construction professionals, providing goods or services to construction projects. Holiday Inn Pittsburgh South 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for information call Lorman 715-833-3959.
(6 L.U.'s 6 H/S/W)

November 4, Thursday Sharing Knowledge, Ideas and Methods.

the first ever AIA Middle Chapter Symposium at the Ramada Inn in Altoona. This will be an all day event including two seminars which will offer L.U.'s and will be capped in the evening by Middle Chapter's Design Awards. There will also be a vendor area and part of the "Places of Distinction: Altoona's Historic Neighborhoods" from the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will be on display. If you are a potential vendor or have questions, call Tom Columbus Jr., AIA at 814-445-2470 or the event coordinator, Marsha Nee at 814-943-7979.

In order to make it easier for architects to identify opportunities to earn continuing education credits, we will list appropriate events in this space in future issues. If you intend to offer such an event, please send your information to the attention of Joan Kubanek, AIA Pittsburgh, 211 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or fax it to Joan at 412/471-9501.

The deadline for inclusion is normally six weeks prior to publication. If you would like information describing qualified continuing education programs, please call the AIA office at 412-471-9548.

AIA ACTIVITIES

September 3, Friday

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

September 10, Friday

Committee on the Environment, noon at the Chapter office, Gary Moshier, AIA, 252-1500.

September 14, Tuesday

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

September 14, Tuesday

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

September 16, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 252-1500.

September 30, Thursday

AIA Town Meeting, at Society for Contemporary Crafts, 2100 Smallman St., 5:30-8 p.m., 471-9548.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

September 8, Wednesday

Chapter Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Contact Michael Schuyler for information 814-454-6379.

AROUND TOWN

September 8, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators, Monthly meeting at the Engineer's Club. Program: Networking 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch \$15 members, \$17.50 non-members. Reservations call Ellen Lockhart, 561-7117.

September 9 – October 15

Summer 1999 An exhibit of Watercolors and Timber Paintings by Robert Bowden. Reception Sept. 9, 5-8:30 p.m. AIA Gallery.

September 13, Monday

SMPS Meeting. The New Rules for Managing an A/E/P or Environmental Consulting Firm. Mark Zweig, president and CEO of Zweig White & Associates, Inc. provides a concise guide to the brave new world of managing a firm. Registration 5:30 p.m., Program 6:30 p.m. \$45 members \$55 non-members Rivers Club, Oxford Center. For information call Lee Ann Anderson 412-255-5400.

September 14, Tuesday

Twenty Years of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. Join Tracy Myers, Carnegie Museum of Art's assistant curator of architecture, for a preview of the exhibition *The Pritzker Architecture Prize 1979-1999*, which will survey the history of the prize and feature work by each winner. Library Center Downtown, 12:15-1:00 p.m. Free.

September 15, Wednesday

Home Sweet Home Housewarming Gala and Auction sponsored by the visiting Nurse Association Foundation. Contact VNA at 412-937-8350 for more information.

September 29, Wednesday

AIA/MBA Committee Meeting Master Builders Association, 2270 Noblestown Road 6:00 p.m. 412-922-3912.

September 29 & 30

Connections 2000. The region's largest showcase of electrical, lighting and telecom products and services. More than 5,000 professionals with an interest in the electrical industry are expected to attend the exhibition and conference produced by the Electric League of W. PA. Included will be seminars focusing on cutting edge technologies of the telecom field. David Lawrence Convention Center. For information call 412-363-8011.

Through September 29 (Wednesdays)

Downtown Walking Tours. Wood Street Walk 12 noon – 12:50 p.m., Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. For information call Mary Lu Denny at 412-471-5808.

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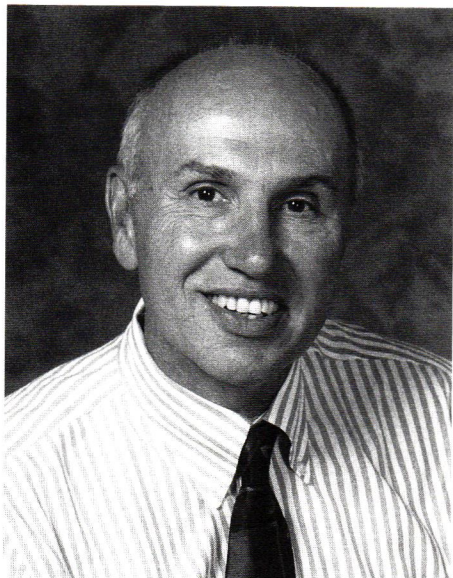
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CONTACT: Robert C. Baierl
Commercial / Interior

Herman C. Weber, Jr., AIA



Firm: Principal-in-charge, Weber Murphy Fox.

Family: Lynn, wife of 37 years. Three kids: Beth — Free Lance Writer in San Francisco, Gretchen (with husband, Mike) — in a small jungle village in the Solomon Islands doing Peace Corps work and Brian — Landscape Architect in Boulder, CO and with wife, Kate — new parents of our first grandchild Max.

Years in practice: 37.

Education: B.A. Architecture — Penn State, 1962; Masters in Architectural Design Columbia University, 1963.

First Job: Picking strawberries. A powerful lesson in humility and perseverance.

Project you are most proud of: Erie Bayfront Complex which includes the largest Library built in Pennsylvania in the 20th Century, the largest Museum ever constructed by Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and offices for the Northwest Pennsylvania Technical Institute; tall ship as a focal point, two distinct governmental clients and the opportunity to provide a public anchor to drive surrounding private development on Erie's waterfront.

Most embarrassing project: An early hillside apartment project which came in 400% over budget.

Project you wished you designed: Frank O. Gehry's Bilbao Museum.

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been? Not a strawberry picker.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? I love Erie and yet I would like to live in Florence, San Francisco, Vancouver, Chicago, Hong Kong, Vienna, Paris, Rio, ... (terminal wanderlust).

What is the best part of your job? Enriching people's lives by enhancing human function by the spaces and places we design.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? I try to hold nothing back. I think clear and complete communication is an absolute necessity to successful projects.

Wish list for Erie: Tom Ridge as Governor for four more years.

What's the most annoying things that architects do? Approach projects with a lack of humility and their own agenda.

One thing you wish they would teach in school: The joy and satisfaction of working with clients. Their conditions and personality don't limit the project but shape and enhance it.

Favorite architectural book: Charles Moore's "The Place of Houses".

Favorite Erie neighborhood: Frontier — an edge on Erie's bayfront; three minutes from the Peninsula beaches, heterogeneous blend of mature houses, boulevards and streets.

Someday I would like to: Play lots more golf.

The secret to my success is: Aggressive listening and a passion for the essence of the problem.

I belong to the AIA because: It provides the best venue for exchange with other professionals.

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Structural

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Membership Committee

The Chapter welcomes

Arthur Sheffield III, As-

sociate AIA, who is with

L.D. Astorino Companies.

Arthur is a Howard Univer-

sity grad who has worked on

projects ranging from the

new Altoona Ballpark and

the Pirates Training Facility

to the Homewood-Brushton Mini-Mall. His interests are

equally eclectic, as he cites African architecture, urban re-

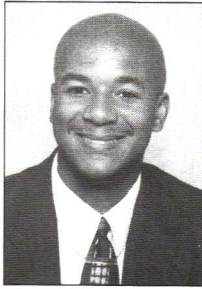
vitalization and jazz martial arts (Kupiqana Ngumi) as past-

times. He's a board member of the A.M.E.N. Sports League

and a director of Pittsburgh Interns and Young Architects

Forum. In addition to PIYA, he's interested in the AIA/MBA

and Urban Design Committees.

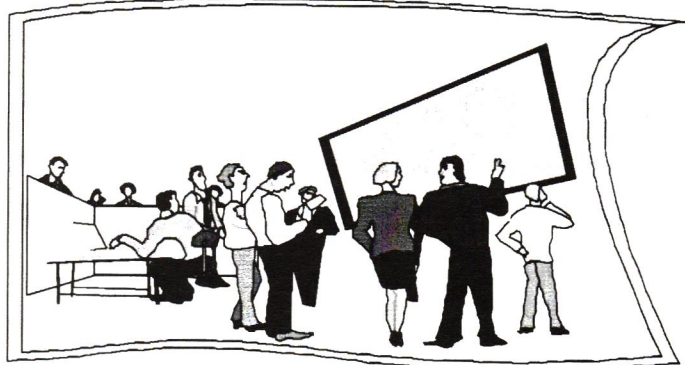


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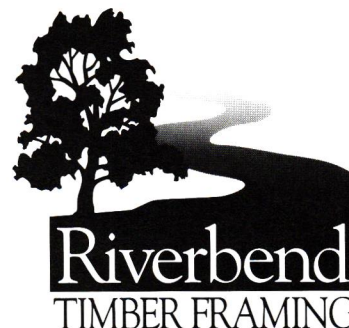
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To contribute to an issue or submit a story idea, please contact the editor at 412-362-1844 or email: cheryltowers@mizeraktowers.com.

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Building a Rural Practice

Many firms in small towns and rural areas have built successful and satisfying architectural practices. Tell us how you built yours!

(Deadline for submission is September 24)

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Featuring winners from the Pittsburgh and Middle Chapters.

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Columns will explore innovative projects using glass, wood, aluminum, stone and steel. Also under consideration is the use of water as both a design element and its innovative use in systems.

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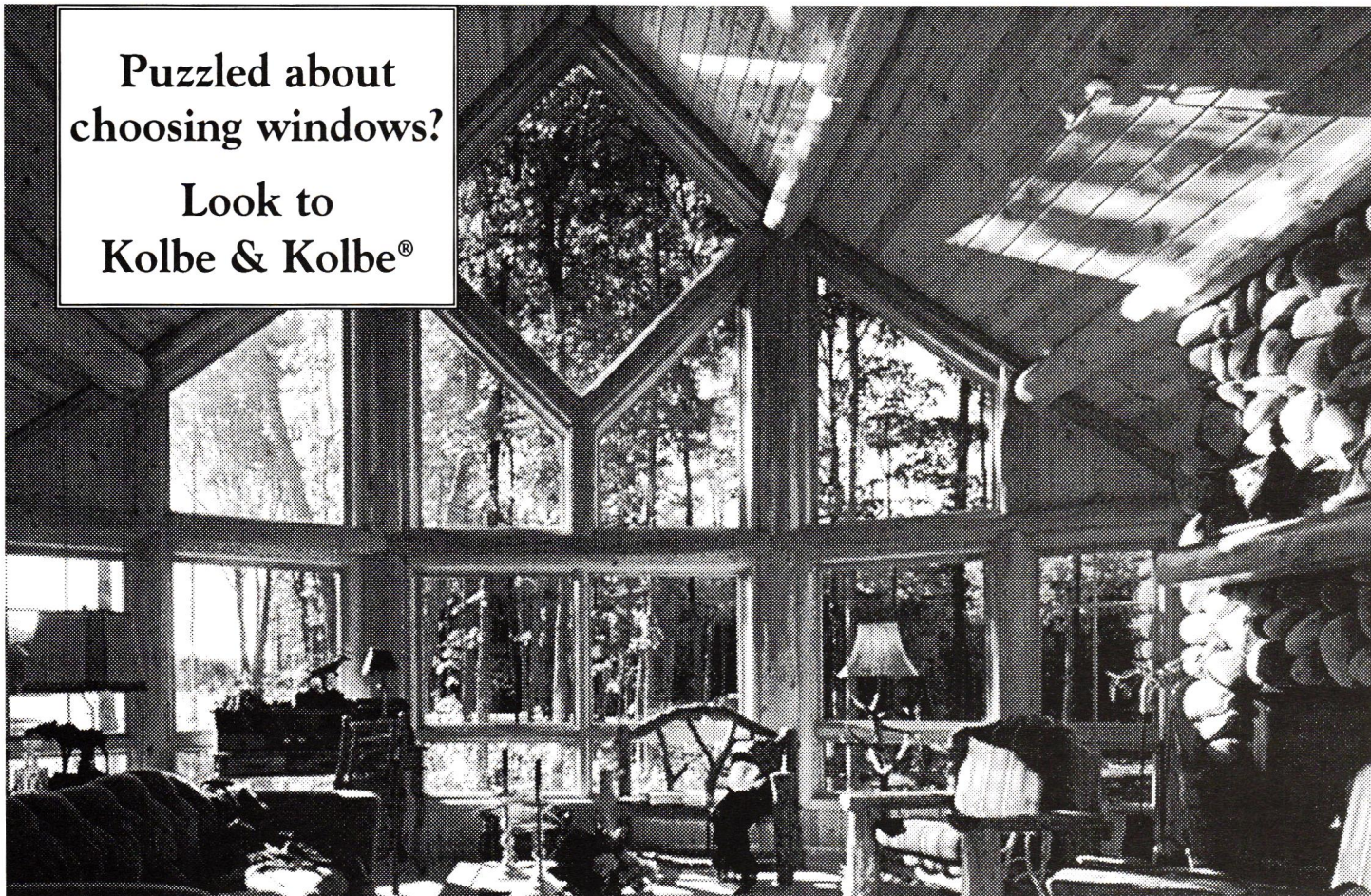
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- D.T. Watson Rehabilitation Center
- Curry Senior Citizens Home
- Grace Manor Nursing Home

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