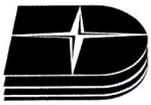


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The Mysteries of (the University of) Pittsburgh

By Tracy Certo



Students entering college today expect more, says the research. Their standards are higher in all areas—design, comfort and privacy, and— oh yes,— academics. And why not?

Days after talking with University of Pittsburgh

architect Park Rankin, AIA for this issue of Columns, I went to see author and former Pitt student Michael Chabon (*Wonder Boys*, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, and most recently and exceptionally, *Kavalier & Clay*). Chabon, 38, whom I also quote in the article, (p. 6) reminisced at the Carnegie Lecture Hall about his time in Pittsburgh, focusing on Oakland.

He talked about Jay's Book Stall where he once worked...his 3 a.m. trips to the Original Hot Dog Shop where he feasted in a drunken state...and even his brother's childhood love of these foil-wrapped bars of paradise called Klondikes which came from a restaurant by the strange name of Isaly's.

He relayed the story of how, during a visit to Pittsburgh at age 12, he and his brother got lost in the basement of the Carnegie Museum. That's where, he said, they store politically incorrect exhibits like the saber-toothed tigers whose fangs were so long they must have starved to death. They eventually found their way out of the Carnegie only to descend, like Alice in Wonderland, down the never-ending stairs into Panther Hollow, home of the Cloud Factory.

Chabon's vivid descriptions and strong sense of place held the sometimes sleep-inclined lecture crowd spellbound. But there we were, with those saber-toothed tigers below us, and the Cloud Factory beyond, alert and loving it.

I couldn't help but think that if I was in marketing for the University of Pittsburgh—and maybe even Carnegie Mellon—I might get a copy or video of Chabon's talk and send it to prospective students.

Everything else is being done to recruit students these days: new and more private dorms, student centers that are not only convenient but also beautiful, even coffee kiosks scattered throughout campuses to sweeten college life.

Students entering college today expect more, says the research. Their standards are higher in all areas—design, comfort and privacy, and— oh yes,— academics. And why not? They're coming from smaller families with bigger houses and single bedrooms, says the research. When they get to college, they expect a similar standard.

And just where do you think they get those high standards? That never ending line at the Starbucks kiosk in the Cathedral is lined with professionals as well as students. Convenience? The boomers' birthright, next to instant gratification. Who among us wouldn't have loved being catered to more in our school days? (Note: the cafeteria food is actually good these days.) Park Rankin noted that the attitude toward students used to be, "You're lucky to be here." Now the same can be said, in a different light I suppose.

With the trends in campus architecture, students are indeed lucky.

Compare the Bouquet Gardens, Pitt's new dorms of suites with the old Litchfield Towers with its pie-shaped rooms. As a friend said, it looks like someplace she would have moved into after she made it, not while in school. Even the names are significant: Bouquet Gardens/Litchfield Tower: Where would you rather be? Higher expectations seems to be an effective strategy bringing about better design, more green space, and more amenities.

Keeping with the subject of schools, Christine Mondor AIA, (p. 12) updates us on High Performance Schools in PA. The greening of schools is becoming a holistic process that considers the environment, cost effectiveness, and more than ever, the health of students. Pennsylvania is taking the lead in creating a healthier environment in schools and it's impressive. New standards are being set and in some cases, students are getting involved. Working with the project architect, Hayes Large Designs, Carrick High School students are helping to compile a list to green their school that includes HVAC, daylighting, and non-toxic finishes.

In addition, the students in the high school shop class secured a grant and bought and fixed up an area house based on sustainable design principles. They are now working on their second green renovation of a house.

With involvement like this at such an early age, these students are likely to expect even more when they arrive on campus. As we learn from recent trends in campus architecture, that can be a very good thing.

IN THIS ISSUE

Laptops and Latte: Students Rule 6
As universities nationwide compete for students, campus architecture becomes more significant than ever

High Performance Schools Project 12
Creating quality learning environment in PA schools

Review 14
Twentieth Century Design

News 5
Breaking Ground 17, 19
Calendar 21
Dossier 23

On the cover: Interior of the HUB. Penn State University. Photo Copyright Ed Massery.

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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The Merry Month of May

by Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA

May is a momentous month.

There is a hotly contested mayoral race which will be decided in the primaries. Carnegie Mellon will graduate another group of eager architectural interns, many more of whom will stay in Pittsburgh than in years past. And AIA Pittsburgh volunteers and staff will spend the better part of two days and countless additional hours helping the communities of Homestead, West Homestead and Munhall see the possibilities of renewal in their communities.



Unlike the homogenous suburbs, the feisty Steel Valley area has the variety of housing, the ethnic character and the commercial core to stage a comeback as a "new town". The community, through David, has asked for our help.

In Mt. Lebanon, which has so many resident architects that we joke about how the AIA should set up a branch office there, there is never a shortage of good architect candidates for open Board and Authority slots. This year, we have a tight primary race for the democratic commissioner candidate in the second ward. Maura Guttman has stepped up to the plate and, as I write this, she is busy knocking on doors and sending out brochures. When Maura was AIA Pittsburgh's President, she exhorted many of you to become politically active from the pages of this magazine. (At the Board meetings, her colleagues called her the *Mayor*, with good reason.)

If elected as commissioner, she will be terrific. She has the energy and the vision to make change happen and the optimism to keep on trying.

Very few of us have the drive to hold public office but we certainly have the smarts to pick good people. Please vote in the May primary whether you live in Mt. Lebanon or elsewhere.

Many of you make a big difference in your community in a variety of ways. Take David Lewis, for instance. Last spring, I played hooky for the better part of one day with David to tour Homestead, West Homestead and Munhall. David moved to Homestead shortly after AIA Pittsburgh sponsored the Remaking Cities charrette in the Mon Valley back in the late 80's. I had heard a lot about his house overlooking the old Mesta Machine works and his legendary dinner parties which I have mentioned here before. He is

known as a wonderful host and has marvelous stories about his exploits. I expected to have a great time. But I was unprepared for how much I would like his neighborhood.

For one thing, I couldn't envision a home above a machine company. But the hills have a wonderful way of isolating you from the immediate surroundings. Getting to David's house involves a couple of hair pin turns—a nice dramatic touch—before entering a residential street lined with older homes including the glorious Mesta family mansion. With the trees in bloom, you don't even see the machine works below. David's house, which he transformed, is a gem. Architects do have such a great way with space. After a terrific lunch and lots of laughs, David and I were off for the tour.

Although I have been to Homestead before and driven through it a number of times, it was only through David's eyes that I realized how layered the community is. The waterfront property is, of course, now a very large suburban style retail area. But minutes away, the commercial core of Homestead boasts wonderful historic storefronts and level walking areas. The commercial core fades up the hill into streets with the ethnic churches and the Carnegie Library and park. Just above the park and surrounding it are some of the beautiful mansions from steel's heyday. Driving through, you can still see the bones of the company homes that the steel companies built for the workers, despite the best attempts by the aluminum siding companies to obliterate the patterns of these houses.

Unlike the homogenous suburbs, the feisty Steel Valley area has the variety of housing, the ethnic character and the commercial core to stage a comeback as a "new town". The community, through David, has asked for our help. On May 4th and 5th, we have a charette scheduled to provide help. If you want to make a positive difference, as I know so many of you do, please consider signing up for this. We could use your help and so could the communities.

It could be a great month for all.



St. John Honored with Harvard Fellowship

The bad news: Richard St. John is leaving the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP). The good? He has accepted a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University's Design School. He is the first from Pittsburgh to receive this honor.

The Loeb Fellowship is the only one of its kind in the nation. Founded in 1970, it provides a year of independent study at Harvard for outstanding mid-career professionals in fields related to the built and natural environment.

During his nine-year tenure as CDCP Executive Director, Rick helped the CDCP build its credibility, staff and programs. Some highlights of the CDCP's work during that period include:

- Coordinated \$500,000 Design Fund grants to 100 community revitalization projects, resulting in \$22 million in neighborhood reinvestment.
- Established the Renovation Information Network, an award-winning program that has matched 350 homeowners with volunteer design professionals.
- Built new educational programs, including the web site www.cdcp.org.
- Created Volkswagen Pedal Pittsburgh, which has helped 10,000 riders experience the city's community revitalization and design landmarks.
- Began involvement in Civic Stewardship — as co-chair of the Mayor's Zoning Advisory Group and convening member of the Coalition for Parks and Greenspace.

While we're sorry to see Rick leave, we're delighted that the Board of Directors selected Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA, as its new Executive Director, beginning July 1.



New Loeb Fellow, Richard St. John, and incoming CDCP Executive Director, Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA.

Currently Associate Director, she brings with her a decade of experience and knowledge as a registered architect with a passion for community design.

The CDCP is poised to serve new clients and new geographical areas, to expand their role in Civic Stewardship, and to create new products that expand their impact while generating income. We know that Anne-Marie will provide exceptional leadership as they move in these new directions.

On behalf of AIA Pittsburgh, we're pleased to congratulate Rick and to welcome Anne-Marie in her new role. We hope you'll do the same.



◀ Welcome New Member

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes Peter Margittai, architect. A Penn State graduate and South Side resident, Peter practices residential architect design and is married to Michele (pictured, who does our Design Awards). His interests include travel, sketching, reading and skiing.

Correction

Columns regrets the incorrect spelling of Paul Slowik, AIA in the March issue.

To Those Firms Without a Marketing Director

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Laptops and Latte:

STUDENTS RULE

by Tracy Certo

In a recent visit to Pittsburgh, author Michael Chabon talked about seeing the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus for the first time when he was 12. It was the 42-story Gothic Cathedral of Learning, a mystery of Pittsburgh, that made quite an impression on him. "I loved learning," said Chabon, "especially with a capital L and there was a whole cathedral of it!"

The Cathedral of Learning with its nationality rooms—"A mini World's Fair of Nations", says Chabon—is still the strongest identifying factor of the university campus for impressionable 12-year olds and others alike. The urban campus of the University of Pittsburgh radiates from the Cathedral and the lower historic section, to north of Fifth, aka Cardiac Hill, home of major hospitals and the heart of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. It continues through the commercial district of Forbes Avenue and to the east, to S. Craig St. Although the Cathedral looms near

the center, the dense urban environment wraps around other non-university buildings and makes it tough to identify the edges of the campus.

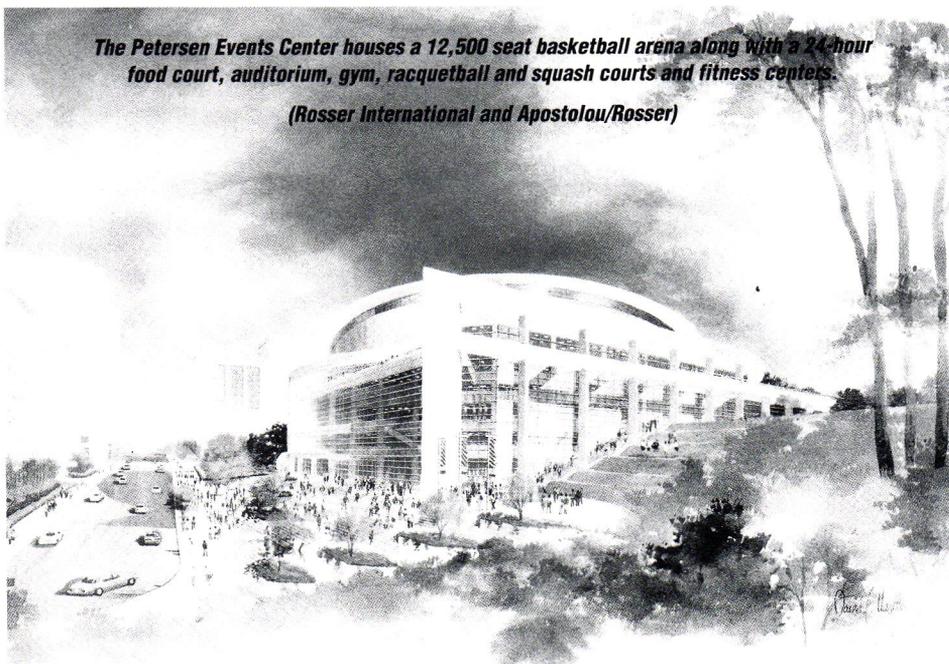
To rectify that, a project underway is the use of landscape design to better mark the campus. Soon, three significant portal signs will grace the corners of Forbes and Bellefield, Fifth and Bellefield and the Bates St. back entrance to the campus. It's part of the landscape master plan (Van Yahres) which will include pedestal lights throughout (many recently installed), building signage and attractive waste receptacles. Kiosks for posting notices and flyers are also planned, which will eliminate the chaotic posting of telephone poles currently in vogue. The result will be a more consistent and polished identification of the campus.

Meanwhile, the major building, undergoing construction on the site of the razed Pitt Stadium, was not a part of Pitt's

When the master plan was formulated in 1994, there was no thought to tearing down the Pitt Stadium, says Rankin. Since then academic standards have been raised—now 55% of Pitt's student population graduated in the top 20% of their classes—and the plan's emphasis shifted.

The Petersen Events Center houses a 12,500 seat basketball arena along with a 24-hour food court, auditorium, gym, racquetball and squash courts and fitness centers.

(Rosser International and Apostolou/Rosser)



master plan. The John M. and Gertrude E. Peterson Events Center (a joint venture of Rosser International and Apostolou/Rosser) should be “spectacular” say Pitt officials and ready by December. Yet, when the master plan was formulated in 1994, there was no thought to tearing down the Pitt Stadium, says university architect Park Rankin, AIA. Since then academic standards have been raised—now 55% of Pitt’s student population graduated in the top 20% of their classes—and the plan’s emphasis shifted.

Hence the new \$68 million convocation center with its 12,500 seat capacity, 24-hour food court, auditorium, gym, racquetball and squash courts and fitness centers. New dormitories are planned nearby that will allow for more privacy for students—single bedrooms, for instance, and less sharing of bathrooms—and half of the old stadium footprint will be reserved as green space.

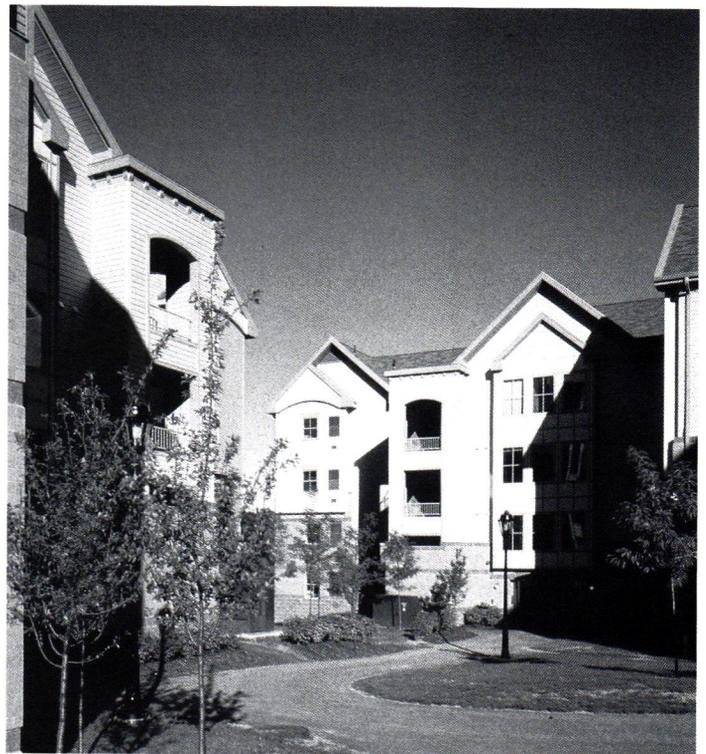
Another major project, a multi-purpose academic building that will house general classrooms as needed, is rising at Forbes and Bouquet. (JSA Architects)

Despite new construction, Rankin says the emphasis at Pitt these days is on technology and updating facilities. That means wiring the classrooms of the historic Cathedral to accommodate student laptops and instructors’ Power Point presentations. At the same time, the university is in phase four of a seven-phase project to upgrade the infrastructure of the building which includes life safety issues—fire alarms, smoke detectors and sprinklers, for instance—along with new HVAC equipment such as a chilled water riser for air conditioning. Also planned is installation of air handling units.

When so many of the campus buildings are historic, these projects are routine. For instance, Benno Janssen’s Masonic Temple underwent a \$16 million renovation completed last year. Ninety five percent of the existing historical light structures were rewired and retrofitted with energy-efficient lamps and nearly all the original wood doors, window casings and baseboards were refinished. The classical limestone-clad structure with clay tile roof now boasts a stunning interior that houses seven different departments, including the impressive Center for Executive Education, admissions and alumni relations.



The University of Pittsburgh’s urban campus radiates from the gothic 42-story Cathedral of Learning.



Stylish new dorms for upperclassmen at the University of Pittsburgh feature suites with private bedrooms and two bathrooms with kitchen and dining room. (Renaissance 3 Architects) More upscale dormitories are planned near the Petersen Events Center.



Exterior view of the 600-plus seat Lecture Hall addition to the Thomas Building. (IKM Architects).

It's no secret that Pitt, along with universities and colleges across the country, is catering to students. If they are wowed at the admissions office, it only gets better once they're on campus.

Of the 32,000 students at Pitt, only 2000 or so reside on campus in dormitories. The remainder are housed off campus. New dormitories such as Bouquet Gardens, (Renaissance3 Architects) at Bouquet and Forbes, represent the better accommodations students get these days. The handsome townhouses feature four-bedroom units, each student with his or her own room, sharing two baths, a kitchen and a dining room. For a stark contrast compare these comfortable quarters with the pie-shaped rooms in Litchfield Towers built decades ago.

And there's more. Students get free bus passes at Pitt and citywide as part of its successful plan to reduce the num-



The 1920 sf civil and environmental engineering room in Pitt's Benedum Hall is a model of sustainable design. It was designed as a computer lab that also provides a showcase for presentations and department functions.

ber of cars on campus. (Parking has been a major problem at Pitt, as in many campuses.) And they will enjoy more amenities such as Starbucks kiosks throughout the campus—the one in the Cathedral has an ever present long line—along with improved library facilities, nicer dorm space, better food outlets and more green space. As on most campuses these days, a priority is the green space—reclaiming some as in the case of Schenley quad where automobile traffic will be curtailed, and creating others as in the case of the adjacent Petersen Events Center.

With Pitt's reputation as a powerhouse in the medical world, a new biomedical science tower up to 300,000 square feet is cause for excitement. It's planned for a "very significant location" on Fifth which will identify the front door for the medical complex, notes Rankin and will likely be a departure in architectural style.

Also noteworthy is the completion of the sustainable design of the John C. Mascaro Learning Center in Benedum Hall (Apostolou Associates). The 1920 sf civic and environmental engineering room was designed as a computer lab that would also provide a showcase for presentations and department functions, says architect Rick Sabeh. A large portion of the material and services for the design and construction were donated by the various professionals and contractors. Originally two conventional classrooms, the lab was created by removing a wall and a hallway wall and installing raised floors and a separate computer network. It was then furnished with environmentally sensitive materials.

Miles away from the Oakland campus on the South Side, Pitt's McGowan Center, a research-based facility (IKM, Inc) is also going green. Rankin says the plan is to set a new standard in green in lab applications. The Heinz Endowments are funding in part; the aim is for a gold LEED certification.

Penn State University

In the central and rural part of the state, Penn State University ranks as one of the 10 largest universities in the country with 5900 acres, 4,000 of which are committed to agriculture, more than 600 buildings, 41,000 students and a total population of 60,000. Not to mention 12,000 trees, including one of the largest stands of elm in the country.

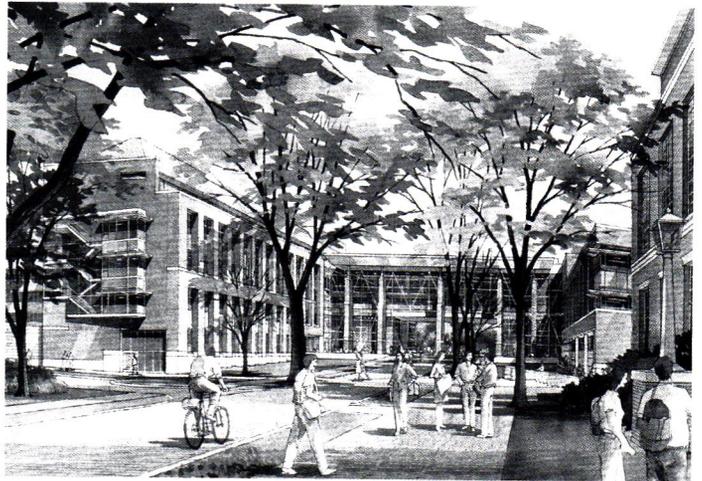
Of the 14 million gross feet of available building space, the 1999 master plan (JJ&R) identifies opportunities to add approximately 2.6 million gross square feet.

Penn State's master plan, 30 months in the making, was one of consensus among the many sectors of the University as well as the community. At the time, Charlie Brueggebers was university architect and project director; now Dave Zehngut, AIA a former planner, has taken over since Brueggebers retired about 18 months ago.

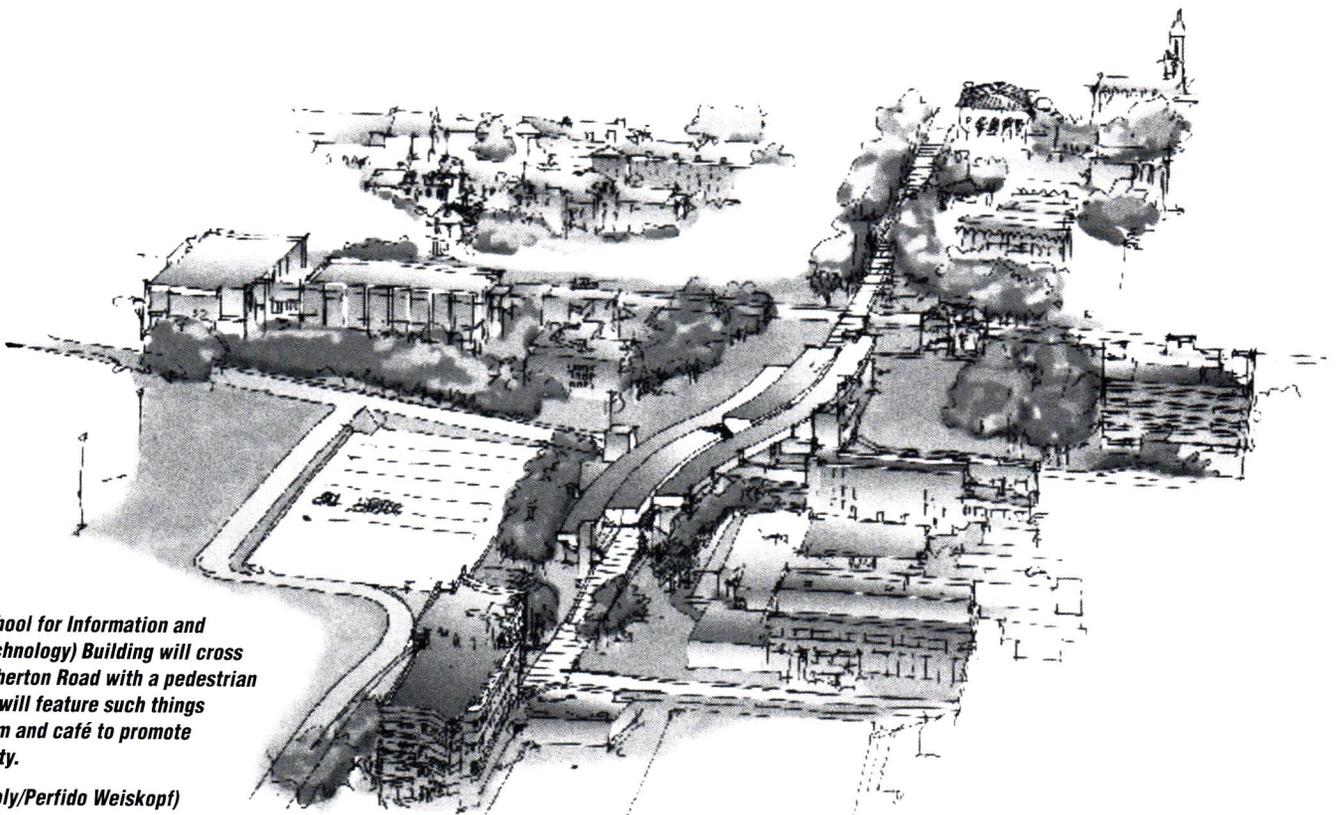
Like many master plans, Penn State's serves as an opportunity plan and not an implementation plan. Priorities include enhancing the pedestrian quality and the open spaces of the campus, while promoting biking and walking throughout the campus and eliminating, as much as possible, automobile traffic. The core campus is one prime area, says Zehngut. They would like to close some streets to traffic, if feasible, allowing for delivery and entrance/exit routes only.

Currently, student commuter lots are located at the east and west ends of campus and directly linked by transit and bicycle paths to the campus core. Campus buses shuttle students back and forth.

Another trend on campus these days is toward more specialized and technically sophisticated building space. That can be seen in the plans for new buildings, from the chemistry and life science buildings to the IST (School for Information and Science Technology) Building. The latter



Scheduled for construction this summer is Penn State's Chemistry Building (185,000 gsf) on the left with the Life Sciences Building (166,000 gsf) on the right. The existing Thomas Classroom Building is in the foreground on the right. A two-level connector joins the buildings at the 3rd and 4th floors. BLT/Payette/Joint Venture Architects.



The IST (School for Information and Science Technology) Building will cross the busy Atherton Road with a pedestrian bridge that will feature such things as an atrium and café to promote lively activity.

(Rafael Vinoly/Perfido Weiskopf)

building, a joint project by Rafael Vinoly and Perfido Weiskopf, will cross the busy Atherton Road with a pedestrian bridge. It is based on the Ponte Vecchio bridge in the sense that the Florence-based bridge is alive with activity, says Zehngut, and it will be open 24 hours a day. In the middle of the IST bridge, which will also be the main entrance to the building, will be an atrium and café.

Other planned buildings include an addition to Eisenhower Chapel and a new career services building (Weber, Murphy, Fox Architects); two new housing complexes—one a 300 beds in suites serving single students and 125 apartments for families, as well as a 700-bed unit for upperclassmen (architect not yet selected).

In their first foray into green building, the 110,000 square foot School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) Building is gunning for a Silver LEED certification. (WTW Architects) A two and a half day design charrette in late March brought together a team of designers and constituents to brainstorm ideas for the project.

"We feel that it's important to look at sustainable design issues and really take them into consideration," says Zehngut. "It just makes sense. It's the responsible thing to do." Although this will be Penn State's first green building per se, Zehngut says they try to incorporate sustainable design elements in all their buildings.

New Style of Housing and Student Centers

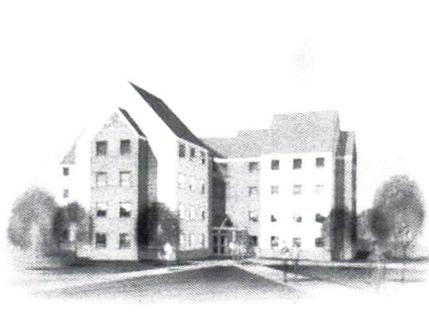
At Robert Morris College, student requests for more apartment style living is resulting in a series of buildings that will eventually *replace* traditional campus housing. A new four-story building designed to create a greater sense of community and a "village like housing atmosphere", is scheduled to open on the main campus this Fall. "The plan is a pin-wheel design with a center core acting as circulation and gathering space for the residents," says Jim Brown AIA, of JDBA Architects. "The laundry room is also accessed off the core. The center space has a lot of sunlight and is more visually interesting than a standard corridor design. It really will be a great socializing room that fea-

Priorities include enhancing the pedestrian quality and the open spaces of the campus, while promoting biking and walking throughout the campus and eliminating, as much as possible, automobile traffic.



PHOTO COPYRIGHT ED MASSERY

The Waldron Campus Center at Gannon College in Erie was designed as a central gathering place for students as well as staff, faculty and alumni. The project linked together five existing buildings with construction of a two-story building (shown here) and two separate atriums. (WTW Architects)



At Robert Morris College, student requests for more apartment style living is resulting in a series of buildings that will eventually replace traditional campus housing. This new four-story building is designed to create a greater sense of community and a “village-like housing atmosphere”. It is scheduled to open on the main campus this fall.

tures 31 four-bedroom apartments and an additional unit for the resident manager.”

The Robert Morris building will offer large units (a minimum of 900 net sf or 225 net sf per occupant) housing four students in individual bedrooms with two full baths, a full kitchen/dining area and a common living space.

“This building needed to be efficient in its design and construction,” says Bob Mistick of Mistick Construction, which will complete the project early this summer. “The building features four wings on each floor, with two units on each wing. This meant that the size of each wing could be expanded as needed, for instance to create several larger, handicapped-accessible apartments.”

The project also involved a landscape architect, Chambers Design (formerly Chambers Vukich Associates), Robert Morris College’s consultant on site design and municipal approvals. Chambers worked to ensure the building fit into the school’s master plan.

At Gannon University in Erie, WTW Architects designed the Waldron Campus Center to create a centralized place for student services that were previously spread throughout the campus. At the same time, the 120,000 square-foot facility links together five historically significant structures and a new two-story building that features two landscaped atrias that connect the buildings. The center also features meeting rooms, computer terminals, laptop computer ports, study areas and lounges.

Principal-in-Charge Hank Colker, AIA, says, “With Gannon located in the heart of downtown Erie and scattered among a series of buildings in an historic neighborhood, the Uni-

versity wanted to create a social setting where the entire Gannon Community—students, faculty, administrators and alumni could come together in an environment fashioned to support and enhance social interaction.”

If student centers represent one of the biggest trends in campus architecture, another is in the area of technology. New technologies are forcing a reconsideration of the traditional academic disciplines and spawning a host of new facilities projects on the campuses of major colleges and universities nationwide, according to those at Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann. Burt Hill has been gaining a foothold in this area with the recent awarding of architecture or engineering services for seven recent projects nationwide for Biotechnology, Science, and IT buildings (*see Breaking Ground p. 17*).

With the boom in construction on campus, it’s noteworthy that many of the academic buildings are meant to last more than 100 years. Take the recent Carnegie Mellon Baker Hall addition, completed by Burt Hill in August of last year. The energy conservation features, combined with the natural daylight and the use of low-e glass throughout, makes for significant energy savings especially considering the long life cycle of the building.

It was only in the last century that many campuses underwent a major change from being a model of architecture and planning to a “chaotic hodgepodge of mediocre buildings surrounded by parking lots” as reported in *Architectural Record*. The American campus is enjoying a building boom the past decade as those mistakes are corrected today.

High Performance Schools Project:

Creating Quality Learning Environment

By Christine Mondor, Hanson Design Group

As the call for sustainable design becomes more prevalent in the marketplace, many architects are embracing the ideas as a way to make environmental quality as high a priority as cost or project scope. The sustainable design philosophy, which links environmental stewardship, human health and cost effectiveness, is a holistic way of creating multiple wins for a project's many stakeholders.

Because of the integrative nature of sustainable design, it is important to think "green" from the project conception through design and construction to operations and maintenance. The role of the design professional can seem limited, as seldom does the architect exert control or influence over the beginning or end of a project. If early decisions and goals set by the client are contrary to green design ideas, it can be an uphill battle to convince a client to implement green design. On the other end of the process, even the best-designed solutions can be lost due to misuse or neglect, negating the hard won benefits of a sustainable design process.

This can be especially frustrating in environments where design has a great impact on its occupants – schools and child care environments. Perhaps nowhere is the need for green design as important as in the design, construction and operation of schools. The quality of these environments and their relationships to pediatric environmental health has only recently become a focus for medical experts¹. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children spend between 35 to 50 hours in and around school buildings each week. Younger children can spend even more time in childcare programs.

The High Performance Schools Partnership (HPSP) is a project that helps set the stage for the design professional to implement sustainable design ideas and create quality learning environments. The HPSP also provides resources to assist schools in operating and maintaining the schools to ensure that the design decisions are relevant beyond the design team's participation.

The High Performance Schools Project is funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and administered through Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI), in the South Side. Conceived locally in 1995 by CCI, the PA DEP, the US Department of Energy, the Pittsburgh Public Schools and others, the HPSP marshals the knowledge and talents of local experts to help create and

implement guidelines for green schools. As described by DEP Secretary James Seif, "Through the High Performance Schools Partnership we will make sure our schools use energy efficiently, make 'green' decisions when building new schools and buying supplies, and cut the amount of waste they generate. We are once again making Pennsylvania a leader among states in environmental protection and taxpayer savings." The results of this effort are intended to be implemented locally as well as inform state and national policy.

Through a series of 12 tasks of varying scope, CCI and its partners are emphasizing the need to "green the business of education—not only facilities, but contracts, procurement, operation and maintenance and most of all, curriculum," says Bob Kobet AIA, of Hanson Design Group, Ltd., one of the project's originators. HPSP projects vary in size and complexity and involve everyone in the educational system: administrators, teachers, students, staff and community. The HPSP designated four schools in the Pittsburgh Public School System as pilot project schools: McCleary Elementary, Knoxville Middle School, Arsenal Middle School, and Carrick High School.

"HPSP projects are a reflection of the comprehensive nature of the program. Stakeholders were very involved with the creation of the tasks and continue to play a role in their implementation. Each addresses a specific need while educating the community at large about the importance of doing high performance schools," explains Bob Kobet. In addition to impact on the community at large, many of the projects also impact the work of the design community. Four such projects are featured below.

Task One – Interior Air Quality Testing

Interior Air Quality (IAQ) has become a lightning rod for the implementation of environmental design. The High Performance Schools Project developed a three-stage approach towards the evaluation of the air quality in the pilot schools. First, the building occupants and management completed surveys regarding their observations of the interior air quality. The results of the surveys will then be measured against audits and testing done by L. Robert Kimball and Associates' IAQ engineering staff.

"Teachers and students are very interested and concerned about good interior air quality," says Ann Gerace, Executive Director of CCI. "This is a good way for them to do their own audits and to make their schools greener."

Perhaps nowhere is the need for green design as important as in the design, construction and operation of schools. The quality of these environments and their relationships to pediatric environmental health has only recently become a focus for medical experts.

A consortium of stakeholders, including government officials, union representatives, district business managers, administrators and IAQ experts are synthesizing the results of the audits into an IAQ Policy and an IAQ Management Plan. These efforts could be further supported by Interior Air Quality legislation that is currently pending in the state capital. If implemented, these documents would give traction to a design professional's efforts to integrate sustainable design principles for better Interior Air Quality.

Task Four – Environmental Education Kiosk

The design and construction of an Educational Kiosk at Carrick High School helps to emphasize the High Performance Schools Partnership's focus on increasing student and educator awareness of their relationship to their environment. The program includes a three-fold approach: understanding they are part of their environment, understanding that their actions have an impact on the environment, and understanding that the health of their environment has an impact on their lives.

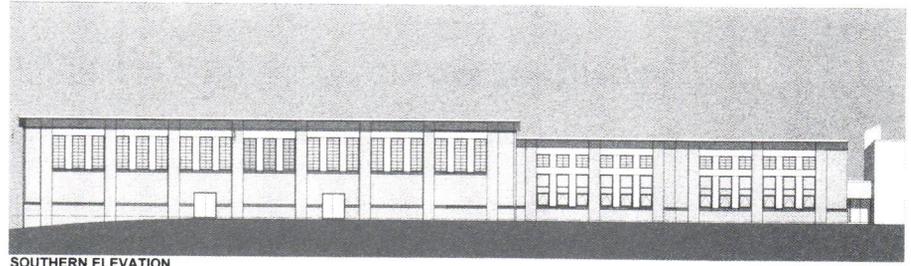
The Kiosk that the students and teachers are creating has similar information. One side presents information on what is a green building. The second side showcases what is green in the ongoing renovation of Carrick High School. Working with the project architect, Hayes Large Architects, the students have compiled a list of green features within their school including HVAC systems, daylighting, and non-toxic finishes.

The last side of the Kiosk will include information about the students' own efforts in bringing green design to their community. After developing a strategy, the schools' shop class received a grant to buy a house in their neighborhood, fix it up according to sustainable design principles and resell it. According to Ann Gerace, the students have completed their first house and are starting on their second structure.

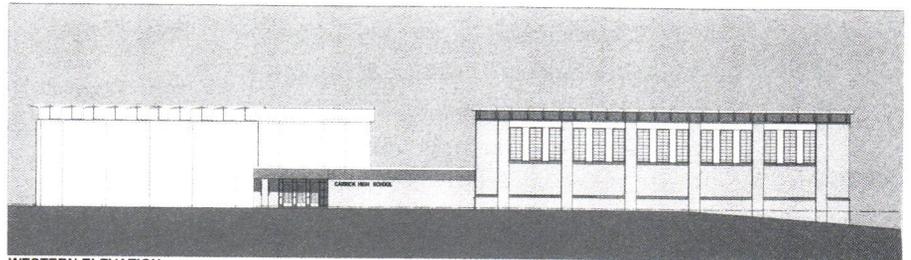
Although the Kiosk will be a simple object within the school, it represents a process of education and application of sustainable design principles that touches the school environment, the design professional community and the community at large.

Task Six – Green Cleaning, Maintenance and Supplies Guidebook

One of the least glamorous and most important aspects to greening a building is the operations and maintenance. Typically outside of the design professional's sphere of



SOUTHERN ELEVATION



WESTERN ELEVATION

CARRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Hayes Large Architects

The elevations show the addition to the existing Carrick High School building. The southern elevation includes the pool, auxiliary gym band and choral room. The western Elevation shows the long side of the pool. The elevations were developed to allow a large amount of day lighting in these spaces.

influence, poor maintenance practices can negate the benefits of even the greenest of material or system selections.

Hanson Design Group is currently creating a Green Cleaning, Maintenance and Supplies Guidebook targeted at those people in the field – the custodian or maintenance workers. The Guide is reinforced by a more extensive report prepared by Dr. Stanley Kabala of Duquesne University written for policy makers and those that purchase and procure products.

The Guide is being reviewed by the DEP in Harrisburg and will be distributed to all schools in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and to others in the Commonwealth. When accepted, it will provide design professionals some assurance that best management practices will support their sustainable design decisions.

Task Twelve – Promoting Green Schools

One way the High Performance Schools Project will measure success is by the dissemination of the lessons learned for application by other schools throughout the Commonwealth of PA and nationwide. To facilitate this, the Project team selected a public relations firm to prepare marketing and promotional materials for green schools across the state and country.

The materials will document the benefits of green building—the what, why, and how, backed up with case studies. The materials are being targeted to decision makers in the school system—those people that typically procure services and interface with design professionals. Patti Vathis, the Head of Environmental Education at the Commonwealth of PA Department of Education, plans to distribute the document to 3200 schools statewide. Ideally the wide distribution and targeted audience will help to create a better climate for sustainable design.

As architects and other design professionals are pursuing sustainable design principles in schools locally and across the country, we will gain a better understanding of our relationship with our environment. Add to this an increasing focus given to pediatric environmental health by medical professionals² and the need for green design decisions may no longer be an option but a mandate with increasing legal ramifications. The High Performance Schools Project is a pioneering effort that will someday be seen as having laid the groundwork for sustainable design to be standard practice in school design.

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Environmental Health. *Handbook of Pediatric Environmental Health*. Elk Grove Village, Ill.: American Academy of Pediatrics; 1999 ² *ibid*

Review: Twentieth Century Design By Tracy Certo

An intriguing overview of one hundred years of style and history

When you think style icons of the 20th Century, what comes to mind? The trouser suit made famous by Hepburn? Or maybe the novel architecture of Gaudi's Casa Battló apartments in Barcelona? How about the calligraphy-based mistral font? These and many more designs are featured in the book *DesignMuseum 20th Century Design* which runs the gamut of style elements in the last century, from the Queen Mary ocean liner to the Sex Pistols record sleeve.

This small book packs a lot in with colorful illustrations and lively reading as it portrays how design has impacted every aspect of our lives. Published in association with the Design Museum in London, the book features almost 400 design classics, from the blue Ty Nant water bottle, a first in the use of distinctive colored glass, to the Chrysler Building, with its exterior metal sculpture that evokes car grills and emblems.

The section on lighting, which includes the Boalum, the Parentesi lamp, Noguchi's Model H and the Ya Ya Ho lighting system illuminates, briefly, the history of lighting. It starts with the early century classic, Tiffany oil lamps, and ends with the latter century Lightcolumns which evoke natural light in sculptural structures.

Part of the fun of leafing through this book is imagining the Herculean job of culling the choices down to a hugely subjective dozen or so from 100 year's worth of product. As centuries go, the 20th was impossibly big. As the director of the design museum states in the intro: "...the twentieth century will be remembered as the century of mass communication, mass consumption, mass production—and mass design."

What area of our lives isn't affected? Products, advertising, communications, interiors, homeware, transportation, fashion, furniture, lighting, and futures are all included here. And of course, architecture.

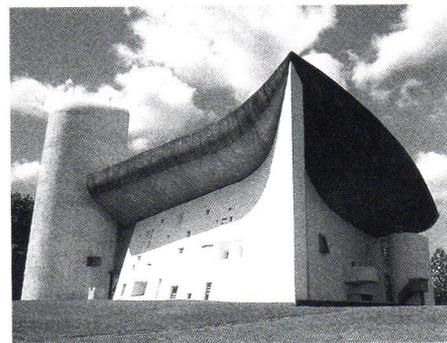
Among the seminal designs showcased in architecture is Frank Lloyd Wright's organic Fallingwater, the Scandinavian modernism of Alvar Aalto, LeCorbusier's expressive Notre-Dame de Haut and the original and striking Alamillo Bridge in Seville.

Richard Rogers, the Brit known for his high-tech modernism, is represented with the Lloyds Building in London, referred to as a kind of Arts and Crafts high tech. Rogers collaborated with Renzo Piano at the Pompidou Center in Paris—in his own words, "a giant Meccano set"—which is also featured in the book. A much-loved building in Paris, the Pompidou "is the first museum not to be designed as an imposing monument in the nineteenth century tradition, but as a flexible framework for cultural activity," the writer comments.

From the grand museum to the everyday object found in one's kitchen, it's all represented here. What can one say about a Colman's mustard tin? How about this: "There is some packaging that has become so closely identified with a product that it has come to represent the food itself. Colman's mustard is one such example." The golden mustard color and the bull's head trademark made for an immediate brand success that continues today. The Colman company had the Midas touch with yellow packaging: they



Isamu Noguchi's training as a sculptor influenced the design of his lighting and furniture. He explored these collapsible lamp shades as both a sculptural form and an interpretation of the Japanese paper lantern.



Perched on a hilltop, the organic forms of LeCorbusier's Notre-Dame de Haut was inspired by his reaction to a crab's shell he found on Long Island.

This small book packs a lot in with colorful illustrations and lively reading as it portrays how design has impacted every aspect of our lives.

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also launched the squeezable Jif lemon, also included here, which is one of the earliest applications for blow-molded polythene which replaced glass.

A little history is included in most passages. Did you know that the Vespa was a result of the transport crisis in Italy after WWII? After the entire automobile industry had been converted to military production, factories were then destroyed by the allies. With metals and fuel in short supply, the Vespa—meaning wasp in Italian—was launched in 1946. Its monocoque design became the staple of the auto industry. Cheap, stylish, and fuel-efficient, the Vespa was one of the most successful vehicles of the post WWII period.

The Harley Davidson motorcycle is noted for its symbolic association with speed and power, independence and sexual prowess. All that, and it's reliable, too. The first bike built motored over 100,000 miles by 1913 without a need to replace any main parts.

Far less sexy but noted nonetheless for its streamlined style, is the Greyhound bus that came to symbolize freedom, escape and pursuit of adventure across America.

Sometimes the design is hailed; other times it's the designer. Harley Earl is given credit for introducing "dream cars" to the nation when in the late 20's he started to design Buick, Cadillac, and other lines, establishing himself as the most influential designer in American car industry. The sleek, tail-finned Cadillac is proclaimed "the ultimate expression of the self-confidence and power of America in the 1950's."

Likewise, the designer Victor Horta is lauded for his mature Art Nouveau style which includes his famous whiplash tendrils, eventually known as the

Horta line in his honor, and elaborate natural forms. The Horta Museum in Brussels, Belgium, a showcase for his gorgeous designs, is featured here.

In the section of "futures" LeCorbusier's city model, La Ville Radieuse, is noted as "arguably among the most influential intellectual concepts of the twentieth century. The

sci-fi film, Metropolis, is included for its technical innovations which influenced Hollywood for the next two decades. And the World of Tomorrow Exhibition, 1939-40, an ill-timed but significant exhibit, allowed people to marvel at the world of the future with televisions and robots and space travel. It's impact, unfortunately, was blunted by the outbreak of WWII.

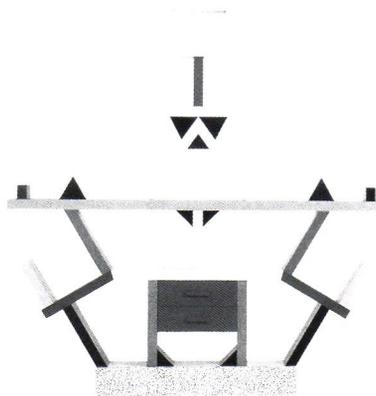
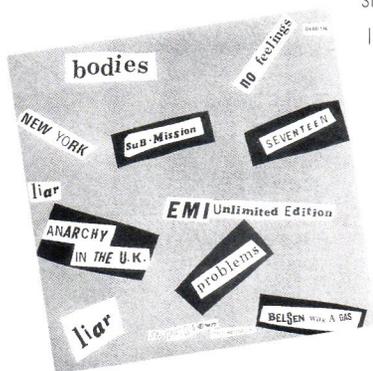
Interiors are highlighted, too, from Tecton's Highpoint One, "a major triumph for modern architecture in England", to the New York offices of Chiat Day, "a total rethink of the way offices were organized and designed". Italian architect Gaetano Pesce designed the ad agency's office interior, using a pigmented resin for the floors, poured to a thickness of seven millimeters over a concrete slab. And in the thirty minutes it took to set? Written messages and whimsical drawings were imprinted by hand.

Idiosyncratic touches like this, along with the historical footnotes, add insight and context to this book that skims the surface of a fascinating and complex century.

A final note: If you're wondering why the Sex Pistols record sleeve was included, it's because the cut and paste mayhem of Jamie Reid's design has a political subtext, creating "the perfect visual expression for British Punk." And now you know.



Tom Dixon's S Chair was part of his design and craft creations known as "creative salvage", a name Dixon chose for his first design company. He worked on more than 50 prototypes of the S Chair which was based on a sketch he made of a chicken.

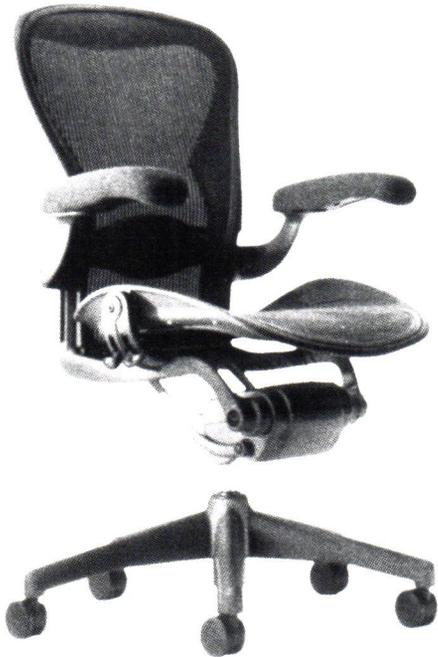


Ettore Sottsass, one of Italy's best known designers, launched a new design group in Milan called Memphis which produced a new palette of colors and materials for furniture and posed new questions. Why, for instance, should the shelves of a bookshelf be straight?

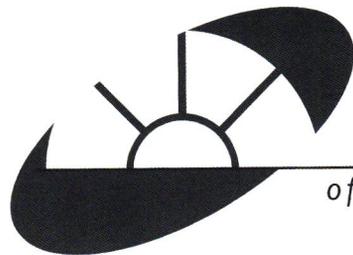
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From the Firms

→ **JSA Architects** has been selected by the May Department Stores Co. to be the architect of record for a Kaufmann's store and Lord & Taylor store to be located at the new Polaris Fashion Place Mall in Columbus, Ohio.

The Hayes Design Group-Architects has been selected to perform A/E services for the expansion and renovation of the Thomas Jefferson Hills High School Stadium. Among other work, it includes installation of an eight-lane all-weather track, new synthetic grass field, Field House, press box and concession buildings. The firm is also working on Phase II of the alterations to the Charleroi Area Middle/High School.

Design 3 Architecture was the local architect for the recently opened Lidia's. The firm worked with the design architect rockwellgroup. The restaurant features northern Italian cuisine in a warm, earthy décor with a massive corner fireplace and hand-blown grappa bottle chandeliers.

Design 3 Architecture also designed the Smallman Street Entertainment Center where Lidia's is a tenant. The brick building spans the entire block between 14th and 15 Streets, reflecting the post-industrial flavor of the Strip District.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann announced recent project awards for biotechnology, science, and IT buildings. **Burt Hill** has been selected to provide architecture and/or engineering services for The University of Virginia Information Technology Engineering Building, The University of Connecticut Information Technology Engineering Building, the Princeton University Genomics Institute (engineering only with the Rafael Vinoly design team); the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology, Drexel University Research Enterprise Building and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies Building with **Bohlin Cywinski Jackson**; and the Life Sciences Center at Juniata College (engineering only with the Hastings +Chivetta design team).

WTW Architects has completed the design of Phase Two for renovations to the 25-year-old Beaver County Ice Arena in Brighton Twp. Phase Two included locker room additions and renovations, new observation platforms and a new lighting system and new roof-on-roof system.

Trumbull Corporation of West Mifflin, PA has been awarded a \$9.4 million contract with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in Somerset County.

Facility Planning & Resources is working with an energy consortium to reduce future energy demands in California. **FPR** represents the facility design portion of the energy equation to meet long-term energy requirements and optimize first costs. The final report is expected by early Fall.

Business Briefs

→ Paulette T. Burns has joined **The Design Alliance Architects** as an architectural designer. Corrine D. Lloyd has also joined the firm, in the CAD department.

The Hayes Design Group-Architects announced that **Jeffrey D. Light AIA**, has joined the firm as a senior associate. He is a past president and member of the Middle PA AIA chapter. Patrick Rizzo also joined the firm as an associate. A native of Pittsburgh, Rizzo is returning to the area from High Point, N.C. with his wife Leann and son, John (2).

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates announced the addition of two new marketing staff members. Kara A. Stimpert joins the Butler office as a business development representative. Jackee Ging joins the Pittsburgh office as marketing coordinator.

Desmone & Associates added two new staff members: Christy Kovach, an Art Institute of Pittsburgh graduate, joined the firm as an interior designer and Nancy Policicchio, a graduate of the Universidad de Mendoza in Argentina, joined as an intern architect.

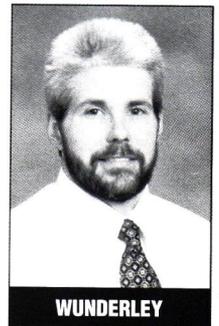
Continental Building Systems announced that Dale J. Wunderley has joined the company as project manager in the Pittsburgh office. He will be managing projects for the commercial general contractor with a focus on multi-story office, flex office, warehouse, restaurants, retail and medical construction projects.

The International Masonry Institute announced that Brian E. Trimble, P.E. has become the newest regional director of market development and technical services for the mid-Atlantic region.

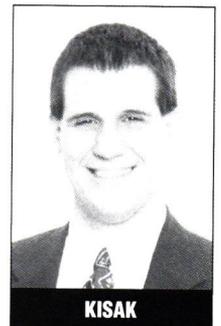
Elwood S. Tower Corporation announced the promotion of Stephen J. Kisak, P.E. to firm associate and electrical engineering department head.

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. announced the appointment of Robert Milne, P.E. to manager of the West Virginia office. John Perkun was named project manager in Pittsburgh. Roy Higgins joins SAI as a regional development engineer in WVA.

HHS DR ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS announced that **William John Vernon, AIA** has joined the firm in the downtown Pittsburgh office.

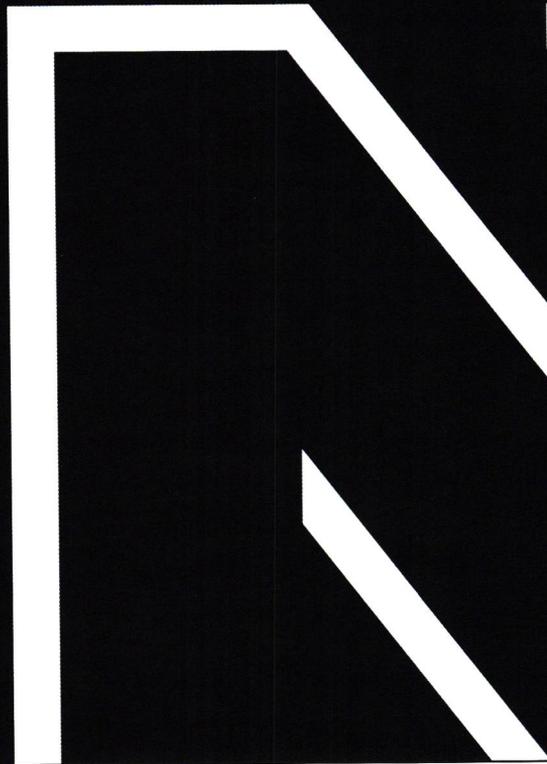


WUNDERLEY



KISAK

(continued on page 19)

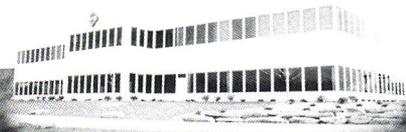


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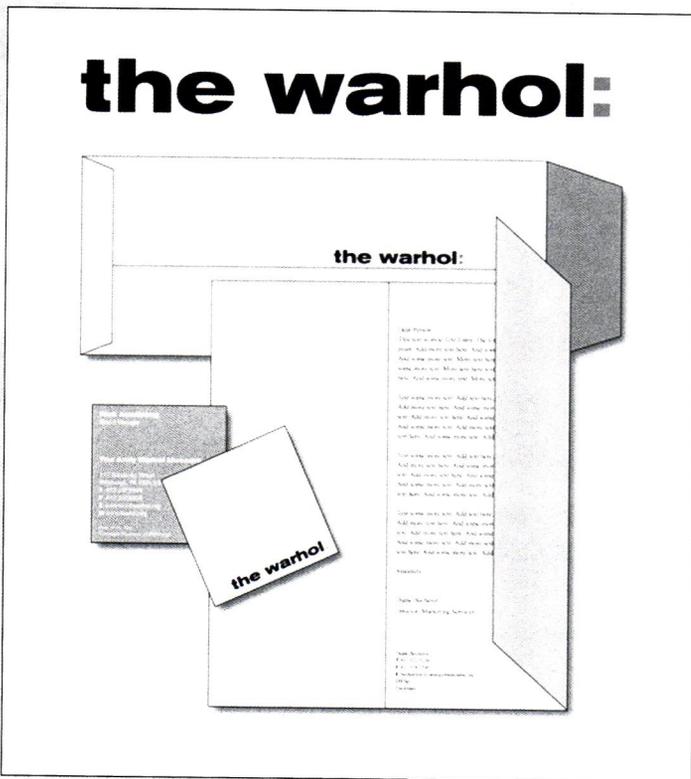
Kudos

→ **Apostolou Associates Inc.** congratulates Dennis Buirge on his 25th anniversary with the firm and his recent appointment as vice president. Those at Apostolou Associates would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his years of dedicated service to the firm and the architectural community.



BUIRGE

Agnew Moyer Smith Inc. has been awarded the People's Choice Award for its creation of a new identity for the Andy Warhol Museum. It was awarded by the American Institute of Graphic Arts at their show here in January. AMS also earned an AIGA Award of Merit for the logotype, and print awards for a logo, brochure design and software system along with a digital division award for its own website—www.amsite.com



The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation received a grant from the Drue Heinz Trust for the design and construction of a public exhibit in the Old Allegheny County Jail building. The exhibit will feature penal system memorabilia collected through the years by Deputy Warden Ed Urban, an original 1886 cell designed by H.H. Richardson and a cell from Frederick Osterling's addition of 1908. **IKM, Inc.** is the architect for the conversion of the building. The final design and concept process begins soon.

Silicon Valley Group Inc.'s newly completed Engineering Applications Lab, designed by **Facility Planning & Resources, Inc.** is performing acoustically beyond expectations. **FPR's** design team set the target for ambient noise level at 60dB. Recent acoustical tests recorded sound level at 46dB during normal operating conditions. Most labs of this type operate between 65dB and 80dB.

JSA Architects just completed the new 3200 square foot Louis Anthony Jewelers store (pictured at right) in Norman Centre II in Bethel Park, PA. Project manager was **Dwayne Mihalow, Assoc. AIA**. Project interior designer was Leanne Mihelic. Contractor was Aidan Contracting Inc.



WTW Architects has won a Citation Award from School Construction News Magazine's Design Share Awards 2000 program for the design of Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center in Erie. (see story on campus architecture)

Attention Pittsburgh Architects

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15 L.U.'s 15 H/S/W

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

May 16, Wednesday

The Design of High Performance "Green" Buildings. By John Boecker, AIA. Green technology, defined as the "intelligent integration of technology with nature" is intended to save owners money on energy costs.

It is also designed to create a healthy and productive workplace for company employees by providing efficient air circulation and lighting design. 6:30 pm, Erie Insurance Auditorium. For information call David Brennan, AIA
814-452-4522

1 L.U.

Please send your information to the attention of Joan Kubancek, 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

May 4, Friday

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

May 8, Tuesday

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

May 14, Monday

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

May 17, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting, noon
at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA,
724-452-9690.

May 30, Wednesday

AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture, Contact Ed Shriver, AIA,
263-3800

AROUND TOWN

May 8, Tuesday

CSI Meeting. Waste Management Authority. A presentation on how various materials are recycled. Holiday Inn Greentree 6 p.m. Social, 6:30 PM Dinner. \$20. Contact Deborah Merges at 724-375-2113 or dmerg@home.com by April 6 for reservations.

May 9, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators.
Monthly meeting at the Engineer's Club.
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch \$17 members
\$19.50 non-members. Reservations call
Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337

2 C O A L I E N D A R

May 17, Thursday

"Sustainable Agriculture for a Sustainable Society: Economics as if People Mattered" Lecture by John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri, Columbia, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources 5 PM at the Bayer Learning Center, Duquesne University Free, sponsored by Sustainable Pittsburgh 412-258-6642

May 18, Friday

Wood Design Awards invites entries to the 2001 Program, the first and only combined program for U.S. and Canadian architects honoring design excellence in all types of buildings and interiors in which wood has significant use. www.wood.ca

May 30, Wednesday

"Sustainable Pittsburgh: Our People, Our Communities, Our Responsibility"
Lecture by Esther Bush: President and CEO, Urban League of Pittsburgh. 5 p.m. at the Bayer Learning Center, Duquesne University. Free, sponsored by Sustainable Pittsburgh 412-258-6642

May 30, Wednesday

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

May 20, Sunday

Volkswagon Petal Pittsburgh: Community Design Center's spring bicycle ride, "Passport to Pittsburgh". Cyclists of all riding abilities can cycle through Pittsburgh neighborhoods. \$20/ rider; \$45/family Contact Jennifer Fox 412-232-3545 or www.pedalpittsburgh.org

AIA Pittsburgh is using e-mail to keep our members informed of the chapter's activities. If you would like to be included and are a member, please send your address to aiapgh@sgi.net.

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A LISTING OF AREA CONTRACTORS AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. To include your firm in this directory, call AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548.

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Park Rankin, AIA

*University Architect, Senior Manager of Architecture,
Facilities Management, University of Pittsburgh*



FAMILY: Wife Jan and David (16) and Sean (12), dog Chelsea (1.5).

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Architecture, Kent State University 1973
Pennsylvania Arch. Registration 1977

FIRST JOB: Working in a family-owned building supply business (Hardy & Rankin, Canonsburg), starting as a grunt and working up to deliveries. (Handled a lot of bags of cement and plaster, good reason to go to college).

YEARS IN PRACTICE: Too many (over 25 years, but I graduated when I was 10)

FAVORITE PROJECT: Purnell Center for the Arts @ CMU (1996 – 1999), Project Manager for Michael Dennis/Damianos+Anthony/Sergio Fisher. A truly unique research facility for the performing arts. Not only was the management of construction a challenge, with state of the art design for theatrical production and support, but the project involved over nine consultants who wanted things their way.

FAVORITE ARCHITECT: I M Pei

FAVORITE CITY: Rothenburg, Germany

IF I HADN'T BEEN AN ARCHITECT: I probably would have been a contractor, I love to build.

PROJECT YOU'RE PROUDEST OF: Being the AIA Chapter President during the Remaking Cities Conference in Pittsburgh (although Bill Bates and David Lewis did most of the work). It brought a real focus to Pittsburgh and the recycling of our industrial communities; it was the AIA at it's best (Prince Charles helped a bit).

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Upcoming Issues

WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS AS WE EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS IN 2001:

June

– The Digital Divide: How computer-generated architecture is changing the profession

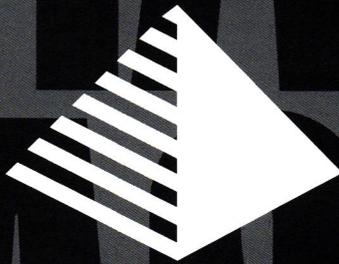
July/August

– This issue of *Columns* will be devoted to the May 4th and 5th Homestead design charette and the conclusions of the architect teams

To contribute to an issue or to submit a story idea, please contact the editor at 412/563-7173 or email tcerto@adelphia.net.

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