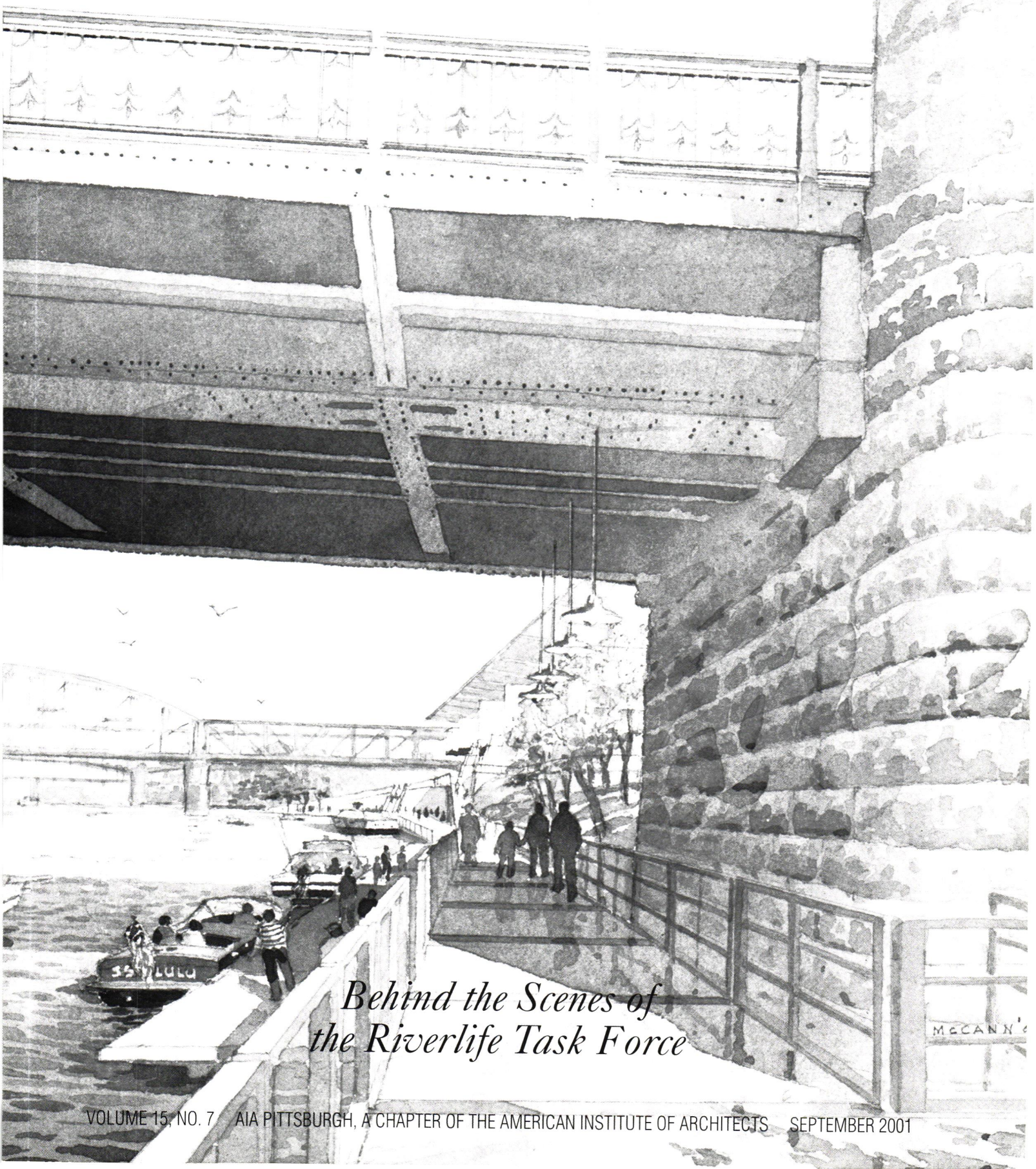


# C O L U M N S



*Behind the Scenes of  
the Riverlife Task Force*





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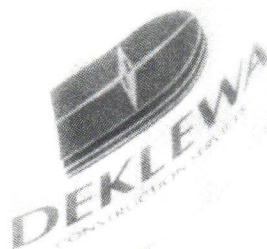
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# Lessons From Other Cities

by Tracy Certo



*Amsterdam is one of the densest cities in Europe which is why it's all the more intriguing how well this city works.*

## In Amsterdam, water rules.

Numerous dams and dikes attest to the fascinating history of this lowland city in trying to control and at the same time, celebrate water. The city, bordered by the North Sea, has hundreds of canals ringing the central core. Lining these beautiful waterways are historic houses, narrow and tall and sometimes leaning as if whispering to its neighbor inches away. On just about every street in this charmer of a city is a bike trail which is well-groomed and, in June when my family and I visited, extensively used.

Amsterdam is one of the densest cities in Europe which is why it's all the more intriguing how well this city works. You can get anywhere easily and in most cases you have a choice of transportation. Water taxis are common and tour boats operate throughout the city—buy an all-day pass and jump off and on anywhere you please. The #20 trolley loops around the city in a wide arc, perfect for tourists who can get on and off anywhere they like. We walked to the train station to take direct trains to Rotterdam and Brussels and Antwerp—it couldn't have been any easier.

Once, we rented a canal pedal boat to get from the Anne Frank House to the Rijkmuseum. It was great fun on the water although as navigator I confess I was too enthralled looking at the historic canal houses and we missed a turn, ending up on the Amstel River—oops—right by the locks. Lesson learned: although it's easy to get around, it's also easy to get lost in this city where there are so many delightful distractions.

On a bike tour we crossed dozens of canals and bridges to get to the Amstel River (our destination this time) where others flocked. Serious cyclists whizzed by, crew teams plied the rivers, runners and walkers and kids in strollers crossed paths. It was an idyllic scene, windmills and all, and yet, part of the everyday life. In this very active city, bikes outnumber people.

At night, the streets are well-lit so the cycling continues. Most of the stone canal bridges are lit, too, with strings of white lights along the arches, reflecting in the water. Nice touch. You can sit at any number of outdoor cafes and bars and, Heineken in hand (it's much better there), just watch the active street life. It's a wonderful scene, colorful and very alive.

As I write this, members of the Riverlife Task Force are in Vancouver to see how another first-rate city uses its waterways to advantage. They'll be mightily impressed. Vancouver is seductive in its beauty, with a perfect melding of citylife and nature. The idea—which was the Post-Gazette's John Craig's—is to bring back great ideas for our own city's waterfronts. Should be interesting. If they're up for it, they might consider traveling to Amsterdam, too.

As we walked through the city, we talked about ideas for Pittsburgh. (My kids liked the idea of not wearing helmets while cycling but forget that.) Nick thought we could flood a downtown street and make a crosstown canal joining the Mon and Allegheny rivers—some of us need practice navigating those pedal boats. And we all cheered the idea of bike paths—everywhere—as a practical, everyday means of transportation. How about some trails in Point State Park? And why isn't it possible to ride your bike from the South Hills to downtown (without traversing Mt. Washington, that is)? Couldn't we open up the Armstrong tunnel and include a bike path? It's awesome that we can get to Washington, D.C. on a bike trail that starts here (p. 12) but rather ironic that we have to drive to that trail.

As the Riverlife Task Force unveils its plans and invites more public discourse, all ideas will be considered. The more the merrier and yours would be very welcome. Meanwhile, read about the public forum (p. 6) this group is providing and the wonderful work they are doing. I doubt that even in a remarkable city like Amsterdam, such a passionate and determined group exists.

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**On the cover:** Allegheny River Park design by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Landscape Architects, New York.

Looking East toward the convention center, a cantilever around the base of the Ninth Street Bridge continues the lower park walkway, providing ADA-compliant ramped access to the convention center.



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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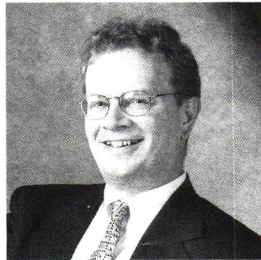
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# A Message from the President

By Paul Ostergaard, AIA

## In my last message, I described the

positive influence the AIA is having on the design community and the focus we have brought to strengthening downtown Pittsburgh as the center of the region. Since that message, the baseball park has opened, the Renaissance Hotel has brought life back to an architecturally significant building and our largest cab company sees enough market to begin a New York style cab operation in the downtown. This evolving downtown and the many development initiatives we as a profession have participated in are truly exciting.



*As a profession, we should continue to defend the integrity of our natural landscape and our existing town centers against those who would spoil our landscape for profit.*

However, those high standards we have focused on in our regional core are not apparent in the surrounding road corridors feeding into Pittsburgh. With our continued prosperity, we are beginning to suffer from a disease of the physical environment in areas surrounding the downtown that has afflicted other cities. Because our growth has been slow compared to many peer cities, we have thus far avoided the advanced state of environmental degradation that is making many cities intolerable to live and work in.

For many years, highway-oriented strip commercial development in the Pittsburgh region was contained within our valleys where our arterial roadways followed historic paths and stream beds. For decades, highways like Rt. 51 and Rt. 88 have been plagued by slum lords, increasing traffic congestion and flooding. Recently, the adjacent communities in these corridors have begun to address those issues in significant ways with new coalitions and plans.

I had an opportunity recently to travel the Saw Mill Run Parkway in Westchester County, NY and marveled at the beauty of this older limited access road as it wound through the forests and rock outcroppings of the Hudson River Valley. For me, this was a trip down memory lane. Several years ago, Allegheny County proposed a series of performance zoning guidelines to relate land development intensity to land forms along the Parkway West. In their proposals, development would be limited on steeply sloped

sites and wooded vistas along the parkway would be preserved for future generations. This planning required cooperation among several jurisdictions which did not materialize. The county's sensitive concern for the quality of our airport parkway corridor was sacrificed for increased tax revenues from big box retail developments. The result has been the most devastating destruction of our landscape since the slag dumps of Rt. 51. The beautiful wooded topography of our airport corridor was simply removed and replaced with a series of asphalt covered mesas and shabby concrete block buildings. The new barren slopes that line the parkway have no hope of ever having any tree coverage. Perhaps it is no coincidence that these recent parkway developments resemble the flat topped slag dumps in the south hills used by the same big box retailers.

This evolving trend of land consumption, now so despised in many regions, will have a far more devastating impact on our landscape. Should those with singular interests be permitted to strip away our beautiful forests and hills to create flat areas for shabby commercial structures? Can we learn from the mistakes of others?

With the promise of the Mon Valley Expressway, let us guard against indiscriminate destruction of our valleys and hillsides and protect the beauty of our region. Consider reinforcing the future of existing towns and main streets along the Mon Valley by focusing development to benefit our existing communities and retail districts.

The AIA sponsored a visioning charrette for the parkway corridor a few years ago that proposed a far more sensitive management of land resources, traffic flow and balanced land uses. The recent Homestead Charrette sponsored by the chapter looked at ways to better relate big box retail along the riverfront to benefit the historic town center. The state has adopted new powers for municipalities to jointly plan for the future and share ideas for managing the physical environment. We should continue to explore new techniques for allowing development while protecting the quality of our environment. As a profession, we should continue to defend the integrity of our natural landscape and our existing town centers against those who would spoil our landscape for profit.



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## AIA Announces New Director of Programs and Education

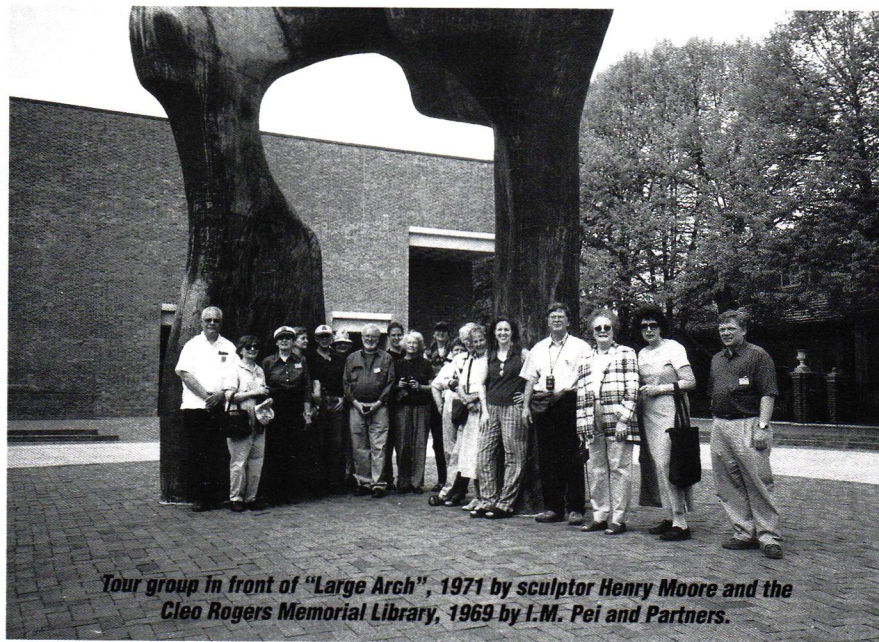
AIA Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that Michael Leigh, ASLA has joined the organization as Director of Programs and Education. Leigh was previously head of the Landscape Architecture Department at Foreman Architects and Engineers in Zelienople. He is currently president of the American Society of Landscape Architects PA/DE chapter-Pittsburgh/Western PA section. Next year he will be president of the American Society of Landscape Architectures' Pennsylvania State Chapter.

"Michael will be an excellent addition to AIA Pittsburgh's staff, bringing the perspective of a practicing design professional to the future programming of AIA Pittsburgh," says executive director Anne Swager, Hon AIA.

### *Letter to the Editor*

I'm surprised that today's Architects even know to call printing: lettering! Your homefront brought back (good?) memories. As a 1960 Architecture graduate of Carnegie Tech my first job after graduation was with Curry/Martin/Taylor. During my interview for the job, the partner interviewing me made mention of my lettering. I didn't think much about that until my first day at work when I was given the assignment to search through an almost completed set of CDs for a large high school project and to locate, define and list each and every abbreviation in the drawings. The task took almost a month! It covered a 36" x 42" sheet and — get this — it was all hand lettered! Well after a week or so of this I decided to make the list, for want of a better term, entertaining. So I began to add some of my own abbreviations such as BEB. Given that the Pirates were on their way to winning their first World Series in over 30 years, BEB meant "Beat 'em Bucs! It was also listed in Italian for Joe Gasparella was the Project Architect so he assisted me a bit in my task. Another was MLNW: "Make Love Not War" (and that predated Viet Nam!) I know there were others but time has erased them but it was like yesterday when I put my "lettering" skills to good use. I'm still pretty good at hand lettering but I can't say the same of my computer skills!

*Jimmy Goldman, AIA*



*Your group in front of "Large Arch", 1971 by sculptor Henry Moore and the Cleo Rogers Memorial Library, 1969 by I.M. Pei and Partners.*

In late April, AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture sponsored a trip to Columbus, Indiana. Traveling by bus, the group had the good luck to have a driver who was very interested in architecture and joined the group on all the tours. After a guided tour on Friday, the group explored on their own the next day. On the return trip, they stopped in Hope, Indiana to see the new Library by architect Deborah Berke, AIA. The Foundation hopes to continue to sponsor future trips such as this one to other significant architectural places.

### Point State Park RFQ

The Point State Park Planning Committee released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to develop a comprehensive master plan for the revitalization of Point State Park, "a national treasure that helped shape the history of both the region and the nation," according to the request.

The Point State Park Planning Committee is a joint undertaking of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Riverlife Task Force, and is comprised of stakeholders and community members from across the Pittsburgh region. The Committee was formed in order to guide a program of revitalization for Point State Park.

The Point State Park Master Plan will consist of two key components: a comprehensive plan for park programming and management, and the development of an overall landscape revitalization design. The selected project team must have the expertise to produce a plan that will address the following issues:

- Program and Event Evaluation, including Capacity Assessment
- Implementation & Management Planning
- Landscape Design, Urban Design and Urban Planning
- Historic Interpretation
- Public Process throughout Plan development

The Planning Committee is seeking qualifications from potential project teams to develop the plan. The deadline for responses to the RFQ is October 1, 2001. Project team selection will take place in mid-October. Requests for copies of the RFQ and other queries should be submitted to: Sallyann Kluz, Brean Associates, 7300 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208. Fax (412) 244-3446, E-mail [sallyann@breanassociates.com](mailto:sallyann@breanassociates.com)



# Take Me to the River Rock Me on the Water

By Tracy Certo

*The Riverlife Task Force is aiming high while providing an effective forum for all sectors of the community to reclaim the riverfront.*

**A**s you think of the Pittsburgh waterfront, build on its heroic past, the confluence of hills and rivers, the port, the steel town that at full throttle was "Hell with the lid off"; and build as well on its new spirit and vitality. Do nothing but the best, nothing short-term and nothing insipid. Instead, make this a place where you want to bring the people you love."

With that, author and historian David McCullough set the tone for the Riverlife Task Force during an initial meeting in August 1999. Now, two years later, the group of 40-some participants from who were called together by invitation from Mayor Tom Murphy, is ready to unveil initial design ideas to the general public and encourage anyone interested to participate in the design process.

The process of inclusion has been one of the great strengths of the task force, says Roxanne Sherbeck, AIA, of Bohlin

Cywinski Jackson who serves on the Urban Design Committee of the task force. "Pittsburgh has very low expectations of design. We deserve better and we can do better," says Sherbeck who believes the task force is "commanding attention everywhere" and raising public expectations.

"The group has been effective in opening up conversations with people who don't usually find their way into urban design discussion. I think that's really important," she adds. She cites commercial boaters, for instance, as well as recreational boaters and the coast guard. (At a recent charrette for Point State Park, it was a recreational boater who was quoted in the Post-Gazette as saying, "The Point looks like an overgrazed cow pasture.")

The waterfront serves everyone and will be a focal point for life in this area, as Lisa Schroeder of the Riverlife Task



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**Allegheny Riverfront Park Design by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Landscape Architects, New York.**





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***Proposed river amphitheater as part of Allegheny Riverfront Park extension West.***

Force staff points out. In the past year or so, the call went out to the public to participate in all three forums sponsored by the task force. At those gatherings, various principles were proposed for discussion, from making better connections to the rivers through river landings and pedestrian-friendly bridges to honoring the history of Pittsburgh through the re-use of industrial structures.

If success was measured by the broad range of people attracted, the Riverlife Brainstorm session last June was a smash. It brought together artists, rowers and ecologists, tugboat operators and speedboat owners, athletes, business owners and neighborhood representatives, to name a few. They showed up to learn more about the plan and process and to voice ideas and concerns.

If the common interests in activating and beautifying the rivers is the driving force, then a healthier, livelier and wholly unique Pittsburgh will be the result.

"It's not the task force itself that is the special entity; it's that the task force creates a forum for everyone to work together," says member and Pittsburgh physician Edie

Shapira. "The special phenomenon that is happening is the tremendous cooperation and tremendous good will and eagerness and willingness to learn together."

Considering the various stakeholders, from private businesses to government to various special interests, the cooperation on the task force alone is remarkable. Some think it works for just that reason. "I think we've managed to be quite effective primarily because of the wide cast of who is involved," says Steven Quick, AIA of Perkins Eastman Architects PC. "Most are not architects but rather landowners, foundations and non-profits."

Will Voegelé, an architect by training who represents Forest City Enterprises, agrees. "The more I look around and see what's going on in other cities, the more I think the Riverlife Task Force and the way it's being done—the interest and the talent poured into it—is phenomenal," he says. "It's a very diverse group," adds the Cleveland resident, "with tremendous motivation to be passionate and arrive at a consensus that's better than anyone can come up with individually."



That's likely since the group includes landowners, such as Tom Balestrieri, president of The Buncher Company which owns Gateway View Plaza on the south shore of the Ohio and land in the strip district from the Ft. Wayne Bridge to the Armstrong Cork Building.

Despite the diverse interests, there's proof that everyone ultimately benefits from an improved waterfront. "There is such a sense of commonality in the way people are thinking about Pittsburgh and we're one of that group—espousing things like connectivity and the relationship between the three shores and the value of the rivers and what they represent beyond what traditionally they have thought to be," says Voegelé.

From the vantage point of property owner, Voegelé says the task force challenged them to look at their property differently in some ways. "And that's not bad," he admits. "So often these groups get into adversarial roles."

The attitude of the Riverlife, which is overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic, is due to three factors, he says. One, they need to be the best dreamers and visionaries. Two, they need to make sense of it economically because three, they need to be able to realize the vision.

"We're amazed at how well the process has been orchestrated and how much passion and determination there is to do something world class. There's every reason to believe that this is the group with the motivation and wherewithal to realize this vision," Voegelé asserts.

As for the process itself, it's having quite an impact on those involved. Shapira says being on the task force has been one of the greatest experiences of her life. Voegelé says with pride that "It's a very unique forum. I would be interested to find out if there were similar things out there."

Another unique aspect of the task force is the funding: It is funded by seven local foundations—the Heinz Endowments, Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Laurel Foundation, the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Grable Foundation, and the Hillman Foundation along with an anonymous resource. Total funding is approximately two to two and a half million dollars, according to Riverlife executive director Davitt Woodwell who says that allows them "a certain freedom of operation we might not have enjoyed."

Woodwell points out that no taxpayer money is used. As the group progresses from plan to implementation, in a three to five year period, the funding level may drop off, he says, but he expects to maintain the commitment.

As the group has evolved, one committee that has moved to the forefront is the Urban Design Committee. The focus of that sub-group is on two fronts, says chair Edie Shapira. One is overseeing the master planning effort by Chan Krieger, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and Hargreaves and Associates; the other is the project by project review. Both are time-intensive, she adds, and in regards to the latter, "Unfortunately we are in a more responsive mode."

Thus far, the Urban Design Committee has reviewed plans for more than 20 different river-related projects. Aside from the much-publicized Jersey barriers and corporate signs, projects include the North Shore Park, Allegheny River access from the Ninth Street Bridge to the Convention Center and up to the Strip District; Mon Wharf as a public park space with a trail connection from Point State Park to the Eliza Furnace Trail and onto Oakland; acoustics at Mon Wharf, and consultation for the Heinz Company Distribution Center, among others.

Two architects are represented on the Urban Design Committee (Quick and Sherbeck) along with AIA Pittsburgh Executive Director Anne Swager.

"In some cases I think these decisions are better received because they were not made by a 'panel of experts' but rather by a group of committed individuals appointed by the Mayor. It's the buy-in from the Mayor on down which gives the process its legitimacy," she says.

For Swager, one of the best outcomes of the entire Riverlife planning process has been the emphasis placed on good planning and good design. "There is a lot of thoughtful discussion by both City Planning and the Heinz Endowments about how to achieve better design in our 'big' projects. I am thrilled that the question is being explored. However, I think that until we as a city decide to plan what we want and to expect good design as an outgrowth we aren't going to get the quality we want.



"Another good outcome of the Riverlife process has been proving that a lot of people care what we become and how we become it. While the Urban Design Committee of the Task Force really has no legitimate legal right to review plans for river front projects, the Mayor's office is insisting the developers and others send their plans to this group to be reviewed. It's true that no committee can fix a really bad design. However, this committee has encouraged the property owners to think as a part of a bigger picture and the committee from their "bully pulpit" has been able to encourage changes that a more legitimized group such as a planning board could probably not achieve," she concludes.

Another committee coming into the spotlight is concentrating on Point State Park, a pivotal component of the Vision Plan which is more complicated than some of the others due to its myriad of uses and its many stakehold-

ers. Some on the task force are already referring to the Point as Confluence Park, a name derived from the great buzz of the confluence —of the three rivers, of the history and people, of the hills and water. In the same vein, there is talk of the "Platinum Triangle", an area comprised of the South Shore, the North Shore and downtown.

As Roxanne Sherbeck wrote in an editorial last fall, "Few cities have as compelling a sense of center as Pittsburgh. The confluence of the rivers is the geographic, historic and cultural center of Pittsburgh. It is the place of towers and forts, fireworks and festivals. It is a place that draws people together."

That, in the long run, is the ultimate task of the Riverlife Task Force: forging connections and developing a sense of place that will draw people to Pittsburgh's spectacular riverfronts and bring them together.

## Design Goals from the Pittsburgh Riverfront RFP

*To achieve a vision that meets the highest possible standards, the design goals are:*

Create, through design excellence, a distinctive urban space that becomes a center of recreation and commerce.

Connect Pittsburgh's diverse riverfront communities and give them a shared sense of place while respecting their differences.

Forever alter the image of Pittsburgh.

Balance the large scale of new stadiums, an expanded convention center and other ongoing development with everyday human needs and a concern for the natural environment.

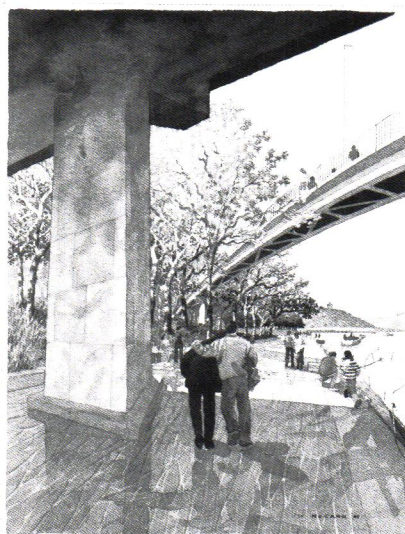
Create and maintain broad public access to the rivers and riverfronts by diverse publics.

Balance commercial development with public open space.

Integrate public art and the sensibilities of artists into the overall vision and the design of specific sites.

Foster neighborhood and street-level life. Promote sustainable, environmentally-responsible development.

Create meaningful public transportation links connecting major waterfront communities and sites.



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# North Shore Garage: An Example of Quality Design

By Rich DeYoung, AIA

P NC Park, Heinz Field, major office buildings, an expanding retail area and the promise of commercial and residential development between the stadia all contribute to the current metamorphosis of Pittsburgh's North Shore. With the added parking demand of the North Shore development and the current shortage of downtown parking, the need and opportunity for structured parking in the area becomes that much greater.

The question was: How can a city responsibly satisfy this demand for parking without fracturing the fragile emerging urban fabric of this growing area? A sure recipe for disaster would be a continuous block of faceless, pedestrian unfriendly structures interrupting the rhythm and scale of the urban landscape, as evidenced in countless cities around the country. In Pittsburgh, the city showed foresight and sensitivity as they set out to design and build a parking garage on the North Shore to accommodate the growing need. What did the city do right?

First and foremost, the city apparently considered and learned from other urban parking experiences. In doing so, they wisely established a design guideline requiring street level retail. They also understood the need to create a building of some character as one of the major new structures on the North Shore to establish a standard of quality to guide future developers. Practice what you preach and lead by example were clearly the idioms of the day. From day one, the Sports and Exhibition Authority made it clear that they wanted a facility that could not just handle the traffic demands of event parking, but would set an example for quality design and enhance the urban character of the neighborhood as well.

Reflecting successful urban retail streets, the rental space was designed as a two-story base for the building that relates to the pedestrian scale. The vertical expression, materials, detailing, and scale of the façade relate to the traditional scale and character of urban buildings that shape



PHOTO COPYRIGHTED MASSERY

**Broad tree-lined sidewalk and canopies enhance the pedestrian retail character. Seen across the Allegheny, the seamless integration into the scale and character of the North Shore is evident.**

our cities. To further enliven the streetscape, opportunities to encourage outdoor dining were created by providing an ample sidewalk, operable glass walls that can fully open the storefront, and metal canopies above. Together, these elements serve to further enhance the human scale of the building.

Given the importance of this character-setting development in an area of the city so closely related to the river, it was no surprise that the Riverlife Task Force offered its assistance to review and comment upon the design. The task force brought forward several interesting and exciting proposals that were considered. For example, could residential units face the street thereby obscuring the garage? Unfortunately no, the site just wasn't deep enough to succeed as a garage and accommodate residential. One concept that had a positive impact was locating the elevator



*From day one, the Sports & Exhibition Authority made it clear that they wanted a facility that could not just handle the traffic demands of event parking, but would set an example for quality design and enhance the urban character of the neighborhood as well.*

bank on the west side of the building fronting the alley rather than East General Robinson, thereby increasing the lineal footage of retail along the street.

All in all, it was a positive process that resulted in a significant structure that will have a strong positive impact on the continued development of the North Shore.

*Rich DeYoung, AIA, is the Sr. Principal and CEO of WTW Architects. He was Principal in Charge of the North Shore Garage project; the client was the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Allegheny County.*



***Dramatic nighttime lighting enhances the festive nature of the neighborhood.***

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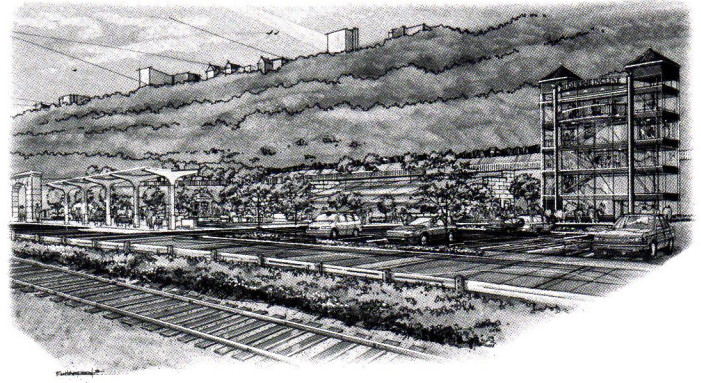
## The South Shore: Station Square

**B**ig plans are underway to improve the South Shore, including most of Station Square. The idea? To strengthen the complex as a regional tourist attraction and to provide a link to the river from Mt. Washington. The centerpiece of the new development is Bessemer Court, a 57,000 sf complex of retail and restaurants with café-style seating, trees and benches and a dancing fountain. (Hundreds of multi-colored jets 60-feet high fully programmable, in full view of the Point.)

Bessemer Court, named after the famed Bessemer Converter, is the future site of the Rivers of Steel Museum. Plans include multi-media presentations of the history of the Bessemer Converter, the 1941 Boyd Model Brick Press, and the Heroult Electric Arc Furnace.

The historical theme is continued in the design of the Scenic Trail and River Landing which includes a number of projects:

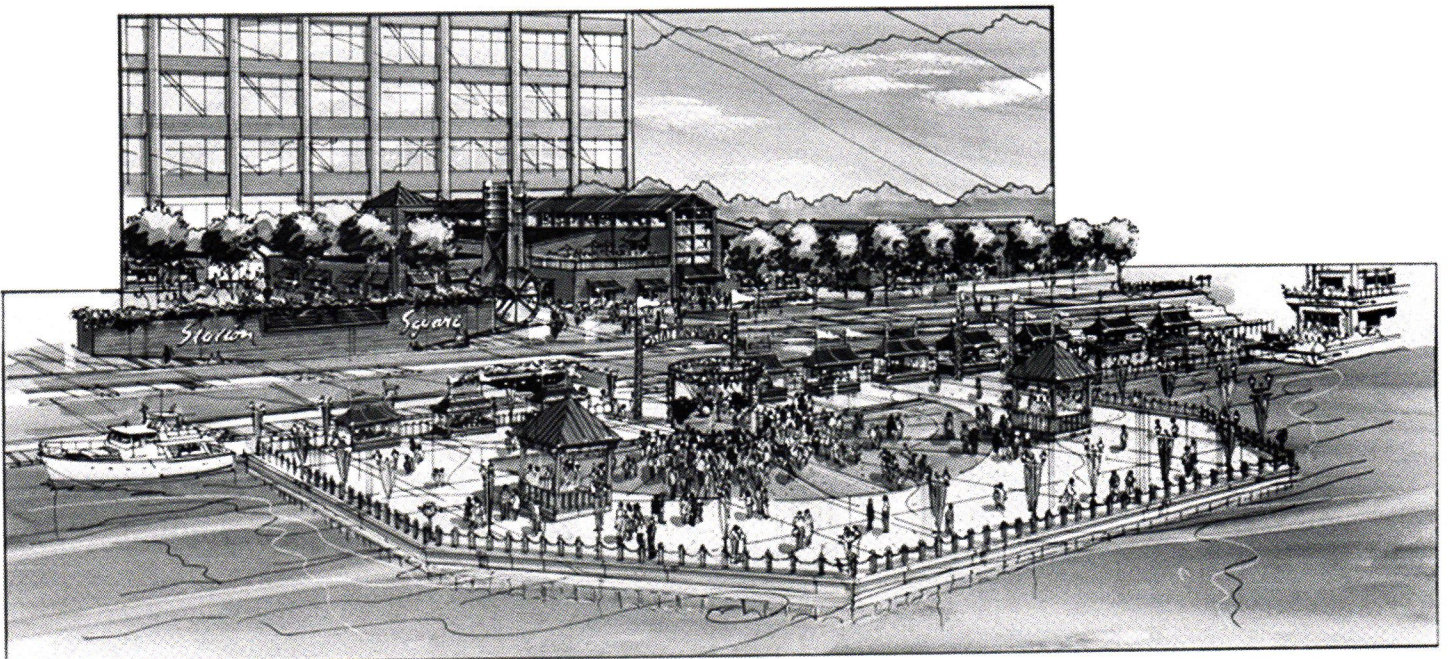
- The Scenic Trail, a 1.2 mile stretch of gravel and paved pedestrian, bike and jogging trails will connect to the existing trail network and will be Mile Zero of the Heritage



**Proposed plans for the Duquesne Incline include a new covered ramp, a refurbished bridge and a new elevator and stair tower from existing grade level to the walkway level.**

Bike Trail to Washington, D.C. Lighting, banners and rest stops (reusing historical train platform canopies) will be added along with steel artifacts.

- Artifacts Park: 10,000 sf of landscaped park with paths, benches, rest shelters and artifacts. To celebrate the industrial heritage of Pittsburgh, artifacts include: the re-assembled stonework of the Fifth Ward School Arch and the



**Next to the Gateway Clipper Fleet and in front of the proposed Bessemer Court is the River Landing and Boat Docks which will provide a place to dock boats (including water taxis) and space for entertainment. The River Landing is intended to "encompass all the sights, sound and activities of the classic Boardwalk experience."**

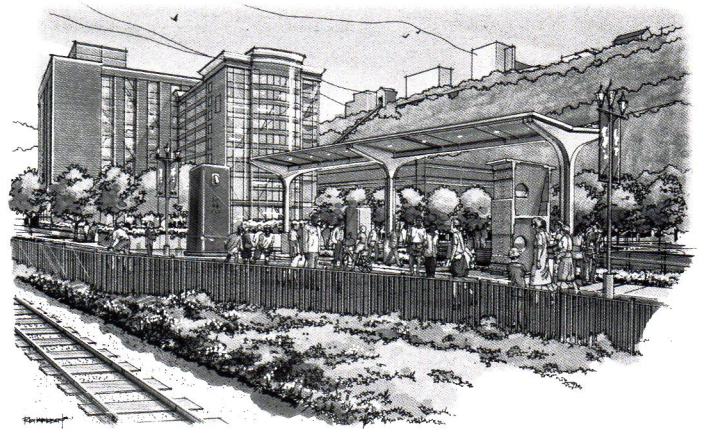


Historic Hell Gate Bridge Chord section along with bridge tablets, dredge shovels and even an induction motor.

- **Duquesne Incline Stair Tower and Elevator:** A new stair tower will act as a pedestrian connection to Carson St. and the Duquesne Incline Bridge and feature an elevator and look-out platform for views of the three rivers and Point State Park. Other work is planned, including renovations to the upper and lower platforms, which will allow views of the inner workings of the machinery.

- **Monongahela Incline Bridge:** A bridge is proposed for the oldest operating incline in the country which is adjacent to the "T" station. The new bridge will be designed to harmonize with the historic design of the existing lower station and will include a stair tower, ramps and handicap accesses through the existing elevator in the lower station. The bridge will connect to the Freight House Shops at the upper level and exit via stairs and elevator through the main entry doors leading to Station Square Drive and the Smithfield Street Bridge beyond.

It will also feature a covered pedestrian walkway from the lower station to the loading platform of the "T" station. This will provide safe passage as well as a vital link in the proposed



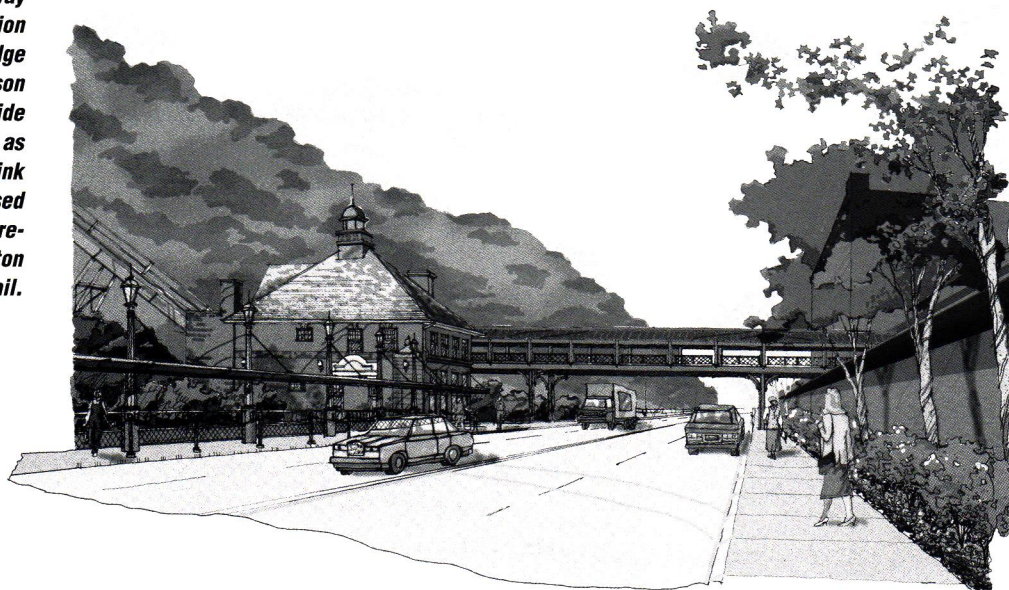
Station Square-Mt. Washington Scenic Trail, according to the draft.

- **Sheraton Expansion:** Existing rooms are scheduled for renovation while 12,000 s.f. of meeting space and 100 new guestrooms and suites will be built along with a new pool, gym and spa.

In addition, the Freight House Shops are undergoing a much-needed renovation and parking will be expanded in the garage as well as an additional 700 surface spaces.

**ABOVE: Plans for the scenic trail include sheltered rest stops using historical train platform canopies. Also proposed are lighting and banners along the route. The Trail will connect to existing trails in Pittsburgh and serve as Mile Zero to the Heritage Trail to Washington, D.C.**

**RIGHT: A covered pedestrian walkway from the "T" station and a covered bridge over East Carson Street will provide safe passage as well as a vital link in the proposed Station Square-Mt. Washington Scenic Trail.**



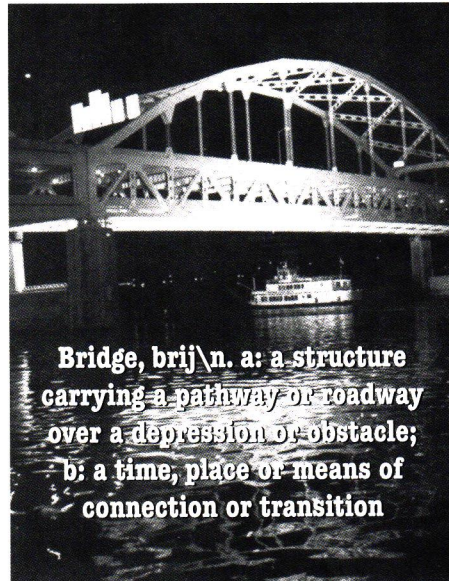


# Bridges:

## THE ULTIMATE CONNECTION

*"After Venice, Pittsburgh boasts the highest number of bridges in a (major) city. The many bridges of Pittsburgh add up to a critical mass that can become an icon of the city. Bridges should be made more prominent by lighting and painting them in interesting ways, giving each bridge a clear new identity."*

— Alex Kreiger, FAIA and lead designer for the Riverlife Design Team in the draft for the Vision Plan for Pittsburgh's Riverfronts



It's time to rethink the way we view our many bridges. "While cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Charleston, West Virginia and Cleveland have made a start on bridge illumination, none has the transformative and defining opportunity that awaits Pittsburgh," states the draft proposal of the Bridge Lighting Committee.

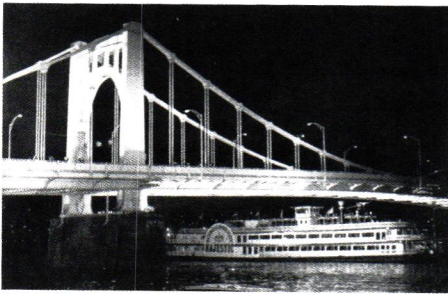
Co-chaired by Councilman Sala Udin and Heinz Endowments Executive Director Maxwell King, the idea is to celebrate the bridges through lighting and pedestrian amenities. Therefore, the 13 bridges that lie in the prime study area are being reconsidered in their larger role as (1) "built objects"; (2) a celebration of Pittsburgh; (3) a means to light our rivers and river's edges; (4) artwork; and (5) pedestrian environments.

The goal is to eventually light all 13 bridges. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Riverlife is scheduling a demonstration lighting project focused on the Sixth Street Bridge. According to Riverlife's Rod Frantz, a number of approaches may be used, including architectural uplighting, so the bridge becomes a canvas to demonstrate different lighting styles.

Frantz expects the lighting demonstration to start a dialogue with the community about the lighting of the bridges. Also at that time, an announcement for a competition for lighting the remaining bridges in the prime study area will be announced. When the winner is named, the committee will continue to oversee the lighting design along with the federal, state, local, corporate and private funding opportunities. While the criteria is developed, a timeline will also be planned and a determination of the order of lighting bridges. Frantz estimates the project will cost a total of three to five million dollars.

The Brain Trust of professional lighting designers includes Hal Hilbisch of Maguire Hilbisch Associates, Jane Haskell, a lighting designer from Pittsburgh, Rob Fisher who lit the Nation's Bank Bldg. in Atlanta for the Olympics, and Ray Grenald from the Philadelphia lighting design firm, Grenald Waldron Associates. Serving on the bridge lighting committee are Rod Frantz and Lisa Schroeder of the Riverlife Task Force staff, Steven Quick, AIA, of Perkins Eastman Architects PC and Roxanne Sherbeck, AIA, of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (the local firm for the Riverlife Task Force).





**ABOVE AND LEFT: Views of the Sixth Street Bridge during lighting demonstration in August, 1997 during the Regatta. A bridge lighting demonstration is planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> by the Bridge Lighting Committee of the Riverlife Task Force.**

## ISSUES

**Sustainability** – Utilize alternative energy sources for bridge illumination in the demonstration project.

**Commercial River Traffic** – Representation from commercial operators is critical as the demonstration project moves forward. In prior meetings with the Riverlife Design Team and task force, commercial operators have stated their support for the bridges' illumination but have voiced navigational concerns that the committee says must be addressed in any demonstration project.

**Light Pollution** – Local astronomers are concerned with the light pollution that interferes with their observations and studies. These concerns will be understood and their solutions incorporated into any demonstration project.

**The Pirates** – Although supportive of the bridge lighting, their main concern is the brightness of light used on the Sixth Street Bridge which is in sight of players at bat. Their concerns will be addressed and incorporated into any demonstration project.



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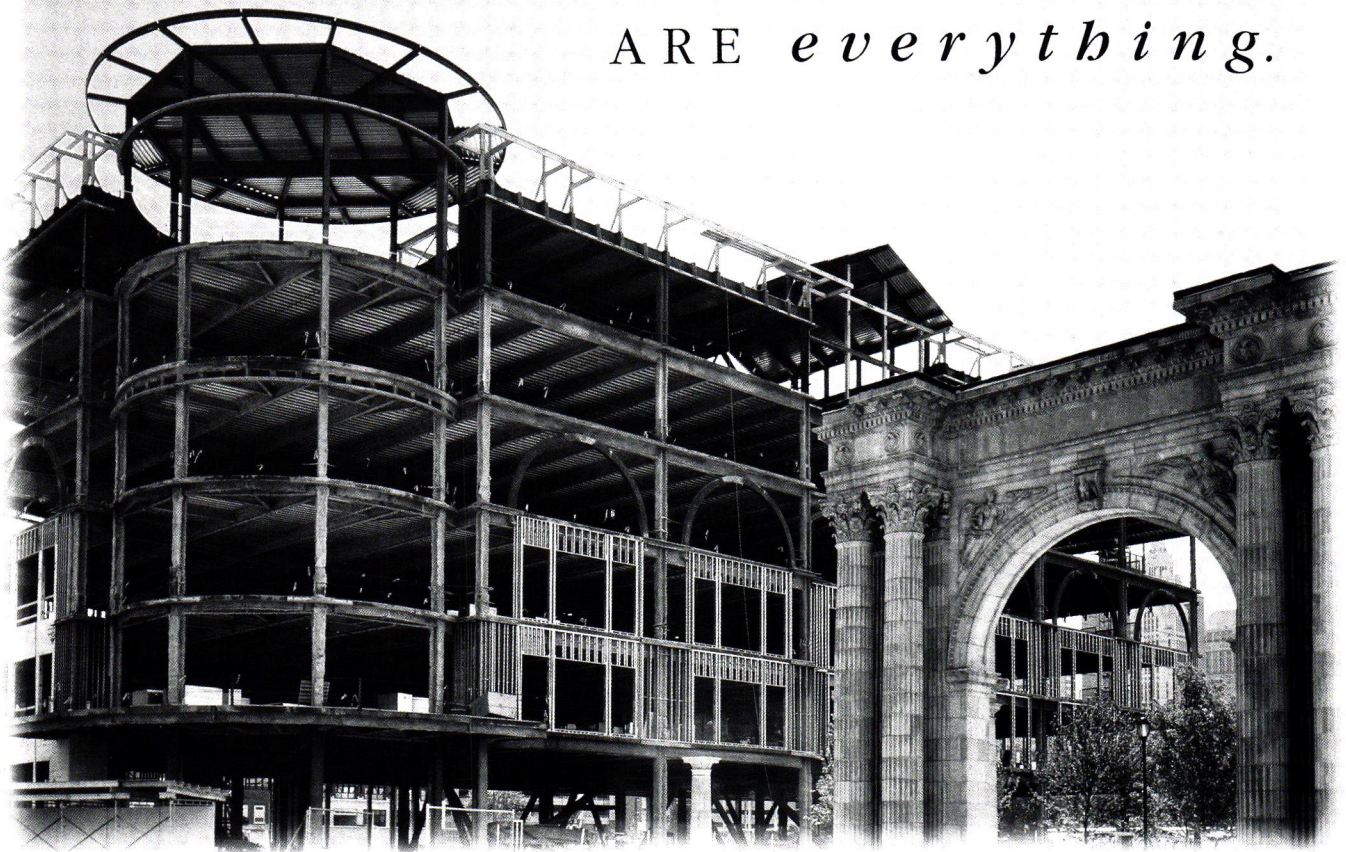
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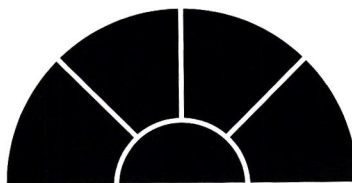
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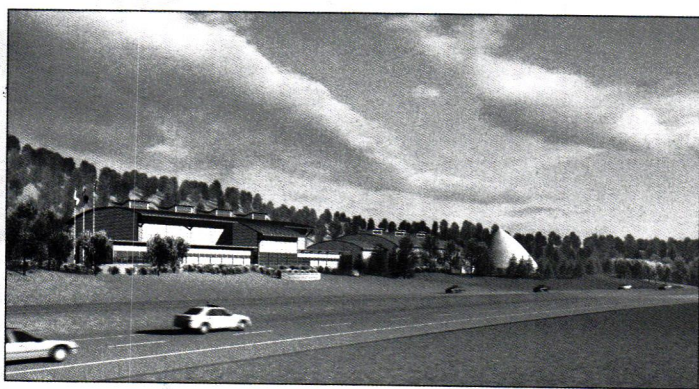


## From the Firms

► **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell** is designing the first component of a multi-phase facility expansion at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. It includes a dormitory building and a new residential building on the 13-acre campus.

**Valentour English Bodnar & Howell** has also completed design and documentation for a \$12 million project of building additions and renovations to Keystone Oaks High School and Jefferson-Morgan Elementary Schools.

**JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design** has been selected by the May Department Stores Company to be the architect of record for the remodeling of five Hecht's Department Stores in Nashville, TN.



**JSA**, along with GAI Consultants, Inc. has recently completed documents for two Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Maintenance Facilities (illustration above) for the new Mon-Fayette Expressway. Project architect is **Timothy J. Morgan, AIA**.

**Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann** is nearing completion of renovations to Heinz 57 Center, the former Gimbels Building. It includes a dramatic new atrium and state of the art building systems for technology-intensive businesses. The historic building has three floors of retail and 12 floors of office space.

**Desmone & Associates** have been selected as the architect for renovations to the ROAM North Shore Center (formerly the R.R. Donnelly Building), and additions and renovations to St. Barbara Parish. The general contractor is Jendoco Corporation.

**Damianos + Anthony** are the architects for the renovations to the United Cerebral Palsy Community Service Center. The general contractor is Jendoco Corporation.

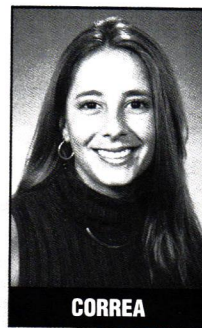
## Business Briefs

► **JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design** announced the addition of two new staff members: Justin Weaver has been hired as an intern architect and Patrick "Glen" Rockhill has been hired as project manager.

**The Design Alliance Architects** announced that Chad E. Chalmers, Assoc. AIA has joined the staff as an architectural designer. He earned his Bachelor in Professional Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo and is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Construction Management at the University of Pittsburgh.

**LDA-L.D. Astorino Companies** announces the addition of **Leonard D. van Heest, AIA** as a project manager for the healthcare market. The Wexford resident previously worked as a project manager/architect in healthcare and retail. A graduate of the University of Detroit, van Heest holds a bachelor of architecture degree.

**Ruprecht Schroeder and Hoffman (RSH) Architects** hired Patricia Correa and Nick Maffeo as architectural interns. Its sister firm, **RSH Interiors**, hired Dana Lepri as an interior design intern.



CORREA



UHRLEN

In addition, Kara Uhrlen joined the staff at **Ruprecht, Schroeder and Hoffman (RSH) Architects** as marketing coordinator. The Duquesne University graduate will be responsible for strategic planning, marketing and media relations and website development.

**Eckles Architecture, Inc.** announced that **Joseph S. Spagnuolo, AIA** and James P. Hubenthal are now principals in the firm. **David Mickey, AIA** and James S. Young PE are now associates in the firm.

**Perkins Eastman Architects PC** announced the following employee promotions: **Stefani Danes, AIA** to principal, **David Hance, AIA** to senior associate and **John Lingley, Assoc. AIA** and Lori Miller to associate.

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. hired Henry F. DiPasquale as project manager. A resident of Shaler Twp., DiPasquale is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.

**Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates** hired Christopher J. DeCarlo as corporate information technologies manager. He will work with **Mark Dietrick, AIA**, corporate information officer, focusing on administrative tasks associated with the IT team and systems. He is a graduate of Penn State University.

Daniel Wennberg has joined the Interior Design staff of **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell, Registered Architects**. Previously he worked for NBBJ Design in Ohio. He is a graduate of West Virginia University.

(continued on page 19)



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The Master Builders Association (MBA) contractors now require all employees to carry a Drug Free card to work on their sites. More than 8,000 trades people including carpenters, cement masons, laborers, volunteered for testing and now carry a Drug Free card. According to U.S. Department of Labor, one of six fatalities on construction sites is directly related to substance abuse.

### Kudos

→ **Gary P. Moshier, AIA**, associate architect at **Kingsland Scott Bauer Associates (KSBA)**, received accreditation through the LEED Green Building Rating System™, a priority program of the US Green Building Council. Candidates for accreditation must understand LEED process, design and construction industry standards and process; various ASHRAE and Federal standards, green and sustainable design strategies, topics, resources and tools.

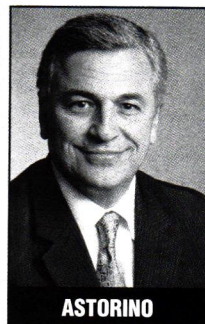
**Sylvester Damianos, FAIA** was unanimously elected to a one-year term as vice chancellor at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows Annual Business Meeting. The term of office begins in December, 2001. Damianos is president of **Damianos**

+ **Anthony PC** and has served as national president of the American Institute of Architects. A former Chair of the American Architectural Foundation, he has been honored with an appointment as Life Member of the Board of Regents of the Foundation. In addition to many awards for outstanding contributions to the profession, Damianos is also an advocate for understanding and serving the needs of people with disabilities and is active in several organizations locally.

**Eckles Architecture, Inc.** announced the acquisition of Young & Associates Consulting Engineers. Eckles Architecture was Jim Young's first client upon his founding of the company in 1973. Now an associate in Eckles Architecture, Young is head of the mechanical/electrical division.

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) announced its acquisition of Aquatic Systems (AS). AS plans and executes critical studies for determining the effects of industrial, commercial and residential activities on aquatic environments. The acquisition will complement CEC's life sciences and ecology practice and expand capabilities to do "big river work".

**Dennis L. Astorino, AIA** has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). He is the chief operating officer and president of the architectural division of **LDA-L.D. Astorino Companies**. For two years he chaired NCARB's Region 2 (Middle Atlantic Conference) and currently serves as regional director. He also chaired NCARB's Practice Analysis Steering Committee. He also served on the Interior Design Task Force and the Architect Registration Exam (ARE) Specifications Task Force.



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## Architecture Added To Governor's School for Excellence in Arts

The Pennsylvania Governor's School for Excellence in Arts now includes a session on architectural instruction, thanks to the efforts of AIA Pennsylvania and most notably, Art Ruprecht, AIA of RSH Architects.

Last year, Ruprecht suggested to school director Doug Woods that architecture be included in the program of the Governor's School for the Arts. At the same time, he made the suggestion to the board of directors of AIA Pennsylvania who agreed.

Long story short: the Governor's Program now includes a morning rotation session of architectural instruction. Alex Gillam, of the Architecture and Design Charter High School of Philadelphia teaches the session, emphasizing environmental architecture. The student response? Very enthusiastic, reports the teacher.

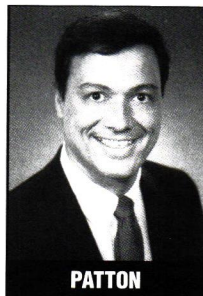
"This effort was inspired by the strategic goals of AIA Pennsylvania to increase the prominence of the profession and awareness among the community, a goal we at AIA Pittsburgh also embraced several years ago in our own strategic planning," wrote Art in a recent letter to AIA.

The Governor's School is "an electric atmosphere of creative and enthusiastic young people. It's great to have a resource such as this to introduce the art of architecture to them," says Ruprecht. The summer session was held at Mercyhurst College in Erie.

## Welcome New Members

John R. Bonassi of the Dick Corporation has joined AIA as a Professional Affiliate. John, who has done marketing for both architecture and construction, has an M.S. from Duquesne University and a B.A. from West Liberty State College. He is married to Adele, and enjoys golf, photography, vintage cars and politics.

Edward Patton of Vollmer Associates, LLP has joined AIA as a Professional Affiliate. He has been practicing engineering for more than 15 years. A graduate of Penn State, Edward has worked on the WVA High-Tech Consortium Building and the Jersey City Design-Build Pier Project. His interests include music, piano, voice, gardening and reading.



PATTON

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 [aiaugh@sgi.net](mailto:aiaugh@sgi.net).

## AIA ACTIVITIES

### September 7, Friday

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

### September 10, Monday

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

### September 11, Tuesday

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

### September 20, Thursday

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

### September 26, Wednesday

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

## AROUND TOWN

### September 12, Wednesday

**Society of Design Administrators.** John Martine, AIA will lead a walk through Pittsburgh's Firstside area. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch \$17 members \$19.50 non-members. Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337

### September 15 - January 6

**Perfect Acts of Architecture at HAC.** During the 1970s and '80s, a group of talented young architects created a radical, visionary "paper architecture" that redefined the role and nature of architectural drawing. These "perfect acts of architecture" launched Peter Eisenman, FAIA, Rem Koolhaas, Daniel Libeskind, Thom Mayne, AIA, and Bernard Tschumi, AIA to the forefront of a new conceptual architecture. At The Heinz Architectural Center.

## 2 C 0 A 0 L 1 E N D A R

### Through September, Saturdays

**South Side Stroll.** Tour one of Pittsburgh's most celebrated main streets and neighborhoods: the historic South Side. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Birmingham mural, 12th and East Carson. For more information call 1-877-471-5808. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

### September, Wednesdays at Noon

**Fifth/Forbes Walk.** The Fifth/Forbes area has an exceptional mix of commercial architecture built between 1875 and 1940. Meet at the clock in Market Square. For information 1-877-471-5808. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

## Design Pittsburgh 2001!

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**September 18** Binders due by 5:00 p.m.

**October 2** Boards due by 5:00 p.m.

**October 8 - 12** Entries will be displayed at Photo Forum Gallery in USX Tower

**October 13** Architects' Saturday  
Tour South Side offices of architects and other members of the design community.

**October 15 - 25** Entries will be displayed at Carnegie Museum of Art Hall of Architecture

**October 23** Design Pittsburgh Gala at the Carnegie Museum of Art Hall of Architecture

**October 29 - November 1** Entries will be displayed at the Photo Forum Gallery in USX Tower

**November 1** Jury critique and presentation of awards at the USX Theater in the USX Tower



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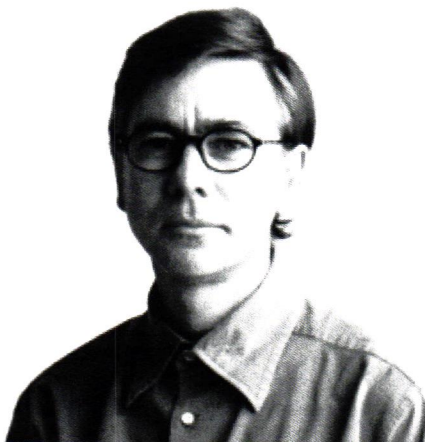
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# Design Pittsburgh 2001

## Hank Koning, FAIA

*Design Awards Lead Juror*



**H**ank Koning, FAIA, will be the Lead Juror for this year's AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards. Mr. Koning is Principal of Koning Eizenberg Architecture, an award-winning Santa Monica-based architecture and planning firm.

His experience includes design of the 25th Street Studio in Santa Monica; Electric ArtBlock housing in Venice; and Simone Hotel, a single room residency hotel on Skid Row, in Los Angeles.

Many of Koning Eizenberg Architecture's buildings have won multiple awards and have been published in architectural and general interest publications in the U.S. and abroad. Also, the firm recently won The Pittsburgh Children's Museum Competition and the Chicago Public Schools Design Competition.

Mr. Koning and two colleagues will jury entries and offer their comments at the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards on November 1 at the USX Tower Theater.

## Architects' Saturday

*Touring South Side Firms*

**A**rchitects' Saturday, sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture, offers a unique occasion for the public to learn about the work and workspaces of Pittsburgh's architecture and design community. This year's tour features six firms in Pittsburgh's South Side:

Gardner + Pope Architects  
Hanson Design Group, Ltd.  
LaQuatra Bonci Associates  
Lynch & Associates, Architects  
Renaissance 3 Architects  
The CCI Center

From a renovated convent to a former drugstore, the firms' offices are great examples of how buildings can be effectively adapted and reused.

## Photo Forum Gallery

*An Exhibit at USX Tower*

**T**his year, firms entering AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards will receive an additional opportunity to gain recognition for their work. The 40" x 40" boards representing entries in this year's awards program will be displayed at the Photo Forum Gallery, located in USX Tower, from October 8 through October 12 and October 29 through November 1.

The exhibit is an excellent opportunity for firms to show their work to the business community. Centrally located in USX Tower's lobby, the Photo Forum Gallery is accessible to the general public and 9,000 employees who work in the building.

Entries will also be displayed at the Carnegie Museum of Art from October 15 through October 25.

## Teresa Heinz

*A Special Award at the Gala*



**F**or the first time, AIA Pittsburgh Board of Directors will award a Gold Medal to a community leader who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of quality architectural design.

Teresa Heinz will make a special appearance at the Design Pittsburgh Gala on October 23 at Carnegie Museum of Art. She will be honored for her efforts in promoting the importance of sustainable design and raising national awareness of Pittsburgh as a leading center for green building and architectural design.

## For More Information...

...about Design Pittsburgh events, please visit AIA Pittsburgh's website at [www.AIAPGH.org](http://www.AIAPGH.org) or call 412 471-9548.



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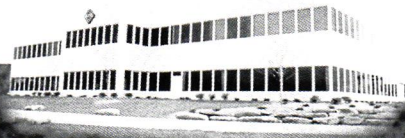
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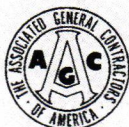
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## Upcoming Issues

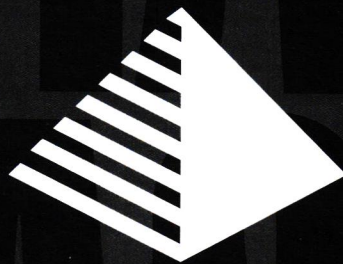
WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- October** — Designing for children: schools, daycare, museums and more
- November** — Residential Architecture
- December** — Design Awards 2001

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