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On the cover: Detail of the Triangle Building, 1884, by

**On the cover**: Detail of the Triangle Building, 1884, b Andrew Peebles. Photo by Tracy Certo.

# Views and Perspectives

#### If you missed the Design Pittsburgh Gala

at the new convention center, you missed not only a grand event but also a sensational view of the Allegheny River and the North Shore from the window-walls on the second floor. The view to the south offers a gorgeous perspective of the Sister Bridges, one after the other after the other. It was almost as if the bolts of lighting that split the sky and lit the city that night were planned as special effects.

It was a great evening, as ever, and it was particularly meaningful to christen the new space at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center by showcasing the great work of our area architects.

With the new construction on the riverfront the past few years, Pittsburghers are getting some fresh perspectives of the city that are knockout. From the river walk which extends the length of the North Shore to the renewed Station Square with its splashy fountain and open courtyard, there is much to appreciate.

One view we now appreciate more than ever is the grand one we get exiting the Ft. Pitt Tunnel. For that, among other reasons, Elsie and Henry Hillman received the Gold Medal Award on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elsie in particular was instrumental in getting the clearance to use the Pennsylvania barriers in lieu of the view-blocking Jersey barriers.

Another view worth mentioning took me by surprise. It was the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Aviary in September and nearly 600 guests in formal wear were ushered into a tent the size of a football field next to Heinz Field. It was hot in there as we sat down to dinner. All those guys in black tuxes and women in long black gowns were in need of cool, fresh air.

Soon enough, we felt a sudden breeze and heard an appreciative murmur buzz through the crowd. Looking up, we saw every tent flap raised high, exposing a dramatic and stunning view of the city, from the Golden Triangle to Mt Washington and beyond to the lit football stadium. It was another wow moment, made even better when guests later strolled to the river's edge for drinks and conversation.

#### By Tracy Certo

Again, on the North Shore: At the WYEP Summer music festival in June, the stage was set at Allegheny Landing, casting the city in the role of backdrop. As one musician said, the scene was so amazing it didn't seem real. It was beautiful by day and magical by night.

If I may mention one more occasion, on the Fourth of July, my family was invited to a residence on Grandview Avenue to watch the fireworks. The setting: a swank doublewide condo with window-walls open to the Point. On a pitch perfect evening on the deck, we watched spectacular fireworks light the sky over the new stadiums. The view keeps getting better, said the satisfied owner.

At the Design Pittsburgh Gala, Henry Hillman read New Yorker writer Brendan Gill's comments on the unique beauty of Pittsburgh — where he said if this city were in Europe, tourists would go out of their way to see it.

It's one more view to appreciate.

#### ###

In this issue, former Carnegie Mellon student Megan Nash offers her perspective in an article about case studies (p.6). Megan wrote about the disconnect between the academic world and the real world and how students long to enter the professional world while professionals wax sentimental about collegiate life. True enough, I suppose, although most professionals might wish to do it all over again—but this time with computers and cell phones.

In the past month, I've visited three of my nieces on college campuses. Rachel, from Canandaigua, New York, is here in town as a premed student on an academic scholarship at Pitt. The other two are at SUNY in Albany. All have fast computers, busy cell phones and a stocked refrigerator, not to mention active social lives. I sounded like a character from a Dr. Seuss book when I said more than once, Do you know how lucky you are?

Soon enough they, too, will be in the professional world and they'll look back fondly at these years. All well and good but my advice to them, should they ask, is don't wish it away. AIA Pittsburgh 945 Liberty Avenue, Loft #3 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Telephone: 412/471-9548 FAX: 412/471-9501

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# Design Rewards By Jon Shimm, President AIA Pittsburgh

#### When I first came to Pittsburgh

twelve years ago, I found many aspects of the city intriguing and confusing. I was immediately enamored with the rich architectural palette of the city, from H.H. Richardson to Harrison Abromovitz, and yet, every major building of note but one designed within the past 50 years

had been by out of town firms.

Although I never knew the rivers as the thoroughfares of the departed steel industry. I could not immediately grasp why they were such an underutilized resource. I could not believe that life long residents of the city had never viewed the city from the water until I discovered there were few opportunities to travel by water and equally few to walk at the water's edge.

The urban fabric, though frayed around some of the edges, was remarkably intact. Neighborhoods had identities with commercial districts, rich housing stock, beautiful parks, and views to die for. Why were people flocking to Cranberry when there was so much potential within the city?

A lot has changed in that time, and while all is not right, it is much better. Pittsburgh has had an awakening and though I am not so naïve to believe this is due to entirely to design, I can say that the importance of design and how it affects our lives and the development of the region has been recognized by public and private interests. Not only are these organizations making a more concerted effort to incorporate quality design in projects, but there also seems to be recognition of the breadth of talent within our region and how we can be heroes in our own town. We are able to look across the city and see major improvements in the cityscape, public amenities and more new buildings than we have seen in a generation. The quality of the work and its civic nature are commendable but what is equally rewarding is the fact that much of it has been done by Pittsburgh firms.

Pittsburgh has become a hotbed for green architecture with a great percentage of the LEED rated buildings as well as some of the largest. No longer are we the smoky city; we are a showcase for sustainable design and the talent to implement it.

There is more to be aware of than the fact that the 1990s brought us good opportunities to demonstrate our talents on an individual basis. For that we have the annual event of the Design Awards of AIA's Design Pittsburgh. What is more important in my mind is that as a community we celebrate, 'Design's Rewards'; the fact that both government and industry have come to realize that the quality of design does in fact matter. It matters not only to the people who use the buildings and spaces on a daily basis but also to those who pass by and observe. It affects the guality of the work produced by the businesses and the quality of life for the city as a whole. It affects the health and well being of the users both physically and psychologically. It creates a sense of safety as it engages people in urban life. It makes us aware of our environment and better appreciate the richness of our region.

The rewards of design can be subtle, but they are evident. The fact that the economy of the past decade has allowed us to bring this to the forefront has been a great opportunity for our professions. The test of whether this has had any real impact on owners will be in the coming years when the economy is not so robust. Our task is to be vigilant in helping them to understand that design does matter, that its impact is broad beyond the boundaries of an individual project, and that it does impact the bottom linefrom the services provided to the workers you can attract. Design has many rewards and we are fortunate to have as many good examples to point to as our proof.

from the top



The quality of the work and its civic nature are commendable but what is equally rewarding is the fact that much of it has been done by the hands of Pittsburgh firms.



## **New Member**

AIA Pittsburgh welcomes new member Marc Mondor of the Green Building Alliance. A graduate of Cal Poly at San Louis Obispo, Marc's recent projects include Heinz Field and work at the



University of Pittsburgh. He enjoys traveling, reading, sketching, surfing, water sports and his kids (not in that order).

In his specialty of green design consultation and research, Marc would like to see Pittsburgh lead the country in green design. He can be contacted at marcm@gbapgh.org

# **Design Pittsburgh Gala**



The Design Pittsburgh Gala on October 3rd was a class act, as always. Shown here are Henry Hillman and Elsie Hillman, recipients of the AIA Pittsburgh Gold Medal Award. with Sylvester Damianos, FAIA and his wife. Lu.



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## **Case Studies:** By Megan Nash A Student's Impression of Bridging the Gap to the Real World

A s a student, I can see there is a major disconnect between architectural education and the profession. This gap is bridged, in part, by adjunct faculty and other professionals who are involved in alumni universities or those close to where they practice. In the era of widespread information, and the vast knowledge available to our profession, it has become increasingly apparent to better connect the profession with architectural education so everyone benefits. Thus, the idea was born to develop professional case studies, based on the Harvard Business School model.

Laura Lee, AIA, at Carnegie Mellon University, who serves as co-chair of the Educator/Practitioner Net, formed a small committee of professors interested in introducing Case Study development at the university. The committee saw an opportunity to bring together the four 'professional development' courses at CMU—Psychology of Habitation, Design Economics, Issues of Practice, and Ethical Decision Making in Architecture—and use one case study to demonstrate the various course materials. The plan? To introduce students to the case study in their third year, and build on that familiarity over the next two years in school. Stefani Danes, AIA offered a project from her firm, Perkins Eastman Architects PC, for the first case. The committee decided to ask a student to develop the case, so that as the case progressed, they would learn the students' interests as well as what they did or did not understand.

I was the student chosen to develop the first case: The *South Side Housing Case Study (SSH)*. This study documented the Fox Way Commons and New Birmingham developments on Pittsburgh's South Side. As a third year student with only one previous internship experience, I had many questions.

For one thing, I had no idea what all of the abbreviations meant (RFI, RFP, CD, SD, DD, PCAW, CO, CA, etc). I did not have even a minimal understanding of contracts, responsibilities, budgets and design process. I struggled to write about all of the information I found, but fortunately





Baker Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, one of the case studies students took on with practicing architects.

the professors took time to explain those issues at length. In just two months I had not only penned the short case study, but I had gained a significant understanding of firm hierarchy, the process of design, and the issues involved in completing a project.

When the South Side Housing Case Study was presented the following term, I found it useful in demonstrating how variables such as unit density and land improvement costs would affect the project's financial and physical outcome. As author and the teaching assistant for the four classes, I realized how beneficial the case was as a practical teaching tool. As the students began to work with the case, however, I realized that although a

student had authored the case based on a real project, the case study was presented and used like most other passive-learning material in the course. The only exception to this was the Psychology of Habitation course's post-occupancy evaluation of the project, based on the case study's documentation of the housing design.

As students moved on to the spring term and found themselves faced again with studying this case, some felt bored

> by the repeated information and lost interest in it altogether. This was not altogether unexpected, so the committee moved to evaluate the success and failure of the first attempt at using the case study. It was apparent that the next attempt at the development of case studies at Carnegie Mellon needed to be more engaging.

In Laura Lee's Issues of Practice class, the study was used as an exercise demonstrating chronology, process, and liability in a real case situation.

She asked students to create an imaginary firm and document the firm's hierarchy and process, using the SSH case as a model for how their firm would proceed. While this was a useful exercise, Laura envisioned that the case study

BACKGROUND

Case Studies in the Study and Practice of Architecture was first proposed in October 1998, at a meeting attended by representatives of the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) and thirteen deans of schools of architecture. The intention: To find ways to bridge the gap that exists between the academy and the profession. As the idea gathered momentum, the Case Study Work Group was formed as a collaborative subcommittee of the AIA Large Firm Roundtable and the Educator/Practitioner Net. The purpose of this collaborative effort is to develop a new body of knowledge regarding the practice of architecture through rigorous preparation of architectural case studies, for traditional as well as non-traditional projects. The information developed will be available to students, faculty, interns, practicing architects, and the general public, in an attempt to better inform all. The goal: to provide a context based in the reality of individual projects to provide continued education for the practitioner as well as a method of learning for the student.

"In just two months I had not only penned the short case study, but I had gained a significant understanding of firm hierarchy, the process of design, and the issues involved in completing a project."



could be a first-hand experience for practitioners and students, thus creating the personal investment necessary to maintain interest and inform the case. She arranged for local firms to donate time and information on one project deemed to have significant lessons or educational value. This case study program consisted of seven weekly meetings between a practitioner, an intern, and a team of four students. Through these meetings, students would explore the issues of one project through an interview format. The participating firms all agreed to host the meetings at their offices, allowing students to gain a sense of the professional work environment as well as the firm's structure and image.

I had the great opportunity to work on this pilot project as a student in Laura's class last fall. My team worked with Naomi Yoran, AIA and Melissa Sarko of Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann, preparing the case *The Renovation and Addition to Baker Hall, Carnegie Mellon University.* As author of the first case, I thought that this would be an easy assignment, not anticipating the intensity of study over the next seven weeks. My teammates and I had varying levels of experience and familiarity with the profession, and varying interests in project/firm types and sizes.

Burt Hill welcomed our project team and the assignment, viewing the project as a serious opportunity for employees' continuing education as well as for documentation of an award-winning project. Their attitude pushed us to develop the most accurate and thorough case study we could. Naomi and Melissa presented us with clear, factual and non-biased information, which, as the project designers,



The student lounge at Baker Hall.

was a challenge. Naomi asked for special privilege to discuss with us all of the legal and budgetary information of the case, so long as it was kept confidential. This faith in us benefited the project two-fold. First, it showed that they treated us not as students but as researchers and colleagues. Second, it helped us to understand the actual monetary and issues of the case, which in turn helped us understand the project's scope and importance.

When questions arose about terminology, legal understanding or project sequence, Melissa and Naomi helped fill in the blanks. In each interview, we attempted to focus on different areas of the case: firm history, overview and mission; firm hierarchy and the web of decision making; and project analysis. Naomi and Melissa explained all of the technical information as thoroughly as possible, and offered the project's consultants and construction administrator as contact people for further clarification. Again, this benefited our entire understanding of the other players involved in the design and construction of a building. We held additional interviews with the contractor, cost consultant, construction manager, engineering consultants and client, allowing us to ask informed questions with confidence, and to gain a sense of the many perspectives and concerns that arose through the case.

It was apparent to us that Naomi and Melissa had spent a great deal of time and energy on the Baker Hall project, and, working together, had formed a very strong relationship. As prospective interns this fall, the opportunity to see Melissa's roles within the project team and firm gave us a greater understanding of the potential we have. They went out of their way to make themselves available to us, reaffirming both Burt Hill's and their own personal interest in our education.

Although I left each interview thoroughly impressed by our partners, I think what impressed me the most about this process was Naomi and Melissa's willingness to share with us their failures and the failures of the project. They were incredibly honest about the design process that lasted longer than anticipated, and relayed anecdotes about the relationships developed between clients, contractors and other Burt Hill colleagues during the case. As students, it was impressive to see that yes, mistakes are made in practice, but if handled correctly they will not affect the professional or the project negatively.



At the close of the semester all twelve firms and project groups were invited to the presentation of the case studies. It was obvious that this second attempt at developing case studies had engaged students and professionals; fostering education, relationships, and personal growth. The students were overwhelmed at the scope of the profession, and the firms were impressed by what the students could accomplish. Perhaps each side gained perspective on what it means to be the other.

As I look back on the project six months later, while doing my summer internship, I realize more fully what I gained. I gained a greater understanding of the definition of professional architect and the reality of that profession. I learned that it is okay to ask questions and, what questions to ask. And I learned about the many roles that I can strive to fill, and the potential of what I can accomplish working with other professionals.



Author Megan Nash learned a great deal about the real world through her case studies at Carnegie Mellon. Before she didn't know what any of the following abbreviations meant: RFI, RFP, CD, SD, DD, PCAW, CO, CA, etc. Now she knows those and many more, including RTKL, where she currently works as in intern in Baltimore.

The students were overwhelmed at the scope of the profession, and the firms were impressed by what the students could accomplish. Perhaps each side gained perspective on what it means to be the other.

## Dreams and Schemes by David R. Dibner

#### A REVIEW BY ROBERT J. BAILEY, AIA

fter a summer of reading legal thrillers (no, not all Grisham) and tales of searches for lost gold mines in the west, I finally decided to pick up *Dreams and Schemes*, which had been sitting on my shelf for several months. I was expected to review the book but just couldn't seem to get interested. Neither the cover nor the subtitle, "*Stories of People and Architecture*," piqued

my interest. It seemed like a book of essays to me and I was remembering the difficulty I had getting my mind on the same level of intellectual discourse that characterized Dan Willis' fine book *The Emerald City* and Other Essays on the Architectural Imagination.

Once I'd begun, however, I found *Dreams* to be nothing like *Emerald City*. (That in no way pits one against the other; they are completely different in nature.) *Dreams and Schemes* is essentially a series of anecdotes, vignettes, slices of life if you will.

First, some background about the author, since it is by his experience as an architect that we are informed.

David R. Dibner has been a practicing architect for over five decades. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1949, which would make him about 75. The photo on the back cover is assumed to be recent and shows a man who could pass for years younger than that. That sort of vitality infuses the book; this is not the work of an architect whom time has passed by; who has been put out to pasture and is now recounting the lessons the young bucks need to learn. Dibner's style is that of a younger man who just happens to have been in the business for fifty years and therefore has a lot of good stories to tell about people and experiences in his architectural career.

The breadth of Dibner's career lends itself to this compilation of stories. He has been a partner in several firms and within a 3-firm joint venture was partner-in-charge of Fed-

ut Building Service of the General Services Administration for a five-year period that coincided with the incoming d Carter administration. "It is not the buildings that I remember most but rather the variety of people with whom I've worked," he writes.

eral Office Building No. 5 (the James Forrestal Building),

headquarters of the department of Energy, a project of al-

most two million square feet. Dibner served as assistant commissioner for construction management in the Public

Dibner is a Fellow of the AIA, having been elevated in 1974. Nowhere in the book does he say anything about that, but it is mentioned on the back cover. He touches on two of his contributions to the AIA: 1) he served on the Documents Board, and 2) he is the [original] author of "You and Your Architect," a publication that has helped architects educate their clients for some 30 years. He is also the author of *Joint Ventures for Ar*-

chitects and Engineers (McGraw-Hill, 1972, still in print), Building Additions Design (McGraw-Hill1985), and The Role of Public Agencies in Fostering New Technology and Innovation in Building (National Academy Press, 1993).

The self-published nature of Dibner's latest book is evident in small but repeated glitches that any editor worthy of the job would have weeded out. For instance, Dibner repeatedly uses "insure" when he means "ensure" (although he correctly uses "assure".) Small stuff, but there nonetheless. More importantly, Dibner's style is both genial and genuine. When he tells us he was GSA's Assistant Commissioner — essentially the top government architect — it is matter-of-fact and not braggadocio.

Dreams and Schemes contains no pictures and there is only one rendered image of a building. Other visuals are limited to line drawings and diagrams, and a chart designed to help the layman understand the difference in the



architect and contractor selection process between the federal government and the private sector. (In a book of 278 pages there is a gap of over 100 pages without a visual; the point being that there aren't many.)

The intent? To approach architecture differently, from the human side. Hence, the book relates his interaction with a variety of people along the way in the process that is architecture. His stories include clients, colleagues, officials, contractors, family. One of the family-based stories involves his twin brother Andrew, who filled out an application to the University of Pennsylvania on David's behalf. Dibner cites the germination of the idea for the book as a class he taught a number of years ago for non-architectural graduate students with the aim of teaching them to "experience" the built environment around them so they could better understand spaces they used.

According to the author, much of the book's message is illustrated in the two beginning stories. In the first, an architect designing a residence ignores his clients' repeated requests for larger and more useful bedrooms. The house goes on to be published in several architectural magazines and wins a design award from the local chapter of the AIA. Meanwhile the couple has to move their child's bedroom into the playroom in order to accommodate any more furniture than just the bed. They are divorced several years later. The house goes on the market and takes a long time to sell at a greatly reduced price — because the children's bedrooms are too small.

In the second story, the architect (this time, it's Dibner) keeps trying to design a dining space in the kitchen of a new house, while the couple repeatedly argues that they don't eat in the kitchen. Pressured by the deadline of getting the project out to bid, Dibner leaves the dining space out (but in the space he would have intended for this designs a storage unit that can be removed). A year later he attends a party at this home and can't resist asking his client if they miss having an eating space in the kitchen. He learns his lesson when they laugh and tell him once again, no, they don't eat in the kitchen.

Some stories are more incredible, such as the potential client who came to Dibner's office wanting a building with such austere requirements that Dibner felt compelled to tell the man how unattractive and noisy he thought the building would be. The man responds by stating that providing such a building was desirable because part of their business strategy was to get employees to leave! Some stories are interesting for illustrating how the out-of-theordinary plays out, such as the time Dibner hired a former nun to handle public relations for his firm. Some stories are amusing, as when the young Dibner, desperate to land his first job, tells the boss he'll work for whatever he wants to pay him.

While with the GSA, Dibner traveled to other countries as part of programs to exchange building and design knowledge. His encounters illustrate different cultural mindsets. For instance, he repeatedly asks officials from China's Ministry of Public Works what their approach is to historic preservation, only to be met with confused looks. Finally, it dawns on him that they are meeting in a 500-year-old building because all buildings in China have been maintained and kept in use. They had no corresponding concept for "historic preservation."

"I am convinced," he writes, "that despite the differences in political, cultural and economic conditions, it still remains one world of people with similar interests, yearnings and needs."

From this book, I learned something about a famous structure: The John Hancock Building in Boston has a wind-sway dampening device in the form of a flatbed car suspended above the track. The car holds a number of lead ingots. When the building begins to sway, the car descends to the track and the building movement is thereby dampened.

I learned something about project proposal strategy: Dibner describes encountering a competitor who proposed to gather information for the design of an office building on a corporate campus by utilizing a "squatter team" that would literally move onto the site and stay there until the necessary preliminary information was gathered, a concept that greatly appealed to the client.

I also learned something about foreign means and methods: In China, bamboo scaffolding was the norm.

To learn more, I recommend this interesting and unique book.



"That sort of vitality infuses the book; this is not the work of an architect whom time has passed by." ROBERT J. BAILEY, AIA

# In The Beginning ... there was Mr. A. Peebles

Ever wonder how the Pittsburgh chapter of the AIA began? Al Tannler of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation forwarded this piece to Tracy Myers of the Heinz Architectural Center. She in turn forwarded it to us. We thought you might enjoy reading it. Please note all first name abbreviations are by the author, Geo., and not the editor who didn't touch a word of this piece.

"The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its Predecessors." By Geo. S. Orth From The Interstate Architect and Builder, a publication out of Cleveland published from 1899 to 1902.

The Pittsburgh Chapter originated at a meeting of the architects of Allegheny County held at the rooms of the Engineer's Society of Western Pennsylvania on February 22, 1887, at which twenty-three architects were present. A temporary organization was effected with Mr. J. W. Kerr, who was instrumental in bringing them together, as chairman. At this meeting a committee was appointed to formulate rules and regulations under which they might organize as a permanent body. The result of this committee's labors was presented to another meeting of the architects on March 8, and on March 16 a constitution and by-laws were finally adopted and the organization completed with Mr. A. Peebles as our first president. The name adopted was "The Western Pennsylvania Association of Architects," it being an independent organization having no connection with the American Institute.

The Association drifted along with varying success until the spring of 1891, when on March 28 the old association



St. Peters Roman Catholic Church, Andrew Peebles, architect. West Ohio St., North Side



The Triangle Building, 926-34 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Andrew Peebles, architect

adjourned sine die and at the same meeting a new one was formed under the name of "The Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the A.I.A.," Mr. Geo. S. Orth being elected the first president of the chapter. At that time there were seven members of the Institute in the chapter, they being A. Peebles, C. M. Barthberger, J. M. Alston, Thos. Boyd, D, Knox Miller, S. T. McClaren [sic] and Geo. S. Orth. On October 11, 1896, with the consent of the Institute the name was changed to "The Pittsburgh Chapter of the A.I.A." which name it still retains.

At the first meeting held on the twenty-second of February 1887, there were twenty-three architects present, but the interest died out and somewhat and on the day we finally organized there were only about fifteen present. Of these fifteen we have lost eleven from various causes and there are now only four of the original members identified with the chapter at the present time. They are J. M. Alson, Thos. Boyd, T. D. Evans and Geo. S. Orth.

During the twelve years of our existence we have lost three members by death. The first being Mr. J. W. Kerr, one of the most active in bringing members together, only lived long enough to see the association in successful operation when he was taken away, leaving us to mourn his loss George S. Orth served as President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA in 1897, 1898, and 1906.After 1899, his firm was named "George S. Orth and Brothers". The firm's work included:

- Spencer Residence, 1886
   719 Amberson Avenue, Shadyside
- Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, 1893-94
   N. Bellefield Avenue, Oakland
- Twelve residences at 5141 and 5205 Ellsworth Avenue
- And Colonial Place, 1898, Shadyside
- Wilpen Hall, 1897-1900
- Blackburn Road, Sewickley
- William Penn Snyder House, 1911
- 852 Ridge Avenue, North Side

Andrew Peebles was born in Scotland and worked in Quebec before moving to Pittsburgh. His office was located at 94 Fifth Avenue in the Schmidt and Friday Building. His works, all still standing, include:

- St. Peters Roman Catholic Church, 1872-74 West Ohio St., North Side
- Jacob Painter and Sons Office, 1883
   226 First Avenue, Pittsburgh
- The Triangle Building, 1884
   926-34 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh
- First Lutheran Church, 1886-88
   615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh

Contributed by David S. Vater, AIA

and to fight our battles without his advice and aid. The second death was that of Mr. W. S. Fraser, who after a long illness died in the spring of 1897. The last was that of Mr. S. Munch, who died in the early part of 1898.

At the time of the organization as a chapter of the Institute we had only twelve regular members, seven of whom were members of the Institute. Since then the chapter has slowly but surely increased in membership until it now numbers twenty-four regular and twelve junior members. Of the regular members, twelve are members of the Institute, five being fellows and seven associates. During the life of the association and chapter it has held three public exhibitions of drawing, etc. The first in a modest way in the spring of 1889 at the rooms of the association in the Penn building. The second, in the fall of 1890, was held in connection with the Exposition Society in their building on Duquesne Way. The third was held in the art galleries of the Carnegie Library building, in the spring of 1898. All of these exhibitions were successful, the last being noticeably so. There being seven hundred and sixtysix drawings, photographs, etc., hung for public inspection, included in them being a selection of the best work exhibited that year in Philadelphia, New York and Chicago, together with much that had not been on exhibition elsewhere. It embraced work from the offices of the leading architects in the United States. As an adjunct a handsomely illustrated catalogue was issued which was satisfactory in all respects. Owing to the kindness of our friends we settled up the financial portion of the exhibition with a modest balance in the treasury.

During this last exhibition a competition was entered into by the draughtsmen of Allegheny County with a scholarship in one of the leading architectural schools of the United States as the prize. The subject selected was "An Entrance to Schenley Park." The response by the draughtsmen was enthusiastic and the drawings without exception creditable. For which the chapter is to a considerable extent indebted to the Architectural Club of this city. The competition resulted in the awarding of the prize scholarship to Miss Jennie McMasters, of our city. Mr. H. C. Frick kindly donated the sum of three hundred dollars toward defraying the student's expenses, to which the chapter added two hundred dollars, the sum of five hundred dollars enabling Miss Jennie McMasters to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for one year.

Through the kindness of the trustees of the Carnegie library building, during the same year, the chapter was granted the use of a room in the third story of the building as permanent quarters, which room is now being used jointly by the chapter and the architectural club. During the winter of '98 '99 the chapter appropriated a sum of money to provide instruction in free-hand drawing, etc., for the draughtsmen. These classes were held in the chapter room in Carnegie library building, and not always as well attended as they might have been or as we had hoped, were, we think, productive of much good to those that took advantage of them. It is the intention of the chapter to continue these classes and competitions in the future, and it is the earnest hope of the members that we may all be benefited in future years by the advanced artistic character of the work of these draughtsmen, and also that the chapter is now entering on a period of usefulness and prosperity which will amply repay them for their trials in the past.

At the meeting of the Institute in 1898 they honored us and our city by selecting Pittsburg as the place for holding the convention this year, and on our chapter was placed the pleasant duty of providing for their comfort and entertainment. Whether they have succeeded or not will have to be left to the verdict of the convention itself.— Geo. S. Orth



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# **Orphaned Spaces: The Autocentric City**

By Edward Horey, Liquid Evergreen Productions, Inc.

For the second year in a row, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation held a juried competition for young designers and artists, 35 and under. This year it was for the improvement of a neglegected or under-developed but highly visible site in Pittsburgh. This is one of several entries featured in *Columns* Magazine recently.

"Imagine life in a city free from the noise, stench, and danger of cars, trucks, and buses. Imagine that all basic needs, from groceries to child care, lie within a five-minute walk of every doorstep. Imagine that no commute takes more than 35 minutes from door to door, and that service is provided by a fast, cheap, safe, comfortable public transportation system." — J.H. Crawford

he city streets of Pittsburgh have the potential to accomplish this old urban concept. Unfortunately, the overused and abused technology of the automobile has run rampant over downtown Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh made a terrible mistake when it turned to the automobile as an instrument of improved urban mobility. The city streets of downtown Pittsburgh are orphaned spaces.

The challenge is reconfiguring the monopoly that cars, trucks, buses, and rails have on the city streets. The time is dawning to reclaim the city streets for human activities. Pittsburgh's current street traffic model needs to be reconfigured to accommodate multi-modal lanes, levels, and zones to truly maximize the quality of life for people in this city. Included are a few proposals in several downtown spaces to introduce this concept to begin this advantage for Pittsburgh. Sustainable downtown city development and life can only be achieved by limiting the use of cars, trucks, and buses within cities. These proposals are beacons of hope and sanity that offer solutions to the danger, pollution, and breakdown of urban life caused by this auto-centric city.

Eight downtown sites were selected to introduce these advantages for Pittsburgh.



**ROBERTO CLEMENTE BRIDGE BOULEVARD:** Pedestrian only foot/ park bridge linking the cultural district and the north side.



**LIBERTY AVENUE**: Introduce a multi-modal/level segregated road lane system. Introducing elevated pedestrian bridge overpasses, a bike lane, a car lane, a bus lane, and a street trolley that connects all at differing street levels.



**MARKET SQUARE**: Ban cars, trucks and buses from the square. Introduce European public square life: weekly farmers market, sculpture fountain, street musicians/artists/mimes/etc. Reduce local city income tax to 1.5% and introduce more downtown city living and grocery stores.



**DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGES:** Convert top half of existing parking garages into residential living, and the bottom half for car parking.



LIBERTY SQUARE: A dilapidated triangular building complex located in downtown Pittsburgh along Liberty Avenue. Introduce the New York "Times Square Kiosk" concept to activate the rundown complex into an information kiosk/marquee/advertisement.



LIBERTY BRIDGE UNDERNEATH WALKWAY MALL: Inhabit underneath infrastructure of Liberty bridge. Introduce a pedestrian "mall" underneath, complete with people movers, jewelry stores, and souvenirs.



WABASH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE: Introduce monumental entrance to pedestrian/bike bridge, utilizing the old Wabash Bridge supports. Link up Station Square to Market Square



#### **From the Firms**

► Five new single-family homes, designed by **Steven G. Hawkins/Archi**tects, (pictured below) were completed in July on Locust Street in Oakland on land donated by nearby Mercy hospital. Oakland Planning and Development Corporation was the developer for Uptown Community Action Group. The 1600 square foot homes were designed to recall their turn-of-the-century neighbors.

Five more houses by **SGH/A** are under construction on Allequippa Street in West Oakland, Phase I of the Allequippa Terrace Off-Site Housing project. Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation is developer, and Breechmenders is the local community group involved. Brad Santarcangelo is project manager for both projects.



**RSH Architects** is designing the Valley Sports Complex, a new 65,000 square foot facility in New Kensington with an NHL regulation ice rink, four tennis courts, an indoor rock climbing wall, fitness center, and more. **RSH** is working with Dynamic Building Corporation, Prof. Affiliate, as design/build partners.

**RSH Architects** recently designed major improvements to the Memorial Field House at Indiana University of PA and will break ground this Thursday for the new Lincoln/Larimer Community Center in Pittsburgh. Both projects involve designs for sports such as basketball, swimming, gymnastics and dance.

**JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design** was selected by the May Department Stores Company to be the architect for the following retail projects:

- A new Kaufmann's Department Store to be located within the Waterfront development in Homestead, PA. Project manager is Michael Pappas, Assoc. AIA. Principal in charge is Thomas Mrozenski Jr., AIA.
- An interior remodel of the existing Filene's Department Store located in Farmington, CT. Project architect is Scott Womack, AIA.
- An extensive renovation of eight floors at the Filene's Department Store in downtown Boston, MA. The flagship store, designed by architect Daniel Burnham, was built in 1911. Project manager is Andrew Rauch, Assoc. AIA. Project interior designer is Jennifer Lindemuth.

Saint Vincent College officials broke ground for a major construction and renovation project for an expanded student activities building. Massaro Company, Professional Affiliate, was selected to provide design/build services for this expansion project. Construction began on Saint Benedict Hall last year which opened on schedule in August of this year, for the largest freshman class in the history of the college. This new state-of-the-art residence hall has rooms grouped into neighborhoods and was designed specifically for first-year students to enhance their community living experience. It includes a complete package of technology services. The architect for both projects is Tasso Katselas Associates, Inc.

Valentour English Bodnar & Howell were selected by Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, WV, to design a new Intensive care unit suite. Design is also underway for a new ICU suite at St. Clair Hospital. The firm also assisted the Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church with architectural work to support a new 15,000 lb., 26-foot tall organ.

GWSM, Inc. Landscape Architects staff have joined Pennoni Associates Inc., adding expanded landscape architecture services to the firm's engineering and design services.

Church Restoration Group, a division of Mistick Construction, Prof. Affiliate, that specializes in religious properties, worked on an 8-day intense effort to help finish the UAL Flight 93 Memorial Chapel in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The company donated more than \$25,000 in materials and labor to assist in reopening the chapel in time for the 9/11 memorial services.

Church Restoration Group sent more than a dozen people over eight days, including project managers, carpenters, woodworkers, painters and artisans. Some worked through the night prior to the opening.

"We heard about the chapel project and knew that our company had the talent they needed," says **Carol Downey Fuller, AIA** of Church Restoration Group. "It started with a donation of design consultation when our company partnered with **Desmone & Associates** to help create an interior color scheme."

The 100-year-old church building, was purchased by a Catholic priest who started renovating the building into a UAL Flight 93 Memorial Chapel.

"We weren't the first to help," says Fuller. "But I think our resources came at a critical time. There aren't many companies that specialize in the restoration of religious properties. Craftsmen from Church Restoration Group, a division of Mistick Construction, arrived on the site once we determined the need. The company often works with churches after disasters so we are used to responding to emergency needs."

Recent projects of Church Restoration Group include a \$1.5 million restoration at the Church of the Assumption and a \$1.4 million addition to St. Brendan's Episcopal Church.

Dick Corporation, Prof Affiliate, has been awarded contracts for two new projects by the U.S. General Services Administration: a \$120 million federal courthouse to be built in Miami, FL and a \$143 million federal building to be built in San Francisco.

Springboard moved to a new, larger studio in The Terminal Building, a converted warehouse along the Monongahela River on the South Side. Springboard welcomes two new members, project designer Bill Szustak, Assoc. AIA, and creative director Petra Fallaux.

Dynamic Building Corporation began construction on the Hooters Restaurant in Altoona. The architectural firm is John C. Hass Associates, Inc.

Climatech, Prof. Affiliate, announced the opening of a new sales and service center at One Northgate Square, Greensburg, PA, 15601.



On September 8th, the Rotary Clubs of Alleghenv County held their 1st Annual Ducky Derby Race. A majority of the funds raised will be used to continue to protect children throughout the world from polio through immunization. The remainder will be distributed to various charities within the Pittsburgh community. Over 19,000 bright-yellow rubber ducks were dumped from the Seventh Street Bridge to begin their journey down the Allegheny River toward the Clemente Bridge.

Massaro donated the services of their 20-ton

dump truck and General Superintendent, Ray Patterson, to load and transport the ducks from the warehouse to the crane on the 7th Street Bridge. At the conclusion of the race, Massaro and volunteers removed the ducks from the river and transported them back to the warehouse. Massaro also coordinated the securing of the crane from Maxim Crane of Pittsburgh and a generator from Harmar Equipment.

#### **Business Briefs**

L.D. Astorino Companies announces the promotion of James M. Routh, AIA to vice president/principal of design.

S. Faruq Ahmed has been named president-elect of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

Dodson Engineering, Inc. welcomes the return of Gregory R. Fuhrman, P.E. Fuhrman was previously employed with Dodson Engineering from 1994 to 2001.











McCALLEN

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design welcomes Jim Gaynor, PE to the firm as an engineering project manager. Jim received his mechanical engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Massaro hired Joseph Switala as senior project manager and Charles Mrozinski as accounts payable representative.

Harchuck Construction Inc., Prof Affiliate, Apollo, recently hired John Kirk as Senior Project Manager and Heather McCallen as Director of Marketing. HCl is a full-service general contractor and construction management company.

#### Kudos

Bryant H. Robey, AIA, a principal at WTW Architects of Pittsburgh, and Lawrence J. Payne, AIA, an associate, earned the Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 2.0 Professional Accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council. Robey is co-chair of WTW's Sustainable Design Committee and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council. Payne is a member of WTW's Sustainable Design and Standards Committee.

Nello Construction Company recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a party for employees, families and clients at the Southpointe Golf Club.

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9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Alfred State College, Alfred, NY. Cost is \$100 for AIA members, \$120 for non-AIA participants. Contact Michelle L Trott, Assoc. AIA at 585-454-4570 ext. 532 for more information.

Please send your information to AIA Pittsburgh, 945 Liberty Avenue, Loft #3, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or fax it to 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.

## C O L U M N S UPCOMING ISSUES

#### DECEMBER

- Design Awards 2002

#### **JANUARY / FEBRUARY**

- Performance Spaces
- Architects Work on Libraries

**TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN ISSUE** or to submit a story idea, contact the editor at 412/563-7173 or email: tcerto@adelphia.net

#### AIA ACTIVITIES

November 4, Friday AIA Communications Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office. 412-471-9548.

- November 11, Monday AlA Pittsburgh Board Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome, 412-471-9548.
- November 20, Wednesday AlA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture 5 p.m. at Strada LLC office, 925 Liberty Avenue. Contact Ed Shriver, AIA 412-263-3800.

November 21, Thursday Legislative Committee Meeting, noon at the Chapter office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA, 724-452-9690.

December 2, Monday Holiday Party, 6 p.m., location to be determined.

## <sup>2</sup> C<sup>0</sup> A<sup>0</sup> L<sup>2</sup> E N D A R

#### AROUND TOWN

#### November 7, Thursday

**SMPS Meeting.** "Change Beyond the Speed of Light: Are Your Buildings Wired or Tired?" 1 - 4 p.m. RSVP to Susan Traub at 412-323-8580.

#### November 12, Tuesday

SMPS Meeting. "Internal Marketing and Your Firm." 8:30 -10 a.m. RSVP to Jackee Ging at 412-394-7889.

#### November 12, Tuesday

**CSI Meeting.** Brick Veneer and Metal Studs, Holiday Inn Greentree. Keynote speaker Mike Gurevich, Masonry consultant. Social hour at 6 p.m., Dinner at 6:45 p.m. \$125 per person. RSVP to Deborah Merges at 412-855-0928.

#### November 13, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators Meeting, Engineers Club, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. \$17 members \$19.50 non-members. Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at 412-281-1337.

#### November 20, Wednesday

SMPS Meeting. "A Look in the Crystal Ball." (2003 Economic Forecast). 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. RSVP to Diana Rudoy at 412-209-2885.

#### November 20, Wednesday

ASLA Membership Meeting 6 p.m., Marshall Tyler Rausch LLC, 101 Bellevue Avenue, West View.

#### November 22, Friday

2002 Annual Statewide Conference and Design Awards. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and going all day. Earn up to 8 Learning Units. For information call AIA Pennsylvania at 717-236-4055.

#### December 20, Wednesday

ASLA Holiday Party, 6 p.m., 945 Liberty Avenue, Downtown Cost: \$10 members, \$20 non-members

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 info@aiapgh.org

# CONTRACTORS' DIRECTORY

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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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# **Caroline E. Boyce**

#### Executive Director, AIA Pennsylvania

PERSONAL: I love roller coasters and cooking/eating gourmet food-but not all at the same time.

**YEARS IN PRACTICE**: I am not an architect, but have interacted with architects since the beginning of my career. My first real job was as Historic Preservation Planner for the Pittsburgh Planning Department way back in 1981.

**EDUCATION:** B.A. in Government, Connecticut College M.A. in Historic Preservation Planning, Cornell University

**CAREER HIGHLIGHT**: Co-founding 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania with Joanne Denworth was particularly special to me. The organization is now an alliance of over 120 organizations, representing over 330,000 Pennsylvanians. Its strength lies in working together for constructive alternatives to sprawl, abandonment of our cities and towns, and the immeasurable loss of our natural and historic resources. The organization has a positive agenda that provides legislative and other proactive solutions and options to Pennsylvania's communities. It gets things done.

**BUILDING YOU WISH YOU HAD DESIGNED AND WHY**: *Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, England.* The integration of ruins and modern architecture is stunning. Incorporated into the structure is beautiful art from the leading artists of the 1950s and 1960s. My favorite piece is John Hutton's etched glass screen of Saints and Angels that brings the spirit of the ruins into the new cathedral.

**FAVORITE BUILDING AND/OR INTERIOR AND WHY**: *Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, England.* What stands today is a combination of the ruins of the original cathedral (1043-1539) and new construction (1956, Basil Spence architect). On November 14, 1940 Coventry was devastated by Luffwaffe bombs. The Cathedral burned with the city. The morning after the bombing, the decision was made to rebuild the cathedral as a sign of forgiveness and hope for the future of the world, rather than out of revenge. The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation was also formed to provide support in areas of conflict throughout the world. The design of the building fits the mission of the building beautifully. A must see for anyone going to the UK.

**FAVORITE ARCHITECTURE BOOK AND WHY**: *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*, by Chester H. Liebs. So much of the American built environment has its origin in the automobile. This is a wonderfully fun survey documenting the history of things that are especially "American", such as auto showrooms, gas stations, miniature golf courses and motels. I was born in England, and my family is English, but America is home now. I have a special affection for those things that are unique to this country.

**I BELONG TO AIA BECAUSE**: Because my friend Anne has worked for AIA Pittsburgh for 12 years and thinks it is a great job.

**QUESTION OF YOUR OWN**: Twelve years ago I was one of two people who told Anne Swager about the opening at AIA Pittsburgh for which she applied and was of course hired. Can you guess who the other person was?



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