

The Boom in Library Construction

C O L U M N S

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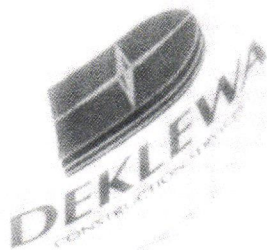
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Point Me in the Right Direction

By Tracy Certo



It's all part of what is dubbed "information architecture" or the attempt to "tame complexity"

If you've ever stood in front of a

touch-screen kiosk and wondered how to start it, you're not alone. It happens more than you think and, according to industrial designer Mickey McManus, you are not (always) the clueless one. Sometimes, just as you suspected, the programmers are at fault. So focused are they on one keen and exciting element, they miss another more basic one.

That's why McManus sometimes spends whole days videotaping users of technology, such as touch-screen kiosks, to see how they—and the programs—fare.

It's all part of what is dubbed "information architecture" or the attempt to "tame complexity", says McManus. Libraries, which are the focus in this issue, are a tough challenge since the different departments are using different information systems. In other words, "they're not using the same language," Manus says to clarify (underscoring his point).

What is the most important thing to communicate to the user? he asks. It varies according to the user's location. Say you're standing 100 feet from the main Carnegie library. Then it might help to know that the library is open. In Oakland, it's impossible to tell, he says. Once you're inside, it's important to get the scope of things: What can I do from here?

In theory it sounds so simple. Yet we all know how complicated it can get. I was thinking about this as I stood at the e-ticket kiosk at the Pittsburgh airport recently. When they work well, they're a thing of beauty — fast, efficient, with little or no waiting. But mine didn't of course. It issued a boarding pass for my connecting flight but none to my final destination. A ticket agent came to my rescue and as he worked some magic from the back of the kiosk and came up with my boarding pass, he politely blamed the computer. And I wondered: Is this the same computer that has me taking a 6 a.m. flight to Philly only to connect to a 7:40 flight to Vegas? Since when do we head east to go west? When I booked the flight, the agent didn't even hint at anything wrong with the plan. "It's a connecting flight,"

she said matter of factly. But it's going the wrong way, I pointed out. She repeated her original line in the same tone of voice. Lacking options, I booked the flight.

It didn't help matters that the plane in Philly was delayed so I ended up flying over Pittsburgh a full four hours after I left. The irony was too maddening to even contemplate (I woke up at 4:15 to achieve this dubious feat) so I didn't, relieved I was finally headed in the right direction. And yes, the trip was well worth it, but still. Where's a complexity tamer when you need one?

If you ask me, McManus sometimes has his work cut out for him but I find it intriguing work nonetheless. And I suggest he contact the airlines because they need him. Right now he's working on signage for the Carnegie Library as they embark on an ambitious program (\$40 million for this current phase) to renovate and update their libraries.

The reasons for the surge of activity in library constructions are plentiful. RAD money for one. And a multitude of incentives to lure people into libraries today, none of them dealing with books.

Libraries have changed greatly, and they're more than they ever were before. But they still have a vast, wonderful selection of books, well worth the visit. And if you're looking for one in particular say, — about an architect who was murdered by that Pittsburgh millionaire, Thaw, was it? — the librarian can help you find out. The helpful librarian in Mt. Lebanon clearly relished the challenge I posed to her. She located *Architect of Desire*, by Susan Lessard, Stanford White's great-granddaughter, and handed it to me with pride. I was impressed.

Turned out to be a good read and came close, but not close enough, to meriting mention in a new feature we're starting this month on Favorite Books. Have a great read you'd like to share? We'd love to hear about it.

Meanwhile, we invite you to survey the scene as *Columns* takes a look at what's happening in our many local and lively libraries.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Boom in Library Construction 6

A More Contemporary, More Inviting Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh 12

Design Trends for Libraries of the Future 14

What's Happening at The Heinz Architectural Center 16

News 4, 5

Breaking Ground 18, 19

Calendar 21

On the cover: The entrance to the Peters Twp. Children's Library. Architect: Ross Schonder Starzinger Cupcheck. Photo Copyright Ed Massery

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

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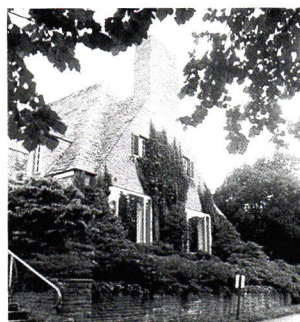
AIA Pittsburgh Foundation for Architecture 7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

by Edward J. Shriver, Jr., AIA

Legend has it that Benno Janssen, master architect and avid golfer, was thrown out of Oakmont Country Club when he decided he would use his Cadillac as a golf cart. If they thought he did a lot of damage with his driving, they should see what I could do!

This year, AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture will host its 7th Annual Golf Outing on Monday, May 19th to raise money in support of activities focused on the foundation's mission of "promoting broader understanding of how the environment we design and build affects the quality of our lives." Sadly, Mr. Janssen's crass disregard for club rules (and the fact that they don't hold outings unless "PGA" is in the organization's title somewhere) makes an Oakmont Country Club tournament only a dream. But in memory of Benno, and because of the great time had by all at least year's event, the Golf Committee has decided to return to Longue Vue Club for this year's outing.

Last year's golf tournament at Longue Vue was a huge success thanks to our many sponsors, including event sponsor Nello Construction, dinner sponsor Mistick Construction, lunch sponsor R.E. Crawford Construction, beverage cart sponsor Torriero Construction, skill prize sponsor Richard and Laura Deklewa, and invitation designer Group 2 Design. With over 130 people attending, the event raised more than \$7,500 for the foundation.



The funds were used to underwrite several efforts, including Architects' Saturday, an event that helps students and others understand what architects and designers do, and encourages them to explore opportunities in the design and built communities in Pittsburgh.

This year's event promises to be another fine time. With approximately 120 golfers anticipated,

the outing will be a wonderful way for architects in the Pittsburgh region to support their foundation, entertain their clients and staff, and enjoy a great day of golf at one of the best courses in the area. This is not an event for just your marketing staff — you really want to be there yourself!

If golf is not your sport, then stop by after work for drinks and dinner at Longue Vue Club when the round of golf is over. Here, you will enjoy the exceptional architecture of the clubhouse (designed by Benno Janssen), good food, and the company of the architects, contractors, and clients who make Pittsburgh's built environment something of which we are all proud.

To reserve your spot at the 7th Annual Golf Outing or for more information, please call 412-471-9548. If you would like to support this year's event by being a sponsor, please call 412-488-3666.



Favorite Books

In an issue that deals with libraries, it seemed appropriate to kick off a new, occasional feature on favorite books. It can be an all-time favorite, or, if that's too hard to narrow down, a favorite recent read, or a favorite type of book: architecture, of course or any fiction or nonfiction. To start, we asked some members of the *Columns* Editorial Board for their selections. Be prepared: someday soon you, too, may be asked. Why wait? Email your favorite and a brief explanation to the editor at tcerto@adelphia.net.

A Prayer for Owen Meany

By John Irving

Sometimes word associations can surprise you. When asked to recommend a favorite book, John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* immediately came to mind. Surprising to me because I don't read much fiction, and I read this novel a few years ago.

This seems to me to be one of those books that explores serious ideas and, at the same time, tells a great story. It subtly deals with questions of religious belief and moral choice through the story of the loss of childhood, friendship, and unique characters. Deeply moving and filled with ironic humor, I found it memorable and satisfying.

— DONALD ZEILMAN, URBAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES

The Sisters: A Saga of the Mitford Family

By Mary Lovell

The fascinating English Mitford sisters, all six of them, survived a fairly aristocratic, eccentric upbringing, and later they all achieved fame and notoriety through their sometime brow-raising social and political exploits. Against a rich historical background, the author weaves six narratives, from the fetching Diana who left a young husband to marry British Fascist leader Oswald Mosely, to the perplexing Unity who was very close with Hitler (When war broke out between Germany and England, she shot herself in the head. And survived.) Sister Deborah (Debo, still alive) married the Duke of Devonshire, while the acerbic Nancy and rebellious Jessica (Decca, who wrote the groundbreaking *The American Way of Death*) became bestselling authors. Throughout decades of madcap adventure and roof-

caving crises, not to mention splashy headlines across Europe that chronicled it all, beleaguered mother Sydney prevails — loyal to the end. Your heart will go out to the mom who wonders, "Why do *all* my daughters fall for dictators?" A saving grace: Humor abounds.

— TRACY CERTO, EDITOR, COLUMNS MAGAZINE

Undaunted Courage

By Stephen Ambrose

Merriwether Lewis and William Clark's amazing journey across the continent. Ambrose made it so interesting to read, I couldn't put the book down. Jefferson's idea for the expedition, and his vision about a USA stretching across the whole continent were incredible! And Lewis and Clark's skill, knowledge and unbelievable good luck come through in the book. (They lost only one person on the whole expedition.) — ALAN FISHMAN, AIA, IKM ARCHITECTS

Flags of Our Fathers

By James Bradley and Ron Powers

On 9/11/2001 we witnessed firefighters raise the American flag over the WTC site. The poignant image was compared to the action by five Marines and a Navy Corpsman who raised the colors on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima in 1945. This book chronicles the lives of these six servicemen, their fates and their legacies—all through the eyes of one survivor's son.

The survivor, John Bradley, a Navy Corpsman, never spoke of his record—except once—to his (then) teenage son. It is Bradley's son who researched and compiled this example of a previous generation's courage, tenacity, sacrifice and honor. — TOM BRINEY, AIA, PRINCIPAL, ASTORINO

AIA PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION The Hornbostel Lecture



EDWIN CHAN, FRANK GEHRY ARCHITECTS
Mon. April 14, 6:30 p.m.
McConomy Auditorium,
Carnegie Mellon University

Edwin Chan is senior design partner at Frank Gehry architects, responsible for the designs of such icons as the Guggenheim Museum at Bilbao, the Conde Naste Cafeteria in New York and the Fishdance restaurant in Kobe, Japan. Chan lectures frequently on the design process in Gehry's office, particularly with regard to the interchange of engineering and architecture. Part of the "Pittsburgh Architecture Lecture Series," sponsored by the AIA Pittsburgh Foundation for Architecture in cooperation with the CMU School of Architecture, and the Heinz Architectural Center.

The Hornbostel Lecture is being underwritten by Astorino in memory of Dahlen K. Ritchey, FAIA.

Also, the Foundation will be sponsoring a trip to Taliesin East in Spring Garden, Wisconsin on the weekend of September 27-28, 2003. Along with the visit to Taliesin, the trip will include visits/tours at other Wright buildings near Madison, Wisconsin. Details to be announced soon.

The Boom in Library Construction

By Tracy Certo

The explosion in library building throughout Allegheny County, whether it's expansion, renovation or new construction, can be traced to one primary factor: RAD money. When Allegheny County's Regional Asset District funds came to be in 1993, libraries more than any other cultural institution, benefited the most. Parks were second. The reason? These are the two public institutions open for everyone's enjoyment and benefit. In 2003, the RAD funds allocation for libraries alone exceeds \$21 million.

That sum will be divided among the 43 Allegheny County libraries (\$7,490,000), and the 20 branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (\$16,063,000), all located in the city. Although all libraries benefit, many smaller libraries saw their budgets virtually double with the addition of RAD funds.

Al Kamper, District Coordinator for the Carnegie Library and consultant, among others, says that at first the bulk of the money libraries received was spent on books. And then, not surprisingly, money was needed to find space for them.

The infusion of RAD funds is well timed for local libraries since three major trends in library design have been propelling expansion and dictating design nationwide. According to Kamper, they are:

#1 The introduction of new media such as video, audio-tapes, and software.

What is RAD?

The Regional Asset District fund is a 1 percent county sales tax authorized in 1993 by Act 77. Of the total RAD taxes collected, 25% goes to the county government, 25% to the municipal government and 50% goes to the preservation of the regional assets such as libraries and parks and cultural institutions.



An atrium is used as an organizing element within the Peters Twp. library, creating efficient circulation and a public gathering space. Architect: Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck



The Patient/Family Library, designed by Radelet McCarthy Architects, on the ground floor of the William M. Cooper Pavilion of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. The library serves as an educational resource to assist those patients being treated for cancer and their families during their treatment. Equipped with four Internet-ready computers, the library also features a media room for private video or DVD viewing, and current medical literature.



PHOTO BY LINDA JEUB

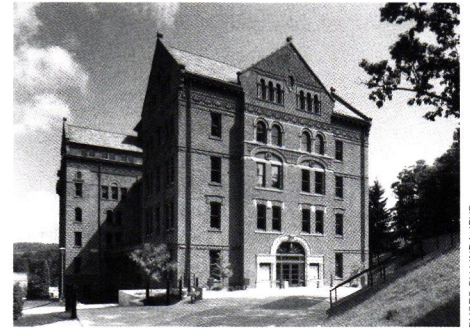
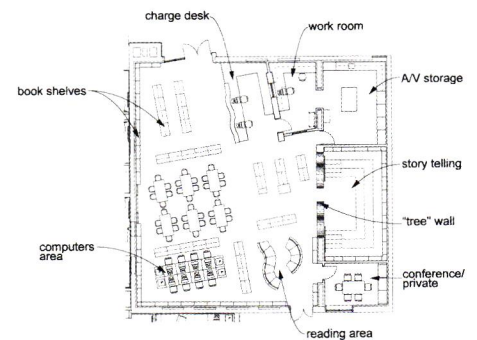


PHOTO BY LINDA JEUB

North Hall, built in 1874, at Mansfield University, was abandoned for more than 15 years then scheduled for demolition until a group headed by the football coach saved and restored the building. Eckles Architecture, Inc. of New Castle recycled the building with a library on the first four floors and administration on the top two floors.

The interior of North Hall (left) was gutted and restructured to support library loading. The Broadart Library Furniture Company of Williamsport created a new series of design furniture for the library now available as "the Mansfield Line".



In the children's library at Hance Elementary in Gibsonia, PA, the existing stage was converted into the story-telling area. Its wall is shaped as a tree and ceiling grids at different heights filter the light from above like the leaves on a tree. The use of exterior materials like brick and wood along with the graphics on the walls enhance the feeling of being in a neighborhood backyard on a sunny summer day. Eckles Architecture.



Integrating computers in the business center of Groton Public Library — for laptop use as well as library computers — called for extensive wiring in the floor. Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

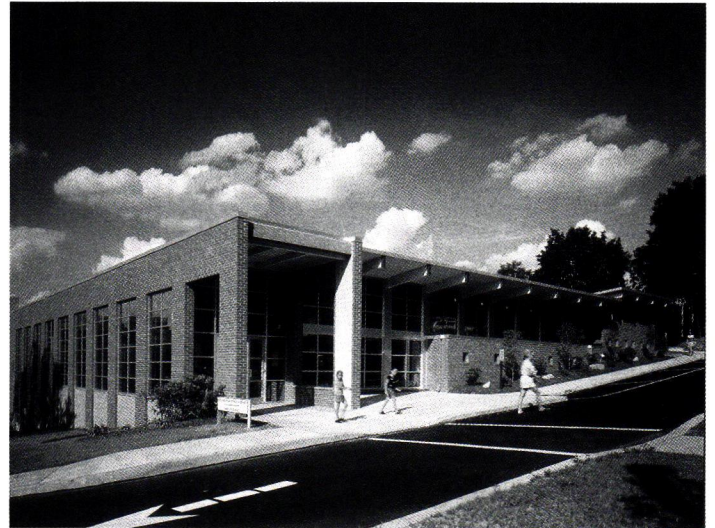
#2 The addition of computers. In the last decade PC's have greatly increased demand for space in libraries. For instance, to replace the old card catalogue system with the county's EIN network requires an average of six computers. Factor in, too, the many additional computers needed for internal system, patrons, and computer training programs.

#3 The community center role of libraries. More than ever, libraries are more community-oriented, offering special projects and engaging in collaborations, such as senior citizen groups and early literacy projects. (Programs such as the latter helps them garner more funding.) In addition, there's increased demand for space for meeting rooms, quiet study areas and even business resource centers.

Trends in Design

If the use of libraries has changed dramatically, so has their appearance. Gone is the traditional municipal building exterior in many cases. Inside, the idea is to make the library more welcoming which means it often mimics the local mega bookstore. "Every job I go to, they want a café and a fireplace," Kamper says dryly.

More than ten years ago, Borders and Barnes & Noble stores started proving their popularity. It didn't take long for libraries to start duplicating the stores' savvy market-



Mt. Lebanon Public Library, originally designed as a community center, features generous use of glass, many community meeting rooms and computer stations and dedicated wall space for local art and history displays. McCormick Architects.

ing. "They manage to keep their patrons there as long as possible and do that by creating a comfortable environment and amenities such as coffee," says Mark McCormick, AIA, of McCormick Architects. "As a result, they sell more books."

In 1993, when McCormick started the design of the Mt. Lebanon Library they looked to Barnes & Noble as a reference.

The goals of libraries are different, of course, but one thing is for sure: they are trying to be more things to more people. McCormick harks back to Andrew Carnegie's vision of libraries as a community center and an identity for the community. "If you're looking for a place to just pick up books, you might as well go online and order them," says the architect. (Libraries are working on that one, too.) In Mt. Lebanon, they would have preferred including an auditorium in their library, he adds, but the budget didn't allow it.

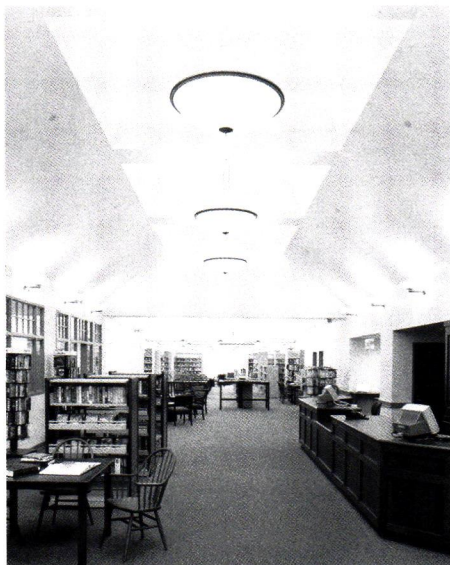
Another change in libraries that McCormick notes is the breaking down of old taboos, such as the no talking and no food or beverage rule. "Think about it. People take books home with them and read them with a cup of coffee or they read while eating," McCormick points out. Although there's still some resistance in some quarters, many libraries are adding coffee kiosks—run by student enterprises—or high-end vending machines with no staffing required.



An abundance of exterior glass, high bay dormers and warm exterior color palette create an inviting and user-friendly atmosphere for library patrons. RSSC Architects.



Asked to incorporate elements from the community, Burt Hill designed the South Butler Primary Center Library to simulate a park, complete with a local landmark, Cooper's Cabin, as the circulation desk, librarian's office and work space. The reading area is a pond, complete with fish and shaded by trees.



Fiske Public Library. "We are engaging for full interior design services which was almost unheard of ten years ago," says Richard Smith, the leader of Burt Hill's library design team.



Retail type shelving, generous aisle spacing and soft seating are features of the Ashland Public Library. Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.



Custom computer carrels at the Children's Library in Cranberry, size the workstations for children, eliminating the traditional "institutional feel" while allowing full observation by library staff. RSSC Architects.

Another trend that has taken hold in library building is sustainable design. The Penn Hills Public Library, designed by McCormick Architects, will include a raised floor system, daylighting and natural ventilation systems, green products and a green roof. In addition, sustainable site elements include retention of all rainwater run-off. "The project attempts to address sustainability at the community level by joining municipal library and adjacent middle school both physically and programmatically," says architect Doug Whitehead.

Daylighting and better lighting overall (glarefree of course) are in demand in many libraries these days, not to mention glass walls. "Architects like glass walls," says Kamper with a smile, "while librarians like shelved walls."

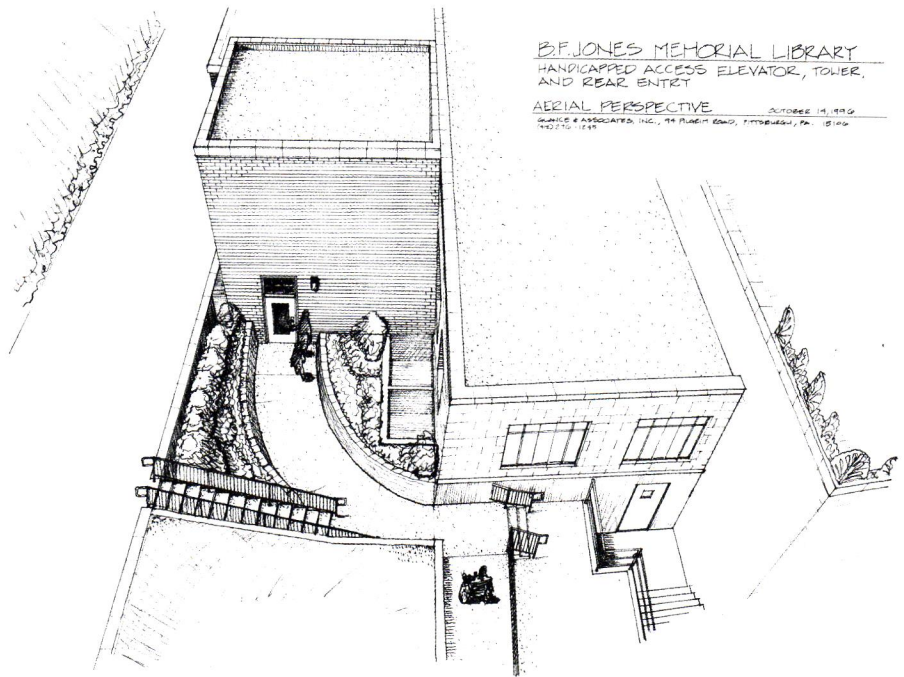
Architect Richard Smith of Burt Hill points to the use of more elegant design and finish materials in library interiors, as well as more use of color, soft fabrics and pattern. In children's libraries, the space is far more inviting these days, with great splashes of color and often whimsical theme design.

In the main library area, more face-out display materials and more display racks (for book categories such as award winning books and new fiction/nonfiction) are evident, another nod to the Borders/B&N design.

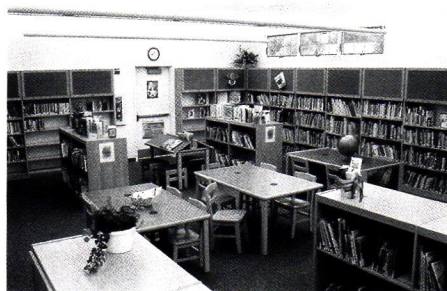
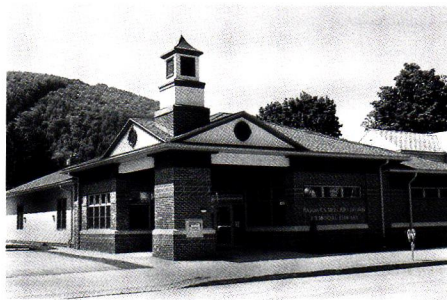
To better serve more sectors of the community, many libraries reserve wall space for local artists' exhibits and, for those needing Kinko's type services, special business resource centers.

As for emerging trends likely to be more common in the near future, Smith cites the addition of 24-hour study centers, with computers linked to library databases or combinations with campus centers.

The Penn Hills Library may portend the future as it combines municipality with library. "Municipal recreation centers are nearly absent from the state of Pennsylvania," says McCormick.



Glance & Associates renovated the exterior and interior of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library, built in 1928, in Aliquippa, PA. Among other things, work included installing new interior travertine walls to match the original, refurbishing the copper rooftop cheneau, and providing ADA access to the building. The \$750,000 project was completed in phases from 1988 to 2002.



The new, 5600 st Cameron County Library in Emporium, PA doubles as a community center, complete with a large community room. It is now named the Barbara Moscato Brown Memorial Library. Larson Design Group.



The two-story design of the new Degenstein Community Library in Sunbury, PA, allows the library to be on the second floor, protected from potential flood damage. The 26,400 sf facility features a large multi-purpose community room that can be subdivided into three smaller rooms. Larson Design Group.

THE LIBRARIES AT SEWICKLEY ACADEMY

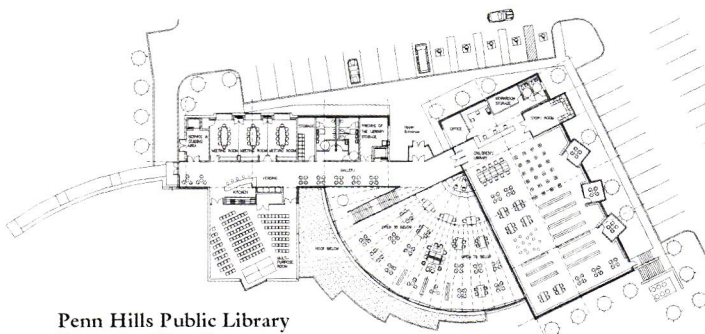
Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates



The Hansen Library, gift of the William Hansen family, is a keystone of the Academy's extensive program to improve and unify its disparate collection of buildings and styles. The 12,000 sf library serves the Middle and Senior High Schools. The reading rooms were designed to host the school's more formal social functions.



A sense of fun prevails in the library for younger children on the lower campus of Sewickley Academy. In the 2500 sf space, young readers find themselves in a stylized park. Columns were turned into trees by adding round covers and a leafy canopy of banner fabric. White picket fences define the path separating the reading area from the computer stations.



Penn Hills Public Library
Entrance Level Floor Plan

The Penn Hills Public Library, designed by McCormick Architects is sustainably designed and includes a raised floor system, daylighting, natural ventilation systems, green products and systems and a green roof. Sustainable site elements include retention of all rainwater run-off utilizing a cleansing creek & pond, nature preserve and gardens. The project attempts to address sustainability at the community level by joining municipal library and adjacent middle school both physically and programmatically.

All Books All The Time (Humans One Hour a Day)

"Usually architects are designing buildings and spaces for people," says Suzan Lami, AIA, of Lami Grubb Architects. Not so with the long-term book holding facility she's designing for Carnegie Mellon University. Although she warns it won't be much to look at—construction will begin soon and will be completed by June of this year—the vast space off Penn Avenue is designed to house nearly half a million volumes of books, with room for growth. Plenty of books, yes, but virtually no people. "The facility will only have one person in it for an hour a day at the most," says Lami, and that person will retrieve and shelf books as needed.

Designed to be expanded in four phases, the book-holding facility will grow in tandem with the collection. The architects studied various means of doing this, from movable compressed shelving to high warehouse type shelves with books in bins that are retrieved using a high lift. Ultimately, they settled on a shelving system that supports a second level of shelving and an open grate flooring system.

If the physical needs required strategy, the mechanical needs for storing books are even more complex. "Humidity and temperature control is very important to preserve the books for a long period of time," says Lami. "Fluctuations in temperature or humidity cause damage to the paper. So the air flow across the books is important, too—any areas that have stagnant air can create a condition that will support the growth of mold." For that reason, they are using a fabric ductwork system (the same one that was used at the new convention center) that will save money, while permitting airflow through the entire surface of the fabric ductwork instead of only at the supplies of ducts.

One aspect of the project that Lami finds quite interesting is the organization of the books. "Normally, librarians organize and shelf books to make it easy to find the books, and to put similar books together," she says. "For example, all books about architecture are located together in libraries, and fiction books are arranged alphabetically by author. Not so with long-term book storage. Because the biggest concern is efficient use of space, books are shelved by size: 9" tall books go with other 9" tall books, and so forth, to maximize the use of the shelf space.

That way, she says, you can fit the shelves tightly together. Since this is CMU, the location of books will be naturally tracked by a computer so that they can be easily located and reshelfed.

A MORE CONTEMPORARY, MORE INVITING Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

By Tracy Certo

In 1891, Andrew Carnegie bestowed one million dollars to Pittsburgh for the creation of the main Carnegie Library, and five branches. Now, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is undergoing an ambitious renovation of the main library, and five branches. The cost for this phase of the Capital Improvement Project? Forty times Carnegie's original gift or \$40 million. Eventually, the library hopes to raise an additional \$25 million for the remaining branches.

The goal is to make the CLP, one of Pittsburgh's cultural gems, "simple, inviting and interesting," says Owner's Representative Craig Dunham.

At the heart of the designs for the Library is its function as a community center and the concept of the "popular library": a comfortable, inviting space to enjoy periodicals, books, and other reading materials.

CLP Director Herb Elish says, "We need to become a destination — a warm and welcoming place for people to spend an afternoon.

"While preserving the integrity and history of this institution, we believe the time has come to develop a more inviting, contemporary image that will help us stand out in the ever-expanding retail world."

Times have changed but some of the centuries-old Carnegie Libraries have not. Dunham says they were able to start phase one of the renovation in large measure because the Regional Asset District (RAD) supported plans

to divert \$1 million of the Library's annual operating grant for debt service payment on a \$15 million bond issue.

First up: the main Library's first floor (EDGE studios), Homewood (Pfaffmann + Associates), Brookline (Loysen & Associates), Squirrel Hill (Arthur Lubetz Associates) and Woods Run (Rothschild Architects).

RFQs were sent out a year ago to 25 to 30 architectural firms in the area. "We are committed to using Pittsburgh architectural firms for the library work," Dunham says, stating his preference for "newer, smaller, dynamic firms for a more dynamic approach to design.

While the planning process has been underway for two years, DesignGroup of Columbus, Ohio, a space programming firm, was hired last year to create spatial and relationship programs in each branch. As part of the community process, the firm met with local residents to get response to

library issues, which were then incorporated into the plan. Now, many of the architects have begun conducting such meetings as they, in turn, aim to create designs well-suited to each community.

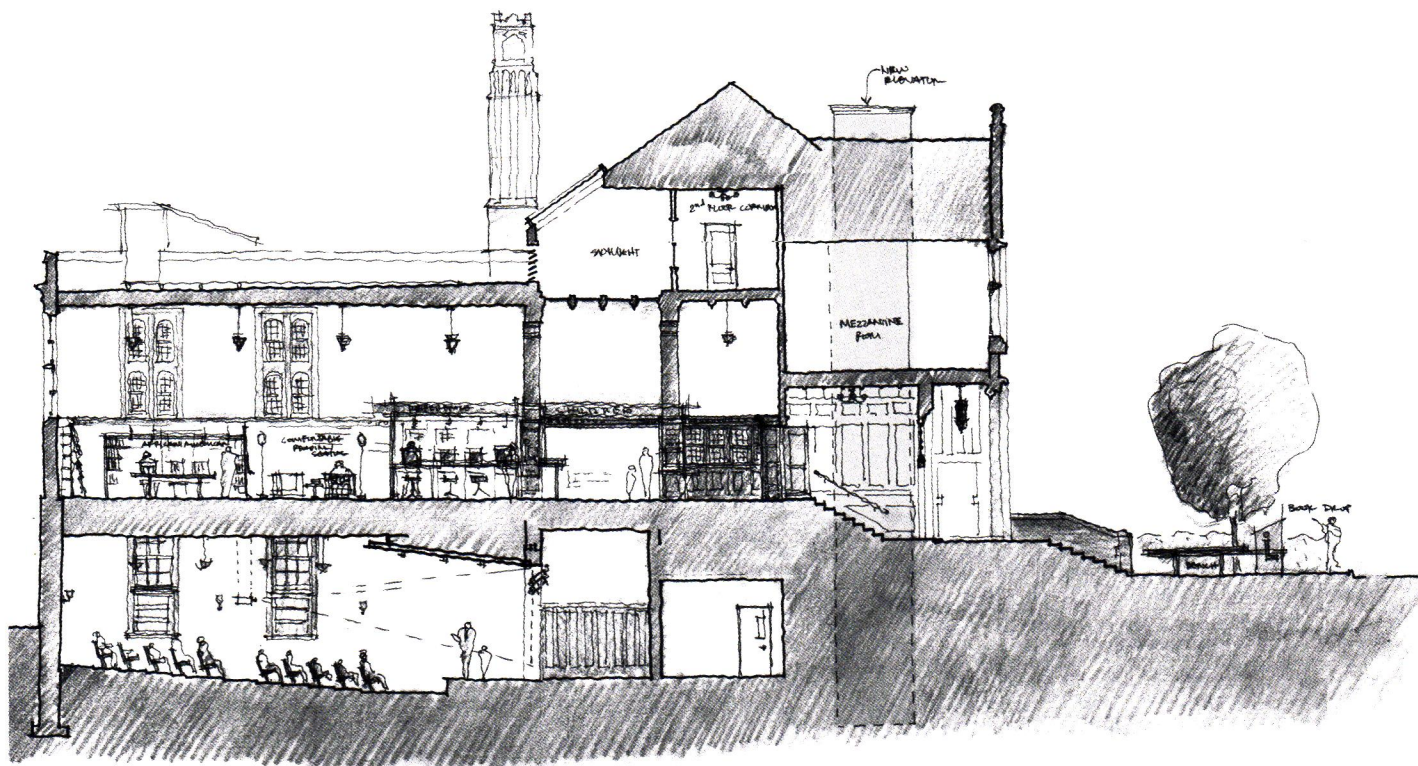
Although certain aspects of modern bookstores are emulated, Dunham stresses, "We are not a bookstore. Librarians are the original knowledge workers. They provide a distinct service not duplicated elsewhere." Therefore, one objective "is to make the role of the librarian more accessible and in the forefront."

At the heart of the designs for the Library is its function as a community center and the concept of the "popular library"

CLP FAST FACTS

In 2001, a total of 8,701 library programs, everything from heart health to book groups and computer classes, were offered throughout the Carnegie Library system while 3,002 nonprofit groups used the facilities and a minimum of 538,348 people used the computers. Main Library Holdings (in volumes): Approximately 3 million items.

■
Andrew Carnegie established no fewer than 3,000 libraries worldwide.



The Homewood Library Branch renovation integrates modern library amenities with historic building fabric. The renovation includes accessibility improvements, enhancements to the first floor library, upgrades to the lower level auditorium and the creation of meeting room spaces on the second floor. Rendering by Pfaffmann + Associates.

To Dunham, the most interesting aspect of the redesign is structuring the library organization around customer needs. "Now the signage, technology, and spatial organization will be consistent and organized from a customer standpoint," he states.

MAYA Design, along with representatives from the library, is charged with the "information architecture". Dunham calls it "a user-focused framework to guide customer interaction with the people, spaces and online systems of the main library." Or, as Mickey McManus of MAYA Design sometimes refers to it: "taming complexity". As an example of making systems more user-friendly, McManus cites the genius of the London Underground map, an easy to follow navigation system that hasn't changed its basic design since the 1930's.

To create a consistent signage system, South Side-based Landesberg Design has been hired to work with MAYA Design and the architects.

Meanwhile, Bob Kobet, AIA, and his firm, Sustainaissance International, are on board to incorporate sustainable design, working with each architectural and engineering team on a project-by-project basis. "We are trying to change a design paradigm working through the various office cultures that exist within each firm," Kobet says. His role? To serve as mentor and resource to the A/E teams, creating a consistent approach throughout. The response has been positive thus far, he reports.

While green design elements will be in all five projects, The Library intends to pursue LEED certification in the Brookline, Squirrel Hill and Woods Run Libraries. To guide the A/E teams, the Butler office of Burt Hill created a manual of mechanical and electrical system standards which embody sustainable design principles.

For more information visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

Design Trends for Libraries of the Future

**Mark M. Edelmann, AIA- Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck, P.C.*

"Libraries are both the mirror and the memory of society" – VARTAN GREGORIAN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Most of us remember those weekend trips to our local municipal libraries as school children to complete our book reports due the following Monday. Remember the big wooden tables? The smell of old books? The smug seriousness of the place? Only the smart people hung out there—and it sure wasn't much fun!

Over the last ten years or so, there has been a lot of discourse concerning the perceived unraveling of our communities. Although new wonders like email and the Internet were designed to increase our communication capabilities, we are nonetheless experiencing a fragmentation of society. In the midst of this rapid change, library facilities are embracing the new possibilities—both as information centers and as social centers. Where libraries of the past

were designed as collection facilities that grew solely to accommodate growing collections, current libraries are becoming dynamic, high-tech social information centers. Regardless of the facilities' size and complexity, common challenges that confront today's library planners and architects include:

■ **Taking the Retail Approach** – adapting to today's higher expectations of user-friendly facility provided by private information providers such as Barnes & Noble, Borders Books, cyber-net cafes and home internet use.

■ **Planning and Adapting to Ever-changing Information Technology** – more complex and sophisticated buildings to face an unprecedented rate of change in the information age.

■ **Program and Use Flexibility** – many libraries have become, in effect, community centers with ever-changing demographics and user requirements beyond the traditional library services.

Libraries are still expressing themselves as the "intellectual heart" of the community, but with a much more social atmosphere.



PHOTO BY MARK EDELMANN

The goal of the 8000 sf renovation to a "municipal" looking facility in Bethel Park was to make it user friendly. Both a fireplace and coffee bar were included. The project was completed in January '03 by Weber Murphy Fox, Inc. Architect Mark Edelmann, AIA with the firm during the design, says, "The rich jewel-tone colors and curves are a definite departure from the institutional municipal library of the past."

Most libraries built before the 1980's were built to house the collection while offering patrons a quiet atmosphere for reading and research. Libraries built today are less intimidating, designed to be warmer, more comfortable, and much friendlier environments that appeal to all ages and segments of their community.

Exterior facades, for instance, are moving away from traditional classical monuments of the past and welcoming their "customers" with a more open and contemporary look. More curves and curtain walls are appearing in designs to induce the passer-by into the library. Libraries are still expressing themselves as the "intellectual heart" of the community, but with a much more social atmosphere.

At the same time, libraries are more dynamic. Service and circulation desks are now positioned to immediately assist the patron, and interactive technology beckons the patron to explore the depths of the collection. The institutional study carrels that we all remember are rarely used in libraries today. Custom-designed millwork computer labs and casual work areas with CRT friendly lighting are used instead as a design feature to showcase the library's technology capabilities. Atriums and interior "streets" are popular organizing elements. And much more natural light is being used along with comfortable seating areas throughout, inviting patrons to relax and socialize during their visit.

How accommodating is the modern library? Many feature full-service copy centers, cafes and fireplaces. At any given time, it is not uncommon for 75% of library patrons to be using materials other than those housed in the on-site collection. Instead, they may be socializing or attending a lecture as more floor area of the library is allocated to teacher, workshop, computer classes or work-group space. Book groups, anyone?

As information retrieval has become more dependent on technology, libraries are now typically staffed by professionals knowledgeable in the latest technologies for securing information from their own collection as well as from outside sources. The goal of the library of the future? To allow users access to its collection and other collections and sources throughout the world via a library work-

station. Most new libraries are providing the ability for patrons to plug their laptops into the network at different points throughout the building. However, the prospect of virtual libraries completely replacing our libraries is unlikely.

Current libraries will continue to expand and grow and new ones will continue to be built because they offer

- A place to access information
- A collaborative arena for teaching and learning
- An opportunity for socialization in an intellectual atmosphere
- Community centers for early and life-long learning experiences beyond the three R's

Current library design needs to accommodate anticipated future technology, increasing/evolving collections and changing staff requirements. At the same time, designs must also be flexible on a day-to-day basis for various user groups. Design flexibility includes:

■ **Technology Flexibility** – Designing additional capacity for wiring and cabling by using oversized or additional conduit than known current needs. Using cable trays and cable loops in ceilings and grids of data and power connections at locations that allow flexibility for changing staff and patron service layouts.

■ **Structural Flexibility** – Preparing for future expansion and increased floor loads by designing their libraries to be easily and efficiently able to accommodate expanded collections and services well down the road. For example, the use of compact shelving (high-density) for reference materials in lieu of standard static shelving is becoming more common as libraries attempt to lower their per volume storage costs. Compact shelving uses about one-half the floor space per volume as traditional static shelving. Increased floor loads required for future use of these high-density systems is being accommodated within current designs. Many libraries are incorporating lower-level compact shelving with off-site storage for the less popular portions of their collections. Patrons can order materials listed within electronic catalogues in the library, or at home, and then pick up their material at the library the next day.

■ **User Group Flexibility** – Since most libraries have become, in effect, a community center, designers must anticipate changing demographics and patron requirements. The patron profile of the typical public library changes throughout the day. In the morning, users include parents who don't work outside the home, students, teachers, senior citizens and business people. In the afternoon, children are the primary users (often waiting to be picked up by their working parents). In the evening, the space is buzzing with adults, students and other citizens, often attending lectures, self-improvement, or continuing education classes.

All these new elements have serious cost implications. Libraries built in the 1960-70's averaged around \$120-\$140/sf (construction cost escalated to current values). Today with the added design and technology elements, full-service new libraries cost as much as \$225/sf and up. The largest source of increase? New technology and electrical requirements. Ten years ago, electrical costs ranged between \$7-\$10/sf. Today, they can range between \$15-\$25/sf.

The attention to finer lighting detail has increased average lighting costs 30-50% over the last 15-20 years. Likewise, the increased number of specialty design consultants often required to properly design a modern library (from acoustic and security to telecommunications and library program consultants) has also added considerably to design costs. Add to that the more specialized furnishings, the new compact stacks and other equipment and the total costs of outfitting the full-service library have risen dramatically.

If libraries are in fact mirrors of society, then today's library buildings must be designed to accommodate the technological advancements, the growing and changing collections, and the increasingly diverse user groups. It will pay off, resulting in a valued information and social resource that is also ageless.

*Referenced from Hanscomb article "[Libraries for the Future: Design Trends & Cost Implications](#)"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HEINZ ARCHITECTURAL CENTER



Windshield: Richard Neutra's House for the John Nicholas Brown Family

March 1–May 25, 2003

This exhibition examines for the first time this lost landmark of modern architecture and the extraordinary architect-client relationship that produced it. Vienna-born architect Richard Neutra designed *Windshield*, a summer home on Fishers Island, New York, for John Nicholas Brown, a member of one of America's oldest and wealthiest families. The quintessentially modernist house, completed in 1938, was Neutra's most significant residential building outside Los Angeles and one of the first houses he designed on the East Coast. Named for its extensive use of exterior glass, *Windshield* stood in strong contrast to its more conservative neighbors, and it housed what was then the largest selection of furniture by the Finnish designer Alvar Aalto. In addition, the house contained two of Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion bathrooms, which were in only a handful of buildings at the time. The house was destroyed by fire in 1973, but the unusually collaborative relationship between Neutra and the very knowledgeable Brown was documented in hundreds of telegrams, letters, and sketches exchanged during the design process. The exhibition includes architectural drawings, models, photographs, furnishings, and other design objects from the house, as well as correspondence and other ephemera. This exhibition was organized by the Harvard University Art Museums in collaboration with the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, and the Harvard Design School. A catalogue, published by the Harvard Design School and Yale University Press, accompanies the show.



TransModernity: Contemporary Austrian Architects

March 1–May 25, 2003

On view concurrently with *Windshield*, *TransModernity* presents completed projects and buildings by three Austrian firms—henke un schreieck, Jabornegg & Pálffy, and Riegler Riewe—whose work represents the current state in the century-long evolution of Modernism. As one of the birthplaces of architectural Modernism and a country with a rich and vital historic built environment, Austria has always been an especially fertile site for a negotiation between the pull of architectural tradition and the push of modernity. And because the urban fabric of Austrian cities is very dense, architectural interventions, whether new construction, renovations, or the design of interiors, have required a sensitivity to the existing context. In *TransModernity*, the featured firms take Modernism as a starting point but are not bound by a limiting set of conventions. The six projects in the exhibition (three university buildings, a vocational school, a museum, and a bank) are represented through drawings, photographs, and a 32-foot video projection, which shows the interior and exterior of each building, its urban context, and its designers at work. *TransModernity* was initiated by the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and organized by the Architekturzentrums Wien (Vienna); the video piece was produced by gangart, in Vienna. A catalogue in English accompanies the show.

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Modernism: From Vienna to America and Back Again

Sun., April 13, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Carnegie Museum of Art Theater, free with museum admission

Vienna was one of the birthplaces of architectural modernism in the late 19th century and within decades its leading architects were instrumental in the spread of the style internationally. This panel of three distinguished scholars will provide insights into the evolving manifestations of modernism in architecture from Vienna to America and back again.

Dietrich Neumann, a curator of *Windshield: Richard Neutra's House for the John Nicholas Brown Family* and professor for the history of modern architecture at Brown University will introduce Neutra's first great American project and the unique client-architect relationship that brought it about; Barbara MacLamprecht, author of *The Complete Works of Richard Neutra* will discuss Neutra's significant role in establishing modernism in American architecture; and Deitmar M. Steiner, director of the Architekturzentrum Wien will bring the discussion full-circle with analysis of the work of three firms implementing a contemporary interpretation of modernism.

The Architecture of Herzog & de Meuron: Archeology of the Mind

June 28–September 21, 2003

Heinz Architectural Center

More than any other contemporary architects, Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron challenge the boundaries between architecture and art. Working in Basel, Switzerland, a vital art center, Herzog and de Meuron have been intrigued and inspired by past and present artists, such as Alberto Giacometti, Yves Klein, Andy Warhol, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Dan Graham, Donald Judd, Joseph Beuys, and Thomas Ruff. Basel is home to several pharmaceutical companies, and the architects also draw inspiration from the chemical processes used to produce the companies' products. Informed by such varied interests, Herzog and de Meuron's work probes such topics as the nature of surface and matter, opacity and transparency, and the roles and changeability of images. This exhibition, organized by the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), explores how the architects have drawn upon the art of both past and present and how they bring architecture into dialogue with the art of our time. The exhibition includes several hundred objects, including models and drawings from the Herzog & de Meuron archive, photographs, works of art and applied art, and objects from the CCA's collection, as well as the collections of Carnegie Museum of Art and Carnegie Museum of Natural History. To suggest an "evolutionary history" of their work, the architects have designed an installation reminiscent of a 19th-century natural history collection. The exhibition is accompanied by a publication with essays by more than 20 scholars, architects, and artists from various fields.

Strangely Familiar: Design and Everyday Life

November 8, 2003–February 15, 2004

Heinz Architectural Center

This examination of contemporary design culture (from 1998 to 2002) brings together more than 40 innovative projects from around the world, spanning the fields of architectural, product, furniture, and graphic design. The exhibition explores four fundamental ideas that question conventional assumptions about the design of objects and spaces: designs that reference and radically transform commonplace objects and environments; multifunctional objects that change both shape and use, thereby blurring the traditionally fixed relationship between "form and function"; portable structures that respond to nomadic conditions of lightness and ephemerality; and controversial objects that force us to reconsider our relationship to products that dictate new rituals of use and expectations of performance. The exhibition is organized by the Walker Art Center and will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue.

Windshield: Richard Neutra's House for the John Nicholas Brown Family

March 1–May 25, 2003

TransModernity: Contemporary Austrian Architects

March 1–May 25, 2003

The Architecture of Herzog & de Meuron: Archeology of the Mind

June 28–September 21, 2003

Strangely Familiar: Design and Everyday Life
November 8, 2003–February 15, 2004

From the Firms

➔ **Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck, P.C.** recently completed design and construction administration for the new headquarters of the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society, North Side (pictured here). The two-story, 24,000 sf building includes state-of-the-art kennel facilities, a veterinary clinic, and expanded space for education and administration. Principal in charge for RSSC was **Ralph Sterzinger, AIA** and project architect was **Jim Radock, AIA**. A. Martini & Co., Prof. Affiliate was the general contractor.

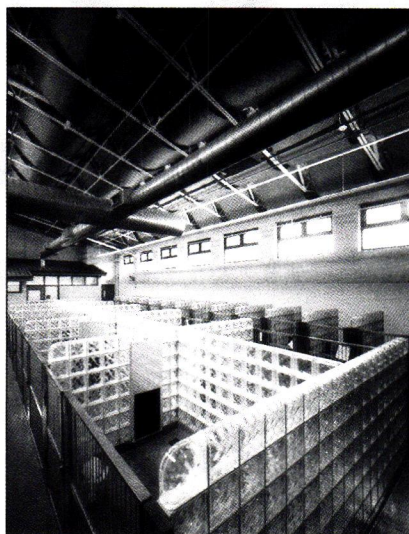


PHOTO COPYRIGHT ED MASSERY

Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck is designing a new facility for the Southwest Butler County YMCA. Construction for the new 57,000 sf building will begin this summer on a 20-acre site in Cranberry Township.

Perkins Eastman is designing a new, 400-bed, \$14 million student housing complex for the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland Campus. Located on the upper campus, the complex is adjacent to the site of the former Pitt Stadium. The mid-rise facility will house upper class students in a range of unit types including single, double and suite-style accommodations. The schedule requires a fast-track construction delivery, which will complete the project from design to occupancy in 19 months.

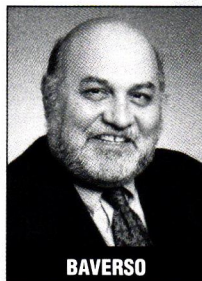
Ground broke for the new Administration Building on the Beaver Campus of The Pennsylvania State University. The 20,600 sf facility, designed by **Perkins Eastman**, will be a "one-stop" shop for student services, housing administrative and academic support offices, faculty offices, instructional support areas, learning support center and a campus health center.

Landau Building Company, Prof. Affiliate, was awarded a general construction contract from Armstrong County Memorial Hospital for renovation of the radiology and angiography suites. Architect: **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell**.

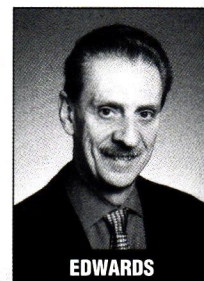
Landau has also been awarded construction services on the new Southwest Butler YMCA facility in Zelienople and phase two of the St. Alphonsus building program where Landau recently completed phase one. Architect for both projects: **Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck**.

Business Briefs

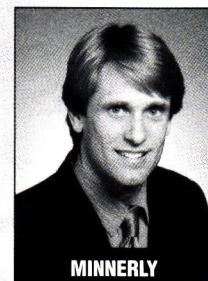
➔ **The Design Alliance** hired the following: **John E. Baverso, AIA**, as principal. He received his Bachelor of Architecture/Design from the Pratt Institute in 1978 with continuing education credits from Harvard University. He will head up the firm's health care design practice. **Kent A. Edwards, AIA** who graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Kent State University in 1975. He is past president of AIA Pittsburgh. L. Christian Minnerly has rejoined the firm as an architect, receiving his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University in 1985 where he is currently completing his Master's degree.



BAVERSO



EDWARDS



MINNERLY

DRS Architects, Inc. welcomes the return of **James R. Platt, AIA** to the firm. Platt previously worked on the development of the Westinghouse Energy Center addition, the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott (now a Wyndham Hotel), and Cyert Hall at CMU for **DRS**.

Ligo Architects was awarded design of the 14,000 sf addition to the Data Center in Slippery Rock. The original building was designed by the firm in 1993.

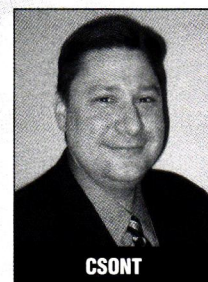
Astorino promoted Steve Gillespie, to principal/vp of landscape architecture.

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates hired Amy Sockaci as a graduate architect. A graduate of Kent State University, Amy is part of the Science & Technology Studio in **Burt Hill's** Butler office.

Urban Design Associates, PC, named Gail Armstrong and David R. Csont as associates and shareholders of the firm. A member of the firm since 1994, Armstrong is the controller and human resources manager. Csont, with the



ARMSTRONG



CSONT

firm since 1999, is an illustrator and educator. He is a graduate of the State University College of Buffalo with an MFA from the University of Wisconsin.

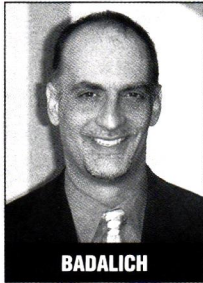
The Township of Hampton has selected **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell** for its new multi-purpose community center.

Valtour English Bodnar & Howell has completed the design for two projects at the Armstrong Memorial Hospital: Renovations to the Radiology Department and a building that will provide space for a second Linear Accelerator.

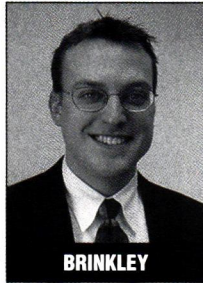
John Deklewa & Sons, Inc. hired Joseph T. Badalich as project manager to lead the Special Projects Group. Badalich will concentrate on renovation and interior fit-out projects in the commercial, healthcare, institutional and retail markets. Chad

Brinkley was hired as project manager in the general construction group. Brinkley previously worked in Southern California after receiving his Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

L. Robert Kimball & Associates announced the appointment of Barry J. Beck, PE, Esq., as a senior electrical engineer with the company's Architecture and Engineering Building Systems Division.



BADALICH



BRINKLEY

Massaro Company, Prof. Affiliate, hired Joseph Brennan as a project manager. Mark Hartman was promoted to director of pre-construction services.

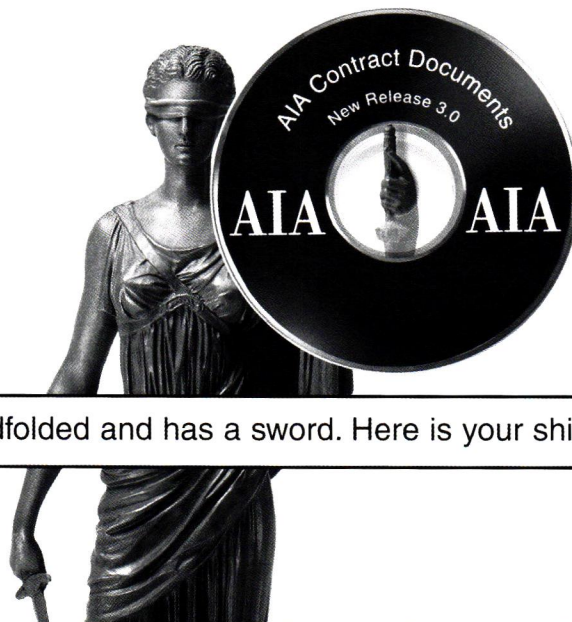
Kevin Hughes has joined Continental Building Systems, Prof. Affiliate, as director of pre-construction services in the Pittsburgh office.

Kudos

► **Douglas L. Shuck, AIA**, a principal with **WTW Architects**, was named to the board of directors for The Regional Environment Education Center. The center will be built in the Boyce area of Mayview Park in Upper St. Clair.

Perkins Eastman's design of Sun City Takatsuki in Takatsuki, Japan, has received awards from numerous organizations: the 2002 Best Practices in Continuing Care Retirement Community Architecture/ Design Award issued jointly by *Contemporary Long Term Care* and *Hospitality Design* magazines; a 2002 Healthcare Environment Award and one of the 10 best projects for 2001 and 2002 from Contract Magazine; A 2002 Gold Key Award for the project's interiors by *Hospitality Design* and *Hotel & Motel Management* magazines; and a 2003 Best of Senior Housing Gold Design Award by the National Association of Home Builders.

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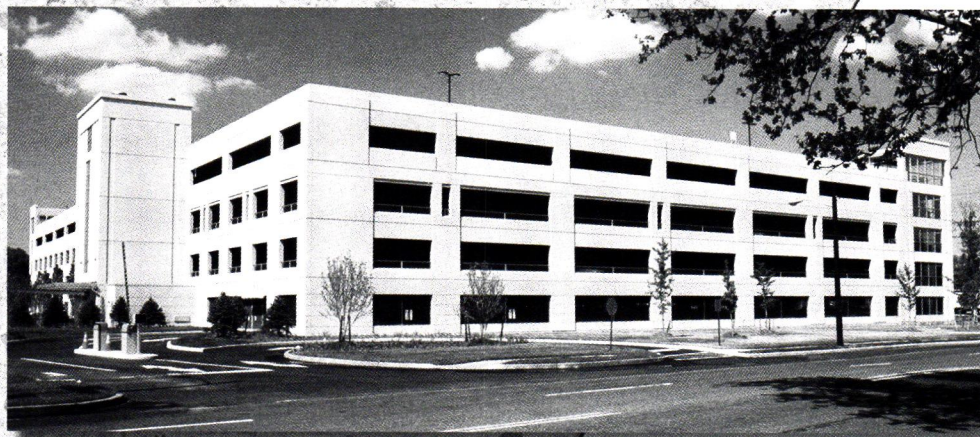
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Upcoming Issues

MAY

- Riverlife Task Force Revisited
- Architects in Retirement: Steven George, FAIA

JUNE

- Historic Preservation Issue — Altoona's Kinickierbocker District and Pittsburgh Projects
- Pittsburgh's Most Endangered Places

FUTURE ISSUES

- Visitability: What You Need to Know
- Architecture as Therapy: Trends in Healthcare

AIA ACTIVITIES

April 4, Friday

AIA Communications Committee Meeting Noon at Chapter Office
412-471-9548

April 8, Tuesday

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
at the Chapter office. All members are
welcome 412-471-9548

April 30, Wednesday

AIA Pittsburgh's Foundation for Architecture 5:00 pm at Strada LLC office,
925 Liberty Avenue. Contact Ed Shriver, AIA
412-263-3800

April 17, Thursday

Legislative Committee Meeting Noon
at the Chapter Office, Chuck Coltharp, AIA
724-452-9690

AROUND TOWN

April 9, Wednesday

Society of Design Administrators Meeting. The Design Alliance, 535
Smithfield Street, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
\$17 members, \$19.50 non-members.
Reservations call Cheryl Marlatt at
412-281-1337.

April 15, Tuesday

CSI Meeting. A Tour of the Creative and
Performing Arts High School, 9th Street.
Tour starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10. Dinner
immediately following tour. For reservations
call Deborah Merges at 412-855-0928 or
email her at dmerg@ATTBI.com

April 30, Wednesday

SMPS. Business Development Best
Practices...Maximizing the Effectiveness of
Your Sales and Business Development Efforts,
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Speakers will be Thomas
Boogher and Alfred Potter, II of the Business
Development Institute. R.S.V.P. to Susan Traub
at 412-531-0958 or online at www.smeps.org

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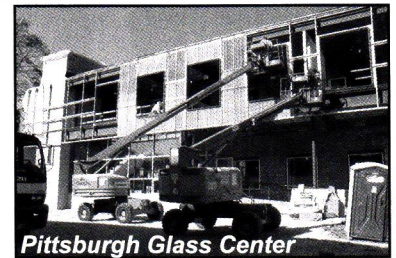
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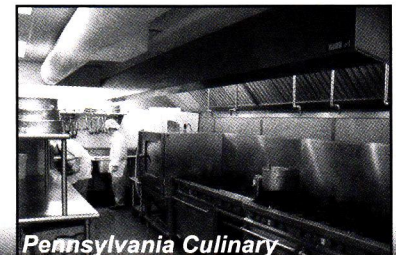
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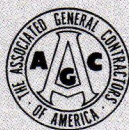
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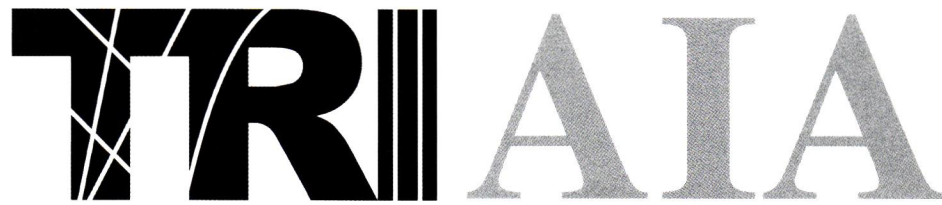
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