COLUMNS



VOLUME 17, NO. 7 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS SEPTEMBER 2003



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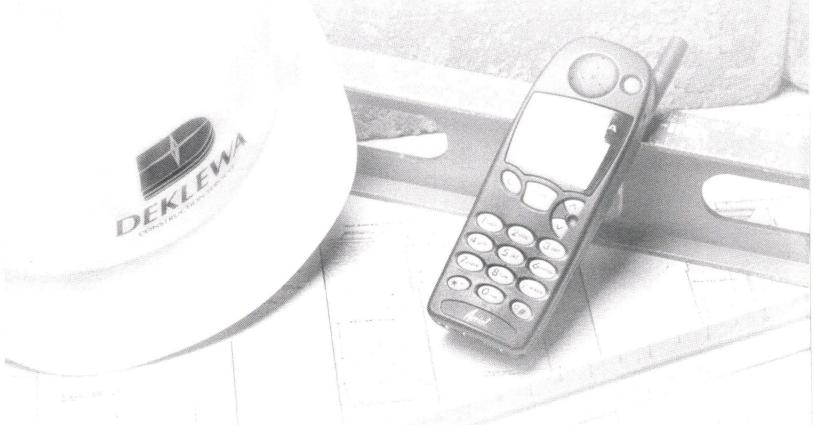
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The Solace of Space By Tracy Certo, Editor



"If you were lying in a gurney in this space," she asked, "how could you make it better?"

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Cover Photo: Southminster Place includes a specialized 20-bed dementia specific care program modeled after the "Woodside" program in Oakmont. Designed by Perkins Eastman Architects. Photo by Ed Massery.

Neuroscience, the study of the brain,

is fascinating and the implications for healthcare design are profound. In this issue we report on how brain research findings are greatly affecting specialized healthcare design such as neonatal units and Alzheimer facilities. In a related story on healthcare design, we relay the emphasis of relieving stress, through design, for patients, their families and staff.

How important is this? Unless you've been there—waiting in a hospital, raw with apprehension and trying hard not to imagine the worst—you can't really know. As interior designer Kathleen Muffie-Witt said, it helps to think about the patient's perspective when designing healthcare facilities. "If you were lying in a gurney in this space," she asked, "how could you make it better?"

In the September 1996 issue of Columns, Executive Director Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA, wrote about her hospital experience with Ellen, then a 10-day old infant with a raging and life-threatening viral infection. Twice a day. Anne had to endure the ICU waiting room when the doctors made their rounds. "Windowless, with plastic furniture, I hated this spot the most. At those times we had to be there, it was overrun with people, noise and food smells," she wrote.

Staying overnight provided another challenge. "At night, the hospital provided us with sleeping rooms only a few minutes from our child's bed. These rooms were little more than a closet with two bunks, a sink, and a phone. The mattresses were encased in plastic, no doubt for hygienic reasons, but I found that each night I awoke several times to find my bottom half perspiring profusely while my top half was shivering under the thin cotton blankets. Overwhelmed by my own fear, I found these assaults to my other senses almost more than I could bear. For sanity's sake, I quickly sought refuge in more normal spaces."

She eventually found the "wonderful small garden" in the center of the cafeteria. "While I never forgot where I was and why, the fresh air and sunshine soothed my frayed self."

If the physical design was sadly lacking, happily the personal touch in patient and family care was superior. "Children's is the most unbureaucratic large institution I have ever experienced," Anne said. "The staff went out of their way to give you the sense that you as an individual counted. This pervasive attitude helped lessen the confusion and fear of the entire experience but I still needed more. I needed the spaces that removed me from the constant onslaught to my senses. I needed the feel the sunshine and the muggy air and see the whimsical art. I needed the familiar feel of the chapel. While not as immediate as a patients' medical needs, patients' families need to heal as well. The social workers were tremendous but for me, the solace of space was the best cure."

Anne had another more recent story to relate on this matter of healthcare design, when she arrived at Children's Hospital's ER with Ellen in a wheelchair, only to find the doors were not automatic. She had to shuffle around and struggle to open the door on her own and get her wheelchair-bound daughter inside.

Words fail me.

Just as I was finishing this issue, I read an Utne Magazine article (August '03) on Bradford Keeney of the Ringing Rocks Foundation in Philadelphia. Keeney studies indigenous populations for lessons on how our society can be healthier, happier and more soulful. His focus? The healing powers for both body and mind, of their religion, rituals, music and dance. He notes that old shamans see health in context with the rest of a person's life, family and community. "This is not primitive thinking but a very sophisticated world view," he says.

Our society, he says, has a taboo about getting ecstatic and getting out of control (in a good way). Instead we focus completely on the relaxation response in medicine while we repress the arousal response. That, he claims, is dangerous.

What's more, he thinks: "Deprived of the comfort and excitement of technological civilization, as well as its stress and alienation, indigenous people keep in touch with some basic elements of being human that we neglect. For them, religion, medicine, mental health, art and just plain fun are not separate activities, but one unified pursuit around which much of their community life is organized."

Food for thought and an indication that maybe we have so much more to learn—or, in some cases, relearn?

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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promote public aware-

ness of the power of

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

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THE AIA PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION FOR ARCHITECTURE By Tom Briney, AIA

You may not be aware that a component of our local chapter functions behind the scenes to advocate architecture and its role to improve the quality of life. The AIA Pittsburgh Foundation for Architecture (formerly known as Architrave)

has been in existence and active for over thirty years. Originally, the Foundation was known as the "Pittsburgh Chapter AIA Charitable Association" which was formed to aid the Pittsburgh Architect's Workshop (whose role was later assumed by the Community Design Center).

While the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA actively supports its membership and the architectural profession, the Foundation serves a far different function. Technically, it exists to solicit, receive and expend gifts, grants, and legacies within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Real-

istically, the Foundation is the charitable arm of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and its mission is to promote public awareness of the power of architecture to elevate and enrich the human experience.

Specifically, the Foundation has as its goals:

- To engage in charitable, educational, and scientific activities
- To promote public awareness of the contribution of architecture and urban design to the quality of life
- To serve as a link between the public and the architectural profession
- To advocate a creative and responsible public stewardship of the architectural heritage
- To sponsor alliances between the public and the architectural profession
- To foster a vision of livable communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania
- To solicit, receive, and expend gifts, grants and legacies to accomplish the goals stated above

In support of these goals, the Foundation has, over the years, actively supported and funded programs like:

- The Riverfront Study—to formulate design priorities for the area's three rivers
- . The Frank Lloyd Wright Conference and Exhibit
- Architectural Tourism—with graphic enhancements to the Allegheny County Courthouse

- Legislative breakfasts—to engage state legislators and architects in discussion over a broad range of topics; and,
- Architectural trips and tours—to places like Columbus, Indiana and Taliesin East.

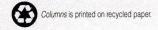
In order to foster contact between students and professionals, the Foundation also supports events like Architects' Saturday and The Architecture Lecture Series, which includes the Hornbostel Lecture (in association with Carnegie-Mellon University School of Architecture and the Heinz Architectural Center).

The Foundation also awards a scholarship from the "AIA Pittsburgh Foundation for Architecture Scholarship Fund"—to undergraduate or graduate students in Southwestern Pennsylvania with design, study, research, or travel projects that are related to and support our mission. Local and regional students in architecture (and related fields) are encouraged to pursue this scholarship (the next application deadline is December 15, 2003).

In the near future, the Foundation will be sponsoring a tour to Taliesin East, in Spring Green, Wisconsin. This tour will be accompanied with side trips to other Frank Lloyd Wright project sites. Tours like the Taliesin trip are becoming a regular Foundation event, and there are plans to visit Cranbrook (the Saarinen-designed campus) in 2004. As a longer-term project, the Board is now organizing to create a "Pittsburgh Architectural Guidebook", which is envisioned as both tour guidebook and historic-to-contemporary architectural compendium. The Foundation sees this guidebook as a necessary complement to the activities in our revitalized downtown and as a resource for increased tourism in our region.

The Board of Regents manages the activities of the Foundation as it fulfills its varied missions. This Board is comprised of a diverse group of architects, educators, and professionals in the allied arts and construction fields. The current by-laws provide for the actual voting membership of the Foundation to include the Board of Directors of AIA Pittsburgh. This feature helps to ensure that both Chapter and Foundation goals are consistent with the Chapter's strategic plan.

The Foundation programs exist through the generosity of the architectural community and its associated professionals. This broad base of support provides the opportunity for contact between members of the architectural profession, students, consultants, vendors and constructors, and is one of the most important component activities of the Foundation. To those who sponsor and underwrite these various events—we offer our thanks. Together, we all share a role in promoting the importance of our profession and educating the public about what architects can achieve.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I'm writing in response to the Roundtable Discussion on the Selection Process from the July/August Columns. I'd like to offer comments from the owner's perspective.

- I was surprised at how much of the discussion was taken up by the in-town/out-of-town issue, particularly since a number of Pittsburgh firms do work regularly outside of Pittsburgh area, and some have offices in other cities. You can't slice it both ways. Many owners do a quality-based selection that is not geographically based. In-towners and out-of-towners compete—with a small number of points going to local firms because of their knowledge of public approval processes, micro-climate, etc.
- Panel participants mentioned the onerous requirements of the selection process. The best owners have simple requirements for a request for qualifications to a long list. But owners must require quite specific information in a request for proposals to the short list in order to satisfy criteria for selection and establish a basis for a decision. A lightweight RFP would result in a subjective decision.
- · For better or for worse the comment "In an interview process very often what they're looking for is a reason to eliminate you" is basically accurate. The best owners have selected a short list of firms qualified to do the project at hand. Each firm walks into the interview selected to do the job. All but one firm walks out empty-handed.
- For the reason stated above, de-briefing interviews can be exercises in frustration for both the owner and the deselected architect. There may be little or nothing concrete to report to the architect about why he/she was de-selected. The all-important but indefinable topic of rapport comes into play. If there were a real reason that an architect was not capable of doing a project, the astute owner would have known that before the interview.

PAUL TELLERS University Architect Carnegie Mellon University

AIA PITTSBURGH JUNE MEMBER MEETING

at Concept Art Gallery

At the June meeting of AIA Pittsburgh, members mingled at Concept Art Gallery in Regent Square and enjoyed cool drinks, good food, and the impressive photography of Clyde Hare.



Steve Hawkins, AIA, John Martine, AIA and Arch Pelley, AIA



Tony Moscollic, Prof. Affil. and Jennifer Martella, AIA



Ed Shriver, AIA, Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA, Bill Bates, AIA, Doug Berryman, AIA and Kent Edwards, AIA

6 Columns September 2003 feature

To the Point By John G. Craig, Jr.

Some leading local architects think it would be better for us all if there were more affirmative action when it comes to who gets design commissions.

On Sunday, July 20th, former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editor John G. Craig, Jr. devoted his weekly op-ed column to the roundtable discussion in COLUMNS' July/August issue. For those of you who missed it, and those who would like to see it again, we reprint it in full here.

Columns, the publication of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, leads its July/August edition with an article titled "What Is Fair? — A Roundtable Discussion on the Selection Process." According to the participants, when it comes to their hometown they are like Rodney Dangerfield. They "get no respect." Or not enough.

- * When there is a very big job, the commission more likely than not goes to someone from out of town.
- * Many local firms have national reputations that don't carry over to southwestern Pennsylvania.
- * Governments have procedures for awarding contracts that are fair, at least on paper, but in the end who gets the job is strongly influenced by not just what the architect knows but also who he knows.

The passion with which these conclusions were expressed surprised me, but not their substance; by my experience they were on target. And let me concede up front that their complaints about the press, while overblown, also were merited. Too often local stories about buildings, parks and developments include no mention of the firm that did the design work.

But better public relations aside, would Pittsburgh have better buildings and more architects doing more work if there were a more conscious effort to give jobs to local firms? I am not sure.

Consider the new convention center designed by Rafael Vinoly of New York City, who won an international competition. It has attracted more attention locally than any new building in a decade. Could we have had a comparable building if the competition had been limited to local firms? My guess would be yes, when it came to functionality, but no when it came to adventuresome design.

This conclusion is rooted in a sense of human nature more than in an assessment of talent. Consider PPG Place. It is extremely unlikely that any Pittsburgh architect ever could have executed such a commission, not because there weren't local architects with the capacity for comparable work 20 years ago, but because Pittsburgh architects would have been smart enough to know what was politically possible for a "local" and what was not. Philip Johnson could do things because he was Philip Johnson.

The fact that Johnson's was a private commission was further liberating. As the panelists observe, while public selection processes are designed to insulate the participants from the arbitrary, they are more often than not no different from private commissions in practice. Elected officials are concerned before all else with being re-elected. And, because they are, when the job is a major, high-profile project, for all the cover provided by selection committees and legally mandated procedures, top office holders (correctly) see themselves as "responsible" to the voters.

The voters, for their part, overwhelmingly view good architecture as an added expense rather than an investment. That is not a point of view that encourages elected officials to take chances, so that a "name" is seen as providing added political protection.

A related reality that no one has the intestinal fortitude to admit is that very few people on selection committees, let alone elected officials, have an "eye" for good design and the self-confidence to risk ridicule by standing up to criticism, both justified and unjustified. These realities do not forever relegate public work to second-class status, but they do contribute to the environment about which the local architects complain.

Another area of debate are the pros and cons of specialization. There is an obvious value to experience. A local firm is good at doing schools. It has built schools all over the country. There is another commission for a school locally. Does it get the job? The answer, "of course." Yet, give them a second and third job and the criticism starts: "Let's not permit all the work to keep going to the same firm." "Give someone else a chance." "Too much of a good thing can be boring."

The notion that even a city of Pittsburgh's size can suffer from too much of a good thing has merit. But that does not necessarily apply to its companion piece: If I have four schools to build, give the four commissions to four separate firms because it is good to spread the wealth. There may not be a fourth firm that is deserving, or even a third.

From my point of view, no finger on the scale, the more competition the better. Columbus, Ind., is one of the great small cities in America because leaders of hometown Cummins Engineering determined over one half a century ago to attract great architects. They established a foundation to further that effort. Among other things, this created more and better work for Columbus architects, because only the best design would pass muster in Columbus.

Pittsburgh has long had great architecture, some of the best in the country. When we have gone wrong, it has not been because we went with someone from out of town or overlooked a local firm, but because we forgot that good design matters and like any other skill has to be cultivated. I'd encourage the AIA to keep after that in the manner of Columbus.

PIYAF News

The first of regular news updates from PIYAF

OUR MISSION

Pittsburgh Intern and Young Architects Forum (PIYAF) is a subcommittee of the AIA Pittsburgh Professional Development Committee, initiated by interns and young architects to:

- 1. Serve as an information resource to address the issues of architectural internship and continuing education as well as be a voice for the students, interns, and young architects in our local chapter.
- 2. Help educate employers about the Intern Development Program (IDP) and the new computer registration exam process (A.R.E.).
- 3. Help represent this early career development stage within our local chapter and provide a peer network for interns and young architects.

It is open to all Interns and Young Architects (registered 0-10 years). Membership is Free. Email: piyaf@yahoo.com

PIYAF Coordinating Committee:

LEE CALISTI, AIA - Lee Calisti, Architect KENNETH STEHLE, Assoc. AIA - WTW Architects JOE TOUVELL, Assoc. AIA - Lami Grubb Architects

ARTHUR SHEFFIELD, Assoc. AIA - Apostolou **Associates**

Associate Member News

AIA Pittsburgh is conducting a very important survey of intern architects. This effort is to help the organization better address associate member needs. For your convenience the questionnaire is included in this mailing of Columns magazine and can be completed online at www.aiapgh.org. Please participate in this valuable endeavor by providing your feedback (whether positive or negative!). Your thoughts and opinions are crucial so that AIA Pittsburgh can effectively meet your needs as an associate member.

2003/2004 Architectural Registration **Exam Preparation Course Schedule**

PIYAF is pleased to announce this year's schedule for the Prep. Course Series. Director Joe Touvell, Assoc. AIA, is looking forward to another great year from all of the participating interns. The schedule has been revised to one session per month, beginning in September. All sessions will take place on a Thursday evening (6:00 - 9:00 p.m.) under the same format as previous sessions. For more information please contact Joe at 412-243-3430 or itouvell@lamigrubb.com

COURSE	DATE
Construction Documents	09/25/03
Materials & Methods	10/23/03
Mechanical & Electrical Systems	11/13/03
Pre-Design	12/11/03
Structures – General	01/15/04
Structures – Lateral	02/12/04
Building Planning	03/18/04
Building Technology	04/15/04
Site Planning	05/20/04
LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. DATES SUBJE	CT TO CHANGE

Happy Hour

PIYAF is in the initial stages of planning an associate member Happy Hour on September



19th including PIYAF, The Young Constructors, CSI, and other allied professionals. This will be an opportunity to meet your fellow associate members and to network with other young professionals in related fields. Look for more information on this event and other activities in the near future.

AIA MIDDLE-PA Film Series & News:

- Tuesday, Sept 9 "Frank Lloyd Wright's House on the Waterfall" @ SAMA, 1210 11th Ave. Altoona, 16603 814.946.4464
- Thursday, Sept 18 "Houses for Individualists" @ AAPL Theatre, 1600 Fifth Ave, Altoona, 16602 814.946.4464
- Tuesday, Sept 30 "WTC: Anatomy of a Disaster" @ SAMA, 1210 11th Ave, Altoona, 16603 814.946.4464 Tu, Oct 14 "Signs, Signs" @ AAPL Theatre, 1600 Fifth Ave, Altoona, 16602 814.946.4464
- Thursday, Oct 23 "Guggenheim Museum Bilbao" @ AAPL Theatre, 1600 Fifth Ave, Altoona, 16602 814.946.4464
- September IST Building Tour, State College, Pennsylvania.

Healing THROUGH DESIGN

By Tracy Certo

s a patient, what if you knew that a room with a nature view, as opposed to an urban view, could speed your recovery and shorten your hospital stay? And that a private room poses far less risk for infection? Would you be satisfied with an institutional hospital setting if you or a loved one had to undergo treatment for a life threatening disease? Or would you opt for a soothing environment with a homey atmosphere where patient care is at a premium?

These are the questions patients face as mounting scientific evidence shows what many have long suspected: that the health care environment directly influences patient health outcomes.

The AIA's Committee on Health Environment Research (CHER) is awarding research studies to organizations on various issues, from the impact of floor covering on resident safety and well being, to why color choices in

healthcare environments are important in the healing process. There's also a proposal for the study of infection and the ability of various materials to propagate harmful organisms and a study of single rooms versus double rooms in acute care settings. Previous studies have shown that yes, there is a difference. Those who stay in private rooms have shorter stays than those in doubles.

On other fronts, researchers have done studies on healing rates of patients with nature views vs. urban views only to find that those with the nature views also have shorter hospital stays, if only by a day or two in short-term health care.

The implications from these studies for healthcare design are profound, no matter what. Add to the mix the full-blown concerns of baby boomers—who, true to form, demand not only the best treatment but also optimal facilities and comfort— and you have the makings of a design revolu-



The waterfall wall seen in the background, and the use of pavers in colors that invoke nature, are part of the design elements guided by natured at the Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center in Windber, PA, designed by L. Robert Kimball & Associates.





Comforting nature hues of blue, green, brown and taupe dominate the patient friendly reception and waiting areas at the Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center.

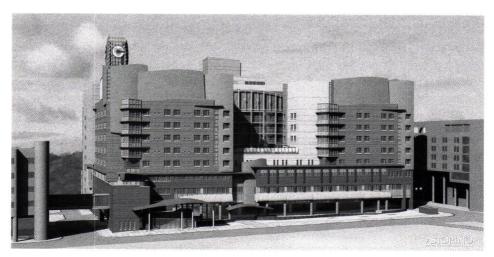
tion in health care. The question these days isn't, can architecture enhance healing? Now it's a matter of how can it best enhance healing? And what does the research say about that?

Much of the new design philosophy is grounded in common sense, making some question why it took so long. "Medicine is finally realizing that there's a connectedness between mind, body and spirit that you can't really separate," says architect John Schrott of IKM.

"What's pushing it is, we have a much higher education level of the general public and as consumers we don't necessarily accept what we're told. We question it, we want to know why and what the options are. So when the consumer is putting pressure on the provider, the provider realizes it can capture more market share if they treat the patient as a person."

Better design for better healthcare, which means state of the art treatment in a healing environment, is the name of the game these days as hospitals and clinics compete for patients. "It is a priority in the healthcare arena. We're trying to educate our clients as to how it can be a value added service and how it can benefit their patients and improve their bottom line," Shrott says.

That means a big change from the old institutional design of hospitals and healthcare centers to the newer ones with a homelike feel and design cues taken from nature. Col-



Interpreting themes of healing in materials, shape and color is the philosophy behind the design of the new Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Designed by Astorino.



"It is a priority in the healthcare arena. We're trying to educate our clients as to how it can be a value added service and how it can benefit their patients and improve their bottom line."

- JOHN SHROTT

UPMC Shadyside Hospital: The design challenge for a Labor, Delivery, Recovery, Post Partum room is to accommodate medically intense equipment, such as medical gases, monitor, and exam lights, while providing a serene and relaxing environment for the patient, the newborn and the family. Generously sized to accommodate family and medical staff, design elements include hardwood floors, wood furniture, soft seating, and ample built-in storage. The use of ambient lighting in conjunction with a soothing color palette enhances the comfort level and environment for the patient. Additionally, medical gas outlets are concealed by the overbed artwork to assure a less institutional surrounding. Radelet McCarthy Architects and Interior Designers

ors, shapes, patterns and texture can all help enhance the healing process by comforting and calming patients. Stress interferes with healing so the less of it, the better.

Lou Astorino, AIA, chairman of Astorino, says that in designing the new Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, his group started with a pioneering research process to understand just how much architecture can enhance the process of healing (see page 14). "What we learned is that healing is really about transformation. And that connection, control and energy are vitally important to the transformative process of healing. The interpretation of these powerful themes will be seen and felt in the material, shape, and colors that will become the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh."

In the healing garden, kids can dig in dirt and run their hands under cool streams of water in this garden. The connection to nature is critical in health care design. It's all part of relieving stress and providing positive distractions like the waterfall wall in the entrance of the Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center in Windber, PA. Or the fish tanks and

sculpture in the UPMC Cancer Center in Shadyside. Or the varied ceiling heights and window views at Hamot Surgery Center in Erie, PA, (showcased in Health Care Design Magazine, September, 2003 for its homelike atmosphere).

At the new Hillman Cancer Center, architecture enhances healing in a different kind of way that could be the wave of the future. The design premise of the linked clinical pavilion with the research pavilion is to connect the researchers with the medical team for close collaboration. The objective is to promote better understanding of research and its applications and encourage new implementation of research findings that could lead to improved prevention, detection and diagnostic and treatment approaches. Throughout the facility, design elements work to relieve patient stress, from sculpture and skylights to gardens and granite fountain.

When it comes to healthcare design, it helps to take on the perspective of a patient. L. Robert Kimball and Associates' interior designer Kathleen Muffie-Witt, who worked on the Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center, poses the question: "If you could imagine yourself going through this space in a gurney, how could you make it better?"

Addressing the stress factor, known to be a powerful determinant in health and healing, is key. "One of the things we're very concerned with is stress and how the environment can help," says Muffie-Witt.

"With life threatening treatments, patients are on edge and anxiety-ridden," says project architect Alan Fishman, AlA of IKM, Inc. "We endeavored to provide an environment in which the patients would feel at ease at the UPMC Cancer Center." He mentions the "wonderful atrium, a quiet place of contemplation," designed by Radelet McCarthy who did the interior spaces. And he praises the design of the Allegheny General Cancer Center, another IKM project, where cherry wood warms the residential setting which is further enhanced by restful lighting and neutral colors.

The more comforting and less institutional the materials, the better. Take water, for instance. "Water is a very soothing element in any space; it goes back to Japanese influences, and in a healing environment it is very important to have natural elements," says Muffie-Witt.

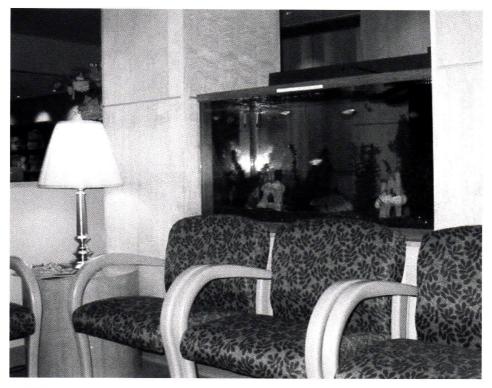
From the blue ceiling and waterfall in the reception area to the use of translucent surfaces and blue glass in the reception and waiting areas, the design approach at the Joyce Murtha Center is based in nature. That includes the use of porcelain pavers in earth colors of blues, greens, browns and taupe.

Although like most projects, this was "very budget driven," says the designer, they eked out room in the budget for an eight foot tall by six foot wide waterfall wall, designed by Harmonics Environment in Florida. (www.harmonics.com). It's a key element in drawing people into the space and it helps create a theme that extends throughout the nurses' stations and private rooms.

As for research and design principles, "We know what works," says the designer who adds that doesn't necessarily mean healthcare design principles are so accepted they're now commonplace. "You would think so but they're not," she cautions. "People who haven't had a lot of expe-



Since infusions take up to eight hours, the Infusion Treatment Areas at the UPMC Cancer Center are generously sized to accommodate the patient, staff, and family and friends. Similar to an in-patient room, televisions have been strategically located at each station, nursing pods are nearby allowing for visual access to each chair and medical gas outlets are provided at each station for emergency situations. Designed by Radelet McCarthy Architects and Interior Designers



At UPMC Cancer Center, many soothing design elements, including fish tanks, serve to reduce stress in patients and families. Radelet McCarthy Architects and Interior Designers

rience in health care don't understand that it's so important to have a human space. There are still a lot of architects who want an architectural space. You really have to focus on the person on a human scale."

If some architects haven't yet caught on, others are captivated by the concept. "It's a passion of mine because I fully believe architecture can support and enhance and accelerate the healing process," says John Shrott. "That's the issue in the profession.

"I can't imagine how, if you have to put up with a roommate with 10 visiting family members that your recovery is not going to be affected by it. That's why there's a shift toward private rooms which reduce infection rates and expedite the healing process."

On the other hand, cultural differences need to be considered, too. For a facility he designed in Lancaster, PA, Shrott took into consideration the large Hispanic population of the area and how they celebrate birth with family members—meaning as many as 20 people could be gathered around or nearby the labor room.

Accommodating families (in this case, large families) is just one of many things driving healthcare design these days. At the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, the design philosophy is based on caring and respect for the patient that includes stress reduction, and less noise and crowding with positive distractions such as colorful art on the ceilings.

This philosophy is based on evidence-based design, a term that simply refers to design grounded in research. According to the Center for Health Design in San Francisco, there are five areas of evidence-based design:

- · Access to nature: healing gardens, indoor plants, outdoor views.
- · Control: patient options and choice privacy issue and way finding.
- · Positive distractions: from waterfalls to play areas.
- Social support: higher levels mean faster recovery so accommodations are made for family members and visitors with recognition of cultural differences (as in the Lancaster facility).

"I think that's our responsibility as architects to do our own research and our own focus, to study our own spaces and then share that with the community. How else do we know if we truly attained what we wanted?" - KATHLEEN MUFFIE-WITT

· Environmental stressors: Everything from noise and intrusive paging systems to lighting and indoor air quality.

The Hamot Surgery Center in Erie, PA, designed by Weber Murphy Fox, Inc. was guided by the AIA's 2001 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities. It was lauded by Healthcare Design magazine for an environment that "includes public spaces with a human scale" along with warm, neutral colors with selected accents and varied ceiling heights giving a homelike atmosphere to family waiting areas, which translates to a relaxed feeling in clinical areas. Project architect William Helmsley, AIA also included operating rooms that feature windows providing a connection to the outdoors and prep areas with space for family members.

When it comes to reducing stress and speeding recovery. nothing is being overlooked. Shrott points out that the personal touch is more valued these days. The way you organize an inpatient floor, for instance, and how medicine is dispensed. Instead of nurses rolling in one-shop carts, individual rooms could be stocked (and locked) so the nurse would enter, converse, and prepare the medicine right there. Less institutional, more personal.

Those in the trenches know the score and understand the need to soothe the patient with such touches which include design elements such as fish tanks and flowers, Muffie-Witt says.

As far as research is concerned, she would like to do her own study on what's successful and what's not. "I think that's our responsibility as architects to do our own research and our own focus, to study our own spaces and then share that with the community. How else do we know if we truly attained what we wanted?"

I NEVER **MET-A-PHOR** I DIDN'T LIKE

ZMET, the first patented marketing research tool in the country, is applying some of the findings of neuroscience as a way to measure consumer attitudes toward consumer products. And, in Pittsburgh, Astorino is applying the ZMET method in architecture for the first time to "detect design elements" to enhance the healing process.

Zaltman Metaphor Elicitation Technique was created by Gerald Zaltman whose group has done more than 200 studies for companies in the past 10 years. The premise: consumers can't tell you what they think because they don't know what they think. Their deepest thoughts are not only unconscious but also visual. So, how do you capture those?

To ferret out these thoughts, ZMET uses visual images. In a New York Times article on Feb. 23rd, a marketing study of Coca-Cola was described, where Zaltman paid volunteers to spend a week amassing

pictures from magazines and publications that reflected their feelings about the soft drink. Later, they talked about them in a private interview with a ZMET specialist and then they created a digital collage using their images and recording a short bit about the meaning.

After review, Zaltman's group concluded that Coke evokes "not just feelings of invigoration and sociability-something its makers have long known and exploited in its ads-but feelings of calm, solitude and relaxation as well." The big insight, says Zaltman, is that Coke is really two drinks in one and the company was only marketing half of the drink. To which Coke agreed. In making the point at a meeting for division presidents, the Coke bottles lining the conference room were served half full.

Now for the first time, Astorino is applying the same research techniques to architecture. Subjects were asked "to collect six to eight pictures that express your



thoughts and feelings about your experiences at Children's Hospital." The objective was to help Astorino create "Deep Design" by understanding the basic thoughts and feelings and then understanding the deep metaphors.

Neuroscience and Architecture By Tracy Certo

From Alzheimer Care to Neonatal Units, the Design Environment is Critical



Each of the residents' rooms at Woodside Place is marked with a custom-built nameplate to assist in orientation. Perkins Eastman Architects



Dutch doors allow for privacy, yet provide residents at Woodside Place with the ability to look into the rooms. Perkins Eastman Architects

sk those in the field who are studying neuroscience, the study of the brain, and its application to design and they will tell you that architecture is on the brink of a revolution.

"If there's anything that's going to raise architecture to another level, it's this issue on the neurosciences," says Sylvester Damianos, FAIA, of Damianosgroup. As more is learned about the brain and how we perceive our world, architecture stands to benefit greatly, he says. "Findings will become a resource for teachers as well as understanding how critical the design environment is."

On the Web site of the Academy of Neuroscience for Architects is this prediction: "Knowledgeable professionals will increasingly be required to understand and explore the rich research base of neuroscience to help them in establishing evidence for what have historically been intuitive observations."

Certain areas of architecture are already in the forefront of neuroscience and architecture, such as health care design and specifically, Alzheimer care and neonatal units for premature infants.

Neuroscience is already affecting great change in our culture. And its influence will only increase dramatically in the future. Consider: Brain development studies in children that emerged less than a decade ago have already resulted in a proliferation of full-day kindergarten as well as earlier foreign-language studies. A recent Time magazine cover story relays the crucial findings of brain research in the study of dyslexia, and what can be done to improve reading skills in those affected.

In Lexington, Massachusetts, John Zeisel at Hearthstone Alzheimer Care has developed methods "to communicate with emotional memories that can still be reached while developing new memories that can be retained". The loving and emotional approach to Alzheimer patients, unabashedly called caregiving for the heart, features built-in memory cues, visually engaging paths to promote independent movement and accommodate pacing, and subtle physical cues that help in everyday activities.

Closer to home, Perkins Eastman Architects has won many awards for the design approach of its Alzheimer facilities at Asbury Place in Mt. Lebanon and Woodside Place in

Oakmont. Dutch doors prevent entrance yet create a more open atmosphere as they line the halls of patient rooms. Landscaped courtyards connect rooms to the outdoors while color-coded pathways aid navigation. To help identify their rooms, photos of the Alzheimer patients—not recent, but as they once looked and best remember themselves—are posted at the entrance.

As more is known about the debilitating effects of Alzheimer through brain studies—how the brain is effected and how perception is altered-architects will be better able to design for patient care, enhancing comfort and eliminating confusion.

Neonatal Units

Perhaps nowhere are the design implications of neuroscience as profound as they are in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). It is, says John Eberhard, FAIA, "the best application yet of neuroscience to architecture and design."

Thanks to neuroscientists such as Dr. Stanley Graven, we now know that stimuli received early in life affects the visual and auditory cortex development and what they respond to in the future. Such findings are allowing experts to plumb new depths in understanding how to design neonatal intensive care units which can support critical and timely development while minimizing detrimental interference.

The latest and recent brain development research, which maps out the precise sequencing of fetal and infant brain and sensory development, shows just how vulnerable the premature infant is.

With premature infants who are robbed of developmental time in the womb, lighting and noise become an issue since they can create developmental problems if presented out of order. Too much exposure to noise in NCIUs can lead to harmful and long-term hearing consequences such as decreasing a child's ability to distinguish frequency as well as sound patterns. If a premature baby held the potential to be born with perfect pitch, time spent in a noisy neonatal unit would destroy that capability.

In certain stages of brain developments in infants and preemies (and throughout childhood), critical periods occur



At Mt. Macrina Manor, the garden room is designed as a year-around porch for the dementia wing, accessing an outdoor covered porch and wandering garden. Perkins Eastman Architects

when external stimulation produces changes in the way the brain is wired.

For instance, the critical period for visual development occurs from the first visual through five or six months. During this time, the infant's brain develops the neuron connections that lay the groundwork for perceiving lines and shapes in the future. If the infant is in a dark environment this critical period can be delayed with serious consequences to development.

Once the visual process starts, the infant needs to have varying levels of light and appropriate stimuli. Although light is critical as a source of energy, it is also capable of producing injury depending on intensity, duration and the maturation of the infant's eyes.

Many design considerations must be re-thought, such as noisy beepers and alarms and loud intercoms and HVAC equipment. Silent equipment using flashing lights and quieter HVAC equipment is now prefered along with lowered staff voices and a generally hushed atmosphere. Another factor in healthy development are periods of uninterrupted sleep which calls for units that are more segregated in the NCIU. For more information visit www.architecturemind.com

ARCHITECTURE Conhance Healing? By Julie Anglim

In her thesis focusing on the holistic nature of healing, Julie Anglim of IKM, Inc. poses the question: Can architecture enhance healing? Her project was designing a center where cancer patients receive treatment for their disease and are encouraged to reconnect with their spirit to achieve a permanent healing of the whole self.

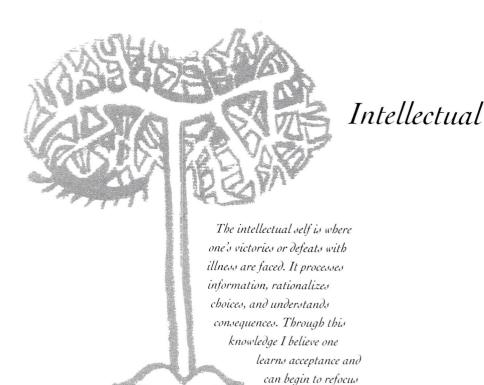
The emotional self is a reaction to life. I believe that one must be able to express these emotions to fully understand the range they will go through because of disease. Being able to control these feelings allows one to release them and reconnect to the self.

Emotional

The physical self is the part of the whole which I believe is most easily understood. One is identified by the physical body and health is believed to be a product of the body functioning well. By limiting one's health to what can be seen, touched, and measured the focus is lost that although the body is weak the spirit is strong.

Physical





on healing the

whole self.

THESIS STATEMENT:

I believe we must use the growing advancements in medical technology to alleviate pain and fight disease, but we must also refocus our attention to what health truly means. Often we associate health with only our physical bodies and forget to take into consideration the health of the whole Self. I use the wisdom of Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross in defining the self as four parts: Physical, Emotional, Intellectual and Spiritual. Healing each of these parts is what I believe allows one to achieve full heath. Healing becomes a path that reconnects each of these parts and ultimately the whole Self. I believe architecture can enhance healing by creating spaces to allow life in and let patients release the fear and tension often associated with disease. These spaces offer a connection to life where nature, light, and time can be experienced and refocus ones thoughts towards a healthy whole.

The spiritual self is all encompassing. I believe it is one's beginning, although it is often lost. Through the spirit one is able to connect to life's force and transcend disease of the physical body.



From the Firms

► KSBA Architects completed the design of an inbound 125-seat reservation center for Marriott. The 13,000 sf project is located in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

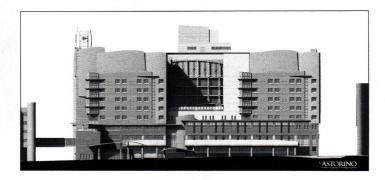
KSBA Architects also designed an inbound/outbound customer contact center for Intellirisk Management Corporation.

The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary celebrated the completion of a new dormitory building (pictured here) on its campus in the East End of Pittsburgh designed by **Valentour English Bodnar & Howell**. The 48-room dormitory building is the first new building completed in three decades on the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary campus.



Massaro Company recently broke ground on the new Tygart Valley Regional Jail & Correctional Facility. Massaro was contracted to work with ZMM Architects & Engineers, Inc. to provide general construction services for the 143,000 sf correctional facility, to be located in Norton, West Virginia.

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh recently broke ground for its new \$420 million, 14-story complex (below). **Astorino**, lead architect on the job, will be responsible for all design aspects of the 1.45 million sf total building space, housed on a 10-acre site in the City's Lawrenceville neighborhood.



Landau Building Company was awarded the construction management services for the Regional Learning Alliance Meeting and Conference Center.

Construction has begun on the second phase of the renovations to the Debence Antique Museum located in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Architect is **Ligo Architects**.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has selected Massaro Company to provide general construction services to complete renovations at the Homewood branch. Project architect is **Pfaffman + Associates**.

The Sextant Group, Inc. has been selected as technology design partner for projects with the following firms: Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates, Camp Dresser McKee, Celli-Flynn Brennan Turkall, Desmone & Associates Architects, Perkins Eastman Architects and WTW Architects.

Robert Morris University has awarded the fast-track data center renovations to Mistick Construction. The 2000 sf renovation will be fully functional for the incoming fall semester students. Architect is **LLI Technologies**.

Jendoco Construction Corporation has been selected as the general contractor for the Shady Side Academy Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Architect is **The Design Alliance Architects**.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has been selected by the May Department Stores Company to be the architect for the following remodel and expansion projects: Hecht's Department Store at Landmark Mall located in Alexandria, Virginia; Lord & Taylor Department Store located in Eastchester, New York and Foley's Department Store at Baybrook Mall in Houston, Texas.

Business Briefs

► IKM Incorporated recently hired Joel R.

Bernard, AIA as Project Manager.

Astorino announced the opening of an office in Jupiter, Florida.

Urban Design Associates has been retained by The Yorkshire Forward Urban Renaissance Program, located in Yorkshire, England, to prepare a Pattern Book for the Wakefield District in Yorkshire.

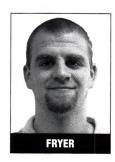
Mary E. Salamon joins RSH Interiors and will manage the interior design staff. Jessica M. Mann was promoted to full time interior designer.

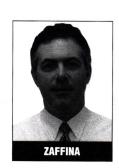












John Deklewa & Sons, Inc. announced that the following have joined their construction management department: Susan Fitzgerald as administrator; Timothy Fryer as project engineer and Felix Zaffina as senior project manager.

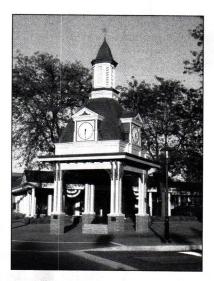
Dynamic Design Engineering, Inc, Prof. Affiliate, has merged with Carl J. Long & Associates to form CJL Engineering

Kudos

➤ Dutch MacDonald, AIA, principal of EDGE studio, was selected as one of "The Region's 50 Front-runners" by the Pittsburgh Business Times for their annual Fast Trackers issue.

Gary P. Moshier, AIA, an associate of **KSBA Architects**, was inducted in June as president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of International Facility Management Association (IFMA).

Hancock Architecture won the Borough of Beaver *A Towne Award* from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center for Design Excellence for their design of The Beaver Streetscape Revitalization project, pictured here.



Theodore H. Dannerth, president of Tower Engineering, Prof. Affiliate, has been selected as 2003 Outstanding Engineering Alumnus of The Pennsylvania State University.

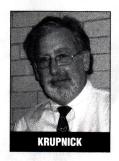
Astorino has been ranked number 31 among the top 113 healthcare design firms in the nation, according to the Modern Healthcare 2003 Design & Construction Survey.

Gregory Newman, senior interior designer and associate at **Renaissance 3 Architects**, recently passed the NCIDQ Exam for Interior Design Certification. He also became president for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware Chapter of the IIDA.

Mon-Fayette Toll Plaza and Pedestrian Bridge received a 2003 Engineering Award of Excellence presented by AISC. The project was a national winner for projects under \$10 million. The architect is **CelliFlynn Brennan Turkall**.

Also winning a merit award from AISC was EWPPA Cruise Boat Visitor's Terminal in Erie, PA. The architect is **Weborg Rectenwald Bueler Architects**.

Louis M. Krupnick, AIA of **Perfido Weiskopf Architects** and **David E. Ness, AIA** of **RSH Architects** earned their LEED Accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council.



Dennis Astorino, **AIA** of **Astorino**, was named to The National Architect Council's (NCARB) 2003-2004 Board of Directors. — *By Courtney Curotola*

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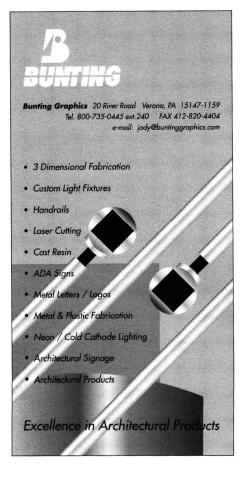
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September 12, Friday

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For more information, registration and course locations, Please visit www.parrinspections.com

> November 6, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. AIA MIDDLE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER SYMPOSIUM

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2 C O A O L3 E N D A R

AIA ACTIVITIES

September 5, Friday

AIA Communications Committee Meeting Noon at the Chapter office.
412-471-9548

September 9, Tuesday

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

September 18, Thursday

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

September 18, Thursday

AIA Pittsburgh Membership Meeting. Regional Enterprise Tower. Details TBA. 412-471-9548

AROUND TOWN

September 10, Wednesday

SMPS Program. The Human Connection: Bring Your Presentations to Life! This handson workshop will help you relax and communicate your message with clarity and confidence. Registration and continental breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. and workshop is 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania Coat is \$85 for members and \$110 for nonmembers. Contact: Mary Ann Berg at 412-330-2348 or mberg@mascaroconst.com

September 25, Thursday

ASID Trade Show at the Hilton downtown from 3-9 p.m. Trade show will include exhibitors, food, CEU's and much more. For more information call Anne Ditmanson at 412-201-3363.

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

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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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PERSONAL: I have been married for 22 years and have two daughters 16 and 19. I love to garden, play acoustic and traditional music and fly-fish. I think these connections to the natural and traditional world shape my yiews of life and of my approach to construction. **YEARS IN PRACTICE: 22**

SPECIAL PROJECT: My house is probably my most special project, in that it allowed me to fully explore thoughts on craft, beauty and health. It was also an incredible collaboration between architect, builder and carpenter. It has been a lab for materials testing and ideas. Our new office will be the natural evolution of that testing process. I love that other people saw this and thought enough of it to have it published and put on television.



our firm was young then. There were multiple levels of designers and architects and huge design challenges. Still, we ended up within two percent of the original estimated cost. Others would be the Pittsburgh Glass Center for inventiveness, the CCI Center for discovery and the Food Bank for collaboration.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB AND WHY: I get the opportunity to live out my beliefs. The sustainable construction industry has people who let their beliefs dictate their work. Right now we are showing people through the integrated design process how to build wonderful sustainable buildings without negatively affecting budgets. This business keeps growing and changing and I am blessed that it is doing so in such a positive way.

THE THING I WOULD CHANGE ABOUT MY JOB AND WHY: I would like to have more time to teach and to spend even more time on the job sites to be part of the discovery process.

WHAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING THING ARCHITECTS DO AND WHY: Denying themselves the opportunity to see what can be discovered during the project that was not drawn. Too often goals seem inflexible and one-dimensional and miss the opportunity for collaboration. This is too bad, as each project can be a new opportunity for growth.

FAVORITE BUILDING AND/OR INTERIOR AND WHY: The Gamble House. I love it when an idea is fully explored.

FAVORITE CITY AND WHY: Florence. The magic and beauty of Florence embraces you at every turn. Lunderstand why such creative people spent so much time there.

FAVORITE ARCHITECT AND WHY: Samuel Mockbee is probably my favorite architect. He truly understood clients, budgets, a sense of place, dignity and collaboration. He enabled some truly amazing building to happen and people's lives to be forever changed; and he did it with tenacity and courage. That makes architecture an incredibly powerful experience

FAVORITE ARCHITECTURE BOOK AND WHY: In Praise of Shadows

BEST GIFT TO GIVE AN ARCHITECT AND WHY: A hammer and a saw. I think it is important to a keep letting the physical nature of construction continually inform design

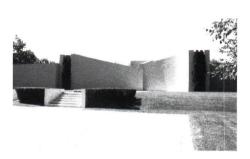
WHAT'S THE NEXT BIG ARCHITECTURAL TREND AND WHY: Hopefully it is the integrated design approach. Let's quit calling it green, sustainable or whatever and let's just call truly integrated design, good design, or what it really is, best practice.

SOME DAY I'D LIKE TO: Continue doing what I am doing

I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR: Being optimistic, it's the only way to be.

I BELONG TO AIA BECAUSE: It gives me an opportunity to collaborate with so many interesting people.





The Damian Soffer Residence



The Pittsburgh Glass Center

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lookout! Design Pittsburgh

Warren Schwartz, FAIA

Design Awards Lead Juror



Warren Schwartz, FAIA, will be the Lead Juror for this year's AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards. Mr. Schwartz is Principal of award-winning Schwartz/ Silver Architects located in Boston.

Mr. Schwartz received his Bachelor of Architecture at Cornell University and his Master of Architecture in Urban Design at Harvard University. In 1972, he met Robert Silver while working at Charles Hilgenhurst Associates. From there, they founded Schwartz/Silver Architects in 1980.

Many of Schwartz/Silver Architects' projects have won awards, inluding several AIA National Honor Awards for the Tanglewood House, an AIA/ALA Library Award for the MIT Rotch Library of Architecture and Planning, and an AIA National Honor Award for the Newburyport Firehouse Civic Center. Most recently, the firm won another AIA National Honor Award for the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Mr. Schwartz and two colleagues will jury this year's entries, and Mr. Schwartz will make remarks at the AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards.

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6 to 9 pm. David L. Lawrence Convention Center, \$65/person

October 13 through October 24 EXHIBIT

Photo Forum Gallery in the U.S. Steel Tower Exhibit of all entries in AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards Vote on your favorite entry for the Columbia Gas People's Choice Award!

October 18 ARCHITECT'S SATURDAY

A tour of Downtown offices of architects 1:30 to 4:30 pm. \$10/person; \$5/student; \$12/day of tour

October 28 AIA PITTSBURGH DESIGN AWARDS

Ceremony and Reception. 6 to 9 pm. Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, \$15/person

October 28 through October 30 EXHIBIT

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