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Design Quality and Public Policy  By Rich DeYoung, AIA

Hopefully, you joined in at least some, if not all, of the activities offered as part of AIA Pittsburgh’s Design Pittsburgh, our month-long celebration of architecture in October. This year, for the first time, our firm opened its doors for the firm tour on Architects’ Saturday. What a great opportunity to present what we do as a profession to a group of eager and inquisitive high school students just beginning to consider what architecture could offer them as a career. If you haven’t participated before, I highly recommend that you consider participating in the future.

Two new twists on old events breathed a bit of new life into Design Pittsburgh this year. First, the format of the Gold Medal presentation was changed to more properly reflect the prestige of the award by presenting it in a special reception preceding the Design Gala, cosponsored by AIA Pittsburgh’s Foundation for Architecture. Recognizing contributions to the quality of the built environment is squarely on target with the mission for the Foundation and the event provided an important source of funding for its activities. By her own admission, our honoree, Carol Brown, couldn’t have been more thrilled to have been honored for her contributions by the architectural community.

The second change was in the format of the Design Awards ceremony. This year the board decided to first present the awards, followed by a reception celebrating architecture and the winners. From observations and comments, it appears to have been a success.

So what does this discussion about celebrating architecture and recognizing our best have to do with public policy? Let me start by saying that for most of my career, I have been a pretty typical architect when it comes to politics, in a word: apolitical. Not such a bad perspective you might say; after all, who has time for politics and how will that improve the profession’s contribution to society? A few years ago, when AIA PA started the process of forming a political action committee (AIA PA PAC), I gradually became more enlightened regarding the importance of participation in the political process as a profession.

In a recent discussion with a state senator, no not the one you are thinking of, another one, the relationship between public policy and design quality became even clearer to me. I was pointing out to the senator the grossly inadequate fee schedule under which Pennsylvania’s Department of General Services compensates architects. Not knowing the details of the schedule, he guessed that we were paid something like 10% or 12% of the construction cost for our services. Wouldn’t that be great! He was somewhat shocked to find out that DGS usually pays from 4.5 to 6% depending on the size of the project.

The citizens of Pennsylvania deserve the benefits accrued from exceptionally well-designed public buildings. To achieve this, architects need to be adequately compensated to provide the level of service and attention to detail and the quality of design demanded by public projects.

The AIA PA PAC is very new and still quite small, but we have begun to make an impact. When I mentioned my involvement on the board, the senator was aware of the PAC’s efforts and appreciative of the fact that we are participating in the political process. We are making small steps forward. The success of the PAC depends on your continued regular annual contributions.

Our efforts in Harrisburg can improve our ability to practice and provide our best for our clients. When we participate and affect the environment in which we practice, our opportunity to provide quality design services improves and we all win: architects, clients, and society at large. Take a minute to think about that as you consider your support for the PAC. Even a few dollars from every practicing architect in the state will make a big difference in the level of effectiveness we can have in Harrisburg.

As I write this final report to you as President of AIA Pittsburgh, I pause to reflect on what a great opportunity it has been to serve the profession in Pittsburgh. We have a lot going for us. This city is emerging as a significant national design center, with many firms, large and small, now practicing nationally and even internationally. Architecture is a “growth industry” in Pittsburgh, creating jobs as a net exporter of services. We should be proud of our contribution to the city on all levels: economic, social, political and artistic. Let’s keep up the great work!
Controversy always seems to surround the jury choice for Design Awards. I have heard complaints ranging from "the jury has too much of a sleek, modern bent" to "who are they anyway?" but the biggest undercurrent of discontent swirls around the People's Choice Award. We got the idea for the "People's Choice Award" from AIA Dallas which runs an "Orchid and Onion" contest every year. In their version, the public is asked to vote for their favorite and least favorite project of the year. Most startling of all is that most often the same project wins both the Orchid and the Onion. This could lead you to the conclusion that the public just doesn't understand design but I think there is more to their vote than that. I won't disagree that when most people are asked to define "good design" they cannot. Worse yet, most of us "lay people" cannot translate your drawing on paper, your computer rendering or even your model into a reasonable facsimile of how the final project will appear. The fact that you can sell it apart from the rest of us but it doesn't mean that the public doesn't care about the places you design.

We have spent considerable time in the past few issues of Columns exploring a variety of ways in which architecture affects the mind. In September, our editor Tracy Certo looked at how design impacts healing in a hospital setting. An additional article talked about the ground breaking and revolutionary research being done at AIA by John Eberhard, FAIA on neurosciences. Last month, Tracy explored the issue of increased worker productivity due to the design of their office environment. As a profession architecture is working towards putting a quantifiable value on design for the client and society at large. It is an attempt to put numbers on an idea that you brought into a long time ago. Design makes a difference and good design is worth the effort.

When I look back on the recent winners of the People's Choice Award, it is an affirmation of how space can positively affect people. Let's take PNC Park, last year's winner as the first example. It is touted as the best urban ballpark experience in the country. As a baseball fan, I would have to agree although I have to confess to very limited experience in other venues. My enthusiasm for PNC Park is all about the view of the city, the closeness to the field, the comfort of the seats and the relative ease of finding where you are going. It is a place I like to go and links directly to my favorite memories of sunny days, cold beer and being with my children even though the Pirates are lousy. The new Alcoa headquarters is a positive statement about where we are headed as a city. It is all about reclaiming the riversfront and providing a public access. It is a beacon of light on a cold dark night which perhaps lacks the glory of a roaring steel mill but exemplary nonetheless of an industry still thriving in Pittsburgh.

This year's winner, the Southside Works building located at the corner of East Carson Street and Hot Metal Street, once again speaks to what Pittsburgh hopes to become. At the risk of dating myself, I do remember driving down East Carson Street past the old J&L Mill as it belched fire in its heyday. What I remember most is how trebuling that place was as it towered over the roadway and dwarfed we mere humans. The plans for Southside Works are monumental in their own right. The area is large and if all of the new development is achieved it will encompass many uses including a large hotel. What the development does well is extend the street grid of the traditional Southside neighborhood and offer a variety of housing, work spaces and play spaces that at this point do not exist. The public voted for only one piece of the new development but I bet they were also voting for their community and the difference that a new development can bring.

I think we miss the point if we obsess about why the public's choices very seldom coincide with the jury's picks. The jury's picks are based solely on what they consider to be good design and are unencumbered by memory or context. The public picks are more about dreams and ideas of what places can become or the memories they invoke.

Orchids, Onions and Good Design

By Anne J. Swager, Hon., AIA

As a profession architecture is working towards putting a quantifiable value on design for the client and society at large. Design makes a difference and good design is worth the effort.

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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From the Top
MEET THE JURORS

DESIGN AWARDS 2003

Warren Schwartz, FAIA, 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, including 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.

Jorge Silvetti, Assoc. AIA, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he received his diploma in architecture from the University of Buenos Aires. He continued studies at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving his Master of Architecture degree and pursuing post-graduate work in the area of architectural theory and criticism. Mr. Silvetti's architectural practice, Machado and Silvetti Associates, was formed with Rodolfo Machado in 1974. Incorporated in 1985, it is now a forty-person office.

Maryann Thompson, AIA, received a BA in Architecture, magna cum Laude, from Princeton University; and a Master of Architecture, with distinction, and the AIA Certificate of Merit, from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She also received a Master in Landscape Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design. In 1987 she founded Thompson & Rose Architects. In 2000 she founded Maryann Thompson Architects.
HOW IT WORKS

Awards may be given in the following four categories: Timeless, Open Plan, Detail and Architectural. The Silver Medal is AIA Pittsburgh's highest award and is presented at the jury's discretion. It is only presented in the Architectural Awards category. Honor Awards are granted for overall excellence to projects in the Architectural Awards category. Certificates of Merit recognize an outstanding aspect of a project such as detailing or adaptive reuse. Open Plan and Architectural Detail are only eligible for an Award of Excellence.

The Green Design Citation was introduced in 2001 to recognize projects that have integrated green building strategies and practices into the design to reduce environmental impact.

ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

HONOR AWARD AND GREEN DESIGN CITATION

FIRM: Perkins Eastman Architects, P.C.
PROJECT: Castcon Stone, Inc.
CLIENT: Castcon Stone, Inc.
PROJECT TEAM: Stephen Quick, AIA, Alan Schlossberg, AIA, Tom Pierce, Jeff Schmitt, Jason Kaney
CONTRACTOR: Clearview Project Services Company

JUROR COMMENTS: We have welcomed the return of the industrial architecture that is true to itself but which also updates itself with the notion of simple forms and one single material. Rational siting has been enlightened by an attempt to make a green building. It proves that when dealing with very demanding functional constraints you can still bring in traditional architectural elements. Very convincing building that masterfully handles the different scales of office space and manufacturing. In challenging the traditional idea of a shed by responding functionally, it freshens up the building.
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

HONOR AWARD
FIRM: Davis Gardner Gannon Pope Architecture, LLC and Bruce Lindsey
PROJECT: The Pittsburgh Glass Center
CLIENT: The Pittsburgh Glass Center
PROJECT TEAM: Gretchen Bigsby, Jeff Davis, AIA, Kevin Gannon, AIA, Carmen Gong, Matt Lundgren, Hee Park, Jeremy Smith, Takako Tajima
CONTRACTOR: Clearview Project Services Company

JUROR COMMENTS: Sophisticated use of materials juxtaposed in a collage-like quality, inspired by the use of light and its relationship to glass and different qualities of glass. We appreciated the honest industrial qualities of the interior and particularly appreciated the sensibility to green design and natural ventilation, daylighting and use of natural materials. Juxtaposition of old and new materials where new overlays old in a very respectful way.

HONOR AWARD
FIRM: EDGE studio
PROJECT: 947 Liberty Avenue Lofts
CLIENT: no wall productions, Inc.
PROJECT TEAM: Dutch MacDonald, AIA, Jen Bee, Anne Chen
CONTRACTOR: TEDCO Construction Corporation

JUROR COMMENTS: Very sweet. It represents a very successful infill which respects many of the issues of context in a modern architectural language. The texture of the facades on either side and the tracery in the façade does not mimic but enhances the understanding of the relationship between newer and older structures. The plan is very sophisticated in its economic use of the required elements of the building: stairs, elevator and ladders to loft spaces above three ingeniously planned dissimilar units. The café loading area exit path and courtyard is an elegant solution to the problem of an almost impossibly long 18 ft wide site. The two-story spaces within the tall units match the tall floor-to-floor construction of the adjoining building. The interiors are cleanly configured, as is the exterior. The courtyard space is an extension of the café by means of the details of the doors which swing open to the complete width of the space creating an exterior courtyard in a very confined space which almost seems to create a pocket park.
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
FIRM: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
PROJECT: Natural Sciences Building
CLIENT: University of California, San Diego
PROJECT TEAM: Peter Q. Bohlin, FAIA, Jon C. Jackson, AIA, C. Roxanne Sherbeck, AIA, Darrell Kauric, AIA, Amy Bradac, Charles J. Cwenar, AIA, Michael Kuchera, Shari Ann Lersch, Michael D. Maiiese, AIA, Michelle Maiiese, Terry Oden, AIA, Sara M. Snyder, Doug Speckhard, Peter Streibig, Brent van Gunten, Esmeralda Ward, Michael A. Wychers
CONTRACTOR: Soltek Pacific

JUROR COMMENTS: This building expresses an architectural language which has been developed by the architect over the decade. In doing so it suits its site and climate beautifully and expressively. The construction materials are both tectonic and warm at the same time. A mature and sculptural expression of plan.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
FIRM: EDGE studio
PROJECT: EDGE studios New Design Offices
CLIENT: EDGE studio
PROJECT TEAM: Dutch MacDonald, AIA, Gary K. Carlough, AIA, Matt Fineout, AIA, Swee Hong Ng, Jen Bee, Hyla Willis
CONTRACTOR: Burchick Construction Company, Inc.

JUROR COMMENTS: We appreciated the juxtaposition of the plywood with the existing garage, the street elevation, and the clear use of plywood as a skin that folds over the entry door creating a sense of threshold. Also liked the industrial material palette of the interior that reflects the previous use of the building.
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

FIRM: Perfilo Weiskopf Architects
PROJECT: Whole Foods Market
CLIENT: The Mosites Company and Whole Foods Market
PROJECT TEAM: Leonard P. Perfilo, AIA, Eric Fisher, Kevin Wagsstaff, AIA, Antonio Rella, AIA, Jenna Yerger, AIA, Richard Miller, AIA, James Voelke, AIA, Emmanuel Mdingi, AIA, Thomas Smith
CONTRACTOR: Mosites Construction

JUROR COMMENTS: Clean. Refined sense of detail on the entry canopy and the creation of a daylit interior and exterior seating area which addresses the street. We appreciated the honest material of palette in the interior which lets fruits and vegetables take center stage.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

FIRM: Stephen Casey Architects
PROJECT: Loft Living – Pittsburgh
CLIENT: Anonymous
PROJECT TEAM: Stephen Casey, AIA, John Weinheimer, Assoc. AIA
CONTRACTOR: Rycon Construction Inc.

JUROR COMMENTS: We appreciated the courage to envision a minimalist insertion into the existing architectural pattern without the desire to overdesign or overdecorate.
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

FIRM: JDBA Architects
PROJECT: Renovations to the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel
CLIENT: Sisters of Divine Providence
PROJECT TEAM: James D. Brown, AIA, William Joyce, Karin Martin, Jude Cleary
CONTRACTOR: Mistick Construction/Church Restoration Group

JUROR COMMENTS: Architect enhanced and enlivened the original language which was not that good. They have revealed some of the special potential and the symbolic implications which were latent but not really evident in the original language.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

FIRM: Desmone & Associates Architects, Inc.
PROJECT: Bally Design @ ROAM North Shore Center
CLIENT: Bally Design
PROJECT TEAM: Chip Desmone, AIA, Jimmy DeCecco, AIA, Christy Lederer
CONTRACTOR: Jendoco Construction Corporation

JUROR COMMENTS: This is an extremely successful renovation of a warehouse building. Impressed by the economy of means and clean and fresh look of materials. Very intelligent strategic location of particularized events like the concrete corner shell, the use of color, the restraint of color and the concrete floor "carpets".
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

FIRM: Integrated Architectural Services Corporation
PROJECT: 903 Liberty Avenue Façade Reconstruction
CLIENT: Berger Real Estate
PROJECT TEAM: Lee Calisti, AIA, John A. Martine, AIA, Douglas T. T. Philip, AIA
CONTRACTOR: Repal Construction Company

JUROR COMMENTS: The elegant façade is a good renovation with nice contemporary dimension. The use of steel juxtaposed with existing historical columns; the depth of the steel flange allows for a shadow pattern which has a lot of chiaroscuro.

AWARD WINNING DESIGNS BUILT BY ABC CONTRACTORS

Clearview Project Services:
The Pittsburgh Glass Center's 18,300 square foot facility, is heated from the recovery of the glass furnaces and features natural daylighting and ventilation. It focuses on used and pure form materials and has minimal finishes requiring maintenance.

Architect: Davis Gardner Gannon Pope Architecture, LLC

Church Restoration Group:
Church Restoration Group, a division of Mistick Construction, specializes in disaster recovery and renovation of churches. The Church Restoration Group recently restored the St. Boniface Church's interior after it suffered major water damage.

Clearview Project Services:
CastCon's new 41,123 square foot manufacturing and office facility, features natural daylight and ventilation, tight building envelope, non-toxic finishes, no-maintenance landscaping and bioretention ponds.

Architect: Perkins Eastman Architects
ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

FIRM: EDGE studio
PROJECT: Waterfront Corporate Park, Building Number 2, Truss Detail
CLIENT: Spectra Development Corporation
PROJECT TEAM: Gary K. Carlough, AIA, Matt Fineout, AIA, Anne Chen, Tsunehisa J. Tsuda, Delphine Ammann, Chloe Hiyu, Andre Kamili
CONTRACTOR: Spectra Development Corporation

JUROR COMMENTS: Elegant. We appreciate that unlike most metal expressionist over the last decade, the scale of the detail and the size of the pieces are handled very elegantly. It is not heavy handed and does not call too much attention to itself and yet it is also a distinctive feature of the building's expression.

OPEN PLAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

FIRM: STRADA
PROJECT: Downtown Bedford Revitalization Plan
CLIENT: Downtown Bedford, Inc.
PROJECT TEAM: Michael A. Stern, ASLA, John Martine, AIA, Abigail Stalikamp

JUROR COMMENTS: A very honest and nice effort. We liked the master planning strategy, very sound and site specific. Very concerned with the history of the site and carrying it into the future.
LANDSCAPE OPEN PLAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
FIRM: Klavon Design Associates, Inc.
PROJECT: Strawberry Way
CLIENT: Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Project Team: Dina Cole Klavon, ASLA, Philip A. Lisotta, Maria S. Riley, Kara Snatchko

JUROR COMMENTS: Great idea for enlivening an alley condition which pulls together parts of the city which were used for circulation but not for contemplation of the environment. Without gentrifying the alley this proposal turns a space into an artistic experience. It turns every person into an art lover. More cities should do this with their abandoned spaces. It expands the definition of landscape architecture.

COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA
PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

Voted on over the three week period the design boards were on display to the public. The boards were on display at the U.S. Steel Tower and the Carnegie Museum of Arts Hall of Architecture. This year the People’s Choice Award was presented to:

FIRM: Design 3 Architecture, P.C.
PROJECT: South Side Works, Lot D1a – Retain and Office Building
CLIENT: The Soffer Organization
PROJECT TEAM: William Snyder, AIA, Don G. Lightner, Jr., Sean P. Cosgrove, Michael D. Moyla, AIA, Lisa M. Intrieri, Larry Novak, John C. Parrish
CONTRACTOR: PJ. Dick Incorporated

COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Whether it was at the Design Awards Gala on the 9th, Architects' Saturday on the 18th, or the Design Awards Ceremony on the 28th, October provided many occasions to showcase AIA Pittsburgh members' outstanding architectural design work. The events were also a great opportunity to keep in touch with those in the design community. Here we feature just a few.  PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO AND MICHELE D. MARGITTAI
On Architects' Saturday, Tom Grden, AIA shows a group around Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

Ed Shriver, AIA, Dan Rothschild, AIA, Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA, Honoree Carol Brown and Rich DeYoung, AIA at the Design Awards Gala.

Tracy Myers (center), Curator at Heinz Architectural Center, joined by Scott Bulera (left) and Joseph Milicia of Turner Construction Company.

Jeannie and Luke Desmore, AIA at the Gala.

Laura Cooper, Lisa Ma and Wayne Chang of Fukui Architects at the Design Awards Gala.

Sonya Ford, center, guides a group through Urban Design Associates on Architects' Saturday.
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From the Firms

Valentour English Bodnar & Howell is designing phases for a series of projects at Monongahela Valley Hospital that will relocate several departments and culminate in a major expansion of the emergency department. A study conducted by VEB&H for the hospital had determined a variety of options for the improvements.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has been selected by May Department Stores Company as architect of record for the new two-level Filene’s Department Store in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Also, JSA announced the opening of the new two-level Kaufman’s Department Store located at the Waterfront development in Homestead. JSA project manager for both projects is Michael Pappas. Principal-in-charge is Thomas J. Mrozenski Jr., AIA.

WTW Architects and Turner Construction Company were awarded the design/build contract for the creation of a new practice and administrative facility for the Pennsylvania State University marching band. The PSU Blue Band proposed site is currently occupied by a facility for the Centre County hazardous materials emergency response team. The commission also included the design and construction of a new HazMat facility on a nearby site.

PSU Blue Band facility

Cerrone Architects is collaborating with Montgomery and Rust and Ibacos for the design of the Model Town Home at Summerset at Frick Park, a traditional neighborhood development in Squirrel Hill. A “Green Demonstration Home,” the house features highly energy-efficient HVAC and lighting design and the use of recycled and ecologically-sensitive products throughout. Construction is underway.

Ligo Architects is devising plans for expanding Pullman Park from the current 1,200 seating capacity to a new 4,200 seating capacity, as well as building new locker rooms, a press box, concession area and private boxes.

Dynamic Building Corporation, Prof. Affil., was awarded a contract for the construction of a 53,000 sf retail/commercial building for Alex Enterprises on Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill. The architectural firm is McCormick Architects.

Dynamic Building Corporation was also awarded a contract for the construction of the Village at Sewickley Hills, a $30,000,000 multi-family development in Sewickley. The architectural firm is Sullivan-Bruck of Columbus, OH.

General Industries, Prof. Affil., was recently selected to build the new 38,800 sf Gerry Raymond Washington Chevrolet Dealership at the intersection of I-70 and Rt. 19 in Washington, PA.

General Industries also recently completed a total renovation project for the 84 Fitness Center in Eighty-Four, PA. The remodeled fitness center is 9,000 sf on two floors and features an indoor running track and other exercise facilities.

Business Briefs

Rothschild Doyno Architects PC hired Terry Oden, AIA as a project architect. Mr. Oden has previously worked for Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. An accomplished photographer, he is a past winner of the AIA National Photography Competition.

Kudos

Kenneth Doyno, AIA of Rothschild Doyno Architects PC was selected to Pittsburgh magazine and PUMP’s (Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Program) “40 under 40” list of “younger Pittsburghers who help shape all of our tomorrow.”

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Colony Restaurant
Zahradnik-Storrs & Associates

Merit Award
South Brook Middle School
Radelet McCarthy Incorporated

Calvary Episcopal Church
Bell Tower & Spire Renovations
Atkinson-Noland & Associates, Inc.

Private Residence
Ligo Architects

Merit Award
West Virginia University Life Sciences Bldg.
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Kudos

Kevin Hayes, AIA of Hayes Design Group – Architects was presented with The Distinguished Service Award for 2003 by the Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh. Mr. Hayes has been the social concerns coordinator for the club since 1983. He is also co-founder of Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity and has served on numerous charitable organization boards.

The EDGE studio Web site was awarded the “Most Innovative Site” award in the national 2003 Architecture Web site Awards competition sponsored by Entabliature.com. Jurors commented that they were impressed by a site “that breathes,” and praised the site for its “simple beauty, contrasting its soft feel with the firm’s name.”

Richard O. Kernick, a project manager at WTW Architects became the third member of the firm to achieve LEED certification from the US Green Building Council.

David Celento, AIA of CelentoHenn Architects + Designers was the National Champion in the 250 Grand Prix Novice Class at the 2003 AMA Sports Race Grand Championships. He also finished first in the 125 Grand Prix Novice Class. Rebecca Henn, AIA, also of CelentoHenn Architects + Designers finished second place in the 250 Grand Prix Novice Class and third place in the 125 Grand Prix Novice Class. Both Henn and Celento have been invited to Atlanta, Georgia for the WERA Grand National Finals. They are both in the top 15th in points standings for the Northeast Region. – By Maya Haptas

PIYAF (The Pittsburgh Interns and Young Architects Forum) is AIA Pittsburgh’s component Young Architects Forum, initiated by interns and young architects. PIYAF is open to all Interns and Young Architects (registered 0-10 years). Membership is Free. Email: piyaf@yahoo.com

New Additions
PIYAF is pleased to announce the additions of Sheila Moore and Ana Migone, Assoc. AIA to its board of directors. Congratulations!

December Happy Hour
For those of you who participated in the first Happy Hour organized by PIYAF, on September 15, you don’t need to be briefed...but for those of you who didn’t attend, you missed one heck of a good time. PIYAF has decided to hold one every quarter. This is your perfect opportunity to network and meet some interesting people in architecture and allied professions. The event is open to anyone related to the profession, including architects, intern architects, engineers, consultants, contractors, interior designers, reps, etc. The next Happy Hour will be held December 12th from 6 to 9:00pm. Location T.B.A. To r.s.v.p., please contact Joe Touvell at jtouvell@d3a.com or 412-373-2220.

Tour the Pete!
PIYAF members are invited to tour the new Petersen Events Center at the University of Pittsburgh on Thursday, December 4th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. A state-of-the-art venue, “the Pete” is an exciting new addition to the Pitt campus. Designed in Joint Venture by Rosser International and Apostolou Associates, Inc., the building has opened to rave reviews and will serve as an excellent site for a visit from interns and young architects. All participants should r.s.v.p. to Arthur Sheffield at as@apostolou-associates.com.

Things to Know about “the Pete”
• Opened in August, 2002
• Project cost: $96 million
• Building is 430,000 square feet
• Built on the footprint of the University’s old football stadium
• Negotiates 100 foot slope that formerly defered foot traffic through the center of campus
• Escalators and elevators connect the buildings five levels with entrances at the bottom and top, making it a spine between upper and lower campus
• A five-tiered glass “atrium” style lobby is 16,000 square feet with 72’-foot high ceilings
• Lobby features a marble floor emblazoned with a Pitt Panthers head and a big-screen video board which used to hang in PItt Stadium
• Arena seats 12,500 with sightlines designed for basketball
• Permanent wood basketball floor extends into the courtside Luxury suites and runways
• Outdoor roof terrace provides skyline views of campus and downtown Pittsburgh
• Long-span steel roof has 100,000 pound rigging capacity, enabling it to also function as a premier concert facility
• Sustainable design feature – technologically advanced coating on windows is barely visible but allows an abundance of sunlight to shine through while controlling heat loss and heat gain within the space
• 42,000 square feet of glass was used on the building’s exterior
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AIA ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2, TUESDAY
AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting. 5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members welcome. 412-471-9548.

DECEMBER 12, FRIDAY
CSI Christmas Gathering. CSI will be hosting their Christmas gathering at Jimmy G's Restaurant at 6 p.m. The event is $25/person. Please RSVP by Friday, December 5 to Deborah Merges at 412-855-0928.

AROUND TOWN

DECEMBER 10, WEDNESDAY
AIA Holiday Party. AIA Pittsburgh will hold its annual holiday party at the Penn Brewery. For more information, please contact AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548.

BUILDING BLOCKS

DECEMBER 16, TUESDAY
Fire Resistive Construction Requirements

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This class will provide you with a thorough understanding of requirements for fire walls, separation assemblies and shaft enclosures. You will also be able to determine requirements to protect use groups, fire areas, and multi-story buildings.

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For more information on schedule, location and registration, contact Richard Piccolo at 847-884-4969.

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