

C O L U M N S



TAKING UP **RESIDENCE**

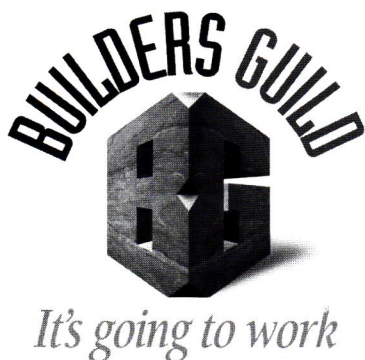
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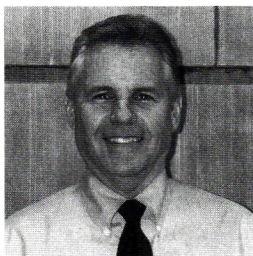


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Toward Livable Communities

By Stephen Quick, AIA



"We can be a strong voice and influence change. And, by speaking together, we can start to bring about change in our communities."

In his first column as president of AIA Pittsburgh, Stephen Quick, AIA, makes a plea for architects uniting to help make livable communities a reality.

Recently I appeared on WQED's *On Q Magazine* to discuss health and the built environment. In a week devoted to health issues, the segment I was interviewed for was about creating healthy communities. As host Lynn Sawyer and I talked during the course of the filming, I was struck by how much she appreciated what we as architects do in visualizing and helping to create livable communities.

She agreed that livable and healthy communities are valued and should be in the public's consciousness and we both used the terms "livable" and "healthy" interchangeably when talking about good community design. Lynn bemoaned the time she spends sitting in traffic while commuting to work from her Bethel Park home, a short commute by anyone's standards. She also said it is hard to change to a healthier lifestyle. Like most of us, she is dependent on her car. And, with her already overloaded schedule, she doesn't have time for "health" activities.

In a related matter, one of our clients, a local CEO, is now looking for new administrative space to meet his organization's growth needs. Since he is a runner, finding an in-town location near one of Pittsburgh's trails ranks high on his priority list. Understanding the value of wellness and healthy employees, he is also interested in incorporating a small gym with showers. Yet, while creating a model office of the future is high on the agenda, it's also important to him and his top staff that the office location include lots of free parking so all their employees can drive to work.

We can all think of many examples of the contradictions we face trying to reconcile good community design with our daily lives. But we also realize that changes are needed if we hope to offset scary future scenarios such as increasing obesity and unhealthy lifestyles, an automobile population growing faster than we can handle, the increasing privatization of our families and society, etc.

So it's encouraging to see the Institute's work on the AIA Brand which demonstrates the fundamental changes un-

derway as we examine our lifestyles to determine how we can work toward livable communities. The underlying idea? "The AIA is a community of architects, coming together to accomplish things that no single architect can do alone." That is quite a powerful statement and represents a significant change in the way the Institute relates to its membership and how members relate to one another. The Institute's aim is to "help each other put our talents to work to create better places for people." The vehicles are Community, Knowledge, and Advocacy. The AIA Pittsburgh board, a strong supporter of this new direction, will focus on community outreach this year. We can be a strong voice and influence change. And, by speaking together, we can start to bring about change in our communities.

The AIA's Center for Communities by Design, the former Center for Livable Communities, has developed ten fundamental principles that define a livable community:

- Design on a Human Scale
- Provide Choices
- Encourage Mixed-Use Development
- Preserve Urban Centers
- Vary Transportation Options
- Build Vibrant Public Spaces
- Create Neighborhood Identity
- Protect Environmental Resources
- Conserve Landscapes
- Design Matters

These are good, simple and fundamental principles that we talk about daily in our practices and often with clients. Sometimes we even mention them in public forums. But do we practice these in our work? Do we actually apply them in our projects and, if so, how consistently?

What both Lynn Sawyer and the CEO are saying is that they, too, believe in these principles but don't know how to reconcile the contradictions. They are not, nor do they pretend to be, architects or designers. Yet they know they can affect change if they speak out about what they want. It's up to us to help them make it a reality. It's up to us to bring the design perspective and values to making our communities more livable. It's not going to happen overnight, nor is it going to be easy. But as a strong and consistent voice, it is going to make a difference.

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On the cover: House on a Pond in Maine by architects Alan Weiskopf, AIA and Kevin Wagstaff, AIA.

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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The So-Not-So-Big-House

By Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA

My house is too small.

Like every house I have ever been to, the guests always try to gather in the kitchen. Without displacing major appliances there is room for one guest and maybe their emaciated double. The dining room table serves many purposes all of which try to occur simultaneously. The half bath lives under the staircase. My 83-year-old babysitter claims she

was once stuck in my too small bathroom. To date, I have been too polite to ask how she extricated herself. When it rains, which it does a lot, the backyard turns into a mini lake. My neighbor tells me that the only time the backyard was dry was when one of the previous owners planted a weeping willow tree. That's pretty telling when you consider that weeping willows grow best next to a body of water or in a swampy environment.



Never had I imagined what he proposed and it was perfect for the way my family lives.

You might ask why I ever bought the house. For one, it was close to where I lived at the time and it was in my price range. I liked the house because of the neighborhood, the neighborhood school, the light-filled first floor and the funky glass block that runs down the front of the house. When it isn't raining it has a generous backyard. True to form, I started drawing alternate floor plans the day I moved in. After all, I read trade publications until they are coming out my ears. I have read or at least seriously perused all of Sarah Susanka's books and I have a whole shelf of home improvement books. I thought I had envisioned every possible scenario but, just to check, I called an architect. I answered his questions about my family's lifestyle and my aspirations for my home. We agreed on a price for conceptual drawings and off he went. Several weeks later when we met again, I was astonished. Never had I imagined what he proposed and it was perfect for the way my family lives.

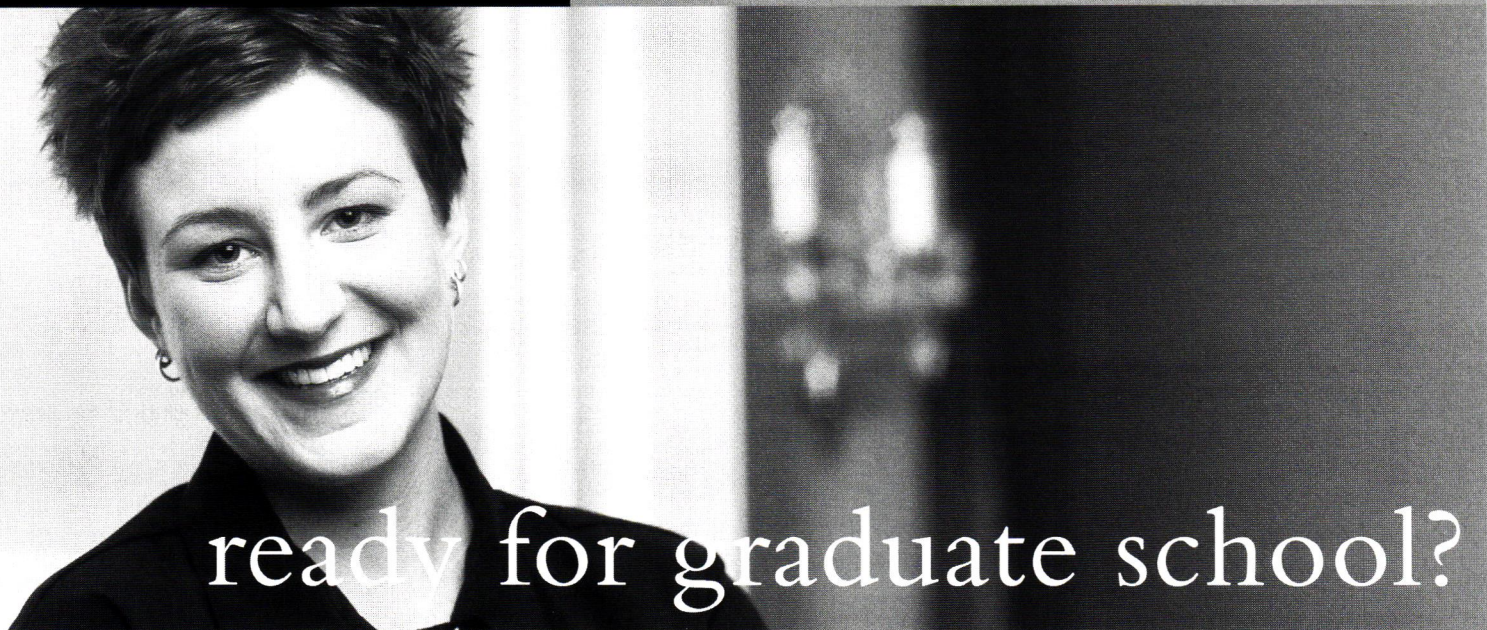
Fast forward to 5 years later. We still haven't built the addition. We got sidetracked, looked for other houses, questioned whether it was worth the money, etc. Frustrated with the muddy dog from the muddy backyard, I called a landscape architect. Out she came on a truly cold day with the backyard looking its worst. Once again we discussed how my family lived in the backyard. In a matter of weeks I had the plans for another truly remarkable solution but my house was still too small. So after much discussion we decided, finally, to take the plunge.

Our next step is getting it all priced and asking the landscape architect to redo the backyard plans to accommodate the addition. Then we will deal with the lake effect and then add on while redoing the heating and cooling systems. You can check my sanity in November!

Meanwhile, my next door neighbors, just starting in their careers and with two young children, are putting on an addition as well. Since they are both quite handy they decided they could save money by relying on their own common sense. The result, unfortunately, is an addition that looks like a lean-to patched on to their house. An architect would have made all the difference.

The houses featured in the pages of this month's *Columns*, all beautifully designed by architects of course, speak to the aspirations of their owners. Although the owners are from different income brackets, different types of families and different neighborhoods, they share one thing in common: the desire to have their living space reflect the way they want to live. Luckily for them they invested in an architect up front and early to help them make the best decisions on how to realize their aspirations. I am just starting the process but I am looking forward to it (except perhaps the part about living in a construction site). Stay tuned for future installments.





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A Good Friend Says Goodbye

After a long (40 years) and illustrious career as an architect, Alan L. Fishman, AIA, of IKM, Inc. retired in late January, and moved to his Florida home. We will remember him fondly through his many contributions to the region. That includes his years of membership on the Communications Committee of AIA Pittsburgh where he always came up with good ideas for *Columns* magazine and will be greatly missed. He was principal-in-charge of many notable projects such as the adaptive reuse of the old Allegheny County Jail, the Hillman Cancer Center, Founder's Hall at Lockhaven University, and the Food Science Building at Penn State's main campus (currently under construction), soon to be the new home of The Creamery, their ice cream shop institution. In addition, Alan also worked on the renovation of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's facilities and, as president of the board, he was very involved in renovations to Riverview Towers, a Jewish retirement community. He was also past president of the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society and was very involved with the Rotary. He was the architect for a clinic Rotary built in Nicaragua, which was featured in a *Columns* magazine article.

A graduate of Cornell University, Alan received his Master of Architecture from M.I.T. in 1962. He was honored by the Biddle Scholarship for the Study of Architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts Americaine, Fontainebleau, France and he was a recipient of the AIA medal at Cornell University and the U.S. Government Fulbright-Hays Grant for the Study of Architecture in Italy.

We will miss him dearly, and wish him and his wife all the best.



Alan Fishman, AIA



Carnegie Mellon Commits to Green Buildings

Carnegie Mellon University's Henderson House, renovated and expanded by RSH Architects, has achieved LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The historic student residence, one of the original dormitories commissioned by Andrew Carnegie, was designed as part of his "Carnegie Technical School" by renowned architect Henry Hornbostel. In 2002, Carnegie Mellon commissioned RSH Architects to develop plans for renovation and expansion of the building's occupancy from 40 to 60 students, providing contemporary suite-style accommodations. The renovation virtually reconstructed the building within the existing exterior walls, added a third floor and provided total accessibility to all functional areas. The building serves a health-conscience segment of the student body with amenities such as a fitness room and common kitchen and dining facilities.

Carnegie Mellon is committed to environmentally sustainable design and has adopted a policy to seek LEED certification for all construction projects. Henderson House is the campus's second LEED Silver certified student residence, following New House (2003) which was the first LEED-certified college housing in the United States.

"We responded successfully to several significant challenges in the design of Henderson House", said David Noss, AIA, principal and project manager for RSH Architects. "The building sat over a geological fault, which required a completely new foundation system for the reconstruction. Material selections meet or exceed recycled content requirements, yet conform to life safety code mandates and the university's stringent service and performance standards.

Henderson House shares a common site with Welsh House, whose renovations were also designed by RSH Architects. As part of the total project, new utility and emergency system service distribution was provided across the improved site. Construction was completed for student occupancy by August, 2003. RSH Interiors, the firm's affiliate, provided complimentary furnishing and finish designs, also in conformance with LEED requirements.

Carnegie Museum of Art presents

Michael Maltzan: Alternate Ground

The first complete monographic exhibition dedicated to the work of Michael Maltzan and his Los Angeles-based practice, Michael Maltzan Architecture, will be on view in the Heinz Architectural Center of Carnegie Museum of Art now through June 12, 2005. Organized by Carnegie Museum of Art curator of architecture Raymund Ryan, the exhibition is designed, like the architect's work, to encourage the pleasure of promenade and a sense of discovery.

Since 1995, Maltzan has built innovative private homes and educational spaces, mostly in the Los Angeles area. His Hergott/Shepard residence in Beverly Hills was included in *The Un-Private House* at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1999, and his Kidspace Children's Museum—currently under construction in Pasadena, California—was selected for the 2002 Venice Biennale International Exhibition of Architecture. Maltzan designed MoMA QNS, the temporary space used to house the Museum of Modern Art collection while the permanent building was closed for expansion and renovation. He is also the architect of the 2004–5 *Carnegie International*, concurrently at Carnegie Museum of Art.

"We are fortunate," says Ryan, "to be able to present the work of an architect who is clearly establishing a position in the international culture of architecture." As well as his many American commissions, Maltzan has recently won projects in Jinhua, China and Milan, Italy.

LEEDing the Charge

The Coro Center for Civic Leadership was awarded a Gold LEED-CI (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design in Commercial Interiors) certification, the first in the state to achieve a LEED-CI. Rebecca Flora, board member of USGBC and Executive Director of the Green Building Alliance, presented the gold plaque in a recent ceremony.

The Coro Center, a non-profit leadership development and civic engagement group, built out their new offices in the former South Side industrial and warehouse complex in the spring of 2003.

"Pittsburgh has been a national leader in green building efforts. This Leadership Award in Design reinforces this region's role as an innovator and notes best practices in Green Building, and that is something Coro is proud to have adopted," said Diana Bucco, their executive director.

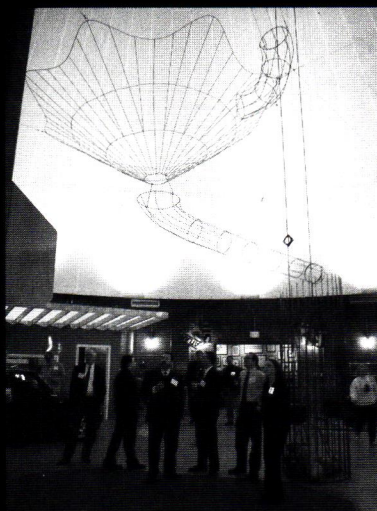
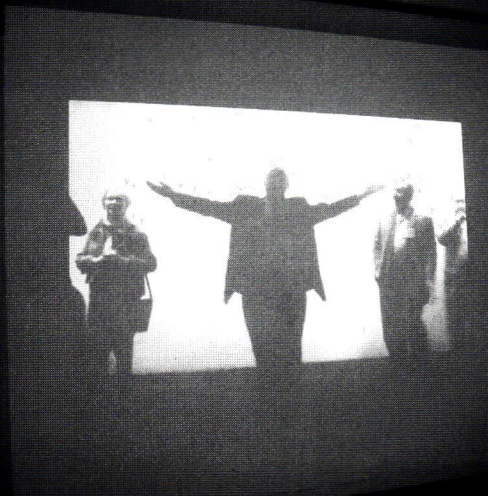
Coro worked closely with Jendoco Construction Corporation, Terminal Way Properties, Renaissance 3 Architects, P.C. and the Green Building Alliance to ensure all design and construction principles met the LEED Gold Certification standard.

Highlights from some of the Coro specifications include: 82% of the build out materials were salvaged; 99% of the construction was diverted from landfills – the materials will be recycled or used for clean fill; 51% of the materials utilized were regionally manufactured and 100% of the energy utilized is green certified renewable, wind generated power.

The Coro Center for Civic Leadership's natural light-filled, airy and state-of-the-art offices have also garnered a Historic Preservation Award from the City of Pittsburgh as well as a Masters Builders Association 2004 Building Excellence Award in the Design-Build Category.

Coro Center for Civic Leadership is part of a 60-year old national nonprofit leadership development organization that recently celebrated its fifth anniversary in Pittsburgh. Coro seeks to strengthen communities and the democratic process by preparing individuals for effective and ethical leadership in the public affairs arena. There are currently 600 graduates from Pittsburgh-based programs.

JANUARY MEMBER MEETING



LEFT: Elmer Burger II, AIA of Astorino is poetry in motion as he toys with the letters on the screen. They move with your movement. How cool is that? Great fun was had by all who attended AIA Pittsburgh's new member party at the newly expanded and renovated and thoroughly delightful Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. It's not often we get to play in these places without kids around—and with drinks in hand. We're not naming names but some held tantrums when it was time to go.

RIGHT: While balls zip around overhead, members enjoy the mini-Cooper and various tinkering activities in the garage.

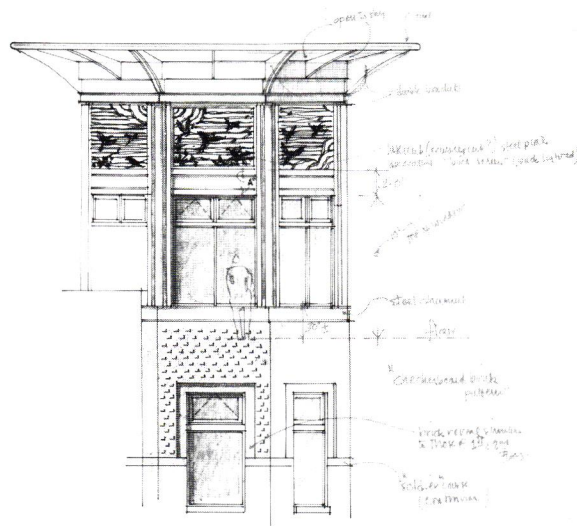
TAKING UP RESIDENCE

By Tracy Certo

From a simple but striking cabin on the water, to a fabulous multi-million dollar home atop Pittsburgh, COLUMNS presents inspired solutions in residential architecture



At Blackbird Lofts, the upper three floors of the tower will feature two different units with the upper unit occupying the top 2 floors. Above the top windows in the tower will be a backlit screen with a blackbird scene cut out of it.



Blackbird Lofts and Artist Studios

When completed this summer, Blackbird Lofts will be the first newly constructed building in the 6th Ward on Butler Street since the 1960's. The 35,000 square-foot red brick building, with a simple buff striping, will anchor the corner area of the western entrance of the Lawrenceville neighborhood (36th St.) complementing the historic character of Butler St. As part of an ongoing revitalization, Blackbird Lofts will add to the vitality of this urban neighborhood and it will be the first mixed use building in the area designed to be LEED certified.

On the ground floor, Blackbird Artist Studios will occupy two-thirds of the retail space while a courtyard facing the street could be used as an outdoor café or restaurant seating area. The second floor will house seven units, from 830 square feet to 1675 square feet, with eight more units with mezzanine and terraces on the third floor. Underground parking in a 10,000 square foot space will be available.

Developed by Blackbird Development LLC, a project of Artists and Cities, Inc., the site was first recently obtained by the Province of St. Augustine Monastery, Capuchin Order. It was optioned to the Lawrenceville Corporation and then purchased by Blackbird Development who worked with the community to add residential and artist space.

All of the detailing on the building, from the railings on the French doors to the terraces and canopies, will be steel assemblies of Strada's design.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 35,000 plus 10,000 garage/basement

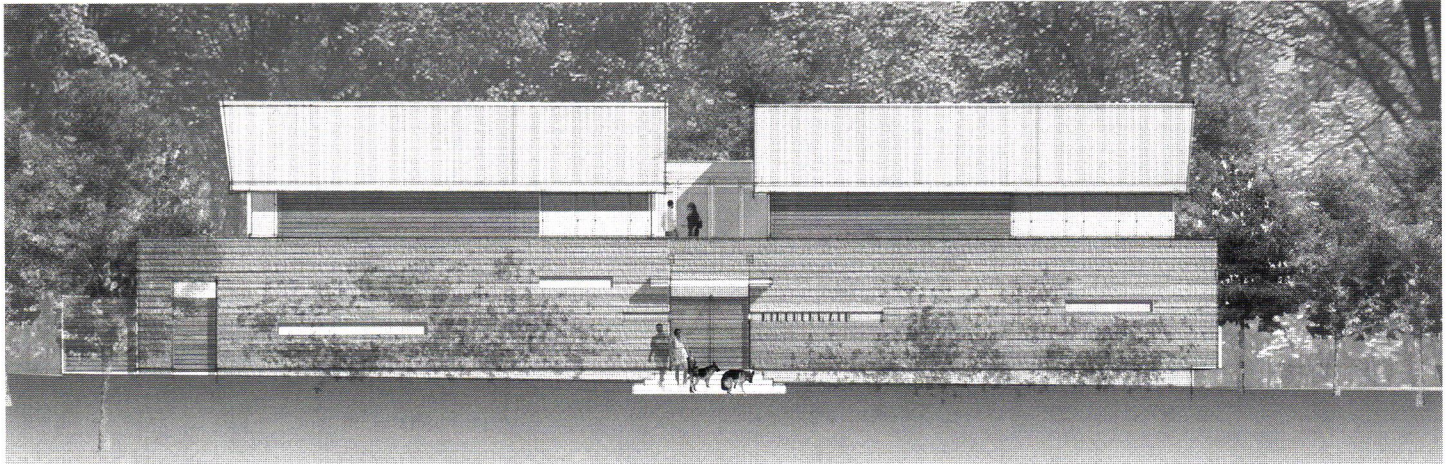
EST. COMPLETION DATE: Summer 2005

CLIENT: Blackbird Development LLC

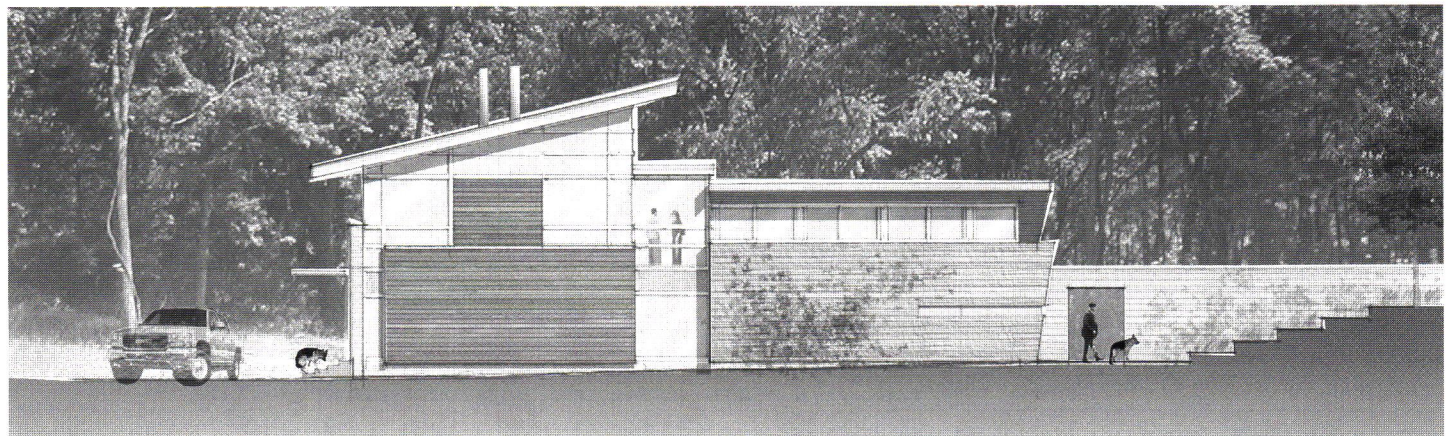
PROJECT TEAM: John A. Martine, AIA, Alan J. Cuteri, AIA, Sean Beasley, Assoc. AIA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Sota Construction

CONSULTANTS: Steven Winter — energy modeling
Lovorn Engineering — commissioning



The main living space of this sustainable house is elevated 12 feet to capture breezes and natural shade.



Located on a 40-acre site in West Deer Twp., this house is one of four structures including the tower below and a planned building for indoor pool and music room.

Room to Roam

You could say this place, with a completion date of early summer, is already going to the dogs.

The sustainable four-component project in West Deer Twp was designed for a couple and 10 German Shepherds, not necessarily in that order. The wife is a breeder who will use the 40-acre site for dog training and competition. From the tower with its apartment suite and viewing platform, she can overlook the "amazing" site, says IKM architect Sonny Sanjari. He explains that the tower was originally part of the 3,000 square foot main house. During design development, the architects suggested moving it to take advantage of the site. Now it will serve as a gateway to the property as people—or dogs, as the case may be—approach from the woods.

The tower, main house and the kennel (with plans for the fourth building for an indoor swimming pool and music room) are being constructed of board-formed concrete, white cedar and roof of galvalume—all in a neutral and earthy cedar gray palette meant to mimic the native winter landscape.

Water from the roof will be captured, stored in underground tanks and treated for primary use in the main house as well as the kennels. An existing well will act as the secondary source for water if needed.

Other sustainable features include triple glazed windows by Loewen, radiant floor heating, geothermal systems for hot and cold water for the floor and air conditioning, and circulating fans. FSC-certified American cherry wood, the most dimensionally stable for radiant floor systems, from Kane, PA will be used.

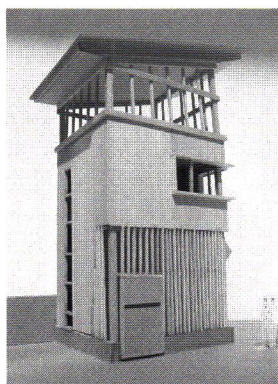
Not that the German Shepherds will notice but the solar orientation of the house will be evident by the massing on the north, which is relatively closed. The south is open to views,

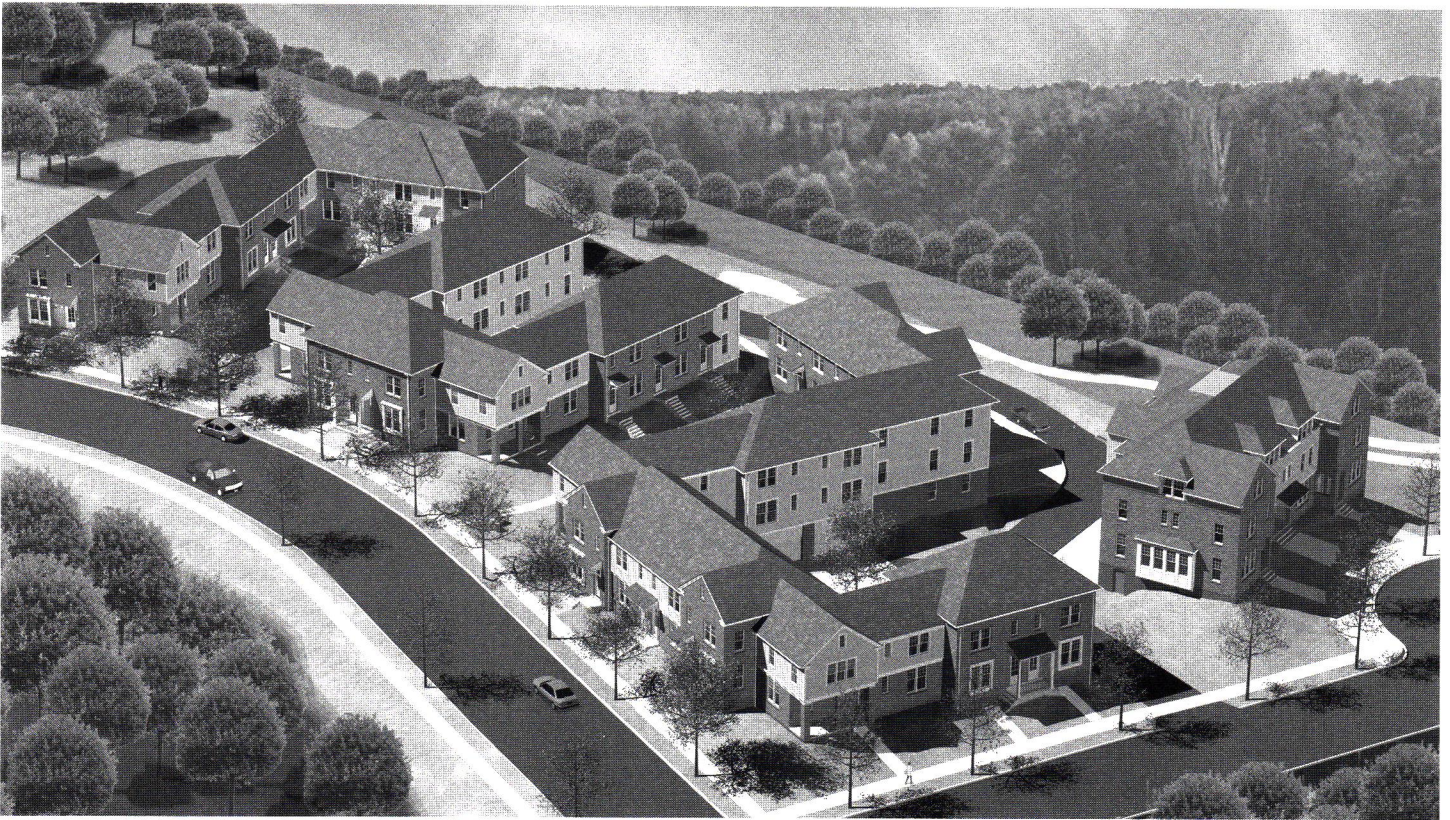
light and heat from the sun. Native materials such as Pennsylvania blue-stone are being used in the courtyard as well as the interior of the house. A balcony in the middle of the house will separate the private from public areas.

With the courtyard scheme of the main house, the all-glass façade will allow for maximum heat from the sun in the winter while shading devices will cool things down in the summer. To capture breezes and natural shade, the main living space is being elevated 12 feet. It all adds up to a unique and wonderful retreat for owners and those lucky dogs.

PROJECT TEAM: Mike Marcu, AIA, Jim Taylor, AIA, LEED Accredited, Sonny Sanjari, LEED Accredited, Margaret Cannell, AIA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Clearview Project Services Company





The challenge for the site planning, says architect Kevin Wagstaff, AIA was fitting 40 units on a deep but not large lot, with a 16-foot grade change from west to east, without having garages face the street.



The Reserve at Summerset

Summerset at Frick Park, a new community that will eventually contain 713 homes, is transforming abandoned steel slag heaps in the City of Pittsburgh into a new traditional neighborhood overlooking reforested hillsides and an expanded Frick Park. Like other memorable Pittsburgh neighborhoods, Summerset has tree-lined streets with sidewalks, raised front lawns to porches, and a variety of housing options. Gently sloping streets offer dramatic views to the surrounding landscape and the Monongahela River.

The Reserve at Summerset consists of forty new market-rate rental townhouses arranged in multiple groups fronting two streets and defining two landscaped pedestrian courtyards that extend into the deep lot. Units have an integral basement garage, important from a marketing standpoint, screened from the street with access from the rear by an alley. The brick and cement-bard siding rental units, ranging from a one-bedroom "garret" apartment to two and three bedroom townhouses, are compatible with the high-end houses across the alley that sell for \$300-700,000.

Designed for high energy efficiency, each unit has very low air infiltration and underwent blower door testing through IBACOS, the Pittsburgh-based nonprofit.

An unusual aspect of the interiors is that they're designed for two adults such as grad students, who are not family. Consequently, there are two full bedroom suites with bath that are of equal size.

ARCHITECTS: Leonard Perfido, AIA and Kevin Wagstaff, AIA

CONTRACTOR: Mistick Construction Company

GRAND AWARD, *Residential Architect Magazine, February 2005*



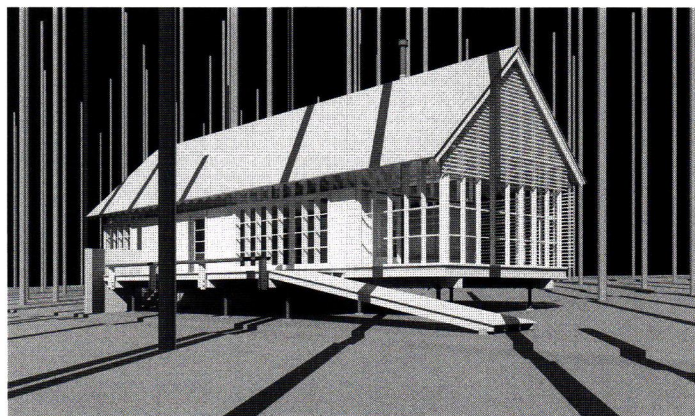
A major part of the architectural expression is the exposed wood-frame structure of the interior of the house.

House on a Pond in Maine

Situated on a heavily wooded low lying property on a pond in Maine, this three-season house is understated in form in keeping with the tradition of rustic cabins on ponds. Four primary components to the house include: the anchoring cast-in-place concrete foundation, an exposed wood frame structure, a sheltering galvalume roof, and a thin skin of glazing and siding. Materials are ordinary and readily available.

Due to the low site, the first floor was raised five feet above grade to improve the view. This is about making a sequence of experience that celebrates the process of arriving and passing through the house, out to the deck and down the ramp to a small beach.

ARCHITECTS: Alan Weiskopf, AIA and Kevin Wagstaff, AIA



This understated but visually striking house received the Grand Award from Residential Architect as this magazine was going to press.



Although it looks like it's been there for many decades, this Second Empire Victorian beauty is actually new construction.

The Pirrung McCann Residence

Everything New is Old Again

The best compliment owners of this Victorian house receive is: "What a fantastic restoration!" Although the style is true Second Empire, the construction is—surprise—new. Inside is 3200 square feet of contemporary space with a kitchen-family room combo, radiant heat floors and modern mechanicals—not to mention 11 window seats and a suite for the couple's daughters on the third floor in the mansard.

The budget was tight in the \$350,000 project, said architect Roy Penner, AIA. Another surprise: they used standard materials in everything, including brackets, molding, and porch railings. Four fully finished floors house everything from an office and guest bedroom to a dark room and archive room in the basement for the wife's family records which date back to pre-Civil War.

In keeping with the old-house look, Penner tucked it into the four-acre site amidst existing mature trees and landscaping. A great success, the house was featured on a PBS show on reproduction houses.



Dream Big, Build Local

"This house is about 'interaction'," says its architect Paul Smith, who was with Burt Hill at the time. "We have woven form, space, light and city to elevate the experience of daily life. We not only wanted a dramatic view of the city—we wanted it to envelop you and your senses."

That it does. This one-of-a-kind aluminum and glass house is on a site that offers sensational views of the city it helps celebrate. Organized around an outdoor terrace, the three-story house reveals sweeping views while allowing for privacy from the neighborhood. Owners Peter Karlovich, a Pittsburgh native who founded then sold a Pittsburgh high-tech company that netted him a fortune, and Steve Herforth, his partner, designed the house in part to showcase the talent here in Pittsburgh, from Kolano Design to resources from Perlora, Weisshouse, Tile & Design and Kitchen Design Center.

The result is a local sensation.

Taking full advantage of the lot perched on 207 Bailey, the wrap-around house allows for great views from a number of vantage points. The owners' favorite view is the cross-view from Herforth's office in the first wing. It takes in the courtyard below with the infinity pool, hot tub and in-ground fire pits, and the living area wing beyond that. During a party—and there are many; the 25-room house accommodates 400 comfortably—they can see three levels of the living area as well as the courtyard alive with activity.

Peter and Steve were both very hands-on in the project, from designing the house inside-out to achieve its many goals, to being on-site every day. "They were extraordinary in their willingness to explore different ideas," says Smith. That's reflected in this Smart House, a technological wonder that houses no less than eight miles of wiring to monitor temperature, security, and lighting from eight different touch-screens. Eleven sets of blinds lower and raise automatically to control sunlight. In the kitchen the "Icebox" with its drop-down computer screen offers T.V., radio, and Internet—plus a wireless keyboard that can be washed in the nearby sink. It is a home, says Smith, that perfectly matches the clients' needs and lifestyle. With its completion in April of 2004, the owners have generously opened their creation to friends, family and a number of arts and political organizations. The environment is completely flexible in how the owners use and respond to it. So while it just could be the best party house in town, it's completely comfortable for the two owners once the guests depart.

Sure, they could have built a dream house anywhere in the world. But they chose to stay here. "Steve and Peter's decision to stay in and participate in this city's life will surely impact the future of Pittsburgh," Smith offers. We think it already has.



PHOTOS BY: MARIA BEVILACQUA

"This terrace becomes its heart – I love how people interact, across the courtyard, on all three occupied levels. This house succeeds in many ways," says architect Paul Smith.



ARCHITECT: Paul Smith and Jean Cardone

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Jon Withrow & William Kolano, Kolano Design—space planning, furniture, finishes, electrical and lighting layouts/specifications

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Havrilla Construction

LIGHTING: LaFace McGovern

HVAC: J.A. Sauer

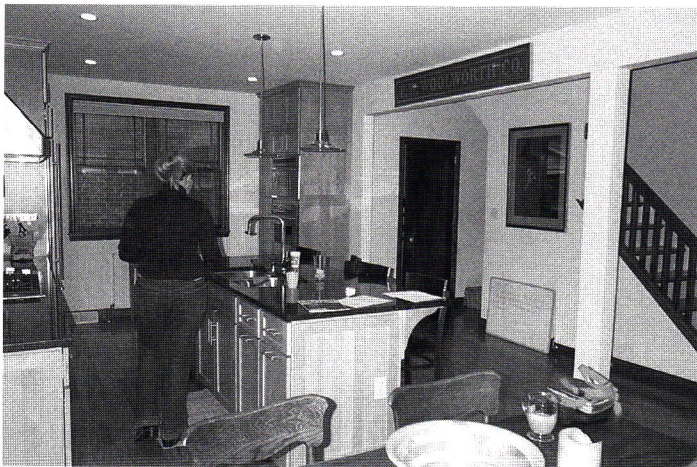
WOODWORKING: P.C. Woodworking, Patrick Herforth (Monongahela)

AUTOMATION WIRING: MGM Automation

This lifestyle-indulgent house includes everything from an elegant all-wood wine room to two saunas and a workout room, dance floor and DJ booth. And that's just the ground floor.

AN ARCHITECT TO LEAD THE WAY:

How homeowners benefit from hiring architects



What was once a tight square kitchen is now an expansive kitchen/family room/office area (not shown) with the elimination of a few walls. The owner greatly appreciates the efficiency of the kitchen and enjoys working in the new space.

When Rochelle and Marcus Eubanks found the home of their dreams, it was more of a dream than a home. The 100-year-old Arts and Crafts style house had almost everything they were looking for, but had been empty for 5 years and was in desperate need of renovation. "We thought that we could, with a few alterations, make the house into a livable space for us," recalls Rochelle, a nurse, student and mother of two. After going on a walkthrough with a contractor to get an idea of the cost of the project, it became clear that they would need to consult an architect to discuss some design concepts. So they called the Renovation Information NetworkSM (RIN), a program of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP), to sign up for a two hour, in-home consultation with an architect.

They were matched with Mary Cerrone, AIA, who, after an initial consultation through RIN, was hired to help them put their design ideas for the kitchen and bathroom to paper. "Mary fit into our plans because she was willing to help us with specific areas, and had a feel for what we wanted the house to be when it was finished. She let us know what was possible and what wasn't, and how to get to the end point," says Rochelle.

Pittsburgh's residential architecture lends tremendous character to its neighborhoods. A short walk through the East End will reveal stunning examples of Italianate, Four Square, Greek Revival, Victorian and Arts and Crafts homes, many of which retain the important details that identify that particular style. For a community with many older homes, guidance from a design professional on how to invest wisely in a renovation project is a priceless resource. Unfortunately, many homeowners proceed with renovations without first consulting an architect, and the results can be detrimental to the home and community. Throughout Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods the evidence of poor renovation decisions is obvious: bricked-in and ill-fitting replacement windows, the ugly "scars" left behind when porches are torn from façades. These renovation mistakes can be costly to the homeowner, and reduce property values for the neighborhood as a whole. Moreover, the quality of life inside the house can suffer from poor planning and disregard of the original "flow" of the space.

"For us, the architect was essential. We had a good idea about what we wanted to do, but I don't think you realize how many choices you have to make in the process."

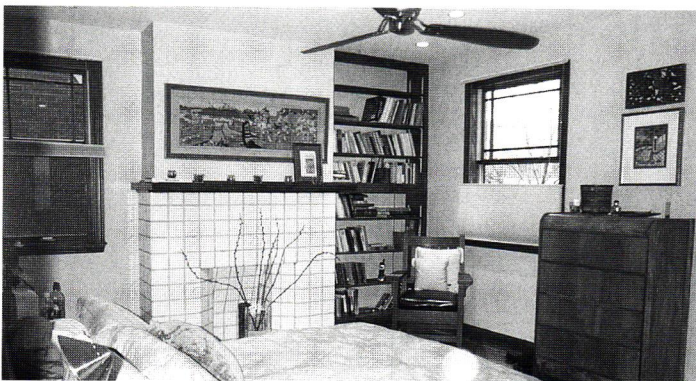
— ROCHELLE EUBANKS,
RIN CLIENT

And that is just the big picture. On a smaller scale, many well-meaning homeowners who are interested in historically sensitive renovations just don't know where to access the design resources they need, or that those resources exist at all. Something as straightforward as choosing paint colors for a Victorian home can be daunting without a palate or a

professional to guide you. Then there is the hectic pace of a renovation project, combined with the vast number of decisions to be made, which can overwhelm any well-meaning homeowner into making hasty decisions that may compromise the original integrity of the home. Hiring an architect to help with the multiple design choices can alleviate a great deal of the pressures that arise in residential renovation projects. "I could call [Mary] to bounce ideas off of her when I was making decisions," says Rochelle. "She would offer opinions, like choosing the European style radiators, which tiles to use in the bathroom, and figuring out what materials would work with the overall idea of the project. She was very, very resourceful."

A year and a half after she called the Renovation Information NetworkSM looking for the advice of an architect, Rochelle Eubanks sips coffee in her sunlit dining room, adjacent to a stunning and completely rebuilt kitchen and sunroom. Her dog Sealy sleeps peacefully in a rattan chair by the patio door, also part of Mary's plan for the dining area. "Mary helped guide us through the thought process on how we function in the kitchen. She designed the kitchen layout, which we are thrilled with," she says. An investment of over \$300,000 has resulted in the Eubank's dream home becoming a reality, and they couldn't have done it without the help of an architect. "For us, the architect was essential," says Rochelle. "We had a good idea about what we wanted to do, but I don't think you realize how many choices you have to make in the process. It helps to have as many people as you can trust involved in the process, but an architect definitely to lead the way."

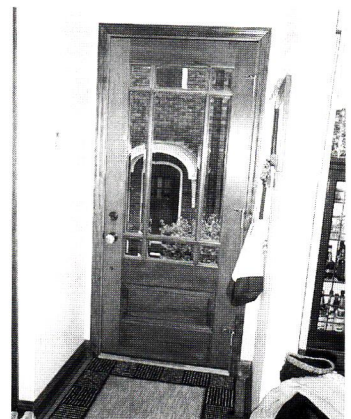
Renovation Information NetworkSM needs the involvement of Pittsburgh's architect, landscape architects and interior designers to meet the residential design needs of our communities. To become a volunteer in our program, or to learn more about the programs and services of the CDCP, contact Tara Merenda, Program Coordinator, at 412-391-4333.



The master bedroom was updated with a new master bath and walk-in closet. The original tile fireplace mantel was restored and floors were refinished creating a fresh and appealing space.



To create an open loft space, they removed walls and ceiling to make a new, higher ceiling that follows rafters.



Side doors, before and after



Adjacent to the kitchen/family room is the sunroom, part of the small addition that made a big impact.

From the Firms

→ The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission recently awarded **Astorino** an open-end, two-year engineering services contract to perform mechanical, electrical, plumbing (MEP) design and construction services for a variety of building projects in the Western part of the state (districts one, two and three).

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering and Interior Design was selected as Master Architects for Admiral Wilson Boulevard Commercial Corridor in Camden, New Jersey. The 634,000+ sf project, developed with New Markets, LLC and the City of Camden is a combination of neighborhood and destination retailers, top-notch commercial and light industrial applications and residential units to collectively transform the location into a unique destination.

Mistick Construction was awarded the contract for renovations to Robert Morris University's John Jay Center. The renovations include four presentation classrooms and laboratories for engineering, chemistry, physics, microbiology, anatomy and physiology. The current ballroom will be redesigned to include a second floor mezzanine with faculty offices. The architect for the project is **L. Robert Kimball & Associates**.

Massaro Corporation is providing general construction services for a 53-room, four-story addition to Oglebay Park's Wilson Lodge located in Wheeling, West Virginia. Massaro was also awarded two projects on the University of Pittsburgh campus: a ventilation system upgrade at the Chevron Science Center and a four-story, 50,000 sf laboratory classroom addition to Pitt's Clapp, Langley and Crawford Halls. Massaro is also completing an interior renovation to Magee Women's Hospital's Radiology Imaging Suite.

Business Briefs

→ **Strada** has hired **Matthew L. Diersen, Assoc. AIA**, as an architectural intern.

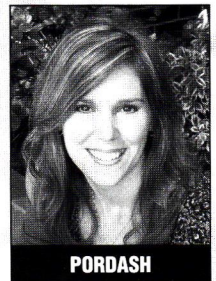
Eckles Architecture, Inc. has hired **Frederick C. Watts, AIA**, as project manager/architect and Russell R. Oft, Jr. P.E. as engineering studio manager. Brian L. Fulkerson has joined the Construction Administration Department

Zarro & Associates is now **UrbanView Inc. Historic & Ecological Architecture: Research – Design – Management**. The firm will continue to contribute to environmental sustainability by focusing on restoration, renovation and rehab of urban structures.

Apostolou Associates recently hired Stephen Connell as a designer.

The Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania hired Jon O'Brien as director of communications. Bernadette Shawgo, former MBA Controller, will fill the newly created position of director of committee administration.

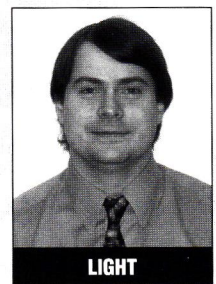
Cadnetics has hired Billie Pordash as Director of Administrative Services/Marketing.



PORDASH

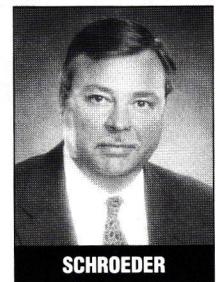
Kudos

→ **Jeffrey D. Light AIA**, of **Eckles Architecture, Inc.**, has joined the **AIA Pittsburgh Legislative Committee**. Mr. Light is Interim president of the newly formed Western PA Building Enclosure Council, an autonomous organization with support from the AIA, The National Institute of Building Services (NIBS) and Building Environment and Thermal Envelope Council (BETEC). For more information on the Western PA BEC, send your email address to BuildingEnclosure@yahoo.com



LIGHT

Ted Schroeder, AIA, of **RSH Architects**, was elected President of the Pittsburgh Builders Exchange for 2005 by the Board of Directors on December 3, 2004.



SCHROEDER

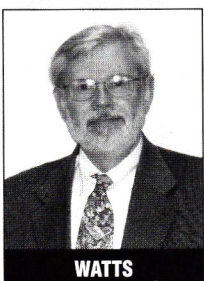
Astorino announced that Michael G. Zeuger and Dennis R. Scarfo passed the National Council on Qualifications for Lighting Professionals (NCQLP) Lighting Certification examination to earn the prestigious Lighting Certification (LC).



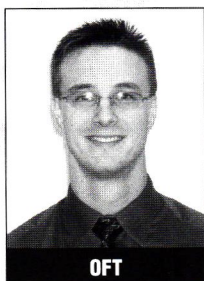
ZEUGER



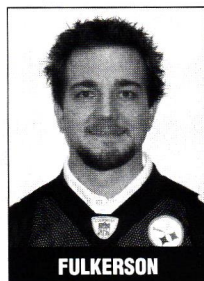
SCARFO



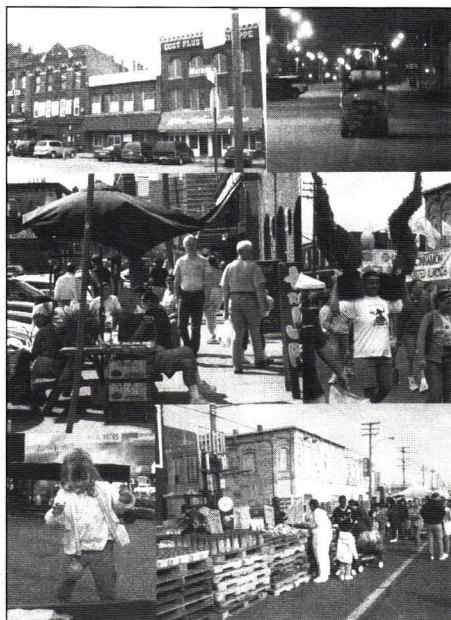
WATTS



OFT



FULKERSON



Edward A. Shriver, Jr., AIA, of **Strada**, recently served on an Urban Land Institute (ULI) advisory panel to discuss the revitalization of the Eastern Market neighborhood in Detroit, MI (pictured above). Eastern Market is the historic center of food distribution in the Southeastern region of Michigan, and includes wholesale distribution, a public farmers market in operation for over 100 years, and retail/entertainment that has grown up around the food industry.

The Westmoreland Conservation Education Center building, a 120 year-old barn that has been converted into an office classroom facility for the conservation district in 2002, has been included in a new book entitled: *Old Barns-New Homes: A Showcase of Architectural Conversions* published and recently released by Schiffer. **Glance and Associates** was the architect for this project.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering and Interior Design announced the naming of the following employees as LEED Accredited Professionals™ by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC): **Richard Oziemblowsky, AIA**, Jennifer L. Lindemuth and Ernest Joy.

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RD1 Cheswick, PA 15024

BUILD



pittsburgh

A Blueprint for the Region

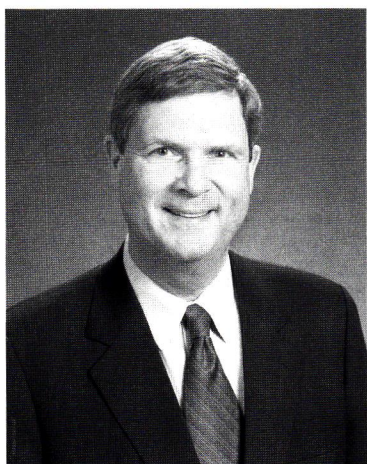
AIA PITTSBURGH'S 4TH ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

MARCH 17-18, 2005

UNION TRUST BUILDING

KEYNOTE: GOVERNOR THOMAS J. VILSACK OF IOWA
"Renaissance and Renewal: Pittsburgh's Heritage and Future"



Thomas J. Vilsack

A Pittsburgh native who grew up in Squirrel Hill, Governor Vilsack retains a deep appreciation and respect for our region's heritage that is rooted in a strong work ethic, enduring neighborhood pride, and civic responsibility. As a product of this environment, the Governor understands the character and leadership that has enabled Pittsburgh to renew and redefine itself through two Renaissances. In his own political career, he has applied those virtues together with a strategic vision and clarity of purpose to position Iowa for growth and progress in the twenty-first century. Governor Vilsack created an agenda of programs that re-asserted the importance of education, jobs-creation, quality of life, and economic growth for his state.

"His success and insights are relevant to our region as we confront the problems of a decaying downtown, urban sprawl, an aging infrastructure and diminished tax base," says Tom Briney, AIA of Astorino. "And especially as we create a blueprint for our own region and its livability."

Vilsack received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York in 1972, and received a law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. He was elected mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa in 1987, and was elected to the Iowa Senate in 1992. In 1998 he became Iowa's first Democratic governor in more than 30 years, and was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002. 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

Breakfast and Keynote: Friday, March 18, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
William Penn Ballroom, Omni William Penn Hotel

Earn up to 12 Learning Units

TRACK 1: Creating a Blueprint for the Region

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

SESSION 1 8:30 – 10:00 AM
Award Winning Architecture in Pittsburgh
Stephen L. Quick, AIA, Perkins Eastman
1.5 AIA/CES LUs

SESSION 2 10:30 AM – NOON
Allegheny County's Comprehensive Plan
Lynn Heckman and Marilyn Gelzhiser, Planning
Division, Allegheny County Department of
Economic Development 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

SESSION 3 1:00 – 2:30 PM
The Future of Pittsburgh's Hillside
Stephen L. Quick, AIA, Perkins Eastman
1.5 AIA/CES LUs

SESSION 4 3:00 – 4:30 PM
**The American Indian Housing Initiative:
Bridging Education and the Profession
Under the Big Sky**
Scott Wing, PSU School of Architecture &
Landscape Architecture 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

SESSION 5 10:30 AM – NOON
The State of Pittsburgh
Moe Coleman, Institute of Politics,
University of Pittsburgh 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

SESSION 6 1:00 – 2:30 PM
Lessons of Livable Communities
Kate Schwennson, FAIA, and David Downey, CAE,
Assoc. AIA, AIA National 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 7 3:00 – 4:30 PM
**Redevelopment of the LTV Coke Works
Site, Hazelwood – Panel Discussion with:**
Henry S. Beukema, McCune Foundation,
Donald Carter, FAIA, Urban Design Associates,
Bill Stephenson, Regional Industrial Development
Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania.
1.5 AIA/CES LUs

TRACK 2: Moving Your Practice Into the Future

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

SESSION 1 8:30 – 10:00 AM
**Should I Start My Own Design Firm? –
Panel Discussion with:** Edward Shriver, AIA,
Strada, Daniel Rothschild, AIA, Rothschild Doyne
Architects, Dutch MacDonald, AIA, EDGE studio,
Paula R. Maynes, AIA, Maynes Associates
Architects 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

SESSION 2 10:30 AM – NOON
**Crimes & Misdemeanors: Everyday Ethics
Violations Occurring in Your Office**
Thomas J. Briney, AIA, Astorino
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 3 1:00 – 2:30 PM
**Construction Administration: Project Delay –
How is This My Fault?**
Robert J. Ray, Esq., Burns, White & Hickton, LLC
and Quintin Kittle, Assoc. AIA, Perkins Eastman
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 4 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Protecting Your Intellectual Property
John P. Sieminski, Esq., and Chad A. Wissinger, Esq.
Burns, White & Hickton, LLC 1.5 AIA/CES LUs

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

SESSION 5 10:30 AM – NOON
**Are Your Contract Documents Living a
Life of Their Own?**
Ronald Dellaria, CSI, Astorino 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 6 1:00 – 2:30 PM
**Learn From Someone Else's Experience:
Design Professional Litigation in the Past
Two Years** David J. Hickton, Esq., Robert J. Ray,
Esq., and Michael J. Cremonese, Esq., Burns, White
& Hickton, LLC 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 7 3:00 – 4:30 PM
**Management of Electronic Information
in Your Practice** John P. Sieminski, Esq., Burns,
White & Hickton, LLC and Quintin Kittle, Assoc. AIA,
Perkins Eastman 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

TRACK 3: New Technology for Today and Tomorrow

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

SESSION 1 8:30 – 10:00 AM
**High Performance Schools: Where Are
We Headed?** Robert J. Kobet, AIA
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 2 10:30 – NOON
**Technology Systems Engineering: Trends in
Safety Security and Communications**
Chuck Urso, PE, and Mike Mason, LLI Engineering
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 3 1:00 – 2:30 PM
MasterFormat 2004 Changes
Ken Hercenberg, Assoc. AIA, RTKL Associates Inc.
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 4 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Project Resource Manual
Ken Hercenberg, Assoc. AIA, RTKL Associates Inc.
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

FRIDAY MARCH 18

SESSION 5 10:30 – NOON
**Changing the Way We Work: Generating
Construction Documents Through 3-D
Modeling** Martin Schmid, Autodesk Building
Systems Industry Expert 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

SESSION 6 1:00 – 2:30 PM
**Expanding the Possibilities: Integrating
Building Systems Through 3-D Modeling**
Rick Rundell, AIA, Autodesk Senior Product
Marketing Manager 1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

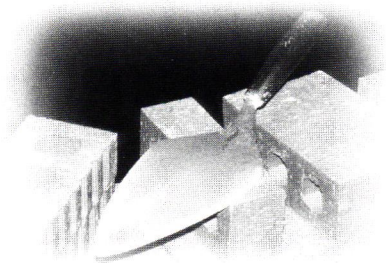
SESSION 7 3:00 – 4:30 PM
**Benchmarking the Application of Building
Information Modeling** Representative from Burt
Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates
1.5 AIA/CES LUs (HSW)

BUILD PITTSBURGH COCKTAIL PARTY:
Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres
Thursday, March 17, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Union Trust Building

*Contact AIA Pittsburgh for registration information
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The Right Materials

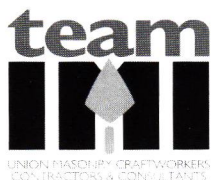
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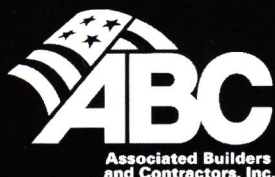
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CALENDAR

AIA ACTIVITIES

MARCH 4, FRIDAY

AIA Communications Committee Meeting

Noon at the Chapter office. All members are welcome.
412-471-9548

MARCH 8, TUESDAY

AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting

5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome.
412-471-9548

MARCH 17-18, FRIDAY- SATURDAY

Build Pittsburgh

Two days of continuing education at The Union Trust Building. Check out pages 18-19 for more information! Please call AIA Pittsburgh with any questions 412-471-9548.

AROUND TOWN

MARCH 23, WEDNESDAY

ASID Professional Development Program

6 p.m. at Klavon Design Associates, Inc., 915 Penn Avenue (downtown). Topic: Landscape Design. For more information contact Jennifer Lindemuth at 412-953-1005 or JLindemuth@jsa-architects.com.

BUILDING BLOCKS

MARCH 3, THURSDAY

2005 Sheet Metal Industry Night

Robert Wasilewski – SMACNA National, Amir Massihzadeh, PE – Rheinzink America, Inc., and Chip Pinkham, PE, AIA – Rheinzink America, Inc. will be presenting at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The event will begin with a reception at 5pm. There is no cost to attendees. For more information or to RSVP please contact Elaine Coppler or James Strother at Elaine@smacnawpa.org. 1 AIA/CES LU.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO COLUMNS!

Upcoming Issues

APRIL:

Architects Design Their Own Homes

We're especially interested in new construction.

MAY:

The Greening of Schools

From rehabs to building new, districts are learning that green features pay off.

Architects' Sketches

Please send electronic files or copies of your sketches to the editor.

Contact the editor, Tracy Certo, at 412-563-7173 or at tcerto@adelphia.net



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PROJECTS OF MERIT



BRIDGES pbt

BRIDGES constructed the award winning New Community Church, which was presented with The Award of Merit on February 26, 2005 at ABC's 32nd Annual Excellence in Construction dinner banquet. This project was by far one of the most challenging for BRIDGES with obstacles including bridge construction from the road to the church, hauling in new fill due to wetland conditions and withstanding four hurricanes, *Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne*. From design concept to final construction, the BRIDGES team works closely with the owner/developer, architect, and engineer providing informed project support in a variety of markets including healthcare, high technology, retail, industrial, institutional and commercial.

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Architect: Desmone & Associates Architects

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† Member of ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, INC.

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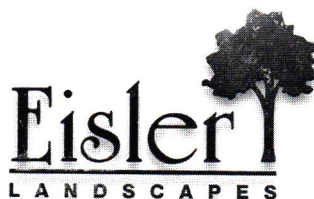
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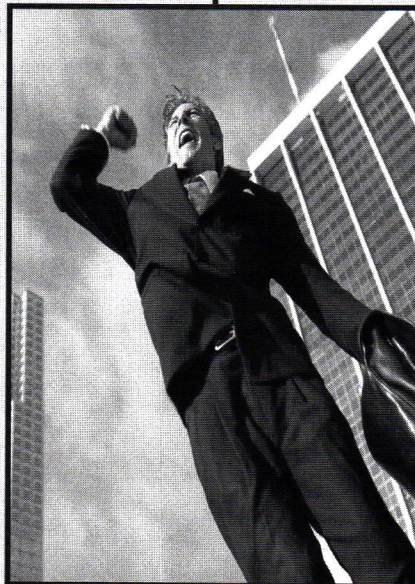
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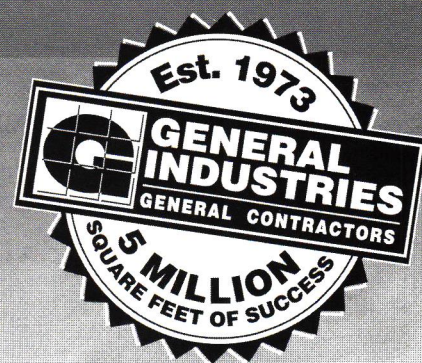
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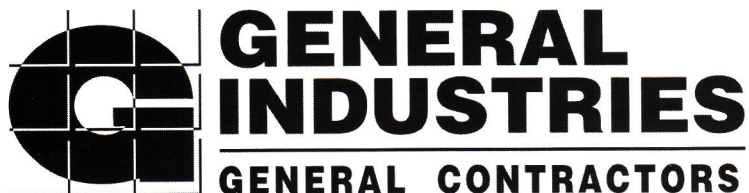
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