

COLUMNS



Greening Our Schools
+
Renaissance and Renewal at Build Pittsburgh

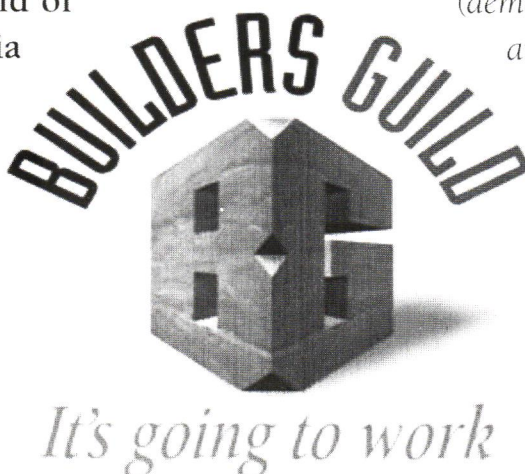
VOLUME 19, NO. 4 AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS MAY 2005

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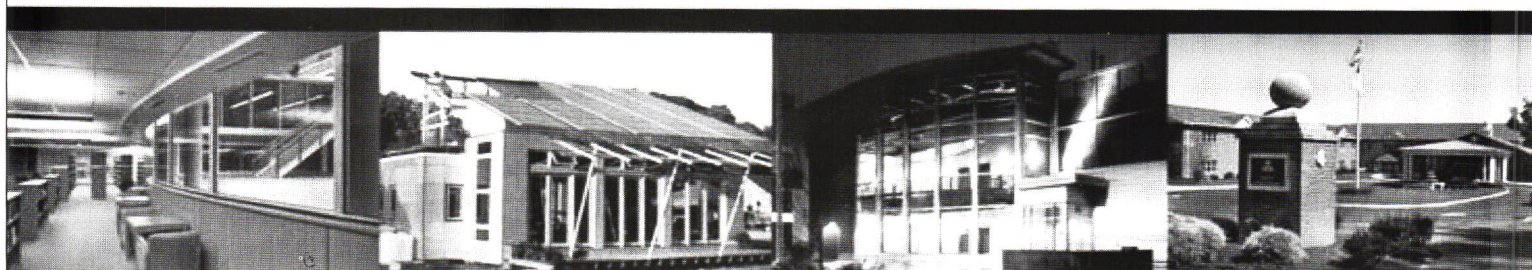
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Taking Risks, Creating Influence



*Influence is the game
and we continue to strive
to be heard by public
agencies, elected officials,
private clients and yes,
even the public at large.*

I am coming up on a significant anniversary.

In mid-May, I will have been with the AIA longer than I ever imagined possible. I have no intention of mentioning how long that actually is because it would only forever fossilize me in your minds. Suffice it to say, I have seen a lot. In trying to decide what to write for *Columns* this month, I couldn't resist the lure of reflecting back and thinking forward.

I can still remember my interview for the job in Bill Bate's conference room in what was then the Westinghouse Building. I knew when I left that the interview group intended on hiring me although they hadn't said so. I was on cloud nine, so much so in fact, that I tripped on the Boulevard of the Allies skinning my knee and ripping 2 gigantic holes in my stockings. A lot has changed since those days and a lot has stayed the same.

When I started we were just relocating the office into the CNG (now Dominion) Tower. Since our space wasn't finished I spent the first six weeks working from an assortment of cardboard boxes in our landlord's conference room. We are on our third space now and how it looks and functions remains one of the primary concerns of the Board of Directors and members. If I want to stall a year's worth of plans all I have to do is suggest moving and everyone casts aside every initiative to focus on space. Unlike previous spaces, the space we now occupy is filled with natural light and has a full kitchen. Much like every space we have previously inhabited many of you like it and many of you don't.

When I began, our annual budget was one seventh of what it is today and it was derived from only two sources: dues and document sales. There was no charge for member meetings and attendance or lack thereof which was the biggest problem. Today our revenue comes from a variety of sources which still includes dues and document sales

in addition to sponsorships, advertising and user fees. We never had enough money to do what we wanted way back when and we still don't. However, we remain very risk-oriented for a small nonprofit and we usually will not let lack of money hold us back from trying a really good idea. We charge for a number of our meetings but still hold a number of events for free and lack of attendance is still a huge problem. Believe it or not attendance never seems to be effected by whether or not we charge.

Naming the primary goal of AIA Pittsburgh when I started is easy: The Board wanted to have meaningful influence both in the public realm as well as with private clients. There was lots of talk about the architect as *Master Builder*. While I don't hear that term used as much these days, the goal remains the same. Influence is the game and we continue to strive to be heard by public agencies, elected officials, private clients and yes, even the public at large.

If you were to ask me what our greatest achievement has been I would say it was where we wanted it most. We have influence. We have a voice in many city and regional issues and that voice grows every day. The power of architecture and the passion of architects are our aces in the hole in the game of influence. We will always want more and what we have will never be enough but what we have achieved is pretty awesome. Build Pittsburgh's keynote breakfast with two Governors and a Congressman, while not a definitive measure of influence, was still to me a very proud (and historic) moment in our history.

I can't predict the size of the budget or where we will be located in 2010 or 2015 but I can guess that we will still be begging you to attend events, you will still sign up at the last possible minute and we will still be trying to make sure that good design is a primary ingredient in our region.

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On the cover: Homewood Elementary School by Perkins Eastman Architects. Photo by Denmark Photography.

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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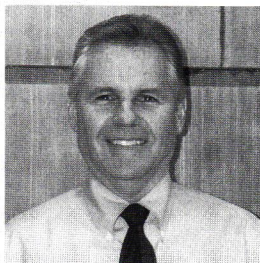
Leading the Future of our Cities By Stephen Quick, AIA

Tom Briney, AIA, called it a "watershed"

event for AIA Pittsburgh and I couldn't agree more.

This year's Build Pittsburgh conference firmly established our organization and our members as significant players in the future of our region. The message was clear from two governors, backed by numerous political and local leaders at our keynote event and reiterated throughout the seminars. Both Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack and our own

Governor Ed Rendell cited the significant and unique role architects play in creating livable communities by providing vision, design and planning and both acknowledged how important architects are to the political process. Of all the professionals, architects are best suited to help lead the future of our cities and regions, they suggested.



As a result of the Build Pittsburgh conference, I feel confident that architects in the Pittsburgh region are actively sought by our political leadership and looked to for helping set future agendas.

Kate Schwennsen, FAIA, president-elect of AIA, couldn't have been more complimentary about AIA Pittsburgh's leadership in many of the Institute's programs and our willingness to pioneer new initiatives. And local leaders in several of our seminars encouraged us to take an active role in new local and regional activities. I can't tell you how many of our community leaders and conference attendees have approached me since the event to praise the Build Pittsburgh event and their appreciation for our hosting Governor Vilsack. As a result of the two-day conference, I feel confident that architects in the Pittsburgh region are actively sought by our political leadership and looked to for helping set future agendas.

In that regard, a few members led by Ed Shriver, AIA of Strada have started discussing our Chapter's participation in the AIA's Sesquicentennial—the 150th anniversary of the AIA—celebration "Blueprint for America." All chapters have been asked to embark on a catalytic project that will have a lasting impact on their local region. At AIA Pittsburgh, we are already discussing a number of ideas, from a livable communities advocacy effort to architect-led projects that would have a broad public appeal. While we hadn't reached any recommendations for the Chapter to consider by the time of Build Pittsburgh, we felt the op-

portunity was ripe to use the keynote breakfast, with two governors and many local leaders and the press present, to convey our Chapter's commitment to achieving more livable communities throughout our region.

I had the opportunity to give the keynote breakfast's opening remarks and used the occasion to convey that commitment:

"You all know that architects design buildings, but you may not know that architects also design communities. Architects bring to the table the knowledge and inventiveness to create place. Architects do this all the time. The design and visioning, that architects do on a daily basis, can become community assets and add value. Architects help to define and create value. Good design attracts businesses and new residents. Good design contributes to strong and healthy communities.

"Place-making and creating value mean a number of things. Economic growth is stimulated by creating desirable environments. Livable communities are synonymous with a higher quality of life and amenities and attract the resources—the human capital—that now drives our economy. Prosperity results from increased livability. Forward looking cities embrace these ideals. As cities and regions compete with one another, livability and amenities become even more important because livable communities are now expected.

In recognition of this cultural change throughout the country, AIA Pittsburgh is redirecting our collective energy to making this region's communities even better. More livable. More healthy. More safe. More environmentally responsive. More sustainable. More enjoyable. And even more beautiful.

"AIA Pittsburgh is committed to helping this happen. AIA Pittsburgh intends to celebrate the opportunities this community has generously shared with us by reaching out even further to be of assistance as we move this region forward. Our commitment is to pledge to help our local communities on issues and vision. We are in the midst of defining this volunteer effort—it could be anything from advisory roles to architect-led initiatives and projects. What I want



continued from page 4

to share today is our commitment to help make this region the best that it can be. We want to hear from you ... and you will be hearing from us."

One opportunity open to all of us was encouraged by Lynn Heckman and Marilyn Gelzhiser of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development's Planning Division in their Build Pittsburgh seminar: Allegheny County's Comprehensive Plan. Your input at community public forums over the next several months will be invaluable in helping establish a vision and guide for land development, conservation and economic initiatives. You can have an impact in setting policies, guidelines and standards for Allegheny County's future. But you need to participate and voice your ideas.

Kate Schwennsen, FAIA, and David Downey, CAE, Assoc. AIA, AIA National, gave all of us a thorough background on the Institute's livable communities agenda in their seminar: Lessons of Livable Communities. Two publications from the Center for Communities by Design were given to all attendees and are available to all members. "Communities by Design" describes the attributes of livable communities and the planning and design policies adopted by the Institute's Board of Directors. "How Architects Can Become Advocates for Livable Communities" provides useful pointers and describes how you can be effective in your community. Both publications are free and available from the chapter office.

We are also looking for your help and input in shaping our Chapter's contribution to the "Blueprint for America" sesquicentennial initiative. If you are interested, please contact the Chapter office and we'll get you involved.

One message came through loud and clear at Build Pittsburgh: Our communities and political leadership want our input and participation. With an upcoming mayoral election and a county-wide planning initiative setting our future, the timing couldn't be better!

Anne J. Swager to Co-Chair Gaming Advisory Panel

Mayor Tom Murphy recently announced the formation of the "Pittsburgh Citizen's Gaming Advisory Panel" with AIA Pittsburgh's own executive director, Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA, named co-chair.

She will team with Ronald Porter, adjunct instructor of the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University, to lead the panel of more than a dozen members representing diverse segments of the community. Their goal is to investigate and report on the impact of gaming in the City of Pittsburgh.

"It is crucial that we begin to understand how a gambling casino will change the economic and social landscape of the City of Pittsburgh, and I am honored that such a distinguished group of citizens have agreed to be a part of this commission," said Murphy. He identified six critical questions the Pittsburgh community must answer regarding the impact of gaming in Pittsburgh:

- 1) Who will receive the gaming license?
- 2) Where will the casino be located?
- 3) What will be the design of the casino?
- 4) What are the community benefits? What are the best uses for the revenues generated?
- 5) How many employees will the casino have? What will be their training?
- 6) What impact will the casino have on the Pittsburgh work ethic?

"The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has the sole responsibility for determining who will receive the Pittsburgh casino license and where the casino will be located, but we can make Pittsburgh's voice heard in all of these matters," said Murphy.

The "Pittsburgh Citizen's Gaming Advisory Panel" will receive staff and technical support from the Department of City Planning and financial support from the Heinz Endowments. Mayor Murphy has asked the panel to complete its report and recommendations by the fall of 2005, as the state gambling board may issue casino licenses as early as this year.

"I hope you will join with me in congratulating Anne. This is truly a personal honor in recognition, I believe, of her outstanding contributions to the Riverlife Task Force, the Pittsburgh Civic Design Coalition, and her numerous other design-related initiatives on behalf of AIA Pittsburgh. It also speaks to her facilitation, organizational and interpersonal skills working with people of divergent opinions (not only us!), while always advocating on behalf of architects and quality design. This is also an honor for our Chapter which, mostly because of Anne's continuous lobbying on our behalf, is becoming more and more recognized for our civic-minded commitment." — AN EXCERPT FROM STEVE QUICK'S LETTER TO THE BOARD.

Architecture and Landscape Architecture Summer Camp

Penn State University will offer a summer camp for high school students on *Architecture and Landscape Architecture* July 17-21 at the University Park campus in State College.

Penn State's Summer Camp offers students the opportunity to see firsthand the kinds of activities that take place in a university's professional design programs. The campers will use the facilities of the Penn State School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and be mentored by faculty, alumni, and experienced undergraduate and graduate students. They can try computer drafting and design and take part in hands-on building and model-making activities. They will tour the unique architecture or landscape architecture of the Penn State campus and take a field trip to Fallingwater—the famous house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Camp activities will include various films, campus tours, and social events. The registration fee includes meals, dorm housing, materials, instruction, and the field trip and admission to Fallingwater, near Somerset, Pennsylvania. For information: <http://www.arch.psu.edu.com>.

BUILDING *pittsburgh*

"On Pittsburgh's Renaissance and Renewal"
Excerpts from Governor Tom Vilsack's keynote address, March 18

"It starts and ends with education. We are engaged in an extraordinary competition, not just city against city and state against state but in fact we're involved in global competition. Our ability to appreciate the quality of life and the freedoms we hold so dear is directly linked to the strength of economy which in turn has always been linked to our ability to be one innovation and one creation ahead of the competition—and that in turn has been linked to the strength of our education system. But we are challenged today. Our education system is not what it needs to be. We do not have the commitment to early childhood we need in this country. As you all know, 85 % of brain growth takes place in the first six years but we spend so little and invest so little time in those first six years.

You want to rebuild Pittsburgh? You want to rebuild Pennsylvania? You want to rebuild the United States of America? You want great cities and livable communities? You've got to have great schools. And as leaders of your community, as professionals, as people who have benefited from education, you all have a distinct responsibility to stand up and make sure the schools of this city and this state are the very best they can be. Now they won't be the best in the nation because Iowa has the best in the nation...

To rebuild Pittsburgh starts with a collective vision of what the lineup is going to be. I will suggest to you that it be data-based research. It's not based on what you think, but rather, what you know, what you can point to. Have a complete understanding of the economy so it will point you in the right direction."



PHOTO BY TRACY CERIO

AIA Pittsburgh 1st Vice-President Tom Briney, AIA welcomes his high school buddy, Governor Tom Vilsack who told a story about how Briney accidentally injured him during a Shady Side Academy football game. Vilsack joked that he now thinks of Briney at least several times a year when his shoulder acts up.





PHOTO BY TRACY CERTO

It was a historic moment for AIA Pittsburgh when many politicians, from city council members to Congressman Tim Murphy, along with hundreds of AIA Pittsburgh members and the media, welcomed two governors to Build Pittsburgh. Pictured here: Rich DeYoung, AIA, Tom Briney, AIA, Governor Vilsack, Steve Quick, AIA, and Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA.

In Iowa that understanding led to three primary industries. Forgive me, I have to talk about corn. Virtually every aspect of the Iowa economy is linked to a kernel of corn. Corn is being made into fabric for clothes, for furniture, for electricity to power industries and homes, to fuel use cars, chemical processes, to speed up industrial processes, produce vitamins.

It makes sense for my state to focus on bio-technology. Here in Pittsburgh, your strength would be medical-based with extraordinary universities that will allow you not only to do research but create the thinkers and creators for this kind of economy.

It's all about resources and money. You need to make sure they leverage as many dollars as possible.

With the Great Places Initiative in Iowa, we're eliminating silos and we're eliminating bureaucratic barriers. We're asking our agencies to work together in a collaborative effort to leverage dollars. There's tremendous power in leveraging.

Quality of life is what it's about. If you are bright and talented and have a good work ethic, you can get a job anywhere in the world. You're not just competing against Philadelphia but Beijing, Paris, London, every major city in the world.

You need a wide variety of recreational activities centrally located to residential areas so families can go hand in hand to the park. That is what it is all about.

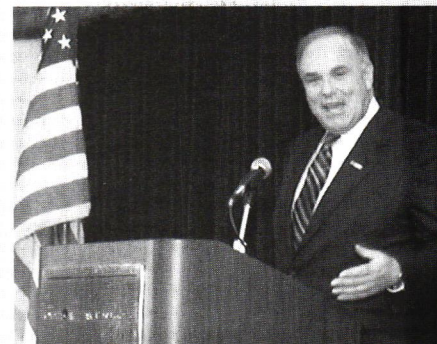
In Iowa, we got \$200 million in a pot and asked, "What would you do if you could have a portion of this?" That 200 million leveraged over 2 billion dollars—museums and libraries and event centers and river walks. A museum now part of the Smithsonian Institute—300,000 people came to Iowa last year to see this museum and it will now be surrounded by a convention center, educational facility, restaurant, hotels. The \$40 million investment the state made? Now several hundred million just on the riverfront and that in turn enabled Dubuque to enable insurance companies to come to our city.

There's great power and grace to the quality of life. And it also allows you to create distinction. It's important for Pittsburgh to distinguish itself from every other great city. One way you can do that is to challenge the city government here to say we have got to have a more open and tolerant view.

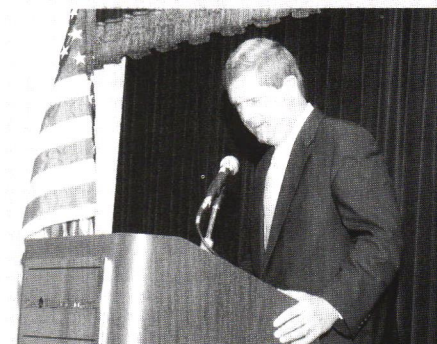
The problem in every city and every state is that the city wants to stay city and the county wants to stay county. If you want to be distinct, develop partnerships—unique ways to govern and share services and market the area as



In her opening remarks, AIA National President-elect Kate Schwennsen, FAIA, noted how Gov. Vilsack understands and advances livable communities—the plan he established in Iowa reads like the Livable Communities Initiative.



PA Governor Ed Rendell spoke of the need for a strong investment in early childhood education as the core for livable communities and praised Pittsburgh for its many strengths and cultural offerings, including the "number two view in the country."



PODIUM PHOTOS BY ED MASSERY

Urging architects to partake in local government, Governor Tom Vilsack said, "If you want to be distinct, develop partnerships. Unique ways to govern and share services and market area as one collective effort to provide services."



Build Pittsburgh participants break for lunch between sessions in the sunlit atrium of the Union Trust Building.

one collective effort to provide services. Indianapolis has done this fairly successfully.

You as professionals should encourage city and county officials to work more closely together.

Think about the heritage of Pittsburgh. Where did these folks come from? We have got to figure out a way in this country to have a discussion about immigration without being judgmental: Without suggesting that those who want to restrict immigration are being racists, without suggesting that those who are encouraging immigration are interested simply in lowering the wages of working families. In Iowa we are having this conversation in fits and starts and it is not easy. We've established places called alliance centers where new citizens to our state can come. They at least have one safe place to go to find out what their rights are and their responsibilities are.

Why not create an opportunity in the Hill District—maybe it's a grocery store, maybe it's a business—get Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, Duquesne, Carlow, get all the colleges and say, let's create this business in minority district and use it as a place to train and mentor young minority entrepre-

neurs. Let's bring vitality back to this city, as a hip place to be. Develop that concept, as a great learning opportunity send a strong message about the import of entrepreneurship and small business development and revive a part of the city that needs to be revived. That's just one idea. You can come up with a thousand ideas.

The last thing I will say is little things matter. You all are involved in developing, creating and thinking about the little things that make a fundamental difference, whether it's street light or curb design, or storefront design or interior design or the use of glass or materials or different angles, little things make a difference.

You folks are so important in this process. Society needs your engagement, your involvement, to think about running for office, being on boards and commissions, to write op-ed pieces not just in the Post Gazette but other magazines about what you do and what you think about because we have a lot of issues in this city, state and country and you all can make a difference. Earlier, someone said architects don't think there's a great deal of intersection or relationship between what government does and what they

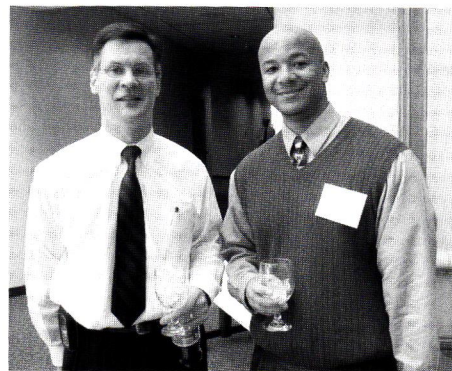
do and I look surprised and said what are you talking about?

With Vision Iowa, we had \$200 million in state resources and 170 different projects. Somebody had to design those projects, build them and have a plan to do it. Who do you think put that together? With our initiative for new schools, who designed and built them?

You folks are absolutely connected to government at the hip! So you should be engaged in the process and I mean fully engaged because you have a lot to offer. With all due respect to people in my profession, we lawyers have one way of thinking. Government today is sometimes dominated by people in my profession, far more in my profession in Congress than architects.

I know it's time and energy, but we need you. Society needs you. I will end my comments by suggesting to you that you have a responsibility, you have a duty.

I thank you for the opportunity and the honor to be here today. I am extraordinarily proud of my roots. This city taught me a very valuable lesson. Nobody thought in 1960 the Pirates would win the championships. Nobody thought the Steelers would beat the Vikings the first time they played the Super Bowl. Nobody thought in 1979 when the Pirates fell three games behind the Orioles, they stood a snowball's chance in heck of winning. This city taught me to never give up. Never give up. I was twenty two points down three weeks ago in my election and because of the lesson I learned here, I didn't give up.

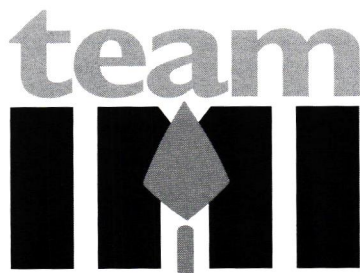


Quintin Kittle, AIA of Perkins Eastman and Arthur Sheffield, Assoc. AIA of WTW Architects, on hand for Build Pittsburgh lunch and sessions.

PHOTOS BY TRACY CERTO

Thanks!

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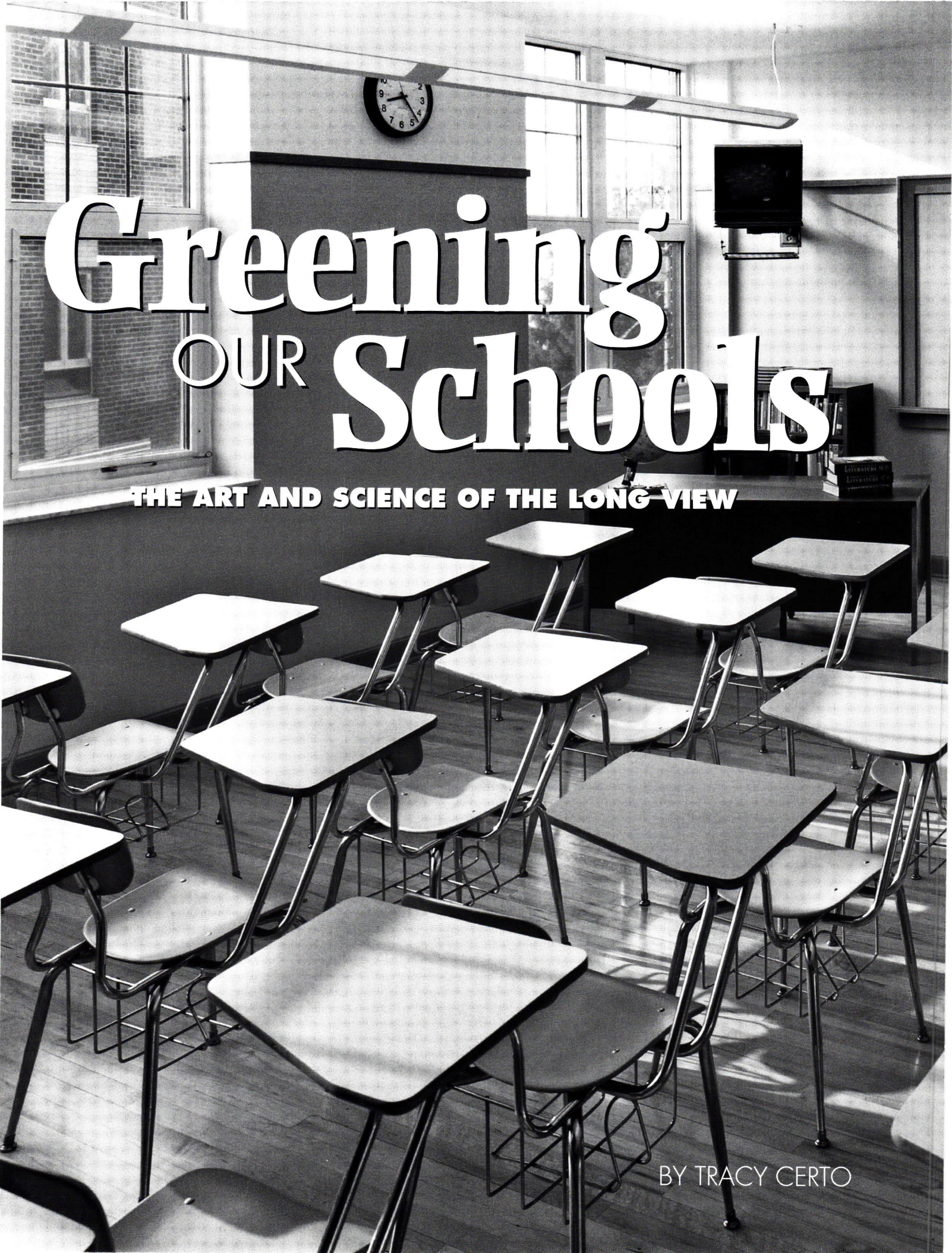
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Greening OUR Schools

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF THE LONG VIEW

BY TRACY CERTO

Okay, class. Listen up. Our question today: In what type of building would it make the most sense to provide a healthy environment, lower energy costs and boost the productivity of its inhabitants? If you answered schools, give yourself an A.

If the future of our country depends upon our youth then providing youth with quality education in a quality environment is the logical conclusion. And with its promise of improved productivity (read: test scores), healthier environments (think: lower absenteeism) and lower energy costs (happy taxpayers!), the greening of K-12 schools, perhaps more so than any other type of construction, would seem to be a—excuse the expression—natural.

Certainly activity in that construction segment is trending upward. Consider: In the period between 2002 and 2003, while the architects at Hayes Large Architects in State College were designing Wrightsville Elementary School in York, PA, there were only two LEED-registered schools in Pennsylvania and 10 nationwide, says design partner Randy Hudson, AIA.

By September of 2004 when the school was completed, there were 93 LEED-registered school projects nationwide, as tracked by the U.S. Green Building Council. Rapid progress is being made in some areas of the country, such as California, which has a far-reaching initiative on green schools that's making an impact statewide and nationally as other states adopt their model. And yet, in the latest Progress on Sustainability report, it is clear that progress is lacking elsewhere. "Budget-conscious school officials and board members are (also) relatively unaware of sustainable design," notes the report which makes the case for green building that "the ultimate goal is to create healthier and more effective learning environments that are less expensive to operate, minimize impact to the environment, and most important of all, support and promote the education process."

It sounds easy but change rarely is. What is required, says Robert Kobet, AIA is a new mindset and innovation in a collaborative process. In his Build Pittsburgh presentation on sustainable schools, Kobet cited issues from the Progress on Sustainability report that resonate the most—including the belief that high-performance grade schools



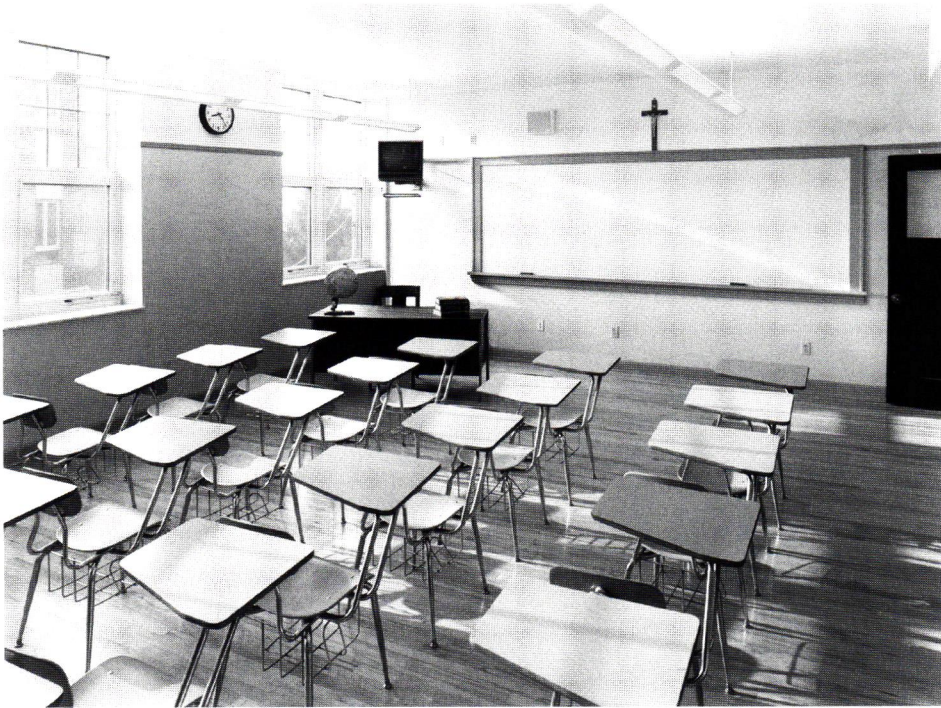
PHOTO BY COREY STERN

Among Wrightsville Elementary's sustainable and energy-conserving features are re-use of a previously developed site and structure, landscaping to reduce paved "heat islands," low-flow fixtures and auto-control faucets that reduce annual water use approximately 34% and reduction of annual energy consumption over 30%.



PHOTO BY JIM SCHAFER

At Wrightsville Elementary, high-performance triple-glazed windows eliminate the need for perimeter heating. Use of "duct socks"—fabric heating ducts in the gym and library—distribute air more evenly than conventional metal duct work. And they can easily be taken down and cleaned.



While classrooms at Our Lady of Sacred Heart School appear conventional, closer inspection reveals sustainable design elements such as cabinets and counters made of wheatboard, the chaff left behind from wheat harvesting, high-reflectance ceiling tiles and automatic sensors that dim and turn off lightings when rooms are unoccupied.



Large openings in the classroom and library along with high reflectance paint and mecco shades provide plenty of natural light.

are more expensive and the perception that HP grade schools provide only marginal returns that can't be verified.

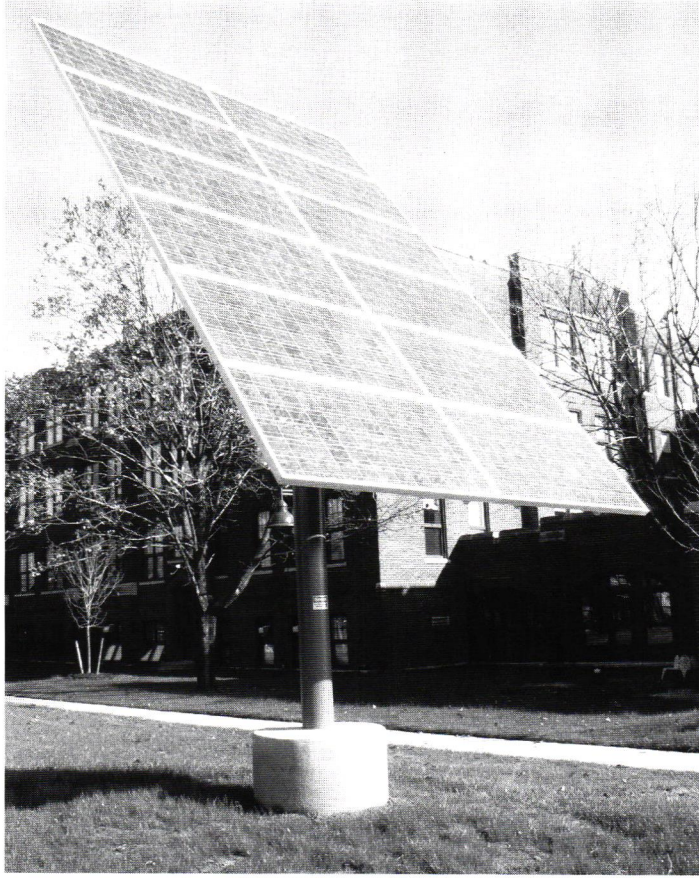
Case studies prove otherwise and Kobet profiled one, the beautiful design of Terrace Park in Washington, a campus-style K-8 school where butterfly-shaped roofs collect rainwater and teaching kitchens support community events. From Indoor Air Quality and daylighting to celebrating rainwater and planting native plants that attract wildlife, the design team at INTEGRUS Architects incorporated an impressive array of sustainable design elements, many of which could be demonstrated to the 700 students.

Even with more case studies to draw on, making the case for sustainable design in schools often requires a "champion" to take the lead. Sometimes, as in the case of the Felician Sisters reported here, it's simply a matter of making clients aware of green building. In other cases, it's a tougher sell which is why assessment of completed projects is crucial, not only to determine whether HP school program criteria need to be changed, but also to evaluate more accurately whether high-performance schools actually produce healthier, more successful students. "The most important driver," says Kobet, "will it improve test scores? Will students be healthier?"

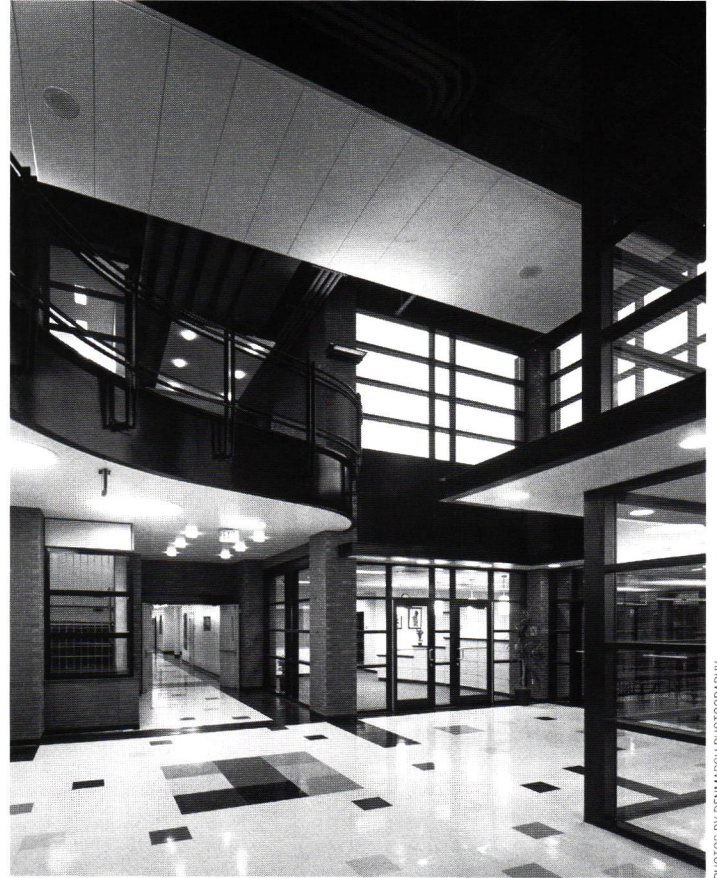
The Felician Sisters, recent converts to sustainable design, could contribute interesting data regarding health issues. Since the extensive remodel/addition of their convent and Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School, nuns with allergies are breathing a sigh of relief lately. One sister who was reliant on an inhaler several times a day now only has to use one every few weeks.

As for student performance, studies are promising. From "Windows and Classrooms: A Study of Student Performance and the Indoor Environment - CEC PIER 2003", comes this report:

"In Seattle, Washington and Fort Collins, Colorado, where end-of-year test scores were used as the outcome variable, students in classrooms with the most daylighting were found to have 7% to 18% higher scores than those with the least. In San Juan Capistrano, California, where the study was able to examine the improvement between fall and spring test scores, we found that students with the most daylighting in their classrooms progressed 20%



The Sisters located a demonstration solar panel at the front door of their facility as an educational tool and a statement of their commitment to the environment. The rooftop panel converts sun to electricity and fifteen solar flat plate collectors, with a 640 gallon storage tank, heat about one-third of the facility's water, saving 300M btus of energy.

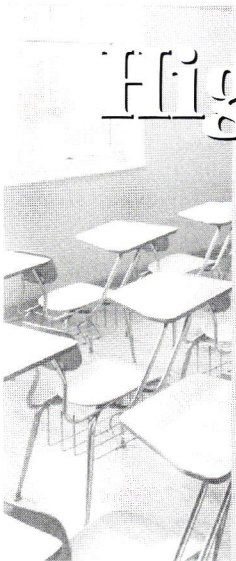


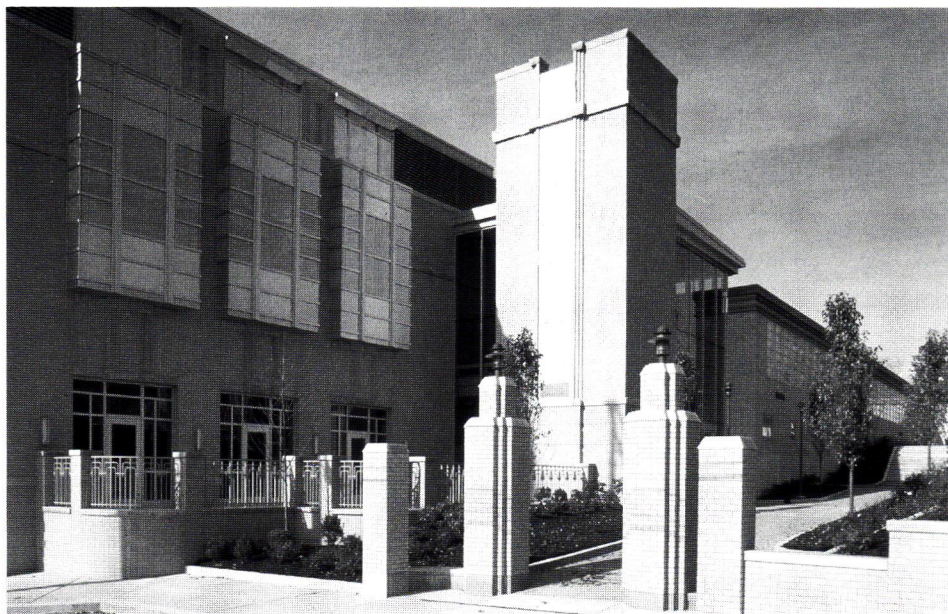
Studies show convincing evidence that daylighting, as shown in the striking Homewood Elementary School by Perkins Eastman Architects, pays off in better student performance, not to mention lower energy costs and aesthetic value.

PHOTOS BY DENMARSH PHOTOGRAPHY

High Performance Schools

In California, several state agencies formed partnerships with utility companies and nongovernmental organizations to coordinate their separate green initiatives for schools. Now known as the nonprofit Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), it has its own model which is based on the LEED criteria but designed for high performance schools. Other states such as Massachusetts and Washington are using CHPS models for their own school districts.





PHOTOS BY DAVID ASCHENAS

The Mifflin School in the City of Pittsburgh was made a greener facility through a recent redesign by Strada: from flooding the interior spaces with natural light and providing natural cooling and ventilation through temperature and humidity relief dampers and specifying long-lasting, maintenance-free building materials including Indiana limestone, brick, pre-cast terrazzo, and recycled rubber for the exterior play surface.

faster on math tests and 26% faster on reading tests in one year than in those with the least."

This is the kind of data that could help swing the vote for building green when presented to school boards and local officials. Here's another factor they could consider: green buildings can also serve as a teaching tool. It's a concept that's being introduced locally with the extensive renovation and expansion of the century-old Sarah Heinz House, a Boys and Girls Club on the North Side. Founded by Howard J. Heinz in 1903, the Sarah Heinz House has had great impact on the Pittsburgh area over the years, with a deep and loyal fan base that long ago graduated but still fervently support the club.

Designed by Rothschild Doyne Architects and William McDonough + Partners, the redesign of Sarah Heinz House incorporates numerous sustainable design elements with the idea of using the building as a teaching tool for the students, from first-graders to high school seniors, who are members. "The focus of the project was not bricks and mortar, but to make this a learning legacy for the next generation of North Side youth," says Dan Rothschild, AIA. "We wanted to reinforce the existing character values of Sarah Heinz House in being responsible members of a larger community. It was a perfect fit between architecture and mission."

The new design furthers the mission of the Sarah Heinz House by adding a new programming area—in addition to academics and physical recreation—regarding environmental awareness. Students, some of whom were involved in the planning and design of the new facility, are already studying how the natural daylighting of the design and the fresh-air ventilation systems makes for a healthier building and helps to reduce energy use by 35%. When the building is completed, students will see first-hand how the special plants along the ground-surface channels in the teaching gardens purify storm water. And they will be able to monitor how many gallons of water are being used per minute in the building as well as how much electricity.

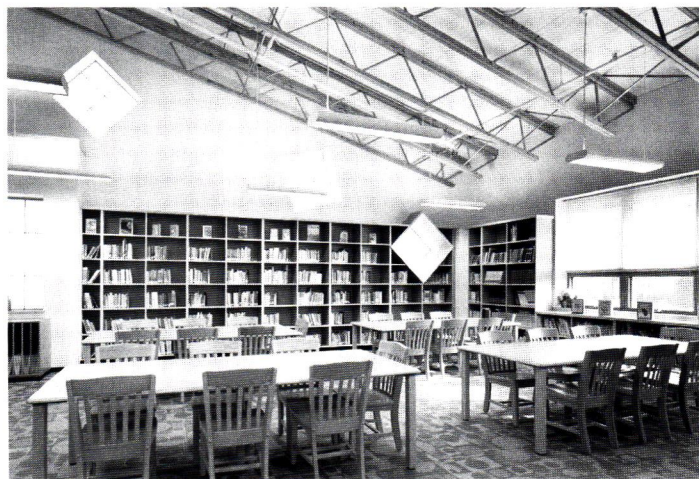
Sustainable design was a goal from the start for the client—the staff at the Sarah Heinz House and the Heinz Endowments—but the modest budget of \$8.7 million for the 45,000 square foot addition was also a top priority. When

construction of the new addition is completed in the fall of 2005, the House will be the biggest and the greenest Boys and Girls Club in the country and will continue to serve as the model for other clubs across the country. Therefore, replicability was also a goal and costs were critical.

Another priority, led by board chair Teresa Heinz, was re-connecting the venerable institution from its North Side neighbors from which it had been isolated over the years. In October of 2002, more than 100 community leaders from across Pittsburgh participated in a day-long charrette at the Sarah Heinz House to find ways to bolster community connections and make the House relevant for another century. Among the many ideas floated that day: walking and bike trails to Three Rivers Park where the kids can kayak and canoe, artists-in-residence programs drawing on the rich and diverse talent from the area's museums, and opening Heinz Field to the Sarah Heinz House members to toss a football and experience the turf (this one sanctioned by none other than former Heinz House member Dan Rooney).

While some ideas made the cut, others were wait-listed for the future due to cost considerations. One goal that has already been achieved through the charrette, however, is getting the buy-in of the community. Throughout the city, community leaders representing a range of interests now have a greater understanding of the role of the Sarah Heinz House and what it can become, says Ken Doyno, AIA. And they have more of an opportunity to become part of it.

Similarly, Perkins Eastman enlisted the participation of the community in the redesign of the Felician Sisters convent/school, another much-loved local institution. What the design team found was that parents loved the historic character of the building while students deemed it old and unappealing. "It was a fine line we were trying to walk, to maintain the historic character but also create a fresh look and feel," says project architect Scott Fitzgerald. But there was no conflict making the case for sustainable design. Once the Sisters were educated on the many benefits of building green, they were fully on board. It was an easy sell: since St. Francis is the patron saint of the environment, the Sisters view environmental stewardship as a responsibility, says Fitzgerald. "They were the champions of green once we started talking to them about it. They were supportive of all the things we brought to the table." The



The 43,000 square-foot Clearview Elementary School has an annual energy consumption cost-reduction of 56%, as modeled.



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHAFER

Clearview, which has won many awards, features a long list of high-performance green design elements from east-west orientation for passive solar strategies to a sundial integrated into the curved south-facing wall.

Sisters were especially enthused when the architects brought up research suggesting that high-performance buildings result in better student performance and healthier students. And they fully supported updating and brightening the interior of the classrooms to please the students—some of whom squealed in delight when the building was unveiled.

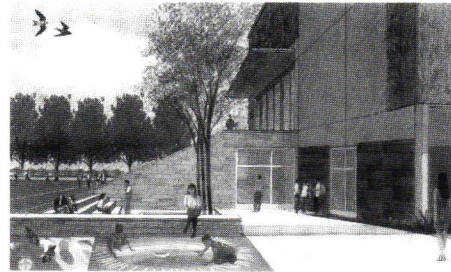
In Eastern York, PA, the district knew from the start they wanted a green elementary school but the plan was to build new. The idea of a renovation, says Randy Hudson, AIA grew out of the design process. "As we interviewed the teachers, we found they loved their spacious older class-

rooms. When we saw that the classroom wing had east-west orientation—ideal for natural daylighting—that was the clincher. We reported back to the Board and asked ‘why not save this?’ The Board agreed—and by preserving part of the existing building, we conserved resources.”

The LEED-certified silver Wrightsville Elementary School is projected to consume 40% less natural gas and 25% less electricity than conventional buildings,” says Hudson. “The school is testimony to what a visionary superintendent, board, and architect, working together, can do. The school has been toured by educators and administrators from the region’s schools and colleges and acts as an educational tool in its own right.”

In a region known as being conservative, the school board wanted to do the right thing environmentally. “Knowing that some so-called green materials aren’t as durable as traditional ones, we didn’t want the building to have exotic features that called attention to themselves, or that might sacrifice durability and maintenance. And above all, whether we built new or remodeled, we didn’t want to be a guinea pig for untested systems,” said Hudson.

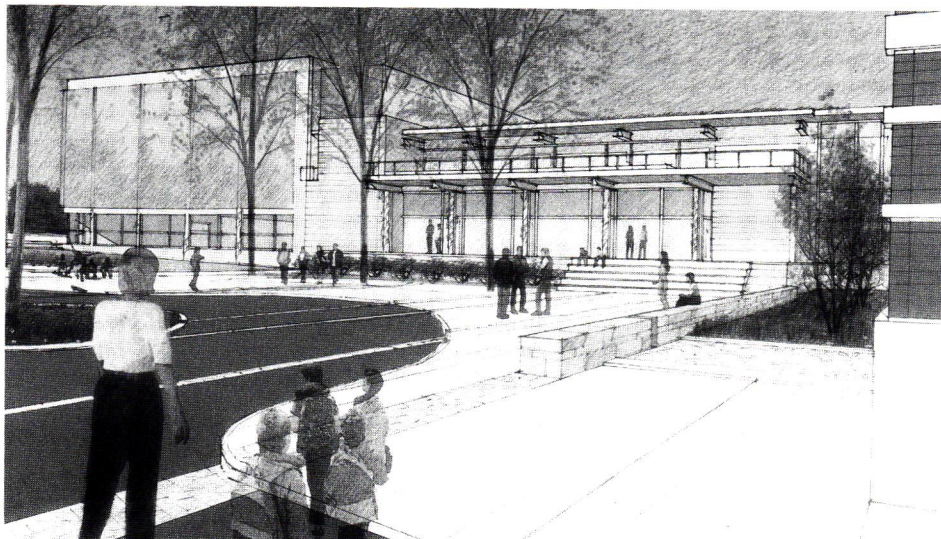
The school, with a student population of 525, cost \$9.6 million, or \$120/square foot, compared with the \$127/square foot average for Pennsylvania school construction costs in 2001. Even so, Hudson estimates Wrightsville cost about 5% more than conventional construction, even after



The focus of the Sarah Heinz House project was to add a new program element of environmental awareness by making the building a teaching tool.

trimming some features. “As green buildings become mainstream, initial costs will rival those of conventional construction. In fact, we already see certain materials, particularly interior materials, where green is the new standard.”

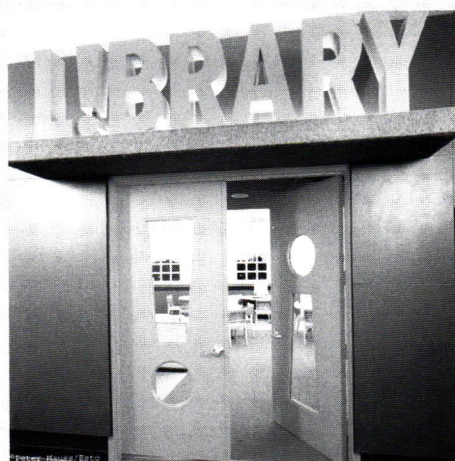
When it comes to costs, John Boecker, AIA of L. Robert Kimball & Associates, encourages clients to consider the trade-offs between upfront costs and long-term benefits, a process he refers to as systems integration. Design teams can construct green buildings for construction costs equal to or below conventional construction while at the same time cutting utility bills and creating a healthier building. It requires more analysis during the design phase but the resulting benefits—higher-performance buildings that cost less to operate—are worth it. The firm’s multiple award-winning Clearview School, pictured here, provides their best case study.



When the addition is completed late this year, the Sarah Heinz House will be the biggest—and greenest—Boys and Girls Club in the country, serving as a national role model.

THE L!BRARY INITIATIVE: By Maya Haptas

GOOD DESIGN ATTRACTS KIDS



C.S. 50



P.S. 19



P.S. 42

I distinctly remember getting to sleep over in my elementary school library. I found the opportunity to spend all night hunkered down in my Star Wars sleeping bag with the latest Nancy Drew book positively thrilling. The classroom could be fun, but going to the library was always an extra special treat. Brightly lit bookshelves beckoned and you could get lost in the towering aisles. In the library, teachers didn't tell you what to do, unless it was to wash the chocolate pudding off your hands leftover from lunch. Although, being California, more often than not it was hummus or anything with carob chips. I think that night in the library one of my fellow classmates snuck in a Hostess cupcake or two. Illicit cupcake and "The Password to Larkspur Lane" in hand, I fell in love with reading.

For many children, elementary school libraries will be their first exposure to reading for self-enrichment. Yet public school libraries often suffer from building and collection neglect, not to mention being severely understaffed.

So I was interested to read a recent *New York Times* article—"New Libraries Making New York Schools Come Alive"—highlighting 31 new libraries built since 2002 in New York City and its outlying boroughs through The L!brary Initiative. In 2001 the Robin Hood Foundation, developed to target poverty in New York City, and the New York City Department of Education formed a partnership to address low literacy and improve student performance among poor children by re-imagining public school libraries and transforming them into vibrant learning centers. Through this partnership, The L!brary Initiative was born. With support from the mayor, corporate donors, and a team of architects, the Initiative seeks to reverse patterns of low literacy skills and underachievement by working with community school districts and public elementary schools to design, build, equip, and staff new elementary school libraries. Working with schools in high poverty neighborhoods that have low academic achievement, the partners are committed to fundamentally transforming school libraries into vital resources for the whole school community—students, teachers, and parents—that will impact and contribute to improved student performance.

I was immediately struck by The L!brary Initiative's emphasis on the importance of good design and their acknowledgement of this as directly correlating with student literacy. The *New York Times* highlighted several design aspects of some of the new libraries, declaring all 31 of them worthy of a spread in *Architectural Digest*.

Each library was designed by a different architect, and each is staffed by a full-time librarian and received new collection materials donated by corporate sponsors Scholastic and HarperCollins. Highlighted in the article was the new library at the 110-year-old P.S. 106 in Bushwick, Brooklyn, which was built on the fourth floor in an attic space. This library features a stairway leading to two large windows with a perfect view of the Manhattan skyline. And here's a wonderful design element for children: the stairs leading up to the attic space are padded and double as seats for library classes.

As the writer stated, when the library is the most beautiful room a child has ever seen, it sends a message. Quoted in the article is Conceta Ritorto, principal of P.S. 10 in Park Slope, Brooklyn. "One of my kids, a third grade boy, said to me 'I want to be a librarian,' I said, 'You're kidding.' But if you've seen the new library at P.S. 10 it makes sense; the wood-paneled room feels like a Midtown Manhattan Law Library."

By fall 2006, twenty-five more libraries will be reinvented in this unprecedented effort to improve the educational opportunities of New York's neediest children. It is through the beautiful and unique designs that children are encouraged to visit, read and learn. With any luck, they'll arrange sleep over visits for more memories that last a lifetime.

More information on The Robin Hood Foundation and The L!brary Initiative is available at www.robinhood.org.



The author, around the time she discovered the joys of reading at her school library.

From the Firms

► **Hayes Large Architects LLP**, in collaboration with PBS & J of Washington, D.C., recently completed comprehensive Pre K-12 educational specifications for the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA) schools world-wide. DoDEA operates 222 public schools in 15 districts located in 13 foreign countries, seven states, Guam and Puerto Rico.

WTW Architects has been selected to design a major renovation of the Eiche Library at Penn State University's Altoona campus. The \$1.8 million project should be underway in May and be completed in late 2005.

Millcraft Industries held a groundbreaking ceremony in April for Nationwide Centre which, along with Beau Street Park, makes up Phase One of "The Crossroads"- a mixed-use development in Washington, PA developed by Millcraft Industries and designed by **Strada**. The 140,000 sf seven-story office building will include first floor retail and an adjacent parking garage, and is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2006.

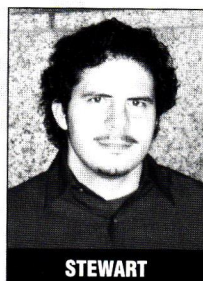
Business Briefs

► **Perkins Eastman** announced the following staff additions to the Pittsburgh office: Aline Funari, Dennis Stewart, Fred Santoro, LEED and Nancy Becker.

Design 3 Architecture, PC announced the promotion of **Anthony R. Scruppi, AIA** to Principal. Anthony has been a member of the Design 3 Architecture team since 1997 and is a 1992 graduate of Kent State University.

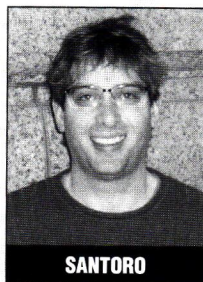


FUNARI

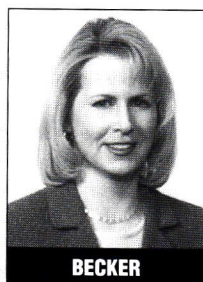


STEWART

Hayes Large welcomed **Keith R. Hudson, AIA** back to the firm. Hudson will be working out of the Harrisburg office.



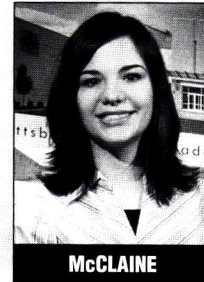
SANTORO



BECKER

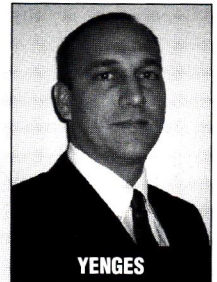
Ray F. McCaughey, AIA is the newest addition to the professional staff at **WTW Architects**.

Desmone & Associates Architects announced the hiring of Beth O. McClaine as Director of Marketing.



McCLAINE

Continental Building Systems announced that John Yenges has joined the company as project manager in their Pittsburgh office.



YENGES

Kudos

► **Astorino** recently won The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) *Commercial Project of the Year* award for the architectural and engineering design of UPMC's Sports Performance Complex in Pittsburgh's South Side. Astorino and other 2005 award winners were honored during a ceremony at the 121st ESWP Annual Banquet on Wednesday, February 23rd.

G. Randolph Hudson, AIA, the Partner-in-Charge of **Hayes Large Architects'** State College office, recently received LEED Accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council by passing the accreditation exam. He joins Donald M. Goodman, PE and Matt T. Filan as LEED accredited professionals in the firm.

Desmone & Associates Architects was honored with the following awards at the Associated Builders and Contractors 32nd Annual Excellence in Construction Awards Ceremony: 2004 Award of Excellence General Contractor Institutional for New Community Church, Phase I, 2004 Excellence in Construction Award of Merit for New Community Church, Phase I, 2004 Excellence in Construction Award of Merit for Guardian Self Storage on Old Freeport Road.



Nathan Hart, AIA, Luke Desmone, AIA and Will Brocious, AIA.

Hayes Large Architects' Partner-in-Charge of the Pittsburgh and Cleveland offices, **John A. Missell, AIA**, and school superintendent Randy Boroff of North Royalton School District (OH) presented *What You Should Expect from Your Architect & What Your Architect Expects from YOU!* to school administrators at the annual Buckeye Association of School Administrators/Triad Construction Conference in Columbus, Ohio last month.

Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects is the proud recipient of a **2005 AIA/ALA Library Building Award** for The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Brookline (pictured below).



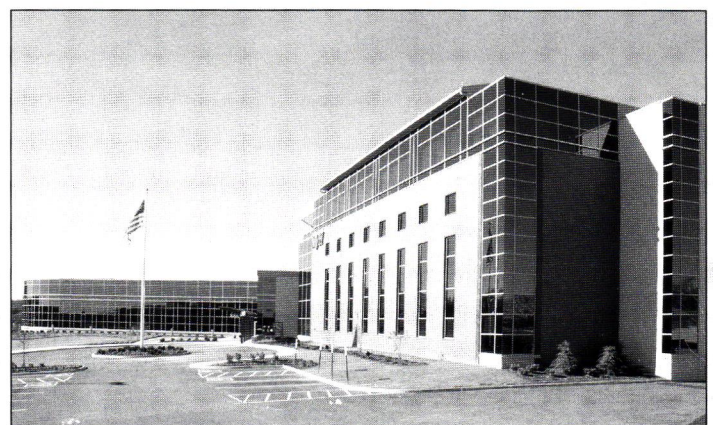
Strada recently received a Historic Preservation Award from Preservation Pennsylvania recognizing the firm's role in planning and designing Mifflin Elementary School's new addition and renovation. The new addition and renovation of the original historic Art Deco school and 1956 building addition were needed to solve accessibility and space issues. Strada led the programming of the new addition creating accessibility, a new gym, cafeteria, and expanding classroom facilities.

Michael A. Stern, ASLA of **Strada** recently presented "A Tale of Three Cities" on March 18th at the 2005 Annual Convention for the Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Michael spoke to his peers about planning and urban design projects in three different communities in Western Pennsylvania. He outlined the different community revitalization efforts each city is implementing to overcome over 50 years of de-urbanization.

WTW Architects and Gensler Architects of Denver have won one of the first ever Association of College Unions International (ACUI) 2005 Facility Design Awards for their joint effort in designing a major renovation and addition for the University of Colorado's Memorial Center in Boulder, CO (pictured above, right).



General Industries has won the prestigious Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Western Pennsylvania Award of Excellence in the General Contractor category for construction of the new WillowPointe Plaza project (pictured below) adjacent to Rt. 51 in Rostraver Township. The "Eagle Award" marks the second straight year that General Industries has been honored. — *By Maya Haptas*





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CALENDAR

AIA ACTIVITIES

MAY 6, FRIDAY

AIA Communications Committee Meeting

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

MAY 9, MONDAY

AIA Programming Committee Meeting

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

MAY 10, TUESDAY

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

MAY 23, MONDAY

AIA Pittsburgh Membership Meeting

Join us at 6 p.m. for a tour and reception of the new Phipps Conservatory expansion project. 412-471-9548

AROUND TOWN

MAY 11, WEDNESDAY

SDA 'Effectively Using a Temporary Agency'

presented by Stivers Temporary Agency at the Engineers Club from 12-1:30 p.m.

BUILDING BLOCKS

MAY 20-21, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council's Designing Low-Energy Buildings with Energy-10 Workshop

Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. For more information Contact Doug Schroeder at (202) 628-7400 ext. 210 or Dscroeder@SBICouncil.org. Or, visit SBIC on the Web at www.SBICouncil.org. 3.5 AIA/CES LUs (3.0 of which qualify for HSW)

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JUNE:

Roundtable

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Architects' Sketches

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

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

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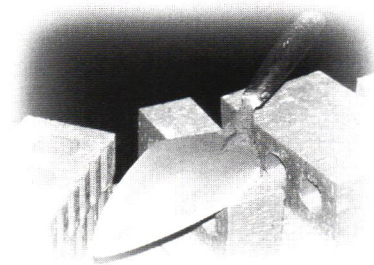
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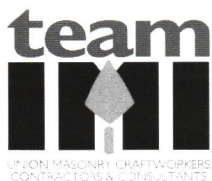
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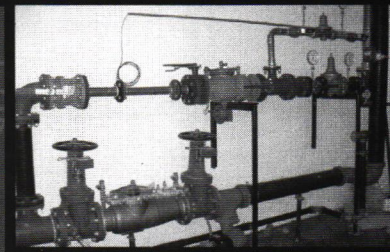
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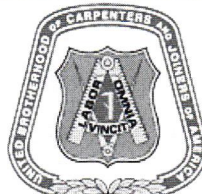
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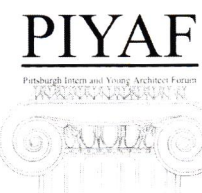
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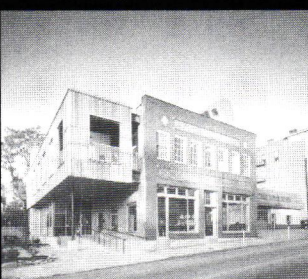


Project:
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Project:
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