COLUMNS

16:62 Design Zone
ARCHITECTURAL CHARRETTE
LEARNING IN LAS VEGAS

AIA PITTSBURGH, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
SEPTEMBER 2005
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Zoning in on Creativity

By Tracy Certo

In this issue you will learn

how a drunk in a bar inspired a young designer from New Jersey to move to Pittsburgh (p. 6) and how architects are helping to keep people fit and our city diverse (p. 4).

Although it wasn't planned, there's an underlying theme in this issue: behind every story and column are people—sober or otherwise—who are really making things happen. From the go-getters in Lawrenceville and the Strip District who make up the Design Zone to Steve Quick whose conversation with his personal doctor led to a new direction for AIA Pittsburgh. Not to mention the students and architects at the recent charrette at the Carnegie Museum (p. 12). And the perfect match of Design Awards 2005 with the 16:62 Design Zone, a great idea from Mary Irwin-Scott (p. 6).

The 16:62 Design Zone itself was a gem of an idea from Joe Kelly of Kelly Custom Furniture and Cabinetry who visited the Pearl District in Portland, Oregon. He discussed the idea of rebranding the burgeoning community—similar to the Pearl District—with others and in no time, an organization was born.

It’s interesting, noted Steven Casey, AIA, who works in the Strip and sees new galleries and stores opening almost weekly, how it was declared a Design Zone and then truly became one. Like everyone interviewed for this story, Casey enjoys being part of it. And he does his share of work with other Design Zone businesses, including the Crane Building where his office is located, and street fronts in Lawrenceville, another factor contributing to the area’s dramatic change. What Casey really likes about the Zone is the fact that its made of real communities. The architect expects to see a tremendous impact on his neighborhood when the Armstrong Cork Building nearby is recast as 300 new condos.

Another complex, the Blackbird Lofts, will have quite an effect on the Lawrenceville area when completed, including street level artist studios. Seeing artists in action will only add to the allure of the Design Zone.

As mentioned in the article here, the transformation of Lawrenceville to an artsy community was driven by a number of factors, starting with the exit of the mills and the resulting cheap real estate. People such as Mark Mentzer, an artist and professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and Jerry Wilson of Wilson and McCracken, bought buildings in Lawrenceville decades ago, before there was even a hint of revitalization. Wilson purchased a 100-year-old firehouse which he got for a song. Mentzer needed studio space and liked what he saw. “It’s a really good neighborhood and a great group of people,” Wilson says. And it’s safe, he assures. (I can attest to that. On a busy Saturday I parked and locked my car on Butler St. not knowing the back window was wide open, purse in easy range, only to return hours later with nothing missing.)

It takes people like Mentzer and Lewis—and Janice Donatelli—to get a good Neighborhood back on its feet. Janice owned an antiques store in Lawrenceville and she begged “everyone” to open a much-needed coffee shop in the area. Finally, in a what-the-hell moment, she opened her own: the Coca Café, which soon became the best kind of a community center. When someone walked in one day not too long ago and offered to buy it, she sold, only to open another business, this time with Linda Metropolis. Their store, Artemis, features a sizeable selection of environmentally-friendly products for any and all parts of buildings, from the infrastructure to interior design. (Check out their amazing line.) It’s the only shop of this kind in the tri-state area, says Donatelli, who gets a lot of business from out of state through their web site.

It’s hard for one person to make a difference in New York, says designer Quinn Leonowicz, whose humorous story is featured here. But one person can make a difference in Pittsburgh, he says and the people mentioned here are proof. It’s one reason why Quinn and his girlfriend chose to move here. Well, that, and the sage advice of an inebriated gent in a bar. And hey, cheers to that!
Building Healthy and Diverse Communities

By Stephen Quick, AIA

AIA Pittsburgh has recently become involved in two major initiatives: the Western Pennsylvania Obesity Task Force and the Diversity Initiative. Both have an impact on our members and point to new directions for the practice of architecture and for AIA Pittsburgh.

Sometimes the opportunities we create for ourselves are surprising. The Obesity Task Force, begun about a year ago by the Medical Society of Allegheny County, has already grown into a state-wide program. The Medical Society, representing physicians throughout the county and similar to AIA Pittsburgh as a professional organization, chose to be pro-active in educating its members and the public about the problem and begin to initiate local programs to address it. Led by Terence Starz, MD, the task force has brought together a number of organizations and people with the ability to do something about the obesity problem. Represented are doctors, the major hospitals, health care insurers, educators, the local press, drug companies, and, yes, AIA Pittsburgh. Why, you ask?

Dr. Starz happens to be my personal physician who, during a check-up told me about the BMI chart and some of the medical issues involving obesity. I asked him if he had heard Dr. Richard Jackson, formerly of the Center for Disease Control, speak about the relationship between community design and obesity. He hadn’t, but quickly understood the impact of design and asked for our participation on a new task force he was organizing. Well, one thing led to another and the AIA is now an active participant on the task force. So far, Tom Briney and I have been involved and we’d like to encourage others to join us.

AIA Pittsburgh presented the impact of community and building design on obesity and health at a region-wide obesity conference held at Pitt’s Institute for Public Policy. We are also helping to spread the word that the design of communities is critical to addressing our region’s and our nation’s obesity problem. And we are beginning to network with other members of the task force, helping to make linkages between architects and other professions.

In a related initiative sponsored by Highmark that focuses on early childhood obesity, Wanda Wilson at City Planning is leading a built-environment sub-committee to identify physical design parameters and pilot projects. Other committees are contributing ideas including: increasing community awareness, obesity “tool kits” for local doctors, and establishing safe walking routes to schools. The United Way, working with neighborhood organizations, recently announced that they will be funding programs based on these ideas in four Pittsburgh neighborhoods. AIA Pittsburgh is involved there, too. This in turn has spurred discussions of the possibility of integrating a “healthy community” agenda, centered on early childhood obesity design needs, into affordable housing initiatives projects in two Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

The other area of recent AIA involvement is the Diversity Initiative, a new task group comprised of Pittsburgh minority organizations, professional organizations and major employers. This one addresses two important issues: how to attract minorities to Pittsburgh and, once here, how to retain them. Led by representatives of the American Bar Association and several minority non-profits, the Initiative was introduced to AIA Pittsburgh by the Allegheny County Medical Society. The medical connection comes from the hospitals’ difficulty in retaining foreign doctors once they’ve completed their residency requirements, a concern expressed by all of the involved major employers. What makes this initiative different from ones in the past is the active involvement of some of Pittsburgh’s largest employers. A region-wide issue, it’s fundamental to keeping Pittsburgh competitive. Leading our Chapter’s efforts are Ken Lee, AIA and Art Sheffield, Assoc. AIA who invite you to a kick-off event on September 22nd at 5:30 at Dowes on 9th. A number of our member firms are helping to sponsor the event and, for a nominal $5.00 cover charge, you can meet some of Pittsburgh’s finest professionals and begin working for a better Pittsburgh.

Healthy communities are sustainable communities, whether it is our community of AIA architects or the neighborhood communities where we live. As we expand the definition of architecture to include the design of communities, we broaden our horizons and our influence.
Cast your eye on this

Just in time for the Citgo Bassmaster Classic, three 14-foot long sculptural bass designed by Chris Siefert and his daughter, Elizabeth, were erected in the parking lot of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Although Siefert was concerned the fish would not be “fin”ished in time for the Citgo Bassmaster Classic, the installation was completed on July 29th, the first day of the nationally televised tournament.

Brian Reneski created the large scale fish from the Seiferts’ design and Sandy Kessler was the lead painter. Weighing in at 400 lbs. each, the large scale fish whirl with the wind.

Logo Design Competition

Feeling creative? Why not try your hand at creating a new logo for The Construction Specification Institute Pittsburgh Chapter. A design competition is underway and open to anyone. The winner will receive either a cash prize of $200 or a year’s paid membership valued at $250. Membership is not required. For more information, contact Theresa Giacomino at tgiacominoradeletmccarthy.com or (412) 471-4445.

McGraw-Hill Construction Reports


An authority on the construction market, the firm produces Dodge Reports and Sweets Catalog Files. According to the Dodge Analytics unit of McGraw-Hill Construction, the latest month’s construction activity followed this pattern:

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<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<td>Residential</td>
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For the year-to-date on a cumulative basis, the totals are:

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<td>TOTAL BUILDING</td>
<td>$905,945,000</td>
<td>$1,430,718,000</td>
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- Nonresidential buildings include commercial, manufacturing, educational, religious, administrative, recreational, hotel, dormitory and other buildings.
- Residential buildings include one and two family houses and apartments.

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AIA Middle Annual Celebration

Each year the AIA Middle PA Chapter celebrates with an annual picnic hosted by Robert Kimball and his family at their summer home in Loreto, PA. The estate, Klein Immergran, which was once owned by Charles Schwab, provides a spectacular setting for the highly anticipated event. On July 29th, Chapter members gathered again to enjoy another unforgettable midsummer’s eve gathering.
Stretching from the 16th Street Bridge in the Strip District to the 62nd Street Bridge in Lawrenceville, the 16:62 Design Zone is a lively, creative neighborhood that continues to emerge as a vibrant home to artists, craftsmen, designers and architects. This October, AIA Pittsburgh brings Design Pittsburgh, our annual celebration of architectural excellence, to the Design Zone. As we prepare for the festivities, Columns explores some of the fascinating people and places in the Zone.
During a first-time visit to Pittsburgh a few years ago, designer Quinn Leonowicz and his girlfriend, fabric artist Christine Domanic, visited the Mattress Factory and the Andy Warhol Museum and then, in a visit that would change their lives, a Market Square bar. There they sat next to a professor from Carnegie Mellon who was—no way to put this delicately—quite drunk. “He asked if we were artists,” said the designer, now 30. “And then he kept saying over and over how much he hates artists.” Leonowicz laughed. “But he said, if you’re an artist, you should check out Lawrenceville.” He was really drunk, and he said it a million times.”

And so they did. The next day, during a blizzard, the couple walked from Oakland, through Shadyside and arrived in Lawrenceville (somehow). Despite single-digit temperatures they liked the place a lot. Back in New Jersey Leonowicz was trying to establish a business beyond the “online presence” for his artwork and that of his girlfriend. Things were very expensive and he was finding it difficult.

Within a year they took a chance and moved to Lawrenceville, where they have just opened a store called Craft at 4032 Butler St.

Leonowicz had seen the building, thought it would be perfect, and then when it became available a year or so later, snapped it up. “It’s all been very strange,” he says looking back at the path that led him there. “We’re not asking questions anymore. We’re just going with the flow.”

It’s a plan that’s worked well so far. Lawrenceville, he says, is perfect. “It’s different than what we’re used to in New York and New Jersey. People are different. I’ve already been in every one of my neighbor’s houses. That doesn’t happen where we come from!”
The upstairs pool room at Ray's Marlin Beach Bar & Grill.

Co-owner Linda Metropoulos in the kitchen of Artemis, a new showroom for green building materials at 3709 Butler St.

Although the success of the 16 62 Design Zone, a 46-block area that stretches from the 16th St. Bridge in the Strip District to the 62nd St. Bridge in Lawrenceville, is hard to measure—success stories like Quinn speak volumes.

There are other stories like his, of artists and young people who have moved from Pittsburgh only to boomerang back, this time landing in the Design Zone. The area, says Pam Devereux, business development manager for the Lawrenceville Corporation, "really has the potential to become a regional destination." The National Geographic Traveler thinks so. The magazine highlighted the neighborhood concept in a recent issue.

Other artists, craftsmen, designers and architects agree. Chip Desmone, AIA of Desmone & Associates Architects in Lawrenceville, credits the Design Zone for attracting new design-oriented businesses to the area. "It's a wonderful thing that has done a lot to solidify a purpose for the business district." Success breeds success, he notes, adding that the influx of residents help improve the homes and buildings which has increased real estate values as well.

You can still get a great deal in real estate. But back in the 1960's and 70's when the mills were in decline, it was a steal, says Devereux. Artists and craftsmen who see buildings as raw material saw the potential back then and started moving in. The growth was slow but steady until eventually there was a sizeable cluster of a design community.

Then Joe Kelly, owner of Kelly Custom Furniture and Cabinetry on Butler St., had a bright idea. In 1999, he vis-

Owners Jeff Gordon and Roger Levine of Who New? offer a large variety of "artful vintage" furniture and accessories.

Owner Angie Fischer in her newly opened store called Divine at 3609 Butler St.
ited Portland, Oregon’s Pearl District, a former industrial area transformed into an arts district and saw the parallel between it and Lawrenceville. Curious, he asked a furniture dealer (who turned out to be originally from Pittsburgh) about the transformation of the neighborhood. The dealer gave him a guidebook to the district along with the contact of the President of their Chamber of Commerce who, strangely enough, was also from Pittsburgh.

Kelly returned home armed with information about the creation of the Pearl District and determined to do something similar. He tossed around the idea with Mark Mentzer, who owns a building/studio in Lawrenceville, Rebecca White, formerly of the Lawrenceville Business Association, and others.

Lawrenceville had the makings of a niche, Kelly told the Board of Directors of the Lawrenceville Corporation in a presentation. It wasn’t a hard sell: The Board welcomed the idea as did the area business owners. “I personally went around to every business and everyone without exception was enthusiastic,” says Kelly.

The most difficult part, he says, was getting funding. “The first funding was through PPND (Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development) with an initial grant of $30,000 I believe. And we asked all the businesses for membership.”

Meanwhile, Mentzer, associate head of Carnegie Mellon’s School of Design, proposed the branding for senior projects for students. As funding efforts got underway, a membership group with fees was created along with a colorful and well-designed guidebook that designated every architect, interior designer, craftsman, artist, kitchen and bath supplier and related design business from the 16th St. Bridge in the Strip District to the 62nd St. Bridge in Lawrenceville. The first guidebook of the 16.62 Design Zone was distributed in November of 2000.

Five years later they are on well on their way with a great deal accomplished and much more left to do.

For every building that’s been renovated there’s another that could use it. And in an area that stretches 46 blocks, it’s going to take a lot of time and money. Every bit helps. Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Tourism gave...
seven neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, including the Design Zone a Heritage Tourism Grant of $60,000.

"The URA has been very helpful for the facade renovation program," adds Mentzer who has owned his building for 13 years. Through his teaching at Carnegie Mellon, Mentzer meets visitors to Pittsburgh from around the world and he likes to spread the word about the Design Zone. "I share with them the idea and they're impressed. It's neat to have all these related artists and artisans and designers in one area and it helps spread the business around." The attitude is one of cooperation, not competition. They look after their own, he notes.

And the area continues to grow. An average of 10 new businesses open each year. This past year that spiked to 18, which included Artemis, a business dealing with only environmentally friendly building materials such as tile and carpet, owned by Janice Donatelli, who started the café named Coca in the same block, and Linda Metropulos.

Population is also increasing annually. Kate Trimble, executive director of the Lawrenceville Corporation, moved to Lawrenceville in part because of the Design Zone.
The work we’ve done with the Design Zone has made the neighborhood much more attractive to residents. It’s attracted great restaurants and other interesting stores that have helped make this place a desirable place to live,” says Kelly.

The “lively creative environment” enticed designer Mary Irwin-Scott, president of Riverside Design Group and spouse of Grant Scott, AIA. She relocated her business two years ago, renting space in KSBA’s renovated Stable Building, and has since become involved with the Design Zone. It was Irwin-Scott who had the idea of linking AIA Pittsburgh’s Design Awards with the Design Zone.

Location isn’t critical to Irwin-Scott’s business since she ships tableware and gift items—“functional art”—all over the world to the trade. Her works are in the permanent collection of the Brooklyn Museum, in top resorts worldwide and have been featured on television and in major design magazines.

“"I love it here. You step out the door and there are all kinds of things to see and do,” she says. “The energy I feel from people like Pam and other Design Zone architects and business owners makes for a great environment.”

As Kelly says, “What we’re doing to promote our design businesses, through our web site and booklet, is more than any other neighborhood is doing. There are plenty of available spaces for architects and designers.”

When asked what the Design Zone needs at this point Devereux responds, “We have the critical mass. What we need is a strong customer base.”

On a sunny and hot Saturday in late July, the district held a sidewalk sale, attracting loyal as well as new shoppers. As a young girl left the store who New? with her mom and brother, she told them, “That is a very, very, very nice store. It has a lot of color.” Developing future customers such as this enthusiastic shopper could be just the key.

(Left) KSBA’s renovated Stable Building (Right) Grant Scott’s designs for Riverside Design Group.
ARCHITECTURAL CHARRETTE

A DESIGN STUDIO IN CONJUNCTION WITH MICHAEL MALTZAN: ALTERNATE GROUND

Five large worktables, each displaying a unique sectional model made of masonite, set the stage with glue guns, cardboard, blue foam and cutting knives littering the workspaces. Gathered around the tables, intent participants cut, glued, and drew with the speed and agility typically reserved for video games. It’s not often that high school and college students work alongside professionals to actively solve a problem, but that was the scene in the Carnegie Museum of Art’s Hall of Sculpture during the week of May 9 – May 14.

In conjunction with the special exhibition Michael Maltzan: Alternate Ground (February 12 – June 12, 2005), the Heinz Architectural Center and Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture invited five teams of students and professionals to explore the building process through a week-long charrette. The twist? Each group focused on a different and unusual pairing of programs, such as a greenhouse and Laundromat and a car wash and motel, to illustrate how innovative design can influence the way people live.

In another twist, each team was comprised of three high school students and two architecture students from Carnegie Mellon who were joined by a professional architect. Those lending a hand included: Matthew Fineout, AIA, principal of EDGE studio; Kevin Gannon, AIA, LEED AP, principal of Davis Gardner Gannon Pope (dggp); Jennifer Lucchino, AIA, principal, inter*ARCHITECTURE; Spike Wolff, designer and adjunct professor of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon; and Raymund Byan, architect and a curator of the Heinz Architectural Center. Steven Lee, of Michael Maltzan Architecture, served as on-site advisor to the project.

Representatives from each team selected at random sites located in the museum’s Oakland neighborhood from Bates...
Street to the Pittsburgh Technology Center on the Monongahela riverfront. The sites offered social, programmatic, and geographic diversity ranging from the university setting of the first site, between the Frick Fine Arts Building and Katz School of Business, to the residential and commercial locations in South Oakland. To challenge the participants even more, the terrain of the sites varied: hillside, level, riverfront, and wooded.

Teams selected from each of two lists of potential building programs: one of structures with constraints (predetermined sizes) and one without constraints where decision making was left to the teams. The final pairings included: a movie theater and auto body shop (on the lawn between Frick Fine Arts building and Katz School of Business); a greenhouse and Laundromat (on Dawson Street at South Bouquet); a basketball court and skateboard park (on Bates Street at South Oakland); a car wash and motel (on Bates Street below Boulevard of the Allies) and a kindergarten and amphitheater (along the riverfront at Pittsburgh Technology Center).

Judging from the varied programs, it was clearly an interesting, albeit challenging, task to unify the buildings on the sites. As they collaborated to respond to the diverse requirements and parameters of their programs, each team member contributed from his or her own unique perspective. Working Monday through Friday afternoons and all day Saturday, the teams brainstormed ideas for architectural projects and then gave visual form to their final concepts in models and drawings.

Providing the inspiration for this brainstorming session was Michael Maltzan: Alternate Ground which the teams visited throughout the week. In addition, they sought Steven Lee’s insights into Maltzan’s architectural style. The exhibition, particularly the gallery City of Process, which included more than a hundred different study and process models to demonstrate the complex task of designing a building, reinforced the iterative process. Through the display of massing and study models, as well as material studies for various projects, this gallery showed how architects continually refine and modify their concepts. The design of the exhibition space, itself a joint effort of Michael Maltzan Architecture and Carnegie Museum of Art, also encouraged visitors to compare different solutions to the same problem. The ability to creatively work through a problem while remaining flexible and open to change was key to the charrette. It was also crucial for the younger participants to realize that the first attempt is rarely, if ever, the last.

The week began with a brief orientation session, which included a field trip to the five sites. Rather than trying to match the programs to the sites, participants were encouraged to think about the attributes of each one. At each location, participants discussed issues and sketched, scribbled notes and shot digital photography.

For the duration of the week and in full view of museum visitors, participants debated ideas and constructed models of cardboard, at times discussing their progress with each other. Throughout, they considered the interconnectedness of architecture, program and site as they relate to the topographical and historic conditions of Pittsburgh. While some were disappointed to be working sans computer, they compensated well by collaborating with team members and working hands-on to create models.

A highlight of the charrette was interacting with Michael Maltzan on the last day prior to the public critique. The architect arrived early in the day and met with each team to offer reinforcement and criticism before the critique. He even provided some practical advice such as this: hold an air can upside down for maximum effect.

One of his major goals? Making sense of the programs, which he acknowledged was a difficult challenge. The concept of pairing unusual programs was intended to get participants thinking about how innovative design can change the way people live. Case in point: the design of a greenhouse/Laundromat which impressed Maltzan. In an experimental move, the team designed the Laundromat with eco-friendly washers. The hitch: washing your clothes in these machines would take up to a week! Rather than viewing this as a negative, Maltzan recognized the potential for the Laundromat to become a local meeting place for its customers, transforming the mundane into a social experience that builds community. This type of positive change, he argued, occurs with simple, everyday businesses such as bookstores and coffee shops, not large-scale sports arenas or convention centers. The idea that architecture could ignite change and improvement was an empowering concept to the teams. Even if the student participants decide not to pursue a career in architecture, this experience certainly helped reshape how they think about architecture, and their city.

To cap the charrette, more than one hundred people crowded into the museum’s Hall of Sculpture to survey the teams’ final projects. Laura Lee, head of Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture, and Bob Reppe, zoning administrator for the City of Pittsburgh, joined in a public discussion led by Maltzan about the projects presented by each team. Audience members listened intently as team representatives explained their designs, as well as the successes and challenges they faced that week. Following each presentation, Maltzan asked questions and provided comments in an effort to tie the discussion to larger architectural and urban issues. Although these programs will not be realized, it is exciting to consider what the future holds for Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods. Who knows: perhaps the novelty of a one-week Laundromat will inspire an enthusiastic following. One lasting impression is the idea that the teams’ creative design solutions and Maltzan’s enthusiastic reactions to them suggest that our city is full of potential.
Meet the Fellows
Fireside Chats at the Firehouse Lounge

LOUIS D. ASTORINO, FAIA
Louis Astorino, FAIA founded Astorino in 1972 and serves as chairman of the firm. Under his leadership, the firm has been consistently ranked as one of America’s top 500 Design Firms by Engineering News Record. Beyond his leadership role at Astorino, Mr. Astorino was also recognized as a leader in the Pittsburgh community when the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named him as one of Pittsburgh’s Top 50 Business Leaders in 2001.

Mr. Astorino was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1987, received the Alumni Achievement Award of the College of Arts and Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University in 1989, and was made an Alumni Fellow by the Pennsylvania State University in 1991. Mr. Astorino has also served as President of the American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter, and as President of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. He was a cofounder of the AIA Pittsburgh Architects Workshop, as well as a member of the AIA National Design Committee, and is a Jury member for the AIA College of Fellows.

Mr. Astorino is on the Board of Directors Committee and Executive Committee for the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, as well as being Co-Chair of its International Committee. He was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania to serve on the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry’s Industrial Board and the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Commission. He also served on Governor Rendell’s 2003 Transition Committee for the Department of General Services.

Aside from his professional and civic involvement, Mr. Astorino is involved in a number of charitable organizations, including Holy Family Institute and the Roberto Clemente Foundation. He is Chairman of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, serves on the Advisory Board for the Little Sisters of the Poor, and is a member of the Christian Leaders Fellowship Christmas Creche Committee, among others.

Some of the projects completed under his direct supervision include the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Vatican City, Italy; the Domus Sanctae Martae (the Hospice Santa Marta), Vatican City; the Trimont condominium high-rise in downtown Pittsburgh; the historic preservation of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, PNC Park, the new Pirate stadium (with HOK Sports); PNC Firstside Center; the spring training facility for the Pittsburgh Pirates, McKechnie Field, Bradenton, Florida; and currently the design of the new Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Astorino received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 1969. He is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and is a registered professional architect in the States of Pennsylvania and 13 other states.

SYLVESTER DAMIANOS, FAIA
Sylvester Damianos, FAIA is president of Damianos-group, a multidisciplinary architectural firm in Pittsburgh, PA. His firm’s work is broad in scope with particular emphasis on art-related projects: museum, gallery, theater, library and educational facilities; exhibit design; furniture design and graphics.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, Mr. Damianos was a Fulbright Scholar at the Technological Institute of Delft, The Netherlands, followed by two years of service in the US Army Corps of Engineers. He then returned to Pittsburgh and a dual career in art and architecture. He is a practicing sculptor, craftsman and a one-time painter.

Mr. Damianos was elevated to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows in 1982 and elected to its Executive Committee in 1999. He received the AIA’s Edward C. Kemper Award, AIA Pennsylvania’s Medal of Distinction and AIA Pennsylvania’s Honor Award for Furthering Artistic Appreciation. Mr. Damianos is also an Honorary Member of the Japan Institute of Architects, Membro De Honor—Seccion Nacional Mexicana, and Honorary Fellow of The Royal Institute of Architecture in Canada.

A member of the AIA since the 1950s, Mr. Damianos has served on all levels of the Institute and was national...
president in 1990. Active with the American Architectural Foundation since 1988, he served as Chairman/Co-Chairman from 1991-98 and has been honored with lifetime membership on the Board as a Life Regent.

Mr. Damianos is sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities. He is a strong and passionate advocate of Universal Design and has served on a number of boards and committees involved with ADA issues at Carnegie Mellon.

Mr. Damianos currently serves as Chancellor of the College of Fellows and recently became co-chair of the District Design Committee of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

STEVE GEORGE, FAIA

Steve George, FAIA graduated from Carnegie Tech and worked in a number of offices until 1970 when he went into public service. Mr. George was Director of Land and Building for the City of Pittsburgh and then from 1971-1973 he was the Director of Parks and Recreation for the city. From 1973-1982 he served as the Executive Director of the Urban Redevelopment Authority until he went back into private practice. From 1984-1986 Mr. George was the Director of Aviation for Allegheny County when the new Pittsburgh International terminal was built. Mr. George then returned to private practice until he retired. Mr. George now runs a Bed & Breakfast in Bedford, PA with his wife called The Chancellor's House.

LAURA LEE, FAIA

Laura Lee, FAIA, a faculty member in Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture since 1990, was appointed head of the school in July 2004. Ms. Lee teaches courses in design studio, professional practice, and interdisciplinary arts on campus and abroad. In addition to her teaching experience at Carnegie Mellon, Ms. Lee has taught at the Higher Institute of Architecture in Antwerp, Belgium; Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Denmark; and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. She has presented and published many papers and co-authored "Uncovering the City: Architectural Dialogues," an exhibit that traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Ms. Lee is an appointed member of the AIA National Board Knowledge Committee, member of the AIA National Case Studies Work Group, and Past-Chair of the AIA National Educator/Practitioner Net. She has lectured and served on panels over the past several years for the AIA, AIAS, NCARB, and ACSA on issues concerning the relationship between education, internship, and practice. Her work focuses on the development and implementation of collaborative programs between the academy and the profession. She

veterans, live-in drug-treatment facilities, and an AIDS hospice.

Mr. Hoglund is a licensed architect in several states and is a past president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He is also a member of the College of Fellows of the AIA, as well as a member of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA), the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

Mr. Hoglund received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his graduate studies, Mr. Hoglund received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a university fellowship in order to visit group homes in Scandinavia and England—an instrumental source of his approach to senior living design.

DAVID HOGlund, FAIA

David Hoglund, FAIA a principal and director of Perkins Eastman, has led the firm's Pittsburgh office since its inception. Mr. Hoglund is a recognized expert in the design of senior living facilities and is at the forefront of deinstitutionalizing and reinventing the culture of senior living in the United States and abroad. Woodside Place, the first of a series of revolutionary senior living facilities designed by Mr. Hoglund, brought to fruition his ability to create spaces that improve the quality of life for people with special needs. Since then, Mr. Hoglund has been involved in the design of numerous other senior living facilities, as well as homes for emotionally disturbed children, residences for disabled
Laura Lee, FAIA

is a team chair for the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

Ms. Lee is the recipient of Carnegie Mellon's highest teaching honor – The Ryan Award, in 2002. Nationally, she earned the AIAS National Educator Award and recently received her Fellowship in the American Institute for Architects (FAIA) for advancing the science and art of building by advancing architectural education, training and practice. In January 2005, Ms. Lee was presented with the Henry van de Velde Institute Award for Architecture Education in recognition of her development of intercultural and interdisciplinary programs.

DAVID LEWIS, FAIA

David Lewis, FAIA is an architect/urban designer. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of Urban Studies in the School of Architecture, and head of the Fifth Year Studio. He is the founder of Urban Design Associates, a firm that practices from Pittsburgh and works in cities throughout the United States and in Britain and France.

Mr. Lewis came to Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1963 as the Andrew Mellon Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, where he started one of the first educational programs in urban design in which students worked hands-on with elected officials, agency representatives and citizens in communities in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region. From 1968 to 1974 he taught at Yale where he was the William Henry Bishop Professor of Urban Design and formed the urban design workshop. In 1988-89 he was the Hyde Professor at the University of Nebraska. In 1990 he returned to Carnegie Mellon University and started the Urban Laboratory, which continues to this day. In the late sixties and early seventies he was a core member of the AIAs Regional/Urban Design Assistance Teams (R/UDAT's), and Chairman of the AIAs National Urban Design Committee in 1976-77. In 1976 he was a Founder-Member of the International Institute of Urban Design. In 1988 he chaired the International Remaking Cities Conference at which HRH The Prince of Wales was the Honorary Chair.

Mr. Lewis has received several local, state and national awards. In 1988 he was honored with the AIAs Kemper Award for service to the profession. In 1988 he was also honored with the Pennsylvania Gold Medal for Architecture.

Mr. Lewis has written a number of books on art, architecture and urban design. He is also a painter and has held a number of one-person exhibitions.

Born in 1922, he served in the navy in World War II. His wife is Judith Tener-Lewis, and he has a daughter and a son.

ROBERT DALE LYNCH, FAIA

A registered architect for 34 years, Robert Dale Lynch, FAIA is a principal of Lynch & Associates, Architects in Pittsburgh which was started in 1982. In 1991, he was awarded the PSA Medal of Distinction, the gold medal and highest honor bestowed by the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. In 1996, he was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of his contribution as an architect for the good of the nation.

Mr. Lynch participated in the refinement and the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, testifying before Congress and working with congressional staff on behalf of the American Institute of Architects.

He worked for Senator James Rhodes as a volunteer from 1984 through 1988 to write and testify before the Pennsylvania Legislature for the enactment of the states Universal Accessibility Law of 1988. Subsequently, appointed by Harris Wolford, Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Labor & Industry, Mr. Lynch served as a founding member of the Pennsylvania Universal Accessibility Review Board for a term of four years.

In 1992, he was commissioned by the Architect of the Capitol to undertake an ADA survey of the United States Capitol Building, a month long study of 632 rooms.

Mr. Lynch has been a member of the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences for the last eight years, teaching courses in architectural design & construction.
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Learning in Las Vegas

Continuing Education at AIA National and Highlights of 2005 Convention

BY MAYA HAPTAS

Exiting the gate at the Las Vegas airport, I was immediately surrounded by the electronic whirl of slot machines, a strange jingle that would provide the constant backdrop for the rest of my trip. Outside the airport, I encountered a taxi line rivaled only by the Phantom's Revenge at Kennywood. The payoff? I’m convinced that 2005 AIA Gold Medal Winner Santiago Calatrava, FAIA was in the same line just ahead of me.

I arrived in Las Vegas on the evening of Monday, May 16th. As the component staff member in charge of Continuing Education, AIA National had awarded me a Cornerstone Partner Scholarship to attend the CES Providers Convention, a pre-convention to AIA National Convention and Design Exposition. Although AIA does not require me to complete 18 AIA/CES Learning Units (8 of which must qualify for HSW), as part of my job at AIA Pittsburgh, I am in charge of planning and scheduling Continuing Education Seminars. Our largest event is Build Pittsburgh, a two-day conference with seminars following three tracks, focused on regional issues, architectural practice, and new technologies. Over the year, we provide many seminars to our members which add up to well over the required 18 LU’s; 11 of these, including at least 8 HSW credits, can be received by attending Build Pittsburgh.

What struck me the most this year was the variety of activities that qualify for CES credit. As component staff from all over the country gathered in Las Vegas we were able to share our best practices for providing education for our members. While I believe we are on the right track in Pittsburgh, seeing such diversity in programming encouraged me to think outside the box. I’m convinced the Build Pittsburgh Committee did this several years ago by incorporating a Regional Issues track to the conference. I’m continually impressed by the caliber of speakers and diversity of issues we attract for Build Pittsburgh, and I’m happy to report many of my compatriots across the country were excited to hear about the success of our conference. And I must admit to feeling quite proud to be representing AIA Pittsburgh when I was asked “So, who was your Keynote Speaker?” and answered, “Why, The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Governor of Iowa.” They may have encouraged me to think outside the box, but I encouraged them to “think bigger.”

This year AIA National found that the top reason architects attend AIA National Convention was for continuing education. I encourage every member, if they got the opportunity, to attend this convention. Just the same, we shouldn’t lose sight of what we have available to us locally.

If you have an idea for a Continuing Education Seminar or would like to find out if something qualifies for LU’s, drop me a line here at the office, mhapsas@aiapgh.org

Below are some highlights of this year’s AIA National Convention. As you can see from 2005 AIA President Douglas L. Steidl, FAIA’s comments below, I think we are on the right track.

137th AIA National Convention in Las Vegas Partners Architects with Society

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 26, 2005 — The American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Convention and Design Exposition concluded with a record number of architects, exhibitors, and design industry professionals in attendance. Highlights of the convention included the unveiling of the U.S. Postal Service stamp commemorating the Masterworks in Modern Architecture, the airing of the documentary entitled, com•mu•ni•ty: a conversation with noted Las Vegas developer Steve Wynn and architect Tony Marnell, and 2005 AIA Gold Medal Winner, Santiago Calatrava, FAIA, closing the general session with remarks.
that focused on how his work is inspired by the human form, and that architecture is an extension of man and nature.

As of Saturday afternoon, the convention had attracted 24,444 registrants, a record number for the AIA's annual convention and an increase of more than 10% over last year. The number of exhibiting companies at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center reached 860, just slightly higher than the previous year, as the AIA convention staff made a concerted effort to maintain a manageable size of the show in order to ensure a positive experience for the attendees.

A survey of convention attendees indicated that AIA members chose continuing education programs as the top reason to attend the annual convention, and the response to the subject matter discussed was quite strong.

"We are thrilled that the content of the convention was so very pertinent to the issues facing American society. The idea of 'community' and how architects, by design of the built environment, affect the quality of life for all citizens, and the role architects play in creating places of significance, both physically and inspirationally, within our urban centers," stated 2005 AIA President Douglas L. Steedt, FAIA. "The convention addressed the importance of architects to society, and the responsibilities that that role places on the professional."

At the May 21 business meeting of the 137th AIA convention, a greater than two-thirds majority of delegates voted in favor of "Bylaws Amendment 05-A: Addition of International Director to the Institute's Board of Directors." This director will represent the approximately 1,000 architect and associate members who currently reside and work outside the U.S. Additionally, the delegates took action on the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION 05-1: The Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Public, Profession, and Institute**

Delegates approved this resolution, which is intended to raise awareness and knowledge about the number of architecture school graduates completing the registration process, and the subsequent impact on the public, profession, and Institute. The resolution calls for the AIA to work collaboratively with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and state boards to conduct a comprehensive survey of newly licensed architects over the past 10 years, to be updated annually in the future.

**RESOLUTION 05-2: Advocating for a Sustainable Future**

Delegates voted overwhelmingly for this resolution, targeted at raising awareness about the need for a national energy policy and to support the AIA Public Policy regarding sustainability. It urges that AIA members, as responsible stewards of our natural and built environments, acknowledge and seize the opportunity to advocate for a sustainable future. It further calls for the sharing of knowledge among all interested parties in the process.

**RESOLUTION 05-3: Promoting Leadership in Building Science and Technology**

In adopting this resolution to promote architects as the leaders in harnessing building science and technology to create higher performing buildings, delegates voted in favor of the AIA recognizing the role of building science (i.e., the management of heat, air, and moisture) and building technology in architecture. It calls for the Board Knowledge Committee and the Building Science Knowledge Community to recommend how the Institute can advance its leadership in the area of building science and building technology to promote the creation of better building enclosures.

**RESOLUTION 05-4: Addressing Specialty Certification**

Delegates voted down a resolution that would have discouraged specialty certification through the AIA itself or by other groups. (The AIA currently has an ongoing task force examining the issue of specialty certification.)

**RESOLUTION 05-5: Recognition of Newly Licensed Architect Members**

By acclamation, delegates voted to recognize those members of the AIA who became licensed in 2004 and to welcome them as the next generation of architects.

**RESOLUTION 05-6: Creation of a Small Firm Committee**

was withdrawn, in part because the Board has appointed a task force to study the needs of small firms and how the AIA can best serve them.

**RESOLUTION 05-7: Appreciation to Retiring Members of the Council of Architectural Component Executives**

Delegates by acclamation voted to acknowledge the exemplary service to local and state AIA components by the following retiring component executives:

- Diana Barnwell, AIA Pasadena and Foothill, 8 years of service
- Kathy C. Boutwell, Hon. AIA, CAE, AIA Mississippi, 30 years of service
- Sheila G. Bronfman, AIA Arkansas, 9 years of service
- Arnold “Les” Larsen, FAIA, AIA Treasure Coast, 5 years of service
- Mary Putnam, AIA Birmingham, 10 years of service

For additional news and insight on the AIA 2005 National Convention and Design Expo, visit http://www.aia.org/architect and click on the special convention logo. The AIA 2006 National Convention and Design Expo will be held June 8-10, 2006, in Los Angeles, CA. For more information about next year's exhibition contact, AIA Infocentral at 1-800-242-3837.
From the Firms

Phil Hundleby, AIA, principal at DRS Architects and Mario diCorcia, project architect, recently celebrated the opening of 30 East Main Street in Uniontown, PA, an upscale restaurant owned by Maggie Hardy Magerko. President of 84 Lumber. Located across from the historic State Theater, the restaurant adds an important element to the revitalization of downtown Uniontown.

Celli-Flynn Brennan is currently involved in the design and renovation of campus dining facilities at both Grove City College and Westmoreland County Community College. CFB is also the design firm for the rehabilitation of the Lutheran University Center in Oakland, which will replace the existing gray and white brick front with a glass-enclosed façade with a backlit cross facing Forbes.

KSBA Architects was hired by Klingensmith Healthcare of Ford City, PA to design an 18,900 sf facility combining retail, office and warehouse space to be completed by December 2005.

JSA was selected as the architecture, engineering and interior design firm to Sewickley Savings & Loan for a 4,000 sf renovation and adaptive re-use project in Sewickley, PA.

JSA has also been selected as the architecture, engineering and interior design firm for two Parkvale Bank Branch Locations - Millvale and Hempfield Township, PA. The Millvale location includes a new facility with drive-thru access while the Hempfield Township location is a renovation project and interior fit-out.

Mosher Studio has been retained by Pittsburgh Voyager to champion the LEED™ certification process for their newest vessel, Voyager II. Voyager II is a new state-of-the-art green engineered boat, and will be the world's first boat to seek LEED™ certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Significant renovations are occurring this summer at the Keystone Oaks School District's Dormont Memorial Stadium (below). The improvements, designed by Valentour English Bodnar & Howell, will provide a new field surface, renovations to the stadium fieldhouse and bleachers, and major site improvements.

Dupuesne University has selected WTW Architects to design a major renovation for the University’s St. Martin’s Dormitory. The $3.3 million, three-phase renovation project began earlier this year and should be completed in the summer of 2008. The 14-story freshmen dormitory structure was built in 1962, and serves as the residence for 500 students.

Business Briefs

DRS Architects announced that Tom Gray, AIA is serving as project architect for the Erie Convention Center Hotel in Erie, PA.

Howard Braxton and Chad Tripp join DRS Architects as a CADD Technicians. Vicci Franz has recently joined DRS as an interior designer and is developing corporate and educational interior projects. William Michael moved to the firm from George Conte Associates and will be working in the hospitality group on the Erie Convention Center Hotel and other projects.

Celli-Flynn Brennan welcomes the following additions to the firm: Gregory Galford, AIA, as design architect, Kristin C. Kennedy as lead specification writer and project architect, Bryan Grasso, Anita Gallo and Alistair Lowe as graduate architects and Nathan Burdette as IT director and CAD manager.

Jay Rieder has joined the DuBois based architectural firm KTH Architects, Inc. Rieder will join the Health Care Division as a Cad Operator.

Perkins Eastman announced the following promotions: Ken Kuligowski, AIA, John Lingley, and Arch Pelley, AIA have all been promoted to senior associate. Paul Cali, AIA and Scott Fitzgerald, LEED have been promoted to associate.

Perkins Eastman has hired Kent Edwards, AIA as a senior associate, Douglas Lieb as a project architect and megan Williams as a construction administrator.

General Industries has appointed Mark Zupsic as senior estimator and Michael Allen as superintendent.
Kudos

Vern L. McKissick III, AIA, principal at McKissick Associates, was recently appointed to the Commonwealth Department of General Services Review Board for a two-year term by Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell.

The Preservation League of New York state selected The Sage Colleges for its Excellence in Preservation Award for 2005, honoring Sage's work in Albany and Rensselaer counties. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage. Contributing to the success of the project were Celli-Flynn Brennan and architect Vincent Lepera of Architecture Plus in Troy, NY. The Congress Park and the 1895 and 1897 buildings where the Suffragettes met regularly were all restored.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering and Interior Design announced the professional registration of Steven N. Ackerman, AIA. Mr. Ackerman, a JSA employee for the past 5 years, currently serves as project architect and has been instrumental with May Department Stores Company, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and A.C. Moore Projects. He graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1997 and a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1998.


Richard De Young, AIA, president and chief executive officer of WTW Architects, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

PROJECTS OF MERIT

ROBERT E. EBERLY PAVILION CANCER CENTER
BRIDGES & Company completed several additions and renovations to the Robert E. Eberly Pavilion cancer treatment center in Uniontown, PA. The center presented unique and dramatic construction challenges. Under the auspices of UPMC, BRIDGES added a mobile CT scanner dock and built a new linear accelerator vault. To contain the radiation within the vault it required an unusual amount of concrete. The project was completed December, 2005. BRIDGES was awarded the ABC "Excellence Award" for this project.

Owner: UPMC / Fayette Oncology Associates
Architect: Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann
**Calendar**

**AIA Activities**

**September 2, Friday**
AIA Communications Committee Meeting
 Noon at the Chapter office. All members are welcome. 412-471-9548

**September 12, Monday**
AIA Programming Committee Meeting
 Noon at the Chapter office. All members are welcome. 412-471-9548

**September 13, Tuesday**
AIA Pittsburgh Board Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Chapter office. All members are welcome. 412-471-9548

**September 15, Thursday**
Annual Membership Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Firehouse Lounge. Don’t forget to bring Design Awards binders - This is the extended due date and your last chance for submission!

**September 16, Monday**
Design Awards boards due! 5 p.m. at the Chapter office.

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**Save these Dates**

**Design Pittsburgh in the Design Zone**

**October 6**
Design Pittsburgh Gala
51st Street Business Center, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. $65/person

**October 6 – October 30**
Exhibit
Exhibit of all entries in AIA Pittsburgh Design Awards
51st Street Business Center, Free

**October 25**
Design Awards Ceremony
51st Street Business Center, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. $15/person

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**Upcoming Issues**

**October:**
The Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan: How will it affect architects? How architects are involved in the Blair County Comprehensive Plan

**November:**
The Pittsburgh Gaming Task Force

**December:**
Design Pittsburgh 2005 Award Winners

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

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To locate the Book of Recommended Construction Practices, visit www.mbawpa.org/aia-mba/. For questions about this resource or about the AIA/MBA Joint Committee contact Jon O'Brien at 412-922-3912 or jobrien@mbawpa.org.
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  WEB SITE: www.sewickleygraphics.com

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