



COLUMNS

FEB/08 The Future for Architects | Love at First Site: new residents like what they see | Masonry Camp: International Masonry Institute Program for Young Architects | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

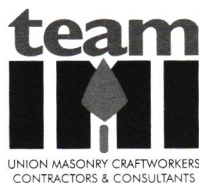
COLUMNS

Masonry Questions?



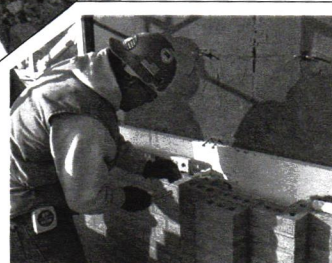
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HOMEFRONT

BY BECKY SPEVACK



A lot has been written about change, and a lot has been said. Bob Dylan and David Bowie come to mind, as do John Steinbeck and Thomas Paine. But we each have our own personal experiences with the topic too. Some of the major life changes that have occurred in the three years I have been in Pittsburgh include purchasing my first car (and it was new!). Welcoming the first addition into my family, my dog, a lab-mix named Sasha. Becoming a homeowner. As an artist, was part of my first group show in the city. And these are just a few of the standout examples, while so many others exist in the background and on the perimeter, so many small steps towards growth.

Each new year brings with it thoughts of new beginnings. This year especially change is in the air. The race for the White House began early and strong, and already so much has happened. What started as a packed ballot has been stripped down in just a few short weeks. Over the next ten months, America will be tuning in to more debates and speeches, listening and learning about new avenues to follow and new directions planned, in hopes of choosing the strongest candidate to lead our country. Change is exciting, but the unknown can also be a time of apprehension.

As we as a country go through this turbulent and uncertain period, we as a city are going through our own transformation. With Pittsburgh's population in decline, it is perhaps lesser known that it is also made up of an increasingly mature demographic, with an elderly population that is over 5% higher than the national average. This is something that is going to continue to have a lasting affect on the city. How this city responds and evolves over the next five, ten, even twenty years will redefine Pittsburgh. Will our city grow? Will it attract new businesses and professionals? Will it continue to be a great place for venture capitalists and tech start-ups? As someone with a vested interest, I certainly hope so.

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Cover photo by Rob Strovers

But what will help it thrive? The constantly changing face of how the world is run, how business is handled, is going to have an impact, and we can only hope Pittsburgh adapts.

A similar scenario can be witnessed within the world of architecture. The way architecture is practiced is changing and evolving. Technology is constantly altering the possibilities and with each new change firms need to take a hard look at their practice to decide how to move forward. Just two years ago AIA Pittsburgh's own Dick Rittelmann, FAIA wrote a feature on the future of architecture (*Columns* April 2006). Looking to that for inspiration, we have taken a new view on the topic, talking with young professionals about the changes they have already witnessed, and what they hope to encounter over the years. One point that resounds is that the profession is losing many recent graduates to a number of related fields, and our new chapter president, Paula Maynes, AIA, speaks to that in her column, "Viewpoint" on page three.

One thing that unites our country, our city, and the architecture profession right now, besides change, is hope. The two can often be intertwined, and these situations prove no different. As we move forward and try to affect change, to do so without hope would seem foolish and defeatist.

In grade school, I was required to memorize and analyze Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope Is the Thing With Feathers" and I can recall it to this day. I often find myself repeating the short lines in my head when calm and inspiration are needed, and find the imagery it conjures – hope as a bird, free to fly, soaring to increasing heights – help to steer me through moments when a little guidance is needed most. We need to each find the little thing that can help us through as our work and living environments are drastically altered, so that we may maintain the hope and drive needed to push the work we do, the place we work, the city we live in to function at its (and our) peak in these ever-changing landscapes. 

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –*

*And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of Me.*

-Emily Dickinson



A GROWING CHALLENGE

BY PAULA R. MAYNES, AIA

We can each point to moments in our lives when we grew a little more, when we realized we are bigger, braver, or wiser than we had thought. My abbreviated list includes some classic life-altering events:

- Overcoming a fear by learning to float at age 7.
- Collecting my first paycheck at age 17.
- The excitement and trepidation of a recent college graduate moving to the vast and wild west, sight unseen, at age 22.
- The awesome, terrifying, and joyful responsibility of thinking beyond my own immediate needs in becoming a parent at age 32.

At any age it is a thrill to exclaim, “Hey, look what I can do!” I can easily declare that the daily problem solving challenges of an architectural practice offer a constant, stimulating, and varied set of opportunities to learn and grow.


During college, a mentor surprised me with the suggestion that I could define for myself what it means to be an architect. Would it be artist, designer, technician, businesswoman, marketer, historian, sociologist, mind reader, place-maker, advocate...? To me, architecture is a team sport, which requires talent, enthusiasm, and leadership. My team is comprised of many individuals beginning with my staff and partner, a consultant team, the extended project team including the catalyst – the client – and members of the community. Architecture truly is a most public art.

Recently I’ve heard grumblings that the profession of architecture is at a crossroads. New technologies demand that established professionals continue to incorporate new modes of production and communication into their practices. Yet, it is technological advances that have allowed the profession to press the envelope of

creative expression through the ages. Young graduates are both shrinking in number and turning to more glamorous fields that promise higher levels of compensation through the production of virtual architecture. This is potentially our great loss, our next generation. Perhaps we will step forward as mentors saying, “There is still room to define for oneself what it means to be an architect.” I do not know any two practices that are the same.

With that said, I do find that architects have a special way of envisioning the great potential of any situation. What I love most about the AIA is the interaction I share with a group of individuals who recognize possi-

bilities, who are strongly community-oriented, and who understand the link between *quality of life and quality of environment*.

As the 2008 President of AIA Pittsburgh, I would like to hear your thoughts about how AIA Pittsburgh can serve its members and the community. We will be redesigning our website this year. If, in the meantime, you haven’t explored the AIA National website, www.aia.org you are missing out on a host of remarkable resources: the Knowledge Communities’ Best Practices, the Small Firms Resource Center, information for Emerging Professionals, and the recently launched SOLOSO, an online resource for architects to share and exchange information. I have been involved in the AIA for several years and feel that I am just beginning to scratch the surface of what the institution has to offer. Please contact me at prmaynes@mayneassociates.com, particularly if you have ideas about recruiting/mentoring a diverse and talented pool of professionals. We will address this challenge during Build Pittsburgh, our annual educational event. Hey, look what WE can do with your participation! 



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

For information about AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Middle PA and the Northwest PA Chapter, call 1-888-308-9099.
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SUSTAINABILITY 2030

In a continued effort to raise awareness and create a better understanding about the impact of the built environment we live and work in, here is a look at some of the accomplishments being made by the AIA:

50»50

The AIA's year-long initiative to demonstrate the environmental consequences of construction and building operations has culminated with the publication of 50 specific strategies to reduce carbon emissions at <http://www.aia.org/fiftytofifty>. The strategies, which offer a range of design opportunities, are described in detail with examples and links to relevant sites. The effort follows the AIA's adoption of the 2030 Initiative, a pledge to achieve zero carbon emissions from buildings by that year.

The 50/50 resource is one of several projects completed under the leadership of AIA National Vice-President Norman Strong, FAIA in his role as leader of the Board of Directors' Sustainability Discussion Group (SDiG). Other projects include the development of a green-meetings guideline, curriculum development, amendments to the profession's code of ethics to include sustainability, and an evaluation of sustainability-rating systems. Learn about these initiatives and more at www.aia.org/susn_rc_default. 

2008 LEAP YEAR PARTY

Join us – a community of architects and design professionals – as we celebrate those individuals who have recently taken a professional leap! On February 28th, we will be recognizing the accomplishments of newly registered architects and welcoming new AIA Pittsburgh members.

WHEN: Thursday, February 28, 2008
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.


WHERE: Outlaw Studios,
2420 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



During this evening, individuals will be able to tour the studio, network, and enjoy food and drinks with fellow design professionals.

5:30-6:30: Newly registered architects and new AIA Pittsburgh chapter members are invited to a pre-party meet & greet. During this time, these individuals will have the opportunity to meet fellow colleagues in a more intimate setting, engage in a little Q & A, and gather information on the AIA Pittsburgh chapter and the design climate in the Pittsburgh region.

COST: Free for newly registered architects and/or new AIA members that have received this status within the past year. Others: \$15 per person.

To sign-up for this event or for more information, contact AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548 or visit our website at www.aiapgh.org. 

AIA NATIONAL “WALKS THE TALK” IN HEADQUARTERS RENOVATION


The AIA national headquarters building, dedicated in 1973, was designed by The Architect’s Collaborative, founded by Walter Gropius. As the building approaches the 50-year mark, the AIA is seizing the opportunity to both preserve and increase its value to the profession, the public, and the nation. The renovation plan authorized by the AIA Board of Directors at its September meeting aims to achieve the following objectives:

- *Preserve and strengthen its legacy as a potential historic building.* The renovation project will take into account possible historic designation as the building approaches its 50th anniversary.


- *Repair, refurbish, or upgrade the facility’s aging primary systems.* Many of the AIA building’s primary systems have reached the end of their productive life, and attending to those is necessary to preserve the Institute’s investment in this key real estate asset.

- *“Green” the headquarters to make it an exemplar of sustainable design.* The project will demonstrate commitment to a sustainable future as well as progress toward the AIA’s Sustainability2030 objectives. As a green building, the headquarters can cut its energy and fossil fuel use by 50 percent by 2010 and lay the groundwork for carbon neutrality by 2030. Elements for possible inclusion in the schematic design studies are green roofs, a geothermal well system, rooftop photovoltaic panels for electricity, solar-heated water, increased natural light and daylighting strategies, improved insulation, high-performance glazing systems, underfloor air distribution, gray water use, and harvested rainwater, to name a few.

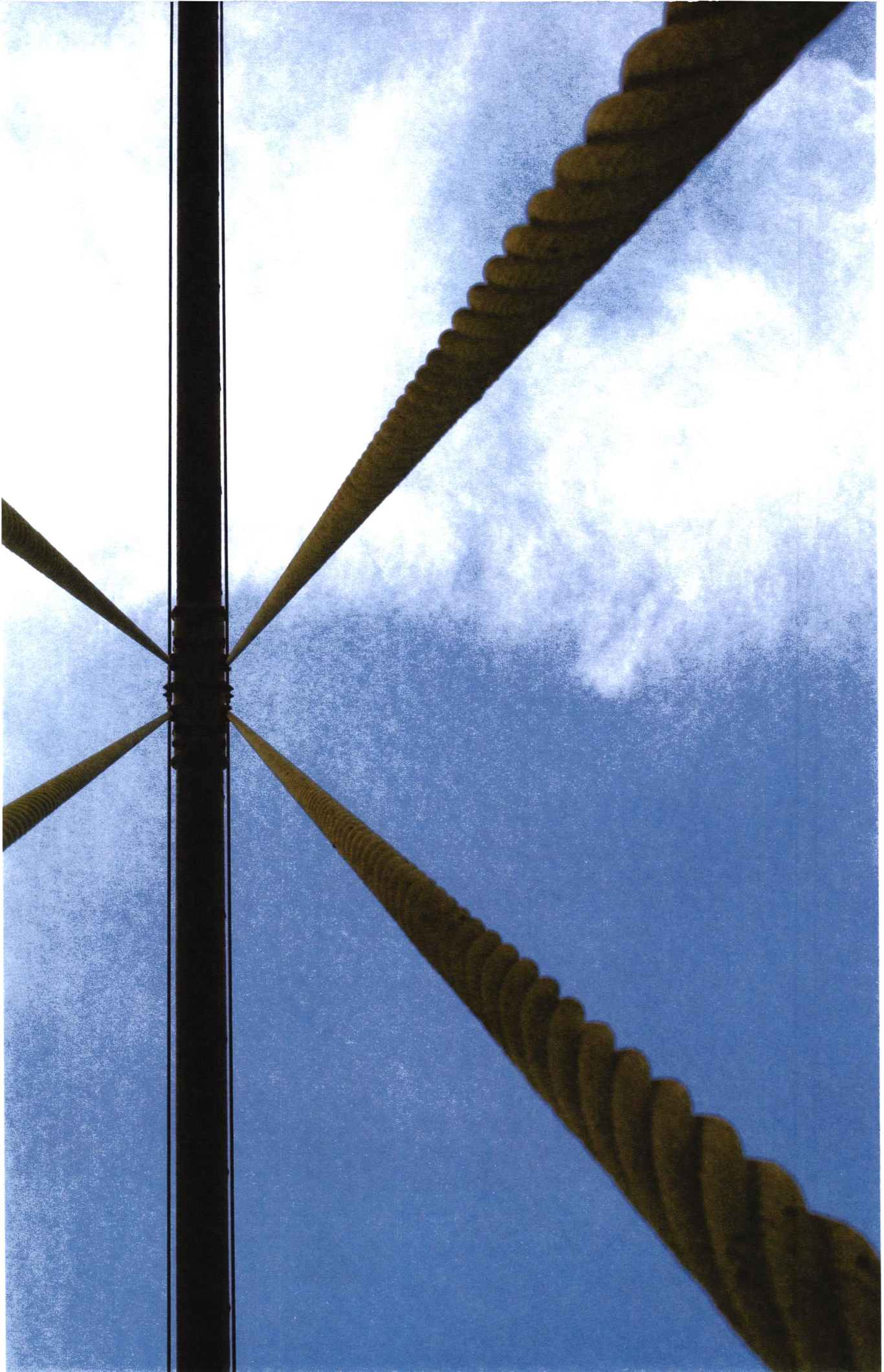
- *Help optimize organizational performance through worker-friendly design.* The design will promote worker satisfaction and productivity in a sustainable 21st-century workplace.

The AIA will share the renovation results with the profession, the government, and the public to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable 21st-century design. It will show that AIA member architects “walk the talk” and have solutions for the challenges posed by global warming. 

AIA PITTSBURGH WELCOMES 2008 PRESIDENT

On December 4th, 2007, AIA Pittsburgh members and friends gathered at the Penn Brewery for the annual holiday party. Incoming president **PAULA MAYNES, AIA** was presented with the ceremonial wig by outgoing president **JIM RADOCK, AIA**. Also welcomed were new board members **LISA DABINETT, AIA**, **DUTCH MACDONALD, AIA**, and **TOM PRICE, AIA**. Great German food and brew were shared by all. 





the future for architects

Young professionals are seeking *and* finding new career paths.

BY DEBORAH KNOX

While many graduates still enter the traditional internship-in-a-big-firm track, more young and mid-career architects are embracing changing practice models. The ways in which new technology is impacting architecture are leading many toward multidisciplinary fields. Pittsburgh's young professionals speak out about the changes they already see and their hopes for the future.

FINDING A FOCUS?

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Andrew Caruso, Assoc. AIA, has always had a burning desire to focus on the policy side of architecture, and now he is the president of AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students). "We're the glue that holds everything together," explained Caruso, who sits on the national AIA Board and on NCARB panels. He'd like to see more training in firm economics, management, promotions, and marketing, but "how much more can be crammed into a curriculum?" he asks.


At a time when the practice of architecture is constantly being redefined, Pittsburgh's two architecture programs are booming. Enrollment is up at both the University of Pittsburgh

and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). The schools' programs are preparing students for their professions using different models. But are these preparations effective enough for the real world ahead?

At Carnegie Mellon University, they offer a professional practices course where students are exposed to case studies of the region's firms, with the messiness and realities of daily practice unveiled in a candid and thorough manner. Architecture students take a class in Real Estate Development where real-life projects are studied, complete with input from participating

stakeholders. This past term, Mark Minnerly from The Mosites Company taught the class, using the EastSide development as the model. "This fortifies the relationship between professionals and the community," says Laura Lee, FAIA, head of the School of Architecture.

The most practical education is carried out through the Urban Laboratory and Remaking Cities Institute, which takes students out into the community for projects that include community visioning and multidisciplinary research. This hands-on experience gives students the practicality that can help them focus where they want to go.



As the architectural world continues to evolve, educators face huge challenges, including the many ways that computerization and technologies are revolutionizing the ways that it's possible to think about a building. **DREW ARMSTRONG**

Enrollment is up 30% at CMU, according to Lee. Upon graduating from a five-year program, students have earned their Bachelor of Architecture – a degree which is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board as a professional degree, allowing the recipient to qualify for the ARE (Architectural Registration Examination).

At the University of Pittsburgh, the Architectural Studies program is different – Pitt offers a Bachelor of Arts degree built around a history and humanities core. A significant change in the program occurred in 2007 when the depart-

ment arranged for a dedicated architectural studio with two teachers, according to Drew Armstrong, the department director. “This has been an unequivocal success,” says Armstrong, noting the program has grown to 90 students.

Armstrong is also a strong advocate of student involvement in the real world of architectural practice through internships. For the students, it introduces them to the complexity of the field and is “a transformative experience”. In addition to the internships, many students have affiliated with the local Green Building Alliance and other community organizations, most notably the Oakland Business Improvement District.

“As the architectural world continues to evolve, educators face huge challenges, including the many ways that computerization and technologies are revolutionizing the ways that it’s possible to think about a building,” says Armstrong.

MAKING NEW PATHS

Caruso is a young man with a passion for policy development, especially where it impacts young professionals. He believes larger firms could do more to support young professionals, such as paying licensure exam fees and compensating workers for time out of the office to take the exams.

Because graduates are often looking at incredible educational debt, Caruso said it would be helpful if NCARB would allow students to take exams right after graduation. “Currently, eight or nine states have approved jurisdictions to do this and it can be done concurrently with the IDP. In some places it’s a guideline, and in others the decision has to go to the state legislature for consideration.”

Eric Osth, AIA, principal and Architecture Studio Director of Urban Design Associates, agrees. He believes that the current format of the IDP licensure process is difficult and should be reviewed. The highest hurdles to the profession



Photo by Rob Strovers

are at the end of the licensure process. Fields like medicine regulate their profession by the admissions to graduate school, so there is less attrition overall. “The IDP requirements, the cost of maintaining your internship record, the cost of the exam, and the duration of the exam are very hard on young professionals.”

Another concern is how this new generation of architects adapts to life in a firm. Caruso notes that a common complaint he’s heard from graduates entering large firms as interns is that they feel that their skills are undervalued and their abilities underutilized. “Many students in programs take their skills into industrial design, graphic design,” he continues. Here Osth see a strong role for small firms in the future. “Small firms are still relevant in today’s development world. They are considered trustworthy,” he said. “There isn’t necessarily a corporate approach.” The feel of a small firm may also help today’s interns feel as though they are part of a team, putting their education and knowledge to good use.

A NEW PRACTICE

For Tom Price, AIA, of Strada LLC, the primary problem for the profession is that the general public has a misconception about what architects actually do. He believes that most people don’t fully understand the immense effort that goes into making the built environment. “As a profession, we don’t do a very good job of letting people know what we do.”

“We need to be strong entrepreneurs in the business of architecture,” he explained. “We also have to be protective of our role in the building industry and market ourselves in a way that sets us apart from contractors who are trying to take on roles traditionally reserved for architects.” Price believes that contractors should team up with architecture firms at the beginning of projects to share expertise without trying to do what architects are trained to do on their own.

One way in which contractors are doing this is by hiring architects to work within development companies. After 12 years of working for

architectural and engineering firms, Arthur Sheffield, Assoc. AIA, has joined Massaro Corporation as a designer. He’s finding this new work very rewarding and believes that Massaro Corporation is a contractor that truly appreciates the details of what architects do and are supportive of maintaining design intent.

“I’m part of the preconstruction services group within the estimating department, working on the front end of projects, meeting with clients, doing programming, schematic design, and design development. [From there] I prepare a set of drawings for pricing and work with our estimators to determine a preliminary project cost.” Afterwards, the drawings and estimate are provided to the client who then hires an architect. The architect may keep the design or change it at their discretion but the client is armed with the knowledge of reasonable cost expectations and design possibilities.

While at Strada, Price has encountered several design/build projects and they have been successful. He says that if you get a good team that works well together, it is one of the best opportunities to get your project built the way it was originally designed. It also can add value to design in contrast to situations where value engineering beats the beauty out of a project in order to save money later in the process.

The perception is that design/build always saves time and money. While not necessarily true, with collaboration from the start, contractors can help architects make design decisions that save the owner money. If these decisions are mutually agreed to, the whole documentation and construction process becomes more efficient and effective.

“That’s the beauty of design/build,” explains Sheffield. “It gives more leeway in how you get the project built – whether it is architect or contractor led. Everyone is on the same team from the start instead of contractors getting involved at 50% of construction documents, or even later.” If included early in the design process, contractors can offer a lot of expertise about foundation and structural systems, feasibility of design,

the studio for spatial practice

CMU professors launch innovative new firm

Jonathan Kline and Christine Brill, AIA are Adjunct Assistant Professors in the Department of Architecture at CMU and, more importantly, have created hybrid careers and recently launched an innovative architectural practice that is the face of the future – The Studio for Spatial Practice – which opened in January 2008.


Both have architecture degrees; additionally Jonathan has earned a Master of Art, and Christine just completed her Master of Landscape Architecture. They are fusing all of this into their professional path. Their vision is to create a small, multi-disciplinary design firm capable of engaging in urban design and community planning issues in a proactive way. “We will have a firm that has architects, an artist, graphic design, and the capacity for creating digital media,” explained Kline.

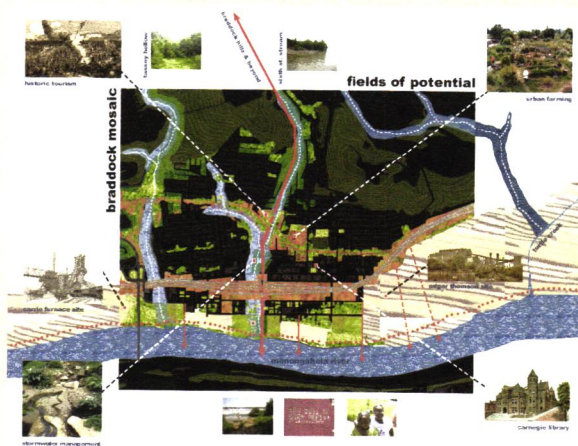
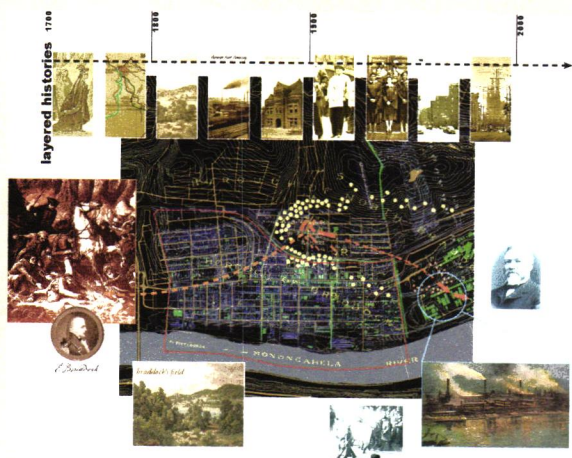
Proactive development will be the bedrock of The Studio for Spatial Practice. They aren’t going to wait for people to come to them (though they’ll be pleased if they do) and will work



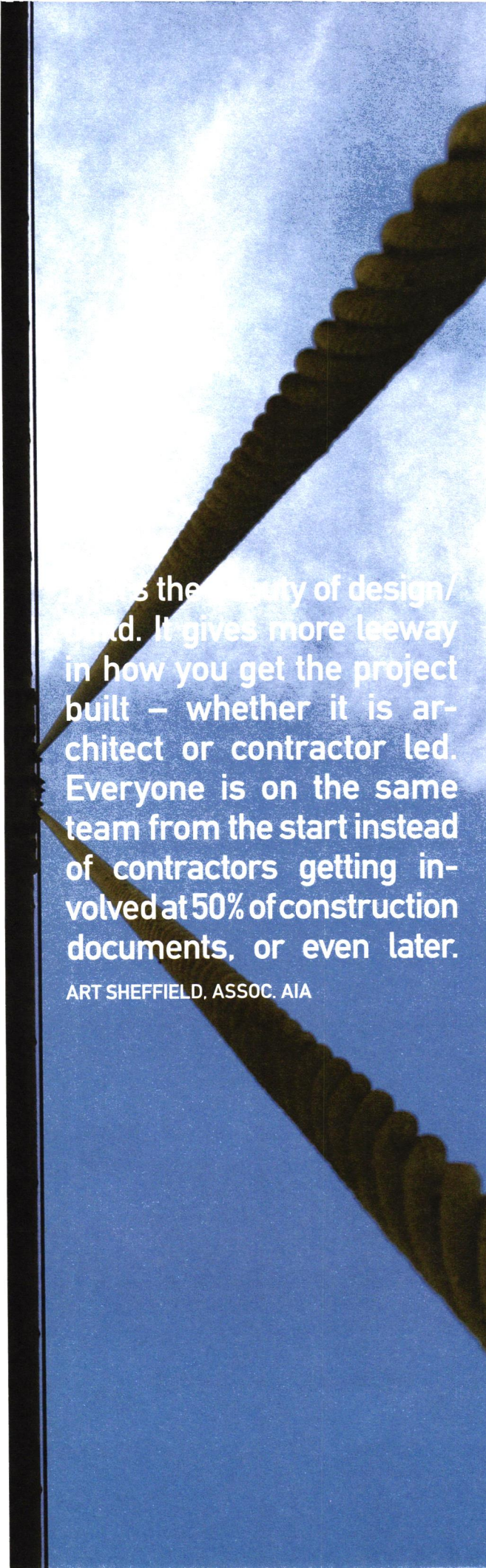
with communities and groups, finding creative ways to secure funding and develop resources to move forward. They care deeply about cities and want to blur the boundaries of policy and action in urban design.

They are currently working with Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future on a land-use and transportation planning project that combines research and information visualization. One of the challenges with this project is to make sense of large reports by creating graphics/maps, clear succinct text, and bulleted points that summarize past planning recommendations.

“We want to energize people in the process of the city and focus on our community,” said Brill. One local issue they’d like to tackle is developing green-infrastructure solutions for addressing Pittsburgh’s aging combined sewer system. “We want to make the city more beautiful while also solving problems with a full scope of creative practice.” And, their new practice they will offer traditional architectural services too. 



Looking for Braddock’s Fields was commissioned by 3 Rivers 2nd Nature, a project of the Studio for Creative Inquiry at CMU. The project attempted to create positive change in Braddock, PA, drawing upon the community’s social, physical, and historical assets and engaging residents in a collaborative, vision-making process.



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ART SHEFFIELD, ASSOC. AIA

and other aspects from the start. This allows for more accurate estimating, which can provide substantial cost savings to an owner.

“It makes sense for a client to have one-stop shopping,” he says. “People get concerned about who is looking out for the owner’s interest. The traditional attitude was that architects protect the client from the contractor, and the approach was often adversarial. The design/build project delivery method helps to break that down.” Ultimately, the key to a successful project is to have mutual collaboration, communication, and respect between the architect and contractor. “We must always keep in mind that we are on the same team and that our decisions impact the clients’ bottom line.” He believes that for contractors, having architects on staff makes them more amenable to working with design professionals and gives them a unique understanding and appreciation of the architect’s role.

LOOKING FORWARD

Reaching Out

Caruso said that the AIA is looking at two-year schools to nurture future architects. “We have a growing number of chapters and the student population is more diverse, and often older,” stated Caruso, adding that many community college students have already been out in the work force and have a good work ethic. One major issue he sees is that minority students need more than scholarships: the process must support them professionally through to the licensure process. “If you are planting a garden, you don’t just throw down more seeds – you have to tend them – all the way through the educational cycle.”

Massaro Corporation couldn’t agree more, and is making great efforts to create change. More than just being a designer at the firm, Sheffield is also their Minority Outreach Coordinator. Massaro has a three-phased diversity initiative seeking to diversify their own staff internally, the sub-contractors that they work with, and encouraging minority youth to pursue careers in the building trades. Sheffield is pas-

sionate about increasing diversity in the construction industry. He is a board member of the National Association of Minority Contractors-Pittsburgh and adds that there is local chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) forming soon.

As one of the few minority architectural design professionals in the Pittsburgh region, Sheffield experienced different terrain in Washington, DC where he attended Howard University. "There are a number of black owned architectural firms there, and they work on a wide array of public and private projects. We don't have that in Pittsburgh at this point. There are currently only three black owned firms in the area. I am truly hopeful that Pittsburgh's majority architectural community will support these firms and help them to grow and be successful. When the profession becomes more diversified, that will help build diversity in our region."

Sheffield wants to work on projects that have a positive impact on communities, especially the black community. Neighborhoods tend to be a reflection of how people see themselves – and good design adds to that vision. In the past, many low income neighborhoods were harmed by architects who just "lined their pockets with public funds and didn't have a positive attitude about the work, and most importantly, residents weren't involved in the community design process." Thankfully, that has changed for the better. He also believes that it is important for minority communities to see people of color in project leadership roles.


Building Relationships

"Historically, we (Urban Design Associates) drifted toward the practice of urban design and away from the traditional practice of architecture," says Osth. "UDA was founded as a small regional architecture practice with some transformative ideas about making cities through architecture. In the process, the firm revived the historic tradition of Pattern Books for new development and restoring communities. We noticed that there was significant interest for that

type of document at a national level." That was a successful niche for a long time, but over the past few years, UDA has reincorporated architecture into the practice. "Our clients asked us to continue our service into architecture. The key to survival is being able to be nimble and change with the needs of the market."

Osth added that the future of architecture is about building relationships with the clients and their environments. "Our clients are always eager to hear our assessment of the valuable characteristics of any environment and how to preserve it as we move forward. In addition, they perceive the value we bring as architects to help illustrate the impact of new development and to help put pieces in the appropriate place. In conjunction with architectural practice in the 'traditional' sense, architects have to be seen as a resource, not only as the final piece of the puzzle," he explained.

Price sees the future dependent on the field's ability of letting the public know what architects can do for them and how they do it. He continued, "People don't second guess paying lawyers and doctors – they see that as a necessary service – but they question the value of our work. We need to start speaking a language that our clients understand and relate to." He would like to see the profession convey to companies and clients that good design can help them meet and hopefully exceed their overall business goals.

The future of architecture is being shaped by technology, the entrepreneurial vision of young professionals, and the pull of professional desires shaped by the economic realities of our communities. Professionals at all stages of their careers are continuing to evolve their approaches, improve public perceptions, and are activists for the profession and for the cities they serve. 

MASONRY CAMP: INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ARCHITECTS

BY HAZEL BRADFORD

www.imiweb.org



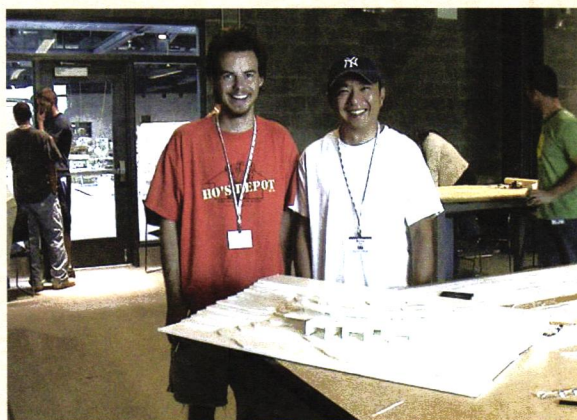
A week of summer camp might sound like a fun diversion, but for scores of young architects who have had the opportunity to attend Masonry Camp, including several from AIA Pittsburgh, it can be a life-changing experience.

The nationally recognized design/build educational program for young architects and masons was created by the International Masonry Institute more than a decade ago, for two reasons: to foster collaboration between designers and builders, and to invest in the future of good masonry design and construction. IMI is a labor/management trust of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and their contractors.

In 2007, AIA Pittsburgh members Matthew Brind'Amour, Assoc. AIA, an architectural intern with Astorino, and Brian A. DiPietro from WTW Architects, had the added thrill of inaugurating the new BAC/IMI International Training Center in Maryland, which was designed by Stanley Tigerman, FAIA.

Being at the training center gave the young architects hands-on exposure to all the masonry crafts taught there – brick, stone, plaster, tile, restoration, and terrazzo – by some of the best instructors in the business.

Better yet, campers got to use some of that new knowledge in a design-build exercise as part of a multi-disciplinary team of designers and craftworkers. Working hands-on with materials that he normally only sees in AutoCAD was definitely a highlight for Brind'Amour, who also got to try the rigging that restoration work-



Architects and masons traded places at Masonry Camp. Here, Brian DiPietro from WTW Architects (left) helped BAC apprentice Kenny Chau from New York try his hand at modeling.






Matthew Brind'Amour, Assoc. AIA, (left) from Pittsburgh and Sarah Walker appreciated the practical perspective that apprentices like Gene McAndrew brought when it was time to build a portion of their design.

ers use to rappel down buildings. "It was a great chance to not only see things put together but to actually build them ourselves," he says.

One of the most valuable aspects of camp for DiPietro was "being able to work hand in hand with the craftsmen that normally look at our drawings and try to figure out what we were thinking." Their input and realistic advice "were something you can't just learn in school or an office." That exposure, he says, brought "a newfound respect for each other."

Both campers say the experience has made them better architects. "It has helped me to design more efficient and aesthetically pleasing proportions which add little to no cost to a project," says DiPietro. For Brind'Amour, the knowledge he gained about masonry construction and detailing "has given me a real advantage in my work."

"It's an experience I wouldn't trade for anything." 



A highlight of Masonry Camp for Matthew Brind'Amour, Assoc. AIA, was building a stone wall as part of his team's design/build exercise.



Intern architect Brian DiPietro from WTW Architects and Valerie Towe from Boston enjoyed the chance to experience masonry crafts firsthand, and to see their designs come to life with their own hands.

Masonry Camp 2008 will be held July 12-18 and July 26-August 1. The program offers 50.5 CEU. For more information, go to www.imiweb.org

BREAKING

FROM THE FIRMS

Horizon Properties Group, LLC through its affiliate Horizon Hospitality, LLC, has begun construction on the Homewood Suites, a five-story, approximately 110-room extended stay hotel to be located in the Southpointe II development in Canonsburg, 20 minutes outside the city of Pittsburgh. The Homewood Suites is part of the Hilton family of hotels, and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2009.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has been selected by Horizon Properties of Canonsburg, PA to be part of the design/build team along with Burchick Construction Company for the design of a new 40,000 sf flex office/warehouse building to be located at the Evergreene Technology Park Lot 4 in Franklin Township, Greene County, PA. The new single level, multi-tenant building has been designed such that it can be efficiently and cost effectively constructed utilizing tilt-up concrete wall panel construction. JSA project team members include **Richard J. Oziemblowsky, AIA**, as design principal and Joe Price, project manager.

Ligo Architects is designing the renovation of Pullman Baseball Park and stadium which currently hosts approximately 225 local games. The renovation has been designed to facilitate being upgraded to Minor or Frontier League status should such a team locate in Butler. The building will be equipped for concerts, dinners, and receptions in the specially designed private box suites. Construction completion is scheduled in time for the spring season, 2008. In other projects, the firm has an oceanfront Ponte Verda Beach, Florida residence renovation, a new residence in Cleveland, and several large residences under construction in the North Pittsburgh and New York areas. Recently construction was completed on the Fox Inn in Foxburg. Condominiums are now complete in Sewickley and the third phase of seven apartment buildings of student housing was occupied on the Oil City Campus of Clarion University. Additions and alterations to The Alumni House at Slippery Rock University will be complete this spring. The firm also designed a new Buddhist Temple which was completed last fall.

The architecture and engineering division of **L. Robert Kimball & Associates** has been contracted to provide design



Fox Inn



Shawnee State University Union

services to The Pennsylvania State University for a new 1,000-seat stadium for the women's softball team. The stadium will be located on campus near the current softball field. Construction on the facility will begin in November 2008. The PSU women's softball team will play their first game at the new stadium in March of 2010.

WTW Architects and BHPD Architects of Cincinnati are design partners in a \$15

million renovation and addition of the Shawnee State University Union. The project officially kicked off with a groundbreaking in January and is projected to be ready for student use by the fall of 2009. A 500-seat dining commons is planned along with expanded public space, meeting facilities, student life offices, bookstore, 5,000 sf multi-purpose room, and combination coffee house and café.



Evergreene Technology Park

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Attorneys Andrew Fylypovych and Robert Forster of the former McKissock & Hoffman, P.C., firm based in Philadelphia, have joined Pittsburgh-based Burns, White & Hickton, LLC, as members of its construction law practice. Fylypovych and Forster are following colleague William Mundy and his seven-attorney long-term care litigation group, which announced its decision to join corporate law firm Burns, White & Hickton this fall.

Desmone & Associates Architects is pleased to welcome Tamara Hayes, Brad Frankhouser, and Nancy Policicchio to it's staff. Tamara received her BA in Architecture from Virginia Tech University and will assist in the firm's commercial practice. Brad is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Architectural Engineering Technology, and he has a strong background in healthcare, residential, and historic preservation projects. Nancy Policicchio graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture and Urbanism from the University of Mendoza – Mendoza, Argentina.

EDGE studio has announced the addition of five staff members. Constance Vale, Amanda Bass, Emily Rice, and Matthew Manzo have all joined the firm as architectural interns following recent graduation. Kelly Price has been hired as marketing director with nearly ten years of strategic marketing and business development experience. Additionally, the principals of EDGE Studio have named **Anne Chen, AIA** principal and welcome her into corporate ownership.

Gary Carlough, AIA, president of EDGE, states that "Anne has played an important role in the growth and culture of the firm. She maintains a very satisfied and loyal client base and is a wonderful teacher and mentor for both new employees and seasoned leadership. Dutch, Matt, and I are very pleased to welcome her as Principal."

Hayes Large Architects announces the addition of landscape designer Julia K. Reed to the staff of the Altoona, Pennsylvania office. Ms. Reed has a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from The Pennsylvania State University.

Kristine Ritter Wilhelm has joined Canonsburg-based Horizon Properties LLC as director of marketing. Kristine will be responsible for leading Horizon's marketing initiatives, with a pronounced focus on public relations, business development, and corporate branding.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design announces the following promotions and new staff hires: **Mark L. Lighthall, AIA**, has been promoted to vice president; James E. Gaynor has been promoted to associate. Lighthall has been with JSA since 1997 and currently serves the firm as a team leader. Gaynor has been with JSA since 2002 and is manager of engineering. Also, Barbara Charles has joined the firm as a project manager and **Joe O'Toole, Assoc. AIA** comes to JSA as an intern architect. Charles brings to JSA 25 years experience in the design of residential, retail, and commercial projects. O'Toole is a 2006 graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design with a Master of Architecture degree.



Gaynor



Charles



O'Toole



Lombardi

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. has announced the promotion of James J. Lombardi from Vice President – Construction Services to Executive Vice President in their Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania office. For over 26 years, Mr. Lombardi has been an integral part of SAI and responsible for the growth and overall success of their Construction Services Group.

Strada, LLC has added four professionals to their staff. Nikole Ann Lopretti has joined as an interior designer; Claudia Saladin has joined as an intern landscape architect; Paulina Wilkowska joined as an intern architect; and Rachel Ann Stadelmeier has joined as a graphic designer.

tion Planning at Cornell University, was recently awarded a Founders Scholarship by the National Society of the Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. The annual scholarship is awarded to a female junior, senior, or graduate student for achievement in the field of Architectural Historic Preservation. Maya plans to complete her degree in May and return to her adopted hometown of Pittsburgh.

The Butler County Chamber of Commerce named **Lee Ligo, AIA**, principal and founder of **Ligo Architects**, located in Slippery Rock, Entrepreneur of the Year at their annual dinner in September at the Butler Country Club.

L. Robert Kimball & Associates has been included in the new edition of *Building Design World Architecture 100*, which reveals the world's largest architecture practices, explores views on economic prospects of construction around the globe, and information on what market sectors are set to grow in which region. The firm was ranked third in the Criminal Justice market sector and fifteenth in terms of creative non-architectural staff.

KUDOS

CopperFalls, a 6,500 sf private home designed by **Desmone & Associates Architects**, has received the 2007 Building Excellence Award from the Master Builders Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Maya Haptas, former associate director of AIA Pittsburgh and a second year Master's student in Historic Preserva-

To be included in Breaking Ground, – sharing news of recent projects, hires or promotions, licensure and registration, awards, or other news of merit – please send press releases, including images, to info@aiaiph.org.

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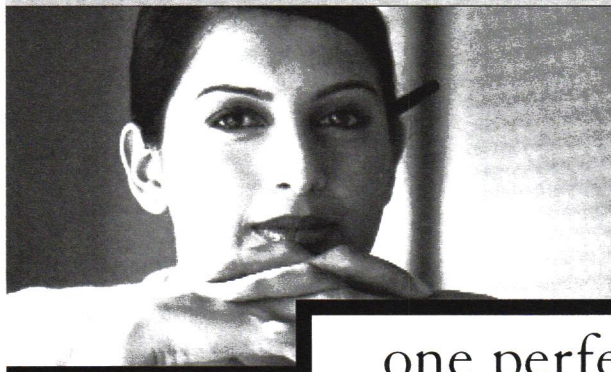
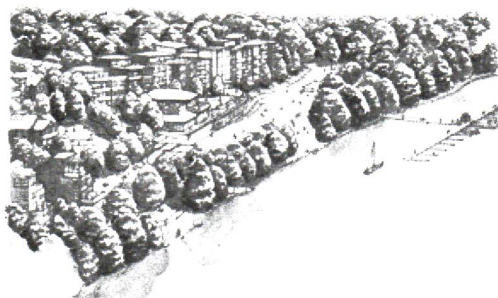
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Some of Pittsburgh's newest residents like what they see

Almost everyone who visits our city shares the experience of being awestruck by the Pittsburgh skyline. With Valentine's Day upon us, Columns asked young professionals, new to the city, to name the buildings and places they instantly fell in love with.

PPG PLACE

Architect: Johnson/Burgee Architects

Date Completed: 1984

The building that immediately caught my eye the first time I exited the Fort Pitt Tunnels was the spires of Philip Johnson's PPG Place. Even someone who may not be a fan of Post Modernism has to admit that it's a great piece of referential architecture.

I know it's almost cliché to say so, but it was Pittsburgh's unique geography and its influence on the development patterns and sociology of the city's neighborhoods that really caught my attention upon first moving. As a planner, that was something that really compelled me to explore Pittsburgh, and that fascinates me to this day.

– Benjamin Kelley, Senior Planner,
Mackin Engineering

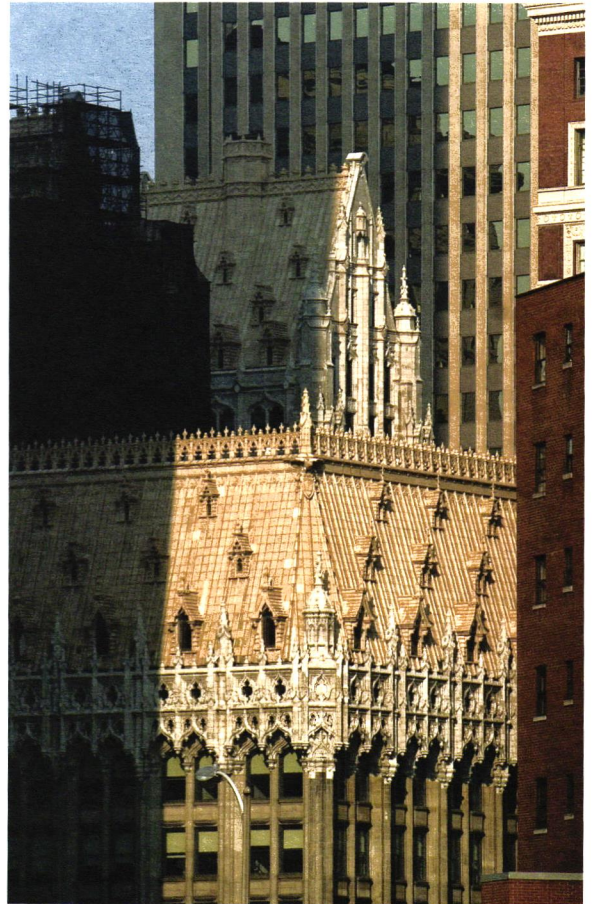
UNION TRUST BUILDING

Architect: Frederick Osterling

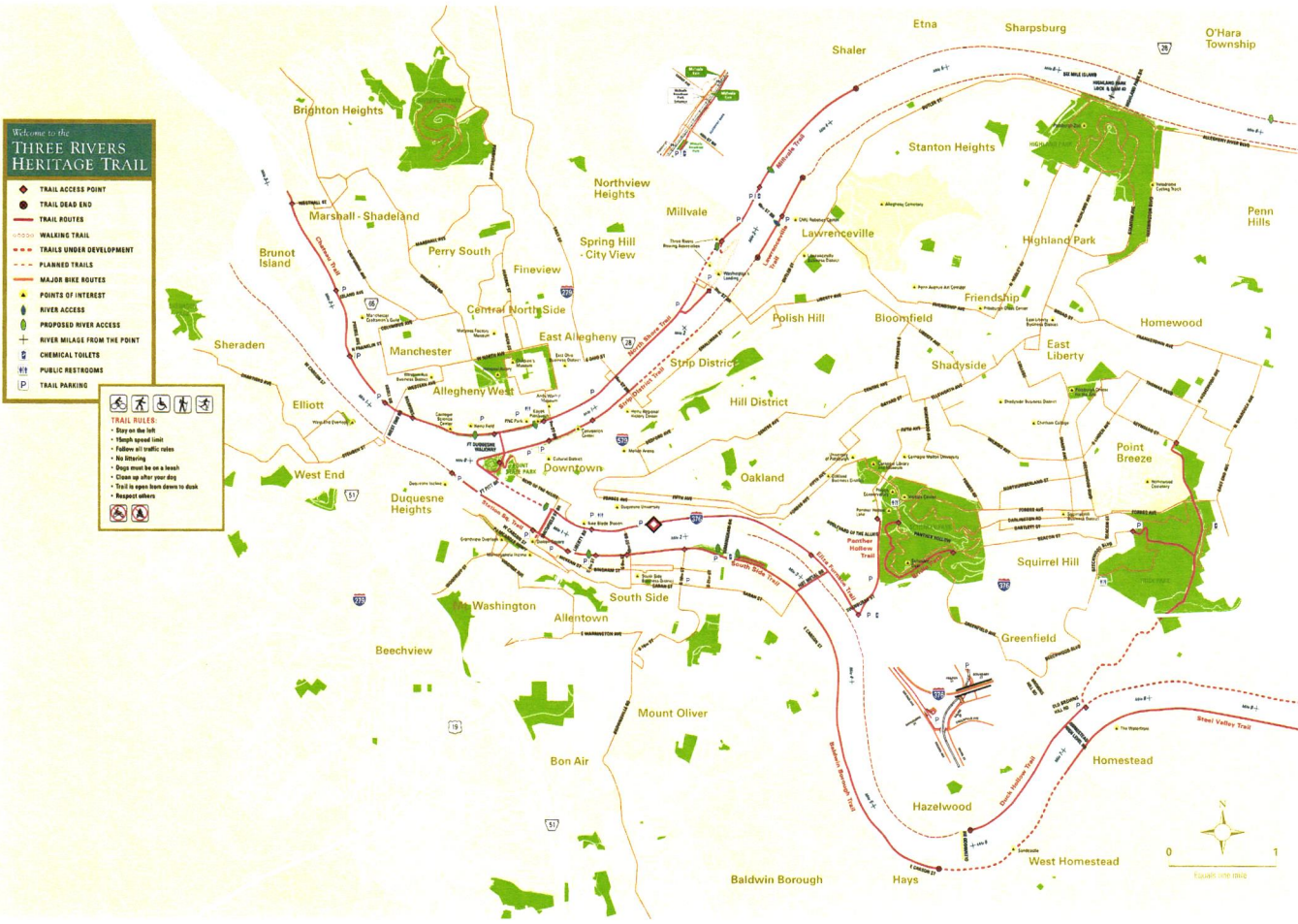
Date Completed: 1916

If I had to choose one building to be my favorite, it would be the Union Trust Building by Frederick Osterling. I'm drawn to it not only because I find the Gothic and French elements beautiful but also because it is unlike any other building in my old hometown of Seattle.

– Kim Baker, Public Art Manager, Department
of City Planning



Opposite: Photo by Massery Photography Inc.
Above: Photo by Rob Strovers



THREE RIVERS HERITAGE TRAIL

Created by: Friends of the Riverfront
Date Started: 1995

When I came to Pittsburgh to interview, I think I was first struck by the riverside trails – miles and miles running along one or both sides of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers. They offer wonderful views of the city, the rivers, and the people who live here in a very different way than you can experience in a car or on foot in the streets or in a building.

– Eric Helton, Research Associate,
IBACOS

U.S. STEEL TOWER

Architect: Harrison, Abramovitz & Abbe
Date Completed: 1970

The first building to literally catch my eye was the U.S. Steel Tower – it was the very first glimpse of Pittsburgh coming in on Rt. 279. But there are so many buildings that are arresting, for one reason or another. Driving into that view of downtown... it really is a great city to drive in to (and stay!).

– Brian Cohen, Photographer,
Pop City Media



Photo by Rob Strovers



ALCOA BUILDING

Architect: Harrison and Abramovitz

Date Completed: 1953

Pittsburgh is a visually dynamic city...stimuli abound for the architecture enthusiast. Its dramatic setting, breathtaking skyline, and diverse neighborhoods give Pittsburgh a seemingly unparalleled richness. Choosing a favorite building is difficult, but as a Modernist, I am particularly impressed by Harrison & Abramovitz's Alcoa

Building of 1951-53. An exceptional work of industrial design, this essay in aluminum stands as an artistic success and symbol of Pittsburgh's Renaissance. The Alcoa Building reminds us of the spirit of reinvention and serves as an inspiration for Pittsburgh's continued transformation.

– Justin Gunther, *Curator of Buildings and Collections, Fallingwater*

Photo by Massery Photography, Inc.



THE VIEW FROM PNC PARK

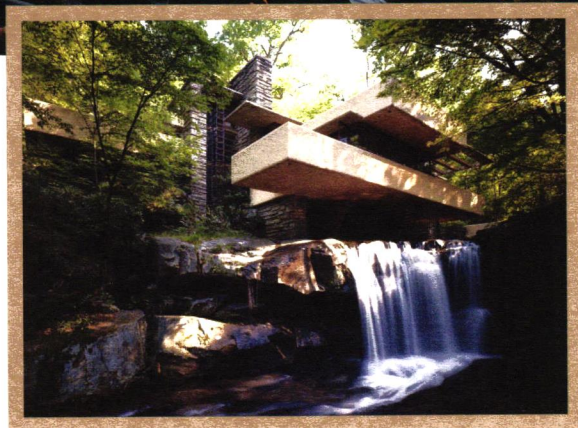
Architect: HOK Sport; Astorino

Date Completed: 2001

The first view that caught my eye would definitely be the view from PNC Park of downtown and how it drastically changes as the sun goes down and the city lights up. Two other views that I will always associate with Pittsburgh are the view coming out of the Fort Pitt Tunnel, and the view from the top of Mount Washington (especially at night).

I think that is it the collection of all the buildings downtown and the image they create from these various viewpoints that allow the architecture of Pittsburgh to have a dramatic impact. Although it is not directly related to architecture the one thing I was very surprised at when I moved to Pittsburgh is how much it is like a small town set in a big city.

– Danielle Rupert, *Assoc. AIA*
Astorino



FALLINGWATER

Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright

Date Completed: 1935

The first building to catch my eye has to be the 'Falling Water house' by Frank Lloyd Wright even though it is not actually located in Pittsburgh.

From the time I studied about this masterpiece in school, I have been waiting for an opportunity to experience this amazing house and make my dream come true!

– Karishma Kaulige
International Studio, Burt Hill 

View from PNC Park photo by Massery Photography, Inc.
Fallingwater photo courtesy of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

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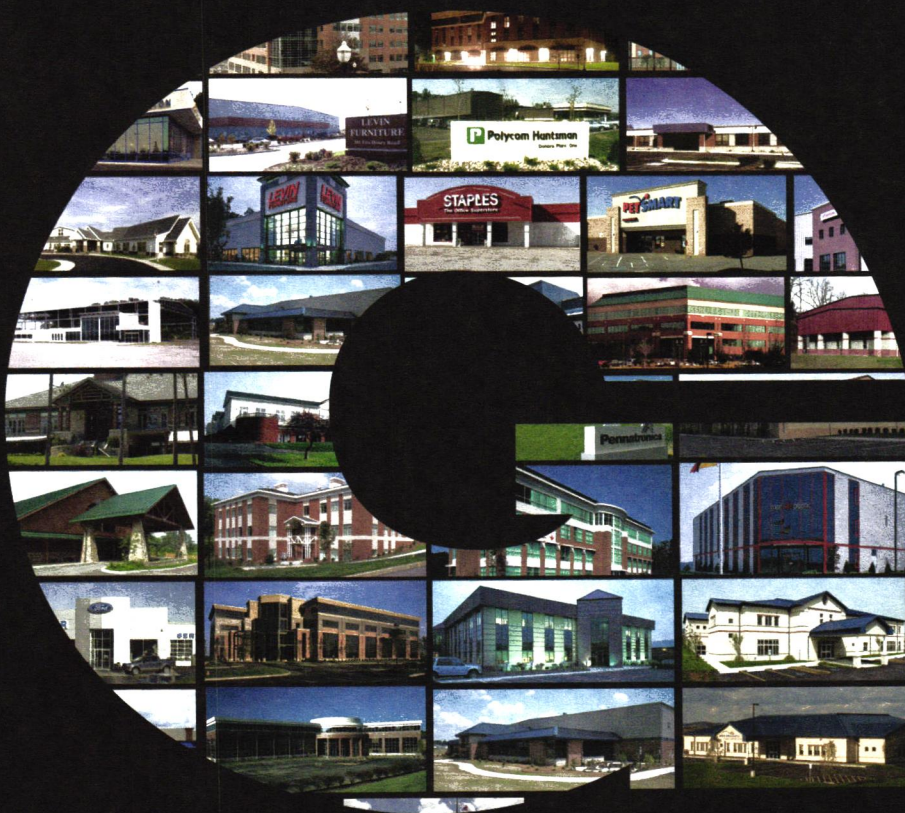
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