

COLUMNS



DEC/08 The Design Awards Issue: Design Pittsburgh 2008 award winners |
The Sound of Conversation: Pittsburgh's first Pecha Kucha night | Photos from
Design Pittsburgh events | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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HOMEFRONT

BY ANNE J. SWAGER, HON. AIA



PHOTO BY JONATHAN GREENE

It is my privilege to sit with the jury as it deliberates on the entries for the annual design awards. I help by explaining our categories, the awards that we offer, and trouble shoot any problems that might arise. I do not comment on the projects.

It is the responsibility and privilege of the first vice president to pick the jury chair. This year, Chip Desmone, AIA picked Dan Huberty, FAIA, who is a principal in a large firm (ZGF Architects, Seattle, Washington) that does large-scale projects. Part of this was because Chip knows him and thinks highly of him, and part of it was that we hoped to ensure that large projects got their due.

The evening before the deliberations, Chip and I took two members of the jury to dinner. This is helpful because it gives us time to explain our categories, the possible awards in each category, and to tell them a bit about AIA Pittsburgh and the city we call home. The jury comes away with an idea of who we are and how we work, all of which is helpful to them the next day. We had a very interesting conversation about the propensity of juries to award most of the prizes to small “jewel box” projects. The jury told us how most of the projects submitted to AIA Seattle’s design awards are residential and are most often the “jewel box” type project. This echoed the sentiments of last year’s lead juror Carol Burns, FAIA, who worked on the opposite coast in Boston. By contrast, the jury was astonished by how few houses are entered in AIA Pittsburgh’s design awards and this year was no exception.

The next morning we started bright and early. Like years past, during the first part of the day not much is said. The jurors are busy going through the 100 or so submissions. They begin the process of whittling down the pile to the final few they will consider for the awards. The first part always

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On the cover: Excavation of Mellon Hall, Chatham University, by Rothschild Doy1o Collaborative, photo by Massery Photography, Inc.



goes deceptively fast. In the past, the first vice president and I would be stuffing binders back into mailing boxes and organizing the remaining binders of the projects under consideration into piles. This year because the submissions were all electronic I checked email incessantly on my iPhone® and read the newspaper. We broke for lunch and ate in the same room. After a quick lunch the deliberations began again.

The hardest part is deciding which will be winners. Typically we start with as many as one third of the projects and the jury argues about which should be eliminated. By the time the pile is down to the projects that will actually win, it is time to decide what award each will be given. I explain the award categories again, there is more deliberation, and finally we have our winners. Then we work on jury comments. This is always a hard task at the end of a long day and I find myself constantly challenging them to say something other than “this is a really clean design”. This year’s jury worked hard on their comments and when Dan came to speak at our design award ceremony he had added even more comments.

This year I also had the opportunity to attend AIA PA’s design awards ceremony. One project won a silver medal in historic preservation and the client asked to speak a few words. She spoke about how the architect team inspired the staff, got them through some tough problems, and basically gave their ‘all’ to the job. She concluded by saying “*Whether you win an award or not, if your client feels the way I do about my architects then you are all winners. My architects are my friends and they have helped me realize a dream.*”

Congratulations to all of our winners and to all of you for a terrific body of work. In the important role of place makers, you enrich our lives. 



ENGAGED IN OUR COMMUNITY

BY PAULA R. MAYNES, AIA

Each year I look forward to AIA Pittsburgh's two annual signature programs: Build Pittsburgh, offering continuing education seminars and a product showcase each spring, and Design Pittsburgh, recognizing the excellent work of our Pittsburgh colleagues through a month-long series of events each October. However, 2008 brought three new initiatives that have been the most memorable for me, and not merely for their novelty. This year AIA Pittsburgh commissioned a promotional video called the *Digital Gallery*, celebrated Pittsburgh's first *Pecha Kucha Night*, and conducted a *Survey on Civic Engagement*. These activities, each in a strikingly distinctive manner, expressed our membership's interest in interacting with and contributing to our community.

The film company, Lot 25, was commissioned to produce the *Digital Gallery*, a video celebrating the character of the City of Pittsburgh and the role architects have played in shaping this very livable community. The video describes Pittsburgh's own special blend of tradition and innovation and is AIA Pittsburgh's gift to the City in honor of Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary. The *Digital Gallery* will be on view in January 2009 at the exhibition of *America's Favorite Architecture*, a traveling show depicting the results of a national survey conducted by the AIA.

Pecha Kucha, meaning "the sound of conversation" in Japanese, is a fast-paced format where each presenter is allotted 20 seconds for each of 20 slides. Pittsburgh's first *Pecha Kucha Night* featured uniquely individual presentations by sixteen architects, graphic designers, painters, sculptors, photographers, musicians, and performance artists and was nothing shy of awesome! I offer a special nod to our own *Columns* editor, Becky Spevack, who provided a particularly en-

tertaining and revealing glimpse into her "geeky" (her word) and artistic awareness of space, pattern, and process. I commend Rachael Kelley in her success in securing the *Pecha Kucha* trademark rights for AIA Pittsburgh. You can count on more creative souls displaying their talents and encouraging conversation in the future!

As part of AIA Pittsburgh's dialogue on public engagement and in response to AIA National's initiative to create a directory of Citizen Architects, we turned to our members for input.



We were aware that many architects contribute to the community through service as well as through their work. To learn more about the interests and volunteer activities of AIA Pittsburgh members, a *Survey on Civic Engagement* was conducted. The results were noteworthy. Over half of the survey re-

spondents are active on commissions, boards, or engaged in volunteer activities. This level of involvement is more than double that of the typical U.S. citizen. It is also striking that AIA Pittsburgh members invest a significant amount of time volunteering, spending on average well over five hours a month serving their communities. These results, combined with the input provided in our Town Meeting will be used to develop AIA Pittsburgh's *Policy on Public Engagement*. I thank all of you who have provided valuable comment and insight in this process.

It has been a great honor to serve as the 2008 President of AIA Pittsburgh. The position has afforded me the opportunity to witness the great effort and enthusiasm invested by our members, our staff, and our Board of Directors not only in the execution of member services and events, but in service to the greater community. Thank you.

As a membership organization, the most and the least of what we can accomplish is up to you. **C**

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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Volume 22, No. 6



DESIGN PITTSBURGH: INSPIRATION, INTERPRETATION, INNOVATION

At the very least, AIA Pittsburgh throws a great party, but at our very best we provide opportunities to experience the art, craft, and science of architecture and design. Design Pittsburgh is a signature program of our chapter, celebrating excellence in architecture and design, and honoring those who create it. And as important as it is to celebrate and honor, it is equally important to experience – to understand how and why architecture and design can influence and impact our lives, and to recognize that there is an intersection where creative minds (from a variety of disciplines) come together to create the places where we live, work, and play.



On October 3rd we kicked-off Design Pittsburgh 2008 as our exhibit, "A Room with a View", was featured on the Cultural Trust's **Gallery Crawl**. More than 450 people visited the exhibit. The Gallery Crawl continues to be a great opportunity for the public to be exposed to the work being produced by our members. Perhaps they might even be inspired to visit some of these places!



October 7th – Two of our member firms, Burt Hill and L. Robert Kimball, were featured on the **[X]posed studio tour**, as AIA Pittsburgh and AIGA Pittsburgh – the professional association for design – partnered for the first time. Attendees were invited to be a fly on the wall in some of the premier architecture and design studios in Pittsburgh.

The premiere event of the design industry!

The **Design Pittsburgh Gala** took place on October 16th with the unveiling of the Digital Gallery – a film that highlights the influence of architecture and design in the Pittsburgh region.

Pecha Kucha Night premiered on October 24th as a new feature of Design Pittsburgh. Over 200 came together to meet, network, and watch some local, creative minds present their work. You can read more about Pecha Kucha Night on p. 25.



On October 30th we honored outstanding achievements in architectural design excellence during the **Design Awards Ceremony**.

With good design we are inspired and through innovation we craft good

design, but it is interpretation that creates the experience. And to the places and the people who continue to inspire, shape, build, and design Pittsburgh we say thank you! **C**

A Public Notice of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club

A committee composed of five past presidents of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club was recently assembled to examine the Club's present status.

Throughout its many decades of existence, the Club has fulfilled its purpose of the advancement of architecture and the allied arts.

Our meeting records verify that the last monthly meeting was held on January 23, 1993. All subsequent efforts to revive attendance to the monthly meetings were ineffective and the club entered into a period of inactivity, which has persisted to the present day.

Therefore, the committee is issuing this inquiry to all persons affiliated with the club to express their opinions concerning the viability or the dissolution of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club. Please contact the club by written response to the club's address no later than December 31, 2008.

Pittsburgh Architectural Club
P.O. Box 2043
Pittsburgh, PA 15230



A photograph of a modern wooden staircase. The stairs are made of dark wood and lead upwards. To the right of the stairs is a wall made of horizontal wooden slats, creating a screen that filters light. Two metal railings with wire mesh infill run alongside the stairs. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, casting long shadows. The text "design awards" is overlaid in white at the top.

design awards

2008



How it Works

Each year, AIA Pittsburgh hosts the Design Awards which are judged by an out of town jury and open to any member of AIA Pittsburgh, AIA Middle Pennsylvania, or any member of any AIA chapter across the country who has a project in the 22-county area represented by AIA Pittsburgh and AIA Middle Pennsylvania. The mission of these awards is to recognize and promote excellence in the craft of architecture, as created by the members of AIA. This year, awards were given in six categories: Architecture, Regional and Urban Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture Detail/Craftsmanship, Open Plan and Landscape Architecture.

What do the awards mean?

- The Silver Medal is AIA Pittsburgh's highest award and is presented at the jury's discretion. It is only presented in the Architecture category. Only one Silver Medal can be awarded and the jury may choose not to award it. The last Silver Medal was awarded to Bohlin Cywinski Jackson for The Barn at Fallingwater in 2005.
- Honor Awards are granted for overall excellence to projects in the Architectural, Regional and Urban Design, and Interior Architecture categories. Certificates of Merit recognize an outstanding aspect of a project such as detailing or adaptive reuse. Open Plan and Architectural Detail / Craftsmanship projects are only eligible for Awards of Excellence.
- The Green Design Citation, presented this year by SOTA Construction, recognizes projects that have integrated green building strategies and practices into the design to reduce environmental impact. This award also recognizes the growing impact that buildings have on human health, worker productivity, and environmental and regional prosperity. Projects in the Architectural and Interior Architecture categories are eligible for Green Design Citations.

The jury may award as many or as few Honor Awards, Certificates of Merit or Awards of Excellence as they like.

ARCHITECTURE – Silver Medal

PROJECT: Meadowcroft Rockshelter

CLIENT: Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Pfaffmann + Associates PC

PROJECT TEAM: Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, Erik Hokanson, AIA, Greg George, Assoc. AIA, John Orsini, AIA

CONTRACTOR: F.J. Busse Company, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The Meadowcroft Rockshelter is one of the largest intact rockshelters in Pennsylvania. The project creates an enclosure that both protects and interprets one of the most important sites excavated in the United States in a way that helps visitors understand the natural and cultural importance of the this National Historic Landmark.

JURY COMMENTS: *The structure is very well fitted into a sensitive site. It builds a sense of reverence for the site through the architecture. Great architecture is about detailing and putting materials together; this project is beautifully detailed and we applaud the sense of craft. The structure skillfully recreates the sense of a cave without being too literal. The use of wood warms up the cave and gives it life. There is an honesty to the project – it is not a 'Disney' experience.*



Opposite and above: Meadowcroft Rockshelter



ARCHITECTURE - Honor Award

PROJECT: Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science

CLIENT: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson / LZT/Larson Design Group

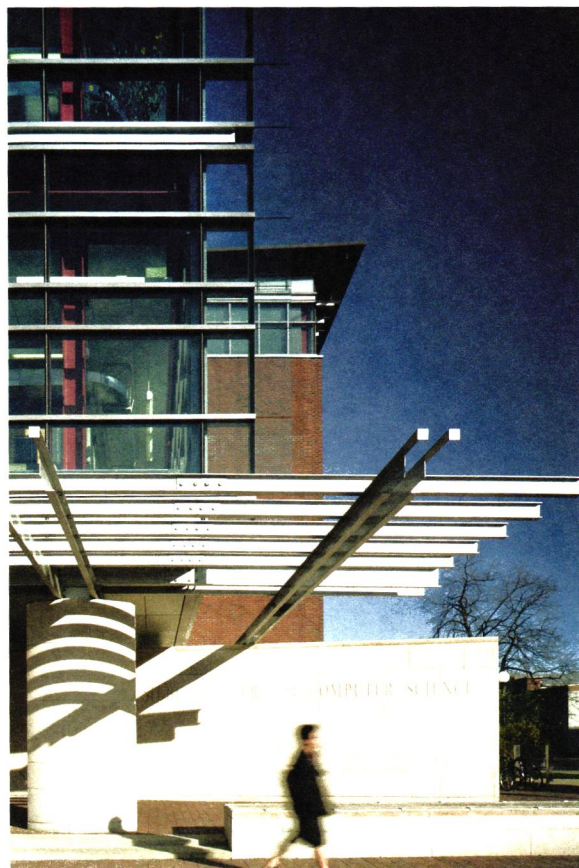
PROJECT TEAM: Peter Bohlin, FAIA, Jon Jackson, FAIA, Terence Alcorn, AIA, Roxanne Sherbeck, AIA, Natalie Gentile, Michael Gwin, AIA, Marjorie Dickstein, Jonathan Hayes, Terry Oden, AIA, Christopher Orsega, Dana Stanik, Peter Streibig, Steve Zuber, Shari Ann Lersch, Shelly Maiese

CONTRACTOR: Turner Construction Company

PHOTOGRAPHER: Nic Lehoux Photography

DESCRIPTION: An integrated education and research facility for one of the nation's leading programs in computer science. Reflecting the fast-paced culture of computer science, the design transforms the building's inner courtyard facades. Transparent glass curtain walls and a dynamic geometry express an exciting and forward-thinking architecture. The contrast between the outer and inner aspects of the L-shaped plan recalls the geode: an opaque, earth-textured exterior with a crystalline, refractive interior.

JURY COMMENTS: *The architect very successfully breaks down the scale of this large building. There is a sense of finesse to the detailing. The interior spaces successfully juxtapose different materials like steel and copper. There is a skillful use of daylight to bring the space to light. The building has a very modern side and a very traditional side that are brilliantly juxtaposed. This project was the most accomplished large scale building the jury saw in all of the submissions.*





ARCHITECTURE - Honor Award

PROJECT: The Excavation of Mellon Hall

CLIENT: Chatham University

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

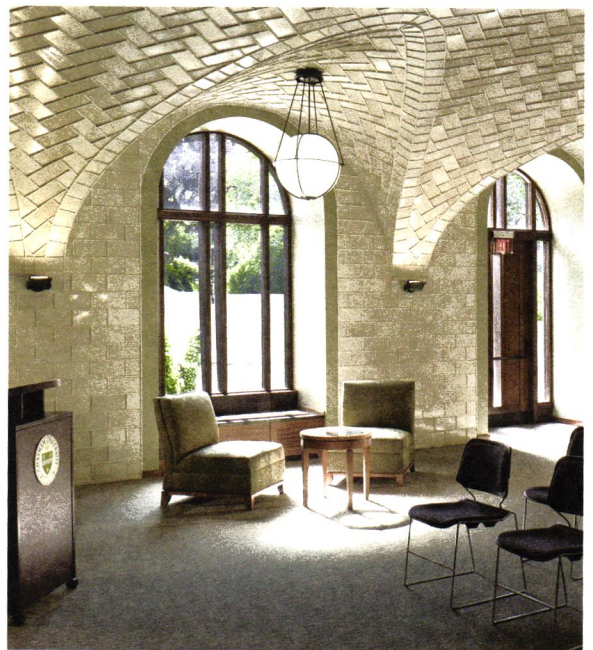
PROJECT TEAM: Kenneth Doyno, AIA, Daniel Rothschild, AIA, Melanie Buzgan Dower, Assoc. AIA, Geoff Campbell, AIA, Tara Earnest, Assoc. AIA, Greg Galford, AIA, Jeff Kalina, Assoc. AIA, Justin Losego, Jen Matthews, Assoc. AIA, Terry Oden, AIA, Kate Tunney, Assoc. AIA

CONTRACTOR: Mosites Construction Company

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: This adaptive reuse and historic reconstruction included the excavation and restoration of the building's façade as well as construction of new openings and landscaping that was sensitive to the original design, created by Frederick Law Olmstead.

JURY COMMENTS: *This is a beautiful restoration of an existing space. The architect made the space come to life. Unearthing the pool was a great concept and then the architect took it even a step further by using and respecting the original architecture, which they uncovered. They did an exquisite job of adding new elegant details, such as windows and doors, which are in the spirit of the old building but beautiful in*



the world of today. The level of craftsmanship on these newly inserted pieces is extraordinary. The architects practiced great restraint and left the building real. The result is a gem of a building for this campus.



ARCHITECTURE - Honor Award

PROJECT: Live / Work Studio II

CLIENT: Gerard Damiani & Debbie Battistone

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: studio d'ARC architects, P.C.

PROJECT TEAM: Gerard Damiani, AIA, with Debbie Battistone and Ed Parker

CONTRACTOR: Smith Construction

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The small home and studio looks toward the industrial origins of the site, neighborhood and terrain to inform its language as well as acting as a prototype for the vacant parcels of the city's once industrial neighborhoods. Built as both a home and studio for two architects, this live/work studio contains the programmatic needs of a modest studio space, living, dining, kitchen, bedroom, garage, basement and two gardens. One garden is an exterior extension of the living space and the second is a roof terrace and garden, which is the termination of the spatial sequence.

JURY COMMENTS: *We appreciated the way the architect mirrored the scale of the street but introduced a very contemporary building – it is a very approachable project. This house does an excellent job of addressing the street and is responsible to the backyard as well. The architect was skillful in getting light into all the spaces even though this is a very light-restricted site. The quality of the detailing of the materials is impressive. The project used a beautiful, elegant, and simple palette of materials and reduced them down to the essence of their beauty.*





ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit and Green Design Citation

PROJECT: 928 South Aiken Avenue

CLIENT: Mary and Eric Fisher

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: FISHER ARCHitecture

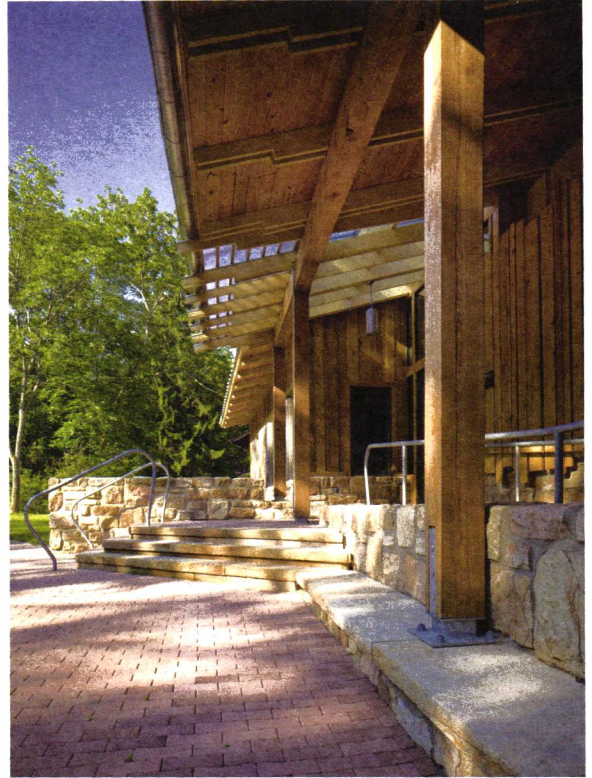
PROJECT TEAM: Eric Fisher, AIA

CONTRACTOR: FISHER ARCHitecture

PHOTOGRAPHER: FISHER ARCHitecture

DESCRIPTION: 928 South Aiken Avenue was designed as an attempt to create a green space while still acknowledging Pittsburgh's manufacturing roots. Using materials such as copper patinated siding, recycled insulation, and high efficiency appliances, the building is a truly sustainable residence.

JURY COMMENTS: *The architect was skillful in evolving the house from its unusual site. The jury liked the sculptural juxtaposition of the different volumes, which creates interest and excitement. The green roof is very neighbor-friendly and the house is modest in size, scale, and execution. The South Aiken House is an eloquent demonstration of sustainability, the creative use of an unbuildable site, and sensitive siting which maximizes passive opportunities and shows that less really is more. This is an example of good urban infill done in an interesting way. The structural dynamics are very expressive in this small house.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit and Green Design Citation

PROJECT: Powdermill Nature Reserve

CLIENT: Carnegie Museum of Natural History

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Pfaffmann + Associates PC

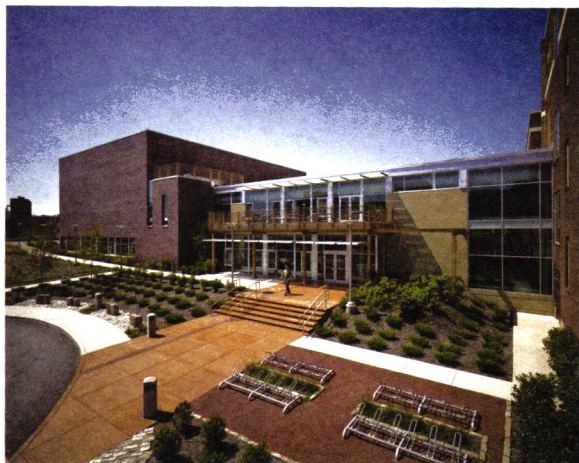
PROJECT TEAM: Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, Erik Hokanson, AIA, Greg George, Assoc. AIA, Jim Chambers

CONTRACTOR: Cavcon Construction

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Designed to be sympathetic to the forms and traditions of barn and outbuilding construction, the new expansion and renovation addresses spatial needs to visitors, students, researchers, and staff at the Nature Reserve. Keeping with the theme of sustainability, the building was made to be used as an "exhibit" or teaching tool. Design strategies were implemented to minimize waste, conserve energy and water resources, preserve air quality, and grant access to the natural environment.

JURY COMMENTS: *We appreciated the integration of the materials with the landscape. The architect successfully connected the indoor and outdoor spaces. The materials used are respectful of the existing building while used appropriately to express new forms. The architect pushed the envelope of green by using straw bale and by adding a living machine. The interior spaces are exciting and delicate. The architect maximized the excitement by using very simple materials.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Sarah Heinz House

CLIENT: Sarah Heinz House

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Rothschild Doyno Collaborative/
William McDonough + Partners

PROJECT TEAM: Kenneth Doyno, AIA, Daniel
Rothschild, AIA, Terry Oden, AIA, Melanie Buzgan
Dower, Assoc. AIA, Geoff Campbell, AIA, Tara
Earnest, Assoc. AIA, Jeff Kalina, Assoc. AIA, Jen
Matthews, Assoc. AIA, Kate Tunney, Assoc. AIA

CONTRACTOR: Dick Corporation

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc. and
Joshua Franzos Photography

DESCRIPTION: Through the use of glass, the interior
and exterior are drawn together, maintaining a
connection to the community and city beyond.
Aligned openings and layered spaces maximize
social connections and access to natural light, with
the lobby acting as an urban street.

JURY COMMENTS: *We liked the way the architect used
sunlight to energize the function of the building. This
project energizes a whole neighborhood; by letting the
neighborhood see what was happening inside the space,
the barriers that kept the community away were broken
down. The jury liked the sophisticated use of materials in
the interior spaces. The spaces are sturdy and durable as
they should be but are treated with care and sensitivity.*



REGIONAL AND URBAN DESIGN – Honor Award

PROJECT: Eastside Phase 2 Master Plan

CLIENT: The Mosites Company

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: The Design Alliance Architects

PROJECT TEAM: L. Christian Minnerly, AIA, Joseph
German, AIA, Paul Kane, AIA, Gretchen Kurzawa,
AIA, Marianne Talarico Smith, Walter Tien, Harley
Pearson

CONTRACTOR: Mosites Construction Company

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Designed to reconnect two
communities separated by a railroad track and
busway, construction of a pedestrian bridge and
provisions for a public walkway encourage urban
renewal.

JURY COMMENTS: *The buildings have a street-front
presence. With this project, the architect achieved
a strong connection with the street, creating much
more of an urban experience. We liked both the
architecture of the project and the urban design. The
architect achieved excellence on several different
levels, especially the nice change in scale of the
buildings.*

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INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE – Honor Award

PROJECT: Light Loft

CLIENT: Name withheld

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: FortyEighty Architecture

PROJECT TEAM: Kent Suhrbier, AIA, Carmen Gong

CONTRACTOR: Cummings Construction

PHOTOGRAPHER: FortyEighty Architecture

DESCRIPTION: To take full advantage of the extraordinary daylight that flooded the raw loft, the project created interplay between direct, diffused, and reflected light through the layering of the spaces within the open plan. The cohesiveness between the different function areas is enhanced by the brick and concrete surfaces maintained throughout the loft, while floating opaque and translucent wall panels screen between the private and open living spaces.

JURY COMMENTS: *This project has a great energy and spirit. The stair is very elegant. This loft has a nice, simple plan that has been well executed; the architect maximized the daylight giving the space a very open and airy feel.*



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Richard Chen Pittsburgh

CLIENT: Richard Chen Pittsburgh

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: EDGE studio

PROJECT TEAM: Dutch MacDonald, AIA, Jennifer Bee, AIA, Amanda Bass, Matthew Manzo

CONTRACTOR: J. Palumbo Contracting

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Organized into three distinct spaces including a bar/lounge and two connected dining areas, the restaurant design utilizes texture, light, and volume to delineate the spaces while a surface of warm wood runs throughout as a unifying factor.

JURY COMMENTS: *We like the quality of materials in the finishes and appreciate the detailing in the project. The simplicity of the floor plan stands out in particular, as well as how the one and two story volumes work well together.*



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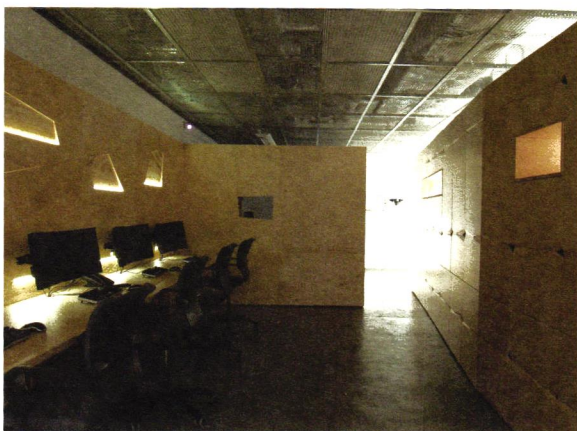
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ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL/CRAFTSMANSHIP – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: Carnegie Mellon University Digital Fabrication Lab

CLIENT: Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Ficca Architecture/EDGE studio

PROJECT TEAM: Jeremy Ficca, AIA, Raymond Bowman, Stephanie Chu, Gabriel Cuellar, Taryn Humphrey, Jared Langevin, Braxton Satterfield, Patrick Schnell, Andrew Werner

CONTRACTOR: Robert & Brian Zwergel General Contractor

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ficca Architecture

DESCRIPTION: This project for the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture houses advanced prototyping and digital fabrication equipment and acts as a hands-on learning laboratory. Design research relying upon the use of the tools within the lab informed the final project outcome. Marine grade birch plywood is used as the primary material throughout the lab for its economy, durability, and relative ease of working. The project design seeks to achieve an expressive thickness within this inherently thin material through investigations that take on different forms throughout the space.

JURY COMMENTS: *We applaud the involvement of the architecture students in developing the design. The architect illustrated the technology that is available in the lab itself through the forming of the material to create the finishes and aesthetic. The final design transformed the materials and gave them a new life by using the thickness of the material in addition to the normal planar use of plywood. The project also demonstrates an ingenious use of lighting.*



OPEN PLAN – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: Center for Informatics

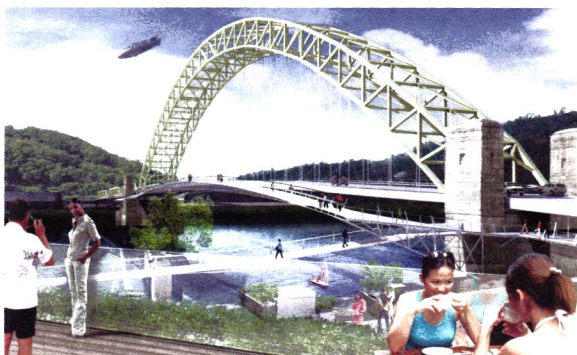
CLIENT: Northern Kentucky University

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Burt Hill/SFA Architects

PROJECT TEAM: Alex Wing, AIA, Robert Moro, AIA, Paul Smith, Peter Kladias, AIA

DESCRIPTION: Combining a robust engineering infrastructure with intertwined public space dedicated to the nurturing of a new community, the design encourages inhabitants to create connections between disciplines, emerging technologies, and the natural, technological, and cultural context.

JURY COMMENTS: *We like the plan, which addresses the quad and forms a gateway. We also like how it exposes the activity and how the architecture attempts to reflect the dynamics of the technology research.*



OPEN PLAN – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: West End Pedestrian Bridge

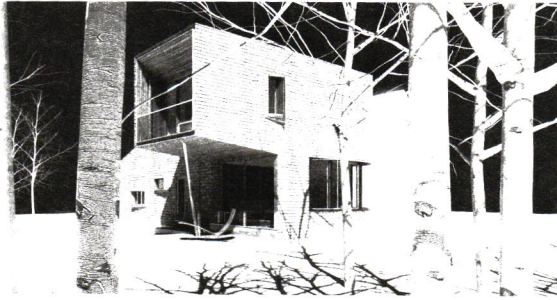
CLIENT: Riverlife Taskforce

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Endres Ware

PROJECT TEAM: Paul Endres, AIA, John Ware, Assoc. AIA, Benjamin Corotis, Rudabeh Pakravan, Ian Kelso, Jung Guee Um, Robo Gerson, Ian Young, Margaret Wedgewood

DESCRIPTION: A pedestrian bridge suspends delicately from the West End Bridge. The project re-defines the immediate area by creating a planted park area, a café, and aquatic school. The pedestrian pathway reconnects and energizes the surrounding neighborhoods creating a gateway from the south to the north.

JURY COMMENTS: *This is a very elegant, graceful, and simple addition to an existing bridge. We think it would be a wonderful walking experience.*



OPEN PLAN – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: Park City House Addition – Monocular Sleeve

CLIENT: Steve and Cindy Marteney

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Ficca Architecture

PROJECT TEAM: Jeremy Ficca, AIA, David Moses

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ficca Architecture

DESCRIPTION: Located in a Park City, Utah subdivision, this proposed addition to a typical three-bedroom home forges visual connections to both the street and the dramatic Wasatch Mountain Range. Connected to the existing house by a short passageway, the addition stands separate and distinct, articulated on the outside as a shingled sleeve that rises from the street to the rear of the house, providing space for an office, guest room, and upstairs retreat while working within the limits of the neighborhood design restrictions.

JURY COMMENTS: *We were intrigued by the presentation. The images are beautiful. The award is being given for presentation, which is how architects communicate their intent.*



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: PNC Firstside Park

CLIENT: PNC Realty Services

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Astorino

PROJECT TEAM: Louis Astorino, FAIA, Dennis Astorino, AIA, Patrick Branch, Christine Astorino, ASLA, Rachelle Wolf, ASLA

CONTRACTOR: P.J. Dick Incorporated

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Starting with a building deconstruction to reuse or recycle materials, the park was created in a corner of town that lacked this amenity. The space was designed to appeal to adults – the primary audience from the surrounding office buildings – using soft shapes and several small, spiraling paths and seating areas to create areas for relaxation and contemplation.

JURY COMMENTS: *We commend the client and landscape architect who created this park for the city. We liked the organic form of the park and think it will be interesting to see how it grows and changes. The park visually extends the open space of the river back into the city. It provides an interesting view from above and engages pedestrians on the street level.*



Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania People's Choice Award

PROJECT: Animal Friends: Water Garden & Sculpture

CLIENT: Animal Friends

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: David J. Roth, AIA

PROJECT TEAM: David J. Roth, AIA with artist Hugh Watkins

CONTRACTOR: Environmental Transformations, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHER: Hugh Watkins: Art & Design



BREAKING

FROM THE FIRMS

Desmone & Associates recently completed construction of the expansion/renovation of a commercial office building at Jamison Lane in Monroeville. The project includes the renovation and tenant improvements to the existing 129,000 sf, four-story building and the construction of a 50,000 sf, four-story addition for Bechtel Plant Machinery. Additionally, in October 2008, Philips Respironics opened its 8,100 sf Bright Horizons Child Development Center along the Golden Mile in Plum. The center is housed within a newly renovated facility designed by Desmone & Associates Architects and Horizon Design. The project involved building a new 4,800 sf addition, playground and upgraded security system with amenities for infants to preschool age. Also, following a design competition, Desmone & Associates was selected to design the renovation of all ballroom, lobby, public space and corridors within the DoubleTree Hotel, Pittsburgh City Center.

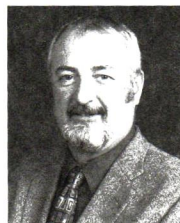
Representatives from **IKM**, including **John Schrott, AIA**, Principal in Charge; **Tami Greene, AIA**, Project Manager; and **Matt Hansen**, Project Coordinator celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the new multi-million dollar project along with other local dignitaries and members involved

in the new Grant Street Transportation Center. Comprised of two separate parking garages, the structure is bisected by the existing Norfolk Southern Railroad trestle. The new facility provides over 900 parking spaces, nearly three times the number provided by the previous garage. The Greyhound Bus Station comprises more than 68,000 sf while the Parking Authority encompasses more than 386,000 sf, including 7,000 sf of new sidewalk-level retail space.

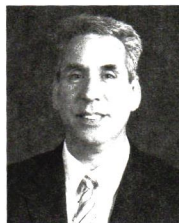
JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design has been selected by Permasteelisa USA as the architect for two Brooks Brothers projects located in mid-town Manhattan. The first is a new store at West 51 Street and the Avenue of the Americas at Rockefeller Center. The second is the renovation of the fifth floor of the Brooks Brothers US headquarters store on Madison Avenue. JSA project team includes **Thomas J. Mrozenski, Jr., AIA**, Joe Price, Gary Luisi, and Mark Cunningham. JSA has also been selected by LA Fitness to design their newest facility in the Pittsburgh area to be located at the Settlers Ridge development in Robinson Township. The 38,000 sf, up-scale fitness center will offer state of the art fitness equipment on two levels. JSA has also been selected to design a 45,000 sf LA Fitness in Collegeville, a suburb of Philadelphia. JSA project team is led by **Richard J. Oziembowski,**



Matt Hansen, Tami Greene, AIA, David Onorato and John Schrott, AIA



Foura



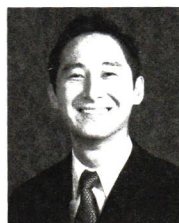
Kastrell



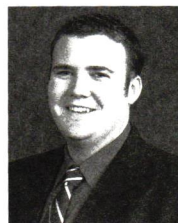
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Liang



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Starr



Liadis

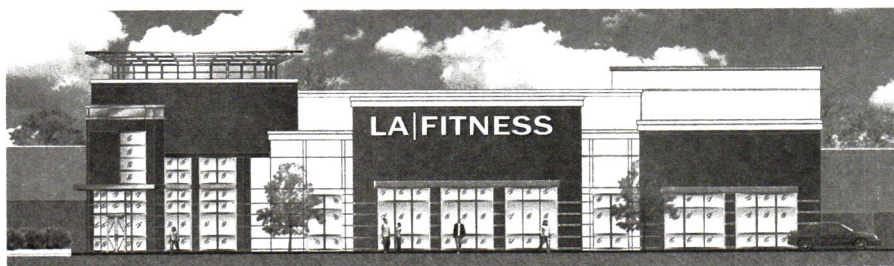


Kreke

AIA, design principal; **Thomas J. Mrozenski Jr., AIA**, production principal; **Juan Duque**, senior project manager and **Jim Gaynor**, PE lead engineer.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Astorino has hired seven professionals for the firm's Pittsburgh office. The new additions include **Marlin Foura**, Assoc. AIA as a project manager, **Mark Kastrell** as a job captain, **Darren Lloyd** and **Jack Williams** as project architects, **Ro-Tien Liang** as an architectural associate, **Jeff Bender** as a senior marketing



GROUND

17 | COLUMNS DEC08 BREAKING GROUND

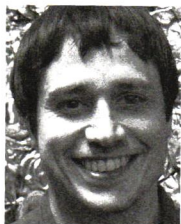
coordinator, and Lisa Starr as an architectural intern.

Design 3 Architecture hired Heather Fuller as an interior designer. Ms. Fuller is a 2008 graduate of The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and is a member of The Green Building Alliance.

Desmone & Associates has added two members to its staff – Nicolas Liadis as project designer and Lori Kreke as an interior designer. Liadis received his Master's of Architecture from the University of Detroit Mercy, where he also continues to function as Editor of the University's Student Critical Journal. Lori Kreke, CIDA Accredited, is a graduate of LaRoche College and recently joined Desmone & Associates' expanding Interior Design studio.

evolveEA is proud to announce the promotion of Andrew Ellsworth, LEED AP to the position of Associate. Mr. Ellsworth is currently managing the LEED certification of over a dozen projects including HSBC Bank Egypt in Cairo and various UPMC, Giant Eagle, and CMU projects.

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design is pleased to announce that Matthew M. Grant has achieved the status of LEED Accredited



Ellsworth



Grant



Bosco



Dorfield

Professional. Matthew is a 1999 graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and has been with JSA since October, 2007.

Beverly Autore of **VEBH Architects** has earned certification from the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). Autore is an interior designer and space planner and serves the firm's healthcare, educational, and other public institutional clients. Additionally, **Patrick McKenzie, Assoc. AIA**, has achieved LEED Professional Accreditation from the Green Building Certification Institute of the U.S. Green Building Council.

KUDOS

Astorino architects Mike Bosco and **John Scott Dorfield, AIA** were recently recognized for their continuing involvement in the Construction Specifications

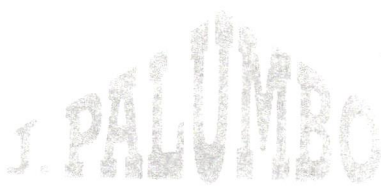
Institute's (CSI) Mid-Atlantic Region. Both were presented awards during the Institute's regional conference.

Grant E. Scott, AIA of KSBA has been awarded the President's 150th Anniversary Award from St. Bonaventure University. Scott was recognized for his continuing contributions, specifically to the ongoing design and development of the Mt. Irenaeus Retreat Center in West Clarksville, N.Y. and the campus ministry in

Allegheny, N.Y. The Center is affiliated with the Campus Ministry of St. Bonaventure, and is a place to rejuvenate the spirits of students and faculty. The on-campus ministry is a favorite space on campus, and has been the colorful, lively inspiration for other campus designs. Mr. Scott was one of 150 recognized for their significant accomplishments, contributions and milestones that have "enabled the success and distinction of St. Bonaventure."



Mt. Irenaeus Retreat Center, West Clarksville, N.Y.



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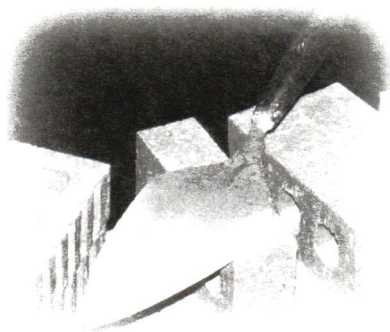
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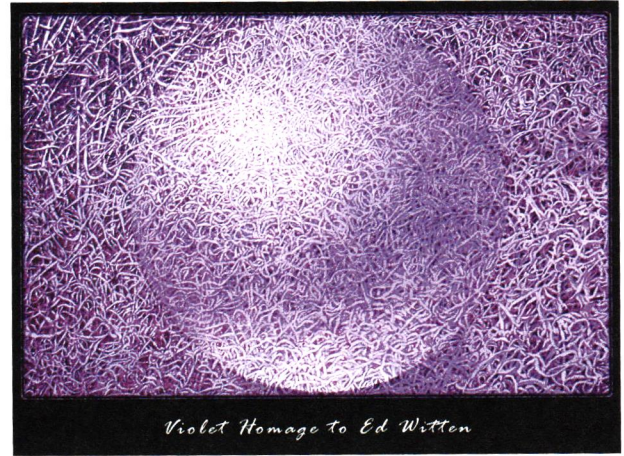
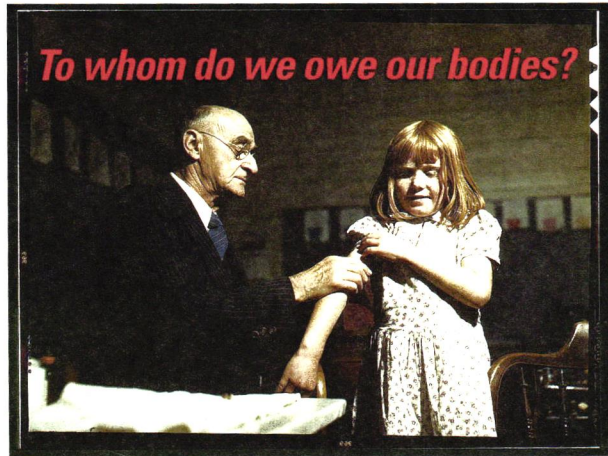
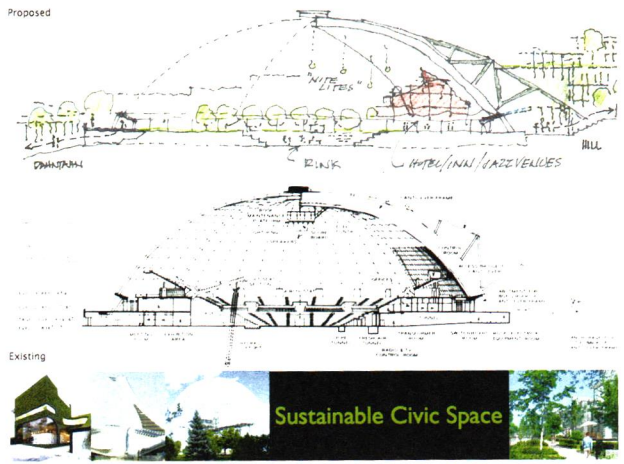
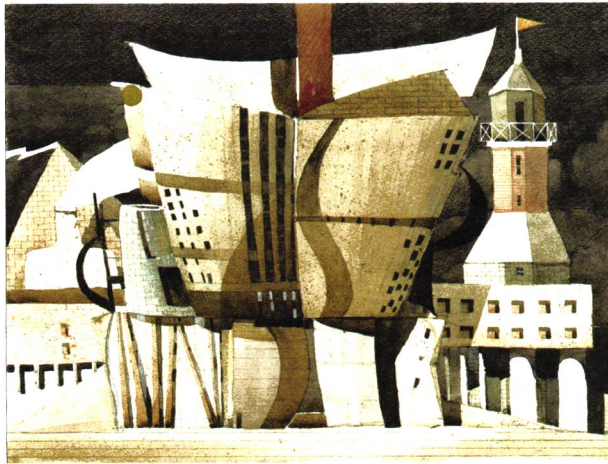
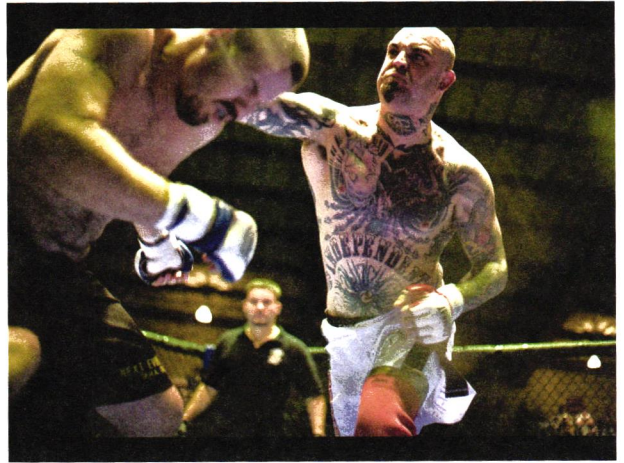
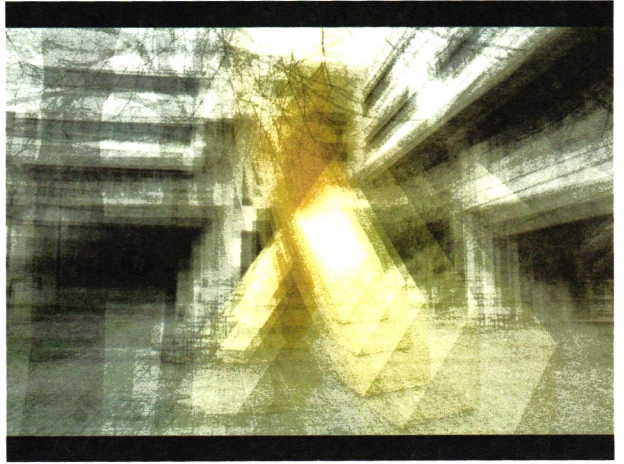
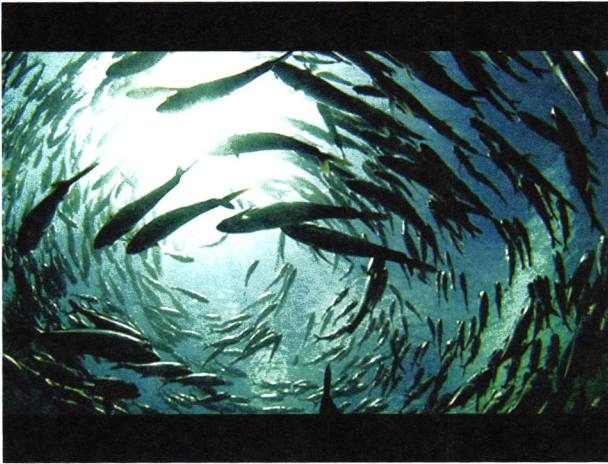
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sound of conversation

A new collaborative event comes to Pittsburgh

BY BECKY SPEVACK

When AIA Pittsburgh first learned of this global event with the hard-to-pronounce name, the office knew it could be a great opportunity for the region's architects and designers. But it turned out to be much more...

Step 1: PRACTICE PRONUNCIATION



Pecha Kucha. Pay-cha Koo-cha? Pee-ka Kah-cha? No, no, no. Pecha Kucha Night (*pronounced pay-chalk-cha*) was devised by Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham of Klein Dytham Architecture in Tokyo. It was an event con-

ceived as an informal place for young designers to meet, network, and show their work to the public. The idea is that each presenter is allowed to show 20 images, with each image shown for just 20 seconds – 6 minutes, 40 seconds to talk about work, art, ideas, and then the time is up. This format has tapped into a demand for creative people across the globe. Since the first Pecha Kucha Night was held in 2003, the event has spread virally all over the world, with more than 140 cities now participating in this format.

Opposite: Pecha Kucha presentations (clockwise from top left) by: Gary Carlough, AIA, David Eskanazi, Renee Rosensteel, Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, John Yothers, Hyla Willis, Mimi Jong, AIA and Victor Beltran, Carl McGrady. Inset: Janet Wu

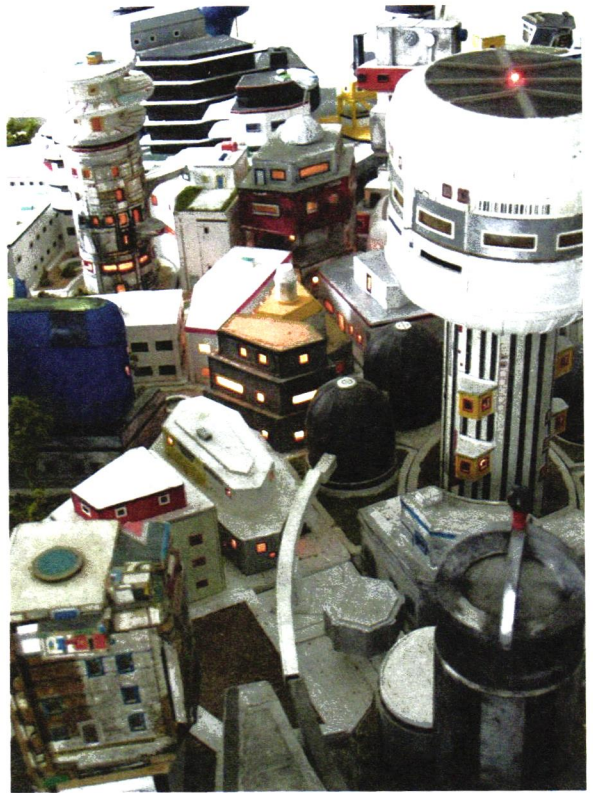
Pecha Kucha – which is Japanese for ‘the sound of conversation’ – not only gives architects a chance to share their work, but has also included designers, painters, photographers, musicians, performance artists, and more.

Step 2: EXPLANATION AND SOLICITATION

AIA Pittsburgh learned of this event through a member of the chapter who brought a magazine article about Pecha Kucha into the office to share. It sounded like a great idea, one which the organization hoped would bridge not only the different generations of architects, but also bring together a wide range of creative people from the larger arts community. After much research, it was decided that, October – the month of Design Pittsburgh – would be the perfect time to introduce this creative conversation to the city of Pittsburgh. A committee was formed to help guide the process, headed by Dutch MacDonald, AIA of MAYA Design. Also, AIGA Pittsburgh – the society of design – was brought on board as a partner.

Meetings were held and ideas were exchanged. Having never done this before, there were a lot of unknowns. Would anyone want to participate? Would anyone attend? To spread the word as far as possible, the members of the committee tapped into their own contacts and resources, sending the *Call for Presenters* to as many people, organizations, communities, and schools as possible. Fingers were crossed, and all that could be done was to wait.

Slowly, responses started to trickle in. An architect, Rob Pfaffmann, AIA, was one of the first. Then a painter, and another, and another. Over the course of four weeks, 16 proposals were sent in, each uniquely its own. Each emailed response brought with it a sense of excitement, and that excitement would last right up to the evening of the event. AIA Pittsburgh had also started to realize that there was some interest from the public. Throughout October, as the event was being advertised, phone calls would be received almost daily in which the



From Ryder Henry's presentation

caller would ask about an event they had read about and then pause as they tried an attempt at pronouncing ‘Pecha Kucha’.

Step 3: BREAK A LEG

A quick run-through the evening before helped calm some nerves, but not all. Dutch MacDonald, AIA, who had been instrumental in organizing the event, had agreed to MC the event. The artists were asked to show up early, to be given a pep-talk and the order in which they would present. The slides were in order, a sea of chairs lined up facing the projection screen, and everyone stood around, waiting for Pittsburgh's first Pecha Kucha Night to get underway.

A handful of people showed up, then more people, until a steady stream was flowing into the space. A crowd had materialized, a large, attentive crowd that filed into the rows of seats and eagerly awaited to find out what this event with the odd name was all about. The microphone was switched on, and with that, the conversation was started. Each presentation was incredibly different, with some presenting ideas, some



From Becky Spevack's presentation

presenting painting, photography, installations, architecture, life. An intermission halfway through created a chance to interact with the various presenters, and the feedback that was heard helped create a sense of accomplishment – everyone was enjoying themselves! At the end of the night, everyone who remained had nothing but positive words, asking when the next Pecha Kucha Night would be held.

Step 4: THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

AIA Pittsburgh and AIGA Pittsburgh have one successful Pecha Kucha Night under their belt, but look to expand and enhance the conversation. Now that the community has a better idea of what exactly it is, hopes are high that the next event will be even better, pulling artists and creative-types from all corners of the city. Interested or know someone who might be? Contact AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548 and ask to be included on our future mailings for Pecha Kucha Pittsburgh. **C**

do you pecha kucha?

The brave presenters at Pittsburgh's first Pecha Kucha night

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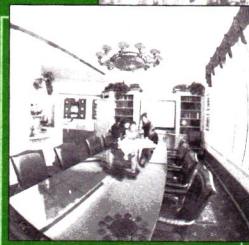
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