

COLUMNS

JUN/09

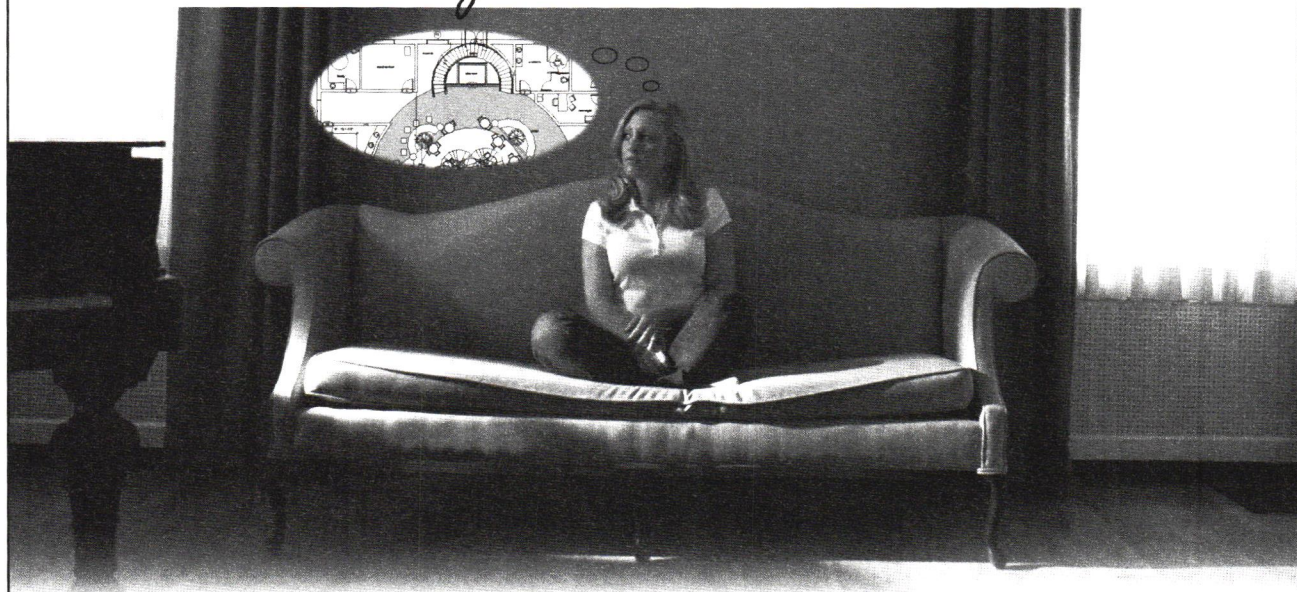
Designs on America: Architects from abroad in pursuit of a U.S. license |

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HOMEFRONT

BY BECKY SPEVACK



I was given a wonderful gift earlier this spring. Two gifts, really. Both are once-in-a-lifetime experiences – experiences shared with family, that have expanded knowledge, increased emotional capacity, and altered who I am as a person. The first gift was discovering that my husband and I are expecting our first child. Something we had talked about often, in a daydream-like fashion, is now a reality. And while our heads feel like they could spin off of our shoulders if we're not careful, the joy and excitement is overwhelming in the best way possible. I know that many of our readers are parents as well, so I realize that this is something many have already experienced; but as a first-timer, it continues to amaze and astound me. Pregnancy has changed my perception of the world around me. Suddenly spring, with its vibrant greens and life fighting through soil, takes on new and deeper meaning. Each step I take, each action, is now taken with someone new, this little person that I carry everywhere.

Which leads to my second gift...

After months of planning, my Mum and I flew to Ireland in March. She had been hoping to visit this land of her ancestors for years, and asked me to accompany her. I was honored. The two of us have a history of travel together, taking trips up and down the east coast since I was in middle school. We made a good team then – she drove, I navigated – and we found that we still travel well together. We spent eight days in Ireland, taking a tour around the whole of the country, and words cannot adequately describe how breathtaking this place was. (Although it won't stop me from trying.)

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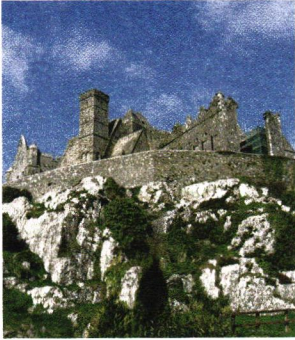


JUN/09


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I have only been to Europe once before, but both times I have been amazed. First Italy, and now Ireland, I found both places to be magnificent. American history is not that old; our infrastructure and built environment, while often found to be crumbling down around us, is still in its infancy compared to the cities and towns throughout most other parts of the world. As we drove through Ireland, the stone ruins all hold stories centuries old. The fortresses sprinkle the hillsides, breaking up the vast spans of green. It's almost hard to imagine that people once lived there thousands of years ago. These places, that once served as shelter and protection, were standing before me. A history I had only read about in books was suddenly unfolding in front of me. Organic in it's development, new has been incorporated into old, allowing me to visualize life in the 12th century, peasants building stone walls by hand. We climbed the road to the Rock of Cashel and walked among the remaining structures, feeling the bitter wind whip through the cathedral and castle remains. As we strolled through the graveyard at 6th century Clonmacnoise, finding tombs dating back hundreds of years, I couldn't help but think of future generations, of my own children someday trekking the globe in search of their own experiences. The craftsmanship that remained after centuries of being exposed to the elements was still present enough to be jaw-dropping. Every corner of the country we visited revealed more surprises, treasure, and beauty.

I can only imagine what other parts of the world hold in store, especially those places where the culture, religion, and philosophy are more varied from our own. Similarly, I can't quite grasp how difficult it must be to come from another culture and country of origin to relocate in the United States. Yet that is exactly what the four subjects of our main feature have done. Arriving from three different continents, each person has a unique story to tell of relocation as an adult, and the long road that they had to travel to be able to ply their trade as architects in this country. My brief sojourns in Europe have given me an appreciation as an outsider, but have also opened my eyes to the fact that opportunities can exist elsewhere, far beyond one's comfort zone. And as I type this, with my belly already bumping the edge of my desk, I am beginning to understand that on a whole new and personal level. 



ABOVE: Rock of Cashel
RIGHT: Clonmacnoise

RESILIENCY AND REINVENTION

BY ANNE J. SWAGER, HON. AIA

I recently ran into a friend at the grocery store. As we chatted, she mentioned hiring an architect for a consult. I had met this woman at a mutual friend's house, a mutual friend who is an architect. Sensing a possible freelance job for our friend, I threw out his name. She looked at me quizzically and then suggested her job was way too small for him.

She hadn't heard the news – our friend was recently laid off. She looked at me in shock, saying, "Whenever I hear about layoffs and unemployment during rough economic times, I always think about mill workers. I didn't think this could happen to a well-educated, hard working architect."

I left this conversation feeling envious. I'd like to think that layoffs only happen to people I don't know. I would like to feel safe and secure and somehow untouched by the economic chaos of recent times, but I can't.


When the economy is tough, the AIA is more relevant than ever before. The need for jobs, leads, and an edge on the market becomes more pressing. To assist in this, we have started a group for unemployed architects in the area. We invite anyone, intern or registered, member or nonmember, to get together every other Friday to share thoughts and ideas on what jobs are out there and how to survive difficult times. We bring in speakers at the group's request on a variety of subjects like boning up your resume and how to write killer cover letters.

There have been a number of surprises for me in this endeavor, and a number of confirmations. First and foremost, there are *lots* of talented, hardworking architects without jobs. Another surprise is the relative age shift in those that have been laid off. It is a mix of interns and sea-

soned project managers. Everyone is busy honing their skills, from seeking LEED certification to learning REVIT. Finding a job is no longer a matter of walking your resume from office to office. Web-based social networking is the new model and our group has embraced these new approaches. One architect even started participating in a minute-by-minute online consulting service (for a fee of course). Everyone is now on LinkedIn and by the time you read this we will have our own LinkedIn group to create a central spot to post resumes and portfolios.

This group confirms for me the resiliency of the human spirit. It isn't easy to have the definition of what you are taken away and then go on to reinvent yourself. Some are facing tougher economic challenges than others,

but everyone is facing diminished income. Some feel resigned, some are angry. Those who had the benefit of a more humane process, with a severance package, are fairing the best. All of them have shared their experiences, good and bad, of how they were laid off. I imagine hiring practices and negotiations will be impacted when the market picks back up.

Economic circumstances for AIA Pittsburgh are diminished as well, yet the Chapter is committed to all architects whether employed, partially employed, or laid off. Helping all of you keep your skills sharp and your spirits positive is important. We can't sit by passively and hope to retain the many talented, hard working architects we have in our region. Please think of us when you hear of job leads or opportunities that might be interesting to an architect. If you pass this information on to me, I will make sure our unemployed group gets the information as well. 



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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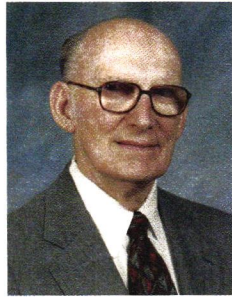
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IN MEMORIAM: JACK ROSS, AIA




Jack Ross, age 78, a resident of Pine Township since 1984, formerly of Ross Township, died April 22, 2009, at his home. Jack was born on September 3, 1930. Growing up in Mt. Lebanon, he was the son of the late Donald R. and Elizabeth Stiteler Ross, Sr. A graduate of Graceland Junior College in Lamoni, Iowa, he received his master's degree in architecture from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Jack began practicing architecture as a sole proprietorship on March 13, 1964. Eight years later, he was joined by John F. Schonder to form Ross and Associates. In 1975, the firm became Ross and Schonder Architects. In 1988, the firm was incorporated as Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck PC. He retired in 1995. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and in 1975 he served as president of the Pittsburgh Chapter. Some of Jack's notable projects include Northland Public Library, The Society of Automotive Engineers, Aerotech Inc, and the Western Pennsylvania Order of Eastern Star Home. Jack was also responsible for the design of numerous religious facilities throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan.

Jack was a longtime member of The Community of Christ in Gibsonia and also fellowshiped with Memorial Park Presbyterian Church. He was a member of Rotary International since the early 1970's and past president of the North Boros Rotary Club. Jack served many years on the North Hills YMCA Board of Directors and was involved in the design and construction of the North Hills and South Hills YMCAs along with several buildings at Camp Kon-O-Kwee and Deer Valley. He was also a member of the Northern Allegheny Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a recipient of the Chamber's Arcadia Award.


He was an avid sailor and often took friends on his 505 sailboat at Moraine State Park. He also enjoyed freehand sketching and sculpting in clay. He greatly admired the works of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Jack is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Bonnie Luray Carmichael Ross, and his three children.


If you would like to remember Jack, contributions may be made for a book in his memory to the Northland Public Library foundation, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. 



ATTENTION RECENT GRADS!

Have you graduated recently from an accredited school of architecture? Are you trying to become more involved in the local architecture community? Make connections with colleagues and have a little fun? Membership in the AIA may be just what you're looking for! As an active member of AIA Pittsburgh, you will have the chance to participate on one of our committees, attend our various events, and establish yourself as an emerging professional in the community. And the best part... It's *free*! The American Institute of Architects offers complimentary membership to qualified individuals for up to 18 months, ending on December 31st of the year following graduation. For example, if you graduated this spring, you're entitled to free membership through the 2010 calendar year! If interested, go to www.aia.org/about/memberservices/AIAS077102 for an application. 

AIA PITTSBURGH ON THE WEB

It's no surprise that telephones and letters have gone by the wayside, having been replaced by cell phones and email. Similarly, the internet is now the tool for how business is conducted and connections are made. That's why AIA Pittsburgh has been making efforts to increase its presence on the World Wide Web. AIA Pittsburgh is on both Facebook and LinkedIn, providing another way to learn what is happening within the Chapter and stay in touch with fellow members. Join "AIA Pittsburgh Rocks" on Facebook or "AIA Pittsburgh – Collaborate" on LinkedIn to start receiving reminders of important events. 

AIA Pittsburgh Rocks:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39210838253>

AIA Pittsburgh – Collaborate:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?groupId=1949680&sharedKey=4FB72A374F3B>



designs on america

Architects from abroad in pursuit of a U.S. license

BY JOHN ALTDORFER

For architects born and educated abroad, the rewards of earning a license to work in the United States are worth the challenges of additional education, low pay, and delayed entry into the workplace.

Nick Doichev, AIA doesn't exactly say it in so many words. Yet, there's no mistaking the reality of his situation in life right now. The 42-year-old Bulgarian senior vice president and leader of the Design Studio at Astorino is living the American Dream. Still, the journey from Sofia to Pittsburgh wasn't a straight shot to success. For Doichev, and other foreign-trained architects, "making it" in the United States can be a journey fraught with language barriers, bureaucratic obstacles, and financial crises that native-born architects can't begin to imagine.

"At one point I was scrubbing other people's toilets for \$5 an hour," recalls Doichev. "I was doing anything to get by while I was working towards completing my education and getting a

job. By the time I came to the United States, I was 24 years old and knew that I was willing to do whatever was necessary to become an architect here. I was so excited by that idea.”

For many architects, the powerful promise of establishing a career in America draws them to Pittsburgh – from South America to Asia and points between – despite the obstacles that lie ahead.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO PITTSBURGH — EVENTUALLY

Shashi Patel, AIA – who has been in Pittsburgh for the last 38 years – knows that it’s been one very long, strange trip to America. Born to Indian parents in Kenya while that country was under British rule, Patel practiced his craft as a young architect on two continents before coming to America in 1970, with a short stay in New York City before calling Pittsburgh home.

When Monika Gibson said goodbye to Poland, the distance between her nation of birth and new homeland could be measured by a yardstick – literally.

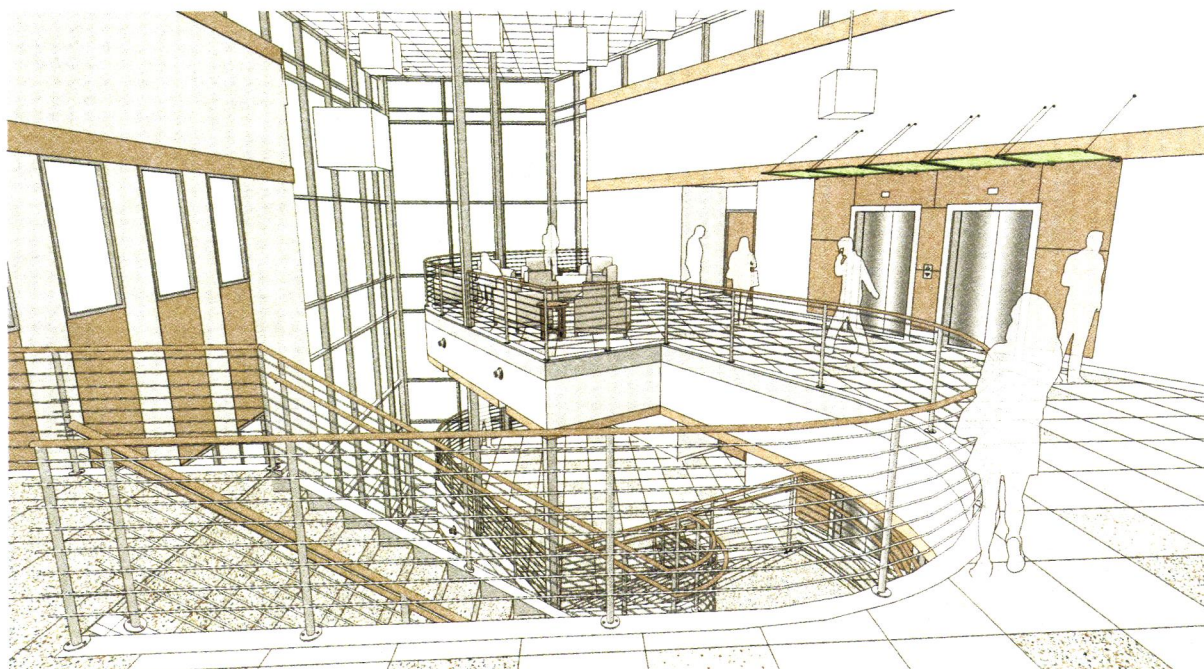
“One of the biggest adjustments I faced was learning to think of things in terms of feet and inches instead of meters,” says Gibson, now an intern with Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. “Along

with that I had to learn how to use English in everyday conversations as well as in technical discussions. That isn’t as easy as some people might think.”

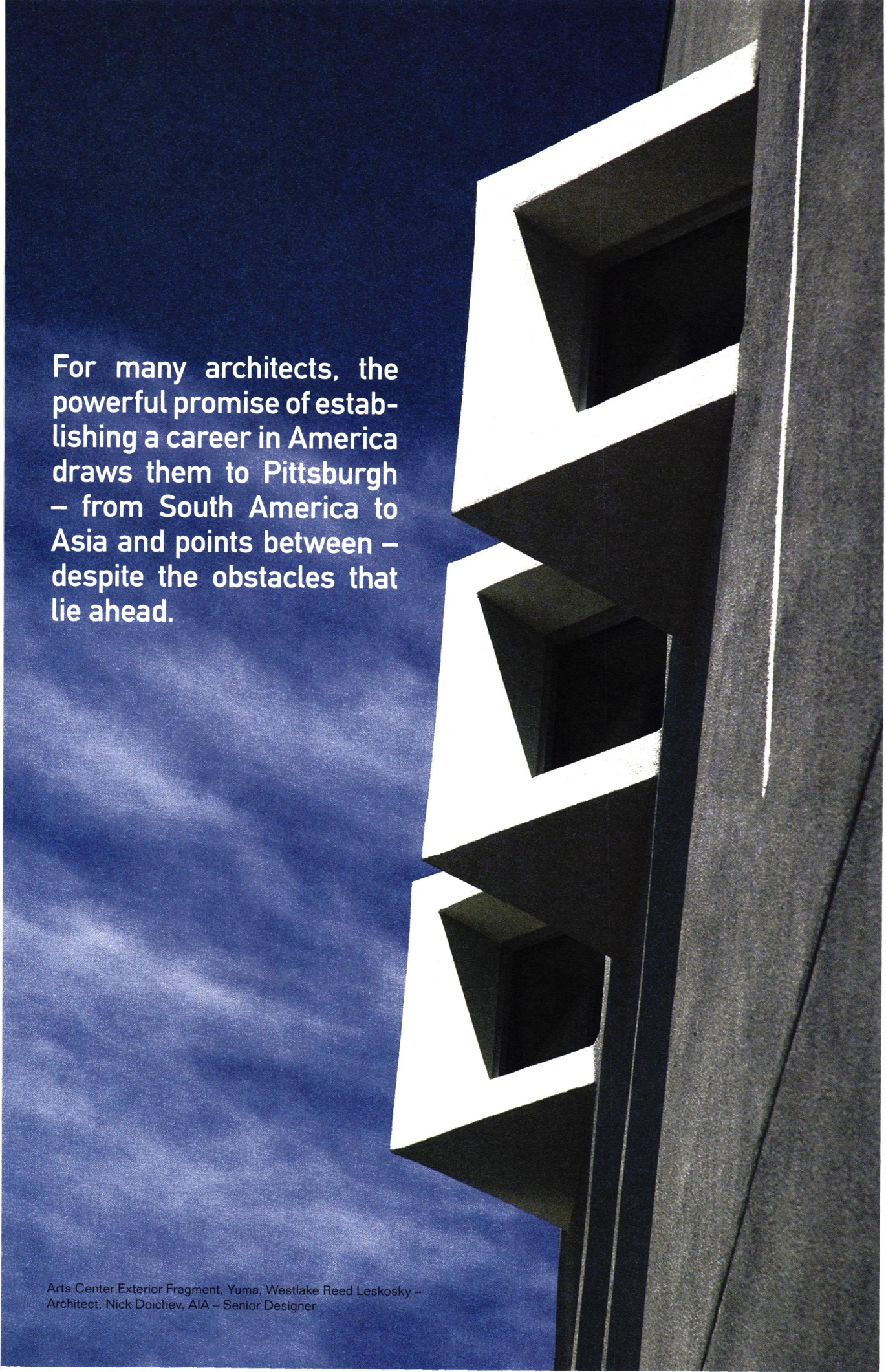
Sometimes, America can be a preliminary stop on a person’s itinerary before it becomes a final destination. Argentinean Ana Migone, AIA explains that she didn’t pursue her registration during her first stay in Pittsburgh because she wasn’t sure she and her husband were going to establish roots in the city or even the country. That inkling of doubt proved to be true as the couple moved to Norway. Eventually, they returned to the region and have been here since 1993. Sixteen years later she is involved in designing the Latin American Room at the University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning.

As is the case with so many other architects with international pedigrees who finally settle in Pittsburgh, Doichev ended up here after a detour or two. His travelogue includes stays in Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Cleveland. Despite the many roads taken, he expresses no second thoughts about the journey.

“I have no regrets about the path I took to get where I am today,” he says. “It all came together, and I’ve done well.” But not without a lot of hard work, both educationally and professionally.

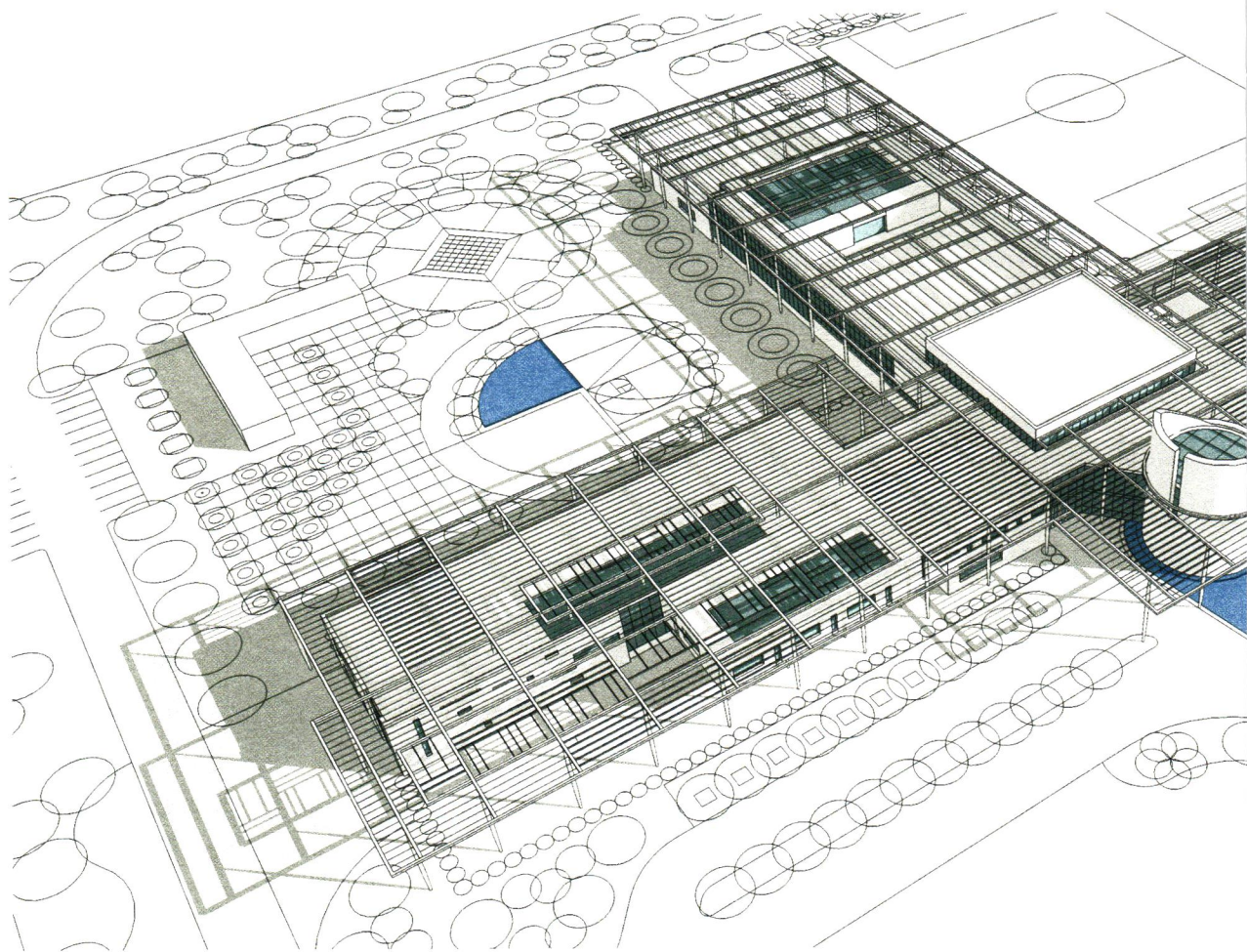


FAU Classroom Building Atrium Perspective, Boca Raton, Astorino – Architect, Nick Doichev, AIA – Design Principal



For many architects, the powerful promise of establishing a career in America draws them to Pittsburgh – from South America to Asia and points between – despite the obstacles that lie ahead.

Arts Center Exterior Fragment, Yuma, Westlake Reed Leskosky –
Architect, Nick Doichev, AIA – Senior Designer



BACK TO SCHOOL

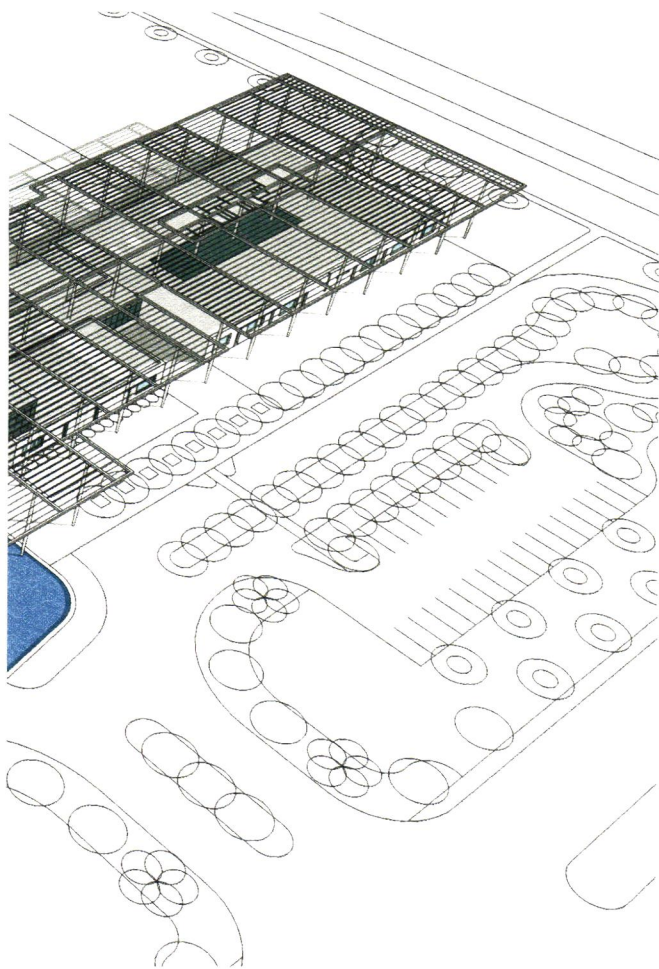
Despite years of university education, advanced degrees, and exceptional careers earned abroad, most foreign-educated architects basically have to start from scratch when they arrive in America. Gibson, Migone, and Patel all received the equivalent of master's degrees in architecture in their countries of origin. Yet, here in Pittsburgh and throughout the U.S., those degrees were essentially worthless pieces of paper. For the most part, foreign-educated architects are no more legally qualified to work as licensed architects than any American student with a high school diploma. To earn a license to ply their trade, architects educated outside the U.S. must often return to college.

Educated at the only architectural school in Bulgaria at the time, Doichev was one of just 30 students annually accepted to the prestigious University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy. The program was a five-year

regimen of classroom study followed by another year of working on a diploma project. With no electives, all students completed the same courses, with a heavy emphasis on the practical and technical side of architecture. After winning a competition to study in the U.S., Doichev enrolled at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he learned some important lessons in the differences between the American and Bulgarian approach to educating young architects.

"In the United States, there is definitely more of a focus on the liberal arts side of architecture than in Bulgaria," says Doichev. "Here, you study theory and pure design. But you can graduate without really knowing how to put a building together. That's why American students have to complete the Internship Development Program before they are licensed."

Before he migrated to Pittsburgh, Patel, owner of Global Design Associates (formerly known as Shashi D. Patel and Associates), was a success-



ful architect on two continents. Upon arriving in America, he was forced to start from scratch.

“Before I left Kenya, I was in demand,” he says. “But when I came to the United States in 1970, no one knew me. My experience meant nothing. To get a job I had to be ‘retrained’ by taking college classes I had successfully completed years before.”

In Argentina, Migone completed a seven-year program that included an internship and rigorous exam to earn a degree in architecture. Still, when she and her husband returned to Pittsburgh in the early 1990s, she had to have her education approved by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), complete the I. D. P. and pass the A. R. E. exams. That process took nearly six years.

Despite the additional and sometimes repetitive schooling and internships, Doichev, Patel, Gibson, and Migone agree that the process is worth it to receive a license to work in the United States.

WORKING IN THE U.S.A.

Despite what many people outside the profession might believe, a license to practice architecture isn’t a free ride to success, fame, and riches. Just as many other foreign-bred architects learned before them, Patel, Doichev, Migone, and Gibson discovered that a beginning architect sometimes doesn’t earn much more than minimum wage.

“My first job paid \$3.50 an hour,” recalls Patel. “I had a wife and a baby to support and had to work two jobs. It was a big transition for me.”

Nowadays Doichev enjoys the good work environment at Astorino. But in 1995, when he landed his first position at a Philadelphia firm, he made less than \$20,000 a year.

“That was next to nothing,” he says. “But it felt like a million dollars to me because it was my first job. Still, my wife and I were living in a cockroach-infested apartment two blocks away from my office because I couldn’t live far away since I couldn’t afford car insurance. Before that first job, there were times when I survived on rice and noodles.”

Aside Frank Lloyd Wright, Michael Graves, and a select group of other American architects who achieved superstar status, our quartet of foreign-born practitioners says that architects in America don’t enjoy the admiration their counterparts do in other parts of the world.

“In Kenya, graduate architects were well-respected in the 1960s” says Patel. “Everything was very formal, in a British sense. Attire was a coat and tie to work each day, and an office



TOP LEFT: School Concepts Aerial View, Abu Dhabi, Astorino – Architect, Nick Doichev, AIA – Design Principal

ABOVE: FAU Classroom Building Facade Fragment, Boca Raton, Astorino – Architect, Nick Doichev, AIA – Design Principal

boy served you tea at 10 in the morning and 4:30 in the afternoon. Architects were among the top professionals. But when I first came to America, companies were more interested in hiring cheap labor in the form of engineers and architects from India.”

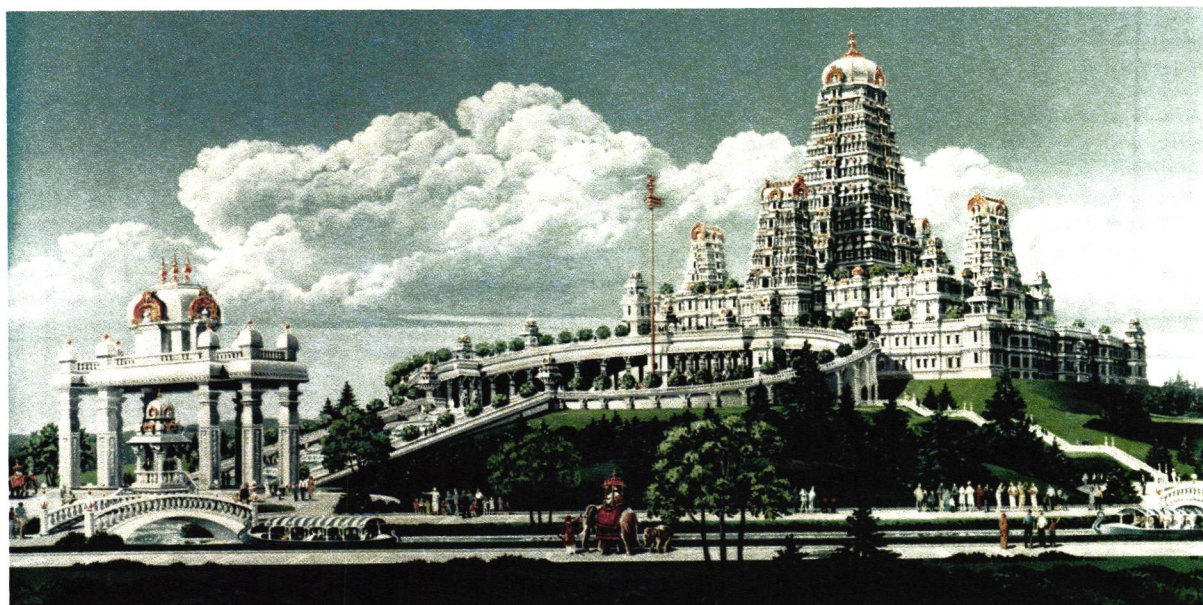
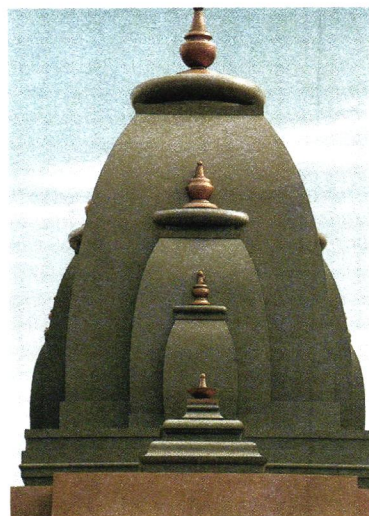
In South America and Europe, architects often command the same prestige as doctors. Migone says that many Argentinian architects are well known and respected in many countries outside of Argentina, in large part because of their broad education. According to Doichev, the less glamorous profile of American architects may stem from a source other than the profession itself.



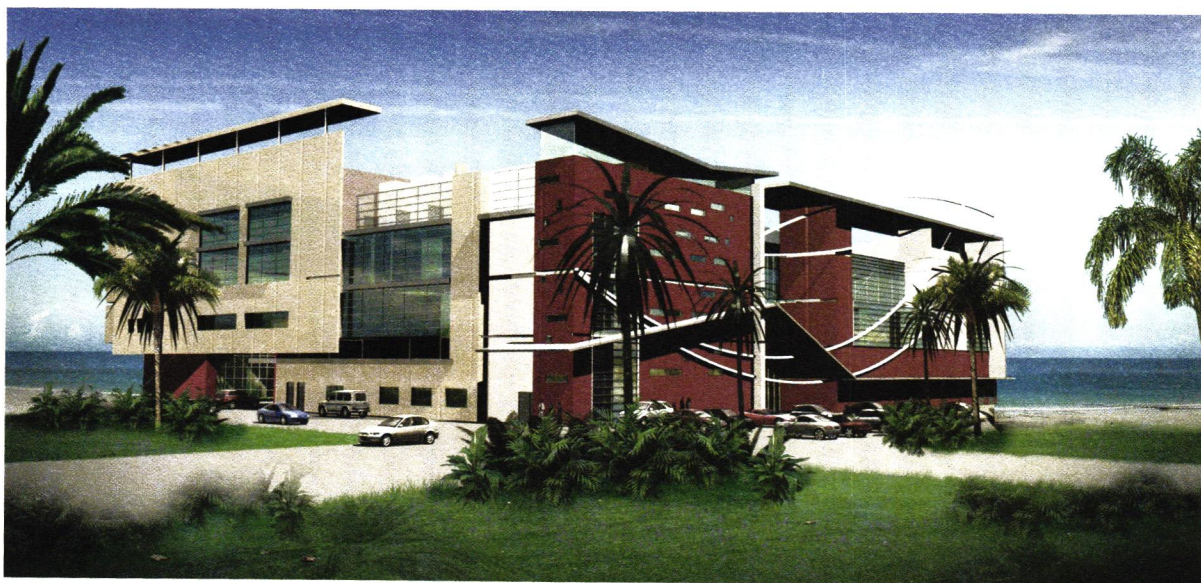
Mara Serena Safari Lodge, Kenya. Cobb Archer & Associates; design architect



Hindu Temple, Las Vegas, NV. Shashi D. Patel and Associates



The Great R K Temple of Understanding, WV, incomplete. Shashi D. Patel and Associates



GEMS Boat House, Dubai, UAE, Burt Hill (Ana Migone, AIA)

“Too much of the profession is driven by builders and developers,” he says. “In most states, you don’t need a licensed architect to be involved with one-family home design and construction. That means two guys in a pickup truck can draw plans for a home addition and do the job for you. It creates an impression that architects aren’t that necessary.”

Despite what might be perceived as a slightly negative overall impression of architects, Doichev and the others say that a positive outlook is the key to making it in America.

WORDS FROM THE WISE

Dreams can come true in America – especially for architects born and schooled in countries other than the United States. But it requires a lot of determination, hard work, and self-confidence.

“You have to have a positive attitude,” says Patel. “Most likely, you will start out at the bottom of the hill. I tell people they’ll progress faster if they learn the ropes and always look ahead instead thinking of what you left behind. I’ve come across so many architects from India who grew so frustrated that they gave up the profession. Some young people get so frustrated with the licensing process and language barriers here that they look for jobs in other fields that will pay twice as much. But you can succeed

in America as an architect if you’re willing to work hard and be patient.”

Pre-planning can help too. Gibson advises that foreign-educated architects should take the time to see what they’ll need to do to earn a license to practice in the States – before they pack up for America. And once they get here, Migone recommends a quick start on getting the education, internships, and other requirements needed to earn a license. “I became involved with PIYAF – the Pittsburgh Interns and Young Architects Forum. I also helped a few foreign architects who had questions about obtaining their registration in the U.S.A.”

“I tell everyone not to wait as long as I did,” she adds. “Go out and network, meet people, and participate in organizations like the AIA.”

Finally, Doichev, who is now a naturalized U.S. citizen, offers this bit of wisdom: “Be yourself,” he says. “Bring your culture and experience from your homeland to the United States. Never forget who you are and where you came from. But learn everything you can about your new country and how things are done here. Immerse yourself in the local culture. Seek nourishing environments. Find people who, regardless of origin, are like you, and work through problems together. When the day comes that you get your license and first job in America, you’ll realize that it was all worthwhile.” **C**

AIA PITTSBURGH WORKS TOWARDS A POLICY ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

BY SUSAN BRESLOW

CONTEXT

The “Policy for Public Engagement” makes its debut in this issue of *Columns*. This is a document that defines an approach to addressing issues that have previously been handled casually and on an ad-hoc basis by the AIA Pittsburgh Board and Chapter. The policy was created as part of a local response to the launching of AIA National’s Civic Engagement and Citizen Architect Initiatives (www.aia.org/advocacy).

The chapter leadership is looking to broaden and intensify the chapter’s voice for architects and architecture on both Grant Street and Main Street and wanted member input and a formally documented policy to stand on and stand behind before stepping more seriously into these arenas.

“This new policy doesn’t cover all the bases or answer all of the questions about how and what we advocate and who does the advocating,” explains AIA Pittsburgh president Chip Desmone, AIA. “But it’s a start – we’ve started the dialogue. The policy is intentionally broad in scope; it’s meant for all members and not just chapter leadership; and it will invariably need to be altered over time.”

CREATION

This policy is notable for how it came about – it was developed with significant input from the membership over a nearly year-long formal process lead by the Board of Directors and a specially created Public Engagement Task Force. The Board designated Don Carter, FAIA, Chip Desmone, AIA, Paula Maynes, AIA (chair), Eric Osth, AIA, Anne Swager, Hon. AIA, and Kevin Wagstaff, AIA as members of the Task Force and charged them with creating the policy. The Task Force took these steps:

HIRE A PROFESSIONAL. The Task Force engaged the services of Peggy Outon, executive director of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University. Peggy's leadership garnered rave reviews from all participants and helped focus the conversation at hand. The Task Force met seven times between the Spring of 2008 and Winter of 2009, reporting to the Board of Directors monthly.

BENCHMARK OTHERS' PRACTICES. The Task Force solicited other AIA chapters and like-minded organizations for their existing policies on public engagement and used them to model the Task Force's discussion. They reviewed the documents for language, policy considerations, and purpose. Some of the organizations whose policies were included in the exploration were the Boston Society of Architects, AIA Chapters of Wisconsin, New York City, and Hawaii, the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

CONDUCT AN E-SURVEY. To better understand people's desires about how the chapter should be involved in public discourse the Task Force conducted an e-survey in the Fall of 2008. The survey was made available to all members and architect non-members for over the course of a month in the weekly e-Columns. 57 of the 68 people who responded were registered architects. The e-survey documented that:

- 28% of the respondents currently serve on public boards or commissions and 75% of those are with local governments outside the City of Pittsburgh.
- Other volunteer involvement includes service in professional associations, neighborhood and charitable organizations, alumni groups, religious groups, and service clubs. 42% of the respondents are active volunteers, well exceeding the national average of 26% of American adults.
- Noteworthy as well is the amount of time spent on volunteer activity with 43% of members reporting spending more than 10 hours a month.
- 77% of the responders said they themselves were willing to be visible and vocal champions for the AIA.
- The organizations for which responders volunteer range from the Allegheny Conference to the YMCA.

Comments included on the survey:

- "AIA should not try to be all things to all people. It should be a voice for aesthetics and good design."

- "AIA Pittsburgh is not qualified to speak as a body on any design issues. Leave the design opinions to the architects themselves!"

- "AIA needs to be careful and very well informed in making comment and doesn't necessarily need to pass judgments, but as educated professionals we should take public education and sponsoring public conversation as an important part of our mission."

HAVE A TOWN HALL MEETING. A town hall meeting was convened on November 20, 2008. Four members of the Public Engagement Task Force and two members of the Board facilitated brainstorming sessions which were designed to determine if and how the chapter should participate in the following three arenas:

Environment and Sustainability

(Chip Desmone, AIA and Carl Bolton, AIA)

There was a broad discussion about community service opportunities. Ideas ranged from educating a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate on issues of design, to a suggestion that every year, the AIA Board President meet with the Mayor and City Council. There was a thoughtful suggestion that teams of architects be trained to facilitate, educate, and guide civic organizations and government departments who request support in the areas of urban design, sustainability, housing issues, etc.

Community and Design Impacts


(Paula Maynes, AIA and Tom Briney, AIA)

There was consensus that the citizen architect is expected to have an opinion. However, there were also cautions about identifying issues, being selective in choosing battles, paying close attention to and insisting on correct public process, as well as an insistence on AIA's responsibility to convene public discourse.

Regulatory and Professional Issues

(Kevin Wagstaff, AIA and Eric Osth, AIA)

There was discussion about seeking broader participation for architects. This group believed that closer relationships with universities and other community groups engaged in development was desirable. AIA Pittsburgh should avoid being the "design police" or "architectural jury" but rather seek to train members and encourage their appointment to planning and zoning boards.

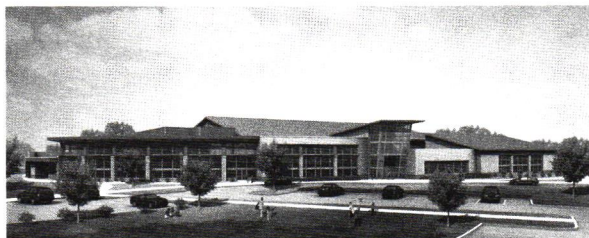
There was general consensus in the Town Hall Meeting that AIA Pittsburgh should continue to equip its members to be conduits of information, to be active in the community, to insist on fair and appropriate public process, and avoid expressing any corporate opinion on aesthetics. 

BREAKING

FROM THE FIRMS

Weber Murphy Fox of Erie and **The Hayes Design Group-Architects** have completed the design of the new Bethel Park High School, a 320,000 sf facility which will replace the existing eight separate buildings in continuous use since 1959. The new building includes wings for Academics, Fine Arts and Physical Education, and Community use spaces consisting of a 1,500 seat auditorium, a 2,000 seat main gymnasium, and an eight lane pool. The design incorporates many energy and resource conserving features, utilizes locally produced, recycled, and recyclable materials, and consolidates many buildings and activities under one energy and space efficient roof. The original buildings will be demolished at the completion of the new school and replaced by new athletic fields, tennis courts, and a future concession stand/field house. Construction, to be overseen by Massaro CM Services, is scheduled to start summer of 2009 and be completed in time for the 2011-2012 school year.

Zagada Markets, Inc., a leading business development analytics and advisory firm in the global outsourcing niche, has selected **Kingsland Scott Bauer Associates (KSBA)** as its premier professional services architectural firm with a spe-



Community Recreation Center, Upper St. Clair Township

cialized call center and BPO design practice as member for its Sphaero Alliance outsourcing partnership.

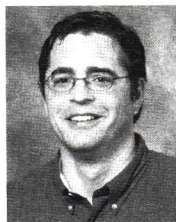
Designed by **WTW Architects** and **Larsen Architects** of Lakewood, Ohio, the new Community Recreation Center in Upper St. Clair Township is scheduled to open in June 2009. It is one of the first recreation centers in Western PA to offer indoor and outdoor recreation, aquatic, and community gathering places.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Allegheny Construction Group, Inc. has hired **Jamie Johnson** as operations manager. Johnson was previously employed by Dick Corporation where he held positions as Vice President of Estimating and Director of Pre-Construction. Johnson's recent project was the New Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The CDCP has hired **Thomas Bartnik** as its first director of design and planning. Mr. Bart-

nik will be responsible for the organization's partnerships with for-profit, non-profit, and public entities, and expanding the CDCP's technical assistance consulting services. He also will be responsible for providing oversight to the CDCP's signature Design Fund program, which has awarded more than \$1 million in grants leveraging more than \$90 million in neighborhood investment over twenty years.



Bartnik

EDGE studio has hired **Stephen Altherr, AIA** as a senior project manager. He joins EDGE with over 25 years of experience designing, detailing and managing architectural projects. His expertise includes projects for both commercial and higher education market sectors with an emphasis in research facilities and environmental sustainability. Altherr will be working on the Phase II renovation of Swanson School of Engineering Benedum Hall at the University of Pittsburgh.

Lami Grubb Architects, LP has announced that **Jim Noe** and **Paulette Burns** have been promoted to associates of the firm. Noe, a registered architect, graduated from Kent State, and has been with the firm for

nine years. Burns is a graduate of the architecture program at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and has been with the firm for five years.

Chris Davis, **Colin Gibbons**, **Bill Greb**, **Ron Hennon**, **Mel Miller**, **Jason Scheible**, **Ed Swiatek**, and **John West** received their LEED® accreditation. This brings Mascaro's count of LEED AP professionals to 30. Additionally, **Rich Miller, Jr.**, **J.W. Houser**, and **Joey Bruno** received ACI Concrete Field Technician and PennDOT Concrete Field Testing Technician certifications from the American Concrete Institute and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, respectively.

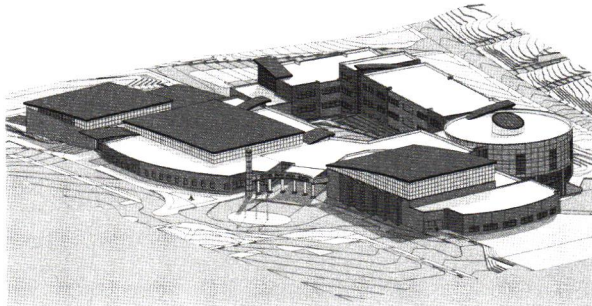
The Sextant Group announces the addition of **Michael Kerr** as senior consultant. Kerr brings a demonstrated track record of success in design and construction management of technology systems for government, healthcare, theatres/auditoriums, corporate, sports & entertainment, and educational facilities.



Kerr

Thomas Chidlow, AIA of **VEHB Architects** has achieved LEED® accreditation. Mr. Chidlow has been an architect with VEBH for more than 16 years.

Scott R. Womack, AIA, **James Chambers**, **Jacqueline Kirich**, **Brandi E. Johnston**, **Thomas P. Wiley, AIA**, and **Nathan Streets** are the newest additions to the staff at **WTW Architects**. **Hank Colker, AIA**, has been named a



The new Bethel Park High School

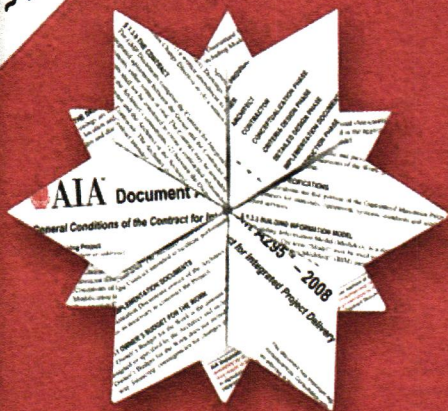
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2009

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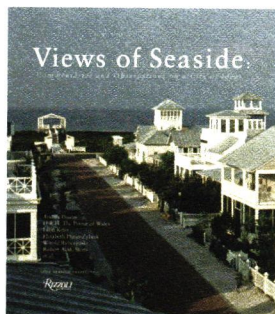
a city of ideas

A look at one of the first New Urbanist developments

Pittsburgh architect Eric Ost, AIA offers his appreciation for Seaside, a planned community on the Florida panhandle. His essay *A Gift to the Profession of Architecture* appears in the new book *Views of Seaside: Commentaries and Observations on a City of Ideas*, and is reproduced here for your enjoyment.

Views of Seaside: Commentaries and Observations on a City of Ideas is a collection of essays recently published by Rizzoli, brought together by the Seaside Institute, with contributors as knowledgeable and wide-ranging as Robert A.M. Stern, dean of the Yale University School of Architecture to Prince Charles, HRH The Prince of Wales.

Seaside is a planned community located on the Florida panhandle, founded in 1979. The town plan was designed by architects Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and is often cited as one of the first New Urbanist developments. With the summer months upon us, *Columns* thought a peak into this sunny destination would be an appropriate way to incorporate dreams of vacations with the written word.



Views of Seaside

Design: Terri Wolfe, Wolfe Design, Ltd.

Editing: Zane Schwaiger

Photography (opposite): Steven Brooke, copyright 2008

Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2008

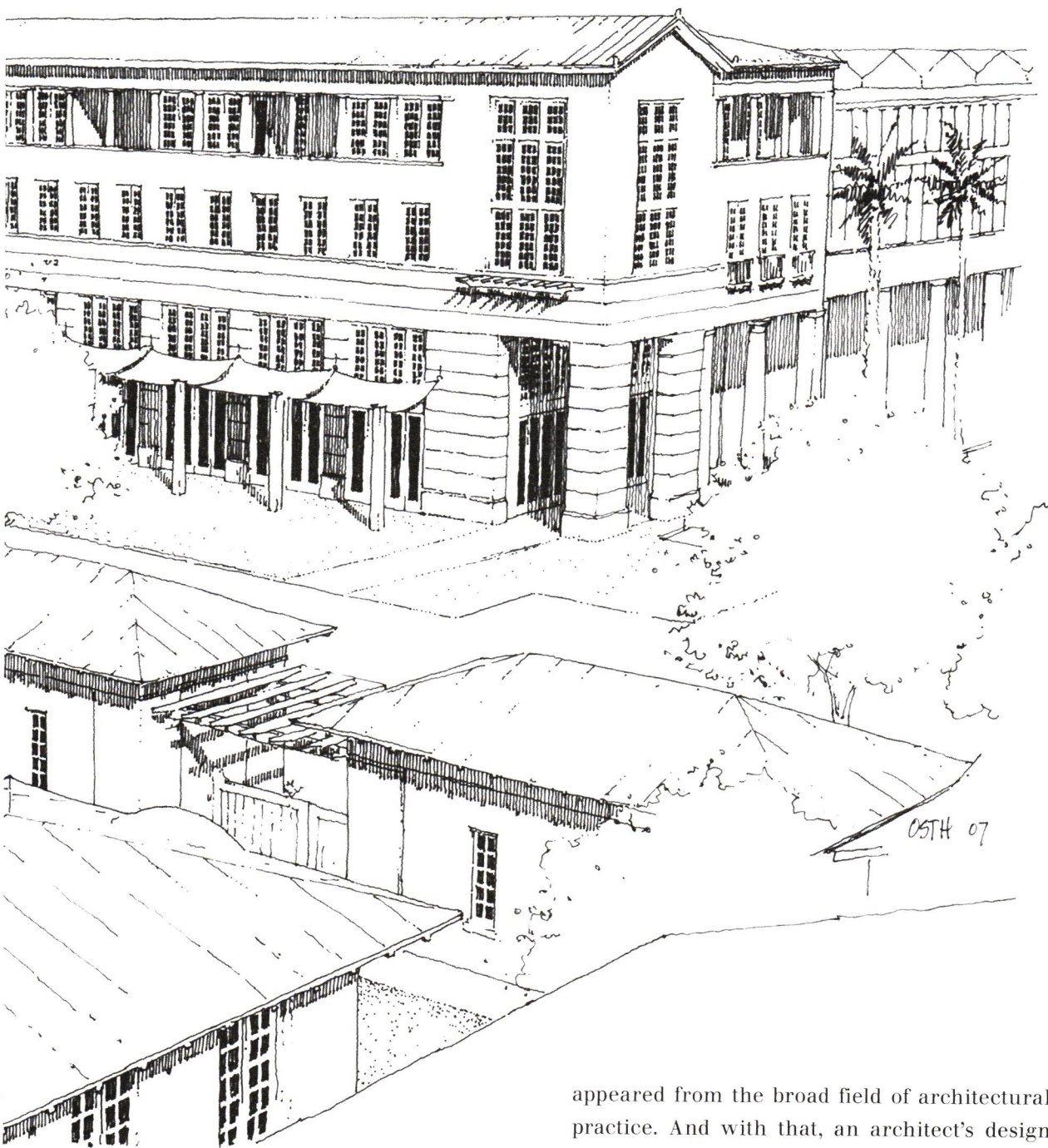


A GIFT TO THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE BY ERIC Osth, AIA

Seaside is a remarkable place. There are several reasons for this and clearly one is the assembly of extraordinarily high-quality architectural design. Despite Seaside's unobjectionable illustration of good town-building practice, the town has been highly controversial among the architectural establishment since the first few buildings. What the establishment has misunderstood (or chosen to ignore) is that regardless

of stylistic preferences, of which Seaside has many, Robert Davis and Seaside have reinvigorated the demand for "design" within the practice of architecture across the country.

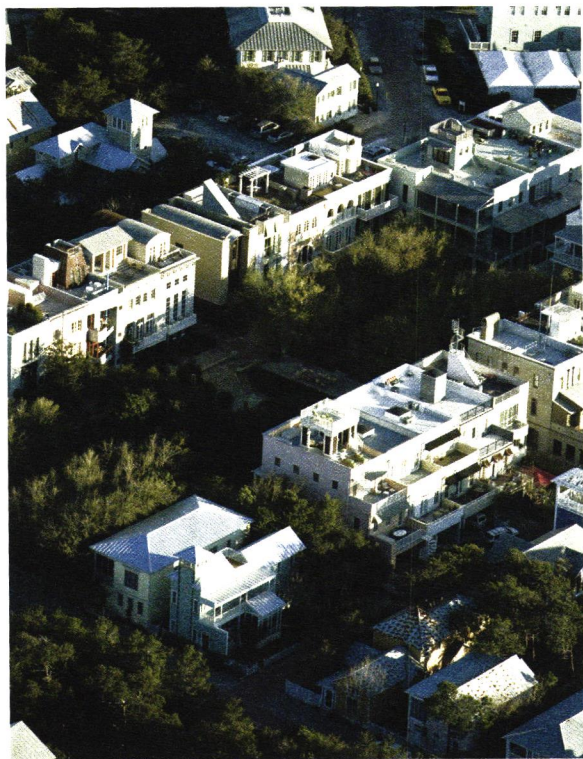
Prior to World War II, good architectural design was easy to find. The profession was led by small practices demonstrating clear abilities to create spirited, careful, and cohesive work that contributed to unique places. Following the



war, the architectural field followed a predictable path in the new era of American business—toward large firms. A flaw in this new model was the emphasis on service and a conspicuous absence of design. As one might predict, service firms do not create inspiring architecture. With the expansion of large firms, faith in the architect as a designer in the public eye slowly dis-

appeared from the broad field of architectural practice. And with that, an architect's design work was no longer considered an added value.

Undeniably, Seaside's architecture is valuable. And as a consequence, Seaside has helped launch the careers of a number of architects with varied stylistic preferences over the past twenty-five years. These architects have mentored countless interns, inspired by early design work in Seaside and beyond, myself included. As a result, invigorated by a new demand for great design, a new generation of architects is practicing the craft of the profession once again.



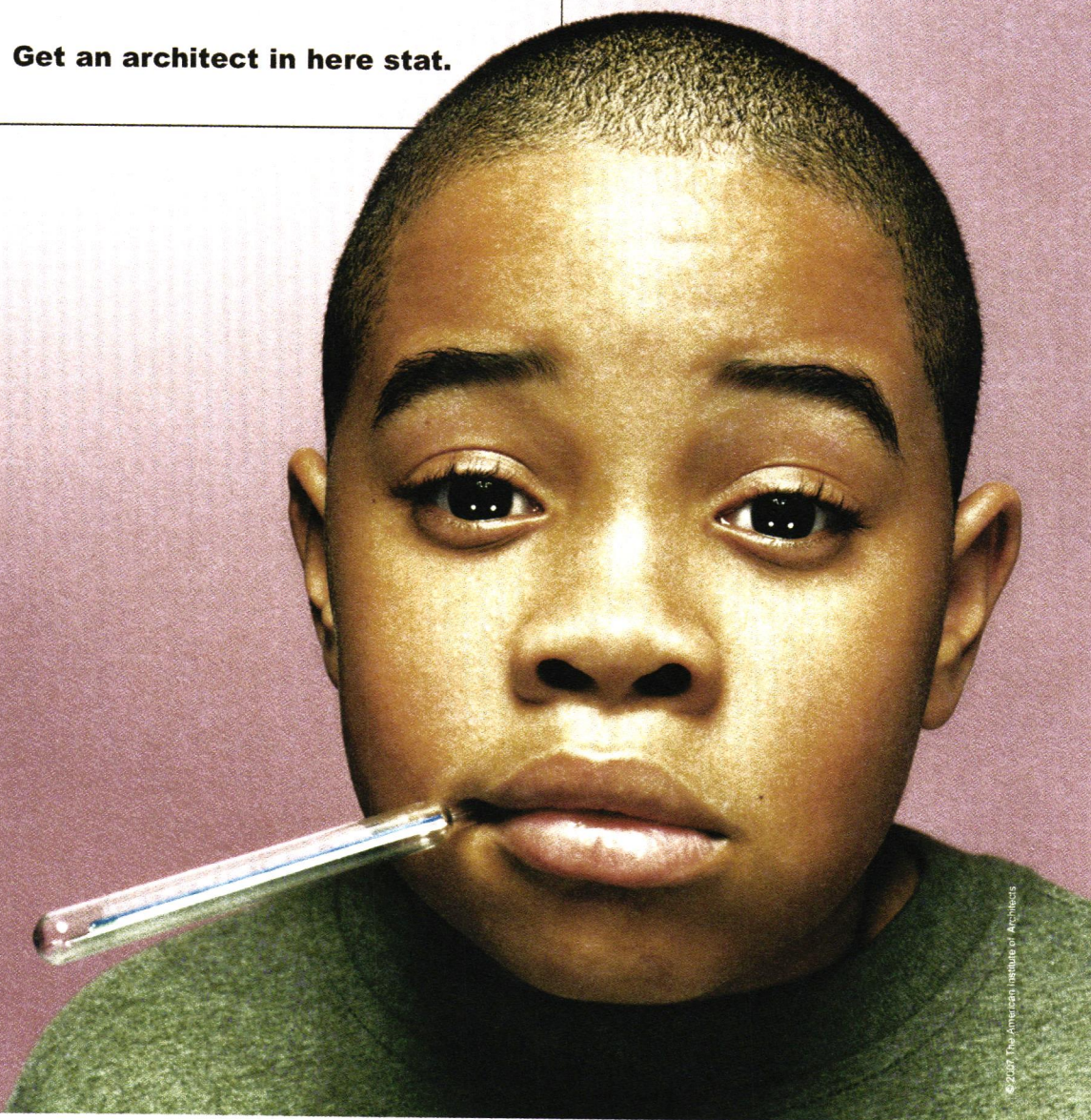
The urban density of Ruskin Place. Photography: Alex Maclean, copyright 2008.

There are other reasons for the recent return of architects as designers, notable museum commissions and public buildings among them, but clearly Seaside has been a major contributor. Neither one beautiful building, nor one individual architect could ever stem the rising tide of major service firms destroying the American landscape. However, a coordinated effort of great architects with base codes and agreements could create a beautiful assembly of architectural work and urban form and inspire the return of high-quality design in our villages, towns, and cities. **C**

Eric Osth, AIA, is a principal and architecture studio director at Urban Design Associates. He has a bachelor of architecture from University of Miami and a master of urban design from the University of California, Berkeley. He has worked for Merrill, Hatch & Associates (now Merrill, Pastor & Colgan) in Vero Beach, Florida, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP in San Francisco, California.

**He feels yucky.
He's frightened.
He has butterflies in his stomach.**

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