

COLUMNS

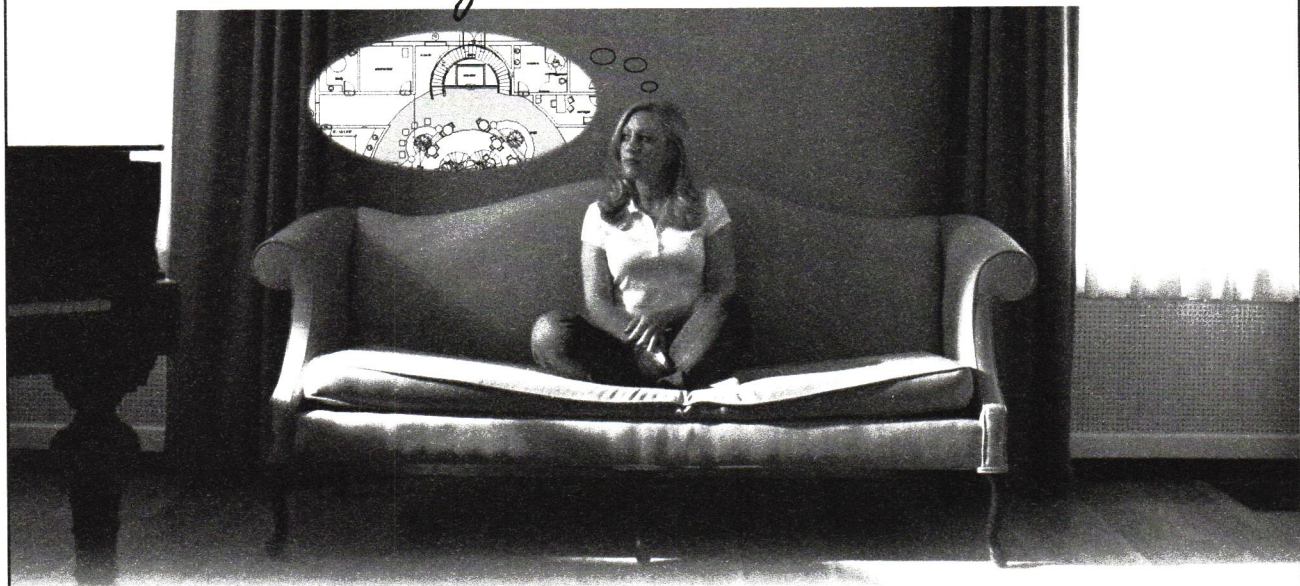


DEC/09

The Design Awards Issue: Design Pittsburgh 2009 award winners |
The Architect as City Builder: A profile of Philadelphia's Alan Greenberger, FAIA |
Design Pittsburgh event photos | AIA Pittsburgh, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects

COLUMNS

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HOMEFRONT

BY ANNE J. SWAGER, HON. AIA



2009 has been the hardest year I have ever experienced for the profession of architecture. Our concern began to grow in December 2008, when we heard rumblings from AIA National about how bad things were across the country. By this time the credit crunch had begun, which, as we all know, is the kiss of death for projects. I put my pencil to paper and reworked all of the budget calculations. I used a pretty simple and nonscientific technique: I cut every revenue line item by 20%. As always, finding the savings on the expense side was much more difficult. We cut production of this magazine to four times a year, froze employee wages, and ran lean and mean on travel expenses by sharing rooms and other expenses. In the early winter we started to see the unemployment numbers grow and by late winter/early spring it felt catastrophic.

By that time, we were already well into planning, re-planning, and reinventing. Unfortunately, my revenue projections were coming true, so we looked for new ways to meet member needs while keeping costs down. In response to unprecedented times, the Board of Directors courageously agreed to cease holding monthly membership meetings and move to a more committee intensive structure. We started an unemployed architects group and, like all of our committees, opened it to any architect, intern architect, interior designer, or related professional – members and non-members alike.

The group meets every other Friday and hosts a variety of speakers. Often times, speakers talk about subjects relating to unemployment – and just as often they don't. The discussions are always spirited and members of the group have begun to share their expertise with each other about networking, web design, and new business formation. For us, this group brings the AIA new vital energy.

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ON THE COVER: South Side Courtyard House by studio d'ARC architects, P.C., Photo: Massery Photography, Inc.




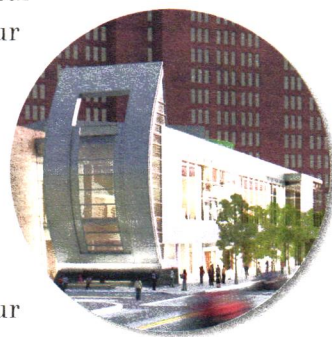
Out of necessity, we trimmed Design Pittsburgh from a series of events to just one evening. Through first vice-president Kevin Wagstaff's leadership, we secured Allison Williams, FAIA as the jury chair, and convinced the August Wilson Center to open their doors and let us exhibit the design boards for several days before our big evening. Our unemployed architects came through like gangbusters and helped with installation, registration, and the break-down of the exhibit.

It was tremendous to have qualified and enthusiastic help, but with such a radical change in programming, for several weeks leading up to the event we were all very concerned about the turn-out. We struggled with pricing; although the one ticket price was less expensive than the total of combined events in previous years, we were hoping that this choice was not cost prohibitive to our guests. And although the RSVPs were maddeningly slow at first, if you went to the event, you know the ending to this story.

It was a huge success! We had over 450 people. The venue worked perfectly. The exhibit lit up Liberty Avenue. You could still party or come into the auditorium and hear the awards ceremony. Rebecca Flora was genuinely excited to receive our Gold Medal and many of you attended her reception to thank her for her accomplishments.

I joked that evening that maybe all of you really thought the recession was over and that is why you turned out in such strength. I know that's not true. I think instead that we all came together to celebrate what is good. The August Wilson Center is a great new addition to the Cultural District. The projects on display show the care you have for your work and the winners showed how transformative your work can be.

As we move into another challenging year, I thank you for the opportunity to work with and for you as we all continue to reinvent ourselves and what we do in response to these unprecedented times. 



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

BY CHIP DESMONE, AIA

Despite the historically challenging times faced by your AIA this year, we succeeded in maximizing our programming capabilities and opportunities to positively position our organization for the future. We improved outreach, and will continue to do so in our relationships with the public sector, students at local universities, and advocacy with our elected officials.

Excellent programming for the annual Build Pittsburgh convention helped us to maintain our attendance of over 200 participants. The keynote speaker James Cramer gave excellent recommendations for staying strong during changing times. Thanks to the efforts of our staff, we were able to provide complimentary attendance to our temporarily unemployed members.

Advocacy for our profession and its challenges were represented at our annual National Grassroots Convention in Washington, D.C. as well as our statewide convention in Harrisburg for Architect's Day. This extended to the local level during testimony at city council hearings, and will continue at our upcoming legislative breakfast briefing with locally elected officials.

Design Pittsburgh was organized this year by Kevin Wagstaff, AIA, our incoming President, who did a spectacular job. The awards jury was chaired by Allison Williams, FAIA – the architect for the August Wilson Center, where the event was held. The 89 entries showed the depth in exceptional quality of design coming from our members who received 17 awards for their achievements. The event saw staggering attendance, reaching over 450 people, an increase of



almost 25%. Despite today's economy, we maintained our robust sponsorship levels of previous years thanks to the tireless efforts of our revenue committee. Attendance records were also broken at our Gold Medal Reception. Nearly 150 people came and supported Rebecca Flora's efforts in moving Pittsburgh to the forefront of cities with multiple LEED certified buildings promoting a culture of sustainability. Other notable statistics for your AIA this year include...

- 3,800 attendees for America's Favorite Architecture exhibit at SPACE Gallery
- 4,000 visits to pittsburghsfavoritearchitecture.com in the month of October
- 1,200 votes for the People's Choice Award
- 119 fans on AIA Pittsburgh's Facebook page which generated 110 views in October
- Media coverage in the Post-Gazette, Pop City, Pittsburgh Magazine and WQED

Lastly, you should recognize that the Presidency of your chapter is merely a caretaker's job, for which I have been deeply honored to serve. The incredible effort required to make this organization so strong happens from the dedication of our brilliant staff, Becky Spevack, Rachael Kelley, and Elizabeth Shirey. Most importantly, the march of our continued success comes from the determined efforts of our Executive Director of 20 years (!), Anne Swager, Hon. AIA, without whom our organization would only perform a fraction of what it accomplishes today.

Thank you! 

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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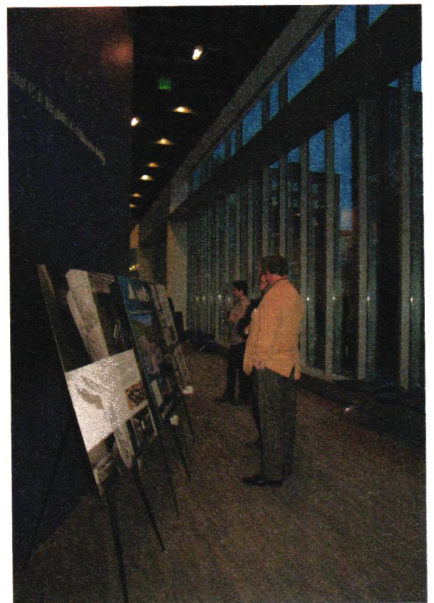


DESIGN PITTSBURGH 2009

Design Pittsburgh creates opportunities for architecture, design, and community to converge, and nowhere was this more true than at this year's celebration! The evening of October 22nd encapsulated three celebrations – the Gold Medal Reception, the Gala, and the Design Awards Ceremony – all held at the recently completed August Wilson Center for African American Culture. The evening began with an intimate reception to honor Gold Medal recipient Rebecca Flora, followed by Gala festivities, time to view this year's 89 design entries, and ended with lead juror and architect of the Center, Allison Williams, FAIA, providing jury commentary as each award was presented to an audience of more than 400. 



David Roth, AIA provides the music



Reviewing the projects



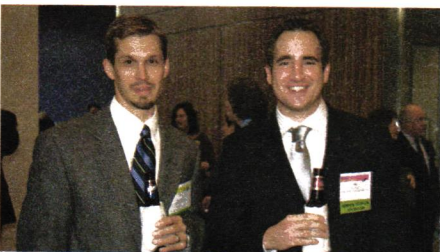
NEWS



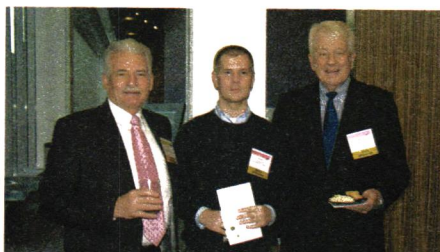
The team from Rothschild Doyno Collaborative accepts their award.



The team from FortyEighty Architecture accepts their award.



Representatives from SOTA Construction Services, Inc., Green Design Sponsors



Representatives from Epic Metals Corporation, Gold Sponsors



FROM LEFT: AIA Executive Director Anne J. Swager, Hon. AIA, Lead Juror Allison Williams, FAIA, Gold Medal Recipient Rebecca Flora, and outgoing Chapter President Chip Desmone, AIA

Photos by Elizabeth James, AIA

design awards

2009

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 or 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 five categories: Architecture, Regional and Urban Design, Architectural Detail/Craftsmanship, Open Plan, and Timeless.

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 Pfaffmann + Associates, PC for the Meadowcroft Rockshelter in 2008.

■ Honor Awards are granted for overall excellence to projects in the Architecture, 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 Timeless category is for projects that are at least 25 years old and were originally designed by an AIA Pittsburgh member.

■ The Green Design Citation, presented 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 Architecture 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 – Honor Award

PROJECT: South Side Courtyard House

CLIENT: Name withheld at client's request

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

PROJECT TEAM: Gerard Damiani, AIA, Debbie Battistone

CONTRACTOR: Prime 1 Enterprises, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: A new residence carved from a 90 year old warehouse, this urban courtyard house has created a series of exterior spaces into the existing footprint to act as rooms for both public and private use. These courtyards also act to bring daylight deeper into the living spaces.

JURY COMMENTS: *This is a very mature work that layers daylight, volumes, and planes to establish a successful and consistent dialogue between inside and outside – a concept unusually indoor/outdoor for a Pittsburgh home. The existing masonry wall engages in this dialogue to define space. It is a terrific example of warm, livable modernism.*



ARCHITECTURE – Honor Award

PROJECT: Tepper West Addition

CLIENT: Carnegie Mellon University

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: EDGE studio

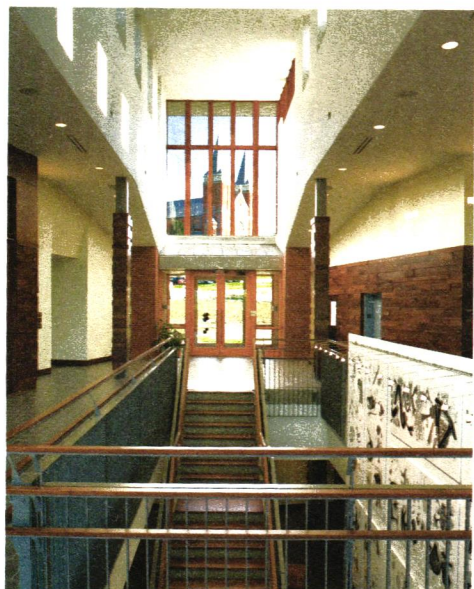
PROJECT TEAM: Gary Carlough, AIA, Jonathan Golli

CONTRACTOR: Jendoco Construction Corporation

PHOTOGRAPHER: EDGE studio

DESCRIPTION: The newest building addition to Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business provides a new entrance and technical infrastructure, as well as the space needed to accommodate a flexible, fully wired seminar room along with offices as a precursor to reorganization and renovation of the adjacent structure.

JURY COMMENTS: *This is an extraordinary example of a small addition that accomplishes great things functionally, urbanistically, and architecturally. It is subtle, complete, and sophisticated and so intelligent in its respect of the existing building. The responsibility to complete this campus space was key for this project. The "porch" presentation to the quad is beautifully scaled and makes inviting a building that was previously probably quite mute.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit and Green Design Citation

PROJECT: Fred M. Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media and Conference Center

CLIENT: Saint Vincent College and Archabbey

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: FortyEighty Architecture

PROJECT TEAM: Deborah Clark, AIA, Jeffery Davis, AIA, Kevin Gannon, AIA, Carmen Gong, Katherine LaForest, Matt Lundgren, Jason Morris, Yoko Palmisiano, Jack Riley, David Teufel, AIA, Kent Suhrbier, AIA

CONTRACTOR: Massaro Corporation

PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Schafer, Kent Suhrbier, AIA, Tom Persinger

DESCRIPTION: The Fred M. Rogers Center – named after and in honor of the creator and host of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood – houses the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media, the Fred Rogers Archive, and an interactive exhibit about his life and work. The immediate exterior of the building acts as transitional space that mediates between the academic world of the campus and the separate identity of the Fred M. Rogers Center.

JURY COMMENTS: *This building nestles into the site, successfully addressing the context and climate. The jury was impressed by the intelligent placement of monitors to bring day lighting deep into the interior spaces as well as its response to the campus landmark buildings by framing focused views of them through dramatic openings at key public spaces within the building.*

ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Chemistry Research Building

CLIENT: Yale University

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and Cannon Design (Architect of Record)

PROJECT TEAM: Jon Jackson, FAIA, Christine Clements

CONTRACTOR: William A. Berry & Sons, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Nic Lehoux Photography, Woodruff/Brown Architectural Photography, Michael Maiese, AIA

DESCRIPTION: The Chemistry Research Building was created to house the most hood-intensive synthetic chemistry research of the Yale Chemistry Department. The program-driven plan maximizes research space to support current and future initiatives while allowing for reconfigurations and reassignment of space as future research demands.

JURY COMMENTS: *The jury appreciated the simple ways in which the building engages at the scale of the campus to create a well scaled courtyard and a dialogue among the parts addressing the incremental growth of a campus. The way the building expresses the promise of an ambiguous language that resides between the historic campus and its future (best exemplified in the facade) is the strength of this project. The jury also appreciated the handsome laboratory spaces.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Allegheny

CLIENT: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects

PROJECT TEAM: Karen Loysen, AIA, Peter Kreuthmeier, Sallyann Kluz, Dave Green, Jennifer McCarthy-Lovell

CONTRACTOR: Massaro Corporation

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: This newly opened 15,000 square foot library branch transforms its former gas station site into a new neighborhood landmark. The use of materials, such as limestone, and the scale of the design create a dialogue with neighboring buildings

JURY COMMENTS: *This library has a robust civic presence in keeping with the Carnegie tradition. As a contemporary work it is open and inviting and makes a successful reference to the scale of neighboring buildings and to the corner.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Hill District

CLIENT: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Pfaffmann + Associates, PC

PROJECT TEAM: Robert Pfaffmann, AIA, Erik Hokanson, AIA, Greg George, Assoc. AIA, John Orsini, AIA, Jeff Slack, Aftyn Giles

CONTRACTOR: A. Martini & Company, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Marc Soracco Photography

DESCRIPTION: Located on the site of an abandoned gas station, the building sits at the heart of a high pedestrian and mass transit population. Manipulations of scale and materials make the mandated one-story building fit among the taller, historic commercial buildings on the street.

JURY COMMENTS: *This library is quite civic in the way it engages the street and establishes the most honorific space - the reading room - as a prow anchoring the corner in this historic neighborhood. At the same time the interior is casual, simple, and straightforward, using the stacks to establish an intermediate scale under the big roof and the yellow wall as reference point. The reuse of the diner position in memory as a casual reading room is a gracious nod to the history and ritual of the site. The bioswale garden is well located and serves as a natural buffer to the neighboring property.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Penn at 29th

CLIENT: Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

PROJECT TEAM: Daniel Rothschild, AIA, Kenneth Doyno, AIA, Melanie Buzgan Dower, Assoc. AIA, Geoff Campbell, AIA, Tara Earnest, Assoc. AIA, Jeff Kalina, Assoc. AIA, Justin Losego, Jennifer Matthews, Assoc. AIA, Terence Oden, AIA, Daniel Tse, Kate Tunney, Assoc. AIA

CONTRACTOR: Mosites Construction Company

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Penn at 29th is the renovation of a bus garage into the workplace and office of an architecture and urban design firm. An open floor plan reinforces the collaborative office culture, encouraging interaction, while large windows pull in daylight and engage the neighborhood through views to activities inside.

JURY COMMENTS: *The jury admired this modest adaptive reuse that transformed the existing building into a vibrant part of a new urban street fabric while keeping the utilitarian nature of the original garage intact. The jury found it both skillful and lively in the weaving of the large and the intimate scale, and of urban and tectonic gestures. In this same light, it is a model for renovating buildings that can express a respect for the tradition of simple and honest structures alongside the complexities of new programs and urban roles.*



ARCHITECTURE – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: Eastside Phase 2 – Building B and Building D

CLIENT: The Mosites Company

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: The Design Alliance Architects

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

CONTRACTOR: Mosites Construction Company

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Buildings B and D are part of a retail master plan that responds to the developer's challenge to create a vibrant urban shopping experience on the

periphery of two neighborhoods. Building B's massing responds to shifts in context of multiple elevations – both upper and lower levels – providing visible entries, views into each tenant space, and a sense of pedestrian scale along the pathways. Building D, sited at the corner of two major streets, acts as a hub for both pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

JURY COMMENTS: *The building mediates between the pedestrian and vehicular experiences successfully. It is a very courageous project and an heroic attempt to make the alienating pattern of drive-in, big box retail an urban and perhaps a more public experience.*

REGIONAL AND URBAN DESIGN – Certificate of Merit

PROJECT: East Liberty Green Vision

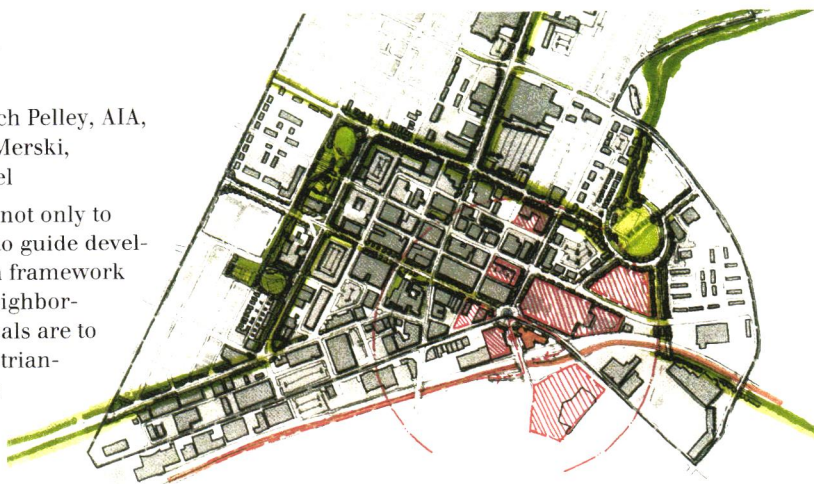
CLIENT: East Liberty Development Inc.

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Perkins Eastman

PROJECT TEAM: Stefani Danes, AIA, Arch Pelley, AIA, Thomas Bartnik, Paul Palko, Lauren Merski, Melissa Annet, Sammy Van den Heuvel

DESCRIPTION: The Green Vision seeks not only to create a model for sustainability, but to guide development and to create an urban design framework for integrating green practices into neighborhood investments. In particular, its goals are to create opportunities for denser, pedestrian-oriented development and to increase community awareness in building a more sustainable community.

JURY COMMENTS: *A very competent urban design proposition that imagines a neighborhood/precinct brought together around a sustainable lifestyle. It is recognized for its clear participatory process that establishes metrics for individual responsibility. It incentivizes the individual to act toward the desired outcome through a series clear incremental steps where the impact is tangible.*



ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL / CRAFTSMANSHIP – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: Monastery Street Park

CLIENT: South Side Local Development Company, South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

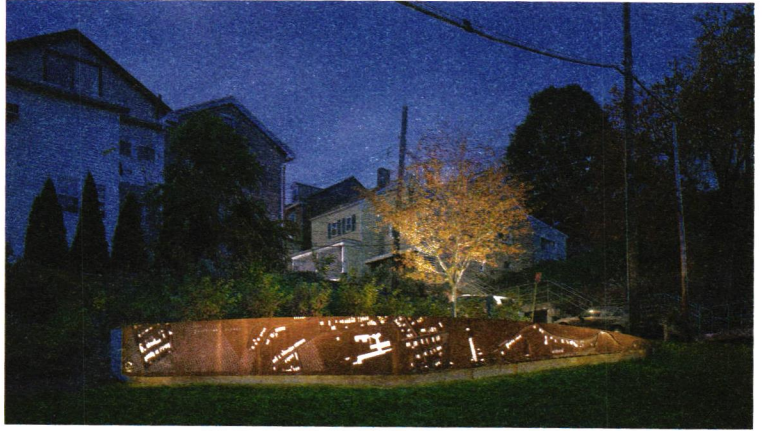
ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects

PROJECT TEAM: Karen Loysen, AIA, Peter Kreuthmeier, Sallyann Kluz, Dave Green, Jennifer McCarthy-Lovell

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: In an effort to reclaim an overgrown, vacant lot and celebrate the unique qualities of its urban context, the scrim is a vignette of the neighborhood itself. A canvas of cor-ten steel plate is peppered with digitally fabricated openings representing neighborhood features such as buildings, parks, and steps. Overlaid on this perforated background is a network of steel shapes, representing streets and public staircases. By day, the surfaces are rendered in sunlight to create a pattern of shade and shadow. By night, concealed LED lighting registers the pattern in reverse.

JURY COMMENTS: *The jury appreciated this project as an embellishment of infrastructure and as a work of beautifully crafted public art. It is a very admirable urban strategy that brings an everyday background element of streetscape into unique neighborhood landmark status.*



ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL / CRAFTSMANSHIP – Award of Excellence

PROJECT: Warhol Museum Reception Desk

CLIENT: Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: EDGE studio

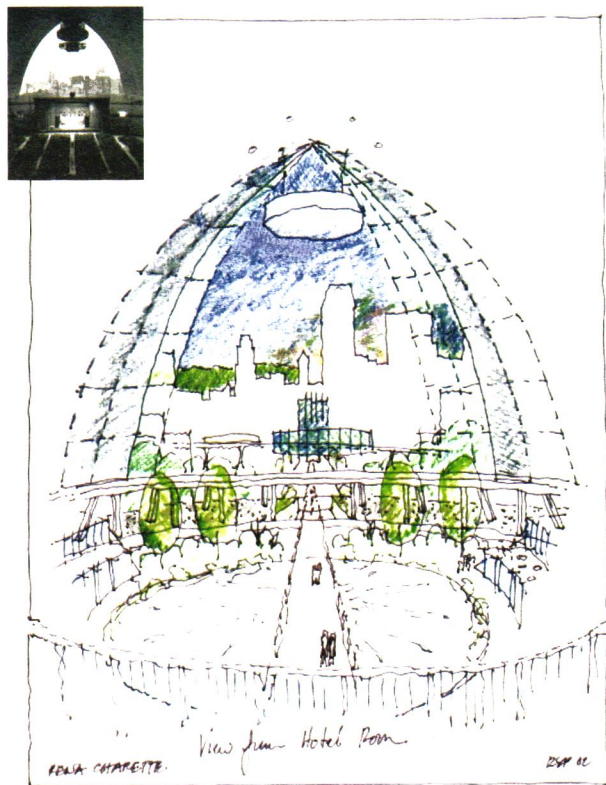
PROJECT TEAM: Gary Carlough, AIA, Jonathan Golli, Stephen Mrdjenovich

CONTRACTOR: J. Francis Company, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHER: Jonathan Golli

DESCRIPTION: The sculptural reception desk arose from a flow diagram of patron traffic through the lobby of the museum. A thermoformed acrylic countertop and plasma-cut aluminum plate were modeled and then fabricated using BIM to realize a design not restricted by conventional forms or construction methods.

JURY COMMENTS: *This piece is applauded for its craft, innovation, and its broad interpretation of a reception desk as a colorful work of art. In a clear alignment with Warhol's innovative work in photography, it pushes the envelope of fabrication to engage advanced technologies and also, like Warhol's work, it seems appropriate in this otherwise very white space.*



OPEN PLAN - Award of Excellence

PROJECT: A Civic Renewal

CLIENT: Preservation Pittsburgh and DOCOMOMO

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Pfaffmann + Associates, PC

PROJECT TEAM: Robert Pfaffmann, AIA, Steve Swartz, Jeff Slack

DESCRIPTION: The Civic Arena (now known as Mellon Arena), while significant in design as a moveable modernist dome, is also a symbol to many of the injustices of urban renewal. This proposal looks to transform the building's meaning through strong urban design and a sustainable use strategy to create a civic park and destination hospitality use.

JURY COMMENTS: *This provocative study admirably explores the idea that memory is complex, that it is not just about good and bad; rather that architecture/urban design that takes a positive sustainable view of future can use the past as a powerful and respectful foundation. This is a very compelling and worthy hypothesis to which Pittsburgh will hopefully give serious consideration.*

OPEN PLAN - Award of Excellence

PROJECT: London Barge Gallery

CLIENT: Architectum Design Competitions

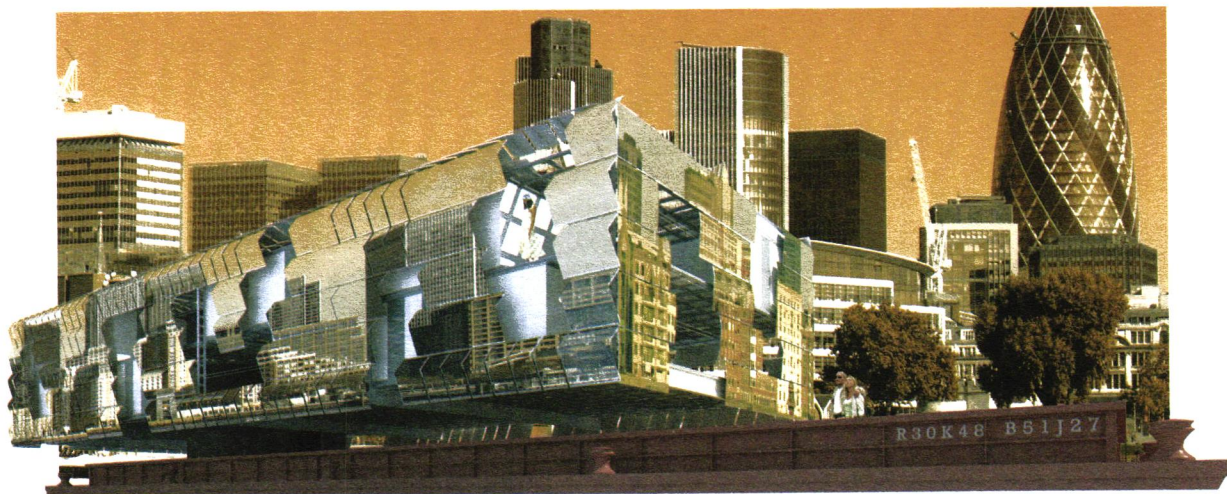
ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Renaissance 3 Architects

PROJECT TEAM: Deepak Wadhwani, AIA, Jozef Petrak, Assoc. AIA, Rebecca Faldowski, Assoc. AIA, Benedict Brands, Assoc. AIA, Kate Dougherty, Bob Murray, AIA

DESCRIPTION: An architectural gallery housed on a barge, the use of multiple mobile components creates the ability for spaces to be choreographed to suit various programs. The entire gallery rotates about

a core cylinder, a performative skin moves, and a network of video screens connects participants on the vessel to those on docking locations along the Thames River.

JURY COMMENTS: *This was a facile exercise...perhaps more of a folly, as the jury imaged its relevance in this city as an insertion along Pittsburgh's riverfronts. It would be a very seductive idea to see the city reflected in this barge as it floats past the city, ever changing. The jury could see it as a possible homage to PPG?*





OPEN PLAN - Award of Excellence

PROJECT: The Urban Stage: Point Park University Public Space Competition

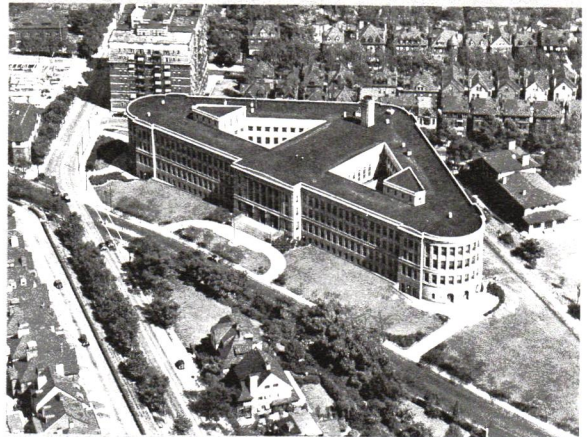
CLIENT: Point Park University

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: Strada

PROJECT TEAM: Edward Shriver, AIA Michael Stern, Claudia Saladin, Robert Dower

DESCRIPTION: This project, created for a design competition in which design teams were challenged to develop a significant public space for the expanding university, proposes formal and informal performances venues within a relatively small space, as well as projection screens to display a variety of media presentations, including live video feed from dance and theater studios within the university.

JURY COMMENTS: *This is a project that is all about using what is there to create something important.... "Go, think about your city, and do something!" The subtle completion of this urban space with a few elements is a case study for "missing tooth" situations in cities across the U.S. The jury members were pleased to see underutilized urban spaces such as this rejuvenated and would ideally want such interventions to push for spaces that invite congregation and allow a diversity of activities.*



PROJECT: Schenley High School

CLIENT: The Board of Public Education (now known as Pittsburgh Public Schools)

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, Inc., on behalf of founder Edward Stotz

PROJECT TEAM: Edward Stotz, FAIA

CONTRACTOR: Thompson-Starrett Company

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1916, Schenley High School's triangular design creates light wells, providing the auditorium and inner corridors with natural light and ventilation. The triangle also defines the hierarchy of spaces and clarity of circulation.

JURY COMMENTS: *Schenley evokes memories of high school for generations past yet, as a building, it is quite contemporary as a composition of narrow floor plates and single loaded corridors surrounding light filled courtyards. This is a rich and timeless work, with well proportioned exterior facades, with extraordinary presence, and with fantastic potential for adaptive reuse.*



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

PROJECT: West Virginia University Alumni Center

CLIENT: West Virginia University Alumni Association

ARCHITECTURE FIRM: IKM Incorporated

PROJECT TEAM: Roger P. Hartung, AIA, Stacey Nemcek, Assoc. AIA, Mary Salamon-Moro, Roger Druschel, Matthew Burke, Deborah Martonik

CONTRACTOR: March-Westin

PHOTOGRAPHER: Massery Photography, Inc.

BREAKING

FROM THE FIRMS

JSA Architecture Planning Engineering Interior Design

is providing Michael Baker Jr., Inc. Architects and Engineers, with interior design services for several new US Armed Forces Reserve Training Centers to be located within the continental United States and Puerto Rico. Projects include reserve training centers in Brownsville, TX; Round Rock, TX; Tyler, TX; Bethlehem, PA; Chester, PA; Harrisburg, PA; Uniontown, PA; Ft. Totten, NY; McAlester, OK and Ft. Allen, Puerto Rico. Project interior designer for JSA is Anita Myers.

Perkins Eastman has been selected to design the expansion of the University of Arkansas Institute on Aging. A recently completed planning study proposes a 54,000 sf, \$18 million addition, encompassing four additional floors. The addition will utilize a variety of green design principles, including exhaust air energy recovery, connection to a district chilled water system for redundancy, extensive daylighting, and low emitting materials, allowing for significant energy and cost savings.



Dinwiddie Hill

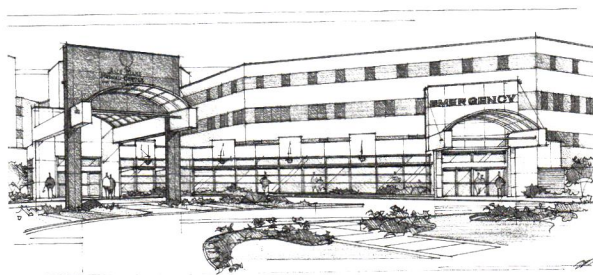
Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

is working on Dinwiddie Hill, a project that strengthens the connection between the Hill District and Uptown neighborhoods. The twenty-three unit housing plan includes apartments, townhouses, and renovation of existing historic buildings. The design relates to nearby Fifth Avenue High School and existing historic row houses along Dinwiddie Avenue. Construction is scheduled for the first quarter of 2010. The firm is also working on Mazza Pavilion, thirty units of housing located on Brookline Boulevard.

A multi-phase expansion of the Sharon Regional Health System's Cancer Care Center,



Sharon Regional Health System's Cancer Care Center



Alle-Kiski Medical Center's Emergency Department

designed by **VEBH Architects**, is moving into its second phase – the addition of nearly 5,000 sf to the Center. Additionally, the expansion of the Alle-Kiski Medical Center's Emergency Department, also

developed by VEBH Architects, is now underway, more than doubling the size of the Emergency Department and increasing the number of exam rooms from 12 to 24.



University of Arkansas Institute on Aging

BUSINESS BRIEFS

S. Dwight Knouse II, AIA, a 30 year veteran of **Hayes Large Architects, LLP**, has been named as the firm's new executive partner. Knouse succeeds Robert E. Wedge, AIA, who will be retiring after 39 years with Hayes Large.



Gwin

Rothschild Doyno Collaborative has announced that **Michael Gwin, AIA** has been named an associate in the firm. Gwin will be focused on the areas of design process, experiential architecture, sustainable design, and applied knowledge. Recently, he has provided design leadership on Chatham Eastside Campus, a seven acre site at the corner of Penn Avenue and Fifth Avenue, and Dinwiddie Hill, twenty-three units of housing located between the Hill District and Uptown neighborhoods.

KUDOS

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History's "Dinosaurs in their Time" exhibit achieved a LEED Silver Rating from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The project, a collaboration between E. Verner Johnson, Inc. and **Burt Hill**, features a 28,000 sf atrium exhibit space dedicated to showcasing the museum's world-renowned collection of dinosaur fossils.

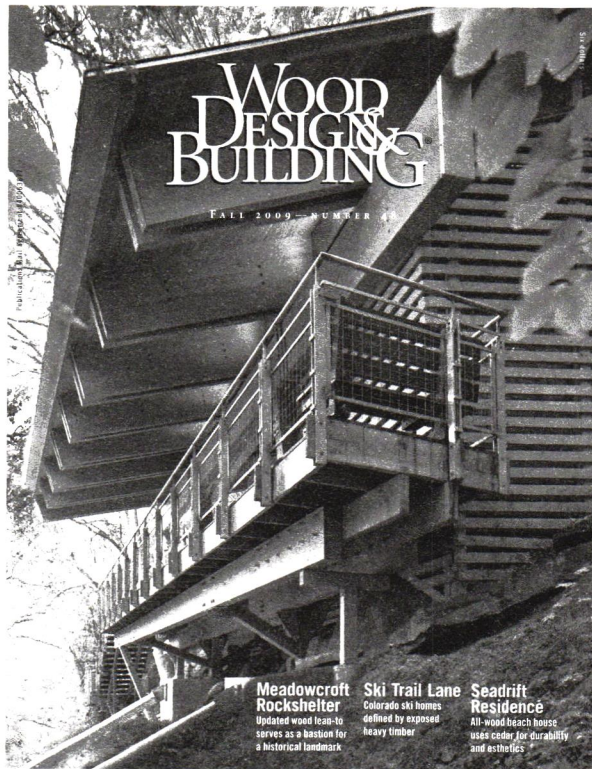
The exhibit is designed based on green principles and serves as the museum's new focal point, illustrating dinosaurs as they lived in their natural environments.

Mascaro Construction Company, LP received the supervisory training award for its "Feedback for Performance Workshops" from the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the 2009 GreenSite Project of the Year Award from the Concrete Producer and Concrete Construction magazines for its work on The Encore on 7th, located in downtown Pittsburgh.

The award-winning Meadowcroft Rockshelter by **Pfaffmann + Associates, PC** was featured on the cover of the Fall 2009 issue of Wood Design & Building magazine.

The AIA-MBA Joint Committee announced that Ted Frantz is the inaugural recipient of the James Kling Fellowship Award. Mr. Frantz, founder of TEDCO Construction, was a past co-chairman of the Joint Committee, serving alongside Mr. Kling. The James Kling Fellowship Award was established by the AIA-MBA Joint Committee to recognize those individuals who best exemplify collaboration between the design and construction professions.

Local architect Holly Wasilowski, of Wasilowski Architects in Natrona Heights, graduated with Distinction from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Holly earned a Masters in Sustainable Design and won the Gerald M. McCue Medal for achieving the highest grade point average of this year's 226 graduating masters' and doctoral students in



Meadowcroft Rockshelter



Ted Frantz received the inaugural James Kling Fellowship Award

Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Holly, who is a Registered Architect and LEED-Certified, was also chosen to present her master's thesis to the International Building Performance Simulation Association in Scotland in July, where she received the first-place award for her presentation. She is pursuing her doctoral degree at Harvard.



Wasilowski

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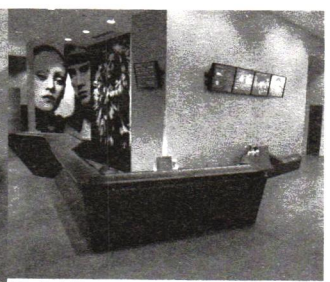
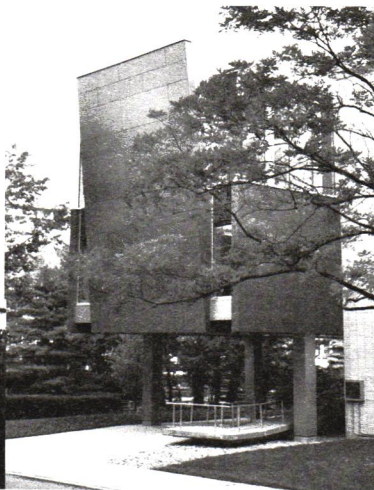
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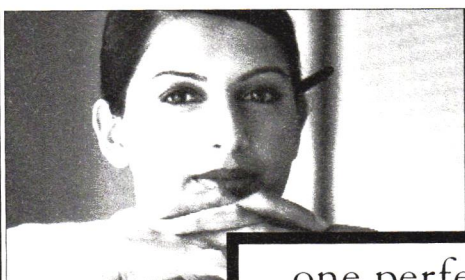
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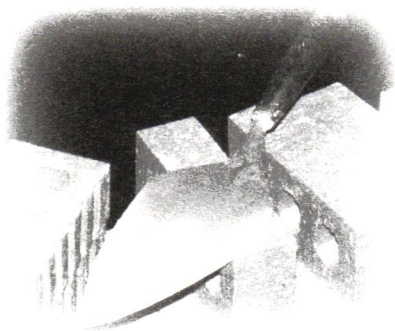
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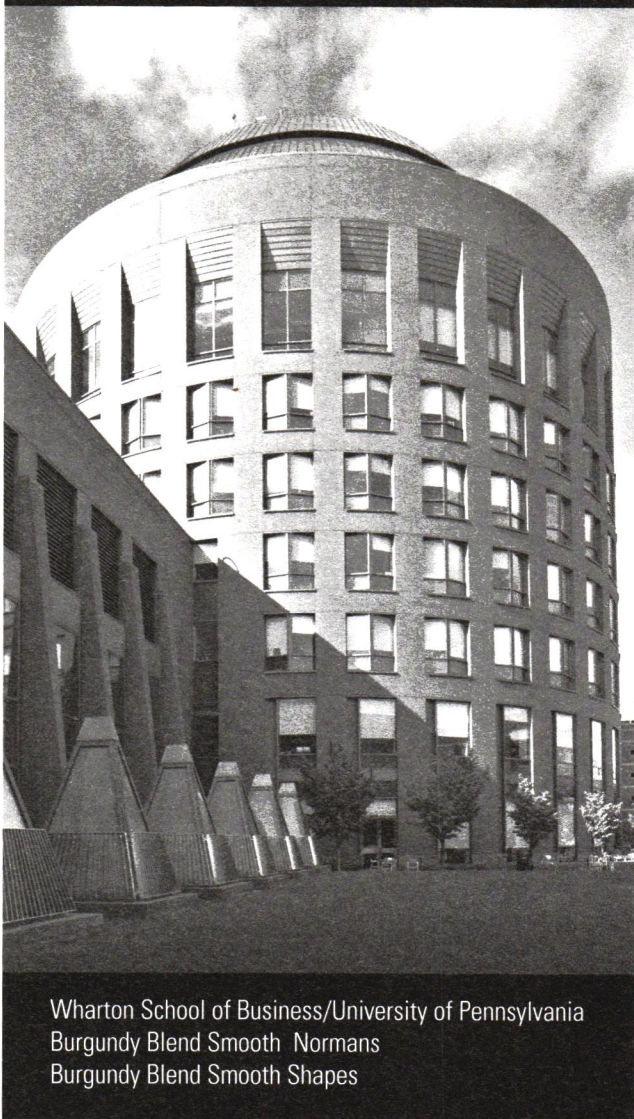


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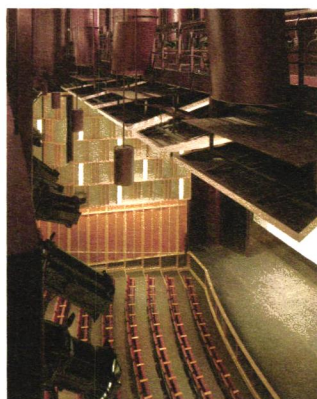
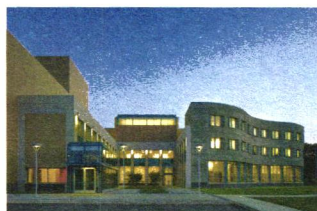
After practicing architecture for 34 years, Alan Greenberger jumped from the security of MGA Partners, Architects—a successful, well-respected Philadelphia design firm—into the rocky waters of city government. Why? “I saw a once-in-a-generation opportunity, at the right time for me and for Philadelphia. It wasn’t a decision I would have made at 35, but now I had to do it,” explains Greenberger, the executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and acting deputy mayor for planning and economic development and director of commerce. His opportunity is the chance to reform the city’s planning and zoning code for the first time in 50 years, and “create a dynamic and compelling vision for the future of this city.”

Centennial District Masterplan, MGA Partners, Architects—
Philadelphia, PA



I intend to make the Planning Commission the premier design agency in Philadelphia.

ALAN GREENBERGER, FAIA



Architects, if they're engaged, can be influential. You gotta care, and you gotta get involved. You have to broaden your bandwidth to understand the entire forcefield that drives development in the city: public policy, history, financing, resources, community, political impact...

JOHN CLAYPOOL, AIA

Current Philadelphia zoning and land use statutes do not encourage political leadership, financiers, or developers to think beyond the current transaction. The function of planning has received short shrift in Philadelphia for decades, ever since the influence of Edmund Bacon's tenure ended (Edmund Bacon, one of the most significant planners of the 20th century, was executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission from 1949 to 1979). The dysfunction of the planning process provides a lot of room for deal-making; understandably, many of the deal-makers don't see reform as in their best interest.

But, as Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter says, "Monty Hall has left City Hall." He appointed Alan Greenberger planning director in August of 2008. "This was a huge signal of commitment by Alan—for giving up his practice—and by the mayor for selecting someone so distinguished who is seen as such an honest broker," expressed Beth Miller, executive director of the Community Design Collaborative. Other leadership of the Philadelphia design community concurs. "The model of architect as a leader of the planning commission demonstrates that the values of good design are the values of the administration," said Harris Steinberg, FAIA, executive director of PennPraxis, a non-profit subsidiary of the University of Pennsylvania which serves as the clinical arm for Penn Design faculty and students.

Even before his appointment Greenberger was an advocate for thoughtful, citywide planning and design. When the Foundation for Architecture folded in 2001, board member Greenberger and fellow AIA Philadelphia member Bill Becker started discussions that resulted in the founding of the Design Advocacy Group, known as DAG. "We were able to find foster homes for all of the programs from the Foundation except for advocacy, which couldn't find a natural home. Design was not a powerful enough measurement in the success of a development; it wasn't seen as an asset. Bill and I wanted to make sure that design was at the table," remembers Greenberger.

When asked about his favorite projects, Greenberger called out a couple examples from his architectural career at MGA Partners. They offer an indication of what kind of planning director he is and will be. “One is the Centennial District Masterplan, which was privately-funded, because it had big goals, big strategies, and big aspirations,” Greenberger said. “Another is the West Chester University School of Music because I had to make a fractious faculty happy, and they had a high level of participation in the design.”

The difference between managing a private practice and serving as a high-profile public servant is vast, as Greenberger is finding. A notoriously hard-working architect, he is most surprised by how hard government leadership works – “particularly since they take a fair amount of abuse that most people wouldn’t stand for. As an architect, my job was to put form to people’s dreams – it was aspirational. In government, I’m working for everyone, subject

to everyone’s critique, and making fewer and fewer people happy,” he explains.

When he accepted the job, Greenberger acknowledged the challenge, “I believe in Philadelphia: as a city of history, as a city of growth, and as a city of authenticity. Those things don’t always mesh with each other, but I am motivated by the challenge of figuring out how they can.” He is realistic in acknowledging that not everyone is lining up in support of change. “We’re very entrenched in the culture of how things work. Significant change causes anxiety.” Civic groups are worried their voices will be stripped from the planning process. Some members of council are nervous they will lose authority in their districts. Developers are worried there will be too many restrictions on their projects. Significantly, Greenberger is more interested in the Planning Commission earning its authority rather than being granted power. “He’s always had a strong interest in community, its direction, and community development. Alan is par-




ticularly thoughtful about the process of doing things and how things happen,” according to John Claypool, AIA, executive director of AIA Philadelphia and the Center for Architecture.

It’s too early to predict how successful Alan Greenberger will be as Philadelphia’s planning director, but the hope is great. According to Steve Wray, executive director of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, “Alan has the ability to connect the dots between how good planning affects economic competitiveness and why the perception of the city is vital to creating a climate in Philadelphia that appreciates sound design and planning principles.”

Alan Greenberger will be speaking at the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh’s *Design Excellence Lecture Series* on Monday, February 22 at 6:00 pm at Point Park University’s GRW Theatre at 414 Wood Street. The theme of this season’s *Design Excellence Lecture Series* is “The Intentional City” in recognition of the City of Pittsburgh’s upcoming comprehensive planning project. Following Mr. Greenberger’s presentation, Grant Oliphant, president and CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation, will moderate a



West Chester University School of Music, MGA Partners Architects—Philadelphia, PA. Photo by Halkin Photography LLC.

panel discussion. The event concludes with a reception. Tickets are \$20.00. For information or to purchase a ticket, call 412-391-4144 or email drobinson@cdcp.org. 

design advocacy group of philadelphia

The mission of the Design Advocacy Group (DAG) is to provide an independent and informed public voice for design quality in architecture and physical planning of the Philadelphia region. As stated on its website www.designadvocacy.org, DAG aims to be proactive as well as reactive; effective as well as thoughtful; critical as well as constructive. The nearly 1,000 members pay no dues and have no fundraising requirements. Most communication is electronic; the development of the DAG website was funded by the William Penn Foundation. Meetings—where developers, government

officials, and planners are regular guests—consistently attract 50 to 60 participants. Its advocacy positions are based on consensus among the 18-member Steering Committee and the monthly open membership meetings. DAG’s advocacy approach differs from the AIA Philadelphia’s Urban Design Committee, which advocates for good public policy but doesn’t address the design of individual development proposals. DAG’s “Reform Agenda for Planning and Design in Philadelphia” is the foundation for Mayor Michael Nutter’s development policy.



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