

PROFILE

William J. Bates, AIA Outgoing Chapter President

FIRM: Westinghouse Electric Corporation

TRAINING: University of Notre Dame, Bachelor of Architecture; Penn State, graduate courses in building construction management; Westinghouse Education Center, management techniques.

PERSONALS: Married, two children.

AWARDS: PSA Pump House Competition, second place, 1983; American Plywood Innovation in Housing Competition, Grand Finalist, 1979; National Science Foundation Scholar.

LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES: I like watercolor painting and reading. I also invent things, products and systems for industry and architecture, everything from lasers to holograms.

SPECIALTY: Design and architectural rendering.

WHEN AND WHY YOU CHOSE ARCHITECTURE AS A CAREER: I've always loved art and science. As a NSF scholar in high school, I studied electrical engineering and computer design but found it limited. I wasn't able to express my creative interests so I started looking around and discovered architecture. I found it was the perfect combination of art and science, so I was interested before college.

FAVORITE PROJECT OR BUILDING: The African Heritage Classroom in Pitt's Cathedral of Learning.

FAVORITE PITTSBURGH BUILDING: The Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Building at the University of Pittsburgh.

FAVORITE BUILDING IN THE WORLD: Sainte Chapelle, Paris. It's a little jewel—it has the best stained glass in the world. The approach is understated but the space is spectacular, overwhelming. It's a real surprise.

MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF ARCHITECTURE: Schematic design. I think every architect loves designing. You start with the germ of an ideal and see it come together. I think I get more tingles in my spine doing schematic design than anything else.

LEAST ENJOYABLE: The compensation architects receive is much too low. It implies an underlying disrespect for the profession which filters all the way down through the ranks. If there's one thing I could change it would be compensation.

WORLD'S GREATEST ARCHITECT: I want to say Frank Lloyd Wright, but then there's Thomas Jefferson. Having an architect as President gave the country an edge at a critical time. He was very well organized and was able to bring that (architectural) discipline to the formation of government and to the planning. He laid out the grid for the country. All the midwest, the Louisiana Purchase, was planned with the guidance of Thomas



"Architects have the ability to be renaissance people."

Jefferson. As an architect in non-traditional practice, Jefferson has had the greatest impact on the United States.

MOST AESTHETICALLY PLEASING CITY: Rome. Having lived there for a year, I discovered its richness and history. It has all the right qualities, a nice scale, a textural character, a meandering pattern to it. Rome isn't rigid; it doesn't march with a cadence like some other cities. It has a relaxed speed of operation and a relaxed pattern of circulation as well. It's a beautiful city, a romantic city. It's probably the most romantic city around.

ADVICE TO A STUDENT OF ARCHITECTURE: Be as open-minded as possible about your future role in architecture. Don't focus too quickly on one corner of the profession. Architects have the ability to be renaissance people. They always have been. Keep this in mind all the way through the educational process.



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