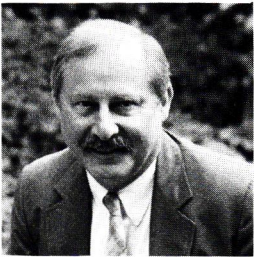


Frank G. McCurdy, AIA



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WRT

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Firm: Principal and Director of Design at Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates.

Family: Ellie and I have been married 37 years (high school sweetheart), and we have two daughters.

Education: I graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology (CMU) and then went to Harvard GSD for my Masters in Architecture in Urban Design, but probably learned more teaching at the University of California during the late '60s and early '70s.

First job: It was with Howard Burt & Hill when the firm had eight people, including John Kosar, an intern from the University of Cincinnati.

Project you're most proud of: The Riyadh Airport (King Khalid International Airport) in Saudi Arabia. As a principal with HOK San Francisco, I managed, coached, and prodded a project team of 40 architects through the design and construction over a five year period. It was a true collaboration of many designers with a common goal.

If you hadn't been an architect what would you have been? Probably a medical doctor. John Knox Shear, Head of the Department of Architecture at Carnegie, talked me out of it. I never forgave him for that!

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you? Given some of my earlier career adventures, Kevin Kline.

Advice to young architects: Learn not only how to build but why!

Favorite city: San Francisco in a heartbeat.

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: The North Side.

Who or what is your favorite architect, building and/or interior? After viewing *Architecture in a Well-Ordered Universe*, it has to be Thomas Jefferson and the Academic Village at the University of Virginia. My favorite interior is the Union Trust atrium here in Pittsburgh.

Building you wish you had designed: Kallman McKinnell & Wood's addition to the Graduate School of Industrial Administration at Carnegie Mellon University—a wonderful exercise in restraint and craftsmanship.

What's the next big architectural trend? "Classicism revisited," unfortunately! Rather than problem solving with appropriate contextual forms, architects are becoming fashion consultants. With all due respect to the Prince of Whales, architects can create humane spaces and buildings without having to resort to historic cloning.

Building you would like to see restored: The Fulton Building. In fact, I would like to see the parking garage (across the street) torn down and the original companion building rebuilt. What a great portal from the Ninth Street Bridge they must have been!

Wish list for Pittsburgh: Since returning to Pittsburgh after spending 25 years in San Francisco and other ports of call, I would like to see the city take advantage of its most precious resource, the riverfronts. It would be a disaster to permit development to be determined by the whims of riverboat gambling. We have the opportunity to replace heavy industry along our rivers with research, housing, and commercial development second to none. Pittsburgh could be the Paris of the United States.

You want to be remembered for: Being a good craftsman in the practice of architecture and leaving the built environment a little better than I found it.