

Jon Shimm, AIA

Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates



“People would be surprised to know that I tended bar at the Copper Star in Cordex Junction, AZ.”

Family: Judy (wife), an attorney soon to be social worker; and children Abe (9) and Alex (5)

Years in practice: 15

Education: B.A. Hampshire College M. Arch. Columbia University

First job: Setting tables

Project you're proudest of: Vintage

Most Embarrassing Moment: Specifying “barracudas” instead of “barricades” in Temporary Protection and having a contractor call to tell me that his insurance carrier would not cover them.

Public space you wish you'd designed: Exeter Library

Building I'd like to tear down: Kossman Building

If you hadn't been an architect, what would you have been: wood worker

If someone made a movie of your life, who would play you: Al Pacino

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? Positano, Italy.

What's the best part of your job: The diversity of the work.

What would you change about your job? Paper work

What have you always wanted to tell your boss? Lighten up.

What have you always wanted to tell your clients? Lighten up.

What have you always wanted to do? Lighten up.

What's the most annoying thing architects do? Undercut fees and give away work.

Advice to young architects? Plastics.

Favorite building: Mendelsohn's Einstein Tower

Favorite interior: Pantheon

Favorite city: Rome

Favorite architect: Kahn

Favorite architecture book: *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: Point Breeze

Best gift to give an architect: Money to buy furniture at the level of their taste rather than IKEA.

Wish list for Pittsburgh's downtown: Lots of new start-up businesses.

Someday I'd like to: Bike from Helsinki to Rome.

People would be surprised to know that: I tended bar at the Copper Star in Cordex Junction, AZ.

The secret to my success: Can be had for \$9.95 plus postage and handling.

Favorite body part: My larynx.

Favorite beverage: Hot coffee sliding across the dashboard of my car.

I belong to the AIA because: Anne Swager is so much fun (and I sit next to Frank McCurdy).