

PROFILE

Park L. Rankin, AIA, Chapter President

Firm: Damianos and Associates

Training: Kent State University, Bachelor of Architecture.

Personals: Married, one child.

Leisure Time Activities: I enjoy tennis, golf, and ceramics. I also like to play around with architectural design problems, without the budget constraints you have on the job.

Specialty: I combine construction administration and business management with the technical end of putting a building together. We've done a lot of health care projects and research laboratories. These are complicated projects which require a lot of interface between the architect and a large number of consultants.

When and Why You Chose Architecture as a Career: My family has always been involved in the building industry. I'm the third generation Rankin in construction. I started out college in engineering but fell in love with architecture after my freshman year. Architecture allows you to meld art with engineering.

Favorite Project or Building: The most enjoyable and satisfying was Canonsburg General Hospital. It's a community hospital, complicated, but not extremely large. It had some strong design components. Canonsburg is also the community I was raised in, so I enjoyed returning to my hometown and building a new hospital.

Favorite Pittsburgh Building: There are a lot of historic buildings that I admire, but about five years ago I discovered some fine buildings at Duquesne University. I particularly like Schweikher's Student Union and Mias van der Rohe's science building. It's a fanciful building, a monument to a style.

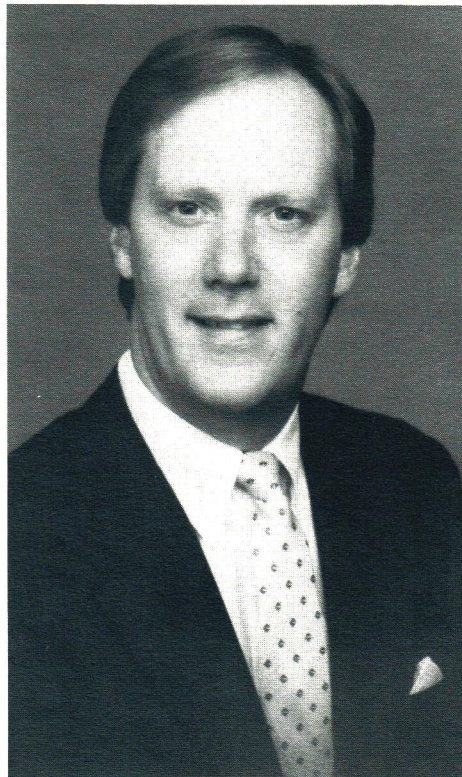
Favorite Building in the World: The National Gallery in Washington by I.M. Pei.

Most Enjoyable Aspect of Architecture: Successful completion. It's not so much the accolades, but the feeling you get when the owner walks into the building and says, you've done a good job, you've satisfied the needs, we're satisfied with the product.

Least Enjoyable: The period of construction: getting the contractors and subcontractors together, meeting the budget by bidding the job and actually going through the process from the foundation up. We itemize it in our budget as administration. It's enjoyable in the sense that you're out there putting it together, but that's where most of the problems occur. It's very much a hands-on problem solving process and there's an urgency to it so you have to respond quickly. It's like eating spinach. Once you acquire a taste for it, is it really all that bad?

World's Greatest Architect: I look back to Le Corbusier as a person who fine-tuned a style of architecture and technology.

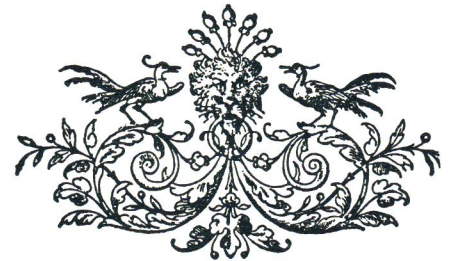
Most Aesthetically Pleasing City: I need to judge a city by spending a lot of time there, to explore the fabric of a city. Many urban centers in the United States have their



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problems, but I most enjoy Washington, D.C. It's the only U.S. city which is a city-state. Some of the great European cities were once city-states. From that history of wealth and power they developed a grandeur. Our urban development is only about 200 years old. Washington, as the head of government, is probably one of the wealthiest cities we have. It's the only city covered with marble, laid out with an elaborate plan. I think it's the most beautiful city we have because of its grandeur, its planning.

Advice to a Student of Architecture: The most important thing a student needs to develop is patience. The career is not obtained by receiving a diploma. The three year internship is an in-depth training process for actual practice. Use that time to gain as much experience as you can. Learn to question, judge, value, challenge and improve yourself and the profession.



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REFERENCES:

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