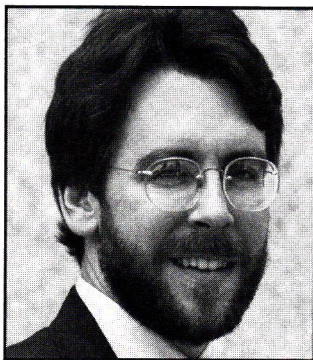


Dossier: Robert Shaw Pfaffmann, AIA



"I had no intention of settling down here in 1983."

Robert Shaw Pfaffmann, AIA
President, Pittsburgh Chapter AIA

Firm: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Hometown: Cohasset, Massachusetts (famous for its classic New England town common which was the set for the film "The Witches of Eastwick").

Family: Married to Lisa Haabestad, a native of Point Breeze, who showed this dyed-in-the-wool New Englander there is life past the Alleghenies. One of six architects on my father's (the only engineer!) side of the family, starting with "Uncle Dan" Burnham of Chicago (Make no little plans...). Both of my brothers-in-law are architects as well; our family gatherings resemble Chapter meetings!

Professional background: Graduated from Syracuse in '79; ended up working for the University facilities planning office where I met Peter Bohlin, who had been hired to design the law school. Apprenticed there until '83 when I moved on to Pittsburgh and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.

Political persuasion: "Radical Moderate"

Mentors As a child: My grandmother, an interior designer with no formal training; her ability to communicate with her clients was legendary. My first job was hanging drapes for her.

In college: Franz Oswald, a Swiss architect and design critic who made it all "click." **In apprenticeship:** Virginia Denton, Director of Facilities at Syracuse, an industrial designer by training, gave me a chance to cut my teeth and weaned me of architecture school precociousness.

If you hadn't been an architect what would you have been? A sailing bum.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where? A Maine island.

What's the best part of your job? The variety in our work. **The worst?** The unnecessary stress.

What would you change about your job? More time for just a fat pencil and bunwad.

What is the most annoying thing architects

do? Not making the most of their commissions or in some cases actually making too much of their opportunities — sometimes buildings need to just recede into the stage set of life.

Advice to young architects: Recognize the learning process is only starting, don't give up your ideals, get involved in your community.

Influential architects: Jose Luis Sert; Leon Krier; Bernard Maybeck; Carlo Scarpa.

Influential non-architect: Steven Jobs.

Influential books: *Poetics of Space*; *Delirious New York*; *Collage City*; any architectural guide book.

Favorite buildings: Flatiron Building, NYC; Niagara Mohawk, Syracuse, NY; Christian Science Church, Berkeley, CA.

Favorite places: Portofino, Italy; Uffizi gallery, Florence; Squirrel Island, Maine.

Favorite interiors: Any 19th century summer cottage.

Favorite Pittsburgh neighborhood: All of them.

Favorite diner: Moody's

Buildings you'd like to fire bomb: Anything by that local architect who works for the County.

Wish list for Downtown: More, not less street vendors; restoration of Fifth Avenue facades (and those wonderful hunky, decapitated light poles). Do the walks later!

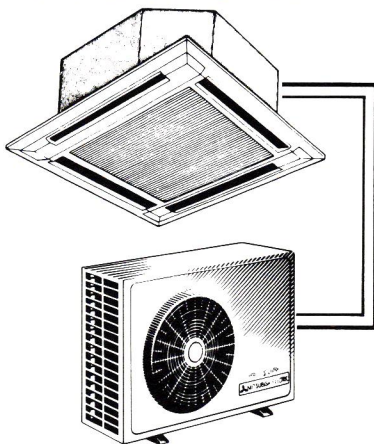
Next big architectural trend: Lawyer Colonial.

People would be surprised to know that: I had no intention of settling down here in 1983.

Someday I'd like to: Finish renovating our house (Lisa made me say this!).

I belong to the AIA because: I like those little gold pins!

Turning this page makes more noise than our heat pumps and air conditioners.



Ductless Ceiling Recessed Split Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
TECHNICALLY, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

CSI COMFORT SUPPLY, INC.
150 Kisow Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 921-8600 Fax: (412) 922-9977

DISTRIBUTORS OF QUALITY
HEATING & COOLING PRODUCTS

M E C

MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 12575
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
(412) 563-2111
FAX: 257-3202

**Construction Management*
**General Contracting*
**CPM Scheduling*