

## PROFILE

### Stephen A. George, FAIA

**Firm:** Director of Airport Area Development, Allegheny County.

**Training:** B. Arch. Carnegie Tech., graduate work in Urban Design.

**Personals:** Married, one child.

**Awards, Honors:** 1988 College of Fellows, AIA; 1987 Governors Award of Achievement, Pa. Aviation Association; 1988 President of PSA; 1984 President, Pittsburgh Chapter AIA.

**Leisure Time Interests:** I've had fun fixing up old houses for my own personal use. We have a place in the country and we enjoy getting away and just walking in the country. We love to travel; it's an opportunity to see what other nations are doing with environmental issues.

**Specialty:** As a practicing architect, I have strengths in design. I put together the master plan and the design scheme for Heinz Hall. As a public servant, planning and development have become important.

**When and Why You Chose Architecture as a Career:** That was easy-- it happened in the third grade. We each had to do a drawing on a section of the blackboard. Mine was a city outline, a cityscape, and I was rather intrigued with that experience. It was from that point on that I began to think about buildings and enjoy what a city was all about. I decided to go to college for architecture. My interest in cities, buildings and environments went beyond just working in an architect's office. That's how I ultimately got involved in government.

**Favorite Building or Project:** The most important is the mid-field terminal. Strategies were needed to prove to a variety of people, notably USAir, that the terminal was needed and in their best interest. Then there was the challenge of making it happen, working with the architects on certain refinements, and finally having the groundbreaking. It was something I'll never forget.

**Favorite Pittsburgh Building:** I think the greatest building in the area is Fallingwater. That's in a class by itself. In Pittsburgh, the courthouse and the Union Trust Building are impressive, both for what they are and for the way they sit across the street on the diagonal.

**Favorite Building in the World:** The Sydney Opera House is quite imposing. It has brought enormous notoriety to the city; it has become a landmark. There's a beautiful form to the building—the way it juts out into the bay and takes on the appearance of a sailing vessel.

**Most Enjoyable Aspect of Architecture:** I



**George:** "Being an architect who is only involved in the design of buildings is not enough. Learn a great deal about life. You never know where you may end up!"

most like the creative process involved in bringing a building to life. Today it's no longer a question of placing a building on a given site. You consider the design, the environment, the economics--so many other factors. You fit that building into its site, into its neighbor-

hood, into downtown or a suburb. The real challenge is to make that all come together.

**Least Enjoyable:** I don't know that there is any. Each part in the sequence of building has its own unique challenge.

**World's Greatest Architect:** I have to respect another public person, Thomas Jefferson. It's nice to know that he was in government and did a very good job; he was one of our finest presidents. There's a certain thrill to know that he was an architect; the man was a genius on all fronts.

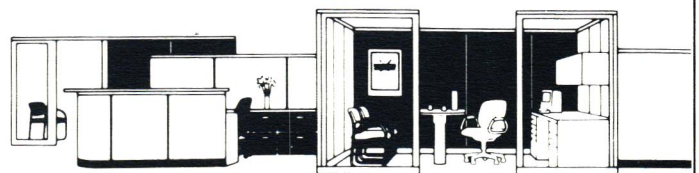
**Most Aesthetically Pleasing City:** Sydney, Australia; Vancouver, B.C. and San Francisco. They all involve a body of water and combine an interesting topography and setting. Each city has its own character, charm and distinguishing features.

**Advice to a Student of Architecture:** Try to learn as much about the profession as possible, but also learn as much about life as possible. You must recognize that architecture goes beyond just the design of buildings. Architecture touches the whole realm of human existence—the places we live, work, enjoy and are entertained. The more we know about each of these aspects of life, the better we can apply our creativity.



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