

PROFILE

G. Thomas Williams, FAIA

Firm: Williams Trebilcock Whitehead Architects, Planners, Interior Designers.

Training: B. Arch. Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Personals: Married, two children.

Awards/Honors: College of Fellows, AIA, twice elected Architect of the Year by the Subcontractors Association. Over the years WTW has been frequently cited for outstanding architectural design by the AIA, American Concrete Institute, The Masonry Institute of Western Pa., *Research and Development Magazine* and BOMA.

Chapter and Community Activities: Past President of the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA; Three Rivers Arts Festival; Pittsburgh Builders Exchange; Architectural Review Committees, Sewickley, Ambridge; Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation; American Arbitration Association; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Director, Sweetwater Arts Center.

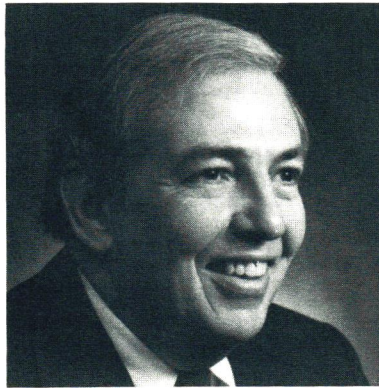
Leisure Time Interests: I've been involved in preservation in Sewickley and Ambridge, and I still serve on the board of Harmony Associates at Old Economy Village. I spend as much time as I can trout fishing. I'm in the process of trying to play golf, but not very successfully. I've been an avid antique collector for a number of years.

Specialty: The way we're structured, Tom Trebilcock is primarily in charge of production and Paul Whitehead is primarily in charge of design. My strengths are more in administration and marketing.

When and Why You Chose Architecture as a Career: When I was in grade school I liked to draw pictures of houses and bridges. My mother always said, "Oh I think he should be an architect. He's always drawing those pictures." So I grew up with that in mind. The other inspiration was reading books about architecture. When I went to Rennselaer, I figured if I didn't make it in architecture, I could make it in engineering.

Favorite Project: When we first started our practice in 1959, our original clients were Mobay Chemical and Calgon. Today we still do work for those clients, so I guess it's fair to say that both those clients and their projects have been a favorite subject of mine. In addition, I've always been fond of the work we did for Penn State University—we master planned their new Kensington Campus and we've designed every building on that campus to date.

Favorite Pittsburgh Building: I love the Fulton Building downtown. It has all those arches and a courtyard—a great old building. Of the new buildings, I like Fifth Avenue Place and some aspects of the CNG Tower. I like PPG Place, the way the facade reflects sunlight—there's always a continuing change in the colors of the reflections.



"I think there's a good future for the profession. People generally are becoming more educated—they're demanding good architecture. Architects are going to continue to be wanted and needed." Tom Williams, FAIA

Most Enjoyable Aspect of Architecture: The pleasure of being involved as a partner in a firm and seeing a building from conception through completion. That's very rewarding to me.

Least Enjoyable: Collecting invoices.

World's Greatest Architect: Gropius. I've always thought that his work expressed the structure of a building, it was very honest and direct. His architecture is related to the human being, more so than a lot of the things we're

doing today.

Most Aesthetically Pleasing City: I love Paris; it's absolutely beautiful. It's a city of old grandeur, one of the greatest old cities I've been to. Why at the Louvre alone, I could spend a week. Toronto is a cosmopolitan, newer city with a lot of good looking buildings. And San Francisco is very handsome.

Advice to a Student of Architecture: To be an architect, the first thing one must know and understand is how to put a building together. Not only how to design it, but to design it to *go together*. My advice is to join a firm and learn absolutely as much as you can. Not only from the work that is given you, but by the dialogue with your associates. I think that can be done in all sizes of firms. Some feel that in a large firm, you may not get the responsibilities you get in a smaller firm. Perhaps that's true to a degree, but it's also true that in a larger firm, chances are you're working on larger, more exciting projects. There are pros and cons.

What Gives You Itchy Fingers: The city needs to develop but its growth is limited by geography. It can go out the strip, up past the Civic Arena to the Hill, but it's really limited to downtown, Northside and Southside. If I were given the opportunity to pick a site, I would address the area between the Civic Arena and Oakland. To me, that's a prime site with a need for major development.

What we did over Summer Vacation Installed Floorcovering at ...

Carnegie Library — Knoxville Branch; St. Benedict the Moor Convent; Selma Sherman Interiors; Chinatown Inn; Weaverton Transport Leasing, Inc.; Central Westmoreland Area Vo-Tech School; St. Elizabeth's School; St. Basil's Church; Swissvale High School; Edgewood School; A. Stevenson Elementary School; Caruso Brothers; Elizabeth Seton Center; The Whales Tale; St. Wendelin's Convent; Brentwood High School; Elroy School; South Side Area School-Hookstown; Butler Co. Community College; Carlow College; South Side Presbyterian Church; Crane Village Apartments; Dr. Sheppard's Offices; Hopewell Area High School; and probably your neighbor's livingroom.

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