

PROFILE

William Kerr, AIA

Firm: The Design Alliance.

Training: B.A. University of Virginia, B. Arch. Carnegie Tech.

Personals: Married, two children.

Awards/Honors: Pittsburgh Chapter Design Awards for Courthouse Renovation, Indiana, Pa. and for Mount Lebanon Recreation Center; Santa Fe Historical Society, for renovation of a historic building in downtown Santa Fe.

Chapter and Community Activities: Past President of the Pittsburgh Chapter AIA; Board Member, Pittsburgh Chapter and PSA; former president of the Edgewood Borough Council; Edgewood Planning Council and Zoning Board.

Leisure Time Interests: We thoroughly enjoy traveling when we have the chance. I putter in a wood shop, but I'm not very good at it. And I like to get out on a tennis court.

Specialty: The firm has, by choice, tried to maintain a very diversified practice. We all enjoy working on a variety of projects. Most days, it's fun to get up and come to work. There was a period of time when we did a lot of banks, and while enjoyable, a branch bank is a branch bank is a...

When and Why You Chose Architecture as a Career: When I was in high school, architecture appealed to me. My guidance counselor said, "You're not very good in math. I wouldn't even think about architecture." Taking her advice, I went through a liberal arts program, for which I have no regrets. I then decided to try architecture. I had the degree, and if architecture and I didn't get along, I had a fall-back position. I'd like to think we've gotten along very well.

Favorite Project: My favorite, perhaps the most satisfying in many ways, was the Schumann Detention Center. You take



"My wife and I have looked at every inch of riverbank in the city, hoping that we can find a place to build a house. It just doesn't exist. Our river banks are railroad tracks or highways or gravel dumps. It's a shame we haven't used them better."

troubled kids, put them in an environment for a few days to a few months. You run into all kinds of problems from suicidal tendencies to acting out problems. I think we produced a decent environment for them. Two years ago, the senate subcommittee said it was a model detention center for the country. I guess it's always the *next* project that you look forward to.

Favorite Pittsburgh Building: I'm not sure I have a favorite Pittsburgh building, although I do have a real preference for two of Paul Schweiker's buildings, The Duquesne Student Union and WQED. What I like is the whole fabric of the city--it's got a scale and a texture that is unlike many cities. A lot has to do with the topography, the hills and the streets, the houses on the hillsides, the rivers. Even San Francisco can't offer that.

Favorite Building in the World: Ronchamps. I visited Ronchamps on a dark, drizzly day and it was a very moving experience. I find it hard to put into words why

it was that moving. But from every angle outside and inside it spoke to me in a language that I didn't understand. I've never been so moved by a building. St. Peters was big, but Ronchamps had some special meaning. I want to go back.

Most Enjoyable Aspect of Architecture: Working with clients. A good interested client can be a wonderful experience. My own personal goal is that when the project is over, we're friends. They've developed an appreciation for what we can do and we've given a good building to them.

Least Enjoyable: Obviously collecting bills. Seriously, I'm not sure there's anything I don't like. There are parts of the detail work that you can assign as you get a little older. One of the pleasures of architecture is that it demands so many activities of the architect. There's variety and diversity on a day by day basis. Most days it's fun.

World's Greatest Architect: I don't have a single choice. I admire the work of Luis Barragan, although I've never seen it except in pictures. I admire Paul Schweiker—I worked for him for a while and he was a wonderful man—so dedicated to what he was doing. I think the work reflects that. It was certainly important to me to begin a career with that kind of guidance.

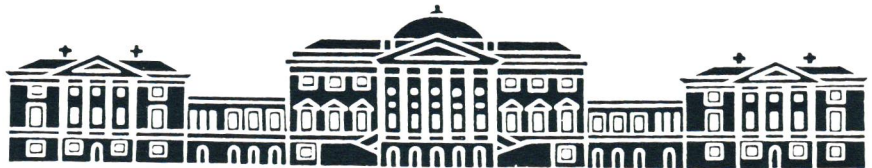
Most Aesthetically Pleasing City: Paris. It has a scale that's not overwhelming like midtown Manhattan. It has the Seine, which always seems to be nearby. It has diversity of experiences easily accessible.

Advice to a Student of Architecture: You've chosen a great profession. Look forward to it, enjoy it. We hear a lot of griping—we aren't adequately compensated, there are a lot of risks. That's all true. But the rewards and the satisfactions outweigh that.

What Gives You Itchy Fingers: I'd like to knock over the *Post Gazette* and *Press* building!

Frick Art Museum Exhibits Robert Adam Drawings

The magnificent country house, Kedleston Hall, designed by 18th century British architect Robert Adam, is the subject of a national touring exhibition which opens at the Frick Art Museum on November 16. *Robert Adam and Kedleston: The Making of a Neo-classical Masterpiece* traces the evolution of the design of Kedleston Hall, considered the world's finest surviving example of the seminal Adam style. The grand Derbyshire manor, recently acquired by the National Trust, was owned by the Curzon family for 23 generations. Its furnishings, 90% intact, reveal the freshness of Adam's discovery of Roman antiquity, particularly the ruins of



Pompeii.

The exhibition will showcase 78 drawings, watercolors, paintings and photo murals by Adam and other 18th century artists and architects at the height of the Neo-classical period, 1760-1790.

Opening lecture/reception

A generous grant from UDA Architects will underwrite opening night activities on November 16. COLUMNS readers are invited to a lecture by Curator Gervase Jackson-Stop at 7 PM, followed by a reception.

Reservations can be made by calling 371-0600. The Frick Art Museum is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Point Breeze. Gallery hours are 10 AM to 5:30 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and 12 to 5:30 PM Sunday. A 30 minute film, *Kedleston Hall*, will be shown daily at 1:30 at the museum.

The exhibition, which runs through December 31, was organized by the British National Trust and its American affiliate, The Royal Oak Foundation with generous support from the Henry J. Heinz and Drue Heinz Foundation. It is circulated by the American Architectural Foundation.