

WESTERN METAL IN ARCHITECTURE

July/Aug 2000



*The Classical Beauty
Of a New Century
Of Steel in Architecture*

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The architect's mission for the Pittsburgh Civic Center in Pittsburgh, California was to seek the community's input through workshops and open communication, to prepare a detailed building program identifying the technical requirements for each functional area of the facility.

In Tune With the Community and Client

Hansen Associates Architects and Planners is a multidisciplinary firm that provides design solutions in tune with community and client functional, economic and aesthetic needs.

Architect **Fani Hansen** successfully integrated the architecture, engineering, interior design, space planning, landscape architecture and art into a single image, a design respectful of Pittsburgh's history and land. The structure expresses the beauty of the locally forged steel, while the building embraces the city in a gentle curve. By mastering the spectrum of the building process Hansen has created a structure that faithfully reflects the values of Pittsburgh's community. The project was completed on budget and on time—largely because the architect served as the leader in the entire building process.

The design is a testimony to the creativity of the architect who achieved a stunning architecture with standard

metal components. Many of the building materials and systems were used in new, innovative ways due to the collaborative effort between the architect designer and the contractor, manufacturer, fabricator and installers. Instead of hiding the structure behind layers of sheet rock and acoustical tiles, the architect exposed the framing inside and out and made all structural connections visible. This reduced the number structural elements to the minimum and achieved substantial economy in steel fabrication and erection.

The inspiring undulated shape of the facility was achieved by standard elements that were repeated in succession. This is a steel-framed

building with lightweight concrete floors on profiled metal decking by EPIC and roofing by Loadmaster. Prefabricated standard open truss shapes by Vulcraft form the main structural steel framing system.

Major Building Reps

Communications with major building system representatives, including **Mike Cox** of Texmark Group in Moraga, CA representing Loadmaster and EPIC flooring and roofing systems and Permaquik waterproofing and roof insulation helped keep the project on

budget and on time.

To fulfill the economic need of the community, Fani Hansen analyzed each building element for its value and cost. To include local industries in the project, the architect worked with local manufacturers to define their capabilities and included materials within the building that could be fabricated within the city of Pittsburgh. The majority of the structural elements were fabricated in Pittsburgh at Concord Iron Works with whom the architect also worked closely during design and construction—a collaboration that reduced cost and allowed 26% of the bid to remain in Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Civic Center is a stunning example of how a most complex structure can achieve amazing function and aesthetics with lower cost. ■