



LEAH A WASSER



### **Interactive Digital Portfolio**

The CD enclosed within this folder is an interactive digital portfolio created in Macromedia Director MX. While this printed portfolio represents a summary of my work, the CD contains additional information including writing samples in PDF format, a quicktime movie of a FormZ model and project photos and graphics.

To run the portfolio, please place the CD in any Windows compatible computer. After the CD-rom processes the disk, the portfolio should start automatically. If it does not start after 30 seconds to a minute, please open up the CD and double-click on "LeahWasser.exe". This file will play the digital portfolio.

Also included on this CD is a digital PDF version of this printed portfolio, and a QuickTime VR movie created in FormZ.

Thank you for taking the time to view my work!

**INTERACTIVE DIGITAL PORTFOLIO**

## EDUCATION

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### **Master of Landscape Architecture, Watershed Stewardship Option, May 2001**

Penn State University, GPA 4.0

### **Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Spring 1999**

Penn State University, GPA 3.6

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Visiting Assistant Professor**

Department of Landscape Architecture, Penn State  
August 2002 - May 2003

I was hired by Penn State to both teach courses and to develop, redesign, expand & maintain their website.

- § Courses taught include: Sophomore introductory design & design theory studio & associated seminar, park and garden studio & associated seminar, sophomore digital graphics (AutoDes FormZ 3.9.5), freshman digital communication (Adobe Photoshop 7.0 & InDesign 2.0).
- § Responsibilities: develop lectures & assignments, leading seminars, grading projects, daily student critiques.

### **Americorps Volunteer**

Allegheny Ridge Corporation  
August 2001- August 2002

The Allegheny Ridge Corporation is a non-profit organization that manages the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area.

- § Duties included: developing educational materials (project fact sheets), creating maps for public meetings, managing project databases, gathering & organization of GIS database. Conference development.

### **Instructor**

Department of Landscape Architecture, Penn State  
August 2000- Summer 2001

As a graduate student, I taught 2 sophomore design studios a lecture-based landscape architecture history course.

- § Team taught design studios; worked with 2 other faculty in the development of projects and course materials.
- § Duties included: daily student critiques & guidance, instruction of new material, assistance with computer technology, moderating seminar discussions, developing course material / planning content, writing exams.

### **Environmental Restoration Worker**

Environmental Quality Resources, LLC  
June 1997 - 1999

Located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Environmental Quality Resources, LLC, is an environmental restoration firm that specializes in the design and construction of stream restoration, wetland mitigation and reforestation projects.

- § Field Work: Stream restoration, wetland mitigation, reforestation, planting, surveying, grading.
- § Office Work: Plan Rendering, Plan Details, web design: [www.eqri.com](http://www.eqri.com)



## RELEVANT COURSE MATERIAL

- § Design implementation (grading, road alignment, construction details)
- § Park, garden, community & urban design
- § Regional & site planning, Digital Design
- § Environmental Law, Wetland Ecology, Aquatic Biology

## HONORS & AWARDS & ACTIVITIES

- § Centre County PAWS Volunteer, Spring 2003
- § College of Arts and Architecture Creative Achievement Award, Spring 2001
- § American Society of Landscape Architects Award of Honor, Spring 2001
- § Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, Penn State University, Fall 2000
- § Outstanding Leadership and Service Award, Department of Landscape Architecture, Spring 2000
- § Theresa Fiscus Memorial Environmental Scholarship, Spring 1997
- § Ellen Perry Academic Achievement Award, PSU Women's Varsity Swimming, Spring 1995

## DIGITAL LITERACY

### I am familiar with both MAC (OSX) and PC (WIN 2000, ME & 98) operating systems

- § Arcview GIS 3.2a, ArcGIS 8, Vectorworks 10
- § Adobe software including: Photoshop 7, Premiere 6, InDesign 2.0, Illustrator 10, PageMaker 6.5 and others
- § Macromedia software including: Dreamweaver MX, Director MX, Flash MX and others
- § Microsoft Office 2000 Professional

## WEBMASTER

- § <http://www.larch.psu.edu>
- § <http://www.humphreyhospitality.com>
- § <http://www.humphreymanagement.com>
- § <http://www.eqri.com>

## WRITING AND RESEARCH

### Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection GIS Grant, Awarded Spring 2002

### Kettle Creek Watershed Stewardship Plan, North Central Pennsylvania, 2000-2001

- § Interdisciplinary team work: landscape architecture, forest hydrology, wildlife biology, landscape ecology.
- § Personal research focus: landuse regulation (developed recommendations for improved zoning and comprehensive planning), social / demographic analysis, community education & outreach
- § Watershed Plan Document: Responsible for organization and implementation
- § Community meetings: focus group moderation (Fall 2000), digital presentation (April 2001)
- § Digital Compilation on CD: Including Plan, Digital Video & GIS database
- § Independent Research: The Effectiveness of Community Participation in Grassroots Planning Efforts.

### Co-Author: 'Run, Lititz Run'. Landscape Architecture Magazine, August 2000

### Spring Creek Corridor Study (Rivers Conservation Plan), 1999-2000

- § A faculty / graduate student team.
- § Individual Research: landuse analysis, Riparian Buffer widths, wildlife and water quality
- § GIS landuse database created for the Spring Creek Watershed
- § Lead the organization and creation of a Rivers Conservation Plan document for PA DCNR
- § Participated in two community presentations

### Lecture Given:


### 'The History of the Environmental Movement', Fall 2000

## RESUME



PLANNING

## The Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway



### More Than a Trail

A greenway is a linear corridor of open space. They can vary greatly in scale from narrow ribbons of urban, suburban, and rural lands to wide corridors of diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. While some greenway initiatives focus predominantly on recreational corridors and trails, others predominantly consider environmental stewardship efforts such as riparian buffers, water quality, wildlife corridors, and sustainable landscape development.

Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway network will:

- Protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources.
- Provide recreational benefits to adjacent communities.
- Enhance the natural beauty and the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities.
- Stimulate economic development opportunities.

### Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Get Involved

Pennsylvania's "Millennium Legacy Trail", the Pittsburgh-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway traces the historic path of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal System in a two-mile-wide swath along the Allegheny, Kiskadeemung, Juniata and Susquehanna Rivers and through many communities between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. This project is a network of individual initiatives managed by local partners throughout the corridor. The network includes not only trails, but also public river access areas, historic downtown revitalization, heritage preservation and environmental stewardship projects, such as riparian corridor restoration.


Do you want to learn more about the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Greenway? Do you have ideas to share with us about your community's projects? We, at the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, want to hear from you!

In the upcoming months, we will be holding 3 rounds of public meetings to solicit your input. Join us for these meetings and share your ideas, knowledge and expertise with us and your neighbors. Contact us by email at [info@alleghenyridge.org](mailto:info@alleghenyridge.org) or by phone at 814.696.2900.

Allegheny Ridge Corporation  
1240 Dry Run Road  
Duncansville, PA 16835

### What the Greenway can do for your community:

- Help create and link recreation opportunities across the region
- Integrate environmental, cultural and recreational issues as a comprehensive approach to community planning
- Promote local resources in a regional context
- Raise awareness of new projects and proposals along the greenway corridor
- Link the recreational demands of our urban markets with the amenities of nearby rural areas
- Encourage and promote historic downtown revitalization and heritage tourism
- Interpret the unique cultural and industrial history of places along the greenway
- Identify, interpret and preserve historic resources throughout the corridor




## PA Mainline Canal

In the 1830's, the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal System paved the way for expansion westward from Philadelphia, across the Alleghenies to Pittsburgh and beyond. A way of life sprang up along this corridor as Pennsylvania prepared for a century of nation-building.

Even after a couple hundred years of industrial activity in its various incarnations, western Pennsylvania is still a wild and scenic place. Today it's difficult to imagine just what things used to be like before highways, bridges and railroads enabled us to zip from one ridge or valley to the next. The rugged topography which proved to be well-suited for coal extraction, and the steep forests with their seemingly endless supplies of timber, were formidable obstacles of yesteryear.

The 2400'-tall Allegheny Ridge (also called the Allegheny Front) was the most formidable of these barriers, until the era of Pennsylvania's first major transportation improvement: the historic Pennsylvania Mainline Canal. Completed in 1834, the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal System paved the way for expansion westward from Philadelphia, across the Alleghenies to Pittsburgh and beyond. A way of life sprang up along this corridor as Pennsylvania prepared for a century of nation-building.



The Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway is a linear corridor that follows the path of the historic mainline canal system; it will foster regional environmental, cultural and recreational-based linkages.

### About ARCorp

The Allegheny Ridge Corporation (ARCorp) is a private, non-profit corporation which develops, interprets and restores the historic, cultural and natural resources of the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area in central/western Pennsylvania. ARCorp works with many invaluable partners to develop heritage-based recreation, environmental, and quality-of-life infrastructure projects throughout the Allegheny Ridge, Pennsylvania's Heritage Regions are helping to lay the groundwork for the state's emerging service and technology economy.

### Heritage Tourism Participation

Percentage of All Leisure Travel to the State  
Recent participation since January 1995

State	Percentage
Pennsylvania	27%
Virginia	22%
New York	20%
Massachusetts	18%
New Jersey	15%
Ohio	12%
West Virginia	10%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 1995. Data compiled by Allegheny Ridge Corporation.

Heritage tourism is a driving force significant in the US economy. Specifically, Pennsylvania leads the mid-Atlantic region in percentage of heritage tourism.

Allegheny Ridge Corporation: Trail Headquarters: 1240 Dry Run Road • Duncansville, PA 16835 • Ph: 814.696.2900 • Fax: 814.696.8906  
This project was partially funded by The Southwestern PA Heritage Preservation Commission and through a PA DCRN, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation grant.

**Project:** These fact sheets were designed to educate the public about the greenway project. They went to press in August 2002.

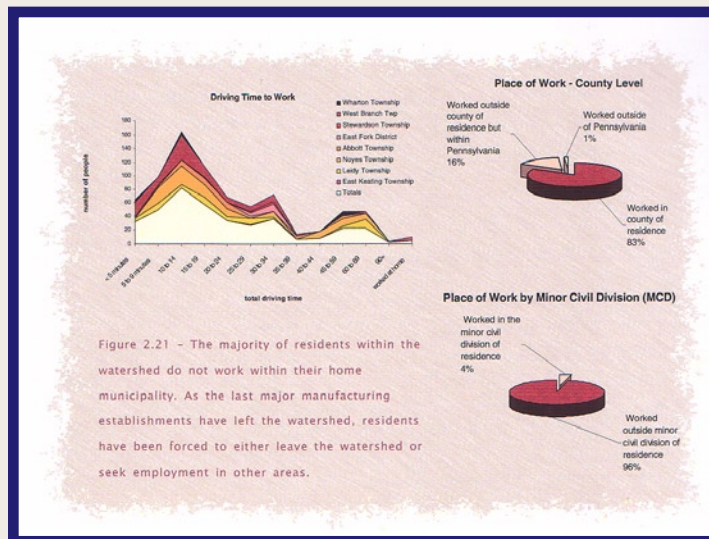
Part of my responsibility was to put together a GIS database for the region (which encompassed the greater part of Pennsylvania). GIS maps were also utilized as display and educational items in the public meeting process.

**Design Tools:** InDesign 2.0, Photoshop 7.0, Illustrator 10.0, ArcView 3.2a

# PITTSBURGH-HARRISBURG MAINLINE CANAL GREENWAY





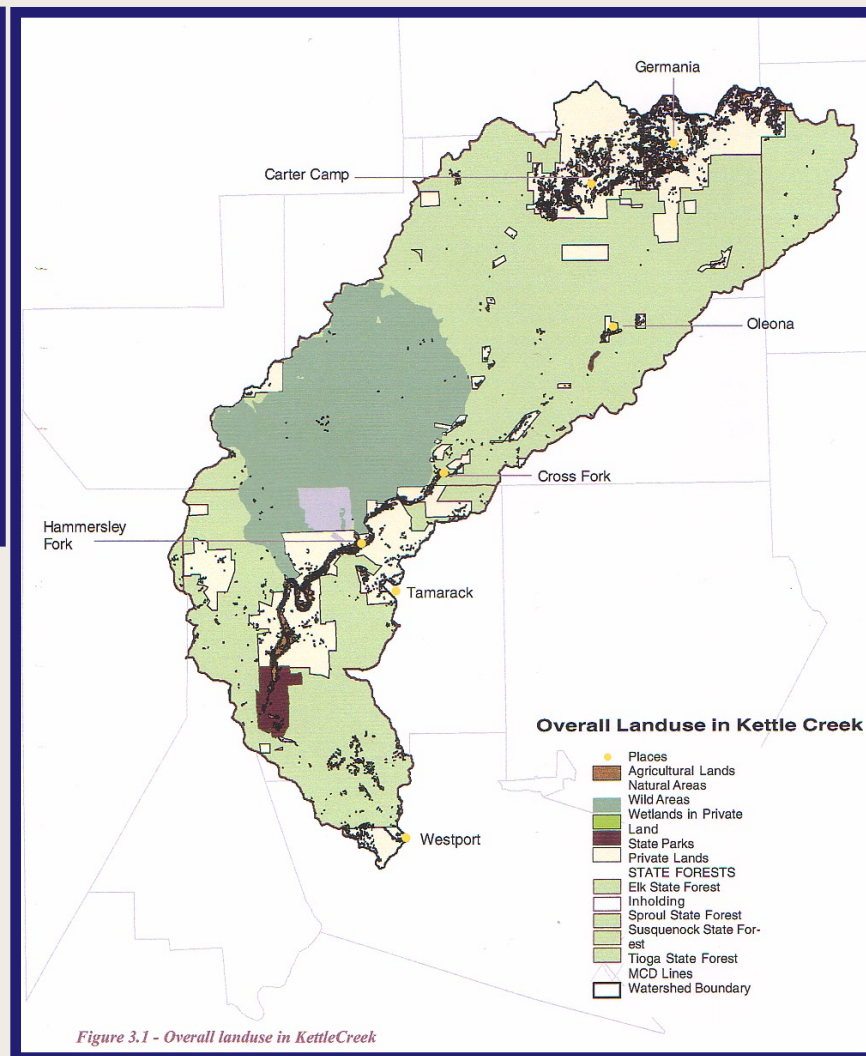


**Project:** Kettle Creek Watershed Assessment (Graduate Project). This project was an interdisciplinary graduate effort. GIS analysis of landuse and demographics within the watershed were a primary focus of my analysis.

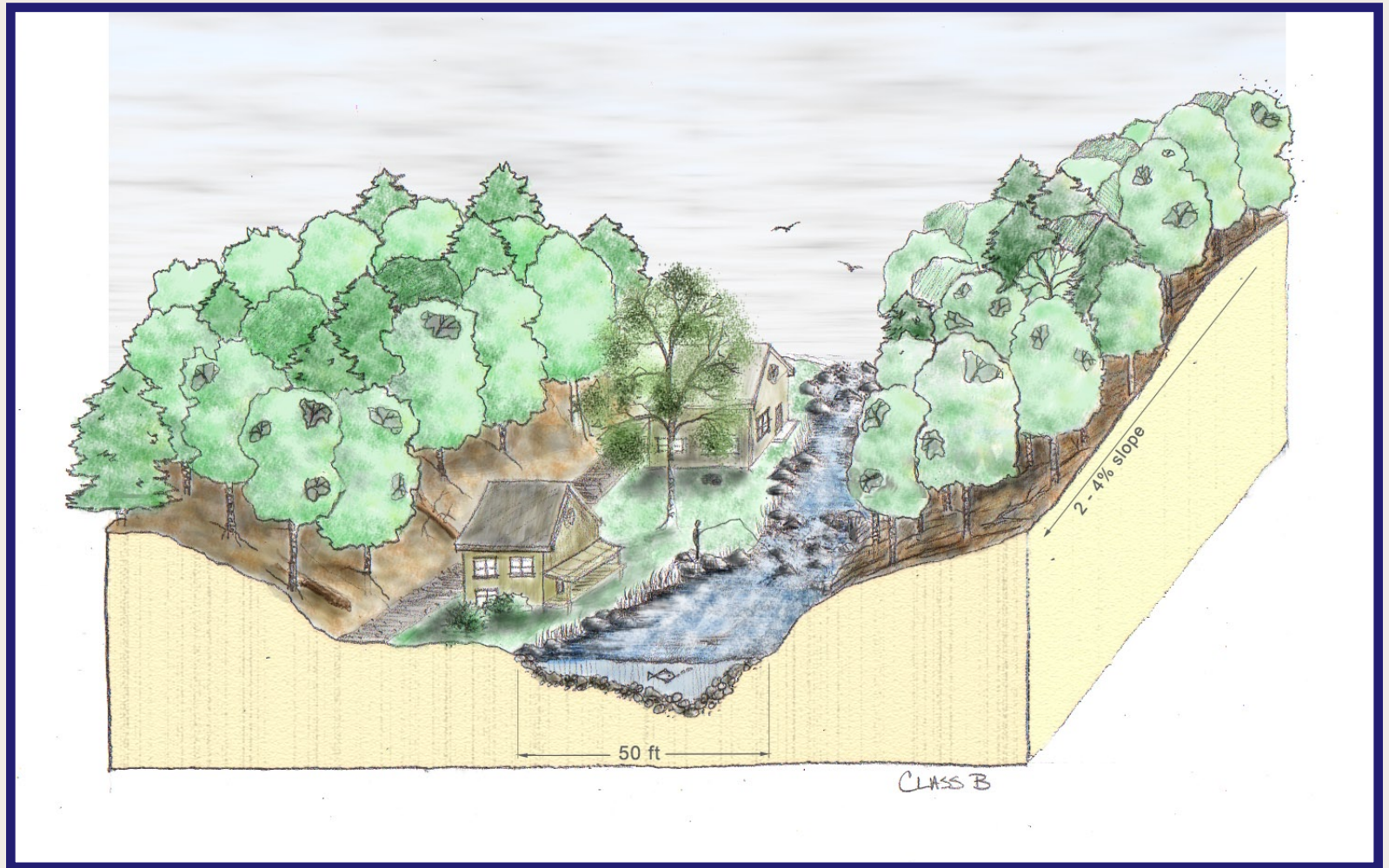
The final product was a 300+ page assessment plan.

**Design / Analysis Tools:** ArcView 3.2a, PageMaker 6.5, Photoshop 7.0, Excel.

Learn more about the Kettle Creek project in the "planning section" of the enclosed CD.



# KETTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSESSMENT



**Project:** Kettle Creek Watershed Assessment, Typical Class "B" stream according to Rosgen Stream Profiling.

**Rendering:** Pencil on vellum; color added in Photoshop 7.0.

## KETTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSESSMENT





**Project:** Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (Graduate / Faculty Project).

**Rendering:** Pastel on paper

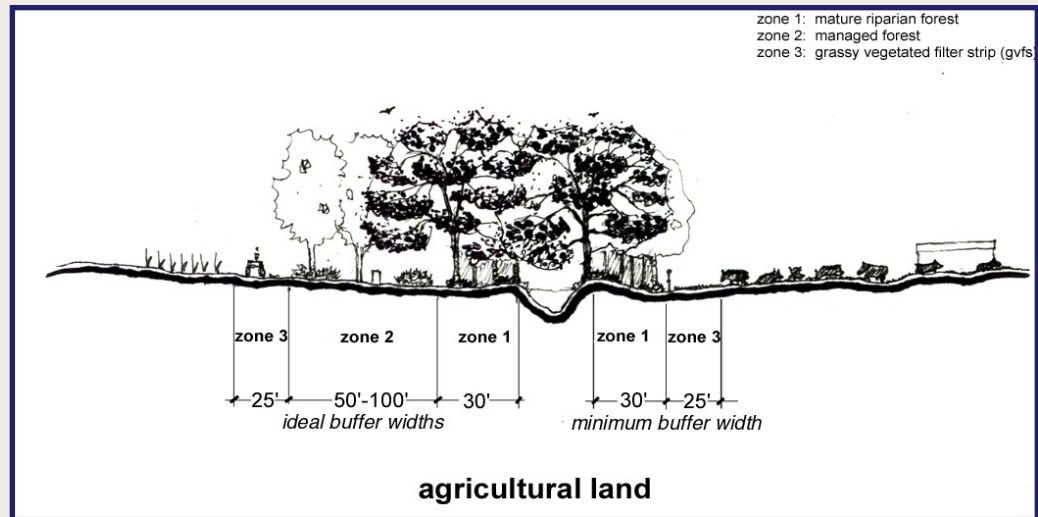
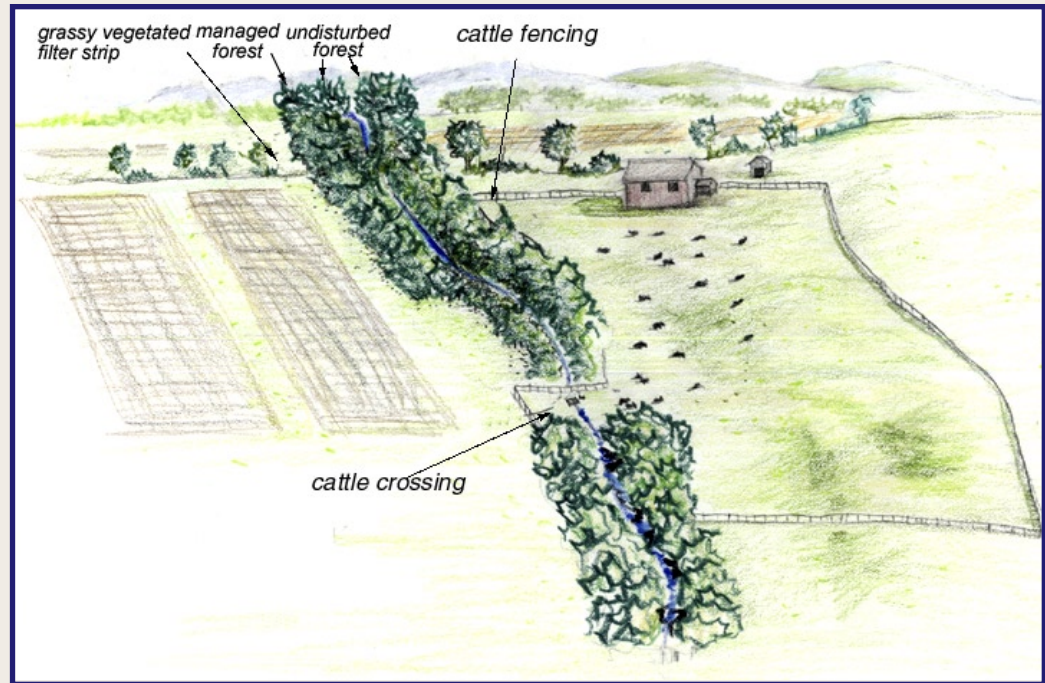
## ***SPRING CREEK RIVERS CONSERVATION PLAN***



**Project:** Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (Graduate / Faculty Project).

The Spring Creek Watershed Plan included a watershed-based, natural resource, recreational and cultural assessment and analysis; in turn project recommendations were developed from this assessment. As a part of the Spring Creek Project, zoning recommendations were developed to minimize development, agricultural and silvicultural impacts on riparian zones along Spring Creek. GIS mapping was also used in this analysis.

Learn more about the Spring Creek project in the "planning section" of the enclosed CD.

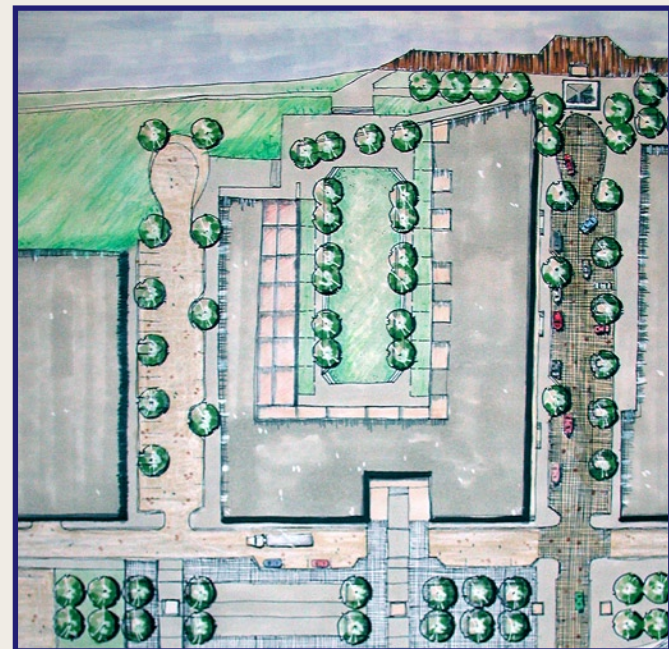
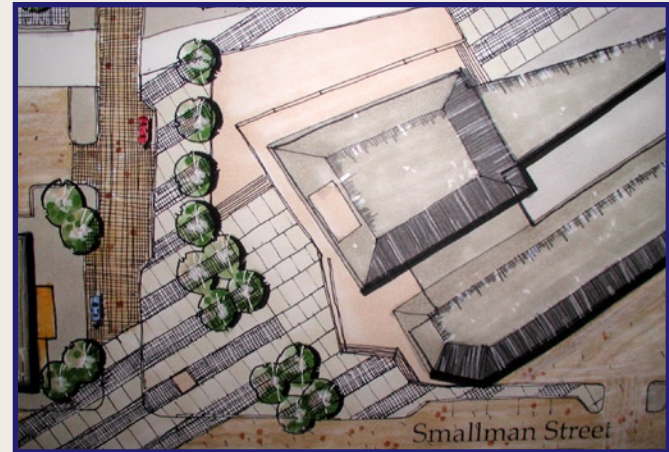


## SPRING CREEK RIVERS CONSERVATION PLAN



*DESIGN*





**Project:** Pittsburgh Strip District Revitalization

**Course:** Bowers Studio

**URBAN DESIGN: PITTSBURGH, PA**

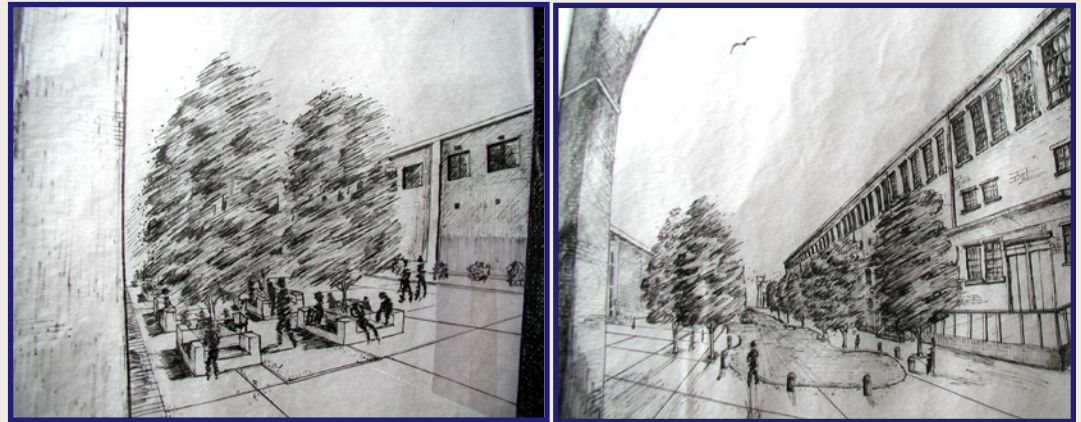
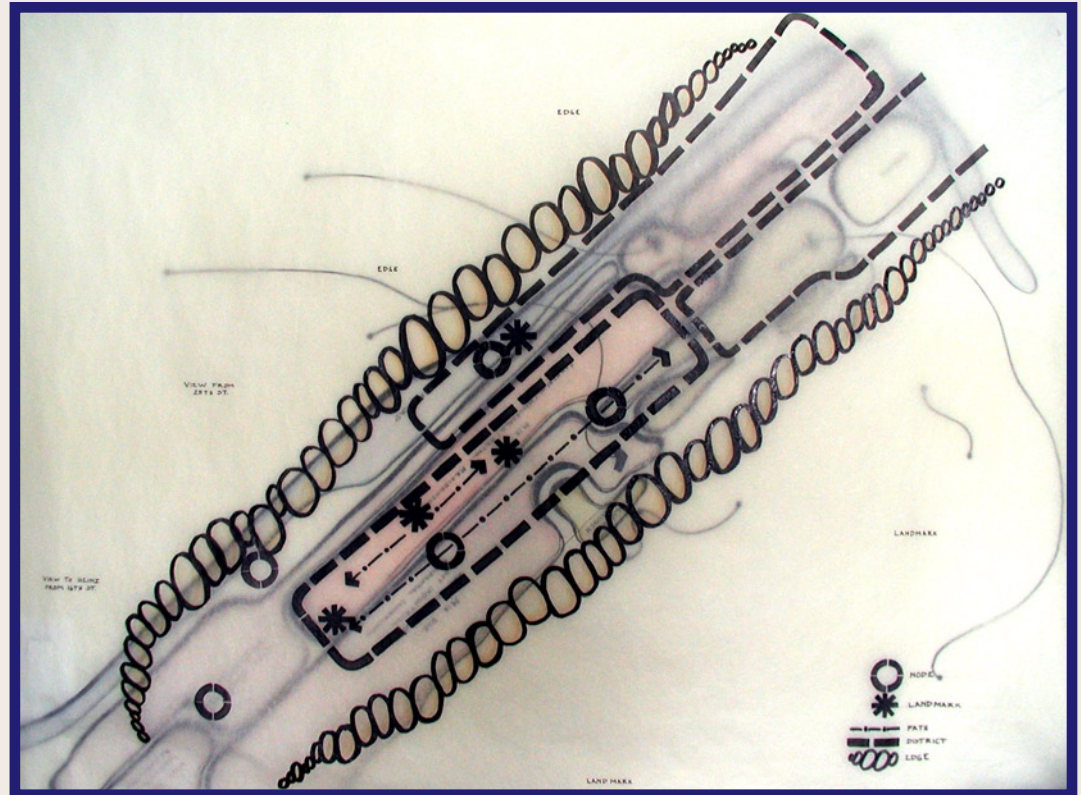


**About:**

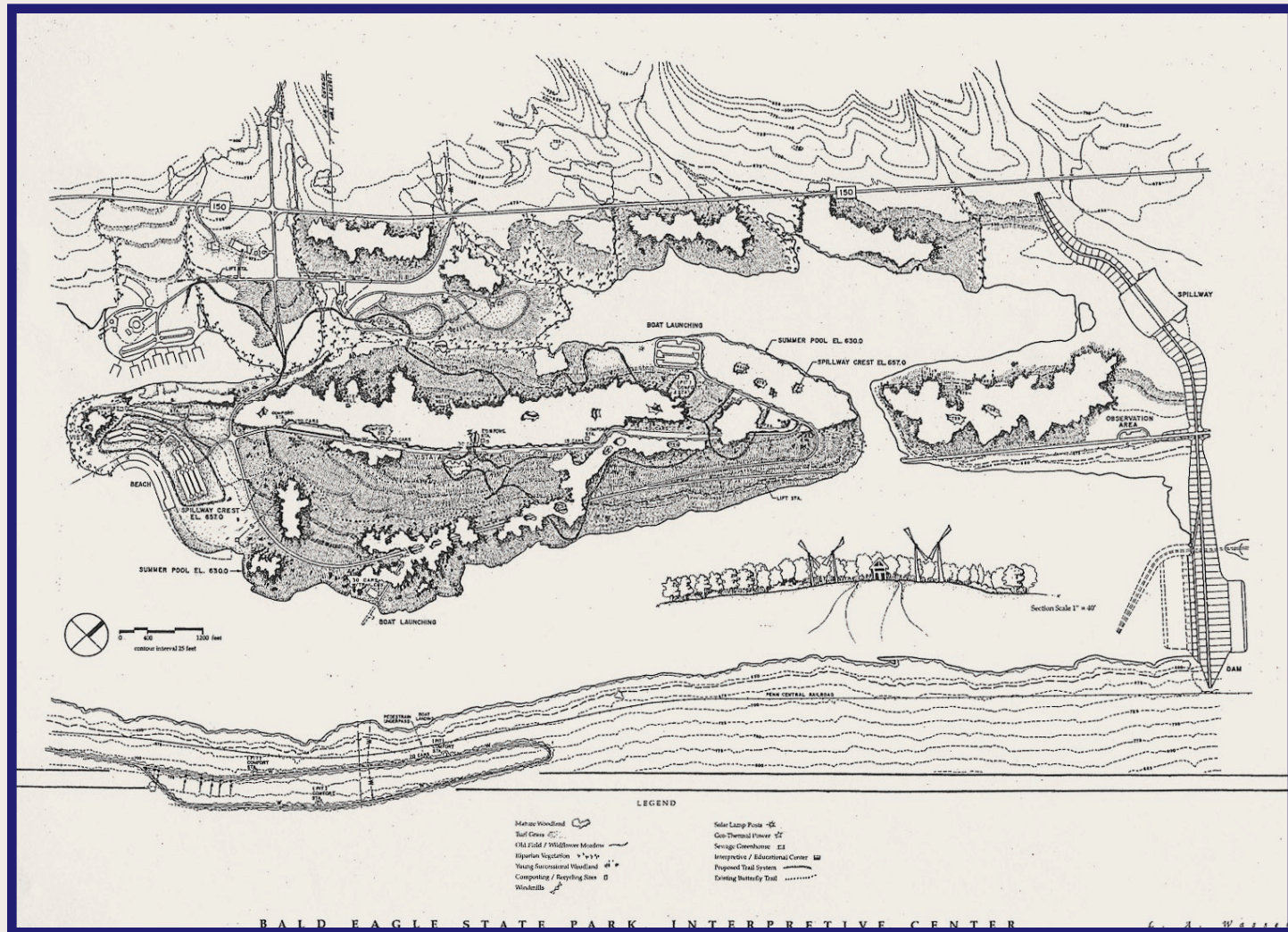
The Bowers studio is an interdisciplinary effort between Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Architectural Engineering.

These boards represent one component of this revitalization - street enhancement, creation of public gathering spaces downtown and the celebration of Pittsburgh's rich, historical industrial heritage.

In addition to a series of streetscape plans, we worked closely with an Architecture student to develop Architectural plans that illustrated building renovations. These renovations, based on extensive demographic analysis, were designed to promote "mixed use" downtown development.



**URBAN DESIGN: PITTSBURGH, PA**



**Project:** Bald Eagle State Park - Master Plan, Pennsylvania

**Rendering:** Ink on Mylar

**PARK**





**Location:** Bald Eagle State Park, Pennsylvania

**Design Concept:** Ecologically sensitive infrastructure.

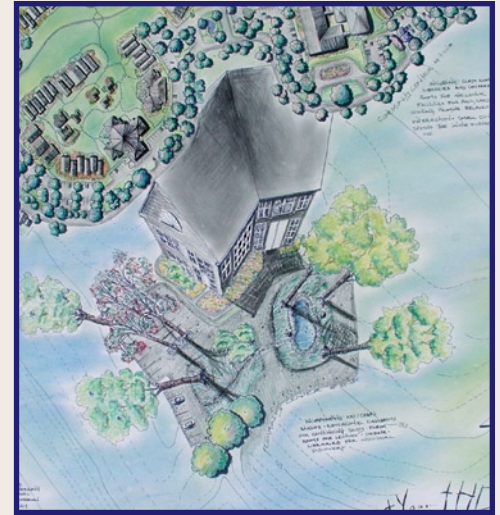
**Rendering:** Pastel, Pencil & acrylic paint on sepia print

**Project:** 3rd Year Design Studio



**PARK**





**Location:** State College, PA

**Project:** Senior Housing Development

**Design Concept:** Sustainable (BMP) stormwater management, shared "green" space / open space preservation

**Rendering:** Pastel & pencil on blue print

**Course:** 4th Year Design Studio

*COMMUNITY*



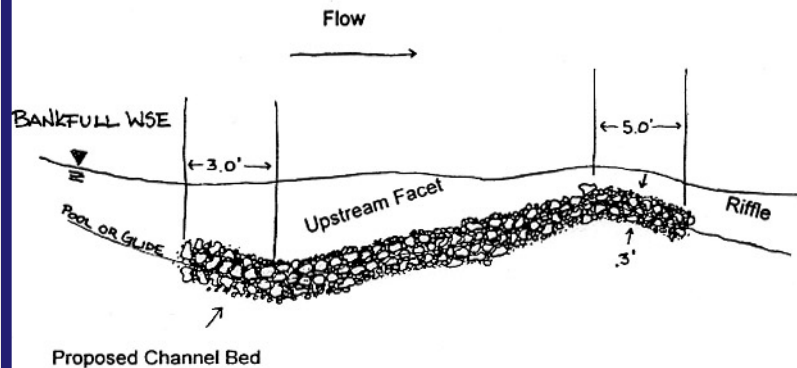


PIAZZA COSIMATO, ROME (TRASTEVERE) - URBAN REVITALIZATION

IMPLEMENTATION

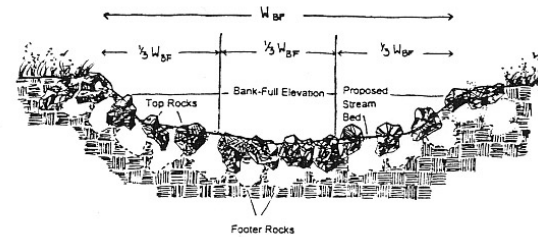
## STREAM STABILIZATION

*Packed Cobblestone & Gravel - Section not to scale*

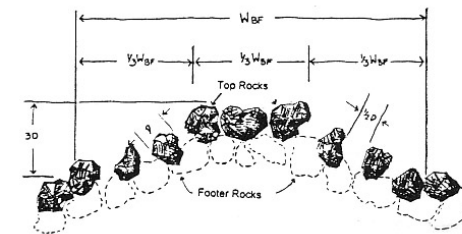


## STREAM STABILIZATION

*Cross Weir - Section not to scale*



*Cross Weir - Plan not to scale*



**Project:** Stream Stabilization / Restoration, construction details created for the Engineering Department at EQR.

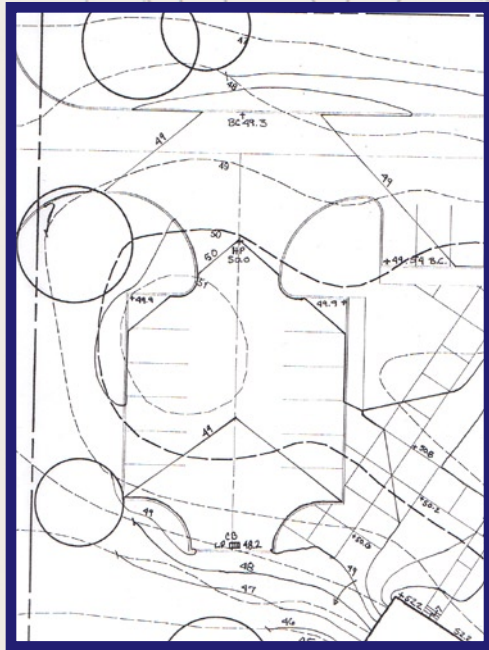
Environmental Quality Resources, LLC

**Medium:** Ink on Vellum

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS







**Project:** Housing Development Grading Plan, Third Year Design Implementation Course

**Original Medium:** Pencil on Vellum  
North Scale: 1" = 20' Contour Interval = 1'

**GRADING**



# landscape ecology architect

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

ecology

## Run, Lititz Run

*Community-based watershed planning  
succeeds in Pennsylvania.*

BY LEAH WASSER AND MICHELLE BRUMMER

**T**en years ago, a few trout fishermen in southeastern Pennsylvania began improving the fish habitat in their local streams. Knowing that Lancaster County has the highest number of coldwater limestone streams in Pennsylvania, they thought it should have some of the best trout fishing in the state. But development was infringing on vegetated stream corridors, disrupting the wildlife population, and impairing natural filtration

processes. Problematic agricultural practices, such as conventional tillage and cattle grazing, were contributing to erosion and downstream sedimentation. Sediment from eroding streambanks and agricultural and urban runoff had filled the once deep, cool channel of one Lancaster County stream, Lititz Run, causing it to widen, shallow, and warm. Trout and shad populations, and the insects upon which they feed, could no longer tolerate these conditions.

Degraded stream conditions inspired the local chapter of Trout Unlimited to initiate restoration of Lititz Run from its headwaters in the town of Lititz

\$7.00 U.S./\$9.00 CAN.



LAM Article published August 2000.

PUBLICATION

GRAPHICS



# Preservation, Remediation & Recreation:



## The Allegheny Ridge Corporation

The Allegheny Ridge 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference aims to create and increase awareness through public education, outreach and recreation activities that illustrate and showcase diverse projects and initiatives happening within the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area. Composed of 3 concurrent session tracts, participants explore topics related to the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway, Project Ridge RIDER (Regional Initiative to Defend Environmental Resources) and Downtown Revitalization. The conference features speakers who are noted within their field throughout Pennsylvania and the country.

### Downtown Revitalization

Our region features many intact historic areas dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early-twentieth centuries. This tract will highlight successful community revitalization initiatives including the four-point approach of the Main Street program, legislative approaches to conservation and creative public / private partnerships.

### Project RidgeRIDER

Project Ridge RIDER, or the Regional Initiative to Defend Environmental Resources, is committed to improving the environment, the economy and the recreation base throughout Western Pennsylvania (and beyond) through the remediation and transformation of abandoned mine lands into multi-use, motorized recreation areas.

### Mainline Canal Greenway

Designated as Pennsylvania's Millennium Legacy Trail, the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway follows the Mainline Canal System connecting Pittsburgh and Harrisburg and the many historic towns along the way. Natural and cultural resources will be linked, conserved and enjoyed to ultimately create "New Connections between Old Neighbors".

## Conference Agenda

### Friday 12 July 2002 -- Field Trips

Explore *The Ridge*. See registration form for details.

### Saturday 13 July 2002 -- Conference

#### 8:15 - 9:00 AM REGISTRATION

#### 9:00 - 9:45 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

##### Leff Moore

Leff Moore, founder of the Hatfield McCoy Recreation Area, discusses the genesis and development of Hatfield McCoy Recreation Area and its implications on community and economic development. Hatfield McCoy, designated as West Virginia's Millenium Trail, is the premier multi-use recreation area in the east coast if not the country.

#### 10:00 - 11:15 AM CONCURRENT SESSION A

##### Greenway: Linkages

This session addresses the impact of recreational trail linkages from a regional perspective. Experienced downtown revitalization, water trail and regional trail experts discuss the benefits of a collective effort to design, integrate and regionally connect hiking, biking and paddling trails in a multi-themed nexus.

##### RIDER: Reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands

A panel of experts from across the Commonwealth guide a virtual tour of several innovative solutions to abandoned mine land (AML) challenges. Confronted AML issues and the processes used to respond include passive treatment systems and partnerships with co-generation plants. Re-vegetation, grading and other reclamation site design issues will also be addressed.

##### Revitalization: Digital Visualization and other Innovative Land-Use Management Techniques

Kelleann Foster, Registered Landscape Architect and Associate Professor at Penn State will discuss the exciting role of digital simulation in land-use management. Learn about various landuse management tools including: PA BLUPRINTS CD-ROM and the Visual Interactive Code (VIC). Shown will be an example of Randall Arendt's Growing Greener model codes in VIC. A community design in Stormstown, PA will also be presented.

#### 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

##### Chuck Flink

Keynote luncheon speaker Chuck Flink of Greenways Incorporated presents innovative ways to preserve, restore and reclaim historic downtowns, rural communities and abandoned mine lands fostering vibrant and economically stable communities.

**Project:** Allegheny Ridge Corporation, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.

**About:** I worked on the organization, development and promotion of ARCorp's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference. This conference registration document went to press in the Spring of 2002.

### Design Tools:

InDesign 2.0, Illustrator 10.0, Photoshop 7.0

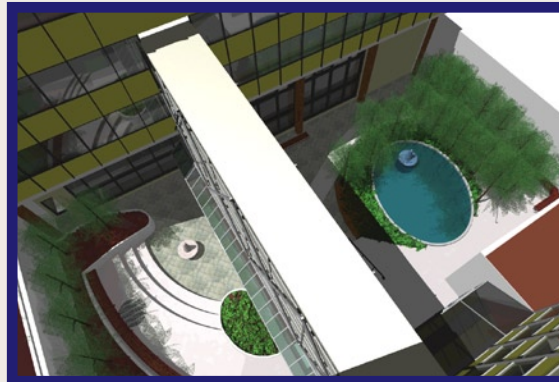
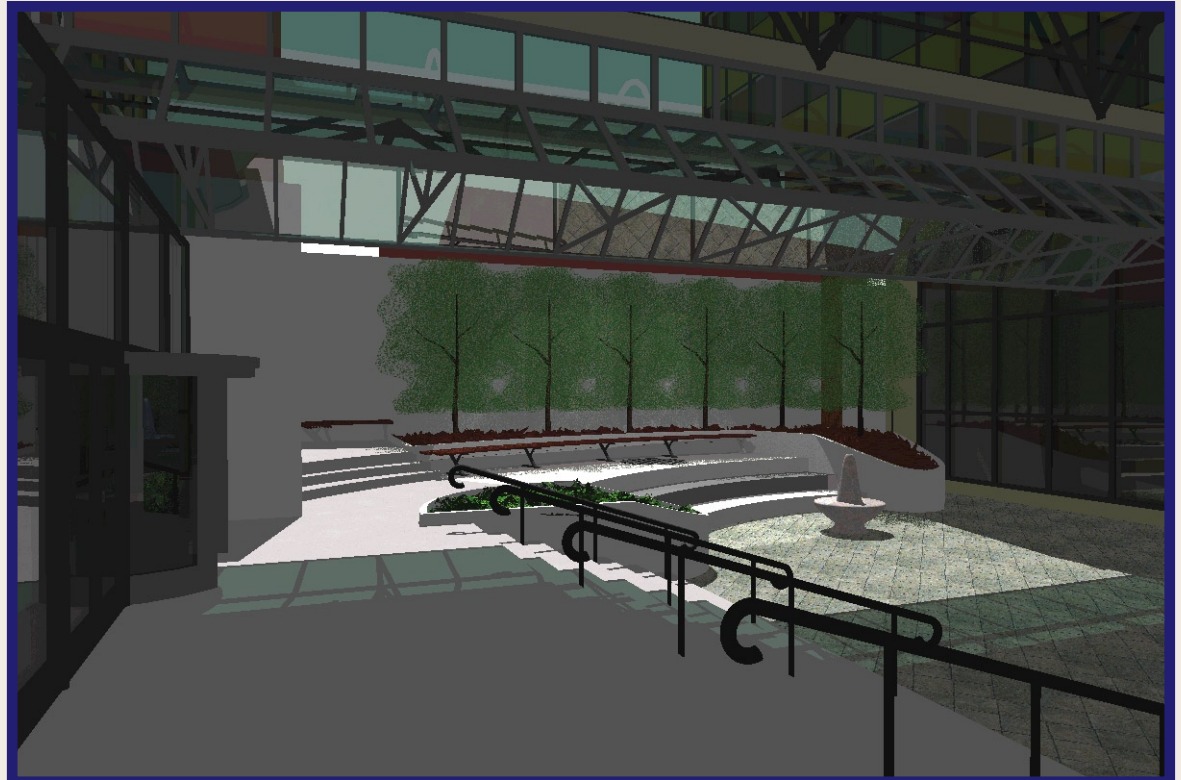
# CONFERENCE



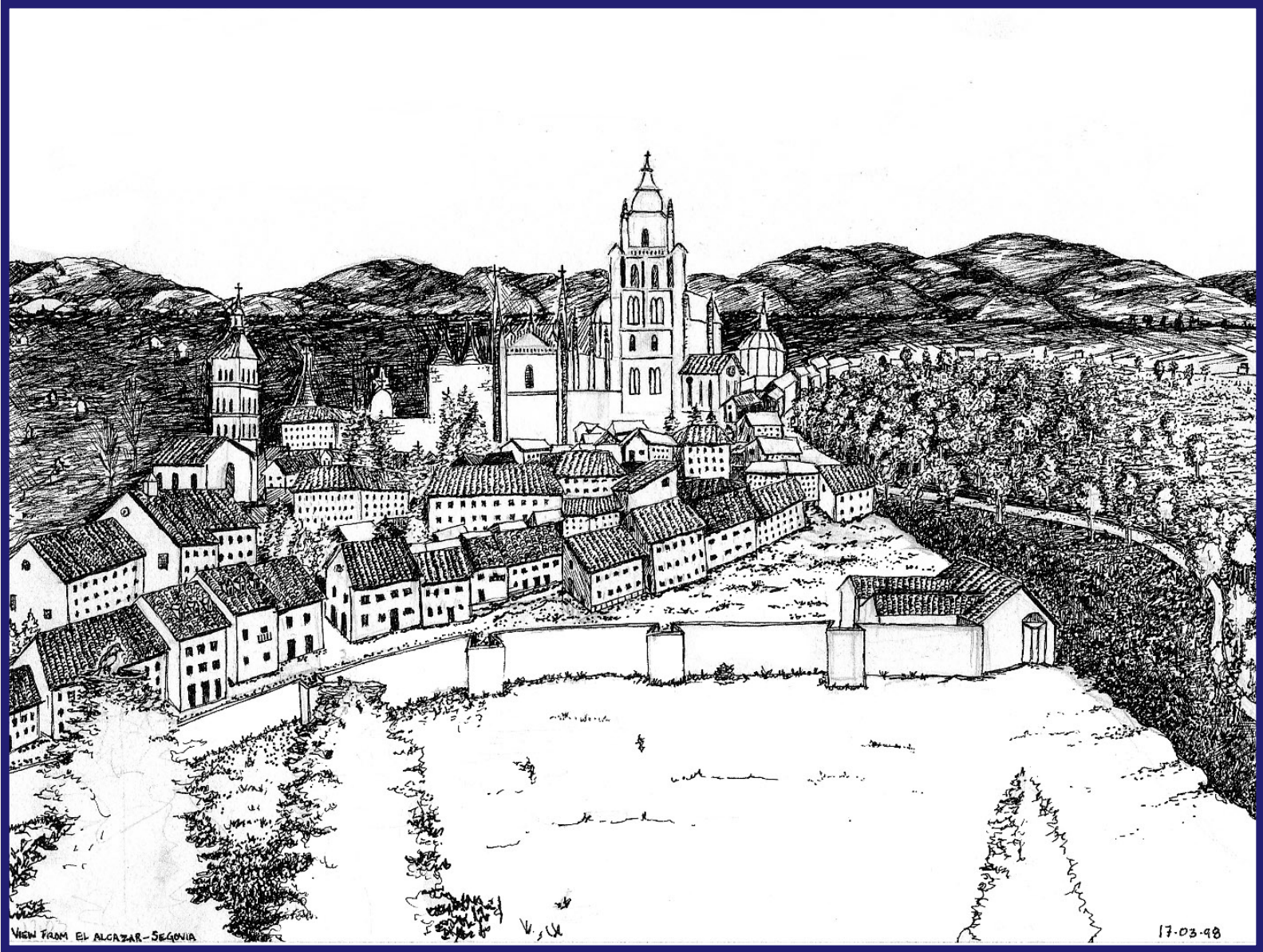
**Project:** FormZ Courtyard

This was a project that was assigned to Second Year LArch students. They were given the building structures, and a plan of a design that was to go within the building courtyard. They had to import the plan into Formz (as an image file) and then trace and extrude it up into the third dimension.

Seeing this as an opportunity to apply my Formz skills, I worked on this project along with the students! To date, it has been my only opportunity to use FormZ 3.9.5 to create a finished product. I continue to learn more about the application in my free time. A quicktime movie can be viewed on the enclosed CD.

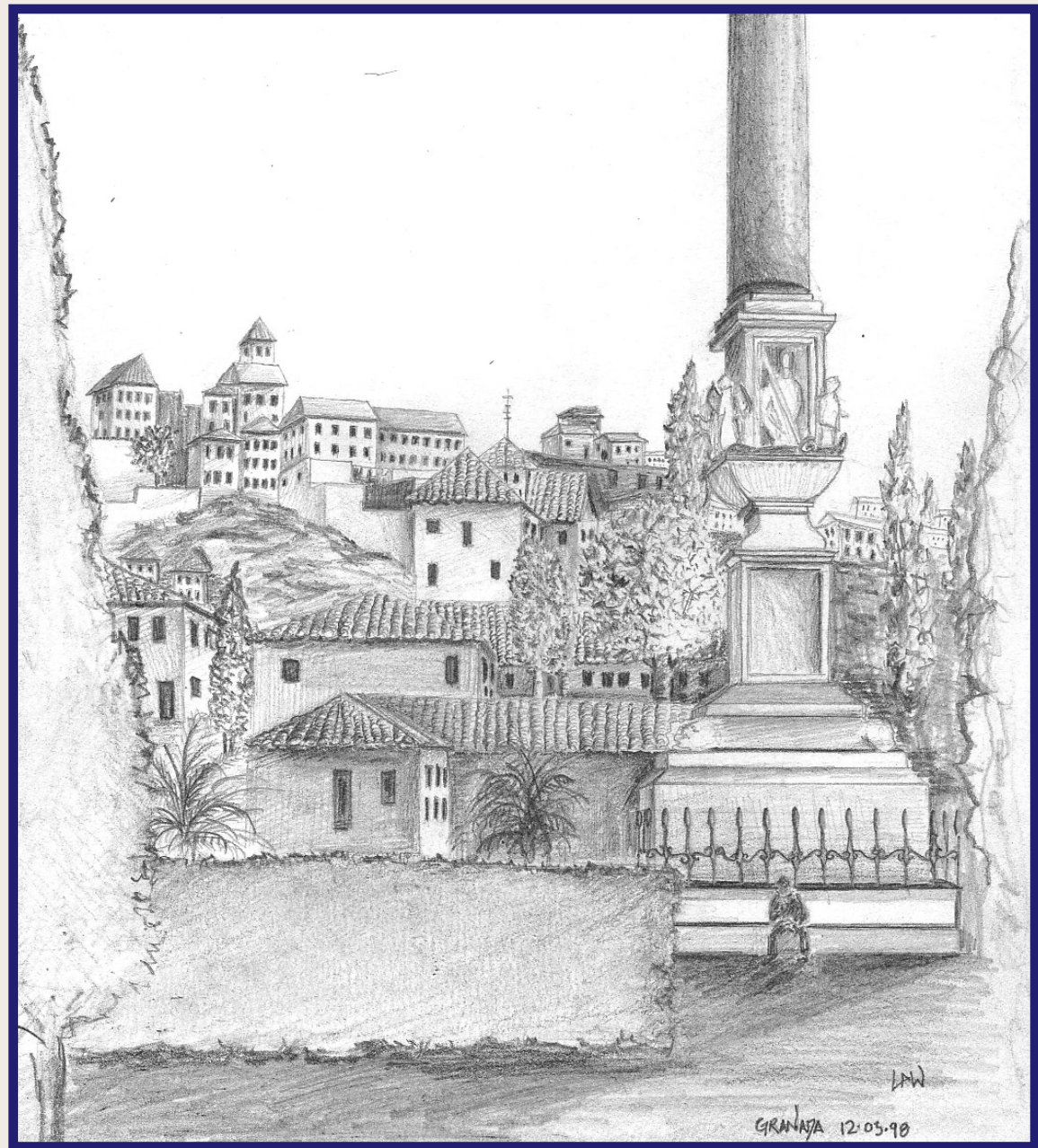


**DIGITAL DESIGN - FORMZ 3.9.5**



SKETCHING





SKETCHING



