

PITTSBURGH I: POSTWAR CONTEXT

Pittsburgh's long history & problems of capitalist, industrial city

Great Depression & World War II

Little overall planning, corporate competition + politics prevents it

Oakland Civic Center created to escape downtown grime, ca. 1900

F.L. Olmstead Plan for Pgh. 1911

Robert Moses "Arterial Plan" for Pittsburgh, 1939

Allegheny Conference on Community Development (ACCD)

(R.K. Mellon, Kaufman, etc.), 1943ff

"Reverse Welfare State" strategies: harness public power for corporate good

Postwar Urban Crisis: Problems of

1) Smoke

2) Floods

3) Traffic.

Strangling the CBD. City dying, corporations leaving

Pittsburgh Renaissance I, 1945-75

New Highways, Bridges, Tunnels & Parking Garages, 1945-60, 1980s-present

* Point Park & Gateway Center, by Eggers & Higgins, 1950-56

Projects

Erich Mendelsohn's proposal for Pgh. Point, 1943 (proj.)

F.L. Wright's "Point Park Coney Island in Auto Scale" 1947 (proj.)

Mitchell & Ritchey, "Pgh in Progress", Kaufmann's Dept. Store, 1947

Precedents: Le Corbusier's "Towers in the Park" (1922ff)

Eggers & Higgins' Stuyvesant Town in NYC, 1943-47

Developed by Equitable Life Insurance Corp. (Private development)

Other Buildings: State Office Bldg (1957), Hilton Hotel (1959),

IBM Building (1963), etc.