

Louis D. Astorino '69

Renowned Pittsburgh-based architect Louis D. Astorino wanted to design houses and buildings for as long as he can remember. "I was always fascinated by construction," he recalls. "I remember when they were building houses in my neighborhood, I'd get my Mom to make coffee so I could take it over to the guys and they'd let me watch them build the houses."

When he graduated from Penn State he returned to his native Pittsburgh and a job at the firm he'd worked for during school breaks and summers. A year later he took a construction superintendent job on commercial buildings. "I thought it would give me a better perspective on being an architect," he says.



By 1972, just three years out of Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture, he started his own firm, then known as L.D. Astorino. Three decades later, the firm—now simply Astorino—employs more than 200 people and has a portfolio of projects stretching from the United States to the Vatican. Among their many notable projects, Astorino served as architect of record (working with HOK Sports) on the award-winning PNC Park baseball stadium for the Pittsburgh Pirates; the much honored PNC Firstside Center; the Trimont condominium high-rise overlooking downtown Pittsburgh; and has been one of the restoration architects at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in Mill Run, Pa., since 1986.

More recently, Astorino says, "We are honored to be the first and only American architects to do a building in the Vatican." That building, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, is where the sequestered Cardinals attended mass before voting on the new pope. The chapel adjoins another project Astorino consulted on: the Domus Sanctae Marthae, which houses visiting cardinals and bishops. Astorino recently completed a new Transplant Center for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in Palermo, Italy, and is currently working on the new Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Penn State is home to several of Astorino's projects. His firm designed the Rec Hall renovations, Penn State Behrend's library and academic building, and the state-of-the-art Louis E. Lasch Football Building at University Park (with HOK Sports).

Astorino has received countless awards and honors from architecture, business, and civic organizations. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named him one of the city's top business leaders in 2001, and he was recognized as 2005 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Real Estate and Construction. He was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1987, one of that organization's highest honors. Astorino has served as president of both the Pittsburgh chapter of the AIA and the Pennsylvania Society of Architects. He has served as a guest speaker at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the AIA national convention, and the International Conference on Healthcare Design among many others. Astorino also contributes significant time and leadership to a wide range of charitable and cultural organizations such as the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Little Sisters of the Poor, Extra Mile Foundation, and serves as Chairman of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

Penn State has previously name Astorino an Alumni Fellow in 1991. He was also honored with the College of Arts and Architecture Alumni Achievement Award in 1989. Both of his children graduated from Penn State and are involved with the firm—Christine Astorino Del Sole '95 and Louis P. Astorino '97. Astorino is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association and lives in Pittsburgh, with his wife, Jean.