## DESIGN IN CHICAGO

#### BY PAT AND GREG SAMATA

OPHISTICATED, CULTURED, political, flashy, above ground, underground, a mixed bag, a true melting pot. The Windy City. The city that works. Chicago has been called many things over the years, but few can deny the rich heritage and important part Chicago plays in the history and future of design locally, nationally and internationally.

From the early days of the Bauhaus settling in at IIT, Chicago has been a great place for designers to practice their profession. A thriving financial community and continual economic growth has helped make it a place where great design can flourish.

During the 1960's Chicago became the design center of the country. With California and Texas later developing their own new unique design style, Chicago took a back seat to other national communities in recent years. Well it's turning around! Chicago is a hot bed of new talent. Pockets of creative groups are breaking through the corporate barriers by taking greater chances and producing exciting work.

It is definitely a mixed bag. It's what we call "no style." Anything goes. Nowhere do we find one distinct trend or direction. Although we think this is true of the rest of the country as well, nowhere is it more

obvious than Chicago. And this goes beyond graphics to architecture, product design, fashion, every creative area of our society.

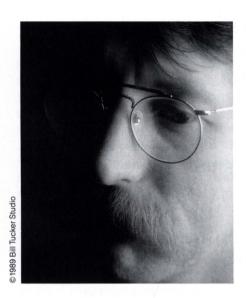
Designers in Chicago are enjoying a newfound status in the business community. They are playing a larger role in the marketing area.

Some have said that Chicago and its client base are conservative. It has always been our position that the corporations aren't necessarily conservative, but the ideas that they are presenting are often safe or low risk. This is changing also! Clients are looking for new exciting work, and the designers are responding.

Chicago is a great design town. Nowhere is there more opportunity for young designers to work and grow. Here as anywhere, it takes desire, passion and hard work by each individual to do great things. But the Midwest will play a larger role in the future of graphic design than it has in the past ten years. And many of the young, up-and-coming designers are going to make sure it happens.

Yes, there is a lot of energy here. And it is manifesting itself in great work and solidifying the design community.

## JEFF BARNES



Jeff Barnes is principal and founder of Barnes Design Office. His experience is in editorial design, advertising, corporate communications, promotion design and identity programs. Most recently Jeff has become involved in product design and planning. Before opening his studio in 1981, he spent five and a half years at Container Corporation of America as a senior designer under John Massey. Jeff is a member of the 27 Chicago Designers. He has taught visual communication at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. A number of his designs are in permanent collections including the Library of Congress, the New York Museum of Modern Art and the Smithsonian Institution, Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design.

What changes have you seen in Chicago design in the last ten years?

Jeff Barnes: Changes are similar here as elsewhere, but more deliberate. Looking at the big picture, Chicago's established businesses are large and mass consumer oriented. Changes progress slowly and are often more developmental rather than immediate. Since we work with smaller companies, this is not as serious a concern as it might be for others.

How has the role of the designer changed and what changes do you foresee in the next ten years?

Barnes: I can't speak for designers in general, but the responsibilities we are asked to oversee are greater than I could have imagined ten years ago. Business used to look at design as an optional service. Today the outlook has changed. As with many formal endeavors there is a vague beginning, then an awareness, then a maturing. I think this is where design is today the early stages of growing up, learning many interesting things, but not fully aware of its potential. In other words, the roll of the designer is still being formed. In the next ten years, I hope we will learn more than we forget and not do too many immature things that give us a bad reputation.

Does Chicago have a regional style?

Barnes: If Chicago does, it is probably based on the attitude of not being easily satisfied, that is, not jumping onto a new idea just because it is new. I'm not a native of Chicago, so this is not my personal feeling but rather an observation.

What do you think of the design work being done in Chicago?

Barnes: On the whole, it is restrained and in the background; but with the best of it, it is handled with sensitivity and concern for details...maybe to a fault.

What do you think of the design work being done nationally?

Barnes: There is an abundance of

work with a curious imbalance of mediocre concept produced with high-tech sophistication. Sounds like hype to me. I really cannot take much of it seriously. And that does not mean I am down on change or progressive thinking. I feel there is more being done for effect than for content. Sounds like entertainment to me.

That subject has to do with high style generic design. It is that type of design that looks contemporary and is used to create anything from posters to new products. It is interchangeable with any subject matter, yet always looks the same regardless of who did it. And it contains the symbols of creativity so we can recognize its uniqueness no matter if it is a sign for Chinese take-out or an invitation to a fashion show. Maybe it isn't even design in the best sense of the word, yet it is occasionally accepted in design shows. Is it the stamp of the '80s or a sign of a lack of imagination. By the way, why is everyone looking for the look of the '90s?

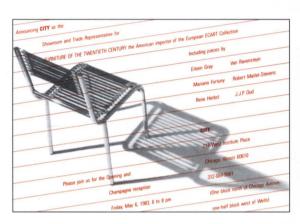
In a nation with so much freedom, it seems odd that so many seem to feel the need to be accepted as individuals by conforming. Many too many designers actually believe that Reeboks let U.B.U. I thought you could be you all by yourself. Maybe we don't recognize individuality or realize

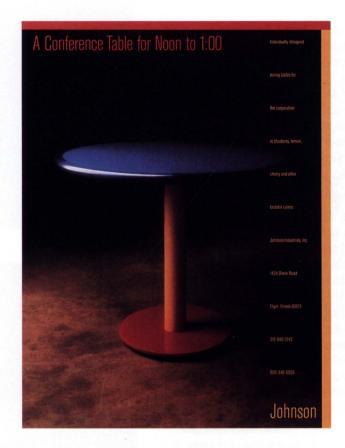
Logo for a contemporary furnishings store. "The idea behind this was graffiti, the typography of the city. I used a can of black spray paint in my backyard until I achieved the right look." Jeff Barnes, designer/calligrapher.

Second in a series of invitations for City. Jeff Barnes, art director/designer.

Two ads for Johnson Industries' office furniture. Top: "The ad gives more prestige to the corporate lunchroom table where many important discussions take place." Bottom: "The problem with most folding tables is that, while they look nice, they are difficult to set up and fold. The parallel to an ironing board is a natural understatement to what really interests the potential buyer." Jeff Barnes, art director/designer/writer; Christopher Hawker, photographer.









its benefits. Maybe, as in so many other parts of society, hype is becoming more relevant or interesting than content. If so, the look of the '90s is here. If design phases coincide with decade changes, I'm looking forward to a time of slightly less confusion, equal energy and invention and the reemergence of the great idea.

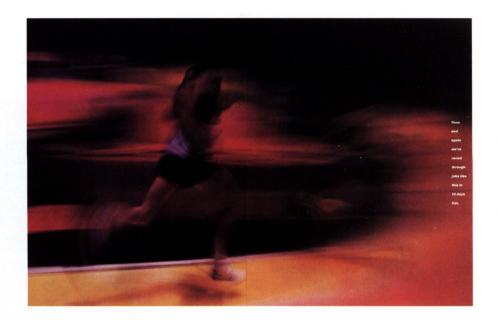
Are there any reasons why you'd turn down a client?

Barnes: Yes, but I give everyone a chance as I hope they do with me. I would say no to someone who had their mind made up before they came in the door. I can usually tell, but even then, I try to give them a little time. I would also say no to someone who did not appreciate the effort that is necessary to design something well. If I didn't say no to that person in the beginning, I would certainly say no if there was the opportunity to work with them again.

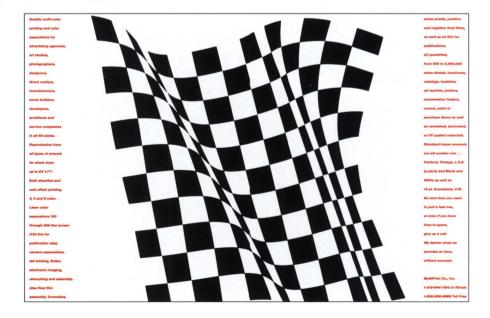
Has the advent of computers changed the way you do business and the way you design?

Barnes: It has helped greatly with the business side of design. Other technologies like the FAX have also simplified the production process. However, the computer is insignificant in generating meaningful ideas. And that's what I do most. Not production, not graphics, but meaningful ideas for my clients.

Three spreads from MultiPrint's direct mail brochure. "Getting the story across by mailer that a 'quick' printer can be a good printer seems to be a contradiction in terms, especially in the light of all the duplicator shops around that make no promise of quality. Also deep in the mind of the reader are parallels of quick food isn't quality food. So the question: What subject talks about something that is both fast and good? Answer: sports." Jeff Barnes, art director/designer; Jim Carey, writer; various photographers.









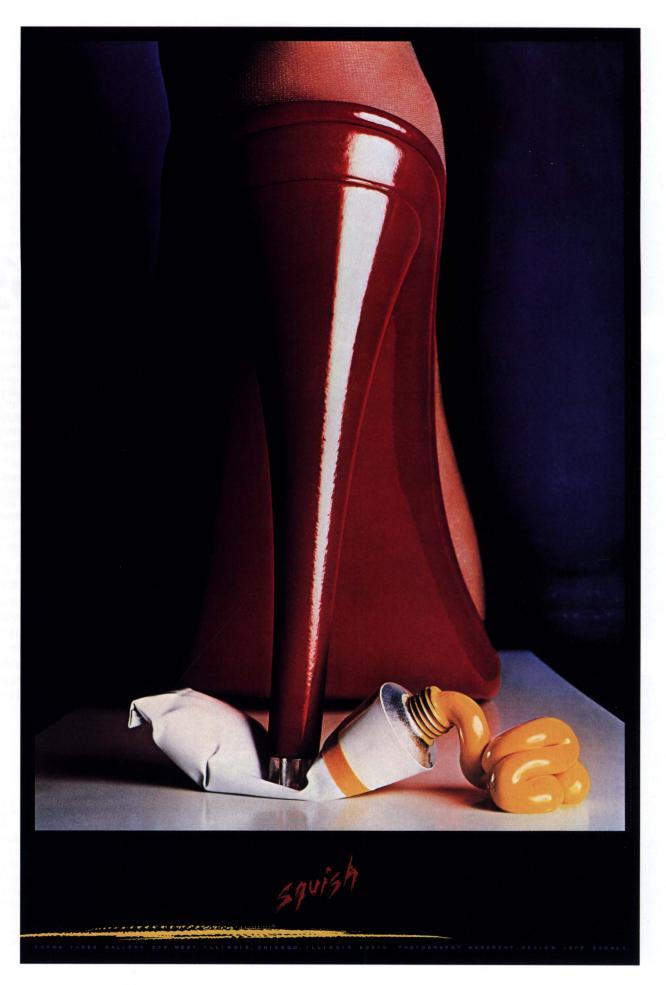




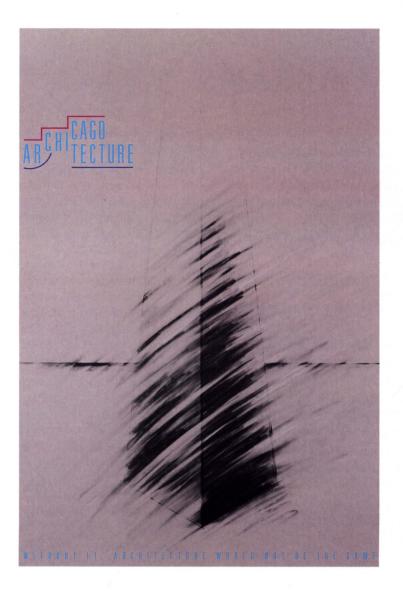
A self-promotion brochure for studio photographer Christopher Hawker. "A pile of 8 x 10 transparencies was dropped on my desk with the hope of producing a sampling of work in a format that would make an interesting presentation. After some consideration, I noticed that there was a common element in several of the food shots. A plate." Jeff Barnes, art director/designer.

Logo for a children's clothing store was designed so that the entire word or individual letters could be printed on a special line of t-shirts, sweats, etc. Jeff Barnes, art director/ designer.





#### JEFF BARNES





Left: Promotional poster for Forma Three Gallery. Jeff Barnes, designer; Dennis Manarchy, photographer.

This page: Commemorative poster for the 150th anniversary celebration of Chicago. "There was no way to include all the great symbols of Chicago architecture, so the thought of what architecture would be without Chicago's contribution was a more interesting point of view." Jeff Barnes, art director/designer/illustrator.

Logo for Chiasso, a retail store featuring modern designs from around the world for office and home. The name translates in Italian "to make a sensation." Jeff Barnes, art director/designer.

Calendar for Kieffer-Nolde, an advertising color separator. This piece shows the capabilities of their electronic digital imaging by levitating the apples in a very natural way characteristic of the photographer. Jeff Barnes, art director/designer; Gordon Meyer, photographer.



### Kym Abrams



Kym Abrams founded her design and marketing consulting firm, Kym Abrams Design, Inc., in 1984. The firm's philosophy focuses on applying the creative process toward the development of effective communications for business products and services. Their work includes advertising, corporate identity, annual reports, collateral material and environmental graphics. Prior to forming the studio, Kym followed a career path from designer to design manager in three different design firms. She holds a BFA from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Kym currently serves on the board of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts and is a member of the Society of Typographic Arts.

Why did you decide to work in Chicago?

Kym Abrams: It has everything you need to do rewarding work—good clients, good suppliers, good resources—and it's more livable than many other major cities.

Are all your clients from the Chicago area?

Abrams: Most of our current client base is from the Chicago area. However, many are national in their scope.

What changes have you seen in Chicago design in the last ten years?

Abrams: I don't think of design as "Chicago design." The changes I see are national and have more to do with the designer's role in business.

How has the role of the designer changed and what changes do you foresee in the next ten years?

Abrams: I see a growing receptivity by business to involve designers earlier on in the process. We're not just designing communications; we're helping our clients think through all aspects of the product/service and how it is positioned in the marketplace. We try to make recommendations before the product or service is released or marketed. We've even had cases where one of our clients tested our ideas prior to implementation. The results showed us that this method can be successful. This approach requires an openness and confidence on the part of both the client and designer. Sensitive egos have to feel free to brainstorm and discuss wide ranging alternatives with a willingness to hear new ideas and let go of options that are less effective.

Does Chicago have a regional style?

Abrams: Chicago has a wonderful tradition of strong design professionals who I believe influence our work: designers such as John Massey, Carl Regehr, Jay Doblin and Robert Vogele. I believe we are continuing their tradition of diverse and effective design.

Was your design education adequate training for what you're doing today?

Abrams: Yes! I think to become a successful designer it is really critical to have had great teachers. I was very fortunate in having two exceptional teachers. Their influence is still a part of my work today. Both Carl Regehr and Herb Jackson at the University of Illinois taught me how to think; that is, they taught me how to develop a point of view on every project. And it was the development of my mental skills, not my hand skills, that really prepared me for this profession.

I also believe that the best teachers are practitioners. In my experience the professors who were successful at practicing design and chose to teach on top of that had much more to offer than those who were professional academicians. Theory and practice are not the same thing, and in this profession you aren't prepared without both.

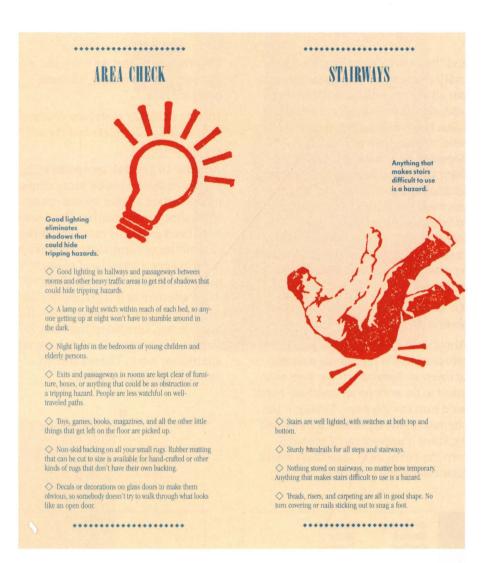
What do you think of the design work being done nationally?

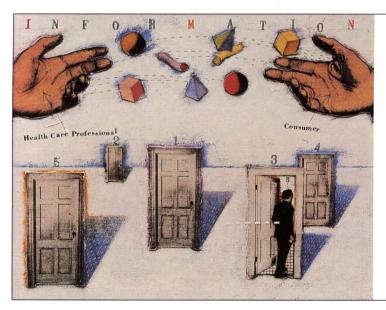
Abrams: I don't think enough truly conceptual work is being done anywhere. There is too little content and too much style. Let's face it, we're all bombarded with great amounts of information and it is confusing people. It is harder to be original and stand apart from the crowd. That's why I believe that simpler, clearer communications are more likely to be effective. Communications that rest on a singular, pure concept. When they're right they are like magic,

Home safety brochure for the National Safety Council. Kym Abrams, art director; Sandi Weindling, designer/illustrator; Rick DeSalvo, writer.

Spread from The Health Policy Agenda for the American People, a 324-page publication of the American Medical Association. Lisa Brenner, creative consultant; Kym Abrams, art director/designer; David Lesh, illustrator; Jill Hirt, writer.







Chapter IV. Communicating Health Information

Ultimately, it is the individual who has the responsibility for his or her lifestyle and health. The collection of individual decisions to adopt healthy lifestyles and to be prudent isers of the health care system will have a significant impact on the overall health status

To facilitate individual decision-making, it is necessary for the public to how a word insolveging two of health our information. Note of the information that the public receives concerning health our comes from the mass media, and it sakes a weet electacied community to our and all though all of this information. And, of course, while individuals share a large part of the responsibility for the health care, the health are receiver and secricle as whether the certain reproductions to receive and secric and personne the health of the nation. Health care providers, employers, and peremental agencies and here people in repositables to receive that decisities to receive that decisities are constructional med electrics on beath promotion, disease and injury prevention, and utilization of health care services is available and without decision of the second of the contraction of th widely disseminated.

Open communication and shared decision-making between pat Open communication and shared decision entaining between patterns and their contributions provide for foundation for optimized. They and the betth cause decision making in to protect and foster the autonomy of the patient, and decisions concerning care are a shared responsibility between the patient and his or her betth care decisions Proceedings. The patient has responsible join their betth care professional between these patients and his or her betth care professionals and their betth care professionals about their betth stans, and betth care professionals have concentiated responsibilities both their betth stans, and betth care professionals have concentiated responsibilities both to proceed the ordifessional potential and provide the professionals better contributions of observations and subjudiced particulations with efficient information to make informed decisions about their care. Protecting the confidentiation of all fully informations will have just better than the trust between patients and their practitioners in maintained. It provides the procession is a information and education programs can be used by the public to promote health lightlespe and effective utilization of both this entersor, public behalth care meets should be considered in the design of health prefessions obecastion programs. Eachly and deministrators of programs facility and administrators of programs facility and administrators of programs facility and administrators of programs.

programs. Faculty and administrators of programs should be responsive to changing

and they work every time. It's more challenging to develop these ideas, but also more satisfying. Ultimately, both clients and designers benefit. I also believe that more design firms need to recognize the inherent necessity of integrating design and copy. One thing that has differentiated us from many other design offices has been our staunch commitment to bringing these two disciplines together. We've been extremely successful in adding depth to our concepts by paying attention to both design and copy.

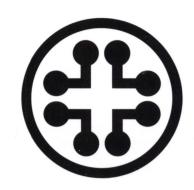
Are there any reasons why you'd turn down a client?

Abrams: Yes, a few. First, we may refuse a job if it represents a conflict of interest. Secondly, if we were ever asked to do work on an unethical basis, we'd turn the job away. Finally, if the chemistry isn't right with a client and we know it upfront, we'll probably turn the client away regardless of the financial benefits. After all, it's

important to us that we enjoy the work that we do. Fortunately, all these cases are rare.

Has the advent of computers changed the way you do business and the way you design?

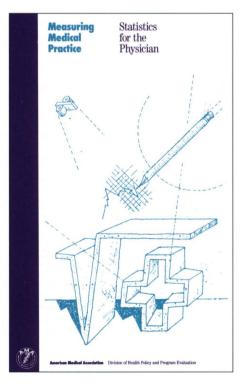
Abrams: In general, computer technology enables us to be more efficient in production so that we can spend more time being creative. Our clients have been asking us more about the capabilities of computers. I believe we need to keep a step ahead of our clients so that we can help them be more effective at integrating design with their computer capabilities. But even though computers have a definite impact, fundamentally they have not altered our work. There's still no substitute for a good idea.

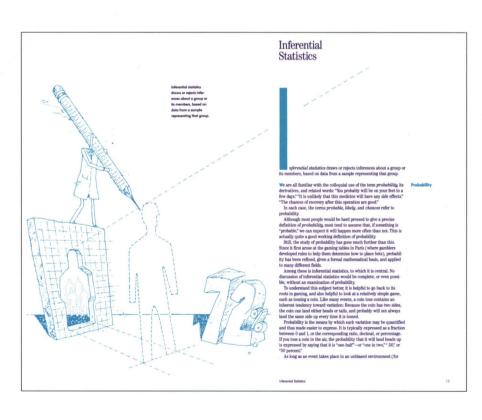


Above: Symbol for Doctronics, an electronics and appliance repairs store developed by Montgomery Ward and Mobil Corporation. Abrams designed the symbol and was involved with all aspects of the store development from signage to uniforms.

Brochure for the American Medical Association. "The request was to make statistics 'user friendly' for physicians. Talk about a challenge!" Kym Abrams/Mark Oldach, art directors; Kym Abrams, designer; David Povilaitis, illustrator.

Right: Fundraising brochure for The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. "They had several stories to tell their readers, so we adopted a magazine format." Kym Abrams, art director; Sandi Weindling, designer; Eric Hausman, photographer; Howard Bimson, writer; Charles R. Feldstein & Company, consultant.





# **ALUMNI PORTRA ITS**

DENT GENERATION THERE HAVE BEEN ILLUSTRIOUS ALUMNI WHO HAVE REACHED PINNACLES OF PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AS FINE ARTISTS THEM NOT IMMEDIATELY ASSOCIATED WITH FINE OR THE DESIGN ARTS STILL OTHER OR ADJUSTES HAVE RENEFITED FROM THE LIFE LONG SATISFAC THAN 10,000 LIVING ALUMNI (AND ADDITIONAL THOUSANDS PRECEDING THEM) HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCHOOL DURING ITS HISTORY AREA, CONTRIBUTING TO THE CITY'S STATURE AS A WORLD-CLASS CENTER

THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, AND IN MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES CLA SPECIAL WORD OR TWO SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT THE

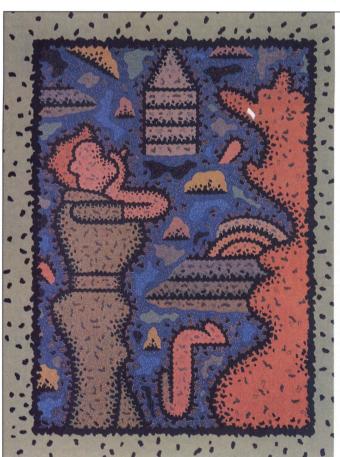
LOOK AND SEE ART AND THE WORLD WITHOUT PREJUDICE AND APATHY-TO SEE INNOCENTLY AND TO APPRECIATE INTELLIGENTLY." SAYS PAINTER





AMERICA'S STUDIO

AMERICA'S STUDIO



# The Fine Art of **Teaching**

Educating a young scientist is one thing. There is a critical mass of knowledge to be learned before a student is expected to pursue his or her own innovative work. The biologist needs to know what is inside the frog. The physicist should understand Newton's laws of motion. Teaching a young artist is a different thing entirely. Students at the School of the Art Institute do indeed learn the principles and techniques of creating fine art and design. The received of the control of th

necessity of stretching, bending, and even reject-ing all apparent knowledge, however, is funda-mental to the making of great art. This makes

the process of "teaching" artists a demanding art in its own right. Nowhere is this specialty practiced better than at the School.

practiced better than at the School.
"Students must learn to isolate their
viewpoints," says Christina Ramberg, Chair of
the Painting Department. "Faculty members
must facilitate their reaching this key creative
turning point."

There are 260 full- and part-time faculty

of the School. Approximately 70 percent of these men and women teach in the studio art disciplines, which is why the School of the Art Institute is known first and best as a preeminer

AMERICA'S STUDIO

services, the Beverly center houses specialties ranging from allergy to psychiatry to urology, as well as expanded diagnostic and laboratory facilities, a complete cardio-pulmonary laboratory, and a physical therapy unit.

The same building also houses the Magna Surgical Center, a unique joint venture between an independent physician, Dr. Nader Bozogi, and the Michael Recel Health Pian. Dr. Bozorgi leases the facility from the Health Pian, and in making it available to our physicians and to others in the community for a wide range of same day surgical procedures. The center's three fully equipped operating rooms will be able to handle up to 40 percent of the surgery now done in hospitals. This is the first time in Illinois that an FIMO and a surgery center have come together in such a venture, such a venture, such as returned to the surgery one fused as used as venture and the surgery center have come together in such a venture, such as venture, and such as venture, such as venture, and such as venture, such as venture, and such as ventu surgery center have come together in such a venture, and we have great expectations for its future.

The Riverside Plaza Health Center in October

became the first staff model HMO facility to open in tectime the first tart moset risked racing to open in the West Loop. The center is located accons from Union Station, convenient to members who prefer to receive their health care close to where they work. In addition to primary health care, the Riverside center offers health dealton classes. The center will also provide pre-employment physical exams for businesses. The new River Ook Is Halfle Center is our response to the many groups that hald saked us to open a health center in the south subsubs. Located in the professional building of the River Ooks Shopping Center, the center enrolled more than 2,000 members in its first ais months. In early 1986 the Health Plan officially merged with a group practice in Hylde Plan Komood Health Center. The group was originally stealbload as a community health center to provide comperhensive, quality services at an affordable the West Loop. The center is located across from



Keith: "When the Roard of



Carmen: "Well, we try. And I Carmer: "Well, we try, And I think the Hollah Han helys as say the hely he hall hely he had the hely as a say that I had hely he had hely he had hely he had hely he had hely and hely was not I'll paign every month for presented wints, Serven gen check up for hole, the trains always and samething. I wall necessary there—the marras, the distant, the receptional—houses as by name. We leady and the anomal and the We leady and the anomal and the same and the sa We laugh and kid around a lot. It's like our second bome!"



Corners: "I like being able to call and talk to a warre after hours, which is award; when the shid get sich. Half the time we don't even have to go on — but if it's important, they'll give me an appointment right warry. And our pediatrician is wenderful — the's never in a ruch, the automers all my sentions ..." questions . . ." Marvin: "And she gives us a lot of neat stickers!" Marlow: "Bears! Clowns! Frogs! Steven: "Ass, they just lose 'em



THE JOHNSON FAMILY

SERVICE MEANS BEING WHERE YOU NEED US. WHEN YOU NEED US















This year, the Health Plan took major steps to make its services available to members in every part of the city, where they work and where they live, at the

New Health Care Facilities New Hathle Care Euclities
One of the basic ways in which the Health Plan
serves its current members and expands its member
shoes is by offering facilities that are convenient to
where members live and work. In 1967 we added
nine one health centers, bringing the total to twenty
and enabling us to serve employers and members
throughout Chicago and the suburbs.

In May we opened the West Rogers Park Health Center, serving members on the far north side of Chicago and the near north suburbs. In the fall we added the Yorktown Health Center, in the western suburb of Downers Grove, and the Orland Square Health Center, serving the southwest suburbs. And at the end of 1987, with the NorthCare transaction

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Major Expansions

Major Espansions
Three health centers—Ford City, Evergreen, and
Southeast—were removated and expanded this year.
Yet by far the most significant expansion was the
opening of Laleshore II, a eve building that \* vi
doubled the size of our flagship Lakeshore
Health Center.
The Laleshore addition gives us the capability of
serving up to 75,000 members for primary care and
100,000 for specialty care. It has enabled us to offer
upie; new services, including an optical shop, physical therapy, and an intensive psychiatric day facility.
And if has expanded the guere available for our
patient cancer treatment, politaric and adolescent
medicion, obstetric-g speccology, internal medicine,
bealth education, and our corporate effices.
The NintGear Transaction

We initiated an even greater expansion in 1987 by completing a transaction with PruCare for the trans

for of its NorthCare facilities—along with physicians, staff, and the respectability for members' care—to Michael Roce Health Plan. The addition holds many advantages for current Health Plan members, including access to health centers in new geographical areas, the consolidation of some centers into larger facilities, and an espanded panel of physicians from which no choose. The addition also offers benefits for the Plan inself. It allows us to enter several new areas quickly and smoothly. It enables us to add specialty services in our northern negles and to develog between the circle our portperhic service area. Manking the Plan more attractive to new and current employer groups.

Maing Convenience a Goal
Nearly 140 of our employer groups have effices
within walking distance of our Revende Health
Gerne Locard door, believe Starten. This year we
focused new attention on the needs of these employeners for primary behalf our at consenter hours
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members who are s at several of our large and mid-size health We remain the only Chicago-area HMO offering services of this kind.









A THEATER FOR CHICAGO

In its downtown, lakefront home, the we lend our resources and our exper theaters, a part of the city's community stage, to theaters throughout the area. gation: not merely to produce plays, but other members of our staff. In these and work.

We work in many ways to improve

☐ We join with many other cultural nstitutions, like the Chicago Public Library, the Art Institute, and the Chicago city's downtown area and has been a leader Historical Society, to offer special in the Chicago theater renaissance. It We offer a range of special activities attract businesses and business people and ticket prices, to make quality theater to the area.

attractive and accessible to the majority The Goodman is in of Chicago residents.

theater alive. The Goodman has long been an active participant in the Chicago the community. A founding partner of the

of major cultural institutions. That posi-tion, we believe, carries with it an obli-with other off-Loop theaters, as do many strengthen Chicago's artistic community. While it serves as a neighborhood

> Goodman is truly a theater for all Chicago. It has helped revitalize the

Chicago -- in the arts and culture. in busi- We make use of Chicago's incredible ness and education. It cuts across the pool of theatrical talent and skilled tech-boundaries of geography and politics, age nicians, helping the city attract and keep — and opportunity. It is a timeless institumade by and for Chicago.

sity. If theater is the mirror of our live: the Goodman is the mirror of our Harold Washington 1983-1987

"Chicago—a city of so many voices. The Goodman cap

tures them all, in





Response to a Matter of Life and Death



#### Kym Abrams

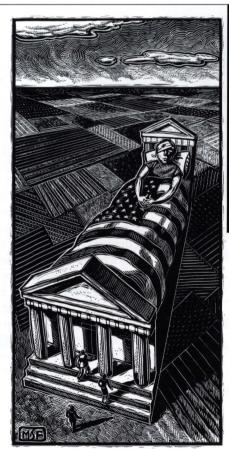
Left: Spreads from the 1986 and 1987 Michael Reese Health Plan annual reports. "We work directly with the president, who has been very supportive of our work. That support makes all the difference when we had eight weeks from our first meeting to delivery of the 1987 annual report." Kym Abrams, art director; Kym Abrams/Mike Stees, designers; Eric Hausman, photographer; Giudi Weiss, writer.

Fundraising brochure for The Goodman Theatre. "Taking a picture of the mayor was quite an experience. We expected to have a few minutes with him, but he and all his bodyguards, ere in the studio for almost an hour. The picture was taken just a few weeks before he died." Kym Abrams, art director/designer; Eric Hausman, photographer; Julia Ryan, handcoloring; Giudi Weiss, writer; Donald A. Campbell & Co., consultant.

This page: Critical Issues, a publication for the Lutheran General Hospital. "Once we designed this piece, we made the recommendation to go one-color when we had originally budgeted for two. We wanted a more editorial look and saved the client money at the same time." Kym Abrams, art director; Barry Deck, designer; Mary Flock, illustrator; Giudi Weiss, writer.

# TRAUMA.

| Ages          | 1-4   | 5-14  | 15-24  | 25   |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| Trauma        | 3,297 | 6,305 | 25,619 | 14.5 |
| Cancer        | 631   | 1,733 | 2,672  | 4.7  |
| Heart Disease | 234   | 311   | 1.035  | 2.8  |



# RICK VALICENTI



Rick Valicenti, founded Thirst, a design and photographic collaborative, with photographers Tom Vack and Corrine Pfister on April Fool's Day 1981. Rick received his BFA from Bowling Green State University, and he has both a MA and a MFA in photography from the University of Iowa. Thirst's clients include contract and residential design, restaurant, retail and cultural. Rick has served on the American Institute of Graphic Arts/Chicago board of directors and as president of the Society of Typographic Arts. He is also a member of the 27 Chicago Designers.

Why did you decide to work in Chicago? Rick Valicenti: Twelve years ago I came to Chicago when its design community was enjoying the attention that Container Corporation of America was receiving. The residual effects-stylistically and conceptuallymade Chicago the last bastion of the international style along with Toronto and Zurich. Bill Bonnell's "Post Modern Exhibition" of 1980 and the 1981 April Greiman and Jayme Odgers exhibition and presentation announced, at least for me, the freedom to express. This freedom along with the passion for earlier Chicago typographic traditions—Cooper, Goudy, Middleton and DeBallconvinced me that design could be an "artistic process" and not just an

How has the role of the designer changed and what changes do you foresee in the next ten years?

extension of business.

Valicenti: In the future, we're going to find the designer's portfolio being preferred much like Ralph Lauren's clothes. They will each make an individual statement. Clients won't just so to the designer to get the job done. do strategic planning, meet a deadline or meet a budget. They'll go because of the look. That's what I think has not been existent here in Chicago because most of the design offices have sold themselves as marketing firms. But it's changing. It's just starting to happen. And even with a strong vision, it's important to be flexible. That's what is so exciting because now we can see designer as personality and designer as spokesperson.

Was your design education adequate training for what you're doing today?

Valicenti: I came to Chicago having

completed graduate work in photography at the University of Iowa. In an effort to preserve my "prima donna" approach to photo art, I found employment as a keyliner. The 1978 ICOGRADA Congress at Northwestern University changed my awareness of design which I then began to pursue seriously. I once visited Mort Goldsholl. At the close of the conversation. I asked if he had a few words for a young designer to practice by. He said, "Yes, three words: Take a risk?"

What do you think of the design work being done in Chicago?

Valicenti: The Chicago design community, with few exceptions, will find risk to be too hot a bed of coals. Risk is unsettling for some because failure is as visible during the process as success. The safe route shrouds failure. It also shows up in the final product. The experience with the final design is more narrow, less engaging and challenging.

Logo for Scarboro Fair, a women's clothing store located on the North Shore of Chicago. featuring high-end, American and European designer lines with an Italian emphasis. Rick Valicenti, art director; Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco, designers; Vita Juchnevicius,

"Punk-Heraldic" symbol for Bloomingdale's. Tuan Dao, art director: Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco, designers; David Harrison,

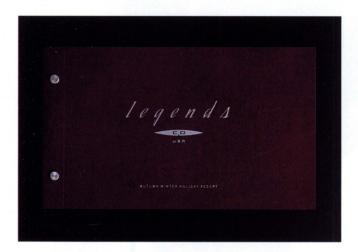
Logo for Quadrant, a high-style housewares store. Rick Valicenti, art director/designer: Charles Moore Associates, client.

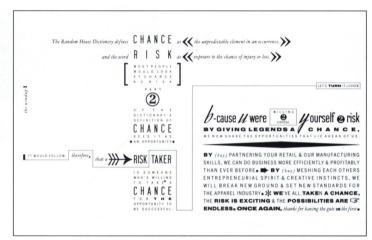
Cover, page and spreads for Legends Company's autumn/winter color book. The book had to express the essence of Terry Siegel's words and fashion designs. Rick Valicenti, art director; Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco, designers; Rob Latour, photographer.

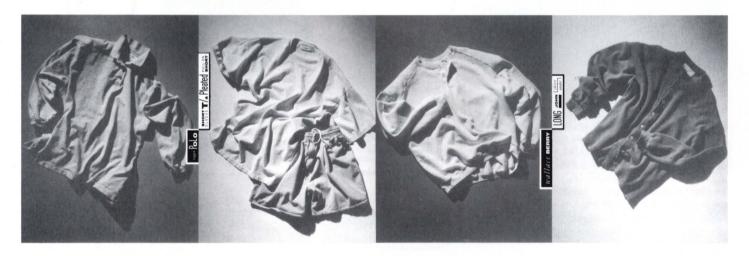


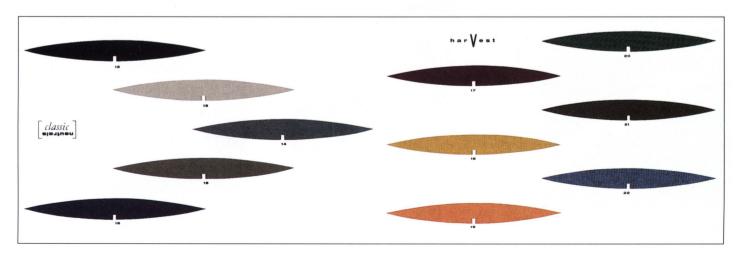












#### RICK VALICENTI

But a very small handful of individuals are not playing the design game by the same rules. They're being more honest about who they are and what they can contribute to their clients and then to the whole portfolio of Chicago design. They're being council rather than vendor. Vendor asks the questions "When do you need it?" and "How much?" But clients now are going to the designer, and the designer is saving, "Here's what I think would be best."

What do you think of the design work being done nationally?

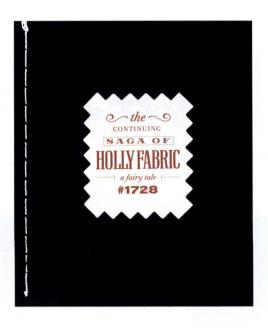
Valicenti: Chicago designers are one of the last groups to evolve this way. It's visible in every major city. We've seen it in Minneapolis with The Duffy Group. We've seen it in Dallas with The Richards Group, Summerford and Pirtle. We've seen it in Seattle. But we haven't seen it in Chicago since Container Corporation.

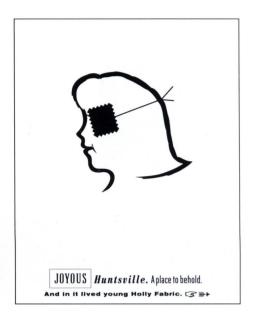
This page: "The Continuing Saga of Holly Fabric," booklet. "For three months prior to Neocon '88. Holly Hunt Ltd.'s fabric department was under construction. The largest residential showroom in the Merchandise Mart was able to make its clientele forget the inconvenience through a fairy tale." Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco, art directors/designers/writers.

Right: Poster for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. "The idea came from Man Ray's solarized prints. I think of this piece as a friendly tribute to him. I never dreamed that two colors and no money can go such a long way. Neither did the museum." Rick Valicenti, art director/designer; Ken Reid, photographer.

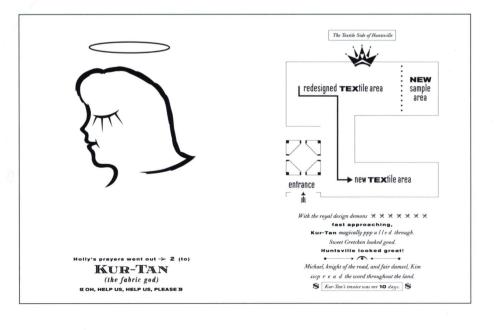
Poster for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Rick Valicenti/Peter Sellars, art directors; Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco, designers/ photographers.

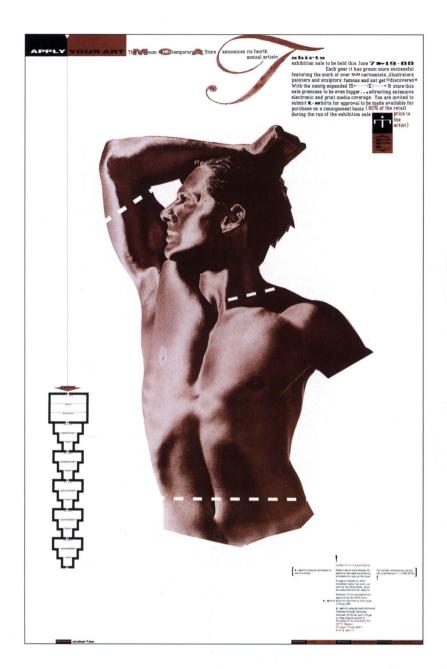
Cover and spread from promotional brochure for Midwest Litho Arts, Inc. Rick Valicenti, art director; Rick Valicenti/Michael Giammanco. designers; Ken Reid, photographer.

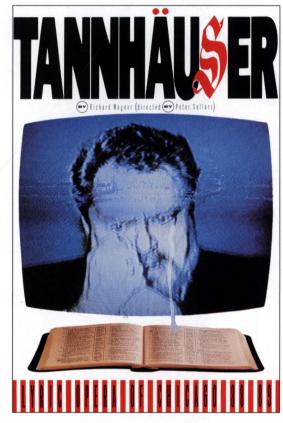


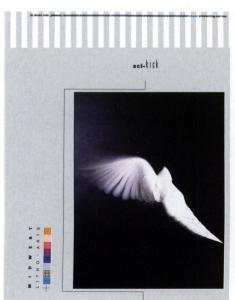


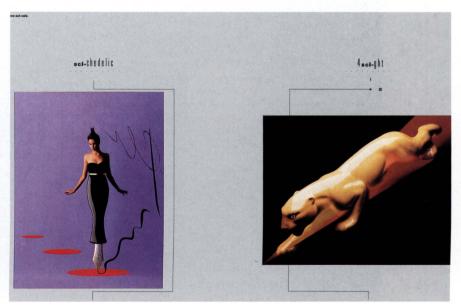












#### RICK VALICENTI

Consolidated Papers, Inc. promotional brochure for Productolith paper. Rick Valicenti/Gib Marquardt, product concept; Rick Valicenti, art director/designer; Tom Vack/Corrine Pfister, photographers; Wardrop Murtaugh Temple, agency.

Right: Brochure for Harter Contract. Rick Valicenti, art director/designer; Tom Vack/Corrine Pfister, photographers; Todd Lief, writer.

#### What's in a name?

Everything. Just ask the Wisconsin man who invented MIZZENPRATZ. Or the New nan who came up with  $\overline{ ext{G N O R K L}}$  . No matter how great the product, how

olidated realized that fact in 1952 when it developed a new kind of enamel offset ng paper. The company thought long and hard and named it PRODUCTOLITH. A one ig(1ig) of a kind name for a one ig(1ig) of a kind product. A quality coated printing paper

while we don't expect that to change in the future, other products may not be so lucky. y familiar brand names have already become household words, free to be copied by all.

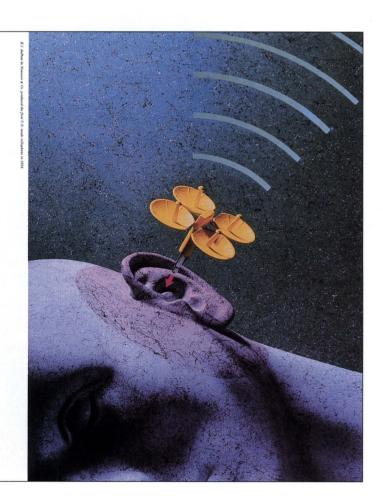
In this book we'll look at several brand names that have become generic and imagine 

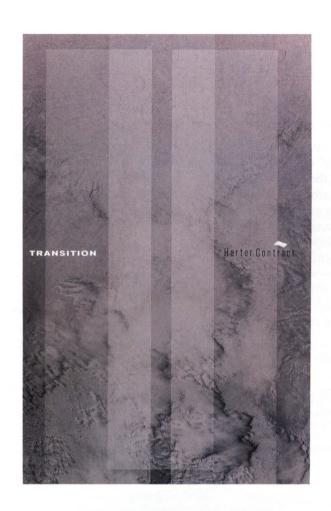
It's all a bit of a put on of course. And what's even better, it's all been put on PRODUCTOLITH . So enjoy this slightly | wacky look into the future. And rem

#### CELL OPHANE

IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, EVERYONE WILL BE DOING THE CELLOPHANE RAP GRAPPING WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS NOT ON A CELLULAR PHONE, BUT ON CELLOPHANE OTHE NEW CELLOPHANE IS AN IMPLANT FOR THE EAR COMPLETE WITH COMPUTER MICRODISHES \* THE MANUFACTURER PROMISES GREAT RECEPTION. OF COURSE, PEOPLE WILL LOOK PRETTY ODD TALKING TO THEMSELVES IN PUBLIC OAND MOST TEENAGERS WILL EXPERIENCE constant  $^{\#}_{i^{l}} ^{\#}_{\mathscr{C}}^{i^{l}} ^{\#}_{\mathscr{C}}^{\mathfrak{G}}$  in their ears  $^{ullet}$  but this new CELLOPHANE WILL HAVE REAL sticking POWER • WE PREDICT



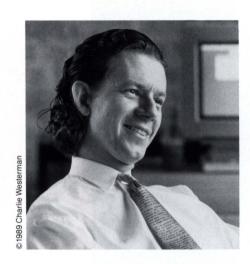








## ROBERT PETRICK



Robert Petrick, principal of Petrick Design, has twelve years' experience in the graphic design field with practical experience ranging from exhibit and package design to logotypes and corporate identity programs, employee communication programs, newsletters, magazines, brochures, booklets, posters and sales tools. He received a B.S. degree in graphic design from the University of Cincinnati in 1978. Prior to starting his firm in 1986, Robert spent four years with Burson-Marsteller, as vice president, creative group director.

Why did you decide to work in Chicago?

Robert Petrick: Coming out of school, Chicago offered "big city" opportunities without leaving the Midwest and, at that time, staying close to home (Ohio) was important for personal reasons. Having left Chicago in 1982, however, I found myself choosing it again and more permanently in 1984, but for different reasons—a wonderful combination of a cosmopolitan environment, brutally honest, hard-working people and an open design market.

Are all your clients from the Chicago area?

Petrick: Not all, but at this point, they are all in the Midwest, not necessarily by design.

How has the role of the designer changed and what changes do you foresee in the next ten years?

Petrick: As design has become more accepted into the lexicon of the business world, designers are becoming more accepted as consultants of necessity. Today's designer has more direct involvement with the client and is being given opportunities for problem-solving beyond graphic design. Instead of "Here's my product, design a logo for it.", it's "Here's my

product, what should I call it? What should it look like? How can I sell it to a segmented market? And if you get a chance, design a logo for it.

Was your design education adequate training for what you're doing today?

Petrick: My design education was more than adequate training with respect to the discipline of design. The continuing challenge in design education is to couple that high level of aesthetic development with adequate preparation for the business of design. Being able to sell it is just as important as being able to do it.

The 60" promotional poster for photographer Howard Bjornson grew out of an effort to get six or seven mailers out of a single press sheet. The slight deboss of one corner around each photo symbolizes his method of looking at traditional things (i.e. matting) in contemporary and unusual ways. Robert Petrick, art director/designer/editor.

Right: Promotional program for microbrewery Goose Island Brewing Company, located in an old Chicago neighborhood.

Ad: Robert Petrick, art director/designer/writer; Michael Carroll, illustrator.

Logo: Robert Petrick, art director; Robert Petrick/Janice Clark, designers; Michael Carroll, illustrator.

Investors invitation: Robert Petrick, art director/writer; Robert Petrick/Janice Clark, designers.







"Tdo not believe so much in art as in maniford. Every man reveals himself. Much offse is art. . . . . If you really give your best, the results will be extraordinance. This efraund the best in every man to be purely good . . . . If believe in the creative supremacy of the financial control of the control



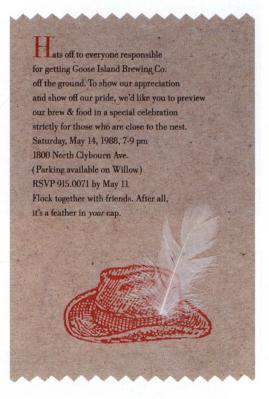
brewing methods. Created right on premises at 1800 North Clybourn, our standard beers include a robust amber lager, a rich golden pilsner made with imported

Czechoslovakian hops, a classic English ale and a daily special that'll keep you coming back for something new. No matter what you order, what you'll get is a beer with a fresh, clean taste unencumbered by the effects of mass production. No harsh preservatives. No overprocessing. And no freshness lost through long distance shipping. So free yourself

from the canned and the bland, and lay hands on a fresh, cold Goose. It's worth its wait in gold.

# A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH MORE THAN TWO BUSCHES.













What do you think of the design work being done in Chicago?

Petrick: The design work being done in Chicago today is generally competent, well-produced, pragmatic and undefinable with respect to style. It is a reflection of the Midwestern clientele: high levels of quality, pride and values; low levels of risk, experimentation and uniqueness. What we see far too infrequently, however, is inspirational breakthrough design.

What do you think of the design work being done nationally?

Petrick: On a national level, I think design and art direction (advertising) are getting better all the time. The absence of a singular national trend has allowed the energy of regional trends and personal styles to surface, which has been very exciting.

Are there any reasons why you'd turn down a client?

Petrick: There are plenty of good reasons why I'd turn down a client or work. The things I look for most in a client are: compatibility and trust; their own belief in their product or service and their commitment to presenting it in the most effective way possible; adequate financial commitment or, if that's not possible, then a commensurate level of creative freedom: a product or service that I believe in.

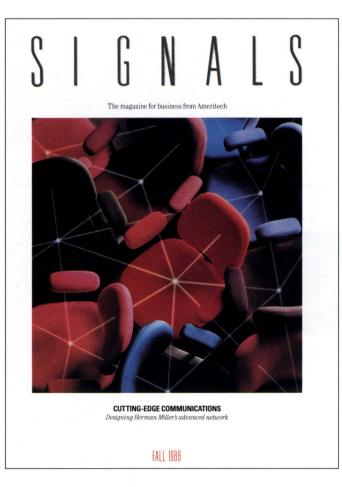
Has the advent of computers changed the way you do business and the way you design?

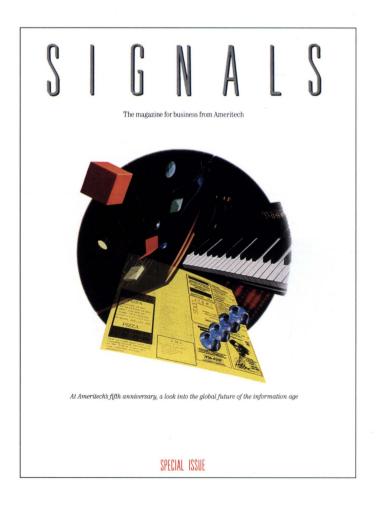
Petrick: Computer technology, both inside our office and in the hands of our suppliers, has quickened the process, expanded business and design opportunities and continues to provide capabilities for visual imagery so new and unusual they cannot be

illustrated by traditional means. Aside from significantly affecting the visual appearance of what we do, it is accelerating the speed with which we work, fueling the trend toward smaller offices by enhancing their capacity, and opening entirely new areas for designers to exercise their talent and expertise.

Covers and spreads from Signals, Ameritech's company publication. The left cover illustrates the hi-tech telecommunications system for Herman Miller. Robert Petrick, art director/ designer; Charlie Westerman, photographer; Scott Powers, editor.

The right cover and the two spreads on the right page are from a special issue on the various areas of telecommunication research being done at the MIT Media Lab. "Multiple imagery enabled us to illustrate the complex activity of MIT's Media Lab and still use photography to emphasize that this futuristic activity is real and very current." Robert Petrick, art director/designer; Scott Morgan, photographer.





barriers will create a marketplace of 323 million people, the largest in the free world. The Europeans are strengthening and integrating tele-communications capabilities. In 1987, the Commission of the Euro-pean Communities stated its posi-tion clearly: "Information, exchanges of knowledge, and communications

of knowledge, and communications are of vital importance in economic activity and in the balance of power in the world today."

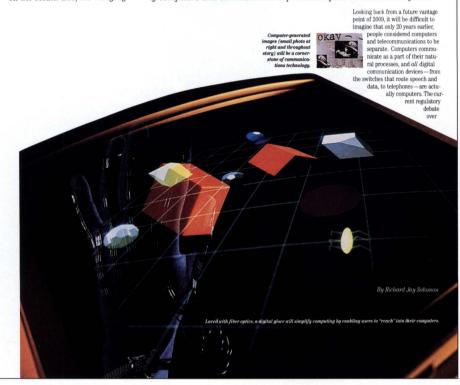
Businesses and consumers in Europe already are benefiting from this drive to improve the information infrastructure. In France, there are \$6,000 videotes services available through the public network and as of last May more than \$6,000 videotes, services as a simple control of the public network and as of last May more than \$6,000 videotes, services as a simple control of the public network and as of last May more than \$6,000 videotes, services are simple control of the public network and as of last May more than \$6,000 videotes, services are simple control of the public network and the public networ 3.6 million terminals in use to

work and as or insts Mag, more than 3.6 million terminals in use to access these services. In the United Kingdom, the entire trunk network will be digital by the end of 1989. Denmark is developing a national broadband network. Spain will have been some services digital aretwork capability within four years. The American executive, say weiss, is going to realize that Europe—and the Asian countries that also are developing advanced systems—have many advantages that we do not. The only way innovations occur in this country is by trial and error. The only way innovations occur in this country is by trial and error. experience, growth and development.

"In the 3T years I've been in this industry we've gone from the man-

"In the 37 years I've been in this industry, we've gone from the manual switching office, where all connections were done individually, to today, when an operator is needed only rarely. Given the right environments of the control o ment, that's exactly what will happen in videotex and audiotex as well peri in vineouex and auditous as wen as information services. In 20 years, these innovations will be vital, pro-viding a new level of information by which the world lives and works.

# Reaching into the future At the Media Lab, the merging of computers and communications provides a peek into the world of 2009.



customer's end, enabling interactive conversations to take place between computers.

One of the bugaboos government fears about removing communica-tions regulation is that the communications providers will discriminate against competitors Again, the power of the computer to ensure equitable access —as well as to discriminate—is not appreciated today. Hopefully, the ability of technology to offer choices will come in the continued develop ment of open network architecture that is being designed to encourage new networks in the next decade to utilize the incredible capacity of optical fiber in different ways

optical moer in different ways.
These new ways are being
explored today under the name
"asynchronous transport mode,"
which implies a way of switching
fragments of information at
extremely high speeds—between extremely high speeds—between 500 million bits per second to 12 billion bits per second on fiber—so the fragments could be reassemble in the correct order at their desti-nation. Such data fragments could represent anything from two-way voice or video to super-high-defini-tion television. This mode could permit a network design in which the fragments determine their own routing, so that both

equitable access and privacy are preserved. The network would know little more about users' content than where each fragment is to go, and

when the fragment must arrive Where information comes from would be erased at the source except for call setup and billing

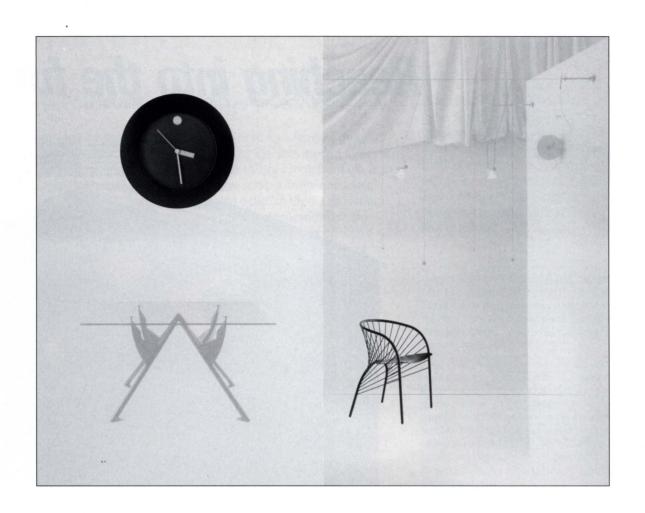
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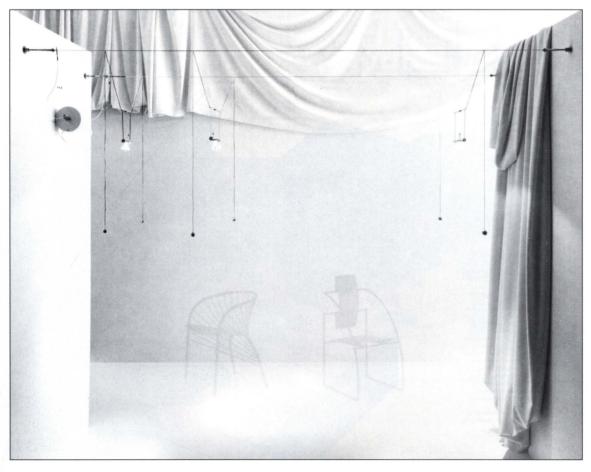
The task will be to extend the penetration of a fiber system so that

cities built in the next two decades will have fiber into the home. But getting fiber into rural areas and it becomes universal. By 2009, most business and educational locations should be connected. Virtually all the residential suburbs of major digging up older streets could mean massive public works projects



tries that looked more to the future









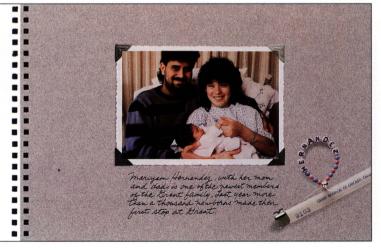


Left: Two spreads from City's catalog of contemporary furnishings. The catalog is printed on translucent synthetic stock. Robert Petrick, art director/ designer; Tom Vack/Corrine Pfister, photographers.

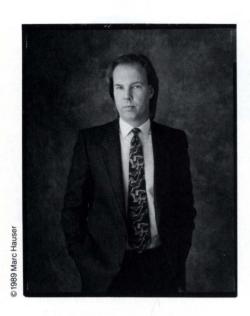
This page: Ad to promote the Shamask line of clothing sold at City. Robert Petrick, art director/designer; Bob Frame, photographer.

Logo for Ron Wu, photographer. Robert Petrick, art director/designer/ calligrapher.

Spread from Grant Hospital's 1987 annual report. "While most hospitals are using clean, antiseptic design, we felt that the warmth and friendliness of a family photo album best represented the atmosphere of this community hospital." Robert Petrick, art director; Robert Petrick/Greg Montezon, designers; Eric Hausman, photographer; Todd Lief, writer.



# STEVEN LISKA



Steven Liska is principal and founder of Liska and Associates, Inc. He graduated with a BFA from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. His college and art school course of study included classes in architecture, math, interior design, painting and design. After graduation, he worked as a free-lance production artist and a technical illustrator before starting Liska and Associates in 1979.

His clients include financial companies, consulting firms, medical associations and contract furniture companies. He has taught a senior design course at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and is currently on the board of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Why did you decide to work in Chicago? Steven Liska: I was born here, went to school here, got my first free-lance job here, which overlapped with my second free-lance job, which overlapped with my third. Then I got a copy machine, office space, an account at Flax and suddenly it's ten years later and I'm still here. No complaints. It's a great city with great resources and great clients. We have great suppliers, talent and a design community that, through STA and AIGA/Chicago, is working very hard to bring designers closer together. The other great thing about Chicago is the kind of design talent it attracts. I have one of the best groups of people working with me that I've ever had. I'm very proud to be working with these people.

Are all your clients from the Chicago area?

Liska: Although a lot of our clients are from Chicago, since most of our work comes from word-of-mouth, we're now doing work for many out-of-state companies. Federal Express and FAX machines have changed geographic limitations.

What changes have you seen in Chicago design in the last ten years?

Liska: When I started in this business ten years ago, I had a lot of heroes, was pretty naive, and thought everyone did great work. My tastes and perspective have changed quite a bit, and a few of my heroes have gone to pasture; but, in general, I think this is a creative, hard-working community.

How has the role of the designer changed and what changes do you foresee in the next ten years?

Liska: The changes in the technology available to us will be very exciting. More exciting will be the emergence of design as a profession. We will become a much more integral part of all business. And my new ten-year lease will be up.

Does Chicago have a regional style? Liska: It bothers me when a city or part of the country is viewed as having a regional style. We don't have Apple, Esprit, Donald Trump or Vogue headquartered here. We're in the land of Quaker Oats and Cheez Whiz. The Midwest. You mainly see work that relates to the industry that exists here. Happily, some people don't feel restricted by that.

What do you think of the design work being done in Chicago?

Liska: As everywhere, Chicago has a lot of bad work, some good work and a little bit of great work. There are over 500 design firms in this city, yet the most visible work comes from a handful. Yet there is a healthy competitive spirit here that keeps us all working hard. As with all design work, much of it is derivative of other work. There is a disturbing amount of design "styling" emerging here, but there is also a number of consistently smart designers who produce work I'm very envious of.

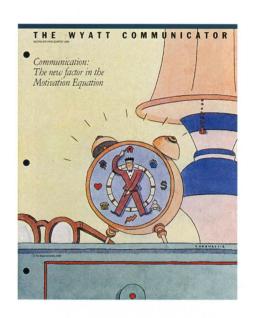
What do you think of the design work being done nationally?

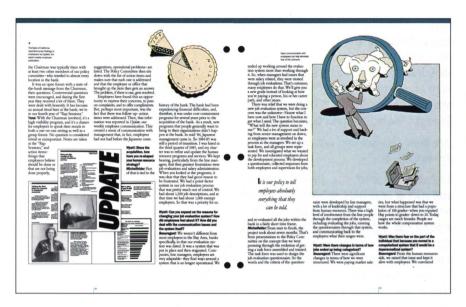
Liska: My exposure to national design is strictly through magazines, award

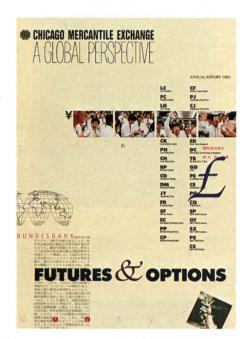
Quarterly newsletter for The Wyatt Company, a benefits consulting firm, directed to communication and human resource professionals. Steven Liska, art director: Anne Schedler, designer; Steven Guarnaccia, illustrator; Eric Hausman, photographer; Robert Ellis/Frank DiLeonardi, writers.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange 1985 annual report focused on their involvement in the global financial marketplace. Steven Liska, art director; various photographers; Chicago Mercantile Exchange, writer.

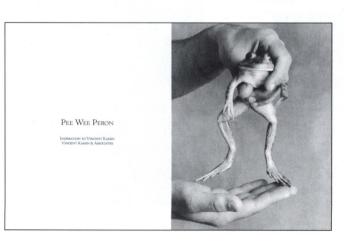
Direct mail piece to demonstrate Bradley Printing's tri-tone capabilities by showing where creative inspiration comes from. "Common sense told me it was from everyone's pets. It was a tough project. A gerbil passed away, an ant farm collapsed and the frog was a stand-in since the real frog was this weird, clear tiny thing that looked like gelatin with eyes. To continue the animal theme, we used Zanders Elephant Hide for a fly leaf and found handmade paper that looked like matted poodle fur and reproduced it on the cover. Then we printed the inside of the mailing envelope to look like a newspaper, something common to all pets." Steven Liska, art director/ designer; Charles Shotwell, photographer.

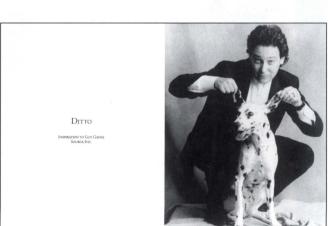












#### STEVEN LISKA

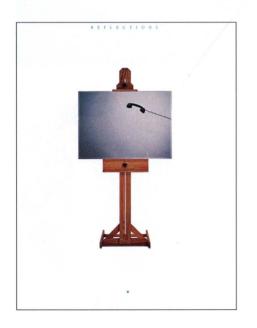
books and being a consumer. With design becoming such a large part of our everyday lives, you tend to overlook a lot. Many people are getting very good at producing high quality work. What stands out? The work with thought, creativity and personality.

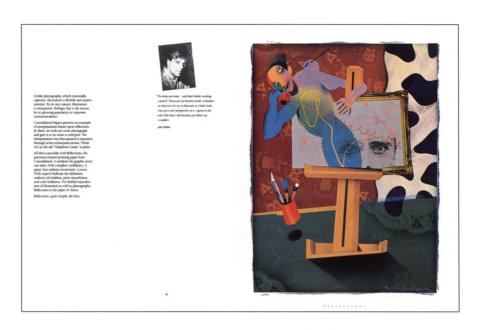
Are there any reasons why you'd turn down a client?

Liska: Aside from the obvious ethical and moral conflicts, we wouldn't work with clients for whom we couldn't do a good job. Either they want something we can't produce or they don't understand the value of what we do. We want our design to work for the client, not awards.

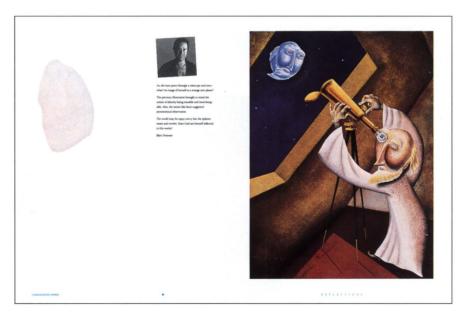
Has the advent of computers changed the way you do business and the way you design?

Liska: We have all felt the frustration of seeing clients become desktop designers. For now, the computer is a faster pencil, a quicker way from A to B. As technology adapts to the needs of the design profession, as opposed to designers adapting to existing technology, computers will become a great tool. I hope they will come up with software that includes creativity, aesthetics, marketing sense and a sense of humor to help on those multiaspirin days.



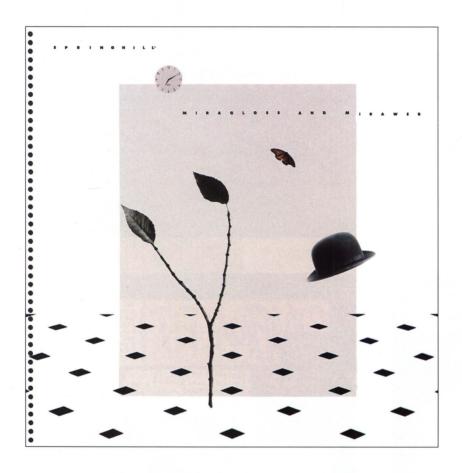












Left: Promotional brochure for Reflections, Consolidated's premium grade of paper. "Our concept was to have eight illustrators 'reflect' on the previous illustrator's work and incorporate that into their own illustration. It began with the cover photo. This was sent to the first artist. His artwork was sent to the second artist, and so on." Steven Liska, art director; Robert Cosgrove, designer; Charles Shotwell, photographer; John Kleber/Lane Smith/ Blair Drawson, illustrators; Wardrop Murtaugh Temple, agency.

This page: Identity for Martin Rogers, Inc., a textile designer and manufacturer of elegant geometric designs. Steven Liska, designer.

Symbol proposed for a photographer who uses energy and special effects in his work. Steven Liska, designer; Kazu Photography, client.

Paper promotion for International Paper's two groundwood-free web papers, Miragloss and Miraweb. "Our assignment was: create a promotion geared toward magazine and catalog specifiers, show three different basis weights, four different web printing techniques on two grades of paper, lots of production notes and make it interesting. What made it interesting was the work of photographers Laurie Rubin and Geof Kern." Steven Liska, art director; Susan Bennett, designer; Jeanette LoCurto, writer.



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Promotion to demonstrate Bradley Printing's fluorescent ink capability. "Producing this project became just like the project itself. We hit every phase, every neurotic step. Finally we had enough 'happy accidents' to get finished. It's a good piece to reread every so often. It's comforting to know you're not alone out there." Steven Liska, art director; Steven Liska/Debbie Greiff, designers; Lynda Barry, illustrator.

Right: "The Merc at Work is a guide to what the Chicago Mercantile Exchange is and does. It's distributed to schools and in the Mercantile's visitor gallery. The lighthearted copy, along with great illustrations, do an exemplary job explaining the complexities of futures and options trading." Steven Liska, art director; Kathy Horton, designer; Richard Goldberg, illustrator; Chicago Mercantile Exchange, writer.

"This is the fifth year we have collaborated on this calendar for Burch Printing and Tim Bieber Photography. It's a hard project to screw up. Great printing, great photography. The main thing is to not overdesign." Steven Liska, art director; Steven Liska/Lisa Ouchi-Yamamoto, designers.

