Alexandr Brodsky
*Palazzo Nudo*

Richard Gluckman and
Robert Wilson
*Light Wall*

Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a private nonprofit established in 1984 to transform a decaying portion of the city’s downtown. The organization, which owns over five and a half acres of land in the Cultural District, facilitates cultural and economic environments for the performing and visual arts. In addition to the Agnes R. Katz Plaza (a collaborative project involving Louise Bourgeois, Daniel Urban Kiley, and Michael Graves), the Trust recently commissioned two other projects: Alexandr Brodsky’s *Palazzo Nudo*, across the street from...
the Katz Plaza, and Light Wall, by the design team of Richard Gluckman and Robert Wilson.

In 1992, The Cultural Trust purchased property on the corner of Seventh Street and Penn Avenue to use as a park and exhibition site for temporary, site-specific art projects installed every two to three years. Moscow-born Alexandre Brodsky is the third artist to create a work on the site. The house-like structure of Palazzo Nudo consists of scaffolding tubing and steel wire mesh, painted black/brown. Inside this armature, Brodsky built a 20-foot-high mound of terra-cotta debris, salvaged from demolished historic buildings and kept in storage by The Cultural Trust. He states, "My thought was to have a new structure rising from the old remnants of the Cultural District. The pyramid shape of the mound reflects the ancient role of Egyptian and other pyramids as homes or reliquaries of the past, but also as portals to the future or a new life." Trust president Carol R. Brown says, "Brodsky's sculptures reflect the Cultural District's role as an incubator for redevelopment, as so much of the Cultural District's architecture emanates from a rich historical past."

While lighting plays only a small role in the concept of Palazzo Nudo, it is at the heart of Richard Gluckman and Robert Wilson's Comprehensive Cultural District Lighting Project, which aims to develop a unified aesthetic scheme for the area. Their first installation, Light Wall, is a 140-by-140-foot area of projected light on the side of 713 Penn Avenue. A sequence of single horizontal bars of light moves across the wall's surface, passing through a field of colored light. Each colored bar cascades slowly down the wall, describing the passage of time through a sequence of positions and colors that correspond to days and seasons. Artist-designer Wilson and architect Gluckman will soon complete a second project, Light Panel, for the roof of Penn Avenue Place, a historic building at the edge of the District. The light panel uses computer-controlled L.E.D. technology to produce a huge, moving triangle of cold white light, which floats in a field of cold blue-gray. Their series of installations attempts to demonstrate the ability of light to create three-dimensional space. The design team envisions a number of light projects installed throughout the Cultural District, transforming it into a "city of light."

—Lori Wallace

Information on recently completed commissions, along with quality 35mm slides or transparencies and an SASE for return of slides, should be sent to: Commissions, Sculpture, 1329 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.