

## FOCUS: CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY

### RALPH HORGAN

# Balancing traditional look with modern at CMU

*As the associate vice president of campus design and facility development at Carnegie Mellon University, Ralph Horgan is responsible for overseeing the master plan of the Pittsburgh campus' academic, research and auxiliary facilities, as well as developments at branch campuses in California and Qatar. The former executive director of the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, Horgan has a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and has worked under former mayors Sophie Masloff and Tom Murphy.*



Horgan

so we want to be sure contemporary buildings are of their time, just like the original buildings are of their time. The materials we use are modern and contemporary, but hearken back to the traditional look of the campus. We try to balance how far we go in terms of maintaining the original look of the campus while being mindful of the civic infrastructure that is already in place, like the museum and Carnegie Library [of Pittsburgh]. It's an ongoing balance, and it's all part of what makes Oakland such a cool place to be.

#### What new projects are in the works?

The biggest one will be the TCS building, named for Tata Consultancy Services, an international IT management

consultant company out of India. This is a 50,000-square-foot building on the site of the old gas station along Forbes Avenue. We're starting demolition this month and hope to be open by 2018. This is a pretty significant investment in our region.

Another project is on Fifth Avenue, across the street from Central Catholic [High School]. We're rehabbing that building, which will eventually house our marketing and communications group. The Tepper Quad project is adding several acres of green space along Forbes Avenue and a 300,000-square-foot building. Two-thirds of that building will house the Tepper School of Business, and the other third will be a mixed-use building that includes dining services, a fitness center and the technology-enhanced learning center.

#### What is the biggest change you've witnessed in the East End over the past few years?

Probably, the overall economic growth in Oakland and all of the East End, spurred by the growth of Bakery Square and East Liberty. The growth of the East End corridor has been tremendous, all the way from the Strip District into Lawrenceville and into the development of multifamily housing along Baum Boulevard. Now the

next thing the area needs is to develop the Almono site [in Hazelwood], which will be like Washington's Landing and SouthSide Works.

#### What is the most challenging aspect of integrating new facilities into the East End?

Without a doubt, maintaining the high quality of design while being smart about the integration of complete streets. This means keeping drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists safe and making sure all of the modes work together when we design. Parking is also always a challenge, although this might be diminishing over time because more people are walking, biking and using public transportation.

#### Do you still plan to develop buildings across Forbes and expand the university?

Well, we have enough on our plate right now. In addition to the TCS Building and Tepper Quad, we opened ... Scott Hall in April and an addition to [the Jared L.] Cohon University Center in May. There is a lot of good stuff happening. It's an exciting time for us in terms of design, green space and technology.

Jennifer Brozak

#### How do you work to match the design of new buildings with the overall look of the campus?

When we cross Forbes Avenue, we move into a different zone and scale,