

With the dawning Digital Age in the 1980s, Irwin & Leighton became very active with corporate and technological facilities, and completed projects for Digital Equipment, Union Carbide, Dow Jones, Mobil Research & Development and CBS among others. Irwin & Leighton also undertook numerous technical-oriented projects for AT&T, including its new Chip Manufacturing Facility in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It also built three major distribution centers for United Parcel Service, and another for CVS/Mark Steven Service Merchandisers, Inc., which incorporated state-of-the-art conveying and routing systems technology.



In the mid 1980s, Irwin & Leighton completed its third successful management transition; Walt Babich retired and Jim Brecker became President.



# 1980-1989

# Retooling for the Future



**1987** SKILLMAN LIBRARY ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, Pennsylvania • Architect: Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott

## *The Dawn of Digital Technology*



**1980** ▼ **REGIONAL OFFICE FACILITY, DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION**

Lanham, Maryland • Architect: Donald N. Coupard and Associates



**AT&T'S CHIP MANUFACTURING FACILITY**

AT&T's Microelectronics subsidiary was one of the pioneers of the Lehigh Valley's tech movement. Today, the "Little Silicon" is the base of various high-tech operations, the employees of which boast access to some of the most livable amenities at the fairest cost of living. When Irwin & Leighton built the AT&T Chip Manufacturing Facility in 1985, the technology being developed at that location was the most advanced of its time and used the most complex new information systems in communication. Construction included many clean rooms, clean tunnels and extensive stainless steel piping, all put in place under very stringent standards.

**1985** ▼ **CHIP MANUFACTURING FACILITY, AT&T**

Allentown, Pennsylvania • Architect: Owner

The 1980s marked the beginning of the Digital Age. The shift in the focus of the United States' economy from traditional industry to the advanced management of information began around 1980, and forever changed the business environment of the country.

Literally, a shift in technology to digital format would change almost every industry, and usher in the modern Information Age – in which cell phones, personal computers and iPods would become fixtures of everyday life.



**1988** ▼ **COMPACT DISC MANUFACTURING FACILITY, CBS, INC.**

*Pitman, New Jersey • Architect: Manders/Merighi Associates*

In 1988, Irwin & Leighton had the opportunity to return to CBS/Columbia's Pitman, New Jersey facility and completely renovate this former vinyl pressing plant and cassette manufacturing operation into a Compact Disc Manufacturing Facility. The new facility came as the result of great change in the music world, as recordings went digital. SONY acquired Columbia Records from CBS during the construction process. Luckily for both the plant employees and Irwin & Leighton, the new owner elected to continue with the project.

## *Landmark Shopping Destinations*

In 1980, Irwin & Leighton was selected to build Bloomingdale's first Philadelphia area store in the King of Prussia Mall. The prominent building incorporated very advanced design and technology in its construction. Later, Macy's awarded the company two major stores in Maryland; these were built simultaneously, and under a very aggressive schedule. Sears, Irwin & Leighton's customer since 1917, awarded five projects to the company during the 1980s.



**1987** ▼ **MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE AT OWINGS MILLS TOWN CENTER MALL, R.R. MACY & CO., INC.**

*Baltimore County, Maryland • Architect: Slomanson Smith & Barresi*



The Macy's featured to the right under construction



**1987** ▼ **MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE AT MARLEY STATION MALL, R.R. MACY & CO., INC.**

*Anne Arundel County, Maryland • Architect: Slomanson Smith & Barresi*



1981 ▼ **BLOOMINGDALE'S AT KING OF PRUSSIA MALL, FEDERATED DEPARTMENT STORES**

*King of Prussia, Pennsylvania • Architect: Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum*

## Corporate Expansion



**1987 REGIONAL OFFICE AT FIDELITY COURT, MAIN LINE HEALTH INC.**

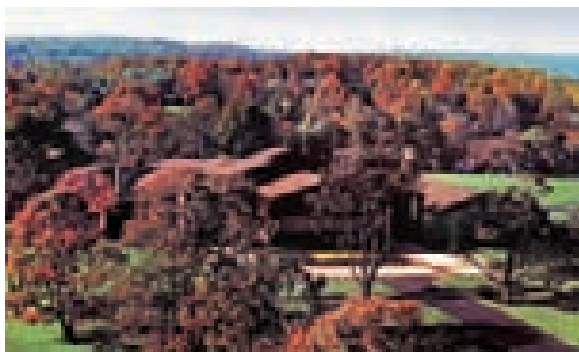
Radnor, Pennsylvania • Architect: Cathers & Associates, Inc.



**1982 NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, FIDELITY MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

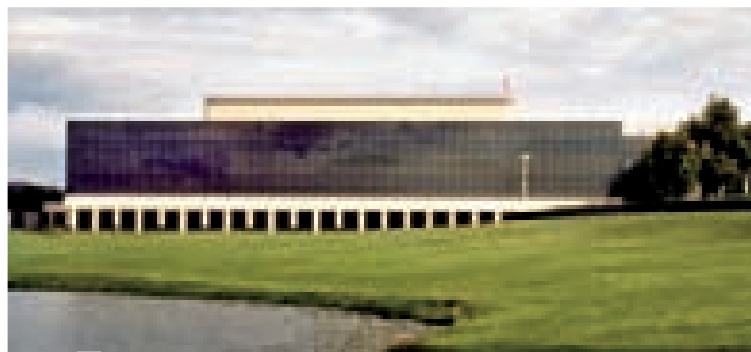
Radnor, Pennsylvania • Architect: Curtis Cox Kennerly

Irwin & Leighton built a number of new prominent facilities for corporate clients in the 1980s, including the Radnor headquarters of Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance. In 1982, Irwin & Leighton converted the former TV Guide headquarters in Radnor to house the insurance company, which was moving from downtown Philadelphia. The customer was so satisfied that Irwin & Leighton was chosen for the construction of Fidelity Court, another large office building, built on adjacent land in Radnor and completed in 1986.



**1980** **EAGLE LODGE MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY,  
INA PROPERTIES, INC.**

*Whitemarsh Township, Pennsylvania*  
*Architect: Edward Durell Stone Associates*



**1980** **CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS ADDITION,  
DOW JONES & COMPANY**

*Princeton, New Jersey • Architect: The Hillier Group*



**1982** **NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, FIDELITY MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

*Radnor, Pennsylvania • Architect: Curtis Cox Kennerly*



## *Technological Innovation*



**1983** **MANUFACTURING ADDITION, LANGSTON, A DIVISION OF MOLINS MACHINE COMPANY**  
*Cherry Hill, New Jersey • Architect: Hill Associates*



**1986** **COGENERATION FACILITY, SCOTT PAPER COMPANY**  
*Chester, Pennsylvania • Architect: Owner c/o Bechtel Power Corporation*



**1984** **WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, FORD MOTOR COMPANY**  
*Edison, New Jersey*  
*Architect: Samborn, Steketee, Otis & Evans, Inc.*

Irwin & Leighton became very active with General Electric's Aero and Astro Space Divisions during the 1980s, supporting projects that were needed to fulfill government contracts involving space exploration and the lunar landings. Interestingly, the work Irwin & Leighton did for General Electric was related to earlier work done for RCA Aerospace. The Valley Forge-based Space Division had been purchased, along with RCA, by General Electric; it would later become a part of Lockheed Martin.

In 1989, Irwin & Leighton began its relationship with Brown Printing Company by building a major plant addition in East Greenville, Pennsylvania. Over the next 20 years, Irwin & Leighton returned to the plant for numerous expansion projects. Brown remains an important customer.



**1989** PRINTING PLANT EXPANSION,  
BROWN PRINTING COMPANY

East Greenville, Pennsylvania • Architect: Muhlenberg/Greene Architects



**MCGRAW-HILL'S CORPORATE  
DATA CENTER**

In 1987 Irwin & Leighton returned to McGraw-Hill's New Jersey campus to build a corporate data center replete with the most modern mechanical and electrical systems.



**1987** CORPORATE DATA CENTER, MCGRAW-HILL, INC

Hightstown, New Jersey • Architect: Ballinger

## *State-of-the-Art Education*



**1983** ▽ **W.W. HAGERTY LIBRARY, DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: The Kling-Linquist Partnership



**1988** ▽ **HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT SCHOOL, WIDENER UNIVERSITY**

Chester, Pennsylvania • Architect: The Kling-Linquist Partnership



**1986** ▾ **QUADRANGLE DORMITORY RENOVATIONS,  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: Davis, Brody & Associates*

During the 1980s, Irwin & Leighton built projects for long-time educational customers such as Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Lafayette College. The college students of the 1980s were fiercely practical and career driven. Irwin & Leighton helped colleges and universities live up to the expectations of this new breed of student.



**1983** ▾ **MORRIS R. WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

*Easton, Pennsylvania • Architect: Perkins & Will*



**1988** SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, RIDER COLLEGE

Lawrenceville, New Jersey • Architect: The Hillier Group



**1983** ▾ **MORRIS R. WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**  
*Easton, Pennsylvania • Architect: Perkins & Will*