## COLOTAGO ARCHITECT



AIA COLORADO AIA COLORADO NORTH AIA COLORADO SOUTH AIA COLORADO WEST AIA DENVER

MAY 1997

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Design Update

#### Compassion— SEEDS FOR THE 1997 AIA Colorado Design Conference

"Compassion is everywhere. Compassion is the world's richest energy source. Now that the world is a global village, we need compassion more than ever-not for altruism's sake, not for philosophy's sake or theology's sake, but for survival's sake." - Matthew Fox

ave you noticed how cynical we've become? "Architecture isn't rewarding anymore... it's impossible to do anything worthwhile with no-growthers, NIMBY'S and Bottom Line Clients...City Council, the planning board...computer crashes...it just isn't fun anymore." Not that we're alone on this. We live in an ever-more negative, angry, and cynical world.

When asked to chair this year's state design conference, my first reaction was of course, negative. "You've got to be kidding. I don't have the time... with a busy practice, a three-year old, a daughter in college..." Then the theme hit me. Every time I talk with an architect, there is lamenting. Instead of buying in, maybe it's time to do something.

So here I am, introducing a theme that's pertinent to our sanity, if not our very survival: Compassion.

Compassion might be viewed as our way out of our doldrums, by going inside. Not compassion in a sentimental sense, rather an empowered one.

I see this theme, this conference having three basic tendrils growing from compassion. We must first find compassion for ourselves. This might take the form of the reawakening to our own passion, our own power. I mean this in a personal sense, as well as professional.

"We have to realize that a creative being lives within ourselves, whether we like it or not, and that we must get out of its way. For it will give us no peace until we do."-Mary Richards

As architects, can we be meaningful players? Are we clear about who we are? What can we contribute? How can our creativity be brought forth in a world that sorely needs it, yet often doesn't recognize or honor it? And what is AIA's role in all of this?

Second, if we are going to have meaning in our lives—in our practice—then how can we bring more compassion to our work? Can we contribute to solving real human needs? Is socially

—David Barrett, AIA. Conference Chair responsible architecture dead? Can we bring our creativity to the social health of communities? And can responsible design be beautifully expressed?

Third, might compassion for the planet be the call for architects as we enter a new millenium? Can we use our unique abilities, expand our knowledge base and be designers of an intelligent, sustainable path? Can we take the lead while realizing the complexity of

nature and the problems we face are beyond any individual or profession?

We have begun to ask the questions that form a conceptual sketch of a conference. A committee of individuals, who



David Barrett, AIA

want to take the momentum that was set in motion at last year's thought-provoking conference in Aspen, has begun to carry this energy forward.

We want to gather at Stapleton, a contemporary ruin in search of new life. We are attracted to the spectacular spaces found in the old hangers. Hanger 6, for instance, contains 2.5 acres of clear span open space under bold timber trusses, and is where we hope to create a modern agora-a marketplace for ideas, exchange and products. A place for vision. A place to reinvent ourselves, our profession, our practices and our city!

Prepare to be surprised. Prepare to provoke. Prepare to grow... and prepare to have a good time!

To participate in creating the exciting event, please contact David Barrett, AIA at 303.449-1141; fax 303.449-9320 or Joe Jackson, Associate AIA 303.446.2266; fax 303.446-0066.

#### Do You Love Your Career?

#### Share your expertise with an adolescent!

ast year, over 1,200 Denver Metro Area High School students chose architecture as the career path they are interested in pursuing "when they grow up," according to a survey conducted by the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America.

Exploring is a coed program for youth ages 14-21. The program matches the career interests of youth with adult expertise and program resources of the sponsoring organization.

Architecture ranked in the top ten most desired careers by the 32,000 adolescents surveyed. Although being an architect is a popular dream at the

high school age, many of the students have little knowledge about the scope of the profession. That is where volunteer resources enter the picture.

Practicing and retired architects are needed to help introduce these motivated and enthusiastic students to the whole career field and related disciplines. Volunteer opportunities include speaking to classrooms of students, hosting tours of your firm during and/or after school hours, and providing hands-on experience in planning, design, and construction.

To prepare young people for a better tomorrow for themselves, our community, and nation, help guide a high school student to your career path! Please contact Michelle Allen 480-0805 ext. 142, to find out how you or your firm can make a difference.

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The Colorado Architect is the monthly publication of AIA Colorado, AIA Colorado South, AIA Denver, AIA Colorado North and AIA Colorado West, and is provided as a service to members. Submit your article by mail, fax or e-mail (aiadenco@aol.com). Deadline for all newsletter material is the 1st day of each month previous to publication. Submissions are edited and published as space allows. Letters to the editor, suggestions, comments and encouragement are welcome. Expressed opinions and statements in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the opinions of the AIA Colorado Board of Directors or its membership.

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## COLORADO ARCHITECT EDITORIAL CALENDAR JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997

Architects' Summer June Vacations July Historic Preservation Career Path Diversity August September The Business of Architecture Women in Architecture October November Client Responses December Living Treasures

Letters, articles and comments are always welcome. The deadline is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication (June 1 for July newsletter). Submit your information by mail, fax or e-mail: AIA Colorado, 1526 15th Street, Denver, CO 80202, 303/446-0066 (fax), aiadenco@aol.com (e-mail).

#### President's Message

Dear Children of the City,

Your work this week is magnificent! What you have accomplished is important. It will add to the debate our community has begun about how to make our city more livable. What you have done works. The way you solved the problem is what we adults strive for. Imagine a cardboard box sealed shut. Inside that box represents all the old ideas, low expectations and tired solutions to life's challenges-ways that don't always work. The box is a limit. Inside the box is the way that most of us adults think. Outside the box are all the creative solutions, good ideas and new ways to think about the world. Outside the box there is no limit. Outside the box is the way most children think. You can see the problems clearly. You are not worried about making silly suggestions, and you come up with the most unexpected designs for living. We adults are constantly trying to think and act like you. As you grow up, never be in a hurry to make your thinking grow up, what you have is a gift.

You are important to the future of the city because your ideas will have a lasting effect long after you grow up. For that effect to be good, it is just as important to learn how to design the world around you as it is to learn to read and write. In a few short years you will be out of school, making the decisions and building the city in ways you can vividly imagine now. Some of you will become architects, others will become city planners; some will become developers, and others will become elected officials. Some will open businesses and others will work in offices. No matter what you become, all of you will live in the city, all of you will vote in elections about who will lead your community, and all of you will play a role in deciding what our community looks like.

The great Winston Churchill once said: "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us." From now on, whenever you hear about a new building or park project or anything else you have ideas about, remember that you have a say, a point of view, a unique way to see the world. You have the skills to envision a better solution in a way that adults can't see. Remember to speak up and let your voice be heard. Tell them about the box they live in and how it looks out here.

With great hope for our future, The Adults in Your Community.

wrote that letter to the participants of the Kids in the City program produced by the University of Colorado, College of Architecture and Planning. The three day charette involved hundreds of students, faculty and members of the architectural community in the first of a series of efforts planned by the College to enhance the lives of children. It focused on planning and design ideas for enhancing neighborhood areas where children play. I would like to extend our appreciation to CU Dean Patricia O'Leary, AIA, for her vision and leadership in addressing the needs of the community to work with our youth to teach them how to make our world a better place and what their role is in it.

The younger the child you help, the

farther into the future you reach. The theme for this month's newsletter is Community Service. I can see no greater or honorable pursuit than working with children to provide positive role models of citizenship and self-lessness. This is the answer to most of our contemporary problems. It is a proven and quantified fact that the lifecycle costs to society of giving all children



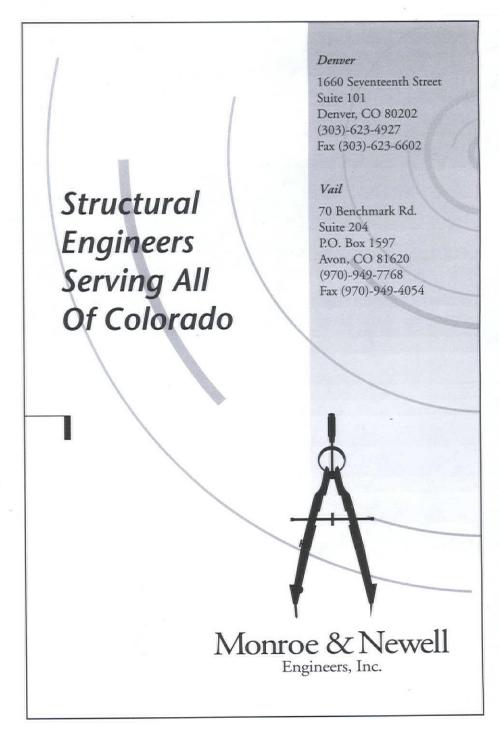
President Steven Walsh, AIA

healthy, safe and active start costs pennies compared to neglected and ignored children. The important point is that children have the right to this type of start in life and it is our responsibility to provide it. Secondary to that agenda is that a citizenry that is aware and informed about the issues of the built environment brings up the demand for better design.

Architects have been providing community service in so many arenas that this whole newsletter is not large

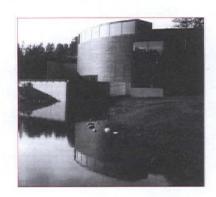
enough to list everything you do. You do this work quietly, consistently and without much fanfare. You see your community service as an integral part of your work. If architects were "unplugged" from the community, their contribution would be sorely missed. I was amused the other day when I read that a local chapter of our friends in another profession provided...over 400 collective hours of community service last year..." In the newspaper that may sound significant to many readers, but when you think that many, many individual architects routinely provide hundreds of hours of activities each year, you start to understand the magnitude of our contribution.

Keep your eye on the calendar for upcoming events. In planning right now are dozens of programs I know you'll enjoy. Look at each chapter's activities and think about traveling to other parts of the state to participate. You will gain insight into what other communities are doing, make new friends and expand your world of ideas. I promise that you will always be delighted by the unexpected. The Kids in the City program delivered an important benefit by setting an example and providing a venue for architecture students, interns and practitioners alike to reawaken the spirit of being an architect!



## ARCHITECTURAL STUDY PROGRAM: AALTO & FINLAND JUNE 9 - JUNE 19, 1997

inland is recognized internationally for the quality of its design, particularly modern and contemporary architecture. Design excellence in general is highly appreciated and widely supported to an extent practically unknown elsewhere.



This program's lectures, tours, and excursion will provide a broad introduction to this culture-from saunas to urbanism, from medieval stone fortresses to the unique tradition of wooden churches, from national romanticism to modernism and the contemporary scene. The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of 12, allowing for an exclusive learning experience not possible with large commercial tours. This "seminar format" ensures quality one-on-one contact with the Program's internationally recognized architects and scholars. It also facilitates access to usually inaccessible sites.

The first part of the Program will be spent in and around Helsinki. Lectures by noted architects, historians, and critics occur in the mornings with tours of related sites in the afternoons.

Architects will provide personal tours of their own works and offices. The second part of the Program involves a four-day excursion around southern Finland. Both parts will emphasize work of Alvar Aalto. Given that his 100th birthday is in 1998, it is a most opportune time to explore the work of one of the most important architects of this century. To understand Aalto's work in relation to Modernism, it should first be studied within its own cultural context. Besides famous works in and around Helsinki such as Finlandia Hall, the Academic Bookstore, House of Culture, Enso-Gutzeit Building, Otaniemi Campus, and Aalto Atelier, we also will visit works outside of Helsinki including the Vuoksenniska Church, Sunila Factory, Villa Mairea, Paimio Sanatorium, Alvar Aalto Museum, Säynätsalo Town Hall, Experimental House, and so on. This is



an exclusive opportunity to study and experience first hand the work of such an internationally influential and respected modernist architect.

The Program Director is Taisto H. Mākelā,Assoc. AIA, who teaches architectural history, theory, and design at

the College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado at Denver. He has an established record of scholarship and expertise in Finnish



architecture. Besides extensive lecturing and teaching on Aalto, he presently is writing a book on Aalto's villas (his Ph.D. dissertation explored the evolution of Finnish cultural identity and its relation to architecture around 1990). He also has led a very successful architectural study program in Finland for students over the last three summers.

Midsummer—the most important holiday in the Finnish calendar—occurs at the end of the program. It marks the longest day of the year—the sun never dips far below the horizon creating a magical atmosphere where it never gets darker than dusk (land of the midnight sun). The weather at this time of year is wonderful, averaging about 70°F

during the day with comfortable evenings—ideal for this tour. At the Program's end, you can visit a variety of interesting cities nearby including Tallinn, Stockholm, and St. Petersburg. Russia, in particular, has much to offer as a cultural change of pace.

The Program is an exciting and unique opportunity for architects, scholars, students, and others to refresh, energize, and expand their architectural and cultural horizons. This is an AIA Colorado-sponsored program satisfying up to two years' of Continuing Education System requirements. Nonmembers also are welcome to participate. The Program may qualify as a tax-deductible item for architects and design professionals.

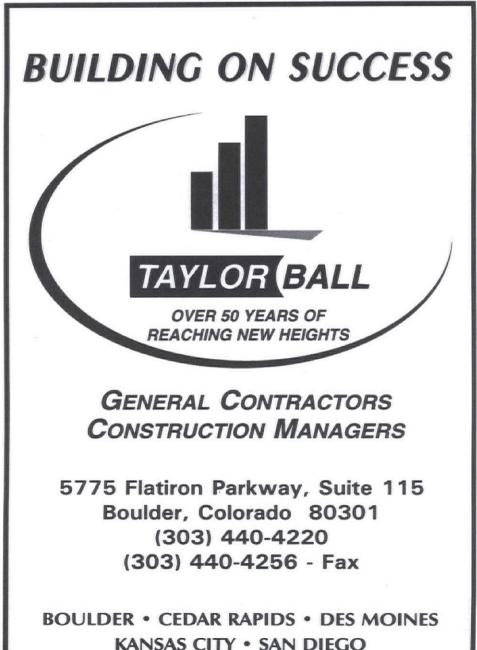
Registration deadline is May 15. For more information, day-by-day itinerary, and registration forms, please contact Taisto H. Mäkelä, Assoc. AIA at 303.321.1056. E-mail: tmakela@carbon.cudenver.edu.

#### LETTERS POLICY

The Colorado Architect welcomes all letters. Letters must be signed with name, street address and daytime phone number. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the AIA Colorado Board of Directors or its membership.







#### CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

#### Producer Council's Stick Program

The 1997 Stick Program sponsored by the Producer's Council is available for architectural firms to sign up for a free lunch while learning about technical product information and design assistance. Call Charlie Davis to get an application at 303.733.2476.

#### Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series:

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7:30-8:30 AM A five-part series, sponsored by the AIA Denver Design Build Committee. Developing knowledge/technology driven strategies through single-source delivery and multifaceted service. Free. 2 Learning Units per session. Register in advance for all or some of the seminars. Call AIA office-303.446.2266. Other dates are June 19, July 17, August 21.

#### Health Facility Guidelines Workshop

Various locations throughout U.S. Earn a total of 21 learning units, 7 of which count toward your health, safety, and welfare requirements. Contact AIA PIA at 1.800.242.3837 for registration information.

#### Design Technology for the Built Environment

Research Methods for Building Profession, DEST 4310

April 28-May 27, 1997 Tuesdays, 6-10 PM Offered at the University College, University of Denver. Learn methods of research and specification of materials and techniques used by the building profession. Call 303.871.3354 for registration materials.

#### Design Technology for the Built Environment

Building Materials-Sustainable Choices, **DEST 4480** April 29-May 28 Wednesdays, 6-10 PM Offered at the University College, University of Denver. Learn to research and evaluate exterior and interior materials based on criteria such as recycled content, renewability, etc. The course will use case studies to illustrate integration of more sustainable building materials into a wide range of project

#### Taking Control of Your Risks and Your **Profits**

May 29, Denver Endorsed by AIA Denver and co-sponsored by Van Gilder Insurance Corporation, this highly interactive workshop addresses six risk management issues that affect claims against architects. Register early and get big discounts. Earn 21 learning units including 7 "HSW" hours. Call 800.227.8533 x337 to register or pick up a brochure at the AIA offices in Denver.

#### REPORT FROM AIA COMMITTEE ON DESIGN, PHOENIX: DEFINING CIVITAS

March 20-23, 1997

Attended by Skip Doty, AIA

s I drove through the mile after mile of shopping centers, stores, housing complexes and streets that one encounters on the northern approach to Phoenix, along Interstate 17, I will admit that I was having second and even third thoughts about attending the National AIA Committee on Design Conference about Phoenix. Then, at the end of this grim journey, came the most wonderful fragrant smells of the orange trees in bloom. This fragrance became the metaphor of the conference that fol-

The Committee on Design is the largest of the Professional Interest Areas (PIA) of the AIA. The Committee holds three conferences a year in different locales, and with different themes, where urban design and architectural issues are studied in depth. The theme for the Phoenix conference was the study of Phoenix as a modern day Western boomtown, and its shift to a metropolis as the first generation of civic architecture is being completed.

This theme was explored in a series of meetings and discussions that took place at the new Architecture and Environmental Design Building on the Arizona State University campus, at the Phoenix History Museum and at the new Central Library in downtown Phoenix. The conference focused on the efforts of the University and the City of Phoenix, who are responsible for the bulk of the major building projects which are transforming the City.

Arizona State University has embarked on an ambitious building program over the past ten years. The Dean of the College of Architecture, John Meunier, has been instrumental in establishing a review board with broad goals and themes that new projects for the campus have to go through and gain approval from. The most striking building on the campus is the Nelson Fine Arts Center which was designed by Antoine Predock. This building resembles a southwestern adobe village in an overall form, but still pays homage to the nearby curved Gammage Auditorium by Frank Lloyd Wright. It encloses a courtyard with a curved brick colonnade that transforms itself into a water viaduct and fountain. To enter the Art Museum one walks down a long concrete stair to a dark underground plaza with a fountain. This is akin to entering a sacred

continued on page 15

#### AIA COTE REPORT

uestion: If a bottle contains one bacteria at 7 a.m. and is completely full by midnight, at what time is the bottle 50 percent full? Here's a hint: bacteria replicates by doubling. The answer? 11:59 p.m.

Imagine that at 11:58 p.m.—when the bottle was still 75 percent emptysome forward-looking paramecium said "We're running out of space." So they set out to Alaska to find more bottles and they discovered three empty ones, 300 percent more than had been thought to exist! At 11:59 p.m. they rushed back and colonized the three bottles. At what time were all four bottles filled? 12:02 a.m.

This was the eye-opening theme of Professor Emeritus Al Barlett's lecture on March 6th. Hosted by AIA Colorado Committee on the

-Scott Rodwin, Assoc. AIA

Environment, 45 people attended his dissertation on the effects of compound growth. In short, to calculate the time it takes to double anything in size, divide 70 by the percent growth. That means at seven percent growth, doubling time is only ten years.

Professor Barlett used this simple arithmetic to demonstrate how little time we have left at our current rate of growth and consumption-oil, coal, gas, and land. How much open space do you think Denver has left? Fifty percent? At what time was the bottle half full?

This outstanding lecture was generously supported by a gift from Gensler and was initiated by Bill Tracy, AIA. A video tape is available from the C. U. Media Center.

Producers' Council is dedicated to assisting architects in the AIA with the gathering of information about products and processes for the built environment.



Producers' Council members in association with the AIA is seeking to:

- Raise the standards of providing useful data and information.
- Advance knowledge of the most effective use of processes and materials.
- · Advance the wide and rapid dissemination of knowledge resulting from research and field experience.
- Assist in the education of practitioners and students of architecture, engineering, design and related arts.
- Encourage and assist in the formation of the collaboration between members of local chapters of the AIA and the Producers' Council.

Producers' Council P.O. Box 370465 Denver, CO 80237

Colorado Chapter President, Charlie Davis 303/733/2476

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#### AIA Colorado South

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



# Lines & Columns

May 1997

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#### CARING AND GIVING

s a partner in a successful four-person firm in Colorado Springs, the particular niche that we have is to a great degree built from giving. My guess is that when other firms look to their beginnings, they too find their roots in letting clients know they hold a very high standard of care for their community—by virtue of being responsible members of their circle of influence, be it in coaching t-ball, collecting the plate at church or sitting on the board of a community mental health center.

My experience is that an affable caring truly reaps rewards that are tenfold of the care you give. Although the time necessary for me to commit to community work is significant, the investment made is returned in ways that have and will continue to surprise and delight me. What is still my favorite commission at the Starsmore Discovery Center was born partly from then City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department Nancy Lewis' knowing that I had been an ardent supporter of parks and open space as a trustee of the William J. Palmer Parks Foundation. Significant work that we now enjoy from the City of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities is built from a trust and commitment to being a resident, tax payer, rate payer and voter that cares about the future of Colorado Springs.

My favorite activity right now is a two-hour, weekly Mentorship that I have

going with two eighth graders from Academy School District 20. It did my heart good to hear from one Mom after a contour drawing session at the Fine Arts Center that her child was so pumped she had to send him outside to kick a soccer ball around. I had sat between them on a picnic bench and shown them how to sketch, how to look at what they were drawing and trust what their hand was doing, how to make broad sweeping lines instead of the short hesitating motion that is born from being too careful. My Godan eighth grader being too careful! Seems a bit oxymoronic—to know that I had brought him an energy for drawing and for architecture is a very rewarding experience.

Community activities have their costs. I am heavily involved in the partial preservation of some wonderful land my biology teacher used to hold classes in above the Cheyenne Mountain High School. Although we are successfully working with the current developer, I found out just last week through the grapevine that an owner of a wonderful historic neighborhood building wasn't sure where I stood when it came to his project, and was worried about my stance on growth and development. Although many other circumstances probably came to play with the choice of another architect, it gave me pause to wonder about the choices I make that relate to public involvement. Upon more careful thought, I don't regret my involvement at all. Really it is quite

by Morey Bean, AIA

central to my duty as a successful architect. If I can look at my helping preserve a noteworthy piece of open space that will include as one of its benefits a more beautiful urban form, then I have helped improve the long term visual environment of Colorado



Starsmore Discovery Center, Colorado Springs.

Springs, and therefore the setting for better architecture.

Although I find my community involvement being more focused on non-committee, one-on-one work, my advise to fellow architects that are looking to improve their professional skills and standing is to get involved. Have fun doing what interests you, and let your husband or wife know that the time spent is a critical investment in your family's future, in more ways than one.

#### CREATING A SENSE OF APPROACH AND DEPARTURE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

—Thomas & Thomas, Inc., Landscape Architects

he project goal is to develop a signature landscape presenting an entry to Colorado Springs consistent with this semi-arid area of the American West. The vast four mile entry drive will include directional, visual cues and create a positive image of the community.

In order to accomplish these goals, the design includes plantings, characteristic rock formations, art displays, median paving, and landscape lighting. These elements will occur in eleven nodes approximately every one quarter mile. This allows the user to pass

through an impact node every sixteen to twenty seconds. The nodes will include plantings of native shrubs and trees, rock, paving and banners. The result will be a rhythm of impact nodes, of color and interest for the driver to experience. The intent is to create an experience of anticipating elements much like the Berma Shave signs did on highways of our childhood.

Planting between the nodes will remain primarily prairie grasses. To emphasize the historical context of the plains environment, two dimensional Cor-Ten steel, greater-than-life-size buffalo herds will be seen crossing the entry road. The two dimensional sculptures will appear and disappear from view as the driver passes through the feature.

The design will result in an aesthetic achievement of the Airport design goals and a large scale signature land-scape illustrating the City of Colorado Springs' commitment to develop land-scapes that are consistent with the climatic and soil conditions of this Region and therefore, successful and sustainable.

#### THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN

—Duane Boyle, AIA

ive been fortunate in my architectural career to become involved in a diversity of projects that are related to design and planning. After being at the Air Force Academy for some time, I realized that though the Academy is a great place with its own set of challenges, it is also an isolated one. I soon learned there are many ways architects can become involved in the quality of our local environments.

The Partnership for Community Design is a regional forum that promotes quality design and planning in



Volunteers at the GreenSprings Planting Program.

the Pikes Peak Region. I learned of the organization when the north entry to Colorado Springs feature was designed and built on Academy land along I-25. It was apparent that the Partnership was making a visible, positive impact

on the community through volunteer efforts and I quickly became an active member.

A couple years ago, I was elected board President. I now realize two things; first, it takes consistent work to keep a volunteer effort viable. Second, there is no shortage of tasks to be done—architects fit this requirement very well.

We initiated, and are building, the Entryways to Colorado Springs. We sponsor the Partnership for Community Design Awards Program that rewards good design and the partnerships that make those designs a reality. We are part of the City's Capital Improvements Review Committee and we sponsor public educational forums related to design and planning. One of our most visible programs is GreenSprings, which landscapes neglected areas of the city. The program brings business, government and hundreds of citizen volunteers together to improve their neighborhoods.

As we have seen from the PBS film *Back from the Brink*, by The American Architectural Foundation, we can influence our cities and our political climate by involving our profession in outside events and programs.

#### South Entryway to the Pikes Peak Region

lans are in the works to create a gateway to Colorado Springs for motorists entering the Pikes

Peak Region from the south. Near mile marker 133, people driving north on I-25 will be greeted by a large entry monument placed against a natural



hillside just to the right of the highway. The entryway will be made possible by the volunteer efforts of several individuals, groups and organizations, including Michael Sanchez, AIA.

The Partnership for Community
Design (PCD) is
spearheading the
project and is currently raising
funds. Mr Sanchez,
a PCD board member and architectural designer, created
the design for the
entryway. He

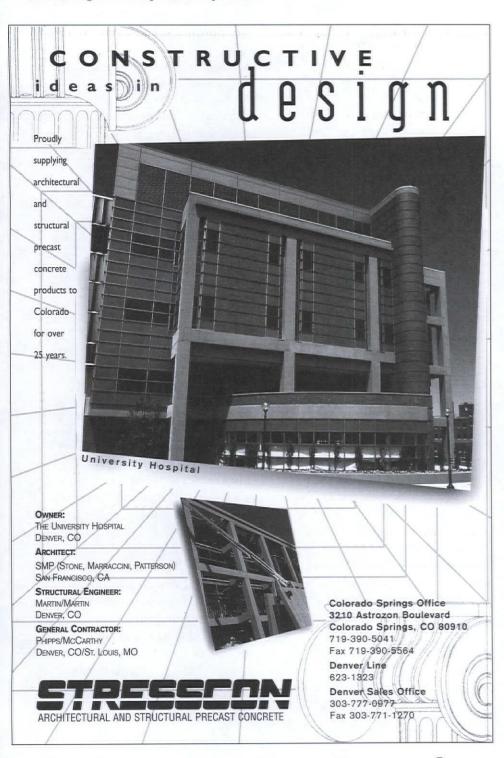
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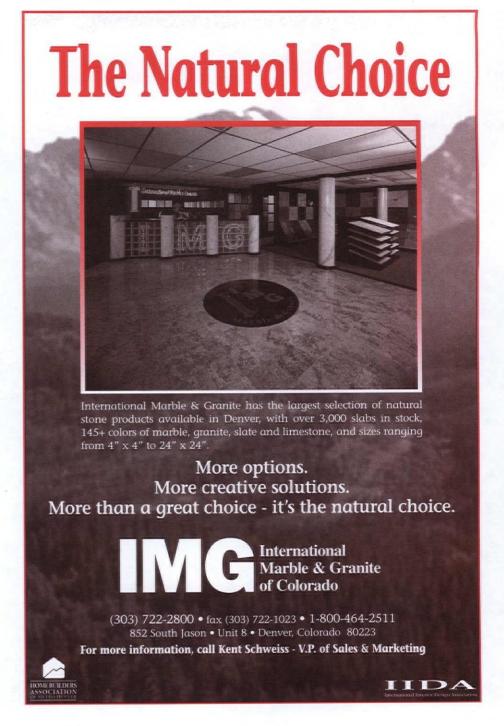
primary design

objectives are that the monument is located in an appropriate place, it visually blends into the natural setting, and the message can be easily read from a car. "We discovered an ideal site a few miles south of the city where the interstate crests a hill and people suddenly get a glimpse of the city," said Sanzhez.

The entryway will be formed in concrete, in the shape of a sloping wall. An integral color in the concrete will complement the area's natural landscape. Stone planters will provide a base for the monument, letting plants soften the edge where it meets the ground. Concealed lighting, powered by solar cells, will ensure visibility throughout the day and night. Recessed into the concrete will be the greeting, "Colorado Springs" and "The Pikes Peak Region."







May 1997

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

he theme of community engagement is evident in many of the recent and continuing activities of the Chapter: Blake Chambliss's contribution to the FAIA Lecture Series, our local breakfast seminars fashioned to reinforce the theme of the AIA Client Connection Conference, and our March general membership meeting held at the Renaiisance Center at Stapleton Airport. This theme of community engagement is also evident in the articles and columns in this issue.

Featured this month are two library projects in which the architects, Bertram Bruton and Steve Chucovich, involved community residents in their respective communities throughout the design process. Included is a column from Joe Pahl, AIA, asking whether it is appropriate for AIA Denver to adopt a "cause," and asking, if so, how the Denver chapter might identify an appropriate group and what an acceptable form of sponsorship might be. Two community-based non-profit organizations have been invited to describe ways in which architects might work with their organizations to further the development of affordable housing in their communities.

For many of us, "involvement in community affairs" is not easy. Survival in a highly competitive market usually requires that our own work must take precedence. Often we think of our practices as the embodiment of architecture. But, our practices -- our individually created projects -- are not a substitute for the collective vision and conviction of our profession. As a consequence, it falls to the AIA, as our professional association, to take a leadership role in community affairs in an effort to represent the profession in public forums, to comment on significant historic preservation and urban design issues, and to offer illustrations of the benefits of good civic design.

Six months ago, at the Board of Directors retreat, I proposed an initiative to the AIA Denver Board of Directors which would offer our membership an opportunity for community engagement. I referred to that initiative as "Power of Place in Denver." It is patterned after a series of projects completed in Los Angeles in the 1980s and described in a book, "The Power of Place" by Dolores Hayden. Through almost a decade of research and implementation, the Los Angeles project explored how citizens working with design professionals can nurture a public memory of the common life and work of a community. Using meetings, walking tours, artist's books and permanent public sculpture, as well as architectural preservation efforts, the community in the Los Angeles project tried to understand, preserve and commemorate the history of neighborhoods in that city.

The challenge involved in using Denver's social history in a similar way consists of developing an inventory of historic events, identifying sites associated with such events, and engaging students, design professionals and lay people in the design of public places that commemorate these events. Distracted by chapter financial problems, I have been slow to begin work on this initiative. In the last few weeks, however, I have begun to act on an invitation by Frank Gray, director of planning for the City of Lakewood and AIA Denver board member. At his suggestion, I have been investigating the potential use of RTD light rail stations along the West Corridor as sites for "power of place" projects. I have been meeting with interested community leaders, several young architects, and Lakewood and RTD transportation planners. All have expressed considerable enthusiasm for a series of projects which will express community themes and have an opportunity to engage in a series of projects that promise to be lively and visible—projects which can stimulate good public design in the neighborhoods of our community. If you are interested in paricipating in this effort, please call me at 321.1726 for further information.



Peter Orleans, AIA

#### RAISING THE ISSUE

hould AIA members support charity? I recently asked the Board of Directors this question when I solicited support for Safehouse's 20th Anniversary celebration. I wasn't sure what could be given, but I thought a donation of some kind might give AIA the opportunity to present a more positive image of architects to the community. When Safehouse asked me to serve on their Board of Directors, I asked myself the same question: why should my firm, Pahl-Pahl, support a non-profit organization? Why did I want to stretch my commitments further? Shouldn't I use the time to pursue new business instead, or better service existing clients. Then I thought about the needs of Safehouse. As one of the first ten shelters in the country, it has provided a respite for victims of domestic abuse. In 1996 alone, the organization provided 10,273 nights of shelter for victims of domestic abuse and answered 14,706 calls for help. With a solid support service established, the organization is going one step further by focusing upon prevention to eliminate domestic violence.

After thinking about Safehouse, I decided that I would find time to serve on the Baord. There are several reasons for this decision: 1) I want to support a worthwhile organization that is "making a difference"; 2) I think it is my responsiblity to give something back to the community, and 3) I think that my volunteer work makes good marketing sense. As an owner of a successful firm, I think it is my respon sibility to give something back to the community.

The privileges that go with being an architect are many, and they need to be honored. How? Not only by giving clients excellent architectural services, but also giving back something to the community that gives us so much work. The time we give to pro bono work always heightens our visibility in the community. The Denver Post recently published an article about Pahl-Pahl's space programming we provided for Metro Volunteers! It's the most favorable press coverage we've received to date-public relations that didn't cost a cent!

Serving the community also gives me an opportunity to broaden my contacts. Even with our new emphasis on aggressive marketing, selling architectural services still comes down to "who you know." I've met several key people during my work on the Board of Safehouse. In turn, I've been introduced to people they know...people I would not have been able to reach on my own. What better marketing efforts exist?

Returning to our original question, should AIA support charity? To answer this question, I think we need to look at what other professional service providers - attorneys, doctors and dentists - are doing. Often, they take the initiative before we do. In looking at their activities, the Colorado Bar Association's Run for Legal Aid comes to mind. In this annual fund-raising event, the Bar helps a non-profit organization raise money for people who cannot afford legal advice. I'm sure if you spoke to the attorneys who participated, you would find many excellent reasons for their endorsement.

I cannot tell you or AIA whether or not to sponsor a non-profit event. That is up to you. All I ask is for you and other AIA members to think about it. In making the pitch for Safehouse, I would love to see you participate in the organization's 20th anniversary celebra-

Your volunteer time and your financial contributions would help this organization reach an important milestone. If Safehouse doesn't interest you, perhaps another charity does. Maybe you've thought about participating in a group run for the Zoo, buying a table during the American Cancer Society's annual dinner, or serving as a volunteer for the Special Olympics. If you have any ideas about increasing AIA's involvement in non-profit work, I would welcome them. So would the AIA board. So feel free to call a member of the Board or me at 861.7147. Either way, give thought to the value of community service. See how it might benefit you and your architecture fel-

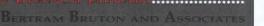
> Joe Pahl, AIA Pahl\*Pahl\*Pahl Architects

## A STUDY OF TWO.... COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

The new Pauline Robinson Branch Library is a stunning replacement for the now closed Dahlia Branch Library, whose collections and programs outgrew the rented storefront space at 3380 Dahlia Street. The new library pays tribute to neighbor Pauline Robinson, Denver's first African-American librarian. The 5,300 square foot Pauline Robinson Branch Library is the design of Denver architect Bertram A. Bruton and Associates. The building's warm brick exterior complements nearby homes and the renovated shopping center next door. Inside, features include spacious reading areas bathed in light from clerestory windows, study rooms, and expanded video and paperback collections. The construction of the Pauline Robinson Branch Library achieved three mileposts for African-Americans in Denver. In addition to paying tribute to Pauline Robinson, the building was constructed during the term of Mayor Wellington Webb, Denver's first African-American mayor, and it was designed by Bertram

A. Bruton and Associates, Denver's first African-American architectural firm.

Bertram Bruton has designed over 50 housing developments containing 3,850 units of low income housing. In the late 60's, the dire need for low income housing units, and finally a funding source to provide this housing, created an arena for Bruton to fulfill both professional goals and personal commitments to his community. Bruton gives unselfishly of his time and has served with The American Institute of Architects, The Denver Building Department, The Board of Standards, The Board of Appeals, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, The Urban League of Metro Denver, The Salvation Army, and The National Organization of Minority Architects. Bruton served five years on the NCARB Architect Registration Examination committee and recently completed ten years as a member of the Colorado State Board of Examiners of Architects, two of them as President of the Board of Examiners.









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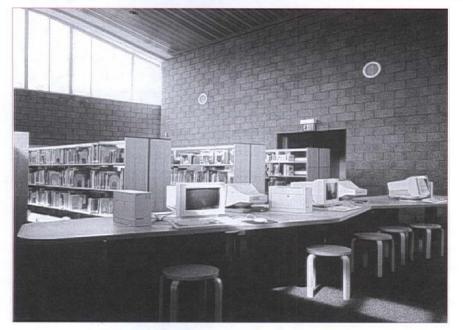
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Citizens of the Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea neighborhoods of north central Denver want more from the new Valdez-Perry Branch Library than a place to check out books. They requested that the new library anchor the three neighborhoods, which are cut off from the downtown core by two major highways, and provide a place for community assembly. Historically a point of entry for immigrants to Denver, the area now houses a large Hispanic population. Residents specifically asked that the new library's children's reading room not be segregated from the main reading area, as is often done to reduce noise levels, and that tables be pushed aside on occasion so that the main reading room can extend outdoors into an enclosed courtyard.

Principals Steve Chucovich and Ali Gidfar of ArchitectureDenver responded with a rectangular open plan comprised of six 30-foot square bays. Measuring 90 feet long, a vaulted central reading room runs the entire length of the building and half its width, with clerestory windows lining the north and west facades. To the east of this space, a 30-foot square service block anchors the corner of the 4,700 square foot structure. Additional reading areas to the south of the service area spill out into a walled-in courtyard, overlooked by private study rooms. A narrow wing containing the main entrance, librarian's office, and study area angles off the 30-foot grid to the west. The diagonal established by the entrance connects to elements of a

proposed public garden designed by ArchitectureDenver for an adjacent vacant lot.

ArchitectureDenver drew upon inexpensive stock materials for this low-budget library: loadbearing concrete masonry units secured by an exposed structural steel frame. Colored concrete blocks procured from manufacturers' overstock are blended in at random to animate the facades. Funding for the library's construction costs of \$670,000 was set aside in a 1990 vote, and the land was donated by the grandchildren of John Perry, whose 1910 grocery store occupied the site for 30 years. The other namesake, Bernard Valdez, is a Hispanic community leader in Denver and a local role model. The new library and proposed gardens strengthen efforts to bring cultural amenities to this growing area.

Comments from the Denver Public Library

#### Evelyn Connor Director of Branch Services

on both projects...

"the focus of each project became neighborhood issues. The site analysis expanded to include the surrounding neighborhoods -- engaging the users in the design process. To further include the community, informational meetings were held at the different project sites. During these meetings, project models were used to talk with the neighbors about their concerns, such as materials and color selection."

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#### Two Community Development Corporations

#### Northeast Denver Housing Corporation

Cheryl Spector, Assoc. AIA, Development Director

#### Affordable Housing

Myth: Occupants of affordable housing are very low income welfare recipients.

Fact: Affordable housing means you are not paying more than 30% of your gross income for housing expenses. Low income is defined as being at or below 80% of the Area Median Income: 1) in metro Denver, a family of four (4) would make \$43,500 or less per year, and 2) a single person, the annual salary could not exceed \$30,450.

#### The Value of Architects

Myth: Architects only add costs to projects *and* are only needed to do drawings for the building department.

Fact: Architects are skilled at understanding what the client wants
and able to translate that into a
finished project that owner, ten
ant and community can take
pride in. Architects have the abil
ity to design well and still build
affordably. Architects have pro
fessional skills that can contribute
to their local communities, but

Creating affordable housing opportunities is an increasing difficult challenge in Denver and throughout the state of Colorado. Non-profit community development corporations (CDCs) are who primarily accept this challenge and strive to overcome it through the housing that they develop. Housing opportunities created by CDC's range from individual home ownership, multi-family rentals, homeless shelters, and housing for persons with special needs. Most CDC's must assemble workable financial packages from several sources, creating parnerships with both the public and private sectors. CDC's tend to focus their energy on acquiring financing and "putting the package together" for the communities that they serve in order to meet their housing needs. Oftentimes the quality of the housing is compromised unnecessarily due to: 1) limited time schedules, 2) not involving architects at the beginning of a project, or 3) not using architects at all. Generally, the services of architects are only sought by CDC's when the project is new construction and the architectural fee is just one of the many standard line items in the project proforma. And yet, there is an extensive benefit from the involvement of architects. Unfortunately, this is an area that architects are generally thought of as "too expensive" and over qualified -- resulting in a "rehab specialist" being hired for the job.

The value of involving the skills of an architect is under utilized by most CDC's. The advantage an architect brings extends to assisting with "putting the package together," being able to invision the final product, and being able to work through the details and the many components of the project in order to achieve the best possible solution. The creativity and knowledge of materials posed by an architect can substantially contribute to the long term success of a project. The "design" and materials selection should be a part of the project from the beginning so that by working together as a team, the CDC and the architect can best utilize the expertise they both have to contribute to the project. CDC's excel in knowing the needs of their clientele and acquiring funds to implement housing development; however, the actual process of design and construction is an area that CDC's do not have comprehensive knowledge or understanding. Architects are accustomed to facilitating linkages among diverse disciplines. The role an architect has in designing and monitoring the construction process is of the utmost value to CDC's due to the fact that these "segments" of the project are where cost overruns can kill a project with a very tight budget or, at a mininum, compromise the quality and integrity of the project.

"Form follows finance" has been a common issue in producing affordable housing. I believe that we have experienced the negative impact this has made on neighborhoods and on our living environment. HUD has implemented a new initiative to demolish some of these "failures" such as Cabrini Green in Chicago, and our

own Lincoln Park in Denver. A movement has begun to address the importance of how our built environment affects and can impact human behavior. This is true not only in examples of low income housing, but also in improving working spaces (lighting, areas, materials) that actually increase worker productivity and decrease absenteeism. Architects have the unique capability to enhance the built environment through their work. As a profession, we should be responsible in educating ourselves and others, in the many ways we can positively impact our environment in a sustainable manner. A "healthy" built environment is valuable and essential to a healthy society and as architects, we have the opportunity to shape a sustainable presence.

Housing issues are a major factor in the quality of life for all people. As affordable housing becomes more scarce throughout the state, all reasonable housing becomes scarce. A large number of people are becoming aware of this growing problem and are beginning to find solutions. In response our state's housing problems, Governor Romer proposed \$10 million from the state budget to be used to form a housing Trust Fund for the state, but this was not passed in the current session. The City of Denver is sponsoring a Housing Summit on April 30th in order to put into place a new Housing Plan for the city to address the current issues and opportunities facing Denver.

I would like to encourage the increased participation of the architecture community with that of CDCs throughout our state. The value of architects will be defined by how we interact and increase the awareness of our communities to the attributes that we can contribute.

Ways to get involved:

Become a board member for a CDC.

2. Become an active member of your neighborhood association.

3. Local municipalities have various commissions and boards that you can join or be appointed.

4. Introduce yourself to CDC's in your area and develop a relationship or partnership with them.

5. Check you local municipality for a list of all CDC's in their areas.

Southwest
Improvement
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Ian Marie Belle, Executive Director

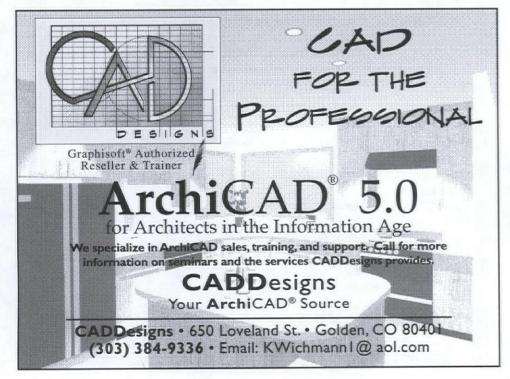
At first, I was surprised and a bit flattered to be asked to submit an article on this topic for the AIA Denver newsletter. As I sat down to write, I decided my happiness was a bit misplaced. My experience in working with architects has been limited to *pro*  bono help on multi-family rehabilitation projects, and pre-development work on several past and proposed new construction projects for affordable multi-family housing.

So what possibly could I have to contribute to this dialogue? I have so much to learn! Southwest Improvement Council started in 1987 as a community organizing and services entity, becoming incorporated in 1988, and becoming a Community Housing Development Organization in 1992. We also formed a housing development corporation, SouthWest Neighborhood Housing, in 1995. We are new at this, and have much to learn from our more experienced colleagues. Our biggest challenge thus far has been in locating suitable sites for new construction projects. We conduct dialogue with the people we serve about housing needs, and affordable rentals are at the top of the list. But when we locate land and need a zoning change for new construction, the neighbors to the land are opposed to living next door to multi-family housing.

So how can we balance this conflict between the needs of the people we serve, and the resistance from proposed new neighbors? We have worked with architects to make our porpsed developments more pleasing to the new neighbors, and I felt the architects did a good job of listening to the neighbor's concerns, and offering design compromises. But, agreement with the new neighbors was not achieved, so projects were dropped for lack of support for necessary zoning changes. It seems better to seek development sites where proper zoning is already approved.

My sense of architects is that they are artists at heart who want to do something creative and unique. I like creativity! But what I need right now are Can we be creative within those constraints? I certainly hope so! Yes, we want creativity, but also construction cost-containment and functionality The biggest obstacles we face are affordability and financing. We must have resources lined up to move quickly, or a good deal will go to a for-profit developer. Denver's housing market is very "hot." Sellers are not motivated to financing and approvals that non-profit community development corporations and public/private funding entitites require.

Architects can help us by providing education and guidance for selecting affordable designs that are both beautiful and family-friendly. This is probably not a feasible use of time for the individual practitioner. I suggest that AIA Denver convene a workshop on these and related topics, and invite all of Denver's CDC's and housing funding or financing entities. Thank you for this opportunity to share our viewpoints with AIA Denver. We welcome your ideas and appreciate your commitment.





he Colorado North Chapter is

blessed with many members

who are actively involved in

community service. We have members

serving on planning boards, design

review boards, chamber of commerce

committees and task forces, neighbor-

hood associations - in short, all over

the place. These members volunteer

in meeting these commitments and

and enjoy the results of their work.

lots of time and a great deal of energy

responsibilities. We value their efforts

Unfortunately, not all of us can become

involved to their degree. Professional

responsibilities, family responsibilities,

the time crunch we all live under con-

committee activities, etc., an impossi-

bility. Does this mean significant com-

impossible for those of us in this situa-

If an on-going involvement is out of

the question, we need to look for other

opportunities to comment on commu-

nity concerns. We need to seek out the

more informal chances to probe, to

question, and to explain the issues

which swirl around all of us-over

spire to make board appointments,

munity service contributions are

tion? I submit that it does not.

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#### COMMUNITY SERVICE ON A DIFFERENT SCALE

by Mark S. Quéripel, AIA

coffee or beer, in office discussions, with friends on the street. The important part is that we make ourselves heard at whatever scale of endeavor.



Mark Quéripel, AIA

Architects are born synthesizers. We are constantly challenged by multiheaded problems and are tackling them with diverse teams of expertise. We take on these problems and, in large measure, life itself in a very holistic manner. We see the interrelationships between things—a rather unique ability in a world which more often likes its problems in discreet, manageable chunks. The trick is in getting this unique perspective out there in front of others.

#### WATCH FOR New Features

o ensure that the Colorado North Chapter pages you are reading are really reflective of your interests, the CNC Board and Newsletter Coordinator need to hear from you! To make this a little easier, we are going to have three new features on a continuing basis-Firm Profiles, What's On The Boards, and Member News.

Firm Profiles will be your opportunity for a little free, state-wide publicity. We are looking for articles from firms in the CNC region describing their firms, work, special projects, etc.

A description of the firm, its history, leadership, staff, staff photos, work in progress described in narrative form, sketches, drawings, and pictures—all are great components of an effective firm profile. Give this a little thought and illustrate your creativity with a firm profile that shows off your firm to a statewide audience.

What's On The Boards will be your chance to tell us all about that new project you just landed or the one you just successfully completed. We are looking for brief descriptions of your current projects so we can have a better understanding of the work being done by chapter members.

Member News will offer a place for you to tell us about that new job, the big promotion, or that other major achievement that you are so anxious for us to know about. Again, we are looking for brief notices of the changes taking place in our chapter member's lives. We hope to get lots of these and have a real "newsy" column. Don't be discouraged if you don't see your contribution in print right away.

Submit your articles and/or newsletter suggestions to Stephen Loos, AIA via 303.443.4335 or fax to 303.444.5826. Thanks in advance. We look forward to hearing from you.

#### North Chapter Community Involvement

esponding to a letter from the CNC Board to the City of Boulder Department of Community Planning, Design and Development, Mark Queripél, Steve Loos, Erik Hartronft, and Dave Williams met with staff and representatives of the Boulder Downtown Design Advisory Board (DDAB). Rick Epstein and Harvey Hine also participated.

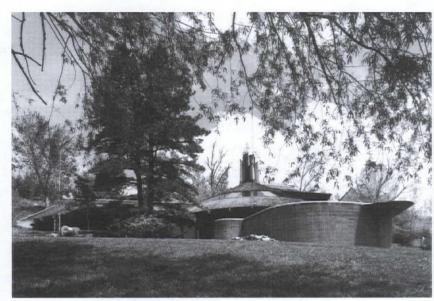
Our letter, offering AIA help to encourage excellence in design and planning and to develop review procedures that are predictable, considerate of time and costs, fair, and appropriate prompted discussions based on an agenda that Will Fleisig, director of the Department, prepared.

The open and lively discussion covered many topics including Boulder's attitude about design and planning, the need for professional involvement,

the pros and cons of serving on public boards and review panels, politics, the future of DDAB and the possibility of a greater Boulder design advisory group. Bob Cole, the Department's assistant director, briefly discussed current efforts to streamline the review process and create a more multidisciplinary procedure with design as a more important component. Charles Zucker, the Department's senior urban designer, discussed his efforts to integrate design thinking in the City's approach to planning and requested help for a major educational effort at communicating these

Will Fleisig asked us to identify people to develop strategies for the future with his department. Erik and Steve volunteered to lead this effort for the Chapter. We appreciate this first step in what we hope will be an on-going

#### CNC Members Serve as House Tour Hosts



The Worthington House, Boulder.

embers of the chapter had the opportunity to earn some LU's while serving as hosts for the Carl Worthington house in the Annual Historic Boulder, Inc. Spring House Tour held on Saturday and Sunday, April 19th and 20th. The Worthington house, designed in the 60s, was one of a select group of contemporary houses picked for this special recognition. CNC members were briefed on the unique characteristics and history of the house and spent the two days leading the tours in the house. We were especially pleased by this chance to show off Carl's house because he is a long-standing chapter member.

#### COLORADO NORTH CHAPTER/AIA STARTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Fund has been established with the AIA Colorado Education Fund. The initial money placed into this Fund was the rebate money from the Western Mountain Region/AIA Education Fund when that fund was dissolved. In addition, money contributed by Colorado North Chapter members to the State Education Fund will be transferred to the Scholarship Fund.

Recipients of the scholarship will be in-state students. The student will be on an architect career track, will be on the Boulder Campus, and a Junior advancing to Senior status.

The chapter encourages members to make donations to the fund on a regular basis as memorials, special recognitions, and as tax-deductible donations. Send contributions to the Colorado North Chapter AIA Scholarship Fund (checks payable to the AIA Colorado

Education Fund) c/o the AIA Colorado Education Fund, 1615 California Street, Suite 508, Denver, CO 80202.

#### TRAVELING AWARDS EXHIBIT

he schedule for exhibiting the 1997 Colorado North Chapter Design Awards has been set. As the year progresses, the exact locations of the exhibit will be announced. The goal of this project is to make the public aware of the types of projects and the quality of projects being done by architects in the Colorado North Chapter area.

piazza!AIA Exhibit May Ft. Collins June Estes Park July **CNC Summerfest** August September Boulder Loveland October November CNC Annual Meeting



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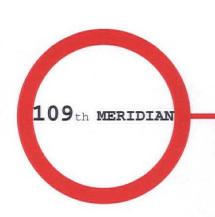
23-ski·doo (twěn'tē-thrē skǐ-dōo') adj. Slang. 1: Splendid; exceedingly fine. 2: Far above the norm; extraordinary. 3: To affect with great pleasure; astonish

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Durango	Dean Brookie, AIA
	970.247.1336
Grand Junction	1Gary Vanderwood, AIA
	970.242.0845
Aspen	Steven Buettow, AIA
	970.925-5968
Telluride	Craig Melvin, AIA
	970.728.5251
Vail	Andrew Abraham, AIA
	970.476.5105

We are still looking for people to fill the secretary position and the committees. If you have any interest in these positions or any questions, call Shira Geller, AIA at 970.925.5444.

#### New Members

Associate
Sean Trujillo, Assoc. AIA
Baker+Hogan+Houx

#### **AIA**

Scott Ballard, AIA

Robertson Miller Terrell

Architects

Sig Bjornson, III, AIA

Lundell Architects &

Associates

Timothy Flanagan, AIA

## REDISCOVER LOST INSPIRATION AS A MENTOR

—Dave Ritchie, AIA

e all spend months at a time on the ragged edge of spiritual survival. This happens in "feast mode," juggling six concurrent deadlines as often as in "famine mode," facing the kind of empty pockets starvation we thought we'd left behind in college. Such is the nature of our profession.

As the sole principal in a one person firm this numbing cycle is especially acute. One of the best antidotes I've found is mentoring. It can be done in many ways. Sponsoring one of your firms young interns on their journey through the IDP maze to their license is one common option. Any efforts you make to help develop your young, inhouse talent are very rewarding on a personal level, not to mention the bonus of having a constantly improving staff at your side.

But when I seriously considered the AIA's call to become a more "visible architect" within the community I found true inspiration. Community options are only limited by your imagination and the time you can give. It can be as simple as taking a friend's child who is considering a design career through your office at lunch or presenting at a 10x10. My favorite option is working with local high school students considering our profession

Seventeen is a great age. While most of us would rather schedule multiple root canals than relive the trials of adolescence, we forget what a thrilling moment in life it is when one day you suddenly believe that you can be anything you desire "when you grow up." Combine this with an emerging excitement over a field which you actually want to pursue: pure magic.

By last year, I had racked up too many all-nighters, mortgage payments, dirty diapers and canceled projects to remember how I felt when I discovered my career. That first sweet narcotic adrenaline rush of being a problem solver and creator had blurred with the problems and the tasks of creating.

I was approached by a student at Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale taking a career exploration class. Scott had chosen architecture and needed a professional sponsor/mentor.

We started with an outline of interviews, reading and basic career research for a term paper. Before long he had discarded the limits of the class outline and we were walking sites, talking about design programming, views, solar gain and roof details. Each time we met he had eclipsed his previous goal and was eager to dig even deeper. In the end, he executed a com-

plete design for his dream home, including late night drawing sessions, and delivered a paper on the process of design. He capped off his presentation by leading the entire class in a surprise design charette to demonstrate the fun and challenges he had discovered. I felt proud and fortunate that I was invited.

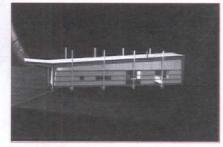
I had gotten involved mainly because I knew him as a quality, motivated individual from the school soccer team which I coach. Little did I know how contagious his spirit would become. His excitement spread to other students who have since sought my involvement in similar activities. Even without the benefit of prior relationships, I have shared the same awe of self discovery with them as well.

Scott was such a sponge for information and experience that I was pushed to re-examine all the standard stuff we tell people about ourselves as architects and why we are drawn down this path. The spark in his eye lit the room and gave me flashbacks to emotions about this job that too often I overlook to focus on "critical" priorities. This was more that ample reward for the non-billable time I invested in getting a kid excited about leaving town to attend school and begin building a career.

Dave Ritchie, AIA, is principal of Dave Ritchie & Associates in Carbondale.

#### 1996 Design Awards Presented

he AIA Colorado West Chapter held its annual awards banquet on Saturday, March 29th at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs. 80 people represented the chapter at the dinner, which included installation of the officers and area coordinators for 1997, and presentation of the design awards.



Inside Out-House; Pember Architects Photo: Willis Pember.

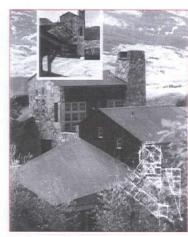
The Chair of this year's jury was Les Wallach, FAIA, principal of Line &



A Residence, Hagman Architects, Ltd. Photo: Tim Hagman, Jason Dewey.

Space in Tucson, Arizona. Les has received over 30 design awards since he began Line & Space in 1978. He has also been published widely, including a spread in the last issue of PA. Les received the 1996 Silver Medal from

the AIA Western Mountain Region. Les' projects include the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Line & Space currently has two new museums, one in Casper, WY and one on the San



Wise Residence, Cottle Graybeal Yaw. Photo: Larry Yaw, FAIA.

#### Design Awards, from page 13

Pedro River near Tucson, the Southern Arizona Visitors Center, and a large residence on the boards. He is also spending considerable time traveling and speaking on his work.

Les assembled a distinguished jury from the Tucson area. The jury included: Neal Jones, AIA and Eddie Jones, principals of Jones Studio, whose work includes museums, visitor centers and housing; Richard Eribes, AIA, Dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Arizona; Renee Cheng, professor at the College of



The Aspen Center for Physics, Harry Teague Architects. Photo: Timothy Hurrsley.

Architecture, University of Arizona; Rick Joy, principal of Rick Joy Architects, whose work is soon to be published in GA; and Matt Sears, AIA, Architectural Director at ADP/Flour Daniel, an international firm specializing in high technology and currently working in Korea, Thailand, Israel and throughout the USA. The jury met in the beginning of March in Tucson.

Les presented a brief slide show on the work of the jury and presented the

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awards. Out of the 55 entries, five projects were singled out for awards by the jury.

Citation Awards were given to:

• Hagman Architects, LTD, of Basalt, Colorado for a Residence, awarded for



Leendertse Residence, Black Shack Studio Architects. Photo: Glenn Rappaport, AIA.

it's quality and sensitivity of detailing.

• Pember Architects, of Aspen Colorado, for the Inside Out-House, an unbuilt project. The jury applauded the "kit of parts" approach to the design.

Honor Awards were given to:

- Cottle Graybeal Yaw, of Aspen, for the Wise Residence. The jury found this house to be successful in it's desire to be "a villa with a western flair" through the use of massing and materials.
- Harry Teague Architects for the Aspen Center for Physics. The jury appreciated the architecture of this building which does not overshadow the purpose of the building.
- Glenn Rappaport, Architect, Black
   Shack Studio Architects, Basalt,
   Colorado for the Leendertse Residence.

The jury felt this project successfully used common (inexpensive) materials in uncommon manners.

Congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated in the program this year. Look for profiles of these five firms and projects in more detail in future issues of the newsletter.

### Preservation Reviewed in Steamboat Springs

dozen local residents came to
Steamboat Springs' Historic
train depot on Saturday, March
15, to hear "Historic Preservation for
Commercial Buildings and
Neighborhood Homes" by Rodd
Wheaton—Architectural Historian
from the National Park Service.

Rodd's entertaining and informative workshop included information on State and National Register requirements, owner's rights, increases in property values and historic design themes. The depot building was designed around 1908 by Frank Edbrooke. Tread of Pioneers Museum, AIA Colorado West Chapter, First National Bank of Steamboat Springs and Alpine Taxi co-sponsored this event.

-Robert McHugh, AIA

#### DID YOU KNOW...

hat for the months of February and March, there were an average 45 referrals requested and filled by the AIA Colorado office?

Each time a client calls and requests a referral, the names and contact information of five to seven qualifying architects are sent out to them. This means that over the past two months, the names of close to 500 AIA Colorado members were sent throughout the state and country to potential builders.

If you're an AIA member and are not currently participating in the referral program (less than 25 percent of the membership is), please call AIA Colorado at 303.446.2266.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

atch for a broadcast fax on the following items:

Summer—A seminar by Robert R. Lowe, AIA—"Environmental Psychology: A User Responsive Approach" (Aspen)

Additionally, starting this spring, your local community television stations will be airing the documentary "Back from the Brink."

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Phoenix, continued from page 4

space in an ancient village. A very powerful metaphor.

Both Predock and Meunier spoke at the conference. A common theme of their discussions was that an architect has to understand the cultural and physical context of the desert in order to be able to design work that creates a sense of place. Predock stressed that one has to understand that buildings in the West are connected to the sky and to the earth. A building has to read that it is about this tie. This linkage to the landscape was evident in all of the work he presented. The desert is about loneliness and power, and your buildings have to adapt to it. As an architect you can not recreate what it was that you came from. A building should make sense for the place that is built.

The City of Phoenix presented an entirely different set of problems and issues. It could easily be said that there was no downtown at all as late as 1980, and the majority of the citizens were not sure that they wanted one. This all changed when Terry Goddard became mayor in the mid 1980's. He started a design competition for a new city hall and government complex that would anchor the "Government Mall" area of the downtown. This succeeded in getting people thinking about a design context for defining downtown, but it was not built. In 1988, the citizens

passed a \$1.1 billion bond election which was the start of the series of municipal projects that have or are being built. The Central Library, Art Museum, History Museum, Science Center, and basketball arena have given the city of Phoenix a sense of cultural identity and worth. Richard Meier is currently designing a Federal Courthouse to give a sense of definition and "people place" for this "Government Mall". Mr. Goddard and other municipal officials gave talks and led discussions about the process and issues. It is important to understand that a city needs both monumental buildings and background buildings that provide the linkages and play sup-

There are three themes that seem to define Phoenix: 1. There is a tradition of not having a tradition. There was no tradition to build from as the city grew from 50,000 inhabitants after World War 2 to now being the tenth largest city in the country. 2. The city has no natural edge to stop the sprawl of the one mile grid-a true Jeffersonian ideal. 3. Phoenix lives as a perpetual suburb where the ever expanding grid repeatedly pulls the life out of the center and to the edge. Cheap gas for cars and air conditioning changes the public perception so that anyone could live there. These themes led to Mr. Goddard's and others efforts to create a downtown so that the city would have a heart. I saw these buildings and

efforts as the fragrant blossoms in the sea of sprawl. These themes were expounded on by Reed Kroloff, a native of Phoenix who is now an editor at *Architecture* magazine.

Most of us became architects because of a sense of and the ability to design. The committee on Design brings diverse groups of architects together in order to create an in-depth dialogue about design. It exposes the participants to the best examples possible of the built environment in different locales and the people and architects responsible for them. I attend these conferences on an occasional basis in order to get a jolt of energy and enthusiasm to carry on with. I highly recommend that other architects participate in these design conferences.

## Membership has its Privileges!

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he AIA offices carry the AIA contract documents, which provides an invaluable service to you—as well as the construction industry.

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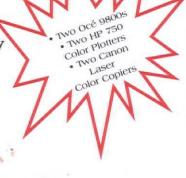
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- 8 Small Firms Roundtable,
- 9 Gov't. Affairs Committee, 7:30AM, AIA offices
- 12 AIA Denver General 2 PM-5 PM, AIA offices

Membership, 7:00 PM

- 13 Architecture for Health Care Noon, AIA offices Denver Design Center
- 14 Urban Design Committee, 7:30 AM, AIA offices
- 15 AIA Denver Design Build Series, "Facilitating and 8:30 AM, AIA offices Integrating Services," 7:30-Professional Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Committee, Redefining the
- 15 Denver Design Comm. mtg., graphics & Printing." Noon, AIA offices "New Options in Repro-
- 15 Denver Exec. Committee, 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- 16 Editorial Bd. Meeting, 15-18 National AIA Convention, New Orleans
- 16 Colorado Finance 11 AM-Noon, AIA offices
- Committee, Noon-2 PM 13
- 16 Colorado Board of Directors 2 PM-5 PM, AIA offices
- 20 Housing Committee, 7:30 AM, AIA offices

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- 21 "Finding Leads" Dinner Design Center, Sally Corey @ CES LU credit given members; \$20 non-members. SDA, AIA, ACEC, & ASLA Terracon, 303.825.2595. \$15 program, 5:30 PM, Denver
- "Classic Designs of George refreshments at 5:30 PM Abercrombie, 6:30 PM-8 PM Nelson," Denver Art
- 28 Urban Design Committee, 7:30 AM, AIA offices
- 28 AIA Denver FAIA Lecture, Fentress, J. H. Bradburn & the current work of C. W. Building, Rm. 470 Associates, 5:30 PM, Dravo Curt Fentress, FAIA presents
- 29 ister. CES LU credit given. 1.800.227.8533 x337 to reg-Risks & Your Profits," call

- Committee on Environment. Noon, AIA offices
- Denver Board of Directors, 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- Gov't. Affairs Committee, 2 PM-5 PM, AIA offices
- bers; \$20—non-members, AIA, ACEC & ASLA mem-303.825.2595. \$15 - SDA, Corey, Terracon, Denver Design Center, Sally Dinner program, 5:30 PM

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design challenge, "Imagine

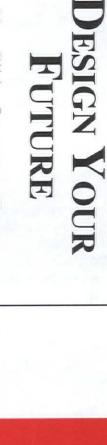
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3 Committee on Environment, Noon, AIA offices

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19 Denver Exec. Committee,

JULY

students was remarkable. skill and creativity of the and even bird houses. The

opening reception April 4. awards were given at the works, which were dised with their displayed were impressed and excit-Students and their families The show was juried and month of April. played for the entire

check out piazza!AIA-the most unique gallery in Stop by the AIA offices and works from the AIA Colorado North Chapter. The May show will feature Lower Downtown!

## inside

ings, models, photographs

tecture exhibit at piazza!AIA.

Guests enjoy the Young People IN archi-

Submittals included paint-

even wider range. imagination reflected an

Announced Design Conference Theme

President's Message

PAGE 2



Study Tour Finland Architectural



Community Libraries A Study of Two







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