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JUNE 1997

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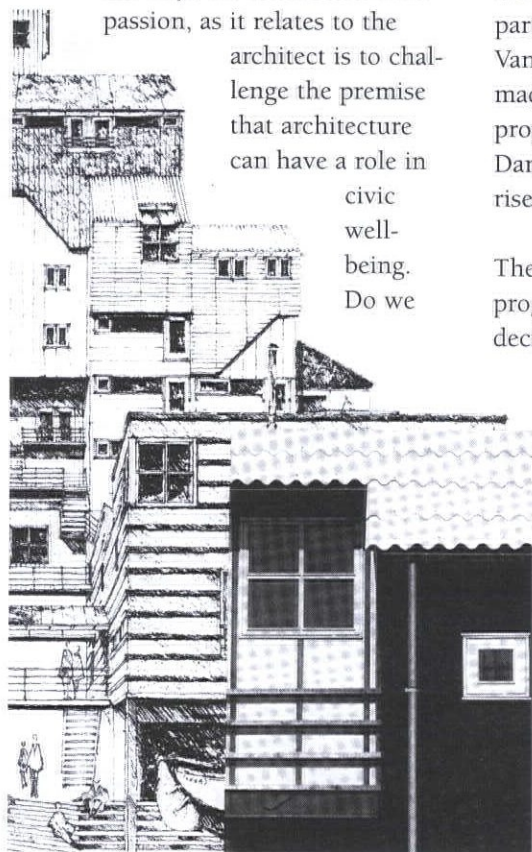
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## SCANDINAVIAN COMPASSION: THE ARCHITECTURE OF VANDKUNSTEN

—David Barrett, AIA

### 1997 AIA COLORADO DESIGN CONFERENCE

The 1997 AIA Colorado Design Conference will focus on the theme of compassion. One of the ways we will look at compassion, as it relates to the



architect is to challenge the premise that architecture can have a role in civic well-being. Do we

believe that architects, today, can bring their creativity to issues such as providing humane, comfortable housing for those increasing numbers who are being left behind? Can we be agents of livable cities, with public spaces that encourage our civility? Can we design buildings that are gentle to the health of the inhabitants?

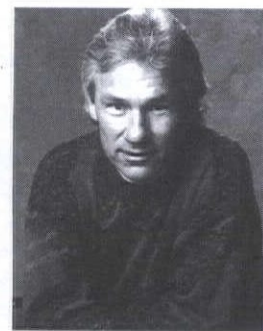
To provoke our thinking on such issues we invited Jens Arnfred, the founding partner of the Danish architectural firm Vandkunsten. The architectural group made a name for itself with a winning proposal for the prodigious 1972, Danish Design Competition for low-rise/high-density housing.

Their proposal resulted in a series of program projects that have had a decided influence on the Danish architecture of the last two decades. With a percolation effect, Vandkunsten's architectural expression has become part of the Danish heritage, without becoming populist in nature. From the beginning, their work has had clear political overtones, the goal being a democratic society where one can live in equality and with a spirit of community.

In 1989, I spent time with Jens Arnfred while I was on a lecture tour through Scandinavia. I was

impressed not only with the results of over 20 years committed to a humane architectural vision that was encouraged by a social democratic government, but also with the lively, spirited architecture that they produced.

There are probably four main themes that are undercurrents in



David Barrett, AIA  
Conference Chair

Vandkunsten's work: the social space, texture and architectural effects, the relationship between town and country as a space defining element, and finally, Vandkunsten's efforts to create an inexpensive yet exciting architectural expression.

So I encourage you to set aside October 17th through the 19th for a treat at this year's conference in the hanger at Stapleton. If you have wondered how affordable housing can be stimulating architectural form; or have an interest in the roots of co-housing and healthy buildings; then be prepared to be brought into the "Living Architecture of Scandinavia with Jens Arnfred and Vandkunsten."

## A CITIZEN INITIATIVE TO RESTORE AND RENOVATE OUR STATE CAPITOL

—Donald A. Bertram, Esq., AIA

The State of Colorado did not always have a State Capitol Building. If it doesn't correct serious and potentially catastrophic conditions in State Capitol Building, the State of Colorado may be without one again. While the Capitol's future was an exciting one as the 20th century approached, its future is much less certain as the 21st century approaches.

The history of the Colorado State Capitol is more than warm and simple.

When it met in Golden in 1867, the Seventh Territorial Assembly of the Territory of Colorado decided on Denver as the state's capital city. A few years later, the Denver banker Henry C. Brown donated ten acres of land consisting of two blocks south of Colfax and east of Lincoln Avenue for the site. However, the land sat idle as political squabbling centered in the Territorial Governor's Committee on Arrangements debated the Capitol question over the next several years.

In 1890, four years after Colorado

gained statehood, the State Legislature put the question of the location of the Capitol on the ballot. At the General Election of November 8, 1881, the people of Colorado formally determined Denver would be the seat of Colorado State Government.

Nothing had happened on the land Brown donated during this time. Frustrated by the delay, Brown had sought to reclaim his property and ulti-

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### COLORADO ARCHITECT EDITORIAL CALENDAR JULY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997

July Historic Preservation  
 August Career Path Diversity  
 September The Business of Architecture  
 October Women in Architecture  
 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

Summer should be a time when we take a break, to rest and renew after a long winter of hard work, especially this past year. It can also be a time of rediscovery, a time to "squirrel away" a host of inspirations, experiences and memories to draw on in the coming year. Each of us utilizes our own unique process to access the source material we will use to develop concepts that we synthesize into design solutions. How do we build that stockpile of source material? How do we make it ready for a lifetime of use? How do we maintain it? The need to pay attention to our "Memory Palace," as Charles Moore would call it, goes to the heart of living a life as an architect that is rich, diverse and fulfilling.

For inspiration on a recent project, I recalled a childhood memory of a summer's sun filtered through maple trees onto a stone retaining wall. That memory was from northern Wisconsin, in which an old mason with a heavy European accent built a stone wall outside my summer camp cabin over a two week period. Every day, as he progressed upward and inward, using progressively smaller stones as he went, he told me the story of each rock, the mortar, the earth filling in behind; why the wall leaned toward the earth, what happened to the tree roots and earth worms I saw. Thinking back, I suppose this was my earliest memory of a lesson in architecture; come to think of it, green architecture. This guy mixed his mortar by hand in a metal trough; he hauled a day's worth of stone from the lakeshore, and he took the time in doing so to pass on the passion for his work to a young child who simply wanted to watch him work. To this day, as I detail a retaining wall or a dozen other parts of a building, I am inspired by lessons gained over a lifetime, impressions made during happy times, memorable places and in the company of friendly people. Our work is informed by our experiences. Without a rich and diverse range of them we cannot hope to design places and spaces capable of creating future memories for others.

Your summer vacation is the ideal time to engage those qualities. This summer, take the time to place yourself in the settings that will generate the memories to sustain yet another year of inspired work. Start with the simple places in the simple times: dusky evenings watching fireflies on the front porch, dewy early mornings in your garden, weekend hikes in the foothills, birthdays, little league, Fourth of July. Work up to the structured trips: vibrant urban places in other cities, unique modes of transportation (trains, ferries, bikes), visits with relatives, maybe even a relaxing retreat by a lake. Then, at least once in your lifetime, if you can swing it, a grand tour to Europe or another continent to visit the great cities, learn to understand the detail, touch the ornamentation, get lost in

the varied urban fabric and witness the cultural differences.

My eye doctor once told me that many people wouldn't really need glasses if they worked to see what they were looking at. Photographer Ansel Adams made photographs that betrayed his strengths as an observer of the feel of places and things ordinary. This sum-



President Steven Walsh, AIA

mer think about the feel of the places great or small. Record them like no photo can, in your mind, with every sense. It doesn't take a plane ride or a long road trip to uncover the passions that brought you to become an architect. Colorado, your own town, and your neighborhood can provide the experience which allows you to rediscover the spirit of being an architect.

## ENERGY GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE

The Colorado Office of Energy Conservation (OEC) recently completed its final draft of a voluntary energy efficiency standard for commercial and high-rise residential buildings.

OEC convened a technical advisory committee in January 1996 to develop a voluntary Colorado standard based on the codified version of ASHRAE/IES 90.1-1989 Standard. After thorough examination by the committee and participants of a 60-day public review, the Office of Energy Conservation concluded its review process and on March 13, 1997 OEC released the commercial energy standard.

The revised version of ASHRAE/IES 90.1 addresses issues unique to Colorado, its environment and other issues particular to the Colorado building community. The standard is available for jurisdictions seeking to update their commercial energy codes and as an energy efficiency guideline for others in the building industry.

For a copy of the Energy Guidelines for Commercial and High-Rise Residential Buildings in Colorado, please contact Charles S. Johnson at Colorado Office of Energy Conservation; 1675 Broadway, Suite 1300; Denver, CO 80202-4613. Phone: 303.620.4292 Fax: 303.620.4288

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## LOOKING FOR A JOB?

### A SKILLED PERSON TO FILL A POSITION AT YOUR FIRM?

If you answered yes to either question, you need to check out one of AIA Colorado's job assistance services. AIA Colorado has several different programs focusing specifically on job placement in the design industry.

#### AIA Colorado Job Board

The AIA Colorado Job Board is the only service of its kind, which completely focuses on presenting jobs available in the design industry. Those seeking employment, and those seeking employees, know to look to the AIA Colorado Job Board as a reliable resource for positions in the profession. Over 100 copies of the Job Board are distributed by the AIA Colorado office each week, with an average of 30 positions listed. This is an incredibly valuable service offered by AIA Colorado to those who are in the midst of a job search!

#### AIA Colorado Resume Book

Individuals can leave their resumes on file and the AIA Colorado office takes care of all copying and shipping to firms that request resumes. AIA Colorado receives approximately two to four requests for resumes per week. With five to ten resumes being sent for each request, that is up to 40 resumes sent out each week! Those interested in pursuing the resumes may come in the office and take a look, or request that five to ten resumes be sent to them.

Please see below for new Job Board & Resume Book Policies effective July 1, 1997.

#### Job Board Policy as of July 1, 1997

Those interested in advertising in the Job Board need to submit their ad to the AIA Colorado office no later than Monday @ 3 p.m., for Tuesday's Job Board. Ads can be faxed to 303.446.0066, or sent to 1526 15th Street, Denver, CO 80202. There is a 40-word maximum. The prices for advertising are \$30 per week per listing for AIA members, and \$60 per week per listing for non-AIA members. There is a 2-week minimum for advertising.

Those interested in receiving the Job Board can pick it up in the AIA office. The updated versions come out Tuesday at noon. The Job Board is \$1.00 for non-AIA members, and is offered complimentary to AIA members. For those who can not conveniently come to the AIA Colorado office, self-addressed stamped envelopes can be mailed to AIA and the Job Board will be sent out to you each week. Be sure to enclose payment of \$1.00 per envelope if you are not an AIA member.

#### Resume Book Policy as of July 1, 1997

Those interested in keeping their resume on file in the AIA Colorado Resume Book can do so for four months for a fee of \$20. For this fee,

the AIA Colorado office will take care of all copying and shipping for all requests related to that resume.

Those interested in receiving resumes can do so by contacting the AIA Office at 303.446.2266. Five to ten resumes will be mailed to AIA members for each request, free of charge. For non-AIA members, there will be a \$10 fee for the five to ten resumes. The Resume Book can be looked at free of charge in the AIA Colorado office.

#### GOVERNOR ROMER APPOINTS NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD

Governor Roy Romer has appointed Charles F. Brenner to the Board of Examiners of Architects. Charles (Chuck) Brenner is a partner in the firm of Brenner-Harr PC Architecture in Glenwood Springs where, during the past ten years, the firm has been responsible for many successful projects including four developments of affordable housing for the Archdiocesan Housing Committee, Inc. These 238 units of affordable housing, located on the Western Slope, have been recognized by the Governor with an award for "Outstanding Efforts in Smart Growth and Development."

## FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

The AIA Colorado Fellowship Task Force is inworking with the components to identify fellowship nominees. In addition, the task force is working with nominees as they assemble their submittals.

Marvin Sparn, FAIA, and Greg Franta, FAIA, are the CNC/AIA members of the Task Force. They are available to assist wherever they can in the Fellowship Process. A teleconference was held in March at the offices of RNL to hear from Robert Graham, FAIA, a past juror from the College of Fellows Jury. Nominees, sponsors, and all other interested in the process attended.

If you have any questions, call Marvin Sparn at 303.447.8570 or Greg Franta at 303.449.5226.

#### 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.



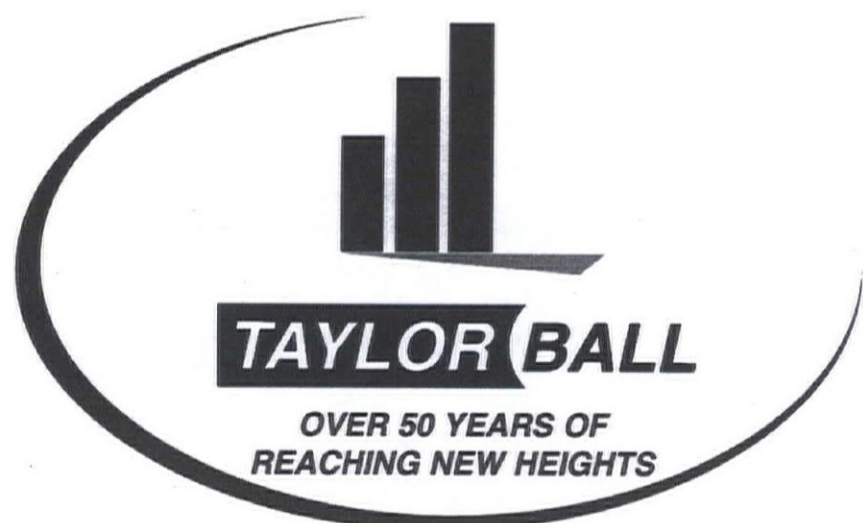
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## CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Producers' Council Stick Program

The 1997 Stick Program, sponsored by the Producers' 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 at 303.733.2476 to get an application.

### Human Resources Issues

June 18  
5:30 PM  
Dinner Program Denver Design Center, contact Sally Corey at 303.825.2595.

### Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series: Redefining the Profession

#### In It For The Long Term: Life Cycle Delivery,

June 19  
7:30-8:30 AM  
Third of a five-part series sponsored by the 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 July 17 and August 21.

### Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series: Redefining the Profession

#### Designing Strategic Alliances: Team Building,

July 17  
7:30-8:30 AM  
Fourth of a five-part series sponsored by the Denver Design Build Committee. Free. 2 Learning Units. Register in advance. Call AIA office 303.446.2266. Final date is August 21.

### Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series: Redefining the Profession

#### Defining Your Ambitions

August 21  
7:30-8:30 AM  
Last of a five-part series sponsored by the Denver Design Build Committee. Free. 2 Learning Units. Register in advance. Call AIA office 303.446.2266.

## QBS SETS NEW GOALS FOR 1997

The directors of QBS Colorado announced a few months ago that they are setting new goals for 1997 to respond to changing needs in the design community. The requests for support from QBS Colorado during the past few months have mainly been from public clients who are attempting to update their selection procedure to secure the most qualified design professionals for their projects.

With this in mind, development of new documents and new training for Technical Advisors has become a priority goal. If you are doing public works projects, you're aware that state and federal laws require qualifications-based selection (QBS) be used when awarding contracts for the services of design professionals.

QBS Colorado is soliciting more support from other professional and technical organizations in the architectural, engineering, contracting, and public works arena who are affected by the qualifications versus price-based selection process. This will include continued research into the need for interprofessional use of QBS techniques.

Any legislation that pertains to the

selection process will be monitored closely by the directors. The directors also feel that QBS Colorado needs to study and develop a position on the Design/Build approach to product delivery.

Efforts will be continued to inform and promote the use of the QBS process to organizations that can benefit from knowing how to select the most qualified engineer or architect for their projects. More presentation materials will be developed detailing how QBS can be incorporated into the Project Management approach to project delivery for these groups.

QBS Colorado has a log identifying all jurisdictions/organizations that have been presented with QBS or Project Management techniques since its inception in 1991. This includes all the names of the architects and engineers who have participated as well as the names of the client contracts.

QBS Colorado establishes, oversees, and manages a program for the promotion of qualification-based selection processes for architects and engineers in the State of Colorado.

## THE EDUCATIONAL FUND: SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Educational Fund of AIA Colorado presented its 37th Annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration Friday, April 25th at RNL Design. More than \$20,000 was awarded to 12 scholarship recipients.

Kenneth Fuller, FAIA emeritus, presented each scholarship and award, giving specific background about the history of each scholarship. Part of the ceremony included several AIA architects, who had received scholar-

ships in the past, discussing the scholarship they had been awarded and how it helped them personally and professionally.

Among the 50 or so present were the Educational Fund Officers: President, Steven Walsh, AIA; Vice President, Ron Abo, AIA; Secretary/Treasurer, Kenneth Fuller, FAIA emeritus. Once again, congratulations to the scholarship and award recipients.



From front row to back and left to right: Alan Harlow; Taista Makela, Assoc. AIA; Steven Walsh, AIA; Ron Abo, AIA; Kenneth Fuller, FAIA emeritus; Patricia O'Leary, AIA; Laura Kessler; Natalie Thomas; Ann Grooms; Amy Hause; Lucia Marie Davis; Sara Boulet; Suzanne Allen-Guerra; Charlie Davis; Henry Holt Fuller; Michael Moore; Dan Benjami; and Jason McBride.

## DENVER FOUNDATION FOR ARCHITECTURE OFFERS TOURS

The Denver Foundation for Architecture is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to enhancing the public's appreciation of architecture and the built environment.

The following tours are \$3 for DFA members, and \$5 for non-members. Children under 8 are free. The tours range from 90 minutes to 2 hours.

Call 303.779.9193 for membership information, volunteer opportunities, and tour information and schedules.

**June 7** Geology of Buildings, 10 AM at the Trinity Church

**June 14** Modernism in Denver Architecture, 10 AM at the Performing Arts Complex

**June 21** Golden Triangle Architecture, 10 AM at the sculpture outside the Denver Public Library

**June 28** University Park: A New-Old Urban Village, 9 AM at the Chamberlin Observatory

**June 29** Peoples and Steeples, 2 PM at the First Baptist Church

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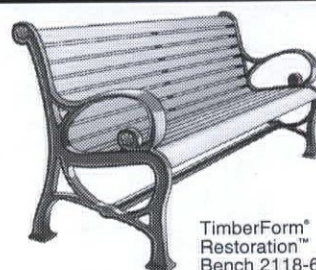
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## MY LA VACATION: A VIEW OF MID-CENTURY MODERNISM

—Duane Boyle, AIA

I am always interested in learning more about the era during which the original modernists practiced. So it comes as no surprise that the Case Study house program, sponsored by John Entenza and his *Arts and Architecture* magazine, is of particular interest. My wife, who works for Marriott and who has come to like the



Eames House

modernist way of doing things, was going on a business trip to Los Angeles, so I thought I'd tag along and try to find some of the Case Study houses.

Our first stop was the Eames house in Pacific Palisades. The Eames house is in excellent condition and remains as it was when Ray Eames was still alive. Full of original Eames furniture and now fragile textiles, the house rode out the Northridge earthquake with only a broken window. Just before the reception we visited the neighbors, a Richard Neutra house designed for a doctor who still lives there and the Entenza house by both Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen. Dr. Bailey himself took us through the Neutra designed house which is original down to the Neutra furniture (although there was also some Eames furniture).

The next day we visited three of Frank Lloyd Wright's textile houses. Although these are not case study houses, they were certainly important examples of Wright's brilliant use of material. The first house, the Storer house, is now owned by Joel Silver—the producer of *Die Hard* and other Warner Brothers movies. The house was restored and spectacular. The Ennis house was next on the tour. The largest of the textile houses we visited, it was also in need of repair. Beautiful outdoor plaza

spaces integrated well with the monumental interior. The third textile house sat above Hollywood Blvd. and is now owned by the University of Southern



Neutra House

California. The house is in very poor condition with parts of the structure now sliding toward Hollywood Blvd. One interesting quirk is the fact that Rudolf Schindler made alterations to the interior (which seem visually out of context).

Speaking of Rudolf Schindler, another of our stops was the Schindler House in lower Hollywood. The house was built, I believe, in the 1920's. It is now the focus of a restoration funded by the Austrian government. The house is

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## Sustainable Design Conference

The Air Force Academy, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, has plans to conduct a two day symposium on sustainable design and green architecture. The symposium will take place at the Air Force Academy in April 1998 and will be open to design professionals, academia, and interested public. It is expected that the symposium will attract regional and national speakers. For more information, contact Duane Boyle, AIA, at 719. 333.2289.

## FIRM PROFILE: HIGGINBOTHAM/BRIGGS & ASSOCIATES

### History

Higginbotham/Briggs & Associates has its origins in the early 1960's when Higginbotham/Nakata & Muir accomplished architecture and planning projects for a wide variety of corporate, municipal, and government clients. From those early experiences, grew a reputation, particularly within the federal government, for innovative, thoughtful architecture and comprehensive planning which was continued by Higginbotham & Associates in the 70s and 80s. In 1991, the firm became Higginbotham/Briggs & Associates (HB&A), a partnership between Don Higginbotham and Ron Briggs. The firm has in recent years brought its expertise and reputation home, with the majority of its architecture work, (as well as significant planning work) in the Pikes Peak region. HB&A is one of the few firms which provide archi-

itecture, planning, and information technology applications (such as Geographic Information Systems, or GIS) under one roof.

### Firm Focus

One key to HB&A's success is focusing on clients, whether at a national, regional, or local level, who have a long-term interest in their facilities. The firm's integration of three professional service areas into a unique organizational structure allows it to serve such clients by master planning the big picture, designing appropriate sites and buildings, and creating automated tools for long term facility management. It has developed expertise in facility utilization studies, facility management automation, and has developed a number of customized computer applications for facility owners and managers. Several of these tools have been recognized with

design awards in the last few years. The other key according to Ron Briggs, is to "practice in an atmosphere of long-time client relationships built on performance, trust, and mutual respect. Our most fulfilling and successful work has been accomplished as a partner and team member with our clients. Our goal is always to creatively identify their needs, solve their problems together, and be their for the long haul." Currently, HB&A is working with long term clients such as the United States Air Force Academy and Trinidad State Junior College as well as newer clients such as the Colorado Springs Fire Department and Colorado Springs School District 11.

Recently completed architecture projects include the corporate headquarters for Westmoreland Coal Company

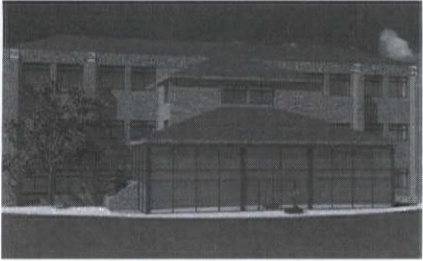
[ continued on page 6 ]

## NEW MEMBER

Gregory Guliksen, AIA  
CSNA Architects

[ Firm profile, continued from page 5 ]

on the 14th floor of the Holly Sugar Building in downtown Colorado Springs, the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory and a Squadron Operations Building at Peterson AFB, Buildings A and C of the Printer's Park Professional Center in Colorado Springs, the historic rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the old cavalry hospital at FE Warren AFB in Cheyenne,



WY, and the renovation of the Scott Gymnasium (a stone, WPA-era building) at Trinidad State Junior College.

Current architectural work includes developing alternatives for a new Colorado Springs Fire Department Operations Center; a master plan for the CSFD Training, Logistics, and Transportation Facility; the new Northeast Elementary School for District 11 (with KCJD); facility assessment, economic feasibility, and stabilization design work for the Forest Glen historic district at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC; fitness center additions and renovations for the USAFA and Falcon



AFB, and ADA renovations for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Recent and current planning projects include Capital Investment Strategies for the US Army, both in the US and overseas, General Plans (or comprehensive master plans) for several Air Combat Command and Air Force Space Command bases, a Facility Master Plan for Ent Federal Credit Union, and Comprehensive Design Guidelines for several Air Force installations.

HB&A's workload is rounded out by significant information technology work such as authoring the US Air Force's Multimedia General Plan Guide, generating Electronic Planning Information Center (or "EPIC") versions of several installations' master plans, and developing or updating Geographic Information Systems for the United States Air Force Academy, among others. A relatively new area of IT work is generating photosimulations of proposed developments or buildings.

[ LA, continued from page 5 ]

striking in its use of material and space, both exterior and interior. In fact, the exterior landscape is designed to create outdoor rooms, complete with fireplaces and walls of plant material. The flow from one to another is so natural that it seems strange we do not view the relationship between the exterior and interior the same today.



Shindler House

Next day we visited several Case Study houses in Silver Lake. It is great that the people who live in these homes know what they have and keep the designs intact. One element that struck me was the consistently compact but usable and comfortable floor plans.

Next stop: Diane Keaton's house designed by Lloyd Wright. A well-placed house in the Hollywood Hills, it is charac-

terized by white stucco walls and copper trim (which has turned to a soft green patina). The interior was stark-polished concrete floors and Eames molded plywood chairs painted an antiqued lime green.

We also attended a reception at Vidal Sasson's house in the Hollywood Hills. He and his wife turned out to be most cordial hosts. The International Style house had previously been owned by the Shaw of Iran's wife and had been extensively redone by Vidal and his wife, although it keeps its stark modernist style. The house with its Corbusier, Mies and custom furniture was great, but what I remember most is the champagne flutes. They had no stem so they could not be put down. As a result everyone looked good with a glass in their hand.

The final day we visited Robert Stern's new Animation building at Disney Studios in Burbank. What a creative place! But our Disney experiences are best left for another story.




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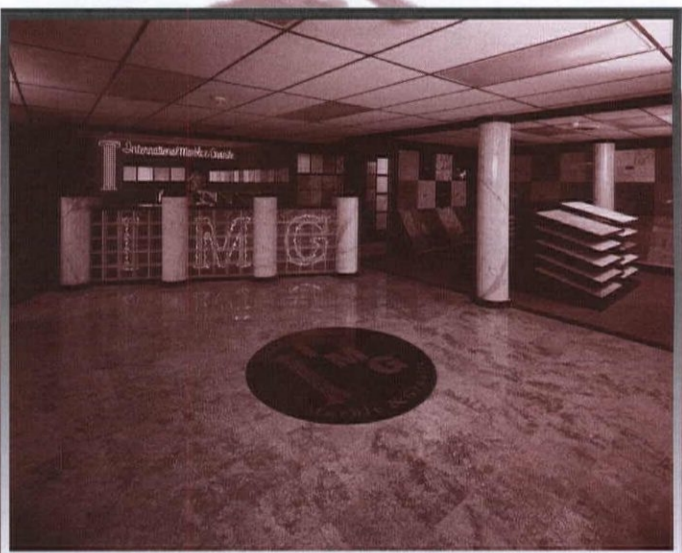
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## IN APPRECIATION OF ...

As one of the first, if not the first, chapters in the country to tackle the NCARB licensing exam change, the AIA Denver Chapter has completed its ARE prep session for 1997. The regular topics were studied as well as a special session given by Peter Schneider of UCD Architecture School on taking the ARE exam. The candidates were briefed on the test format changes during a computerized presentation by Christine Farmer with the State's Licensing Board and Jeff Kenney, NCARB technical editor of the computerized exam. AIA Denver would like to extend their gratitude to the presenters of this year's study sessions:

- **Cheri Gerou, Assoc. AIA**  
Associate Director
- **Lynn Moore, Davis Partnership**  
Site Design
- **Jim Bershof, AIA, OZ Architecture**  
Building Design
- **Kin DuBois, AIA, KC JD Architects**  
Building Design
- **Phil Gerou, FAIA, Gerou & Associates**  
Building Design
- **John Siefken, Cator Ruma**  
Electrical
- **Barry Stamp, Cator Ruma**  
Mechanical
- **Paul Doak, Martin/Martin**  
General & Long Span Structures
- **Charles Keyes, Martin/Martin**  
General & Long Span Structures
- **Jim Harris, J.R. Harris**  
Lateral Structures
- **Bill Dilatush, AIA, Dilatush Architects**  
Materials/Construction Documents
- **Peter Schneider, AIA, UCD**  
Special Session

In an effort to assist the candidates during the testing, a meeting will be held in September to review text experiences and offer assistance to candidates with individual difficulties in the testing process. Until then, if you have any questions, please contact Cheri Gerou, Assoc. AIA, at 674.4177, or daphne r. scott-monroe, Assoc. AIA, at 446.2266.

Good Luck in your studies!



Cheri Gerou, Assoc. AIA

## AIA DENVER'S AWARDS PROGRAMS

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT...

**P**urpose:

- recognition of AIA members within the profession and community
- education of the profession and the public
- promotion of the AIA and the profession.

**Recognition and Awards.** There are four distinct areas in which AIA Denver bestows recognition and awards:

- annual awards for service to the profession and the chapter, nominated by the membership and selected by the AIA Denver Board of Directors.
- annual design awards, selected by a design jury.
- annual recommendations to AIA Colorado for state awards, nominated by the membership and selected by the AIA Denver Board of Directors.
- annual recommendations to AIA Western Mountain Region for region awards, nominated by the membership and selected by the AIA Denver Board of Directors.

**Annual Awards for Service to the Profession and the Chapter:**

- Award of Distinction
- Phil Milstein Award
- Twenty-Five Year Award
- Education Award
- James S. Sudler Award
- Planning and Research Award
- Young Architect's Award

**Annual Design Awards (Annual Awards Gala):**

- Design Awards
- Young Architect's Design Awards

**Annual Recommendations to AIA Colorado for State Awards:**

- Firm of the Year
- Twenty-Five Year Award
- Architect of the Year
- Contribution to the Built Environment

**Annual Recommendations to AIA Western Mountain Region for Region Awards:**

- Silver Medal Award
- Regional Architectural Firm Award
- Award of Distinction

**Who May Nominate?** Any AIA member, group of members, chapter, or committee may nominate candidates for the Award of Distinction. Any candidate may be self-nominated.

**Who Selects The Recipient?** Recipients are chosen by the AIA Denver Board of Directors.

**How Often Is The Award Given?** The Award can be, but is not always, awarded once each year.

**Length of Contributory Service.** Candidates are to have made substantive contributions from either the public or private realm (including either architectural firms or non-architectural private enterprises) for at least five years.

**Schedule.** All nominations must be submitted to AIA Denver by June 1st.

### AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes achievements of public-service architects and architects in private corporations who:

- manage or produce quality building design or urban design within their organizations or agencies.
- by their skill, professionalism, dedication, ability and commitment, have consistently fostered quality design in the built environment and such quality is uniquely attributable to each recipient.

**Eligibility.** All registered architects employed in the Denver metropolitan area public sector, government, or private corporations or agencies who manage, are responsible for, or produce quality architecture within their jurisdiction are eligible to be nominated in this category. Architects working in traditional architectural practice are not eligible.

**Submissions.** Each submission needs to contain the following information:

- A nomination letter
- A biography of the nominee, or history of the agency (not to exceed two pages) including a list of offices, positions, honors, publications, and

presentations that relate to the purpose of the award.

- A statement of contributions that illustrates the effectiveness of the architect within the agency or organization, not to exceed four (4) pages.

### JAMES S. SUDLER AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DENVER CHAPTER

Recognizes an outstanding contribution to the AIA Denver Chapter by recognizing the achievements of people who have by their professionalism, dedication, leadership, ability, and commitment improved the quality of services offered by the Denver Chapter.

**Eligibility.** Anyone, architect or non-architect, is eligible for this award. The award can be given to an individual, to a group, or to a committee. A specific contribution must be identified. This award can be given for a *single outstanding achievement* or for a *contribution of achievements carried out over a lengthy period of time.*

**Submission.** Each submission should contain a nomination letter (two pages in length) stating the nominee's contribution to AIA Denver. The letter can be prepared by the nominee or by their sponsor.

### PHIL MILSTEIN AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The AIA Denver Community Service Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments by a non-architect or organization in the Denver metropolitan area for:

1. *Demonstrating exemplary:*
  - achievements in contributing to the quality of the built environment
  - contributions to a better understanding and interpretation of architecture, planning, urban design, and landscape architecture
  - professional contributions to maintaining, preserving, developing, or promoting Denver's architecture, planning, urban design, and landscape architecture.
2. *Recognizing the critical role of* elected officials, public administrators, and institutional leaders who establish

## NEW MEMBERS

### AIA MEMBERS

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- Carl Hole, AIA
- Fred Hynek, AIA
- Christopher Klein, AIA
- Margaret Kinsey, AIA
- Rachel Lawrence, Assoc. AIA
- Rob Levinson, AIA
- Bridget Rasbach, AIA
- J. D. Dreyer, Assoc. AIA

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- Jan Ingve, PA
- R. David Benight, PA
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- MaryAnne Nielander, PA
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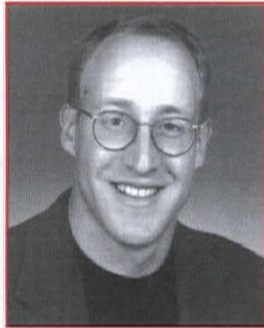
## MEMBER NEWS

- Gordon, Gumeson and Associates
- Knudson Gloss Architects
- Wong Strauch Architects

Gordon, Gumeson and Associates, Inc., Mechanical and Electrical Consulting Engineers, is pleased to announce that Jeffrey D. Mandrell has been named an Associate of the firm. Jeff Mandrell is a project electrical engineer and has been with the firm for three years. Gordon, Gumeson and Associates recently celebrated its 12th anniversary.

Knudson Gloss Architects was recently recognized by the Homebuilders Association of Metro Denver with two 1997 MAME (Major Achievement in Marketing Excellence) awards for their architectural designs for two custom homes: The Davis Residence, built by Malibu Homes, and the 1996 Showhome for Hope, built by Sattler Homes. A panel of housing professionals from across the country judged the competition.

Wong Strauch Architects recently named Rob Levinson, AIA as Principal in recognition of his significant contributions to the firm. Rob is 29, lives in Denver and has been with Wong Strauch Architects since 1991 serving as a Project Manager and a Senior Designer. Among the projects designed by Rob are the Imperial Restaurant in Denver, the Budget Car Rental Agency at DIA and the remodel of five recreation centers for the City and County of Denver. Rob is currently working on the design of a new Community Center for the Quigg Newton Sunnyside Neighborhood in Denver. Wong Strauch Architects was founded in 1989 by Jam Wong and Donald Strauch. The firm provides excellent hands-on service to its clients through the efforts of a talented and professional staff with diversified project experience.



Rob Levinson, AIA

## DESIGN COMMUNICATION

### COMMITTEE: MONTHLY REVIEW

Our April committee meeting focused on the subject of colored markers and pencils. We learned of the many different varieties of products and how they differ from each other. The committee also reviewed several diazo and digital reprographic papers and compared the performance characteristics of each material when color was applied. The "hands-on" workshop was extremely beneficial as many members had never understood the importance of combining the right markers with specific reprographic papers.

- June 19.....LODO sketching field trip. Committee members will meet at noon in front of the AIA offices and spend the lunch hour touring LODO and drawing our favorite images. Should be fun for everyone! Sketch pads required.
- July 17.....Learning about the Internet
- August 21.....Drawing Shortcuts slide show
- September 18.....Basics of Desktop Publishing
- October 16.....Making great presentations using Powerpoint
- November 20.....Learning about 3-D modeling software and Form z

If you would like to become a member of the DESIGN COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE and start earning continuing education credits, please attend our noon-time brown bag workshops on the third Thursday of each month in the Denver Chapter AIA conference room. Questions? Call Jim Leggitt at 312.5515.



Design Communication Committee members "hands-on" testing colored markers and pencils at April meeting.

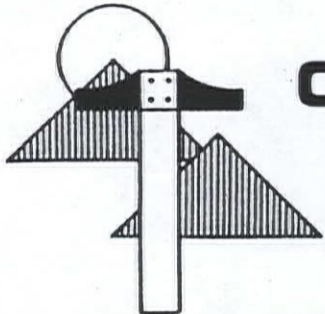
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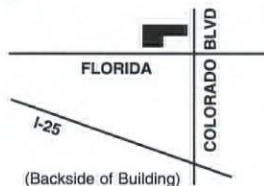
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## MEMBER PROJECTS:

UNITING DENVER AND OKLAHOMA...IT'S MORE THAN JUST A TRIAL

While Denver and Oklahoma City have been inextricably linked by the bombing trial, other links have been established between the two cities in terms of business. Before the bombing occurred, **Sink Combs Dethlefs**, Architects of Denver, and The Benham Group, of Oklahoma City, embarked upon a relationship to design the new Oklahoma City Arena.

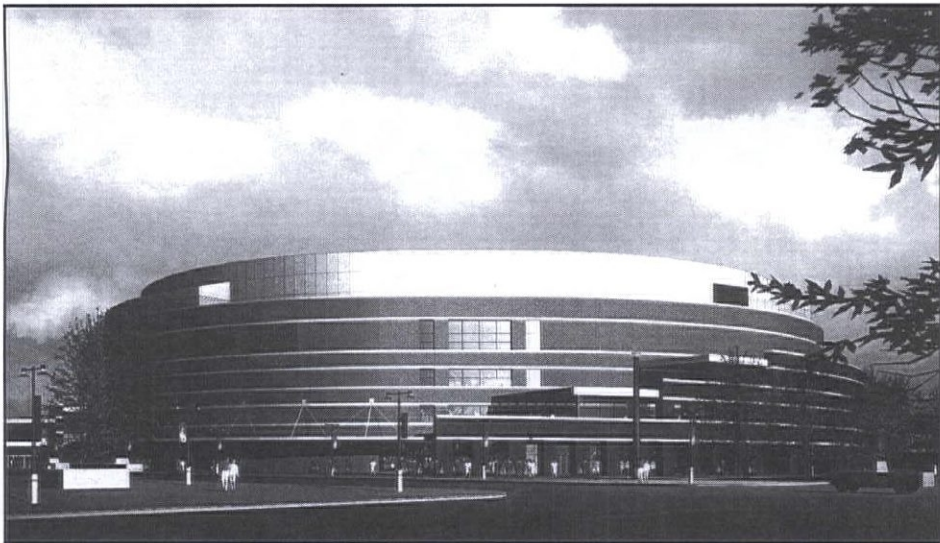
A metropolitan area project with a budget of \$75 million, the arena will be the largest facility of its kind in Oklahoma City. The new arena is the crown jewel of a \$300 million bond issue passed by the residents of Oklahoma City. A key goal of the bond issue is downtown renewal – similar to the revitalization downtown Denver has and is currently experiencing.

Interviews for the project took place early 1995 in Oklahoma City. By late February, the Denver-based **Sink Combs Dethlefs** was selected as the architectural firm for the project. On April, 19, 1995, members of the Benham Group and **Sink Combs Dethlefs** were meeting in the Denver firm's conference room ironing out contractual issues regarding the arena

design when news of the bombing became public. "It was an incredibly emotional day, having them with us. All of a sudden the disaster was up close and personal, seen through the eyes of people who live and work in Oklahoma City," Dick Combs, CEO of **Sink Combs Dethlefs**, recalls.

The new Oklahoma City Arena is organized on seven levels with a total area of 572,000 square feet. Seating capacity ranges from 18,000 for hockey to 20,230 for concerts. The arena was designed per the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Sink Combs Dethlefs**, established in Denver, Colorado, in 1962, is recognized nationally and locally as a leader in sports, entertainment and athletic facility design. With over 80% of business concentrated in the sports and entertainment markets, the firm has received such honors as Athletic Business Magazine's Facility of Merit Award for the Dal Ward Athletic Center, The Palace at Auburn Hills, and Victor Copps Coliseum, as well as Performance Magazine twice naming McNichols Sports Arena the Arena of the Year.



Uniting Denver and Oklahoma...It's More Than Just A Trial! The Oklahoma City Arena designed by Sinks, Combs, Dethlefs, Architects in a joint partnership.



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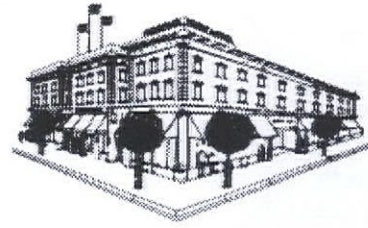
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**[ Awards, from page 7 ]**

or contribute to the development of laws, regulations, or policies that affect:

- the process and product of public architecture
- the public's perception of architecture as an important part of our environment, lifestyle, and heritage
- recognizing their advocacy for design excellence as a critical issue in the formulation of such policies and the positive evolution of the public's perception and demand for design quality.

**Eligibility.** Non-registered architects or organizations who manage, advocate, produce, restore, or preserve quality architecture within the Denver metropolitan area are eligible to be nominated in this category. Typically, a completed building or related project of high quality architecture, planning, urban design, or landscape architecture can be exhibited as the product of this effort. Members of allied professions are eligible for this award. Any person, persons, or organizations who have performed the above-stated contributions within the boundaries of the Denver metropolitan area may be nominated. The award can be given for a single, outstanding achievement or for a record of continued service.

**Submissions.** Each submission shall contain the following information:

- a one-page nomination letter or statement
- a biography of the nominee, not to exceed two pages, including a list of contributions.

**PLANNING AND RESEARCH AWARD**

The AIA Denver Planning and Research Award recognizes design, urban design, planning, and research for the future. This is an award given for vision and creativity. Typically, the conclusions are so long-range that proposed projects will not be constructed for years into the future. Such long-range proposals typically act as guidelines and directives for intermediate projects constructed as a means of reaching long-range goals.

**Examples of Achievements:**

- a private or government building program
- a public works project
- a single book
- theoretical or applied research in zoning, urban design, interiors planning, energy conservation, preservation, restoration, transportation, industrial design other significant discipline that influences architecture
- projects that may be non-built contributions that benefit the built world or the profession or architecture.

**Eligibility.** Any person, persons, or organizations who have performed the

above-stated contributions within the boundaries of the Denver metropolitan area may be nominated, including, but not limited to:

- individuals or organizations who are responsible for creative visionary documents for the design, urban design, planning, or research of the physical environment.
- projects within the Denver metropolitan area are eligible to be nominated in this category.
- an illustrated planning/design document or research report is typically the product to be evaluated for this award.

**Submissions.** Each submission shall contain the following information:

- a one-page nomination letter or statement
- a biography of the nominee, not to exceed two pages, including a list of contributions.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEAR AWARD**

The Twenty-Five Year Award recognizes the enduring quality of architectural design. The architect typically designs for both today and for the future. This award is for those built projects that most successfully stand the test of time and actually improve over the years.

**Eligibility.** The award is open to architectural projects of all classifications and:

- may be a building or a related group of buildings forming a single project that is at least 25 years old
- must be standing in a substantially completed form and in good condition
- should typically still carry out the original program
- must have excellence in function, in the distinguished execution of its original program, and in the creative aspects of its statement by today's standards.

Any alteration to the immediate context shall be taken into consideration. Nominations previously submitted may be resubmitted provided they still meet the stipulated date of substantial completion of the original project. Change of use is permitted when it has not basically altered the original intent of the design.

**Submissions.** Each submission need to contain the following information:

- a nomination letter by an AIA member, group of members, chapter, or committee
- a short description of the project, including:
- a statement of the condition of the project with respect to use and general appearance at the time of the submission
- a brief outline of the transformations, if any, that may have taken place in the interim period
- the current location and name of the project

- the name of the original architect
- a minimum of four (4) 8" x 10" glossy black and white photographs, a maximum of six slides, and/or site and floor plans that properly illustrate the project in its original condition.

**YOUNG ARCHITECT'S AWARD**

Recognizes significant contributions made during the early stages of an architect's career that exemplify outstanding built, or unbuilt work, projects, initiatives, and brilliant beginnings. The candidates must have shown exceptional leadership in design, education, and service to the profession.

**Eligibility.** Members of the AIA who have been licensed to practice architecture less than 15 years are eligible to be nominated. The term "young architect" has no reference to the age of the nominee.

**Submissions.** Each submission shall contain the following information:

- a one-page nomination letter or statement
- a biography of the nominee, not to exceed two pages, including a list of contributions
- exhibits in support of the nominee in the category of design, education, or service

**EDUCATION AWARD (WMR)**

The candidates must have shown exceptional leadership in design, education, and/or service to the profession by having:

- evidenced great depth and breadth, having influenced a wide range of students

- consistently directed themselves toward the future as well as the past
- proven the ability to transcend specific areas of expertise or shall have made connections between areas in the event that the candidates area of focus might be considered circumscribed
- exhibited substantial knowledge, through the quality of their work.

**Eligibility.** Candidates must have:

- spent at least a decade involved primarily in architectural education
- made primary contributions to architectural education in the Western Mountain Region.

**Submissions.** Each submission needs to contain the following information:

- a nomination letter
- a biography of the nominee, not to exceed two (2) pages
- a statement of contributions, not to exceed four (4) pages.

**NEXT MONTH'S APOGEE....**

Look for information on:

- The AIA Denver Golf Tournament, August 8th, The Canterbury Club
- The AIA Annual Awards Gala, September 27th...location still to be determined
- AIA Denver Editorial Policy
- Members Respond to the \$50 Dues Assessment Proposal by AIA National for the Advertising Campaign



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John Rising, AIA  
  
George Watt, AIA  
Jim Logan Architects

**HEAD FOR THE HILLS!**

**SUMMERFEST  
Friday August 1, 1997**

This year's summer golf and dinner will be held in the scenic Estes Park area.

Bring the whole family for a day of fun in the sun and enjoy the many amenities Rocky Mountain National Park has to offer.

Horse back riding and hay rack rides will be available through the Aspen Lodge as space is available.

A casual barbecue dinner awaits you and your family at the Aspen Lodge located just 10 minutes from downtown Estes on highway 7. The lodge is nestled at the base of Twin Sisters with dramatic views of Longs Peak.

**GOLFFEST**

Golf will be at the Estes Park Golf Club on highway 7 with tee times beginning at noon. Format and pricing will be forthcoming.

**RESERVATIONS**

Required for both dinner and golf by July 18th.

Make reservations with Dawn Moyer at Fletemeyer & Lee Associates 303.443.3750.

## SUMMER VACATION LIKELY TO BE CLOSE TO HOME

—Steve Loos, AIA

*The North Chapter's President-Elect, Steve Loos, took a shot at the President's Letter for June—sort of on-the-job training for next year.*

**W**hen Mark asked me to write something about the June Newsletter theme, "Summer Vacation," I was all set to embark on a discussion of adventure in Europe or a visit to some world capital. The only problem is that, this year, it is highly unlikely that I will be touring Europe or any world capitals on my vacation. Given the pressure at work and the projects at home, vacation this year likely will be much closer to home and probably restricted to some long weekends. As my thoughts turned to vacation opportunities much closer at hand, I started to remember the numerous short excursions I have enjoyed in the Colorado North Chapter region—not exactly the first place you think of when you think vacations, but an area surprisingly rich in things to see if you know where to look.

Perhaps the best place to begin a weekend adventure in northeastern Colorado is in its northeasternmost corner at the Julesburg Welcome Center. The Julesburg Welcome Center was officially opened about a year ago as the State's "greeter" to those venturing in from the wilds of Nebraska and points East. Designed by the North Chapter's Abo•Copeland Architecture, Inc., the Welcome Center boasts about the best wall full of promotional brochures around on things to see and do in northeastern Colorado and west-

ern Nebraska (Yes, surprising as it sounds, there really are some things of interest in western Nebraska.). The Welcome Center itself is an enjoyable place to spend some time with its



Steve Loos, AIA

strong western ambiance and those steel buffalo and tepee picnic shelters.

Suitably stocked with brochures on everything from museums to great fishing spots, you are ready to hit the road. Most people regard the great plains as, at worst, a wasteland and, at best, an "acquired taste!" Many regard it as a lot of empty miles to blast through as quickly as possible. There is beauty there, however. The best way to get a good dose is to find a big open piece of land and experience it firsthand as dawn or early evening fills it with color.

The Pawnee National Grassland would be a good contender for the newcomer to the plains—lots of open country there. Find a spot where you can walk out into the prairie far enough to lose sight of the road and the car. Watch out for the host of locals which can bite, scratch, and sting you. Get out far

enough that you experience the space and the sky—the splendid and somewhat frightening isolation. Try to imagine what it was like to be out here a hundred years ago—just you and a few Arapaho who may or may not take kindly to your presence. I guarantee that it will transport you back to the old days if you let your imagination run a little.

A good way to pick up some local color and lore is to hit a few local museums. Pick any town on the northeastern plains or front range and you will find a terrific little museum just packed to the rafters with interesting stuff. I don't care if you are in Sterling, Fort Morgan, Greeley, or Estes Park, the people of this region have a very strong interest in their pioneer heritage and keep it alive in these little museums. You could fill many interesting hours exploring these treasure troves!

Finally, don't miss stopping in at a local eatery in one of these small towns. Pick any town and find its main street. On that main street there will be a small restaurant or coffee shop frequented by the locals. Stop in for some excellent food and some fascinating people watching. Yes, you will feel like an outsider and you will get some looks (Somehow, they always know when you are from Boulder! It must be the license plates.), but it will be worth it.

A long weekend in northeastern Colorado may not be a trip to Europe, but you will come away with some good memories.

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**H**ow does an architectural firm successfully navigate the sometimes cyclical design market for more than 44 years?

Creative designs with respect to the user's needs and budget. Those are among the reasons why many clients in Northern Colorado and beyond have sought the Fort Collins-based architectural firm of RB+B, Inc.

Since 1953, RB+B, Inc. has quietly earned a reputation for a strong user-

based creative vision. The firm has established enviable long-term relationships, which include working with several clients for more than 30 years.

Fundamental to these successful long-term relationships is client-focused quality design. RB+B has continually strived to maintain a high level of client involvement by seeking input from all the users of a project. Principal George Brelig sees this aspect of their firm as paramount in developing quality design solutions. "End

users need to feel a sense of ownership in a project. To foster this involvement, our first charge in the beginning of any project is to be good listeners."

The framework for this client involvement is readily apparent in the firm's educational projects. RB+B's approach in the design of educational facilities is to involve all teachers and staff, as well as students, parents and the community at large. "Their input shapes our

[ continued on page 12 ]

[ RB&B, continued from page 11 ]

design solutions. Our designs must result in educational delivery systems that will serve the community's needs for the next 40 or 50 years," Brelig says. Recent examples of this philosophy are the \$16M Rocky Mountain High School and Poudre High School projects. A great deal of time was spent



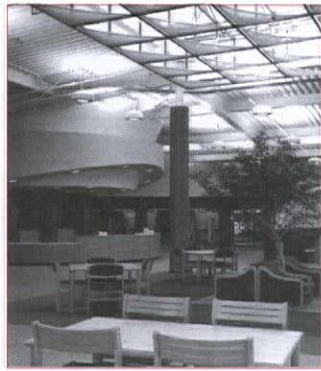
Poudre High School

"futuring" with teachers and administrators early in the design process. Both schools also reflect the firm's commitment to bringing natural light into its projects.

Another factor in maintaining a long-term relationship with their clients has been the firm's commitment to principal involvement, coupled with highly experienced staff. "Principal involvement has been a common thread throughout our firm's history," says Partner Bill Brenner. Personal attention from the firm's principals ensures smooth project development. With a staff of ten, RB+B has six licensed architects, each with an average of 15 to 20 years of experience. An interior

design department also supplements the architectural staff.

Through the firm's history, RB+B has strived to provide a more complete and diversified design service. Its most recent project, the Mawson



Rocky Mountain Media Center

Block Development, reflects this. It will bring banking, retail, office, and residential functions together in a



Mawson Block Development

building that respects the surrounding Old Town Fort Collins environment. "It required a great deal of vision on the part of the client and the city to make it work, but the results will be well worth the effort," Brelig says.

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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.

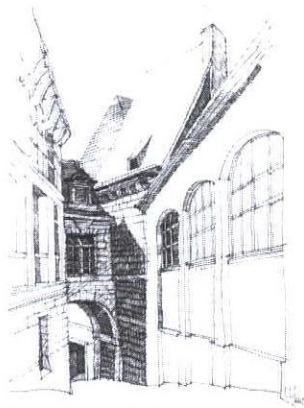
### Dear Friends & Workaholics (Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects, Ltd.),

This is a new kind of holiday for the Yaw family—and we are savoring every sabbatical moment of it!

We've rented this very old, and believe it or not, inexpensive farm house in a region of France along the Dordogne River known as the *Perigord Noir*. From this "base camp," where the fireplace has gathered and warmed its inhabitants for over four centuries, our major means of transportation is by bicycle, a mode which has produced the wonderful effect of settling us into the unhurried march of life here.

Our days typically begin with a hilly three-mile ride to the markets of the village Sarlat, where fresh bread, cheese and fruit are strapped aboard for the peddle back home to breakfast.

There is an amazing architectural richness to the Dordogne region—its namesake river having formed the historic "battle line" for the Hundred



Year's War. Interestingly, the long English presence had very little influence on the architecture or the people. This place is utterly, uncompromisingly FRENCH!

Primarily defined by steep topography with limestone cliffs, the Dordogne valley area is dotted with ancient fortifications, rock ascending villages, chateaux and beautiful *manoirs*. Many of the great bastides are also found here, remarkable examples of 13th century town planning, many of which are still in working order and have adapted with stoic indifference to 20th century life and commerce (or visa versa!).

I particularly enjoy studying the "gathered forms" of rural farm buildings and

find they have evolved over time with interesting parallels to rural and working habitations of our Mountain West.

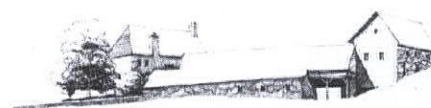
Of course, all of this is "soul food" for my sketch-starved existence. After exigencies and fun with Phyllis and the kids (often including a brisk dip in the river), I throw my sketch pad and stool in a backpack, and ride 15 or so miles out to discover a new (old) place to sketch.

I was very self-conscious at first, for when I would set up for a sketch in a public place, it would inevitably draw people who were happy to hang around watching the work in progress. This is common throughout the towns and by-ways of Europe, where tourists



may often "street purchase" an original painting or sketch for either a pittance or patience—or both! I think this tended to make my sketching a bit "tight," but with much persistence, I eventually learned the art of the "sketch-trance" (i.e. friendly indifference) and the sketches began to loosen up.

The sketching process is really teaching me how to see, and maybe even understand more about the nature of



things. Certainly more so, than the quick image lock of a camera.

We have also wandered in and out of this region's many prehistoric caves that display incredible Neolithic wall art far surpassing the overworked con-

temporary junk found in the proliferation of tourist-oriented "art" galleries. These magnificent natural caves and grottos, almost Gothic in stature, penetrate a long way into Mother Earth. Unfortunately, far too dark and cold for sketching. I am told this is the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites in the world—and I believe it. Along with a



chateaux infused neighborhood—not bad having a smorgasbord of architectural history for one's backyard!

OK—on to more mundane thing of fare... the local food is extraordinary! Thank God our bikes require a human engine that consumes this calorie-packed fuel. Although the cuisine uses a lot of fresh produce, this is the world of truffles, walnut oil, yummy sauces and foie gras—tasty fat foods that, by tradition, require a generous amount of local wine "dissolvent" to aid the digestive process.

All for now gang. I hope you enjoy seeing the sketches as much as I enjoyed doing them.

Yours Out of Touch (and loving it!),  
Larry

Larry Yaw, FAIA, a principal with Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects, Ltd. (based in Aspen and Telluride, with offices soon to open in Vail) spent a summer holiday in the southwest region of France along the Dordogne river. Rich in history, agriculture and architecture, the region is prized for its remarkable concentration of historic architecture and townscapes. Sketches depict the historic character of the area around Sarlat and La Roque-Gageac.

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OTHER ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS—

# VISITOR CENTER AT THE NEEDLES SECTION OF CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

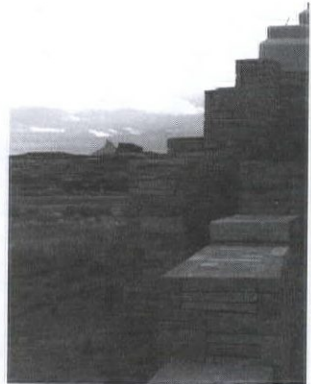
—Skip Doty, AIA

One of my favorite road trips in Utah starts at Monticello and goes north on US 191 for about ten miles across a rolling mesa, criss-crossed by grain and pinto bean fields edged by pinon and juniper forests. The highway drops abruptly down to sparse sage brush flats dotted with large multicolored sandstone monoliths such as Church Rock. Fourteen miles out of town is a junction, where Utah State Highway 211 heads off in a westerly direction. This road climbs to a low divide then traverses across a valley that is cut by a series of dry arroyos. The Abajo Mountains are directly to the south and the land is more heavily forested with the ubiquitous pinons. The road climbs to another low divide and then perches above a thin neck of land that extends into a sandstone walled canyon.

Now the fun begins! For the next half mile, the road twists and turns as it rolls and tumbles down the ridge at a 10% grade. A 90° and 180° curve at the bottom of the hill serve to capture your attention.

You now find yourself at the bottom of a cottonwood-choked sandstone canyon with rock monoliths towering above. The road twists and curves as it clings to the side of the slowly widening canyon.

The destination is the Visitors Center at the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. This has become an increasingly popular region to visit, so the National Park Service commissioned Chamberlin Architects of Grand Junction, CO in 1987 to design a



Photos: Skip Doty

Visitor Center, employee housing and maintenance facilities for the Park within a four phase timetable. The Visitor Center was the first phase, and it was opened to the public in 1991. There were no other permanent structures in the area at the time so Mr. Chamberlin was presented with the opportunity of creating a community from a clean slate.

From a distance, the visitor center is a sublime exercise of shade and shadow, positive and negative spaces. It is as if it has been carved from the land and set there a long time ago by a higher hand. In reality, it has been placed at the end of a long field next to a chocolate brown island of rock. This island

acts as the perfect foil for the Center to act as a mimic of nature.

As you travel closer, a series of stone walls of different heights extend from the body of the building. These walls provide definition to the building as they anchor it to the landscape. Detailed metal columns support a series of trellis roofs for shade. The main window of the building looks out at the fields to the East, but the public entrance is from the West under a trellis roof. The sandy fields extend to the edge of the building and parking lot, which adds to the illusion of the building growing out of the land.



Archeological records indicate that there has been human habitation in the Needles region for several thousand years. It would be a well-worn cliché to claim that Mr. Chamberlin modeled the Visitor Center after the Anasazi structures found in the area. I think nature itself was the more important form maker for the project. This building grows from the ground in a solid ancient manner that remains fresh

when you are close to it, but appears as a weathered rock from a distance. The Anasazi and cowboys both built stone structures and dugouts in the shelter of south-facing rock overhangs. This building is a stand-alone rock that creates its own shade and overhangs.

In architectural circles, there is a tremendous amount of discussion about contextual design and the rebuilding of communities with more traditional forms of buildings and habitation. It is important to remember that this ideal model has to be tempered by the community environment. With this project, Mr. Chamberlin was able to design a new community within a harsh high desert environment, and his first response had to be to the landscape, not to preconceived forms or ideals that a person would expect to experience in an existing community.

The best time to visit this region is in February when it might reach 40° in the day, and drop to 0° at night. In the winter, the white snow plays a symphony with the red sandstone. Of course, you may want to visit this region in the summer so that you can experience first-hand the forces of erosion that Mr. Chamberlin so deftly responded to. In the summer, this land becomes a caldera of heat, high voltage thunderstorms and a wicked wind that takes your breath away.



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[ Capitol, continued from page 1 ]

mately took his case to the United States Supreme Court which disallowed his claim in a decision in 1886. Brown's next project was the incomparable Brown Palace Hotel.

It was not until the Supreme Court decision was handed down that the Capitol started to become a reality. A design competition was held, but produced no designs that were considered acceptable. At the end of a second design competition, the proposal by E. E. Myers, a Detroit architect who had recently designed two other state capitols, was accepted.

The exterior was originally planned to be of sandstone, but was changed to granite. Some offices were ready for occupancy in 1894 and the Legislature moved in 1895. Following his appointment in 1898 as architect, F. E. Edbrooke designed the stained glass around the dome. In 1907 the gold leaf was applied to the dome and, in 1908, the light atop the dome was installed.

The bright prospects of ninety years ago are dim. The Capitol has not received adequate funds over the decades for proper maintenance and periodic upgrading of systems.

It has been known for some time that the Capitol does not meet the minimum requirements of many basic building and life safety codes. The most serious deficiencies involve its life-safety systems. Correspondence from the City and County of Denver on the State Capitol's life safety systems says "...based on its present condition without the proposed fire protection and life safety improvements, the occupants' safety is compromised."

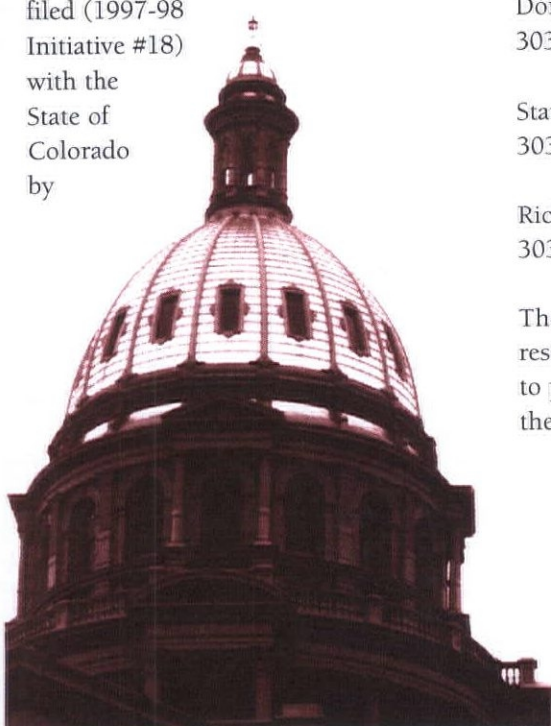
A 1992 legislative appropriation authorized making a variety of life safety improvements. But, after \$700,000 was spent, it became clear that the building's problems were more serious than anticipated and the scope of the project was growing far beyond expectations.

An April 22, 1997 Memorandum to the Legislature's Capital Development Committee regarding the Status of Appropriations Made for Capitol Life Safety Projects states, "The issue[s] were not resolved by the General Assembly during the 1996 legislative session because Senate Bill 96-231, 'Concerning the State Capitol Building and State Annex Building Renovation,' was postponed indefinitely by the House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee." There now exists no consensus on how to address the current serious situation.

In addition to its life safety and building problems, the Capitol lacks a minimum level of capacity to handle contemporary electrical, electronic and telecommunication needs. It also needs physical improvements to address the needs of persons with disabilities. In short, it needs serious attention. If a

fire or other catastrophic event were to occur at the Capitol, the loss to Colorado would be immeasurable.

An initiative was filed (1997-98 Initiative #18) with the State of Colorado by



Donald A. Bertram, AIA and Stan Andrews, AIA with the strong support of AIA Colorado. Favoring no individual or group within the Capitol, this initiative would:

- ◆ Require the General Assembly to appropriate \$120 million by March 1, 1998 for renovation and restoration of the Capitol;
- ◆ Be a voter-approved revenue issue removing it from the spending cap and spending-increase cap required by Amendment #1;
- ◆ Require all occupants of the Capitol move out by September 1, 1999 and would pay for their relocation to a site of their choice for two years;
- ◆ Require there be no increase in taxes to achieve the purposes of this initiative.

The Friends of the Colorado State Capitol Building, Inc. was formed to promote the initiative and to help save the Capitol. It is soliciting assistance and participation

Friends of the Capitol  
303.777.8993

Donald A. Bertram, Esq., AIA  
303.871.9300

Stan Andrews, AIA  
303.861.0672

Richard Hamilton, registered agent  
303.861.0424

The 1997 State Capitol Building restoration Initiative is an opportunity to preserve and pass on the heritage of the State of Colorado.

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The AIA Colorado Government Affairs Committee (GAC) seeks your support through participation as a member of this statewide committee.

Meetings are at the AIA offices the second Friday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. We review key proposed legislation and recommend positions to the Board of Directors, along with other important activities. We also are very involved in the licensing law sunset review process.

For questions about the GAC, call committee chair John Williams, AIA at 303.295.6190, or Joe Jackson, Assoc. AIA at 303.446.2266 or 800.628.5598.

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## CALENDAR EVENTS

### JUNE

- 5 Committee on the Environment, noon, AIA office
- 5 Denver Board of Directors, 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- 6 Gallery Opening, "Computers in Architecture," 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- 13 Gov't Affairs Committee, 2 PM - 5 PM, AIA offices
- 17 Public Architects Roundtable, 5:30 PM, University of Colorado at Boulder, ITTL Building
- 18 Human Resources Issues Dinner Program, 5:30 PM Denver Design Center, Sally Corey, Terracon, 303.825.2595, \$15 - SDA, AIA, ACEC & ASLA members; \$20 - non-members, CES LU credit given
- 19 Denver Design Build Committee, Redefining the Profession Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series, "In It For The Long Term: Life Cycle Delivery," 7:30-8:30 AM, AIA offices
- 19 Denver Design Communication Committee, noon, AIA offices
- 19 Denver Executive Committee, 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- 20 Colorado Finance Committee, noon-2 PM, AIA offices
- 20 Colorado Board of Directors 2 PM - 5 PM, AIA offices
- 26 Historic Preservation Committee, 7:30 AM, AIA offices

### JULY

- 3 Committee on the Environment, noon, AIA offices
- 3 Denver Board of Directors 5:30 PM, AIA offices
- 4 AIA offices closed
- 17 Denver Design Build Committee, Redefining the Profession Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Series "Designing Strategic Alliances: Team Building," 7:30-8:30 AM, AIA offices
- 18 Colorado Finance Committee, noon-2 PM, AIA offices
- 18 Colorado Board of Directors 2-5 PM, AIA offices
- 22 Public Architects Roundtable, 5:30 PM, University of Colorado at Boulder, ITTL Building
- 24 Historic Preservation Committee, 7:30 AM, AIA offices

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This new site is offered as a service to our members, as well as the public. In addition to AIA Colorado resources, each local chapter has a number of pages to convey their programs and services.

Currently listing items such as Boards of Directors, Committees,

and chapter histories, the web site will eventually include a calendar of events, an online version of this newsletter, continuing education opportunities and "hot links" to member firms with web-sites.

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ARE Update  
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