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JUNE 1998

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

—Joseph M. Jackson, Assoc. AIA

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**D**uring 1998's legislative session, AIA Colorado reviewed more than 600 legislative bills, 50 of which were closely tracked due to their potential impact on the profession. Our Government Affairs Committee, chaired by **John Williams, AIA** played a significant role in the passage of four of these bills, which are outlined below.

### SB 124 (Schroeder/Agler) Architects and Engineers Good Samaritan Law

AIA Colorado initiated this bill along with the American Consulting Engineers Council of Colorado (ACEC) and several other statewide professional engineering associations. The purpose of this law is to allow an exemption from liability for architects and engineers who volunteer their services following a declared disaster or emergency.

The statute provides that an architect or engineer who voluntarily provides structural inspection and/or architectural services at the scene of a declared emergency will not be held liable for personal injury, wrongful death, or property damage caused by the good faith effort but negligent inspection of a structure. This bill applies to services performed within 45 days of the declared emergency, and does not apply to gross negligence or willful misconduct. This bill was signed by the Governor on April 10, and becomes effective July 1.

### HB 1016 (T. Williams/Schroeder) Regulation of Architects

Our profession went through the "Sunset Review" process this year, providing the legislature with an opportunity to determine the need for continued regulation by the State of Colorado. AIA Colorado's Sunset Review Task Force, chaired by **Tom McKenzie, AIA** spent the better part of two years developing recommendations and modifications to the existing license law.

Our goals were very successful in some cases, less successful in others. We were able to have a positive impact on the law with the addition of a new definition of the practice of architecture, modifications of the disciplinary actions, the addition of the date of the signature on stamped drawings, and a requirement that requires an architect's license number in any type of advertisement. The Board of

Examiners will be issuing the new statute to all licensed architects prior to the July 1 effective date. The Governor has not signed this bill as this publication goes to print; signing is anticipated during the first two weeks of May.

### HB 1018 (Takis/Schroeder) Continuation of Architects Board

Known as the "continuation bill," this statute continues the necessity of the Colorado Board of Examiners of Architects to regulate the profession. It also sets the year for the next "Sunset Review" process to take place during the 2008 legislative session. AIA Colorado supported this bill, which was signed into law by the Governor on April 17.

[ See LEGISLATURE on page 15 ]

## ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

—Nancy Snow, Colorado Civil Rights Division

**E**ditor's Note: The questions and answers below are a follow-up to a previous *Colorado Architect* article, detailing accessibility requirements of the federal and state Fair Housing Acts. Many AIA members have called since then, either upset to find that residential projects they designed were out of compliance, or with questions about accessibility requirements for future projects. Here are some common questions:

*I am designing a townhome project. The building inspector says these are single-family homes exempt from Fair Housing accessibility requirements, because each has its own lot and is separated from the next by firewalls. Is he correct?*

No, he is not correct. Even though your building inspector may consider a townhome a single-family home (or a "zero lot line" home or "attached single-family home") because it is on

its own lot and separated from others by firewalls, that does not exempt it from Fair Housing Act requirements. HUD regulations state, in the definition of the "covered multi-family dwellings" subject to the accessibility requirements that: "Dwelling units within a single structure separated by firewalls do not constitute separate buildings." However, some townhomes (not all) are exempt from the design standards for a different reason. See the next question and answer.

*The answer to the previous question said that some townhomes were exempt, but not because of firewalls. When are they exempt?*

There are two situations where townhomes are exempt: 1) As is explained above, only buildings which have four

[ See ACCESS on page 3 ]



Governor signs SB 124 into law. Pictured l-r, D.A. Bertram, AIA; Representative Vickie Agler (sponsor); AIA/C lobbyist Jerry Johnson; ACEC Executive Director Sandy Donnel; Joe Jackson, Assoc. AIA; ACEC President Ken Rudolph; Marvin Sparn, FAIA; John Williams, AIA; and Ron Abo, AIA.

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## COLORADO ARCHITECT EDITORIAL CALENDAR JULY THROUGH MARCH '99

July	Public Architects
August	Back to School
September	Project Delivery
October	Sports Architecture
November	Business of Architecture
December	Inter-faith Religious Arch.
January '99	Expanded Services
February	Institutional Architecture
March	Preservation Architecture

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 Web site: www.aiacolorado.org

# WELCOME, SUSAN BUCHANAN



—Ron Abo, AIA

A few issues ago, I wrote about the restructuring effort in AIA Colorado. I'm pleased to report that our efforts to create a unified AIA in Colorado are paying off. At the AIA National Grassroots Convention in February, Joe Jackson, our executive vice president, presented a seminar on the unified newsletter in Colorado. It was met with resounding applause and accolades. The Colorado Architect is clearly a newsletter model that many states want to copy. President Ronald Altoon, FAIA, challenged all components to begin efforts to provide staff support to all chapters. As you know, AIA Colorado has emerged with an organizational structure that now provides staff support to all local AIA chapters in Colorado. We have also made good on our promise to deliver \$10,000 to each local chapter from dues collection. We have recently begun the statewide sponsorship program that will provide each chapter with the rest of their operating budgets.

The delivery of service to you, the individual AIA member, is of course our main focus of the whole reorganization effort. At the center of this effort will be Susan Buchanan, our newly appointed Director of Local Chapters. Susan was hired after an extensive search. Members of each local chapter were on the final selection committee, and I'm

proud to say that they chose the best of the best. Susan previously held positions as Convention Services Manager for the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, Editorial Assistant with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Executive Assistant with the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) in Washington, DC. Susan earned a BA in Communications and Theatre. I invite each and every one of you to get to know Susan—she has come on board with high expectations and a very full agenda. I'm confident she will serve us well. I would like to turn over the remaining space of this column to Susan so that she can share with you her hopes and visions.

### Director of Local Chapters' Note

Although at this writing it's been just three weeks with AIA, I have been sweetly startled by the warm welcome and support that everyone has extended. I am honored to have been selected and am excited about where we can go!

As I ascertain where AIA has been and where it is headed, it is in the latter category that I seek your input. I ask that you use your voice and convey your ideas, desires, concerns, and experience to us here at AIA so that we can respond and act effectively for you. That's our job, as I see it. Think of us as your dreamcatcher: toss those



—Susan Buchanan

dreams to us and we'll try to find a way to make them happen. Pursue your local board representatives with topics you'd like to see covered in your area. Query us about trends, activities, discoveries and speakers you'd like to incorporate in a seminar. Acknowledge what works and what doesn't so that we can refine our processes. The form of your communication doesn't matter—just that you do—so that we can become the meaningful resource for which you joined.

I envision an AIA that can be thrilling, enlightening, informative, responsive, comprehensive and well-balanced.

Please share your vision!

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[ ACCESS, from page 1 ]

or more residential units are covered. So, if the townhome is in a duplex or triplex, it does not come under the law because there are not four units in one structure. 2) Two-story townhomes, provided they are in a building with no elevator, and provided they are finished on two or more floors, are exempt, because of HUD's interpretation that there is no "ground floor unit." All other townhomes have accessibility requirements.

*What does the Fair Housing Act mean by "covered multi-family dwellings?" What percent of the units do I have to make accessible?*

The law defines two categories of "covered multi-family dwellings:"

1. Buildings containing four or more units and an elevator. All units must be accessible in elevator buildings with four or more units.
2. Buildings containing four or more units but no elevator. All the ground floor units must be accessible in non-elevator buildings with four or more units.

*Suppose I'm designing a ranch plan with a basement. Does it have to be made accessible?*

If the ranch plan is in a four-unit structure, and the basement is unfinished, the answer is yes. If the basement is finished, then there is a different answer depending on whether the building does or does not have an elevator. In a building without an elevator, the unit is an exempt multi-story townhome. If a ranch plan with a finished basement is in a building with an elevator, then it does have accessibility requirements.

*What if condos or townhomes I'm designing are for sale, and the purchaser doesn't want the Fair Housing Accessibility features? Can't I design what he wants?*

No, you can't. The requirements are mandatory, if the unit is a "covered multifamily dwelling" as defined in the Fair Housing Acts, and regardless of whether the units are for sale or for rent. This obviously puts you in a bind between the law and your customer; but remember, the law makes illegal "a

failure to design and construct" covered units without following the accessibility standards, so a fair housing complaint can be filed against you. As you may have read in recent news articles about a settlement agreement with a Colorado housing complex, the architectural firms involved are sharing the very expensive cost of retrofitting units which were not designed to the Fair Housing Act accessibility standards.

*My client has purchased an old warehouse to renovate into apartments. Do the new units have to meet the Fair Housing Act accessibility standards?*

No. The federal and Colorado Fair Housing Acts apply only to "buildings never before used for any purpose." However, there are other laws which may apply to renovations. First, there is an older state law, (C.R.S. 9-5-111-112), which requires one in every seven units to be made accessible to the ANSI A117.1 standards, and this does apply both to new construction and renovations. The ADAAG (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines) may also apply to part of the building.

The ADA applies to renovations to any part of the housing defined as a "public accommodation" under the ADA, such as a rental or sales office, and also applies to common areas (pool, clubhouse), if they will be rented out to the public. Since you, as the architect, cannot be sure whether your client will or will not rent the common areas out to the public, it would probably be wise to design to the ADAAG. State and local governments, and any entity receiving federal funds, also may have requirements for renovations.

For more information and a copy of the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines call Nancy Snow, Colorado Civil Rights Division, at 303.894.7822, x325, or 800.262.4845.

**TAKE PART IN THE MKK CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC AND HELP FIGHT CHILDREN'S CANCER**

**A**IA Professional Affiliates McFall-Konkel & Kimball Consulting Engineers is hosting the Fourth Annual MKK Charity Golf Classic. Proceeds will again benefit the cancer center at The Children's Hospital. Participation in this event will not only raise funds, but awareness of the oncology program at The Children's Hospital. In the past three years, the Golf Classic has raised \$18,000 for the charity. This year's goal is to raise a minimum of \$8,000.

This event will offer:

- ◆ Shotgun format
- ◆ Four-person scramble
- ◆ Longest ball prizes
- ◆ Closest to pin prizes
- ◆ Betting hole
- ◆ Buy a mulligan
- ◆ Raffle, with proceeds to charity
- ◆ Celebrity golfer

Companies may bring their own foursome, or individuals can be matched with other golfers. Space for players is limited, so entries will be processed in the order they are received. The \$80 per person entry fee will include green fees, range balls, cart rental, tee prizes, dinner, and door prizes.

There are also sponsorship opportunities for the Fourth Annual MKK Charity Golf Classic. For \$500, a

corporate sponsor will receive recognition at the check-in table and dinner. For \$300, a hole may be sponsored by a company, which includes displaying the company's signage at the tee box of that hole. Companies who sponsor holes may either use their own sign or one will be provided.

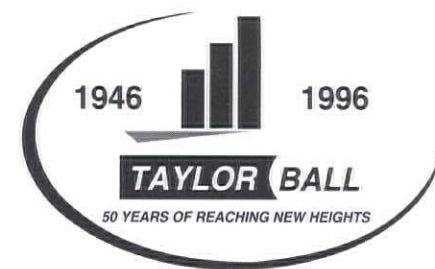
Companies or individuals interested in donating cash, prizes or items to be raffled are also welcome. All levels of sponsorship are greatly appreciated. Cash donations or hole sponsorships are tax deductible, and a receipt will be given at the tournament check-in.

The Golf Classic will be held on July 24 at West Wood Golf Course in Arvada. (Exit I-70 at Ward Road and travel north to 64th Ave. Take 64th Ave. west to Quaker St. The clubhouse is on the left.)

Entries and sponsorships must be received by July 3. Call Blaine Buck at 303.721.6600 for more information.

**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.



Hazel Gates Woodruff College, University of Colorado at Boulder

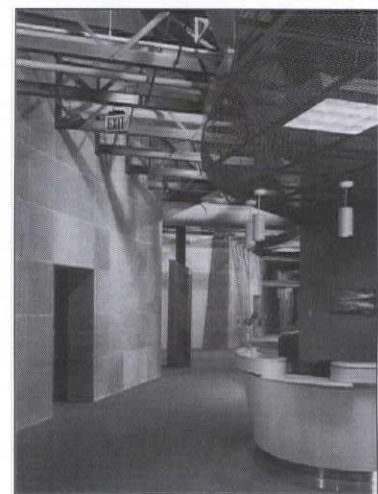
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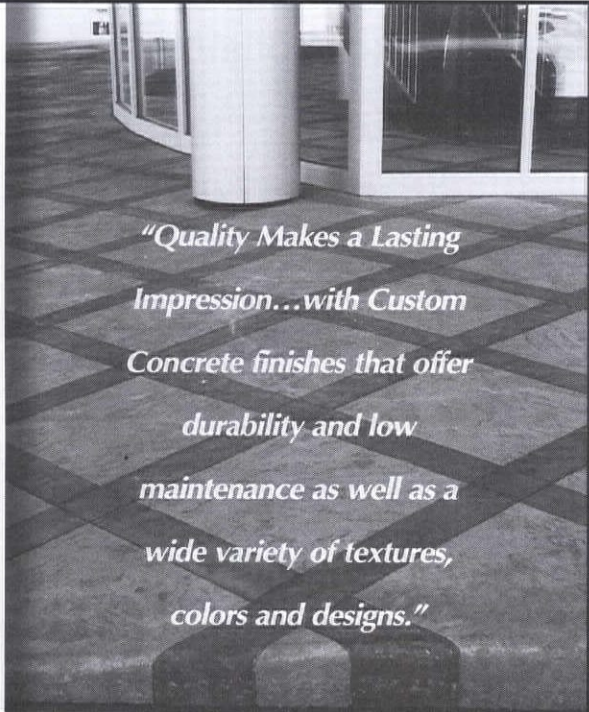
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# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## Public Library Planning and Design - Professional Development Course at Harvard

A Professional Development Course at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in Cambridge, MA, will be offered July 8-10 (Wednesday through Friday) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for tuition and materials is \$805.

This comprehensive course examines concepts and methods for planning and designing the public library. Participants explore library programming and design issues that are evolving rapidly in response to changing concepts of library services and technology. Topics covered include space-programming standards for both small and large libraries, building design and technology, site planning, project budgets (including budgets for furnishings and equipment), evaluation of existing buildings for adaptive use, and post occupancy evaluation techniques. Also featured are case studies of recent and proposed libraries, and a tour of recently completed library projects in the Boston area.

For more information, send e-mail to [professional\\_development@gsd](mailto:professional_development@gsd).

harvard.edu, or visit [www.gsd.harvard.edu/pdc.html](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/pdc.html) on the internet.

## OEC Offers Free Workshops for Adopting Commercial Energy Standards

In an effort to support communities that are voluntarily adopting commercial energy standards, the Governor's Office of Energy Conservation (OEC) is now offering free training workshops and a compliance manual. These services are being offered as a follow-up to the recent development of the "Energy Guidelines for Commercial and High-Rise Residential Buildings in Colorado." Jurisdictions throughout the state are reviewing the guidelines for voluntary consideration as an energy code. The guidelines also serve as a valuable design tool for the commercial building industry.

Regional training workshops are being planned for early June. For more information on the training workshops or to receive a free copy of the guidelines or compliance manual, contact OEC's Jay Pilliod at 303.620.4292 or 800.OEC.6662. Information is also available from the internet at: [http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/oec](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/oec).

## EDUCATION FUND HOLDS 38TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS CELEBRATION

The Education Fund of AIA Colorado held its 38th Annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration on April 24 at Fentress and Bradburn Architects. More than \$30,000 in scholarships and awards were given. Thank you to Fentress and Bradburn Architects for their hospitality in hosting the event.



Award winners and officers of the 1998 Education Fund, front row, left to right: Ward Hanes, Stephanie Gleason, Susan Hess Upton, Ned White, AIA, Kenneth R. Fuller, FAIA Emeritus, Ron Abo, AIA, Jane Mills Larsen, Keith Loftin. Back row, left to right: Scott Lieb, John Worgan, SA, Matthew Sullivan, Patricia O'Leary, AIA, Kenneth Cilia, Assoc. AIA, and Jesse Adkins III, Assoc. AIA. Photograph by Lynn Lickteig.

## PCL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES - DENVER DISTRICT SENIOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES

PCL Construction Services - Denver District announces that Allen Ross has been appointed district manager and Jim Brown has been appointed district construction manager.

## DIA OPENS EXHIBIT OF AIA DENVER DESIGN AWARDS AND OTHER ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

Denver International Airport is hosting an exhibit of the 1997 AIA Denver Design Awards participants. Other projects, such as entries from AIA Colorado's Young People in Architecture gallery exhibit, and representations of Colorado's Ocean Journey and DIA will also be displayed. The exhibit will run through August 1998.

The exhibit is located on the passenger walkway between the Terminal and Concourse A, on Level 6. With more

than 200,000 people going through DIA every day, the exhibit is sure to bring public attention to the outstanding architectural services provided by AIA members.

## NINE ELEVATED TO FELLOWSHIP FROM AIA WESTERN MOUNTAIN REGION

This year's Jury of Fellows has elevated nine individuals to Fellowship from the Western Mountain Region. The new fellows are David G. Scheatzle, ArchD, FAIA, P.E. from AIA Rio Salado Arizona; R. Nicholas Loope, FAIA, from AIA Central Arizona; Bryce D. Pearsall, FAIA, from AIA Central Arizona; Bruce Hawtin, FAIA from AIA Wyoming; H. Alan Zeigel, FAIA, from AIA Colorado North; Clifford S. Nakata, FAIA, from AIA Colorado South; Alan Golin Gass, FAIA, from AIA Denver; M. Ray Kingston, FAIA, from AIA Salt Lake; and Michael Brendle, FAIA, from AIA Denver.

The new Fellows were invested in the College of Fellows at the 1998 AIA National Convention in San Francisco on May 15.

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# Lines & Columns

AIA Colorado  
South Chapter

## ARCHITECTURAL TRAVEL— THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

—Robert R. Swaim, Associate and Designer  
The LKA PARTNERS, Colorado Springs

### AIA Colorado South Chapter 1998 Board of Directors

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 Director of  
 Local Chapters ..Susan H. Buchanan

Having worked in Europe as a design consultant over a past period of six to eight years, I have been provided enlightening experiences that are now part of my blood, psyche and design talents. As often as possible now, my wife and I travel for spiritual nurturing—creating sketches and poems to capture the most special moments.



The Wawel... National Cathedral.  
Krakow, Poland

If you have the desire to travel, my advice is don't just dream about it—set it as a high priority, then you can do it too! Go off season at half the price, avoid the crowds and go to out-of-the-way places where you feel like you have discovered a place just for yourself. The following are a few of my favorite things from travels last year. I hope they inspire you to try for yourself. Discovery travel is not always easy and certainly not usually relaxing, but it is a rich reward indeed.



Hagia Sophia... Istanbul, Turkey.

I think of Krakow, Poland, as one of the most soulful places on earth. It is also one of the most intriguing places to stroll in a compact, old town zone (Stare Miasto) to discover a delightful variety of architectural gems—churches

of all eras, squares, cloisters, decorative gables, etc. At the foot of Old Town is the great "WAWEL"—the "Spiritual and patriotic heart of Poland." The gothic cathedral and royal residence form a simultaneous fortress / palace on a hill. The "Cathedral of St. Wenceslas and St. Stanislas" justly expresses the "Center of the Polish nations." Get to Krakow fast—before it is totally overrun with tourism like perhaps Prague has become. Experience one of Europe's most ancient universities, home of several Nobel Prize winners and the old Jewish community area of "Kazimierz."

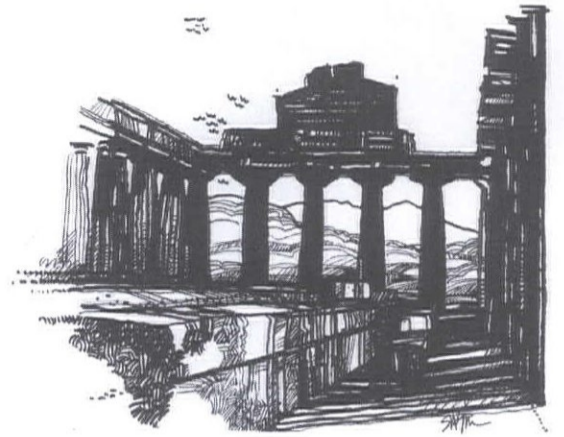
Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya) in Istanbul, Turkey, is certainly one of the worlds most powerful architectural images. Known as the Church of "Divine



Byzantine Chapel, Greece.

Wisdom" when built by Emperor Constantine, it has played a pivotal role in serving both Christianity and Islam. Now a museum, it simply serves all mankind. Presiding over both the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus on a dominant site, it stands adjacent to the opulent Topkapi Palace and "faces-off" with a Sinan masterpiece—the Blue Mosque (Sultanahamet). The spirited interface and juxtaposition is playful and competitive—night and day, however, my eyes were always finally drawn back to the magnificence of Hagia Sophia. Louis Kahn's partis of "layering" and "forms within forms" are demonstrated within and created with the use of bold, masterful strokes—and remember construction started in the 5th century.

A very evocative ruin, the Temple of Poseidon, is located on a hill overlooking the Aegean Sea at Sounio. The Temple was built as a sanctuary to the

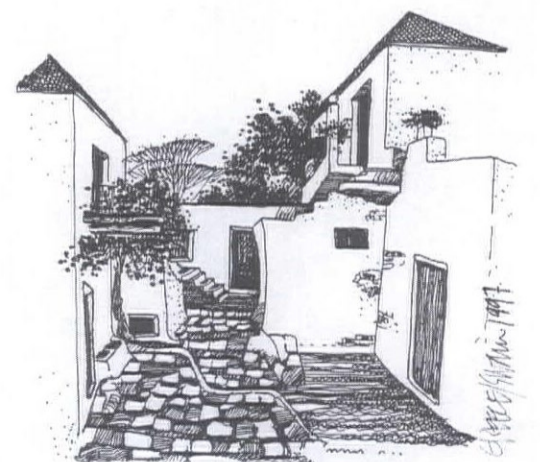


Temple of Poseidon. Sorinio, Greece.

great sea god in the 5th century, B.C. The glistening sea sparkles with light through the Doric columns. Cape Sounion is south of Athens 45 minutes or so.

Near Athens we found this wonderful, human scaled Byzantine Chapel. The brick bands in the stone walls are very rich in form and texture. The interior is surprisingly tiny in scale, dark and mysterious. If you are lucky, an elderly nun dressed all in black scurries about chanting and lighting incense and candles. It between, she offers visitors warm smiles of greeting.

Village Greece—best experienced in the Peloponnese, in the central Greek mountains, or especially on the islands, offer wonderful examples of human scaled space and sense of community. Light, shade, shadow and colors are ever changing and are reminders of timeless, simple design qualities.



Village Greece.

# ADVENTURES ON THE WAY TO BELIZE

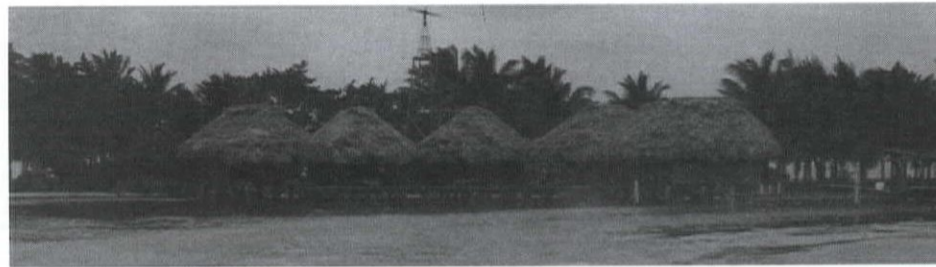
—Richard Higgins, AIA

As with many vacations to new places, getting there is half the fun. Our trip to vacation at St. George's Lodge in Belize (formerly British Honduras) was no exception. After numerous departure delays with minimal explanation, we left Houston International aboard a Central American airline bound for Belize City.

We arrived in Belize after nightfall and officials informed us that all passengers whose final destination is the off-shore islands would be provided lodging in Belize City, a less-than-desirable end to our long day of travel.

As we were herded through the open air terminal toward customs, a dark stranger with a British accent approached us, grabbed our bags, and whisked us through customs like a thrill ride at Disneyland. The customs official stamped our passports as we circumvented the long lines and jogged through the "special" line.

Fortunately, we were able to keep up with him. Once underway, the taxi's headlights illuminated the dry vegetation on either side of a dusty, dirt road. A few lights from barely habitable



structures sketched an image of a very poor country. Rumbling along the dirt road, we still weren't sure where we were being taken. Suddenly, we skidded to a halt next to a garage. The garage door flew open and an American woman warmly greeted us. She confirmed that we had miraculously arrived at the right place for our moonlight journey to our destination, St. George's Lodge.



Our luggage carrier raced our belongings through the doors, out into the darkness, down the row of taxis and into the back of a station wagon.

In almost a dead run, our host escorted us to a narrow dock where an open boat awaited our arrival. The driver handed us rain slickers and advised us to stay low. As we pushed off and the outboard motor revved to a guttural groan, we passed riverside docks, houses, and shops in all states of disrepair. The boat slowed and the driver ordered us to duck below the small boat's gunnels. As we lay in the bottom, a low bridge passed over us, clearing the boat by less than two centimeters. This exercise was repeated two more times before we reached the open bay. The clear calm night under a full moon was a welcomed sight to the end of our unique excursion.

Upon arriving at the lodge, the day's challenges were temporarily forgotten. The 100-meter-wide by three-kilometer-long island is home to 30 vacation cottages and St. George's Lodge, a British outpost. The small island is sparsely populated and has no other commercial operations. For us, its appeal was the close proximity of spectacular scuba diving sites.

The small complex of buildings that make up St. George's Lodge includes the main building, private cottages, and

a couple of maintenance buildings. The lodge houses six hotel-type rooms, the dining area, and a lounge. The elevated main floor level enhances sight lines to the ocean and conceals the kitchen and services area below. Mahogany forms the main building material throughout. The warm golden grain of the timbers, trim, and thatch are matched by the doors, counters, stairs and furniture.

Even the shower enclosure with its residential sink sprayer for a shower head was made of mahogany.

We stayed in one of the private cottages built on pilings over a bayside inlet. The walls and mahogany roof frame are finished with thatch. Despite its simple construction, it proved its effectiveness against the evening rain storms.

The simple construction of the lodge complex and its limited amenities were overshadowed by the quality of experience it provides for the guests. Great views, natural materials, comfortable accommodations, and personalized service make this basic resort a first-class destination.

## ON THE BOARDS—

### NOAA Boulder Research Laboratories Tops Out

Fentress Bradburn Architects and Hensel Phelps Construction Co. recently celebrated the topping-out phase of construction on a new building for the General Services Administration. The primary tenant of this federal building will be the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its associated divisions. The NOAA Boulder Research Laboratories facility will accommodate the 1,035 NOAA personnel in the Boulder area, who have been previously separated between the Department of Commerce campus in Boulder, and the East Campus of the University of Colorado. Construction of the 372,000 gross square foot building is scheduled to be complete in December 1998.

### Historic Renovation in San Diego

J G Johnson Architects, P.C. is renovating the historic San Diego Trust and Savings Building in the heart of downtown San Diego into a Marriott Hotel. The 247-room luxury hotel will boast a gourmet restaurant and unique meeting rooms in the original bank vault and former safety deposit rooms. Preserving historic elements such as the lobby's hand-painted ceiling; ornate marble, lead glass windows; and original elevator doors, the hotel will offer guests a sense of its original splendor, with all the modern amenities of a fine hotel.

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## "MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY..."

—Matt Porta, Architect Intern with Slater-Paull & Associates, from Carnegie Mellon University

I had always imagined I would travel to Europe. It started more as an assumption than a desire. It all came about sometime in high school after traveling fairly extensively through the United States and parts of Canada. Supplement my enjoyment of travel with four years of high school German and it was logical to me that I would travel to Europe at some point. It wasn't until the first years of architecture school at Carnegie Mellon that the assumption became a burning desire.

The trip to Europe came to a head the summer before I graduated college when I boldly told my father that before I start real life I am taking a few weeks off to travel through Europe. My father, a self proclaimed "renowned" world traveler agreed I should go. That summer was my first official summer internship with an architecture firm. The blunt realization hit me that once I started working as a full time professional it would quite some time before I would be able to take three weeks off in a row to travel.

The trip came together with a professor's statement, "Architects don't get paid much, so you owe yourselves two things, enjoy your work and travel," and the realization of the importance a tour of Europe has to an aspiring architect. My travel plans were made by Christmas and plane tickets purchased a few months after. I planned to fly into Rome and three weeks later I would depart from London. I marked the points in between I was planning on seeing and headed off solo for Europe.

The fact I was traveling alone didn't bother me much. I couldn't get any takers from school to join me, although my plans did include catching up with one close friend near the end of my trip in London. I brought along a sketch book and decided in addition to

any sketches, I would keep an extensive journal. The discourse between me and the pen would have been the same as the discourse that would take place with a travel companion. As it turned out, I was traveling with others more often than I was traveling alone. Things sort of work out that way in the train stations of Europe. Instead of remembering and reflecting about my summer vacation, the following anecdotes are taken straight from my journal. These are first-hand observations and thoughts of an architect to be, leaving academia and entering the professional work force.

### June 17, 1997 — Salt Lake City, Utah

- ◆ Nothing like the long stint in an airport. I am in Salt Lake City International Airport waiting for my first flight, a four-hour stint to Newark, NJ. I have never been to Newark, but I haven't heard of a reason why I should.
- ◆ Continental Air told me I should be in Salt Lake City two and a half hours before my flight departure time to take care of all the international stuff, but the young woman that checked in my bags had no idea what I was talking about. So here I am, plenty early... My flight is to depart at 12:30, arrives in Newark at 6:30 EDT. Three hours later I will be off for Rome. It's pretty exciting, but that really isn't the word, more surreal. I can't believe I

will be in Rome. Much of what I will see I have either heard of from books, class, or my friends that have been there already. Artifacts and buildings I know about, but never have seen in person.

- ◆ Still on the ground in Salt Lake... I have a feeling I may be staying the night in Newark, which really isn't how I want to start my vacation. God only knows where my luggage will end up.

### June 17—18 1997 — Newark, NJ

- ◆ Call it more than a hunch. I missed my connection by a mere few minutes... I hope this start is no indication of things to come.
- ◆ In summary, I want to apologize to the high authorities that I ticked off to have me spend a day in Newark. Not that anything bad has happened, but it is one day less I will be in Europe, specifically Rome.

### June 19, 1997 — Rome, Italy

- ◆ I have really started my stay in Rome with my ugly, ignorant, American foot forward. After deplaning, I immediately got lost. I did find domestic baggage though. After asking many nice Airitalia people, I finally found out where I should have been in the first place: customs. I am told to approach the

[ See EUROPE on next page ]

## CALL FOR ENTRIES—

# 1998 AIA DENVER AWARDS

AIA Denver is searching its membership and the community for qualified nominations in the categories listed below. Please review the awards and fill out the nomination form with your choice of candidate that you feel represents the best that the Denver community has to offer. Return the form to the AIA Denver office (1526 15th St.) with a brief summary and any other collateral material indicating that your candidate has demonstrated exemplary achievements in the following categories.

### Award of Distinction

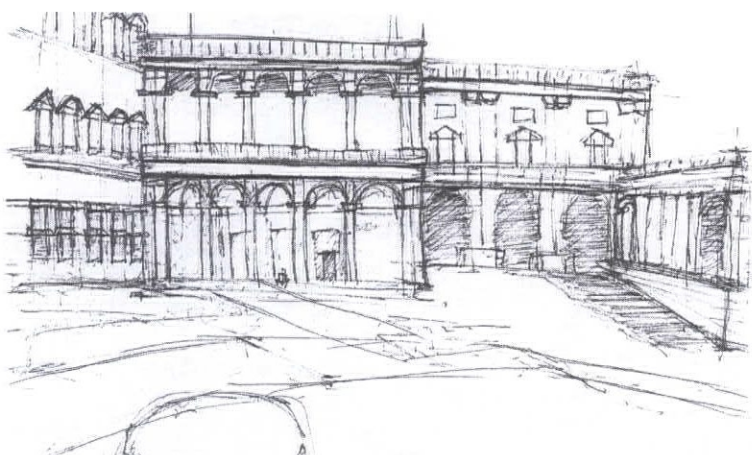
The AIA Denver Award of Distinction recognizes achievements of public-service architects and architects in private corporations who manage or produce quality building or urban design within their organizations or agencies. This award recognizes achievements of public-sector architects who, by their skill, professionalism, dedication, ability, and commitment, have consistently

fostered quality design in the built environment and such quality is uniquely attributable to each recipient. All registered architects employed in the Denver metropolitan area public sector, government, private corporations, or agencies who manage, are responsible for, or produce quality architecture within their jurisdiction are eligible to be nominated in this category.

### James S. Sudler Award for Contribution to the Denver Chapter

The James S. Sudler Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the AIA Denver Chapter. It recognizes those achievements of people who have by their professionalism, dedication, leadership, ability, and commitment improved the quality of services offered by AIA Denver.

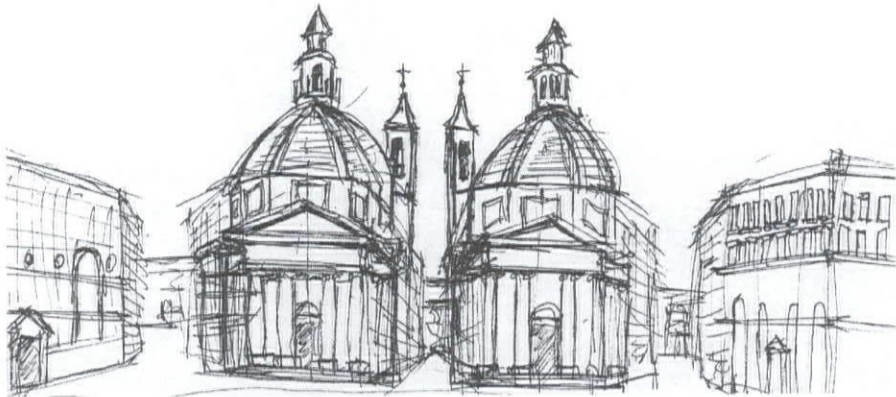
[ See AWARDS on page 10 ]



Plaza San Giovanni in Laterano, Italy.

**[EUROPE, from page 7]**

armed guard and explain the best I can that I am lost and I need to get my bag, because now I am traveling through customs backwards, which no one is supposed to do. To make the long story short, I finally find my backpack hiding behind two suitcases.



Piazza De Popolo. Italy

◆ I am sitting on the base of a gray, stone obelisk in the middle of the Piazza San Giovanni in Laterno. My feet need a bit of a break and my sketch book needs to get started. I always heard how pedestrian-friendly European cities are. Well, don't count Rome into the equation. Sure, they usually slow down or swerve before they would hit you, but the small cars and mopeds here are out of control.

**June 20, 1997 — Rome, Italy**

◆ I am in the colonnade at St. Peter's, resting in the shade. The colonnade

is so massive and dense that when I look down the radius corridor I can not see the light of day, only one column after the next. The crowd in the piazza probably numbers in the thousands, but it appears to be only sparsely populated. The magnitude of the size of the entire Vatican is really hard to comprehend. I took a little trip through the cathedral. It is nothing to say that it is amazing.

The size and grandeur just dwarfs everything in comparison. I always knew it was big, I just didn't quite understand what that meant. What I found most remarkable were the colors. The marble and all the other stone used gave it a beautiful aura...

◆ It is interesting that for a Catholic, a trip to St. Peter's is somewhat of a mecca, but I didn't find it to be a very religious experience. The grandiose nature of everything and probably from studying it architecturally, it came off or simply felt like a museum, not a house of God. Too

much noise and too many people with cameras, I guess.

◆ The Pantheon is still awesome after all these years. It has always been one of my favorite pieces of architecture. The forms are simple, a sphere and a cube, but it's within this simplicity of form that creates a scale that is awe inspiring, but not intimidating. The inside is still in tip-top form. It has been well maintained and restored over the years. A portion of it appears to be under restoration or cleaning right now. The colors of the stone are beautiful. The light shining in from the oculus creates a hard spot—light along one side of the dome, but casts a soft light across the opposite, bringing out the subtle character of the stone used to create the dome. The outside is showing its age, roughly 2000 years. The pollution of the city of millions is deteriorating the exterior finish faster than it can be restored. It is remarkable that it is still standing in working order. In the year 4000, our descendants will be hard pressed to find anything built today still standing.

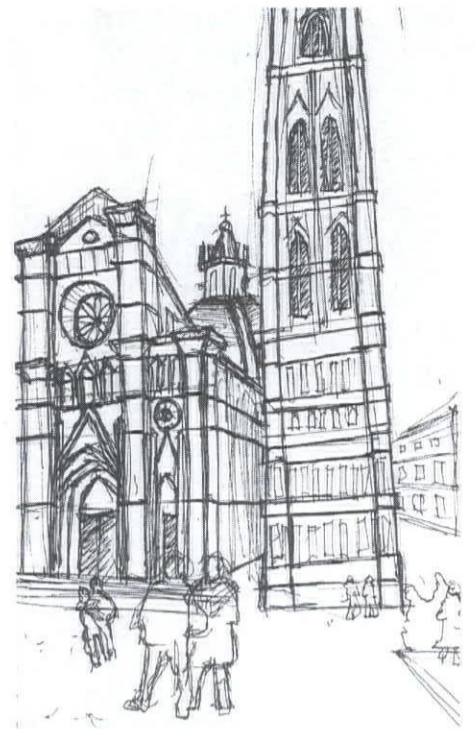
◆ The Sistine Chapel was amazing. The entire Vatican museum was great really, but I had to "fast-track" the whole thing. It was just nice stuff along the way to the Michaelangelo masterpiece. Currently I am sitting in the Piazza De Popolo. I like it here. It isn't too crowded with anyone, let alone the tourist crowd I have been hanging with.

**June 22, 1997 — Florence, Italy**

◆ Never go to Florence before Rome. It is quite relaxing compared to the big city. Don't get me wrong; it is not small-town Wyoming, but compared to Rome it is a walk in the country garden.... The Duomo, "Brunelleschi's Dome" as I remember it from school, is quite striking. The exterior finish work appears as a large mosaic. It is predominately white stone, with inlays of green and red stone. The roof is a red tile, the same tile that makes up the majority of the roofs in Florence. The interior isn't as impressive as the exterior, not to say it is lacking. It is a commentary on the uniqueness and the busy fervor of the facade.

**June 23, 1997 — Pisa, Italy**

◆ Just visited the leaning tower of Pisa. It is much more impressive in person than in the photos I have seen. The entire complex, church,



The Duomo. Florence, Italy

tomb, and tower was nice. As the guide book read, "a classic example of Pisan Romanesque architecture."

**June 25, 1997 — Venice, Italy**

◆ Venice is nice and relaxing. There are no cars nor motor scooters—so I wasn't constantly dodging crazy drivers. It was very clean; everyone was nice. I almost skipped Venice and am very glad I did not. Venetian architecture is unique. No where else have I seen these types of pointed arches and onion-like domes. I am staying in a hotel near the Baroque Church of San Maria della Salute. I have always found Baroque architecture to be well crafted and finely detailed, but at the same time very busy and ornamental, this church is no exception.... Venice is definitely the most romantic place I have been, a city for couples. If I ever head back—rather the condition of coming back—will involve the company of a beautiful woman.

**June 27, 1997 — Vienna, Austria**

◆ Vienna is my kind of city. In a way it reminds me of Denver. There is a large pedestrian mall running through the center of downtown. There is a mix of old and new buildings. The people are nice. The public transportation worked well for me. It is close to nature. I would definitely consider coming back here for a much longer period of time. It is someplace I could see myself living. I need to touch up on the German, though.

**June 29, 1997 — Prague, Czech Republic**

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◆ Prague is like no other city I have been to... It surprised me in many aspects. It didn't fit the stereotype I had formed of communist cities. It fared better than I thought it would. The old city was in good shape. It was maintained during its communist times. I think much has been done over the past nine years to restore things, but that wouldn't be enough time to account for the overall high quality of the city.

I did notice that the edge of the city wasn't as in good shape as the city center. In the suburbs, I did notice the communist influence in the architecture. Big, brutal, concrete apartments that have been poorly maintained make up the majority of the urban landscape. The gray and cold atmosphere, the image of communism as defined for me growing up, is what I am seeing here. These same brutal apartments exist in America though, just not in the suburbs, rather in the city centers...

Rogers, Norman Foster, and Renzo Piano. The strict building laws in Germany require office workers to be within a few meters of an operable exterior window. These laws are really defining a building type and physical image for the new architecture in Germany. They use curtain wall systems with low e glass, operable windows, louvers and balconies define the new archetype of the Hamburg office building.

◆ I am glad I stopped in Hamburg. The new architecture under construction is modern and established in my education as the future. Architecture that I haven't seen much of in America. Some buildings look better than others, and as my good friend Dan Lutz once said, "If this is the future, then I have seen it, and the future is ugly."

July 2, 1997 — Copenhagen, Denmark

◆ This afternoon the entire city seems to be out and about, shopping,

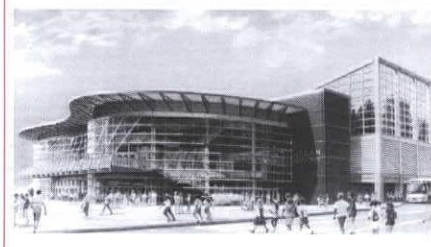
misleading the other direction. In Rome, I was lost half the time because I would pass things by thinking they were farther away. It could be that I am just exhausted or Copenhagen is a very large city, but it takes me twice as long as I think it should to get from one place to the next... I haven't been whirl-wind touring here. I just don't have the energy. Most of the time, I am hanging out letting time tick by. Watching the crowd has been enough. Plus, Copenhagen isn't like Rome, where around every corner was a piece of my architectural history book. I don't have too many predetermined destinations, just finding things along the way. The city is pretty laid back, people enjoy the day, and they love their ice cream.

July 5, 1997 — Brussels, Belgium

◆ I can't say I have positive first impressions of Brussels. After a brief incident with the currency exchange employee, I decided to burn off my frustration and took off on a walk to kill five hours before my train trip through the Chunnel to London. There are some nice areas in the old city. I stumbled upon its famous and elegant city square, which was being set up for an outdoor concert. It will be an intimate atmosphere for a concert. The square is surrounded on all sides by older four-story buildings... I am impressed with the train terminal for the Chunnel service, much more like an airport terminal, security and everything.

**DENVER CHAPTER'S  
MEMBERSHIP FORUM #2  
AT COLORADO'S  
OCEAN JOURNEY**

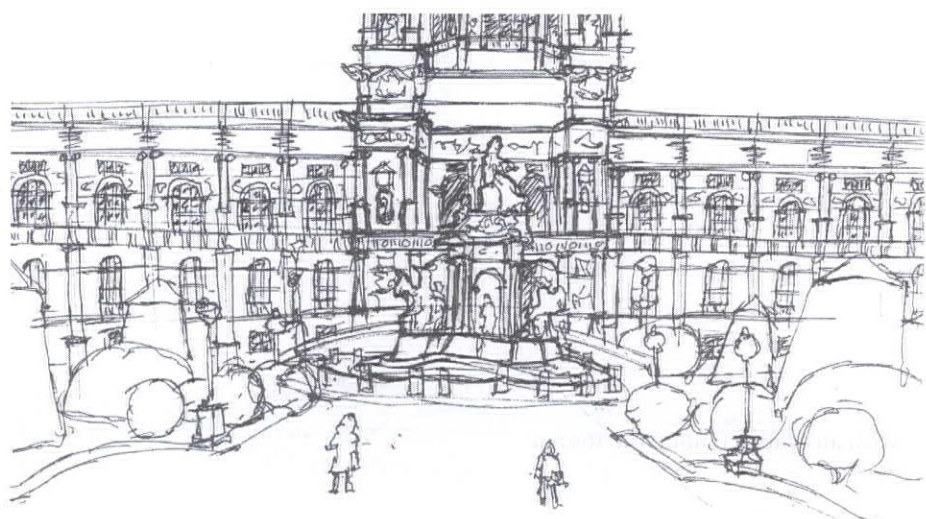
Denver Chapter members will have a unique opportunity to take a hard hat tour of Colorado's Ocean Journey, as part of Membership Forum #2. Tours will be held on June 24 and 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., so mark your calendar. Look for details in the mail!



July 6, 1997 — London, England

◆ We got back on the underground at a station near a Cooper's and Lybrand office. The block had a few nice buildings on it. I have found architecture in Europe to be noticeably different than American architecture. The new architecture of Europe is years ahead of America, technologically and with the use of modern materials. The architecture is much more expressive of the nature of materials and physical connections. All and all, it appeals to me.

[ See EUROPE on next page ]



Natural History Museum. Vienna, Austria

I made a point to find the new Gehry building, "Fred and Ginger." It was definitely unique to its context, but at some level, didn't seem out of place.

July 1, 1997 — Hamburg, Germany

◆ I took a walking tour of Hamburg and I was quite impressed... It is a bustling city, with many new cutting edge 'architecturally technological' buildings, with many more under construction. I define these buildings by the construction type defined in my mind by Richard

enjoying the sun, eating, licking ice cream, enjoying street musicians. The charm of Copenhagen. Everyone was just having a good time. The people here are all very nice. They all speak English as well as I. I believe it is actually against the law here to be rude. A Dane wouldn't last five minutes in California.

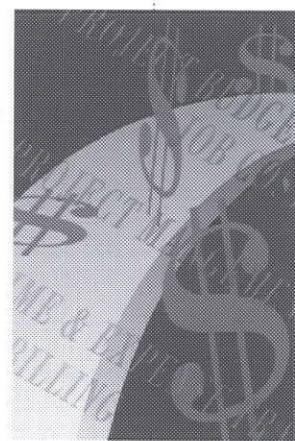
July 3, 1997 — Copenhagen, Denmark

◆ Copenhagen is the first city where things on the map are actually farther away than it appears. In every other city, the scale of the map was

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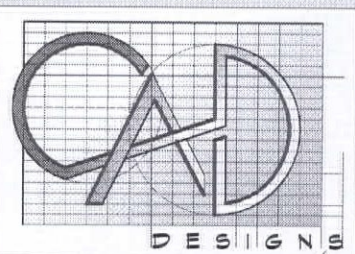
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DESIGN COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

“So no one told you that you would have to sell.” Winning over clients is as important as being a competent architect. On June 18th, come talk to two top designers who will query, what does it take to win work? Presentation graphics and techniques for winning work will be the topic along with the physical process of producing sketches and models that can be dressed up, scanned, or incorporated into sharp presentations.



- June 18—**Making Great Presentations.** Best interviews, progress, and final presentations.
- July 16—**Archives.** Creating a record of work before it goes out the door—never to be seen again.
- August 20—**Presentations for Specific Clients.** Getting the best return on your investment. Panel discussion.
- September 17—**Knowing Power Point.** Presentations, projections, slides, etc.
- October 15—**Computer Compositing.** Scanning, merging images, Photoshop, AutoCAD, etc.
- November 19—**Mixing Media.** Starting with a computer image and doing the rest by hand.
- December—**Digital Party.** We're going to knock your socks off!

If you would like to become a member of the Design Communication Committee, please attend our noontime brown bag workshops on the third Thursday of each month in the AIA Colorado conference room (1526 15th St.). Questions? Call Ken Cilia at 738-8877 or Jim Leggitt at 575-8515.

[EUROPE, from page 9]

July 8, 1997 — **Edinburgh, Scotland**  
 ♦ Scotland is beautiful. Rolling hills of green, with white sheep spotting the landscape. Edinburgh is amazing. We are staying at a bed breakfast that is across the valley from the 11th Century castle. The highlands are quite scenic. In some ways like Colorado, but definitely unique, like no other place I have visited. Everything is green. We took a drive through mountains on single-track roads. It was like the rural mountain trips I have taken back home in Wyoming.



The Mermaid. Copenhagen, Denmark

July 10, 1997 — **London, England**  
 ♦ Last night in Europe. I have had a good time, but I am getting tired of traveling. Next time I make a big

trip, I doubt I will cover as much territory, nor have three weeks off at a time to do it.

July 11, 1997 — **Washington D.C.**  
 ♦ This trip has really worked as a chapter closing 'event.' I am ready for something new, to start working again, make some money, set up a new apartment in Denver. It all sounds good to me right now. Four weeks ago, I wasn't ready for anything related to the post-collegiate world.

This has been the first time I have reread my journal since writing it. It has brought back some memories and finer details I already started to forget about. All said, it was a great 24-day, 11-European-city tour. Originally I thought it was just a great reward for the five years of architecture school. Now I understand it as much more. It has become a valuable addition to my architectural education, which I am learning is something that doesn't end with a college degree, but really begins there. It is important to understand where you are in life and sometimes it takes a trip like this to find out where you are not, to clear everything up. This trip really helped me end one chapter of life and start the writings of the next. There was no place that I visited I wouldn't visit again. There were many places I wanted to spend much more time. I am looking forward to the opportunity to do that one day.

[AWARDS, from page 7]

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

**Architect of the Year**

This Award recognizes architects who throughout their career have demonstrated a broad range of exemplary architectural activity in order to elevate the general quality of the architectural practice and to establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure their own performance. Candidates shall be evaluated on their contributions to the built environment, the community, and to the profession. Evaluation shall not be strictly based on design achievements but on a well-balanced set of skills in the areas of building technology, environmental sensitivity, and community planning and service. Only AIA Denver licensed architects are eligible for this award.

**Firm of the Year**

This Award recognizes local architectural firms for their consistent success in producing outstanding architectural projects. Firms that have proven leadership in design, building technology, urban design and community development shall be recommended for this award. Only firms that practice in the Denver metropolitan area are eligible.

**Education Award**

The Education Award recognizes individuals that have evidenced great depth and breadth, in having influenced a wide range of students in the Western Mountain Region. These candidates' activities have consistently directed themselves toward the future as well as the past and shall have evidenced the ability to transcend specific areas of expertise or shall have made connections between areas in the event that the candidate's areas of focus might be considered circumscribed. Candidates shall be known by the quality of his or her products, who also taught, who practiced architecture, and who perhaps did neither. Any colleague, student, or former student, may nominate candidates for the Education Award.

1. Award of Distinction	_____
2. James S. Sudler Award	_____
3. Architect of the Year	_____
4. Firm of the Year	_____
5. Education Award	_____

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AIA Colorado North Chapter

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*The GBA Crew: (seated front, from left) Shawn Gaither, Assoc. AIA; Mary Anderson; Eric Scholtz, Assoc. AIA; Craig Harris, contract architect, and Garth Braun, AIA.*

## PLAN TO ATTEND

June 23rd at NREL in Golden, all AIA members are invited to attend a facilities tour and program presentation. The programs to be discussed include the Energy 10 Program, the Photo Voltaics Program, and the Exemplary Buildings Program. In July the North Chapter presents Award Winning Home Tours. July 14th North Chapter members will tour Barrett/Steele's Nollenburgh Residence in Boulder. A tour of Roger Thorp's Kiihu Owanmuruqlep Home west of Estes Park will be on July 21st and Wolf Lyon Architect's Poplar Project is scheduled for July 28th. Look for more information on these programs in the mail.

## NEW MEMBERS

Steven P. Lane, AIA  
 Pinnacle Homes & Design

Richard P. Milstead, AIA  
 Downing Thorpe James

# FIRM PROFILE: GARTH BRAUN ASSOCIATES

—Garth Braun, AIA

Who would have imagined while sitting at my first intern drafting station 24 years ago I would be writing a firm profile for the AIA? "What is an architect and how do you practice architecture?" These questions were of secondary importance to "How do I draw this bathroom elevation or get through a six-year architectural program?" Fortunately, I had some good mentors (AIA members) that helped me craft answers to these questions and formulate an image of "the Architect."

Ten years later and after a variety of architectural experiences, Garth Braun Associates (GBA) was formed. Like most young architects who start out without a previously established client following, the main reason to form GBA was to try it "my way." It soon became evident that the joy of "how you do it" was as important as "what you were doing." The key to obtaining control over "how you do it" is the relationship between the client and the architect. This relationship must be strong for "good architecture" to happen. If you are not willing to put yourself in your client's shoes by asking the right questions and listening to the answers, it doesn't matter how good you are as a designer, you can't do "good architecture." Architecture

should be about problem solving, not awards. If you do a good job of being an architect the awards will follow, in one way or another. This is the philosophy at GBA.

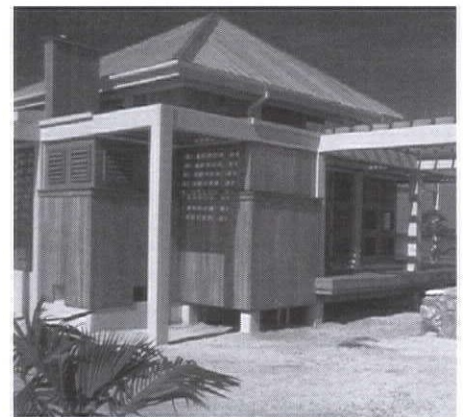
GBA is currently in its 14th year of practicing architecture in Boulder. Although the firm showed steady growth, it didn't take root until the addition of permanent employees (no more contract labor!) in 1993. This, coupled

with a steady repeat clientele, allowed GBA to move on to the next level as an architectural firm. It took the challenge of motivating others and creating a productive work atmosphere to fully understand the importance of time away from the office. In order for the relationship between the architect and the client to grow, the architect must be in the right frame of mind.

It is hard to do good architecture if you are stressed out and unfocused. Thus, creating the environment for architecture to occur in became the more recent goal of GBA. An important component of this work environment is the ability to get away. What is interesting, is how much easier it is to take time if the goal is shared by the whole office. Support within the office is stronger,

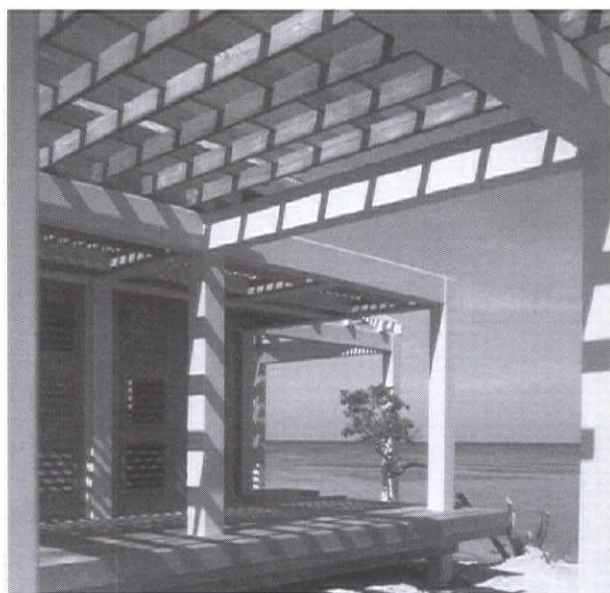
knowing it will be there for you when it is your turn to get away.

Another way to maintain a good office atmosphere, albeit not always in our control, is to be involved with projects in places you would like to get away to. GBA is fortunate to have been doing work in Belize, Central America, over the last four to five years. The projects include a vacation house and a family retreat/resort on a private island.

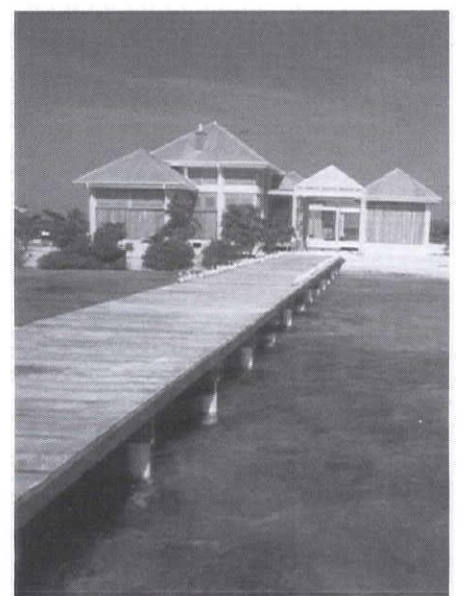


*Cabana Number One at Cayo Espanto Resort.*

The latter, Cayo Espanto Resort, proved to be even more rewarding when the requirement for self-sufficiency due to the lack of water, electricity, and sanitation was added. Faced with not being able to have a traditional septic system (due to the small size of the island and high level of groundwater) a gray water cistern and composting toilets were utilized. The gray water is used to irrigate the landscaping (the largest user of water on the island) while the composting produces fertilizer.



*Cayo Espanto Resort, Cabana Number One. Looking through trellis around deck, at plunge pool palaypa and Caribbean view.*



*Dock that leads to Cayo Espanto (Ghost Island) Resort in Belize. Building to right is reverse osmosis building. The bigger building on the left is where guests register.*

Rain water is collected for fresh water and wind generators will produce power. Most landscape lights operate on solar cells. This endeavor into "eco-tourism" was quite enlightening.

[ See GBA PROFILE on page 12 ]

# TOURING THE WEST WITH THE AIA

—Rebecca E. Spears, AIA

Summer Vacation 1997 for my family took advantage of AIA opportunities. We started our trip in Aspen where the 1996 Western Mountain Region (WMR) and Colorado Conference was held the year before. While attending that event, I took part in the Art by Architects Silent Auction and was high bidder on a stay at the Boomerang Lodge in Aspen.



Sundance, Utah

The lodge was designed by the artist/architect/owner Charles Paterson after he studied at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. We spent two nights in our peaceful room that opened onto the terrace surrounding the pool. It was a wonderful example of blurring the distinction between indoor and outdoor space. During the day we



Exploring Aspen

explored Aspen on a pair of tandem bikes. Riding behind my teenage son blurred the line between excitement and fear for both of us.

Our next stop was Mesa Verde National Park in southwest Colorado. We stayed



Mesa Verde National Park

at the Far View Lodge inside the park and participated in a full-day guided tour. Although we immediately think of the sculptural forms of the cliff dwellings, there are many more archeological sites on top of the mesa. The Anasazi (a Navajo Indian word meaning "ancient ones") moved onto the mesa somewhere around A.D. 500. They did not build the cliff dwellings until around A.D. 1200. The dwellings represent a massive construction project, yet the Anasazi lived in them only about 75 to 100 years because by A.D. 1300 they had abandoned the area. It was truly awe inspiring to see these beautiful ruins.

Our final destination on this trip was Sundance, Utah for the 1997 WMR conference. We drove through The Arches National Park on our way and marveled at the natural rock formations and rich earth colors against the clear blue Western sky. Sundance is the resort/conference center owned by Robert Redford and made famous by his yearly Sundance Film Festival.

The facilities are set among spruce groves and wandering mountain streams. Huge glass doors can be rolled open so conference goers can enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery. The Sundance Cottages where we stayed are snugly sited among the trees and are

constructed from hand-hewn posts, rough-sawn beams, and other natural materials. This was an excellent location for the conference, which continued the discussion of sensitively developing the West.

The AIA Colorado North, South, and West Chapters are working on plans for Summerfest 1998. It is to be a social event for AIA members and their families to relax and take part in recreational activities with other architects. More information will follow. I hope you'll consider including an upcoming AIA event in your plans for your next summer vacation.

[ GBA PROFILE, from page 11 ]

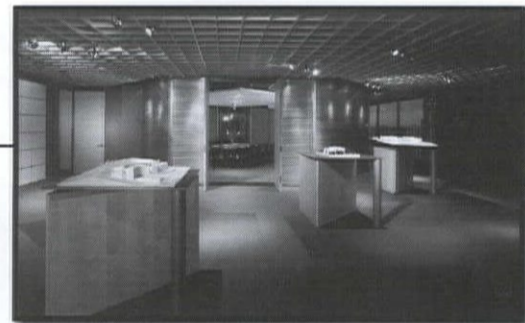
Researching the information and options through previous articles and publications was educational, however, talking to the authors and designers of similar facilities turned out to be even more rewarding. The professional world of sustainability and eco-tourism is astonishing in its willingness and openness to share information on a global basis. There is no sense of proprietary rights to the ideas and concepts. The willingness to share this information and talk about ideas was most gratifying.

The beginning of 1998 saw the completion of an office remodel and the start of staff expansion. Currently GBA employs four people; Garth Braun, AIA; Shawn Gaither, Associate AIA; Eric Scholtz, Associate AIA; who handles design and project management, while Mary Anderson keeps us on the straight and narrow economically.

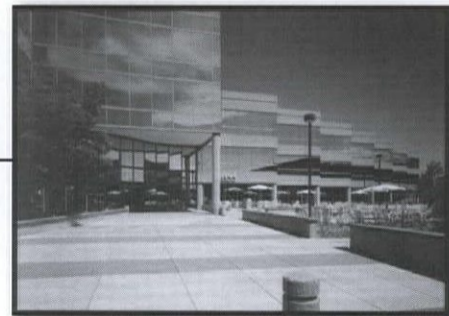
Although the overall desire is to stay small, there is always room for the right personnel and the right clientele. GBA looks forward to the next 14 years of seeking ways to practice "good architecture" and "getting time away." For information call 303.447.1859.

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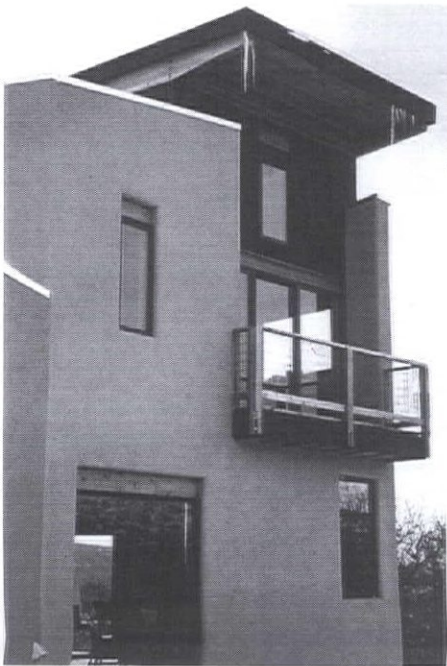


photo: Criss Touchette



Honor Award: Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects for Silvermill at River Run Village, above.

Honor Award: Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects for Ramo Residence, left.



photo: Wayne Thom

Honor Award: Studio B Architects for Cole Residence, above.

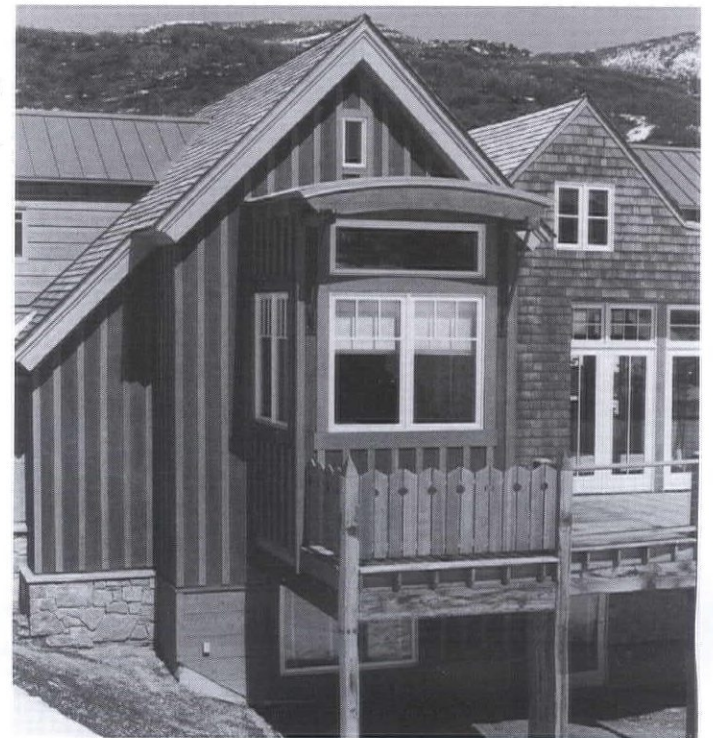


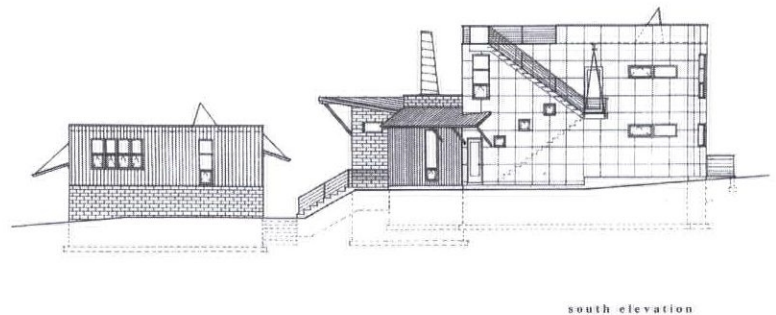
photo: Jay L. Curtis

Merit Award: Hagman Architects, Ltd. for McGarvey Residence, above.

Merit Award: Hagman Architects, Ltd. for Shalen Residence, right.



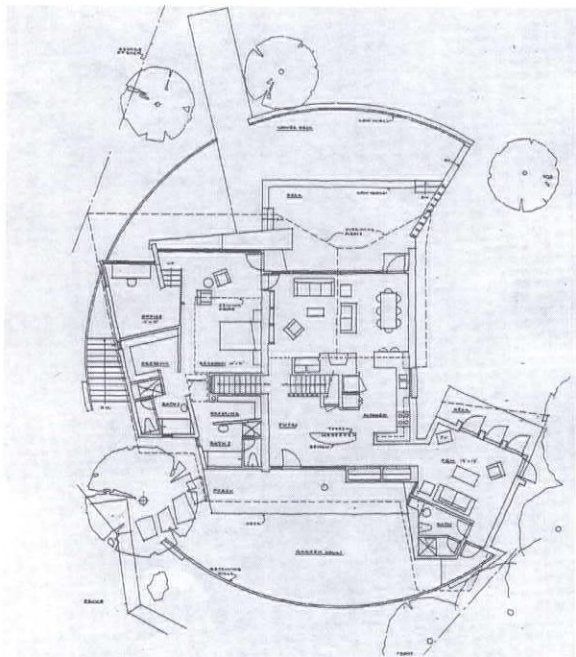
photo: Jay L. Curtis



south elevation

Honor Award: Studio B Architects for Robertson Residence, above.

Merit Award: Harry Teague Architects for Benedict Commons, below.



Merit Award: Willis Pember Architects, Inc. for Red Mountain Residence, left.

photo: Timothy Hursley



# TELLURIDE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE RESORT

—Skip Doty, AIA

Last month, Otto Mears was one of the four original inductees into the Colorado Railroad Museum's Hall of Fame. Among his many accomplishments was building the Rio Grande Southern Railroad from Durango to Ridgeway via Lizard Head Pass and Telluride. Often, the existing highway is hard to traverse between these points, so it is almost impossible to imagine how a railroad could operate there in the 1890s. Mears' original purpose for the railroad was to reach Ouray, which Mears could not reach by building it along the Uncompahgre Gorge. (The current route of the "Million Dollar Highway.")

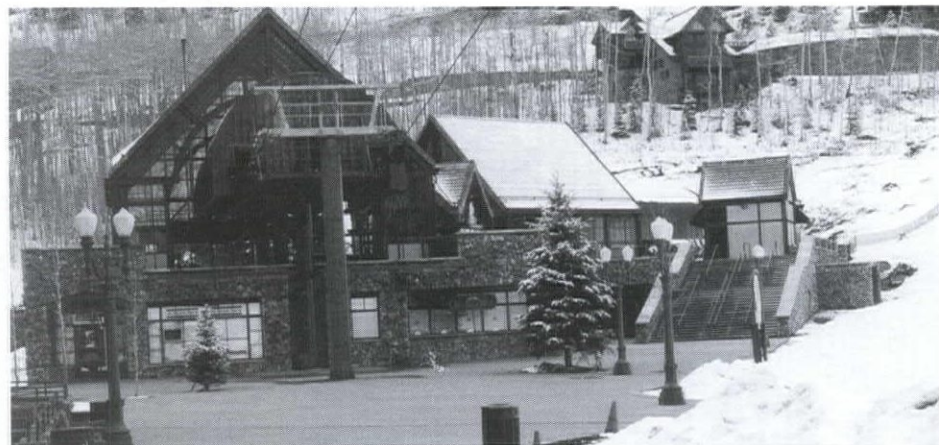
Mears' railroad provided the first reliable transportation and shipping in the region. A spur line from the main rail line took off from Vance Junction, crossed the San Miguel River, and climbed along a ridge to arrive in Telluride in 1891. As the economy changed through the years, the railroad slowly lost its influence and finally closed down during the early 1950s.

The first time I was in Telluride was on a family vacation in 1965. The only real estate agent there tried to sell my father half a city block in the center of town. My father looked at the land and the town, and decided it was overpriced. Anything after that belongs in the dust bin of history.

In 1986, my father and I attended the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. When asked by a policeman at the edge of town where we were staying, I mumbled the name of a woman I had not seen in Telluride since 1976. We then slept in the back of my truck for a week in a vacant lot next to the abandoned railroad depot. Little did we know that we were breaking ground for a future condominium project by the old Dust Development Company.

During this decade, I have adopted a very Clintonian attitude toward Telluride. I don't look, tell, or ask. So it was with curiosity and mixed emotions that I returned to Telluride and examined the Mountain Village.

I realize I walk a slippery slope when I write architectural criticism about a resort, while working as an architect in Aspen, yet one theme I want to discuss this year is the concept of community. The times have been changing in Western Colorado and with them have



emerged a new sense of community. This story is different than the glory days of the 1970s I recall with much relish. I am not looking for a consensus; I am listening to the voices of the people who live here and the lessons that can be learned from their stories.

Mountain Village was developed on the Turkey Creek Mesa for two reasons. Telluride is located in a box canyon—a natural barrier to the growth developers felt necessary to make the ski area into a resort that could rival Vail and Aspen. And if the growth was elsewhere, Telluride could maintain its historic roots and identity. This planning process for building the Mountain Village started in the early 1980s; actual construction started in 1987.

There are two ways of entering the resort. The main access road wanders through a golf course and a forest with incredible views to the east and north. Houses are on large lots and generally not seen from the road. Most are second homes; all are large and healthy. What makes the development so dynamic is the site the houses sit on.

The other way to get there is by riding the gondola from the town below. This is the centerpiece of the development, and the thread that links the two towns. The main plaza of the Village

Center focuses on the gondola station. This is the gathering place for pedestrians and the beginning of street life there. There is a certain irony that a modern-day gondola brings life to the Mountain Village much in same way that Mears' trains did for Telluride a

boom times of a century ago were based on rich ores and land speculation. The current boom is partly fueled by land speculation and development. Will the social exploitation caused by the tourism industry today have the same long-term ill effects as some of the natural problems created by the mining industry of the last century?

As I looked across at the Peaks Hotel and Spa, I was reminded of the large resort hotels the railroad barons built 100 years ago in such places as Banff, Alberta, and West Glacier, Montana. I wonder if Otto Mears realized he could have made more money hauling people to the mountains rather than natural materials away from the region?

There are all of the trappings, such as a Town Hall, Building Department, and Fire Station that you'd expect a town to have. Yet a community is comprised of more than symbols and departments. It is a compilation of stories and human dramas that paint a layered canvas. Can this drama be painted by part-time residents and visitors with nothing more than a temporary connection? I do not agree with all of the politics of Telluride, but the current soap opera is one chapter of a large tome. I respect the planning and design that have gone into the Mountain Village, but I have my doubts that a town based only on the recreation industry can produce a multi-hued story.

century ago. The gondola itself is rooted in another part of Telluride's history. If you look around, you can find evidence of aerial trams miners used to transport ore to the mills below.

The Village Center is characterized by large commercial blocks that stretch as high as zoning allowed. Interesting elements are found in most buildings, but the overall impression is overbearing. When I saw the Sotheby's Properties shop, I knew my days of sleeping in the back of my truck were numbered.

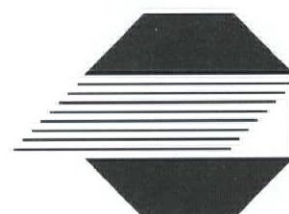
We can gain insights by stepping back and looking at the larger picture. The

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LEGISLATURE, from page 1



Governor Romer offers congratulations on the passage of HB 1018. Pictured l-r, Tom McKenzie, AIA; AIA/C lobbyist Jerry Johnson; Representative Stephanie Takis (sponsor); Joe Jackson, Assoc. AIA; Governor Romer; D.A. Bertram, AIA, Esq.; Marvin Sparn, FAIA; John Williams, AIA; and Ron Abo, AIA.

**HB 1372 (Swenson/Norton) Certificate of Review to Cover Employer**

Strengthening the existing Certificate of Merit Law, this bill now requires certificates of review in professional negligence actions to include the defendant's employer, as well as the individual defendant. This bill was initiated and supported by AIA Colorado and ACEC. Signed on April 21, this new law takes effect on February 1, 1999.

Many thanks are owed the following members and individuals, whose tireless effort on behalf of the AIA made 1998's session a success: **John Williams, AIA; Tom McKenzie, AIA; D.A. Bertram, AIA, Esq.; Marvin Sparn, FAIA;** and our contract lobbyist **Jerry Johnson** of The Johnson Consulting Companies.

**MORE ON THE BOARDS—**

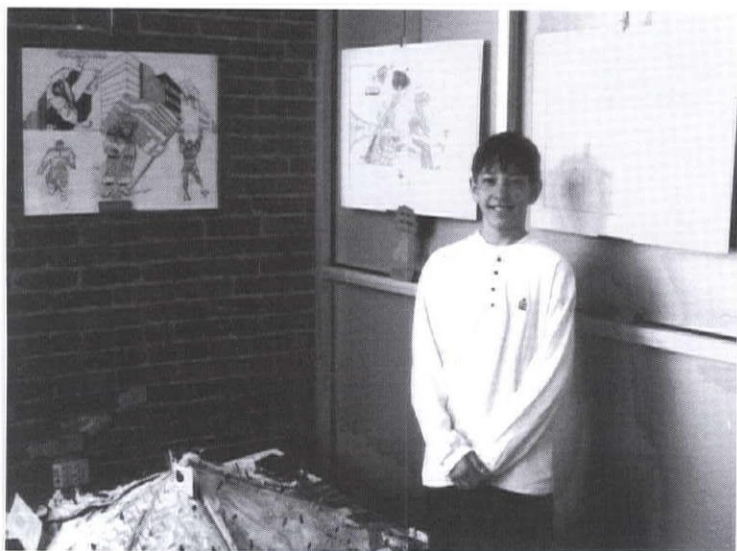
**Denver Architecture Firm, Sink Combs Dethlefs, Designs New Arena in New Jersey**

**S**ink Combs Dethlefs is under contract to design a new 10,000 seat arena in Trenton, New Jersey. Scheduled to open for the 1999 hockey season, the development of the Mercer County Arena stemmed from a growing need to provide Trenton, Princeton, and surrounding communities with a venue for special events including hockey, basketball, boxing, family shows, trade shows and concerts. In addition the arena will serve as home to both minor league hockey and basketball teams.

**AIA COLORADO HOSTS ITS THIRD ANNUAL YOUNG PEOPLE IN ARCHITECTURE GALLERY EXHIBIT**

**A**IA Colorado's third annual Young People in Architecture exhibit, "My City, My Home," opened on April 3, and was displayed in the **piazza!AIA** through the month of April. This year's theme gave the students an opportunity to interpret the issues of urban growth and development through architectural models and other art forms. The program promotes architectural awareness in children of all ages.

Students from the following schools entered projects: Lake Middle School; Horace Mann Middle School; Park Hill School of International Studies; Baker Middle School and Campus Middle School. The Tattered Cover Bookstore, H.R. Meininger Company and Denver Art



Tyler Cantrell from Campus Middle School stands with his winning entry (above his right shoulder). His drawing depicted a futuristic city.

Supply donated gift certificates, and the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Zoo, and the Denver Museum of Natural History donated passes as prizes for the winners.

**OWNER BENEFITS SERIES: BUSINESS CONTINUATION PLANNING**

—Bill Magnusson

**W**hen a small business owner fails to formulate a sound plan for continuation or distribution of the business upon retirement, death, or disability, the consequences can be death to the business. Business owners should establish a sound business succession plan.

There are three choices for the disposition of the business: sell, family/



inheritor retention, or liquidation. For some small businesses, liquidation \*(selling off the business assets) is the best answer. Family/inheritor takeover is an option if that person has an interest in and/or experience with a design/planning oriented business or can find an outside manager to take over. Selling the business to a partner or key employee is a better option if plans are in place prior to the owner's demise. A common business continuation option is a buy-sell agreement, either funded or unfunded.

Next month: Buy-Sell Agreements

Bill Magnusson, with Berkshire Financial Group, is a professional affiliate member of AIA, working on these and other issues of interest to architects. 303.221.2100 ext. 228.

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## CALENDAR EVENTS

### JUNE

- 2 Design Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 PM, AIA Offices
- 3-6 International Design Conference, Aspen, call 970.925.2257 for more info
- 4 Committee on the Environment meeting, Noon, AIA Offices
- 4 Denver Board meeting, 5:30 PM, AIA Offices
- 5-6 North Chapter presents "Designing Low-Energy Buildings," call AIA for more info at 800.628.5598
- 6 South Chapter Membership meeting, "Air Force Academy Tour," call AIA for more info at 800.628.5598
- 12 Government Affairs Committee meeting, 2-5 PM, AIA Offices
- 12 West Chapter Board meeting, Aspen, call AIA for more info at 800.628.5598
- 16 Design Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 PM, AIA Offices
- 16 North Chapter Board meeting, call AIA for more info at 800.628.5598
- 17 ArchiCAD Users Group, 5:30 PM, AIA Offices
- 18 Design/Build Committee meeting, 7:30 AM, AIA Offices
- 18 Design Communications Committee meeting, Noon, AIA Offices
- 19 *Colorado Architect* Editorial Board meeting, 11:00- Noon, AIA Offices
- 19 AIA Colorado Finance Committee meeting, 1-2 PM, AIA Offices
- 19 AIA Colorado Board meeting, 2-5 PM, AIA Offices
- 23 North Chapter Membership meeting, "NREL/BOD," Golden, call AIA for more info at 800.628.5598
- 24 Design & Construction Coalition meeting, 7:30 AM, AIA Offices
- 24-25 AIA Denver Membership Forum #2, Colorado's Ocean Journey, 5:30 PM, call AIA for reservations 446.2266
- 25 Historic Preservation Committee meeting, 7:30 AM, AIA Offices

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JUNE 1998

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## Summer Vacation...

### SUCCESS AT THE CAPITOL!

AIA Colorado is pleased to announce the Governor has signed into law four legislative bills which have a strong impact on the profession of architecture. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Government Affairs Committee, our impact on 1998's legislative session has proven to be one of the most successful in AIA Colorado's history. For more information on this year's triumphs, see page 1.

Legislative Update  
PAGE 1



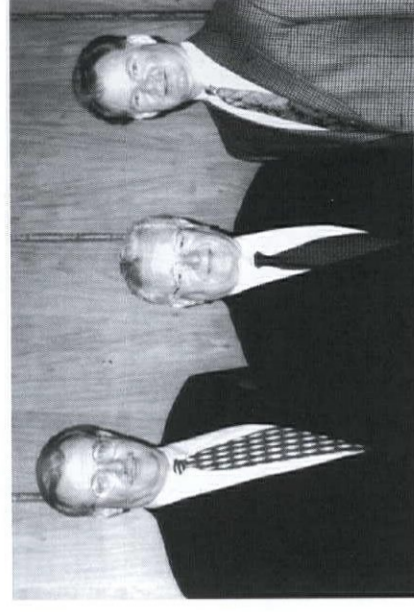
Welcome, New Director of Local Chapters  
PAGE 2



Architectural Travel: A Few Favorites  
PAGE 5



AIA Colorado West Award Winners Announced  
PAGE 13



Pictured at the Capitol, l-r, GAC member D.A. Bertram, AIA, Esq.; Governor Roy Romer; and AIA Colorado EVP Joe Jackson, Assoc. AIA.