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DECEMBER 1999

## WISE MOVE? YOU BET! PART II

—Joseph M. Jackson, Assoc. AIA, EVP/CEO

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I wrote the first part of this article last month, describing the actions leading up to our office space move. This month, I'd like to continue by outlining the benefits of moving to our new headquarters, located in the award-winning Park Central office complex in downtown Denver.

We're in a street-level space, at the corner of 15th and Lawrence streets, adjacent to Writer Square and one block from the historic Larimer Square district. We are also now just one short block from the College of Architecture and Planning, and about the same distance from the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The other end of the building fronts the 16th Street Mall, across from Tabor Center and the historic Clock Tower. While nearby parking is still at a premium, I believe we'd be hard-pressed to find a more visible, centrally located space... particularly one we could afford!

Early in the year, we issued a RFP to our firms, asking those interested in designing our new space to submit a letter outlining their interest—our statewide Office Space Task Force was quite impressed with the quality of the five firms who offered to design our space pro bono.

Following a series of interviews, the firm chosen to complete the design portion of this task was **HumphriesPoli Architects** of Denver. **Dennis Humphries** and **Joe Poli** intrigued the task force with their choice to bring their nearly entire 15-person firm to the interview. They eloquently presented their concepts, which, coupled with their intent to involve their interns and young architects in the process, impressed the task force.

AIA Colorado President **Ned White** generously offered the pro bono services of his firm **Intergroup, Inc.** of Littleton to complete the construction documents. Together, these two firms spent countless hours developing a design that needed to be visually stimulating, inviting and had to meet some very strict budgetary guidelines.

Rounding out the design and construction team was our general contractor, **The Weitz Company** of Denver, who very generously offered to construct the offices at cost, without markup. AIA Colorado South Chapter president

**Marvin Maples** deserves our thanks for negotiating this agreement with Weitz. The generosity of all three companies made our new space a reality.



### Watch for the New Sign

As you drive up Lawrence Street and approach our building, you will notice one of the first of many benefits our new location has afforded us. A beautiful 16-foot-long, cut-aluminum red sign that reads, "The American Institute of Architects," now anchors the corner fascia of the building complex. I've been told you can read our sign from as far away as the architecture school. Compared to the very limited exterior signage allowed at our previous location, our visibility has now been dramatically increased!

Once you enter our new headquarters, you will immediately recognize the greater sense of space, which is approximately 400 square feet larger than our previous office. Surrounded by floor-to-ceiling

glass on three exposures, we've retained both our reception/resource library area, as well as the gallery area in an L-shaped configuration that fronts both the building's elevator lobby and about half our frontage along 15th Street. A kitchen and copy room backs to the reception area. Our main conference and board room continues along 15th Street and on to Lawrence Street, which comfortably seats 14 around the table—with room for up to ten more around the perimeter.

A significant enhancement over our last conference room is its ability to offer a private space for meetings and presentations, while providing acoustic separation from the rest of the office. A second, semi-private conference room "in the round" is adjacent to the staff area, allowing us the opportunity now to conduct smaller gatherings when the main conference room is in use. Our staff area is made up of four support workstations and private glass-fronted offices for both the Executive Director of Local Chapters and the Executive Vice President. Rounding out the more private area of the office is a separate file storage and work room.

Additional benefits of our new office include a new high-quality

[ See WISE MOVE on page 5 ]

### AIA COLORADO ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following people elected to serve on AIA Colorado's 2000 Board of Directors.

President-Elect: John Williams, AIA

Treasurer Elect: Martha Bennett, AIA

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On behalf of AIA Colorado's membership, THANK YOU!



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# THIS YEAR SETS STAGE FOR 2000

It's almost impossible for me to accept that my 12 months as president are almost complete. It's truly been a great year and time has flown by. It hasn't been without challenges, yet the successes have so far outweighed them, that it has been a real reward for me. Here is some of what AIA Colorado has accomplished in 1999.

In October, we had the second meeting of the Community and Housing Design Quality in Colorado Task Force. This is a truly extraordinary effort that was initiated by Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and chaired by Arlo Braun. They have engaged more than 35 leading architects, planners, builders, developers, and city officials to meet and discuss issues of smart growth; affordability; regulations; consumer housing preferences; entitlements; and architect, planner, and builder roles in housing and community design. Five focus areas have been identified and they are now developing strategies to improve Colorado communities and the environment.

This fall, we faced a serious challenge. The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) decided to nullify a ten-year agreement with AIA that interior designers would not seek licensure. ASID is now actively seeking licensure in several states, including Colorado. While this may seem innocuous, the threat to architects is real and serious.

They assert "An architect deals with the design and construction of a structure; an interior designer deals with the interior spaces. While some gray area does exist, we believe there is a clear demarcation between having the knowledge necessary to understand building components and their respective roles, and the knowledge to design and construct those elements. A professional interior designer fits in the

first category, an architect in the latter." Clearly this is serious, as under their assertions, architects are incapable of designing the inside of buildings. Both AIA National and AIA Colorado are actively following this issue and will adamantly defend the architect's right to design the entire building!

This year, the state board and staff worked on many programs to improve services to members and expand on what we do. We achieved successes in these areas:

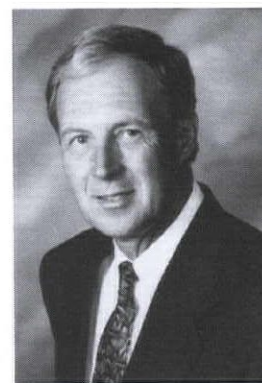
◆ **Implementing recommendations from the AIA National Component Assistance Team.** In January, the Board chose 18 issues to pursue. We made significant progress in 12 areas, including sponsorship, government affairs, 2001 Convention, the state Design Conference, evaluating office space alternatives, membership recruitment, alternative fund-raising strategies, involving young architects, and continuing education.

◆ **Reviewing the Education Fund Organization.** Robert Fuller helped reorganize the fund and bring all its assets under a central management group. We also expanded the number of scholarships offered and are reviewing increasing the amounts in each category.

◆ **The Design Conference.** Many thanks go to Brian Klipp and Dennis Reseutek, co-chairs; Paul Jeselnick, Speakers Chair; Curt Fentress, Awards Chair; Larry Jenks, Exhibitors Chair; Elaine Shiramizu, Graphics; Isabelle Matteson, Marketing; and especially Joe Jackson, Carolyn Livingston, and all of our tremendous staff. The hard work and enthusiasm of this group was phenomenal.

◆ **Young Architect's Gala.** Under Steve Loos' leadership, the task force has

developed a plan for a Leadership 2000 event and David Owen Tryba has agreed to chair it. So it should be an outstanding tribute to the young professionals.



—Ned White, AIA President, AIA Colorado

◆ **Government Affairs.** The Government Affairs committee extended its "champions" program, where firms invite legislators on a one-on-one basis to educate them about the profession of architecture and to become our champions at the State House.

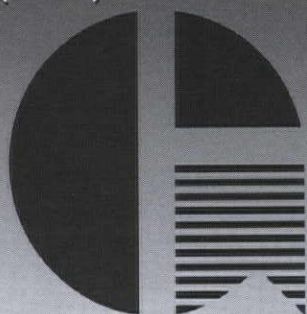
◆ **Aligning the Institute for the Millennium.** The AIM program I talked about last month is now being discussed by our Board to begin implementation at the local level.

Being involved in AIA is a great way to give back to the profession, while a tremendous learning experience for each of us. In closing, I want to thank the entire 1999 Board for all its support and effort—especially Steve Loos, our 2000 president, who I know will do a great job; and Ron Abo, our 1998 president, who led our very successful membership program this year (over 200 new members). And AIA Colorado would be nowhere without the staff support that we receive, so thanks to Joe, Susan, Carolyn, Taryn, Carmen, and Dondrea. We couldn't do it without you.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# INTERN DISAPPOINTED IN ARCHITECTS' RESPONSE

*Editor's Note: The author of this letter requested the name be withheld and we honored that request.*

After reading your article, "Opinions and Expectations: Firms and Interns," (October 1999), I must say, I was disappointed. I found some comments firms made about interns blatantly negative and untrue. Of course, as interns, we have our own opinions and views about the architectural profession. This response is based on my opinions and the input I have received from fellow architectural graduates.

Before I get into my response, I think it is important to introduce my background. I was recently graduated from an accredited five-year bachelor of architecture program. I have approximately one year of professional experience in architecture, having worked for two firms during my school term, and I am working for a firm in Denver. This experience let me interact with different types of firms and how they handle their interns.

Interns have been under-appreciated and poorly compensated. This has resulted in many of the stereotypes presented in your last two articles. The lines of communication between firms and interns is dwindling, and each side needs to understand what the other wants to accomplish.

I think most architectural graduates are looking for a firm that offers a friendly work atmosphere, an opportunity to fulfill IDP requirements in a timely and balanced manner, and maximum compensation for the responsibilities involved. Unfortunately, most interns are not in this situation, and I feel this has caused some resentment between interns and the profession.

Architecture is one of the most difficult and demanding majors there is.

Countless hours spent in the studio, money spent on expensive equipment and materials, demanding project schedules, and complicated structures classes, are all part of an architecture student's life. On top of that, it takes five years to complete an Architecture Degree. Following graduation, most students are left heavily in debt, but have an immense sense of accomplishment and high hopes for the future. We soon find out you can't make any serious money doing this architecture thing.

Why shouldn't graduates make as much money as other young professionals do following graduation? A mechanical engineering friend started out at \$43,000/year while most architectural graduates start out at under \$30,000/year. Isn't architecture just as demanding, and doesn't it require expertise similar to most engineering programs? And why should a two-year drafting graduate be making just as much—or more—than an architectural graduate with many more skills? Why is architecture one of the lowest paying professions, yet one of the most prestigious?

It all starts with the low architectural fees most firms charge. We understand how the profession works. The profession has become so competitive that firms will do a project for practically nothing. I don't think the public understands how hard it is to design and provide architectural services. Clients don't want to pay the big bucks and they don't have to because the profession will not demand it. This results in low compensation for interns and architects alike. It is a basic formula, low fees equal low compensation.

Many of the article's comments revolved around money. Well, isn't that what it's all about? You have to make money to support yourself. Isn't one

measured by the amount of money she has and the possessions she acquires? We do love architecture, and would never think of doing anything else, yet working for a firm is a job, and we expect to be fairly compensated.

Regarding specific comments: Architectural firms feel that interns... "Are only motivated by money, and have a 'let them worry about the business' attitude." One always needs motivation for work. An intern will work harder and faster to obtain a greater margin of profit for the firm if the firm is willing to offer a higher level of compensation and/or year-end bonuses. Money is not the only motivation though. Increased responsibility and client contact are also rewarding.

"Cannot hand draw when necessary." Well then, you are employing the wrong interns. Take a look at their portfolios before hiring them.

"Are not loyal." When we are not given opportunities or not paid appropriately, how can you expect us to be loyal?

"Are not committed to becoming architects." And "Expect raises when they pass the registration exam." I am very committed to passing the exam as soon as possible, just so I can call myself an architect. I did not waste five years of my life in school to not become one. The prestige handed to you when you can actually say you are an architect is rewarding in itself, though how can interns be motivated to take and pass the test when they know the firm will not offer a raise? Some firms want you to become registered yet are not even willing to pay for the exam! Unfortunately, others don't encourage it because they'd feel they have to pay you more.

"Expect architecture to be an 8-5 commitment." I always hear people

say, "You're not in school anymore. This is the real world." They are absolutely right, and in the real world, time is money. My time is important, just like anyone else's. Why shouldn't I be compensated for the overtime I put into a project?

"Want to design before they've really learned how buildings are built." Interns must be aware that drafting is a large part of their responsibilities, but it shouldn't be the only task. An intern does not go through five years of school to become an architectural draftsman. If interns are given an opportunity to design something early in their internship, they'll feel that the firm believes in them. Interns must remember that only 1% of graduates become designers.

The article states, "In search of more money, interns are willing to do additional work in the evenings for pay, placing firms in a position of liability." I think the search-of-more-money portion of the statement is self explanatory.

"Are not properly educated." This statement irritated me the most. An intern's level of education is directly proportional to the school attended. It is the firm's responsibility to screen potential employees on their level of education and professional experience. Architecture is a broad and general education, and one can't be asked to know everything. With the age of computers upon us, interns are bringing much more to firms than graduates did 10 to 15 years ago.

In closing, I feel that firms and interns need to open the lines of communication and learn to compromise between an intern's development and the profitability of the firm. Firms need to put themselves in the intern's shoes and understand their

[ See INTERN on page 5 ]

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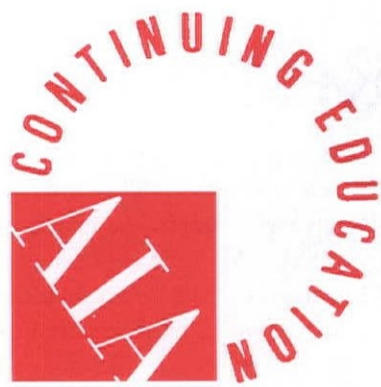
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# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## Big News From National

Effective January 1, the AIA/CES program will move to contact hours as the basis for determining the value of learning units. At its September meeting, the AIA Board of Directors approved the CES

Task Force's recommendation that quality levels be eliminated as part of calculating learning units and that the new AIA/CES credit calculation be equivalent to one contact hour for one credit hour.

This adjustment will align the AIA more closely with states that have a mandatory continuing education requirement for licensure. The CES resolution Task Force is also reviewing other CES policies, including the total number of hours and HSW hours required annually, total number of

hours required for reinstatement, the current reporting cycle, acceptance of self-reported activity, credit for teaching, credit for board or committee activity, distance learning, and the CES record-keeping process.

**Members:** the AIA/CES transcript found on AIAOnline will look different after January 1. Please print your transcripts now if you want to save your entire activity record from 1995-1997.

## Designer-Led Design/Build Workshop

If you're wondering whether it's true that "design/build is here to stay" and are curious about just what design/build entails, here's your chance to advance your education. A day-long workshop, "Designer-Led Design/Build Workshop" will take place on February 25, 2000 at Cherry Hills Country Club, hosted by the Denver Chapter's Design/Build Committee.

The one-day workshop is for design professionals addressing the risks and rewards of leading a design/build team. In addition to architects, it will also benefit owners, engineers, construction managers, and contractors who are already involved or want to learn more about the trend toward design/build. Continuing Education credit is worth eight contact hours.

The workshop will be led by G. William Quatman, AIA, Esq. Bill is a licensed architect and practicing attorney with the law firm of Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, PC, which represents design professionals, contractors, and owners. He teaches design/build law for the University of Kansas. Bill has helped many architects, engineers, and contractors form design/build firms and develop contracts and business plans tailored for design/build projects of all sizes. Joining Bill in leading this workshop will be Brad Buchanan, AIA, of Buchanan Yonushewski and Velma Lane from Van Gilder Insurance Corporation.

Watch your mail in early January for the brochure and full details. But mark your calendars now!

## Continuing Education Credits for Becoming Good Neighbors

The American Architectural Foundation sent AIA Colorado a documentary, *Becoming Good Neighbors: Enriching America's Communities by Design*. If you merely watch the video, one credit is earned. If you watch the film and complete the self test, four credits can be earned. Drop by the AIA office and check out your copy of the video today.



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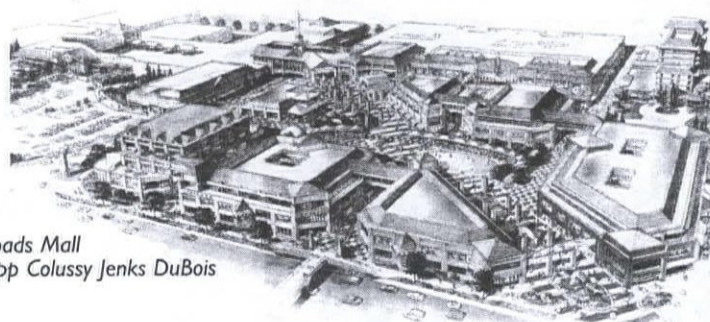




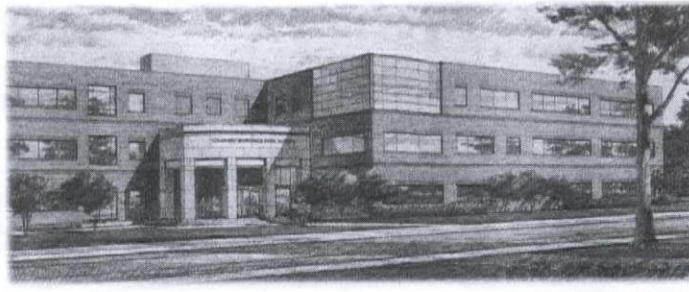
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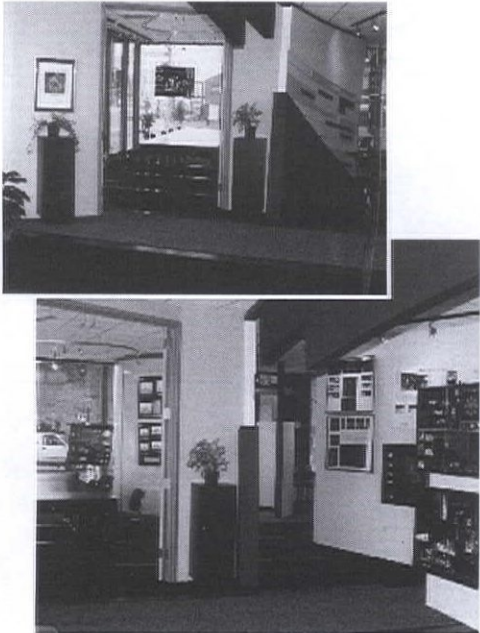
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[ WISE MOVE, from page 1 ]



Interior of new AIA Colorado office

telecommunications system and enhanced computer networking technology.

I'd like to express our sincere thanks to the extremely generous contributions of both materials and services, totaling well over \$100,000, from the following firms and companies:

**HumphriesPoli Architects**, for the design of the office space ♦ **Intergroup Architects**, for the construction documents and design assistance ♦ **The Weitz Company**, for coordinating the construction of the space ♦ **Denver Drywall**, for donating drywall services for the office ♦ **Facilitek**, for donating a

custom reception desk ♦ **Roth Distributing**, for donating commercial - grade kitchen appliances, including refrigerator/freezer/ice maker, convection oven/range, dishwasher, and microwave ♦ **Arapahoe Sign Arts**, for donating all exterior building signage ♦ **Premier Flooring**, for the partial donation of floor coverings and installation ♦ **M/H Lighting**, for donating the conference room lighting system ♦ **Desks Incorporated**, for providing staff area office furniture at cost ♦ **AIA Denver**, for donating funds to purchase staff area office furniture ♦ **Roppe and PTS Flooring**, for donating flooring materials ♦ **Cadillac Plasticrafts**, for donating construction materials.

As a side note, the only area we are still seeking donations of materials for is our kitchen. The company that had originally agreed to donate and construct the custom cabinetry fell through, so if you know of a company that might be interested in providing this service, we'd love to know!

We also thank **Carol High Commercial Real Estate**, and building owner **Lowe Enterprises**, for negotiating a generous five-year lease that allowed us to move to a high-quality, visible location with little impact on existing and future budgets.

I encourage you to stop by any time to see your new association headquarters and meet your hard-working staff.

*From your staff and AIA leadership, Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!*

[ INTERN, from page 3 ]

wants and needs. Interns must do the same. The architectural profession has a responsibility to provide interns with the best possible advice regarding daily training and long-range career plans. The

profession will grow and profit if firms take interns under their wing and provide them with the appropriate mentoring and opportunities they need. If firms decide to take care of us financially, I know we'll take care of them.

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Join a limited group (approximately 16) to explore recent architecture and urban design in Germany.

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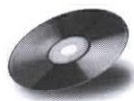
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# HEY ASSOCIATES...

—Andrea Nichol, Assoc. AIA  
State IDP Coordinator

**I**t's new and it's all about us. We have our own column! Stay tuned for updates on lectures, seminars, helpful information, competitions, controversies, and more.

I will be assembling an article for the newsletter each month. Therefore, I invite and encourage every associate to send me any information and/or opinions for the column. This column can be whatever we make of it. Everybody's contribution is greatly appreciated.

Another project in the works... I am currently collecting e-mail addresses for all associate members in Colorado. If I have not contacted you yet, please send your e-mail address to [anicholl@ar7.com](mailto:anicholl@ar7.com). This is our most efficient means of communicating. So get connected!

I better tell you a little bit about me. I am an associate member, currently working as an architectural intern for AR7 HooverDesmondArchitects. This year, I am the Associate Director of AIA Colorado. However, since it is December already, it's time to pass the gavel. Jesse Adkins of Anderson Mason Dale is the new Associate Director of 2000. Congratulations, Jesse! Recently, I have accepted the position of IDP State

Coordinator. **Steve Frey**, thank you so much for all your hard work, time, and effort. If you have any questions about IDP, call me. For beginners, pick up an IDP packet at the AIA Colorado office.

The big event to talk about for all young architects next year, associates/interns, and students is the Young Architects' Gala. This extravaganza is to honor and award the exemplary younger generation of our field. It is tentatively scheduled for late April 2000. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

I hope to hear from you. Send your information, etc. to:

**Andrea Nicholl, Assoc. AIA**  
AR7 HooverDesmondArchitects  
1645 Grant Street  
Denver 80203

e-mail: [anicholl@ar7.com](mailto:anicholl@ar7.com)  
phone: 303.837.8811

Stayed tuned. And don't forget to send me your e-mail address.

# RNL MOVES BETHEL TO WESTERN SLOPE

**R**NL Design announces the relocation of the Urban Design/Landscape Studio Director Leslie Bethel, to the western slope of Colorado. She will move to Snowmass, where she will focus on business development, research and development of land use, growth issues in the West, and develop a planning practice that focuses on environmental issues. Bethel is an associate principal of RNL with 16 years' professional experience in physical planning and landscape architecture.



Leslie Bethel

## HEADS UP, RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTS— COBRA 2000

See the insert in this issue for COBRA 2000 (Colorado's Best in Residential Architecture) Call for Entries. New look, new approach, same great publicity. COBRA is open to all architects in the state of Colorado (AIA membership is not required).

This year's jury: Sears Barrett, AIA (chair); Virginia DuBrucq, AIA; Joseph Poli, AIA; Dan O'Brien, AIA; and Evalyn McGraw.

Deadline for submittals is January 13, 2000. Call Susan Buchanan at 303.446.2266 if you have questions.

## IDEAS TO RESULTS

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**Western slope misses VanDeusen**

—Gary Vanderwood, AIA  
 AIA Colorado West Chapter

**R**obert VanDeusen, FAIA, died quietly in his sleep on July 18, 1999 in the home he had designed and constructed in 1961. He had lived and practiced architecture in Grand Junction since 1948, following graduation from Harvard.

His work has not only affected the local Grand Junction area, but that of the entire Western Slope of Colorado. His firm completed seven buildings on the Mesa State College campus, the Freeman-

Fairfield Center in Meeker, Colorado, as well as the corporate headquarters for Colorado Ute in Montrose, Colorado. Numerous schools and residences throughout the Western Slope were designed by the firm. During the early '60s, the firm designed the downtown shopping park known as Operation Foresight, which brought to Grand Junction the "All American City" designation.

During the mid-60s, VanDeusen served on the Board of Architectural Examiners

and on the NCARB board during the conversion of the national exam. He followed that service with a term as President of the AIA Colorado. In 1984, he was made a Fellow in the AIA. He remained active in AIA activities until his health interfered.

He is survived by his wife Sue, two sons, two daughters, and loving grandchildren. During the latter years of his office, he enjoyed having his daughter, Sarah Simpson, join him in his work.

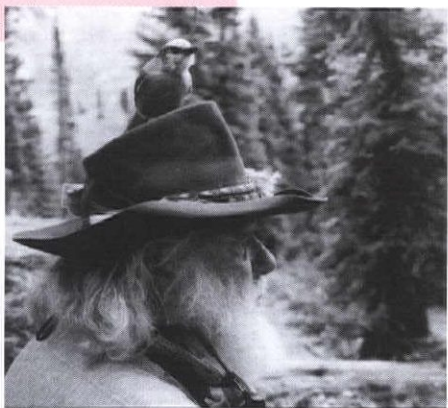
**Sam Caudill: learning from nature**

—Sven Erik Alstrom, AIA  
 AIA Colorado West Chapter

*December is often a time where we spotlight some of our most experienced architects. In this issue, we move from focusing on the individual himself to focusing more on how the buildings he has designed are reflections of his philosophy of life and architecture. From modernism to environmental design, sustainability to education, you'll see the influence the gentlemen in these pages have had on our state's architecture—and other architects.*

**H**aving lunch with Sam Caudill, FAIA Emeritus, during the interview for this article, I walked away realizing that I had felt we could have met in the woods or talked while engaged in a nature walk or hunting trip.

Sam's architectural career has primarily been in Aspen and the Western Slope of Colorado. His work is known for its inherent structural quality, which he generously attributes to the successful interaction with Anderson & Hastings, a Denver structural firm that was part of his long-standing design team for projects throughout Colorado.



Sam Caudill, FAIA Emeritus

For a long time, Sam was the only licensed architect on the Western Slope; he was a Cornell University graduate in Architecture with the class of 1946.

Sam Caudill and the late Fritz Benedict are generally recognized as the two "grandfathers"

of Aspen area architecture. Both arrived in Aspen at about the same time and each pursued building design approaches with an eye to climactic adaptation. Sam's buildings include many regional school buildings, as well as local commercial structures.

Throughout our meeting, Sam repeated a theme of his love for Colorado, its environment, lifestyle, and wildlife. He met his wife and long-time partner in

environmental causes, Joy Caudill, in Aspen and together, they have five children and ten grandchildren.

Although of both Scottish and Spanish descent (Caudillo) Sam is foremost a true American "spirit" who relocated from his native Kentucky to Colorado. Sam was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1922 and grew up in Shelbyville, Kentucky.

He's very much an expression of his interests, portraying an image of the great outdoorsman in both his dress and the graciousness with which he tells stories of both the West and Kentucky.

Sam explained that we could learn from nature in architecture through its form, color, stability, and the awareness and listening abilities of immersing ourselves in the physical environment. He emphasized that nature makes decisions in a unified way and in consideration of the many variants in nature. Buildings, though created by specialists, should listen to keys of material and form choices and the "unified" and intuitive way that nature acts. He again stressed appropriate design and material selections for the climate and design for the micro-climate of the building site.

His Aspen High School design from the

1950s is a combination of round building pavilions in plan like a "bubble diagram" or programming sketch.

*"All the arts, poetry, music, ritual, visual arts, theater, and architecture must work alone and together to create the most comprehensive art of all, a humanized society, and its masterpiece the free man: free within and free without, ready in Goethe's untarnishable words to live manfully in the whole, the good, and the beautiful."*

—Bernard Berenson

Referring to the materials and feel of this project Sam says that he stood on the site, looked around at the valley and the mountains, saw many rounded forms and objects, and decided that this shape would best fit the site. Such clear examples of biomorphism and in relating

buildings to topography pave the way for architects to further integrate the building with the site.

Sam is writing two books: one about "old timers" based on interviews with "tradesmen" across Colorado and an autobiography.

Springing from a Kentucky background, Sam blossomed in Colorado. He invites us all to take a walk outside, realize the wonder of nature, and learn from it for ourselves.

*Sven Erik Alstrom, AIA, has been a Colorado resident since 1980. He relocated to Aspen in 1988 to accept a position with Sam's firm, which provided the opportunity for his own introduction to Aspen. In 1992, he established his firm, which has become Alstrom Bernstein Architects, in partnership with M. Charles Bernstein, AIA, of Santa Monica.*

**NEW MEMBERS**

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- Alicia Davis Lypps, Assoc. AIA
- Scott S. Turnipseed, AIA  
Architecture & Construction, Inc.
- David W. Pedersen, AIA  
Pedersen Architects





### 1999 AIA COLORADO DENVER CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

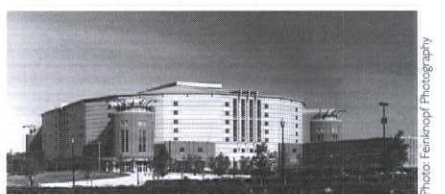
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#### Buchanan Yonushewski adds Three

Buchanan Yonushewski Group, LLC, added three new staff members. Controller Julie Cepaitis brings 13 years' experience to the firm. Scott Crane is a Job Captain and will focus on multifamily, commercial, and retail projects. Michael Stark joined as a Construction Manager and brings more than 25 years' experience in the construction field working on large-scale commercial and multifamily projects.

#### Sink Combs Dethlefs Wins Two Awards

Sink Combs Dethlefs, Architects was recently honored with two prestigious design awards. The Ohio State University Schottenstein Center, a 20,000-seat, multipurpose arena and practice facility, won the coveted Athletic Business Magazine National Facility of Merit Award. The facility was selected by a panel of leading sports, recreation, and fitness facility architects for this award and it will be a featured project this month at the Athletic Business Conference. Sink Combs Dethlefs was the Arena Design Consultant on the project and worked closely with Moody Nolan, an Ohio-based architect, to develop designs for the state-of-the-art facility.



Ohio State University Schottenstein Center

The Colorado Parks and Recreation Association recently honored the firm's project, the City of Westminster Adult Fitness Center, with the Columbine Award for Design Excellence in



City of Westminster Adult Fitness Center

September. This award honors Parks and Recreation projects that demonstrate outstanding design. Sink Combs Dethlefs served as the lead architect on the Adult Fitness Center. The facility was an addition to an existing recreation center and was specifically designed as an adult recreation facility. The Colorado Rapids training center is also located in the facility and currently stands as the finest facility of any Major League Soccer team.

#### Hart's Home Slated for TV

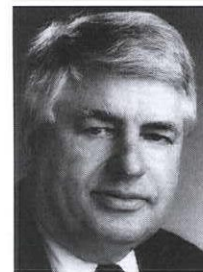
The work of Denver architect, Thomas Hart, AIA, of The Architecture Studio has often been under the media spotlight. This time, the attention was close to home when a film crew stopped in Denver while on its national tour for the series, "Lynette Jennings, Design." The show's producers wanted to see Tom's own home, not just one he designed. The remodeled California-style home in the Park Hill neighborhood will be featured on the show that airs on the Discovery Channel on December 17 at noon.



"We want high quality, but with authenticity. People are stepping up their expectations of design, and we try to make it accessible to them by showing real people in their homes. The Hart's home showed how a modern look could fit in an historic district," said Lynette Jennings, the show's host.

#### Doane Joins RNL

Larry Doane, FAIA, an internationally renowned architect, will join RNL Design as a principal. Doane is a pioneer in the cultural dynamic and nuance of design and architecture today. His expertise in this area has made him sought after internationally because of his unique approach to incorporating culture and regional characteristic into design. Another unique aspect Doane brings to RNL is his well-rounded perspective of the design process, including his grasp of cutting edge technology and virtual reality techniques to better communicate design concepts.



#### AIA Colorado appoints new IDP State Coordinator

The Board of Directors of AIA Colorado has appointed Andrea Nicholl, Assoc. AIA, the new Intern Development Program State Coordinator. "The state coordinator fulfills a vital role in communicating with students, interns, and architects about registration requirements and resources that are available to complement and enhance an intern's training," said Nicholl, an architectural intern at AR7 HooverDesmond Architects. IDP is a profession-wide, comprehensive program that contributes to the development of competent architects. IDP defines the areas of architectural practice in which interns should acquire basic knowledge and skills to periodically assess their internship experience.



—Kim Steele  
AIA Denver Chapter

#### NEW MEMBERS

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## Environment a major component in Crowther's design philosophy

For more than 60 years, Richard Crowther, FAIA Emeritus, has been a defining force in the fields of architecture and ecological design. Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to broaden accepted norms within the design field. He has written on various subjects about ecologic architecture, holistic design, indoor air, sacred ecology, and female/male equity for global survival.

**You are known as an ecologically minded architect. How and when did this interest develop?**

Throughout the 1940s, I found myself developing an ecological approach. By 1946, it was fully developed. However, I had always done holistic work and my science interest and knowledge strengthened my approach to design. Eventually I added the ecological aspect, resulting in the holistic, ecological approach to architecture.

**Could you describe the philosophy behind this approach to architecture?**

I design from people outward and climate inward. I design with people's biophysics, understanding how people are affected by the total environment—including other people. We respond subconsciously to our senses and ultimately translate approximately 90% of our experiences into vision. For example, if something smells good, we visualize how it looks. These psychoneuro responses are dictated

[ See CROWTHER on page 12 ]



# Lines & Columns

AIA Colorado South Chapter

## Partnership joined the Design Conference

—James C. Ramsey, AIA  
AIA Colorado South Chapter

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The Partnership for Community Design, an active non-profit organization in Colorado Springs, together with the Urban Design Committee of the South Chapter, hosted a breakout session during the 1999 Design Conference. The planning process in Colorado Springs was evaluated in light of the Comprehensive Plan Update underway and the proposal to require design reviews as a part of the development review process for certain projects.

The Partnership has conducted a design awards program for over a decade in recognition of public and private projects for both design and contribution to the

community. The Partnership has also conducted two community-wide urban planning symposiums, and sponsored a Traditional Neighborhood Design "TND Workshop" this year.

The Partnership has spawned the Community Design Resource (CDR) to assist in a wide-variety of design review services to enhance the appearance and livability of the Colorado Springs area and its neighborhoods. The CDR consists of qualified professionals and community representatives to serve as facilitators, panelists, jurors, and advocacy planners for design review services intended to support partnerships, advance cooperative initiatives, preserve

existing amenities, establish long-range design goals, encourage public awareness, and implement projects that demonstrate a quality community.

Professional planners, architects, engineers, and design proponents are encouraged to join the CDR in providing design review services based on an objective, unbiased, and proactive approach with volunteer participation of a broad cross-section of the community representatives working under a multi-disciplinary philosophy. For additional information about the joining the CDR, contact Ron Bevans at 719.385.5375.

## Clifford Nakata, FAIA: 36 years of contribution to Colorado's cultural environment

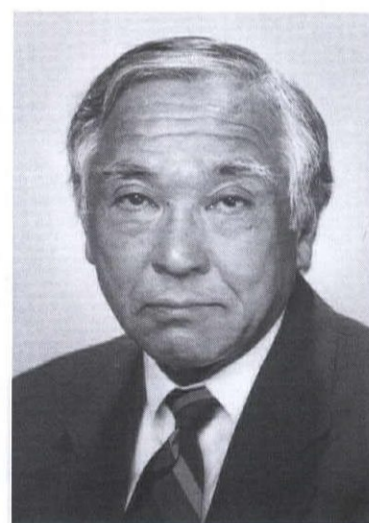
—Duane Boyle, AIA  
AIA Colorado South Chapter

When any person or firm is evaluated on contribution to the architecture and planning professions, Clifford S. Nakata, FAIA, and his firm CSNA architects, will be among those that have truly excelled. Clifford's firm has designed many of the most prominent public buildings in Colorado Springs and across Colorado. The firm has grown into a nationwide practice with significant commissions in many states and has received numerous awards for design excellence.

Clifford was born and raised in California. Initially Clifford attended engineering school but failed the basic slide rule class. "I began to get the message that engineering could be a problem and decided to become an architect." In 1951 he had to leave architecture school at UC Berkeley because he was drafted into the US Army and served with distinction in Korea with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. After military service, Clifford returned to Berkeley and with the encouragement of Joseph Eshrick, decided to "hang-in" until he finished the program.

In 1959, Clifford moved from San Francisco to Colorado Springs to work as a planner for the United States Air Force Air Defense Command. This was a move that would prove significant. In

1962, Clifford started a firm with Donald Higginbotham and Robert Muir which, at the time, became the most recognized name in military master planning, as well as completing the design of many public sector projects. Nine years later, Clifford S. Nakata and Associates, Architects and Planners, was founded and expanded on an already substantial foundation of planning and design.



Clifford Nakata, FAIA

The early 1970s was not an opportune time to start up an architectural practice. Energy costs were soaring, Colorado Springs enacted a natural gas moratorium that brought construction to a virtual stop, and Clifford started to look for new markets. One of those was sustainable design. As President of the AIA South Chapter, Clifford initiated a partnership with homebuilders and the City of Colorado Springs to implement the incorporation of solar technology into residential design. This experience led to feasibility studies for solar energy farms that would provide energy for entire neighborhoods and numerous

energy audits for various clients.

The same quiet excellence is present in Clifford's complex worldwide planning work. In 1979, Nakata Planning Group was formed to meet an increasing demand for comprehensive master planning services by the public and private sectors. What resulted is a planning group whose work spans the United

States, Europe, and beyond to Korea. Today, the planning group is one of the most accepted names in military planning and the volume of work alone would overwhelm most firms.

Clifford has consistently recognized the value of our profession to society and pushed his abilities to more and more challenging situations and marketplaces throughout the world. He has been a driving force in Colorado Springs architecture since the 1960s and today practices with a reputation for quality, vision, and image. Clifford is a quiet and private individual. If there ever was an architect whose work speaks for itself, it is Clifford Nakata.

### Thanks to Gala Sponsors

The Lake Terrace Dining Room at The Broadmoor is the location for the AIA Colorado South Chapter Gala on the 2nd of December. This festive, end-of-the-millennium event would not be possible without the generous financial gifts of our Gold, Silver & Bronze Sponsors. They are:

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### NEW MEMBERS

- Azita Nehchiri, Assoc. AIA
- Jodie Shike Wright, AIA
- Cottle Graybeal Yaw Architects





AIA Colorado North Chapter

## AIA Colorado's 25-Year Award winner is Williams Village

—Steve Loos, AIA  
AIA Colorado North Chapter  
President-Elect 2000

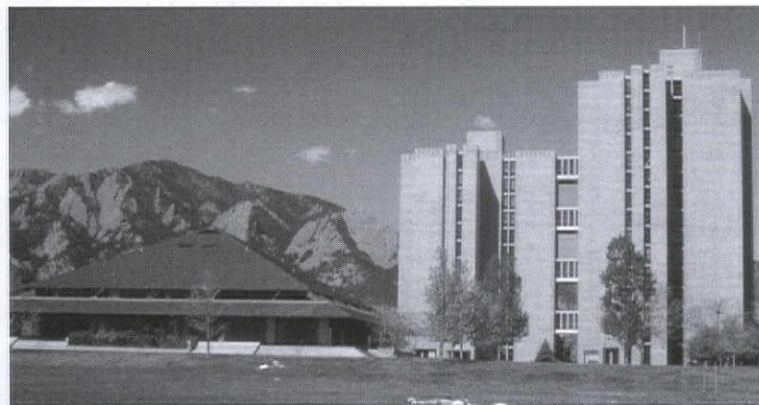
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In the late '60s, Boulder and the University of Colorado were quite different places. Boulder's Pearl Street was a sad collection of vacant and under-utilized buildings. Worries about "Manhattanizing" Boulder were a long way off and building heights over 35 feet were not regarded as irredeemable sins. The new Engineering Center was at the far eastern edge of the University campus. The southeastern site obtained for University housing seemed very remote.



Darley Towers Williams Village



Darley Towers and Commons. Architect: Hobart D. Wagener, FAIA

In this context, **Hobart D. Wagener Associates** was commissioned to master plan and to design the Williams Village Student Residential Complex. The original master plan contemplated a four-phase project to house approximately 6,000 students and was designed in a different character from that of the main campus, because of its relative remoteness.

Only two phases were ever completed as the result of changing campus growth projections. Phase One consists of Stearns East and West Towers completed in 1967. Phase Two is made up of Darley North and South Towers, completed in

1969. These four 12-15 story towers accommodate approximately 1,500 students currently in about 480 rooms. The entire complex is served by Darley Commons, a 2 1/2-story dining hall sheltered under Mr. Wagener's signature pyramidal roof.

### 25-Year Award Winner for 1999

Recognizing the significance of the Williams Village Complex, the AIA Colorado North Chapter has named it the chapter's 25-Year Award winner in 1998 and was successful in having the project selected as the 1999 AIA Colorado 25-Year Award winner. The project exemplifies the characteristics sought for this award. Its architectural character has withstood the "test of time" with a timeless quality that is very difficult to date. If the parameters were right, this complex of buildings could serve as a quality design response even today. In addition, with the exception of some minor modifications, the buildings all serve today in exactly the same manner as when they were originally completed.

In addition to its unique and distinguished design character, Williams Village was also a very innovative and progressive project. Because of its location, the complex had to be designed as a self-contained and largely self-sufficient academic community. A variety of study lounges, informal study "nooks," and snack bars were integrated into the building design.

### Coed Dorms: Radical for the Times

A very diverse collection of room types was provided in an attempt to attract undergraduates and to provide a sense of greater individuality for the resident rooms, in contrast to the repetitive dorm rooms generally provided elsewhere. This diversity of room types and

bathroom arrangements also allowed for full coed occupancy—a new and rather controversial concept in the late '60s. For the time, the buildings are also quite energy conscious, with their deep-set windows and the large percentage of solid wall to window area.

Williams Village remains a very strong architectural statement. It forms a unique and distinctive "gateway" to the University area from Route 36. As evidenced by some of the local controversy surrounding the project, people tend to have very strong feelings about Williams Village—a sure sign of an uncompromising piece of architecture.

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS...

#### OZ Wins Chamber Award

OZ Architecture was one of six companies awarded the Boulder Chamber of Commerce's esteemed Entrepreneurial Esprit Award. The company's Boulder studio was recognized as an "Entrepreneur of Distinction." Susan Bond, project manager with the Boulder Chamber of Commerce said, "The OZ staff is a diverse group that is passionate about architecture. They are also very involved and committed to the community. In their work, they try to stay away from fad. They talked about sustainability—designing buildings that still look great for years to come."

#### JVA Adds Two

JVA Incorporated announced the addition of two new staff members. Kevin Dunham has joined the Boulder office as a structural engineer, and Robin Angstrom has joined the civil engineering design team.

#### Correction

The author of "Once Upon a Design..." (November 1999, page 7), was Tessa M. Travlos with Fleetmeyer & Lee, not Dave Lee. I know what's involved in putting an article together, and Tessa, I apologize for the mistake.

—Kim Jackson

### NEW MEMBERS

Shawn J. Lund, Assoc. AIA  
Lockwood Architects, Inc.

Jeffrey James Morin, AIA  
Hartnft Fauri Architects



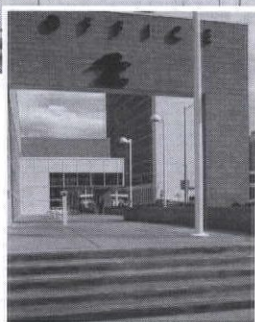
# HOOVER'S DENVER DOWNTOWN STATION

—Patricia Kettle  
AIA Denver Chapter

**G**eorge Hoover is Chair of the department of Architecture in the College of Architecture and Planning in the University of Colorado at Denver (graduate programs) and Boulder (undergraduate programs). Hoover is also a principal of AR7 HooverDesmond Architects. One of his prominent civic architecture projects is the Denver Downtown Station, a post office on the corners of 20th and Curtis streets.



of repetitive steps defined by low masonry walls lead to the plaza. The walls support a series of light posts that suggest a colonnade and echo the strong, repetitive datum established by the west façade.



Completed in 1991, the post office is in a transition area between downtown and residential neighborhoods and was to be one of several around the city to replace the old post office on Blake and 15th streets. This historic post office building was slated to be converted for use by the federal courts.

The design, which incorporates generous public space, exhibits Hoover's commitment to the community. Intersecting masonry wall planes provide a backdrop for the public spaces of the lobby, mail counters, and individual mail boxes. Masonry walls extend beyond the volumes of space, expanding the building's presence. The colors, primarily gray and white, were chosen for their neutral tone, intended to recall the limestone and marble of the historic converted post office. The colors also distinguish it from its surrounding context, which consists of brown and beige tones.

According to Hoover, a post office is "a federal institution, representative of the government's role in protecting the freedom of communication—not just a place to sort the mail and buy stamps. Since the Enlightenment, there has been a move away from that which is symbolic and mythic to that which can be measured and weighed. Efficiency and economy have replaced the ideal, mythic themes that derive from a sense of calling."

Buildings often rely on one another to reveal and define themselves. Currently, the context surrounding the post office is primarily surface parking. To realize the design's full potential, a development of critical mass on the adjacent lots is essential. This will activate the public spaces provided and reinforce the distinct civic character of this important work of architecture.

Throughout the design process, his interpretation prompted him to ask questions. What qualities did the old great civic buildings have, and what role do they play in our communities? The project budget was very tight, yet the design intent was fulfilled nonetheless. The goal of the design was to take a somewhat limited project and give it a monumental scale through the use of extended wall planes, simple massing, and a strong repetitive datum.

Patricia Kettle is an associate and studio designer with RNL Design.

With a focus on civic architecture, Hoover asked, "Why can't we create a building symbolic of a national ideal and function? In recognizing our civic buildings as being distinct, we help the community realize its own identity. Civic buildings present an opportunity to express a community's beliefs. Architecture has, at times, forgotten this mission."

Hoover went on to discuss civic architecture within the realm of modernism. "Viewing a building merely as a machine for living presents a negative view of modernism. It is too narrow and limiting in its reach. What differentiates civic buildings is a sense of purpose; without that, the building merely becomes a vehicle for the delivery of mail."

Elements of the design exemplify Hoover's philosophy of architecture. The building is set back from the street, creating a plaza-like front. The most prominent corner and main entrance at 20th and Curtis streets is raised on a plinth, utilizing the gradual grade change along Curtis Street to provide elevation. A series

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# HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY AND THE LAW

Cindy Harvey and Mike Kephart, AIA

In 1988, Congress signed into law the accessibility amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act. The intent of this law was to make the building community responsible for non-discriminating housing practices. As the knowledge of this federal law spreads, however, there still remain other layers to providing accessible housing with which most may not be familiar.

## Law Leads to Local Codes

The Federal Fair Housing Act has received much attention based on the simple fact that the Justice Department is in the process of suing so many architects and builders for non-compliance. Because Congress did not give any agency or government body authority to review or approve building plans, there is no place for architects or builders to go to confirm that their plans comply with the federal law.

Steps are being taken to incorporate the elements of this law into the model

building codes as a means of providing interpretation and enforcement at the local level. But this now leaves us with two accessibility codes. The federal law is still the responsibility of the builder or architect to determine how to comply with it. That fact has not changed. Instead, a new layer of requirements has been created and must be followed based on the model building codes (or local versions thereof). Although these requirements are similar to the federal accessibility standards, variations of some of the finer details exist. Now the architect or builder must analyze his/her designs and projects based not only on federal law, but also the requirements set forth in the local or adopted model building codes.

## Lesser-Known State Laws

To add to the confusion, some states have taken it upon themselves to write additional legislation that creates yet another layer for a builder or architect to incorporate into his/her project. An example of such legislation would be the

Colorado's State Statute known as Title 9. This law specifically references the "most current ANSI standard" as the means to determine design requirements.

While the Federal Fair Housing Design Guidelines occasionally reference the ANSI standard, again the details of these guidelines vary. Consequently, at least three layers of analysis must be performed to ensure compliance with the federal laws, local and/or adopted model building codes, and state laws.

## In the End, You're Responsible

What has been brought to light is that an architect or builder cannot comply with the federal law alone and presume that his/her project is in full compliance. The federal law is just one layer of what must be considered to meet accessibility requirements for a project. Many local governments are unaware of these requirements or are unclear about how to interpret and enforce them. In the end, it will be your responsibility to make your project comply.

To learn more about these laws that affect your housing decisions, plan to attend the Fair Housing Workshop scheduled in your area. All workshops are full-day programs with topics including the law and design issues. Mark your calendar now and watch the mail for more details.

- ◆ **March 16, 2000:** Denver Tech Center, Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants, meeting room, 7979 East Tufts Avenue
- ◆ **April 27, 2000:** Fort Collins, Holiday Inn I-25, 3836 East Mulberry
- ◆ **May 18, 2000:** Vail Valley, Manor Vail Lodge, 595 E. Vail Valley Drive

## [CROWTHER, from page 8]

by our environment, which in turn controls our behavior. We can see this happening throughout history. In the machine age, people were conquered by machines; with the computer age, people are being conquered by computers. Our masters are what we create. My goal in design is to understand this and create environments conducive to health and well-being.

In addition, our consumer-oriented system has produced a culture that purchases for self-gratification rather than necessity. Most of our purchases are geared toward lifting the soul. The farther we go to buy things, the more we destroy the environment. Our need to gather resources from great distances and manipulate them to make them useful is extremely damaging.

Given this, it's easy to see that most products are ill-designed. Many use inappropriate materials and the wrong energy and the wrong processes from an environmental standpoint. However, an environmental concern is growing in reuse, recycling, and product production. The more local our resources, the better.

## How do you incorporate these ideas into architectural design?

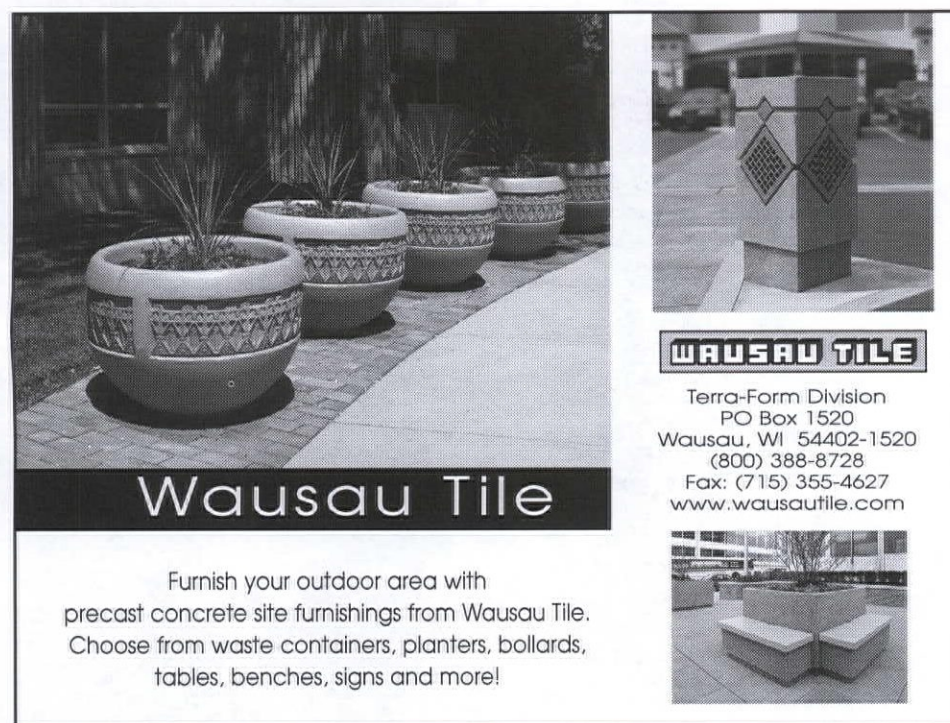
It is impossible to build without damaging the environment. There is no absolute green architecture. The closest one can come to it is to have all the resources come from the building site. Logistically, this is very difficult. It therefore becomes necessary to work within the constraints of the site and modify the building's form to minimize the environmental impact.

Building forms that approach square or rectangular with the largest space facing south are probably the most environmentally conscious forms. These use the least amount of materials and work with the climate of the site. Architecture is the interface between people, structure, and site. The exterior and interior of a building have to work with the site and the occupant: use landscaping to attenuate the climate, earth-couple the building, place the windows to minimize summer and maximize winter sun, and design the interior to facilitate comfort.

A clear challenge is getting clients and developers to work in an environmentally responsible way. The best way to get clients on board is to encourage them to generate ideas related to sustainability. As active participants in the design process, they become committed to using sustainable materials and practices.

Richard Crowther lives and works in an ecologically/holistically designed building in Cherry Creek North. His many solar residential and ecologic commercial projects are found throughout the U.S. and Mexico. He remains engaged in advanced research in solar, cosmic, clean energies, ionization, electromagnetism, air vitalization, and physiologic effect of our environs. Many of his ideas are being further refined and practiced by an increasing number of architects today.

Kim Steele is principal of Context. She can be reached at 303.561.3020

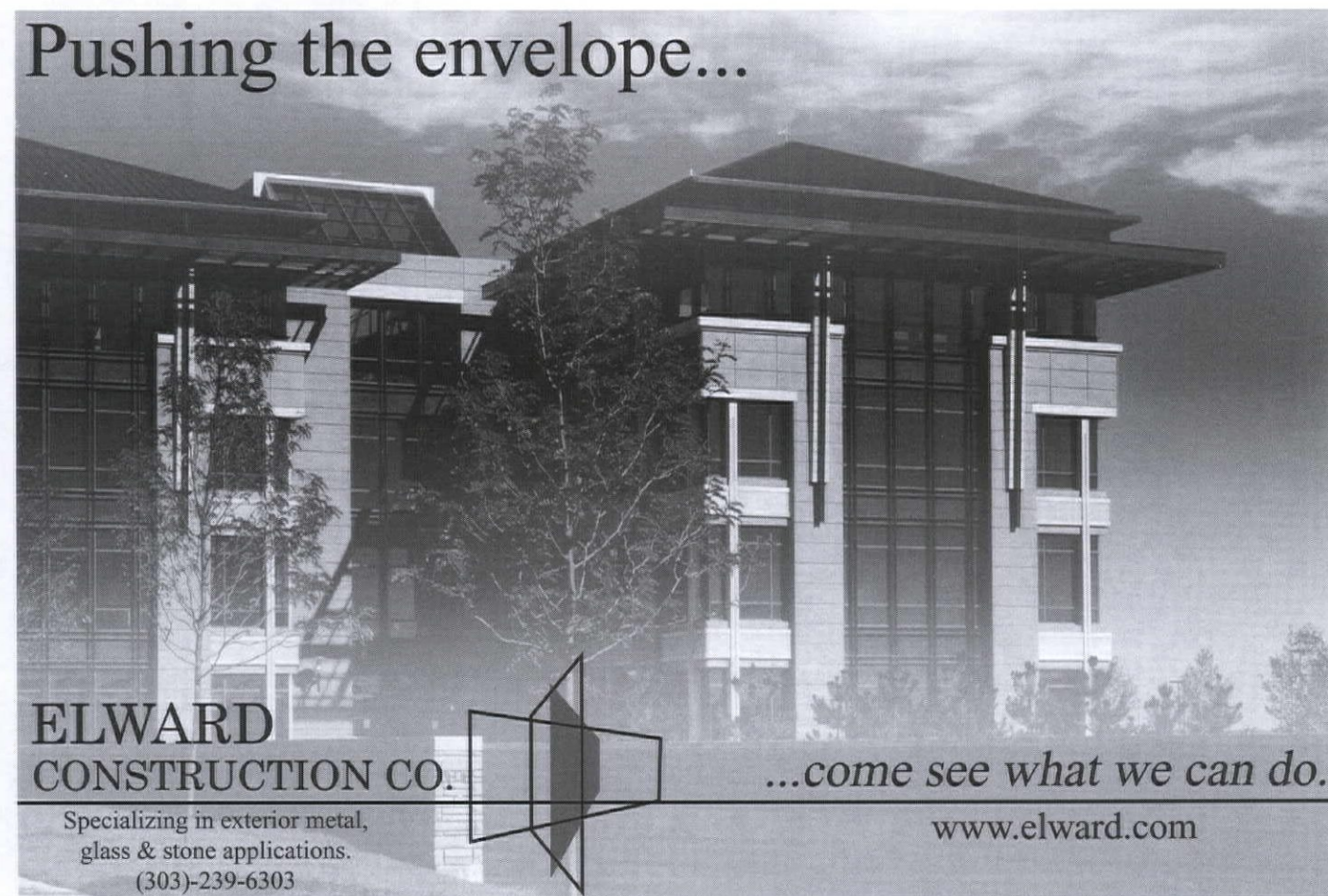


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## ICBO STANDARDIZATION COMMITTEE

**M**any building officials belong to the Colorado chapter of the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO). Among its many activities is its "Standardization" sub-committee. Its purpose is to identify issues where different jurisdictions have different interpretations of the Building Code on the same issues. To date, the committee has looked at where and when stair riser height is measured during residential inspections (rough framing, completion of sub-floors, final CO?) and the size and location of crawl space and combustion air vents.

The committee is always interested in hearing from design professionals about issues that we find frustrating and/or we think need to be addressed. If you have an issue, please describe it and get it to both of the following:

Barb Kuettel, 303.762.2362 (fax) or [bkuettel@ci.englewood.co.us](mailto:bkuettel@ci.englewood.co.us)

Jim Zavist, AIA, 303.733.3200 (fax) or [zplan@compaq.net](mailto:zplan@compaq.net)

The committee has an ongoing list of issues, and attempts to find rational justifications for making recommendations to ICBO's Colorado members.

Unfortunately, as with anything bureaucratic, there is no assurance that the

committee's recommendations will be accepted and adopted by any individual agency. Still, we've had a fair amount of success in at least getting the issues on the table for discussion and forcing entities to justify their decisions.

The following are some of the items on the list of potential issues for 2000:

- ◆ When stamped plans are required
- ◆ Existing buildings and the UBC
- ◆ Snow and wind loads
- ◆ Attic access requirements
- ◆ Is a basement habitable space? (head-room requirements)
- ◆ Venting for attic or enclosed spaces, for both moisture and radon
- ◆ Emergency egress window access to public ROW
- ◆ Where safety glazing is required
- ◆ Indoor air quality
- ◆ Fire-retardant wood
- ◆ Frost protection of mono slabs
- ◆ Exterior wall coverings
- ◆ When are Type I hoods required in residential occupancies?
- ◆ Dead-end corridors in office spaces
- ◆ Number of restrooms in commercial uses

## WELCOME NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

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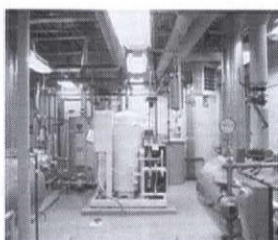
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# TEAMING AGREEMENTS EXPAND PROFITABILITY

—Donald A. Bertram, Esq., AIA  
AIA Denver Chapter

*Editor's Note: Last month, Mr. Bertram talked about forming joint ventures to market and compete for projects. This month, he discusses the advantages of teaming agreements for expanding your firm's capabilities.*

A teaming agreement is similar to a letter of intent, in that the parties set forth certain parameters that they are going to work, at the present time, and agree that they will agree in the future, if the work under the teaming agreement results in a commission, as to how they are going to provide the services to the owner.

The teaming agreement should address and identify the project or projects that this new group will pursue. State what entity the parties will form, if successful. The teaming agreement may also set forth, instead of forming a new entity, that one party may be a primary architect, while the other will be a secondary or the design architect, and will work as a consultant to the primary architect.

Since a teaming agreement is not the formation of a partnership, it should recite that the parties are not in a partnership

at the present time and that the parties are independent.

## Division of Compensation

A teaming agreement should address how the parties propose to be compensated. AIA Document C-801 "Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services" provides for selection of two methods of compensation of a joint venture. The "division of compensation method" assumes that the services provided and the compensation received will be divided among the parties as agreed at the outset of the project. Each party's profitability is then dependent on the individual performance not directly tied to that of the other party.

## Division of Profit/Loss

On one hand, the "division of the profit/loss method" is based on each party performing work and billing the joint venture at a cost plus a minimum amount of overhead. The ultimate profit or loss of the joint venture is then divided between the parties at the completion of the project. There are various other mechanisms to use, however, all of them

are derived from one of the two above compensation mechanisms.

The teaming agreement should also address the issue of professional liability insurance and that each party should maintain its respective liability insurance during the teaming agreement. The particular participation in preparing the response or the proposal to the client must be set forth, as well as who will pay for the work and the presentation. Many times, the parties agree that each party will pay for its own costs, during the pendency of the teaming agreement. If successful, a commission is entered into that those costs are then reimbursed to those parties from the funds received from the commission. If the commission is not obtained, then each party is then responsible for its own debts.

## Confidentiality, Proprietary Information

Consideration must be addressed regarding confidentiality and proprietary information transferred between the two parties. There should be some agreement on a mechanism to protect those confidential and proprietary items. In addition, teaming agreements are by nature a very, very personal type of agreement. Therefore, there must be a clause that prohibits assignment or transfer of any

interest in the teaming agreement to anyone without the prior written agreement of the other party.

A teaming agreement should not be taken lightly and should be addressed as early and as soon as possible, so each party understands his/her responsibilities, duties, liabilities, and ultimate rewards. The use of teaming agreements, and ultimately joint venture agreements or other entities, can only enhance both parties' abilities to market and obtain projects they may not have been able to obtain without the other. This is contingent on both parties' need to bring special and different expertise and experiences to the table so that they may then stand out in the eyes of the client as the best possible team to provide the client with services it requires to obtain its goal.

Donald A. Bertram is a practicing attorney and a licensed architect with the firm of Bertram & Associates in Denver. Mr. Bertram is experienced in all aspects of design, construction, and business law. This article was written with the intent of providing legal information intended to be accurate, although not comprehensive. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your attorney for any specific legal advice you may need concerning the subject matter of this article.

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—Mark Twain

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## Architects Call for Congress to Help Improve Nation's School Facilities

With the release of a pictorial booklet aimed at capturing the attention of key legislators, The AIA challenged members of the House and Senate to focus their attention on the dire need for school construction and modernization.

The booklet, *Good Enough for Congress? A Pictorial Representation of Why Americans Deserve Better School Buildings*, visually depicts the former high schools of various members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. Included are revealing photos, statistics, and facts about each school and other education facilities in each member's respective state.

"The photos in the booklet—and the sometimes startling information that accompanies them—will no doubt

personalize the issue for these legislators and really drive home the need to do something about our nation's schools," said Michael J. Stanton, FAIA, president of the AIA. "Our intention is not to blindside or embarrass anyone, but simply to demonstrate in a creative and provocative way why this is such an important issue." Stanton added that advance copies of the materials were provided to legislators.

The AIA, added Stanton, believes the United States must upgrade and modernize its education facilities so that America's students have the resources necessary to meet the global challenges of the 21st Century. The General Accounting Office reports that one-third of the country's public schools, which house more than 14 million children, are in need of "extensive repair or replacement." H.R. 1760, "America's Better Classrooms

Act of 1999," introduced by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and H.R. 1660, "Public School Modernization Act of 1999," introduced by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) would boost the incentive for school construction by providing tax credits, generating an estimated \$25 billion in school construction activity.

The effort has been so successful that numerous media have picked up on the issue, including ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, *USA Today*, *US News & World Report*, and the *Washington Times*.

You can look at a copy of the publication at the AIA office.

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# DECEMBER EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	For more information on any of these events, call AIA Colorado at 800.628.5598, unless otherwise noted.			
6 5 pm Denver Foundation for Architecture, AIA Office	7	8	9	10 11 am Editorial Board Meeting, AIA Office ◆ 12:30 pm Finance Committee ◆ 2 pm AIA Colorado Board of Directors ◆ 2-5pm Government Affairs, AIA Office ◆ 5 pm Denver & Colorado Holiday Party, AIA Office
13	14	15 7:30 am Urban Design, AIA Office	16 7:30 am Design/Build, AIA Office ◆ Noon Design Communications, AIA Office	17
20	21 7:30 am Housing Committee, AIA Office ◆ 3 pm North Chapter Board of Directors	22 7 am South Chapter Board of Directors	23	24
27 AIA Offices Closed	28	29	30	31

## JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 15 Strategic Planning, All Boards of Directors
- 26-29 National Grassroots

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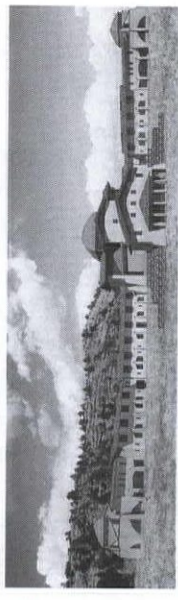
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## ABBEY OF ST. WALBURGA



The Abbey of Walburga. Architect: Barrett Steele Architects

Each December, *Colorado Architect* highlights a piece of religious architecture. This year we spotlight the Benedictine Abbey of St. Walburga near Virginia Dale, Colorado, five miles south of the Wyoming border.

According to Barrett Steele Architects, a large part of the design challenge was researching both the functional and symbolic needs of a particular spiritual tradition and adapting those traditional elements to a particular site and context. While the Benedictine faith and tradition is expressed in the design of the master plan and facilities, it is expressed through a relationship with its environment.

Other "useful dichotomies" included community identity versus hospitality role, function of spaces versus symbolic significance of spaces, privacy and silence versus relationship and communication. Above all, Barrett Steele recognized that its role was to allow both master plan and facilities to express a whole greater than the sum of the parts—to express the poetry of those aspirations powerful enough to have brought these women together as a cohesive spiritual community.

The abbey is sited on a gentle south slope, against a backdrop of ponderosa pines and scrub oaks. The long East-West axis provides an optimal solar geometry. The church rises from the center as the highest and dominant structure, much as village churches rose as community focus in traditional European villages.

As he told *The Denver Post* for an article in February, while developing his plans for the abbey, David Barrett spent days with the nuns, watching them at work and prayer, and found it one of the most gratifying experiences of his career.

"It's been a wonderful relationship," he observed. "When you look them in the eye, there's a clarity you don't see in the day-to-day world. Unlike most people's eyes, which dart back and forth, theirs have a steadiness and simplicity that reflect their spirituality and their way of life."

Wise Move? You Bet!



PAGE 1

Sam Caudill: Learning from Nature



PAGE 6

Clifford Nakata: 36 Years of Contribution



PAGE 9

Williams Village at CU-Boulder



PAGE 10

Denver Downtown Station



PAGE 11