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An Urban Neighborhood in the Suburbs

FALL 2004 \$ 5

Sunrise for the Sunset Process

by Kin Dubois, AIA, Chair, Sunset Task Force/Chair-elect, Government Affairs Committee

Since last May, the Sunset Task Force of the Government Affairs Committee has been preparing the groundwork for AIA

Colorado's efforts to ensure the renewal

and continuation of a strong architectur-

al licensing law. The current law, known

as Title 12, Article 4 Colorado Revised

Statutes, comes up for Sunset Review

with a deadline of July 1, 2006. Our

schedule was accelerated by two years

as part of a "housekeeping" bill to coord-

inate the master sunset schedule for the

Department of Regulatory Agencies

(DORA). This means that unless the state

legislature takes positive action in the

2006 session, licensing for architects in the

state of Colorado would be a thing of

the past.

Actually, there is a one-year grace

period to 2007 in the event that legisla-

tion is not completed or is vetoed by the

governor, as happened with the Dentists'

bill in 2003-2004 (Governor Owens

vetoed a bill passed by both houses

because it contained a mandatory con-

tinuing education provision, which he

apparently considered anathema).

In any event, this is a serious, high

stakes undertaking, and the Task Force is

ready to take AIA efforts to the next level.

We'll be attending a special meeting of

the Colorado State Board of Examiners of

Architects (CSBEA) for an open discus-

sion of the process and protocols that will

apply to the next eighteen months, with

an emphasis on communication. One of

our most significant deadlines is June

2005, by which time AIA-CO must submit

its report to DORA so that our opinions

can be heard and considered when the

state prepares the Sunset Report to be

issued in October of that year.

Backing up from this date, we have

much work to do. This includes clarifying

our recommendations, obtaining critical

input and feedback from AIA members

(December and January), completing a

Government Affairs Committee report

and recommendations to the AIA-

Colorado Board (February 2005), and

then forwarding the final Board-

approved report to DORA.

To get us through the first steps, we

have a mass of records from the past two

Sunset efforts (1987, 1997), the support of

AIA National, and the resources of

NCARB documents such as the Model

Law and the Member Board

Requirements, a comparison of laws in

the 55 jurisdictions. We also have a task

force that includes two leaders of the

previous AIA Sunset efforts and two for-

mer presidents of the CSBEA.

The Sunset Task Force has taken no

positions yet as to the recommendations

we expect to make to the GAC and the

Board. We have, however, set as our

highest priority the preservation of a

strong licensing statute. Other important

goals are to prevent the exemptions from

(further) watering-down, avoid incursions

by other professions, remove any extra-

neous language, and maintain a majori-

ty of architects on the seven-member

CSBEA. We'll also be reviewing possible

new provisions that AIA-Colorado con-

cludes would strengthen the statute.

Since everything is on the table for discus-

sion - at least through 2004 - these are

unlikely to include the make-up of the

Board of Examiners, the education

threshold, electronic stamp/ seal issues,

and even (veto history notwithstanding)

mandatory continuing education. We'll

also be open to listening to and consider-

ing endorsement of provisions proposed

by the Board of Examiners.

An effective process hinges on gath-

ering ample input and avoiding the

expedience of reaching conclusions too

early in the process. Please look for com-

munication from AIA-Colorado in

December and January that will indicate

on which key issues we have set our sights

and will request your feedback before

we make final recommendations to the

Board. In the interim, it's never too early

for comment: if you have thoughts on our

Sunset process, please feel free to e-mail

me at: kin@klipparch.com.

Thank you in advance for participat-

ing in this critical process. **AIA**

SAVING CU

by Jennifer Mello, Candidate At-Large CU Board of Regents

tion and enrollment plus 1 percent. Medicaid is protected by the federal government and once we've locked people up in prison, we can't just stop feeding them or let them out. So, cuts were concentrated on colleges and universities.

In 1992, Colorado voters passed an amendment to the state Constitution called The Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). In addition to requiring a vote of the people to raise taxes, TABOR limits growth in government spending and had a provision called the "ratchet effect." Because of the ratchet effect, when spending declines, as it did during the recent recession, the state cannot return to previous service levels even when the economy and government revenues recover. TABOR did not cause the funding cuts experienced by higher education over the last few years (the recession did). However, the ratchet effect of TABOR is a direct cause of the need to cut additional monies in 2005.

Solutions. There are several actions you can take to preserve affordable tuition at the School of Architecture. First, get in touch with your state legislators and Governor Bill Owens - tell them that higher education cannot afford any more cuts. Second, become an active supporter of bipartisan efforts to resolve our Constitutional conflicts. There are many groups working to develop a solution - see the Bell Policy Center or The Bighorn Center for Public Policy.

It is my great honor to be a candidate for the at-large seat on the CU Board of Regents in the November 2004 election. I will use my experience at the State Capitol to fight hard for CU and all of our colleges and universities. **AIA**

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We've entered an era of rapidly increasing tuition at our public schools - including the CU College of Architecture and Planning. Skyrocketing tuition and fees have numerous consequences: fewer students can afford to become architects and it becomes harder to compete with other architecture programs across the country.

Tuition at the College of Architecture and Planning for graduate students is currently \$3718 a year (in-state) and \$15,522 (out-of-state). In the last year, the school has had to increase tuition for in-state students by fifty-four percent (54%) for students taking fifteen (15) credits. Tuition increases are happening because of the Colorado state budget

and diminishing state support for our colleges and universities. Where We Are: During the recent recession, CU experienced a total of \$228 million in state funding cuts for operating and capital expenses from 2002-2004. And things are about to get worse. In 2005, the legislature will have to reduce state spending somewhere between \$200 and \$400 million. Higher education will once again have a big target on its back.

How We Got Here: First, Colorado, like the rest of the nation, experienced a recession. As the economy tanked, tax revenues fell. Part of the challenge facing lawmakers was that about 75 percent of the state budget was on auto-pilot. Amendment 23, passed by the voters in 2002, requires that funding for K-12 schools increase by infla-

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Kaleidoscope design is patent pending.



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The Communications Advisory Board (CAB) oversees the design and production of the newsletter or other instrument of communication with the membership, coordinate the communications between AIA Colorado and the public and the press, oversee the design and operations of the Web Site, and provide long range planning for future communication tools, both within the membership and between the membership and the public.

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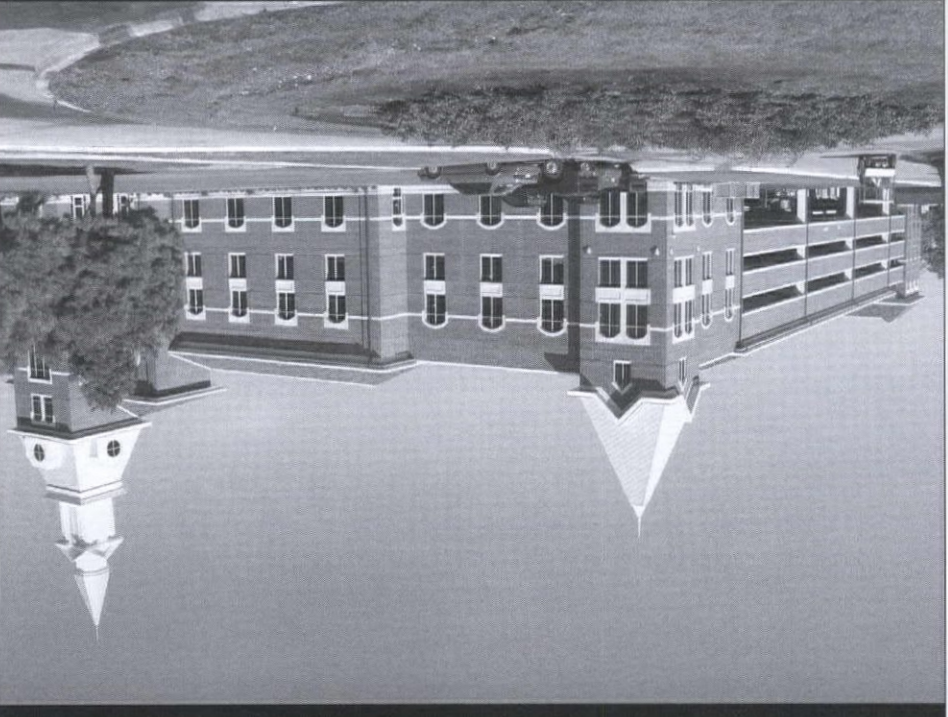
"We create customers for life."

Young Architect Forum - AIA Colorado

by Richard T. Carstens, AIA, Young Architects Forum Chair 2004

9. Learning how to build relationships with your career;
10. Developing a Structured Business Plan for a new firm to survive the first year and beyond;
11. Developing a Structured Marketing Plan for a new firm... How to build successful marketing programs;
12. Material technologies and how to use them - what's new and better than the traditional;
13. Learning technically appropriate lighting techniques to produce night lighting that is energy efficient, contextually sympathetic, reduces night sky light pollution, and protects the health, safety and welfare of the public;
14. How to develop activities that will increase the positive public awareness of Young Architects and the AIA, some being:
 - Create a Design Exhibition for Affordable Housing for the 21st century from Young Architects Forum participants only;
 - Participation in the Breckenridge Snow Sculpture exhibition with a team of Young Architects;
 - Forum participation in the Denver Botanic Gardens, Bird House Designs fundraiser;
 - Young Architects and Habitat for Humanity with the Intern program "Freedom by Design";
 - Your idea here _____

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If you are a young Architect, licensed less than ten years, you know there is a mountain of knowledge needed to earn your title "Architect". After you have completed the formidable step of licensure, you're then thrown into the professional wilderness to learn how to become a comprehensive Architect. To learn the skills it takes to be a comprehensive Architect, you must learn the world of accounting, billing, scheduling staff, managing your projects, marketing your firm, writing design proposals, writing contracts with clients and consultants, keeping benefits sound for you and your staff, and "getting the next project". Most of the time, you do all this using continuing office experience your wits and determination.

The AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF) is here to help speed this process along, a platform to raise questions, a place to share in continuing education of the "business" of Architecture, a place to voice opinions on and engage in discussions of design topics. YAF helps you network with peers beyond your firm and AIA Architect's that may provide contacts, insights into difficult technical problems, and inspiration to overcome daunting professional obstacles.

The Colorado component of AIA includes four local chapters. Each local Chapter needs a Young Architects Forum director to connect Young Architect members. In turn, the AIA Colorado YAF will help bring all of us together to make a difference in our lives and our communities.

Here are a few of the topic ideas that have been put forward as being pertinent to our colleagues, they are:

1. Getting involved to get the most out of your AIA membership;
2. Learning how to use the AIA Professional Practice Manuals to help become a comprehensive Architect;
3. Are you still working on your Masterpiece? Why do we get up each morning?
4. How can you promote task diversity for young Architects within larger firm settings?
5. How to write Owner / Architect Agreements that make the most of the Architect's position;
6. How to write Architect / Consultant Agreements to make the most of the Architect's position;
7. Learning how to promote winning distinctions in Request for Qualifications packages;
8. Learning how to get the next job!

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Knowledge Based Design: Beyond Manifestos

by Mark Gelenter, Associate AIA, Dean, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado

The national AIA strategic plan calls for the profession of architecture to become

more knowledge based. What exactly does this mean? Let's explore this idea in relation to an influential theme of New Urbanism, which is that front porches will help create a stronger sense of

community in neighborhoods. This idea has been asserted forcefully and widely, and porches now grace the fronts of houses in virtually every new development in America. But do we really know if front porches create better neighbors?

We typically don't ask this question. Prominent thinkers asserted the idea, it seems to match our intuitive feeling based on previous experiences with traditional neighborhoods, and so we accept it as probably true. We then design and

build it, promoting it to our clients and students as an important

principle of urban design. Seldom, though, do we ever go back to study whether it really worked as we intended. We have in effect asserted a manifesto of how the world ought to work, or of how we believe it works, but we have not sought or provided any comprehensive evidence of whether it does work.

In comparison to other knowledge-based disciplines and professions, we have focused primarily on the first part of a two-part process for acquiring knowledge. The first part involves making a conjecture or hypothesis about some phenomenon, but the equally important second part then tests the conjecture. Here is how it should work in our example. We desire a certain

end—more acts of neighborliness—

and we have conjectured that a means to this end is a front porch. We have hypothesized a causal relationship between a particular configuration of form and a particular human behavior. The second part of the process is now critically important; we need to test whether this hypothesized relationship holds true. We might undertake user surveys to explore whether the homeowners see a connection between the form and their behavior. Or, we might conduct observations of behavior, like counting the number of people using porches and

engaging in neighborly activities. We might compare the neighborhood to those in a New Urbanism development to those in a cul-de-sac, to see if anything differs in the two spatial configurations. Sometimes the tests will confirm the hypothesis

or conjecture, while other times we need to cycle back and modify the conjecture in light of the evidence. Knowledge continually grows in the interaction between a bold conjecture and a careful test.

Imagine the power in the hands of designers when talking to clients or regulatory agencies, if they could refer to studies supporting their proposed configurations of form. No longer is the argument based on personal opinion or on a design manifesto, but on publicly verified research. Imagine, too, the increased confidence that a design idea will really work as predicted, if it could be related back to research. In subsequent columns, I will explore how the design professions and the university might undertake this work together. **AIA**

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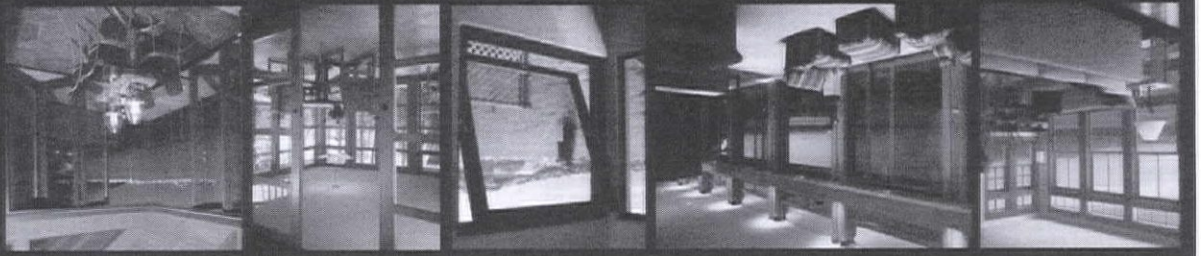
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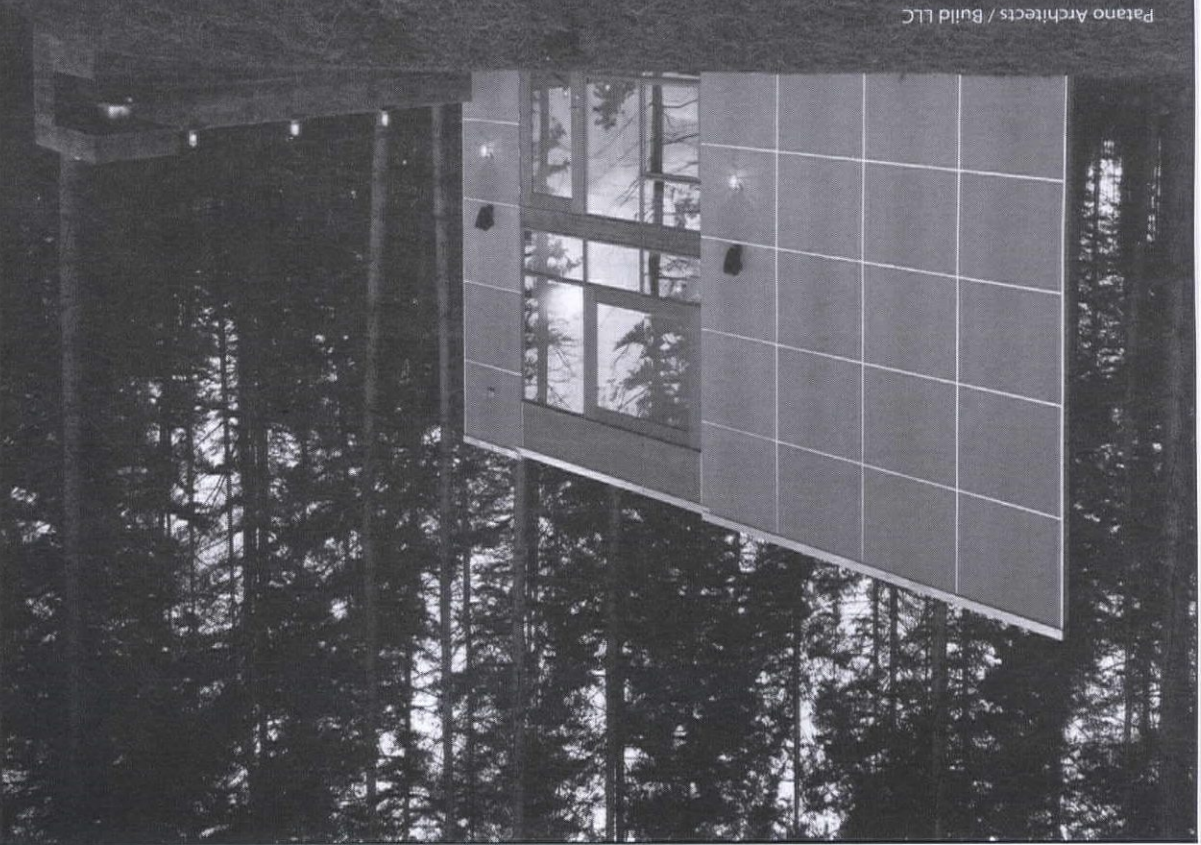
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ETHICS – You've Got to Give Them Credit!

by Phillip H. Gerou, FAIA, Past-Chair, AIA National Ethics Council

The National Ethics Council (NEC) has often been asked to produce specific guidelines for providing appropriate credit. But how would you prepare guidelines that would encompass all the various media formats available and all the project relationships possible? Not an easy task. This fall the final draft of those guidelines will be presented to and adopted by the NEC – they'll be available soon.

Here's a short preview:

Perhaps the most frequent violation of the AIA's Code of Ethics is that of giving appropriate credit and recognition. The National Ethics Council (NEC) has long recognized that these infractions are frequently due to an incomplete understanding of the Ethical Standard that directs Members in this area. That

Standard states:

Ethical Standard 5.2 Professional Recognition: Members should build their professional reputation on the merits of their own service and performance and should recognize and give credit to others for the professional work they have performed.

The associated Rule offers some clarification: Rule 5.201 Members shall recognize and respect the professional contributions of their employees, employers, professional colleagues and business associates. It is important to keep in mind that although these rules may reflect common practice, it is only the Members of the American Institute of Architects that are being addressed. The National Ethics Council and the Code of Ethical Conduct has no authority over the non-member practitioner. The Guidelines are recommended for Members making any representation of their work in regard to ethical conduct. These representations may be for marketing, awards entries, submittal for Fellowship in the AIA, web sites, general public relations, competitions, publications or any other public or private representation of one's work. These Guidelines do not preclude or diminish any legal or contractual restraints on any Member. It is important to remember that these are Guidelines and not requirements of membership as are Rules or Ethical Standards. And individual cases may present unpredictable circumstances requiring additional comment or clarification from the NEC.

In general, a Member taking credit for a project or a specific role on a project other than the Architect of Record must clearly define that role. "Project Architect", "Architect" or "Project Manager" usually does not fully describe the Member's role (unless the project was of such a limited scope that "Architect" says it all). Such a general statement may, to the uninitiated, be overstating the Member's role by insinuating that the Member had full design and production duties when, in reality, there may have been a separate designer or a separate production manager. More clearly defining one's role as "Designer", "Principal in Charge", "Construction Document Team Member" or "Illustrator" is usually required to provide an accurate representation. In addition to the Member's specific role, the Architect of Record must also be represented.

Designation of a Member's role and/or the Architect of Record must be obvious, plainly visible, and legible at the anticipated viewing distance on the Primary Representation. The reference text should be no smaller or less obvious than the text used to describe the project.

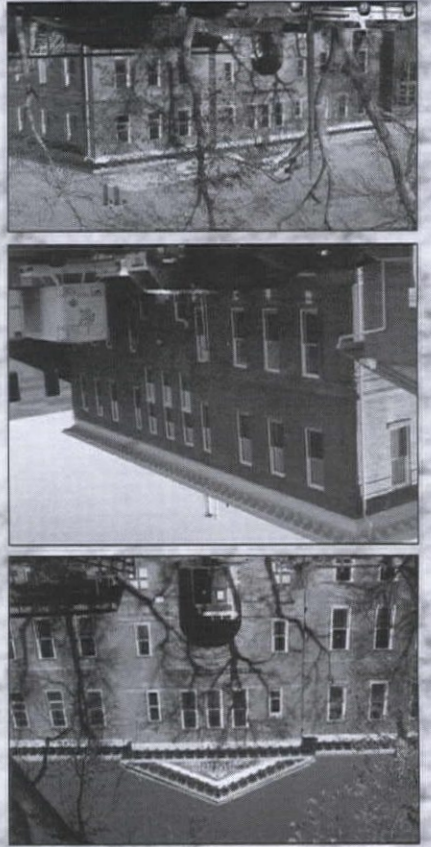
These new Credit Guidelines will address additional issues such as identifying team members and defining specific terms in light of the complex relationships we encounter everyday. They should be available later this fall and just might help some of us negotiate how, when and where we assign credit. **AIA**

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Historic

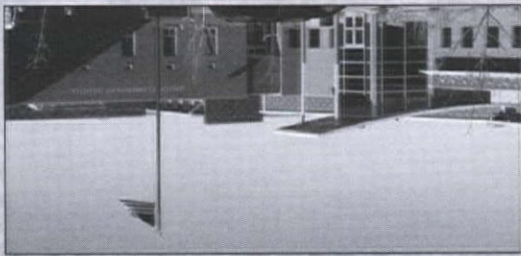
Centennial High Schools
Fort Collins, CO

Centennial features Kolbe & Kolbe wood double hung replacement units. This option replicated the historic appearance, while easing operation, lowering maintenance, and upgrading energy efficiency.



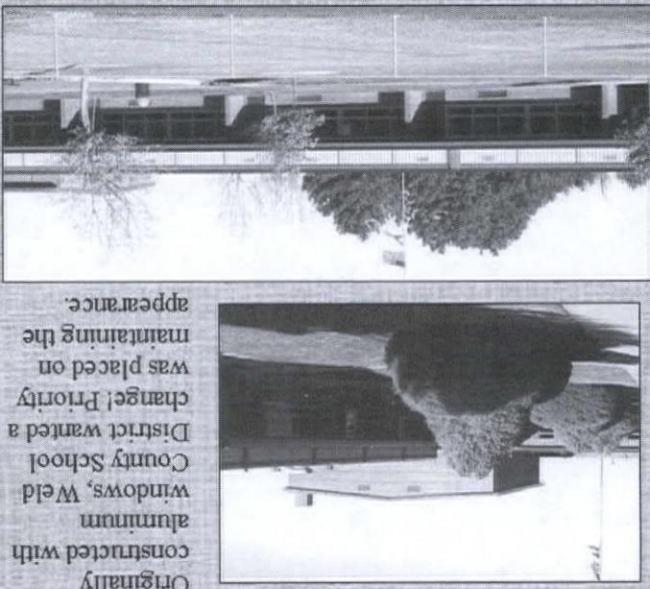
Sustainable

CSD applauds Poudre R-1's commitment to sustainable design. This elementary school was designed with energy efficiency and low maintenance in mind! Bacon features Kolbe & Kolbe aluminum clad wood windows and Vitrocon Glass.

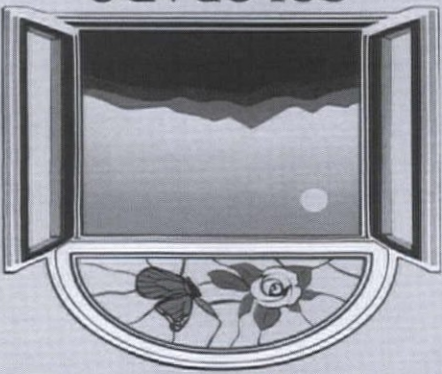
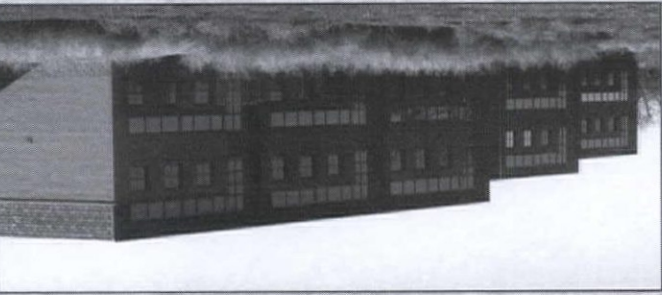


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Originally constructed with aluminum windows, Weld County School District wanted a change! Priority was placed on maintaining the appearance.



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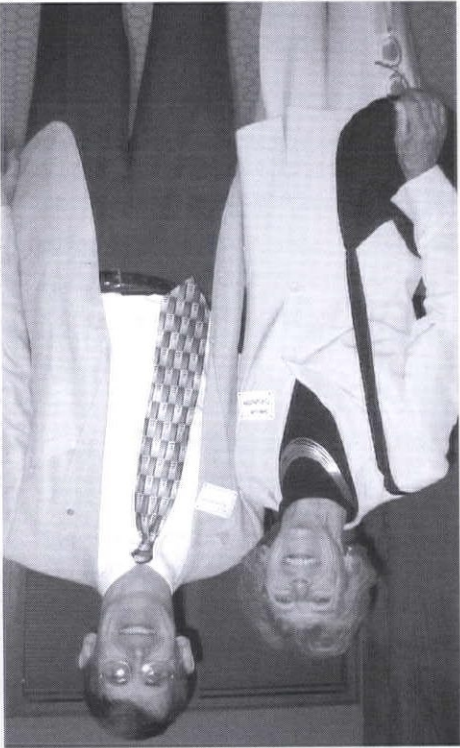
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The Cleworth Architectural Legacy It's Not About the Architecture!

by Bill Tracy, AIA



In addition to receiving volunteer time, these schools also received a wealth of teaching materials based on architecture and design, made possible by major funding from these individuals and organizations:

Friends of the late

Charles W. (Cal) Cleworth

Walter Rosenberry

AIA Denver Chapter

The Denver Cherry Creek

Rotary Foundation

The CAL program of the Denver Architectural Foundation is an excellent way of giving back to your community that provides many benefits to participants. In one case, a parent of a student in the program was encouraged on an architectural selection committee by volunteering firm with favorable results. For AIA members, continuing education credits are available for participation in the CAL Program. Helping to teach architecture can be a great motivator for staff. However, the most important benefits are longer term as those kids learn to see their environment a little differently and will demand better design when they grow to become community members and leaders.

Sheila Cleworth, widow of Cal Cleworth and Bob Atherton, Cherry Creek Rotary.

There is great demand by schools for the program to be brought into more classrooms, but before that can be done, more volunteers must be found. If you are interested in volunteering or just want to know more about the CAL program, please call the Denver Architectural Foundation at 303-229-0002 or send email to DAF@ciacolorado.org. **AIA**

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It's about children, and helping them to learn better. The Cleworth Architectural Legacy (CAL) is an exciting program of the Denver Architectural Foundation that pairs volunteer design professionals with teachers in Denver Public School classrooms. It was named in honor of the late Cal Cleworth, a DAF board member who had a passion for the program. It uses architecture as a medium, to teach math, art, sociology and other subject areas. Architecture brings to life these academic subjects and makes them fun and realistic, improving learning (and their contributions of time and expertise: On June 2, nearly 100 participants - architects, teachers, DAF members and students - gathered to celebrate their achievements and share their experiences. We thank these volunteers for their contributions of time and expertise:

School	Firm	Volunteer Names
Bornum	Gensler	Barb Christian Schoeman Ron Huff Charles Lowrey
Centennial	Barker Rinker Seccat	Theresa Rossmiller Bryce Hall
Columbine	Arlo Braun Associates	Frank Tafoya Erik Talvera Kevin Yoshida Kevin Cleman Matt Scheininger Tari Ensign Kirstin Lear Heather Calme Allison Hunter
Cory Middle School	RNL Design	Amy Tabor
Crofton	HLM Design	Steve Carr Ted Halsey Russ Sedmak
Dennison Montessori	Humphries Poll Architects	Melissa Martinez Adam Ambro David Solomon Steen Gilbertson
Denver School of the Arts	Semple Brown	Deb Rosenbaum Sam Miller Susan Milner Stephanie Evans Chad Novak
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Steele Elementary	OZ Architecture	Alex Neul Jennifer Rosen
Wyman	University of Colorado Grad School of Arch	Leslie Schneebberger Maria Digitale

Fastracks To The Future

by James L. Basey, Downtown Denver Partnership

In our relatively brief history as a city, Denver's quality of life has been marked by a few visionary, ambitious and far-reaching efforts. Building a rail link from Denver to the transcontinental railroad in Cheyenne. Mayor Speer's City Beautiful parks system. The building of Denver International Airport.

Voters in the Denver metro area will have the chance to take another vision-ary step this November by approving RTD's Fastracks plan. Fastracks holds the promise of building a stronger Denver for decades to come.

The plan includes:

- 119 miles of new light rail and commuter rail train lines serving six of the most congested freeway corridors in Denver.
- Denver Union Station will serve as the inter-modal hub of the system.
- Bus rapid transit, expanded suburb-to-suburb and circulator bus service to improve access throughout the region.
- More parking and rail cars for the existing Southwest light rail and the T-REX line opening in 2006, elements that will increase the system's convenience and ridership.

If we want Denver to take the next step forward as a livable city, we must improve the connections between our neighborhoods and job centers throughout the region. Efficient bus and rail transit out the region.

Why now? Denver was recently ranked the third-most congested region in the US, and no new transportation funds are expected for many years. Building a regional rapid transit system corridor by corridor with existing funding streams would take decades. Our future regional mobility depends on new transportation investments we make now.

(The Fastracks system would be completed by 2016.)

We've already seen the results of our current light rail investments. All of RTD's existing light rail lines were built on time and on budget, and more than 35,000 people ride light rail every weekday. The Southwest line has exceeded projections by 70%. In 2025, projections are that 22% of all peak hour trips in rail corridors will be on transit.

As the largest business center in the Rocky Mountain region, Downtown can attest to the importance of transit in strengthening our competitiveness. One of three Downtown workers ride transit to work every day, and several of Downtown's largest employers have

transit ridership rates of 40%-50%. Light rail has also proven to be a popular option for visitors going to Downtown's cultural, entertainment and sports attractions, making it an asset that works for Denver seven days a week.

Downtown will also benefit from the renaissance of Union Station as the inter-modal hub of the regional system. Today, only one or two passenger trains stop at Union Station each day, generating a trickle of people that is way out of proportion to the building's capacity and grandeur. With the Fastracks system, Union Station will pour tens of thousands of commuters and visitors into Downtown every day, and truly become Downtown Denver's version of Manhattan's Grand Central Station.

But the bottom line for Fastracks is about increasing our transportation choices for the future. This requires action—estimates call for 900,000 new residents in the Denver metro area by 2025. We cannot build enough highway lanes to accommodate that much growth. Fastracks is the answer.

The total capital cost of the project is \$4.7 billion—less than DIA cost in 1995, but just as significant in terms of its economic impact. We've seen the level of construction, development and jobs that can be generated by light rail. Look no further than Englewood CityCenter, the Central Platte Valley and various spots along the southeast I-25 corridor that are taking shape in anticipation of light rail's opening in 2006.

To be sure, the single issue that underlies all of our quality of life concerns—congestion, economic health, open space, sprawl, air quality—is transportation. This November, Fastracks will present us with a clear choice on what kind of metro area we want to become—a region that's readying itself for future growth and quality of life, or crossing its fingers and hoping for the best with a transportation system that's already inadequate.

This November, let's think ahead and support the next vision for Denver. Go to www.fastracks.org to learn more about it. Get involved, tell your co-workers, tell your friends and neighbors. And vote "Yes" on Fastracks. **AIA**

James L. Basey is interim president of the Downtown Denver Partnership. The Downtown Denver Partnership is a non-profit business organization that creatively plans, manages and develops Downtown Denver as the unique, diverse, vibrant and economically healthy urban core of the Rocky Mountain region.

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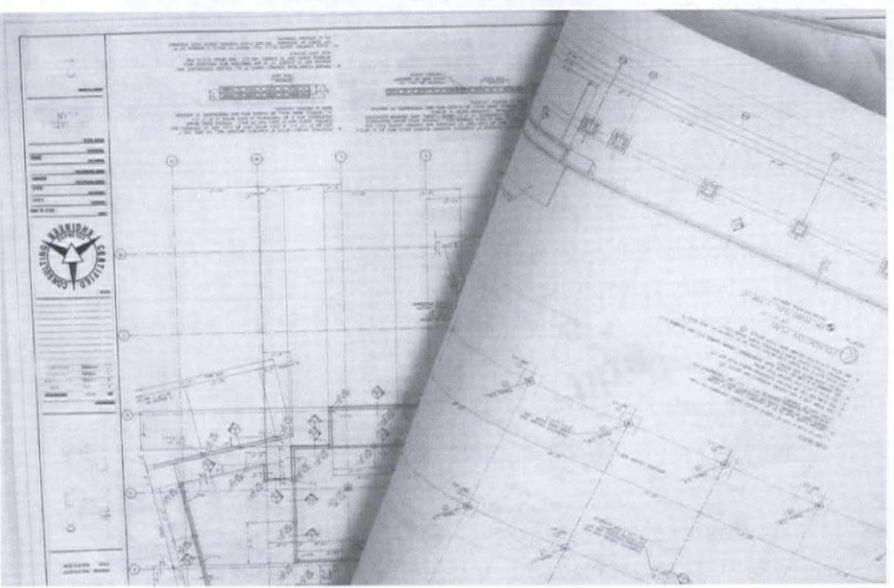
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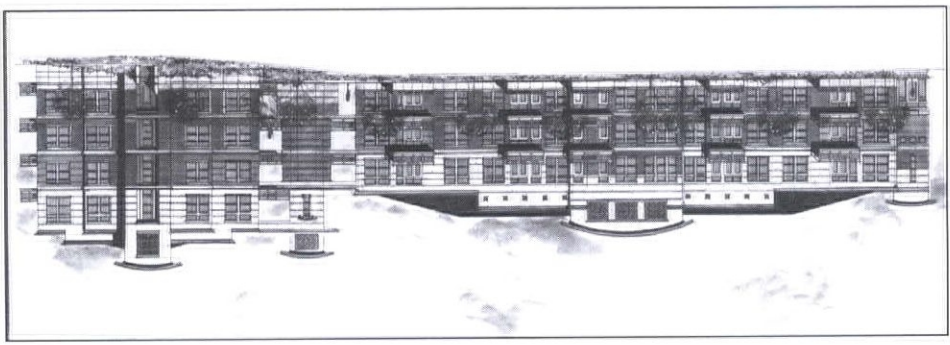
An Urban Neighborhood in The Suburbs

by Paul Campbell, AIA

Denver's light rail expansion has fueled the opportunity to create a new model for suburban residential development based on the lessons learned from urban cores around the country. Located approximately one block from the Lincoln Street Station, Lincoln Square Lofts is being developed by Trammell Crow Residential. The architecture is a simple modern statement of the building's function and clearly expresses the metaphor and the reality of the city living in the suburbs. "We're offering a product that just isn't available in this area," says Jeff Wilkstrom, Managing Director for Trammell Crow. "It has a different feel to it, much more cosmopolitan."

In a neighborhood with a distinctive commercial style from Ridge Gate to Park Meadows Mall, this mid-rise cluster of buildings enriches its context through urban detailing and massing. LSL uses balconies, material changes, parapets, and window articulation to echo building forms found in city centers. Two buildings and a clubhouse form a compact neighborhood which allows for a car-free lifestyle in a recreation district and convenient access to downtown, the best of both worlds to people who have lived in the suburbs in the past or work in the suburbs. Lifestyle is central to the buying patterns of our target market and, therefore, to our design.

Key to the design strategy of creating a small urban-like neighborhood was the desire for diversity among potential buyers. To achieve this goal, ways to allow for the affordability of the product were explored at every design stage. Beginning in planning, the City of Lone Tree recognized that proximity to the light rail station would mean fewer cars. This decreased parking ratio and the decision to design a mid-rise translated to higher density than can usually be achieved in similar locations. Simplified building structure and creative use of materials, using fiber board to simulate stucco, for example, also allowed for

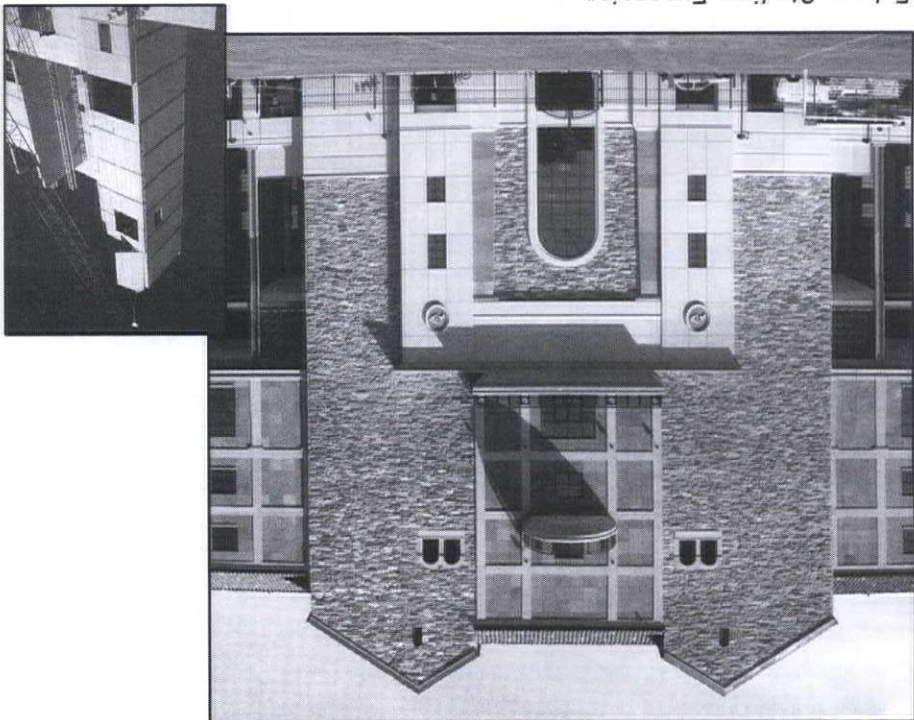


cost savings. Perhaps the most crucial element in affordability, however, was finalizing design decisions early in the process, allowing the developer to sell from schematic design and conceptual graphics which reduced their risk and cash outlay creating the opportunity for lower priced models. The result is prices well below comparable units in downtown and even other units in the Lone Tree area.

The strategy to promote diversity has yielded dividends. Two distinct types of people, professional people in their 20s and 30s and those over 50 with grown children, have purchased 75% of the 140 units in under three months. The buildings have elevators and accessible designs to remove any barriers for potential residents. Sophisticated floor plans with high

Bringing an urban lifestyle to suburban residents is now a possibility due to our city's expanding light rail. KEFHART Community Planning Architecture, a nationally recognized community design firm, brought the vision into reality as design team leader, AIA urban planner and architect.

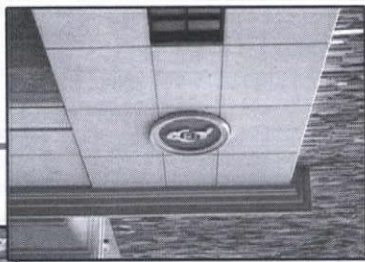
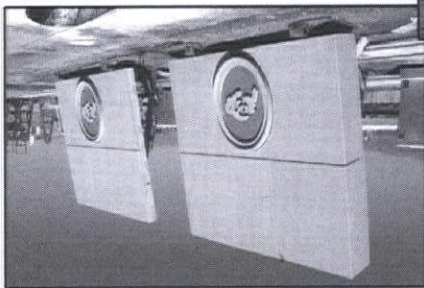
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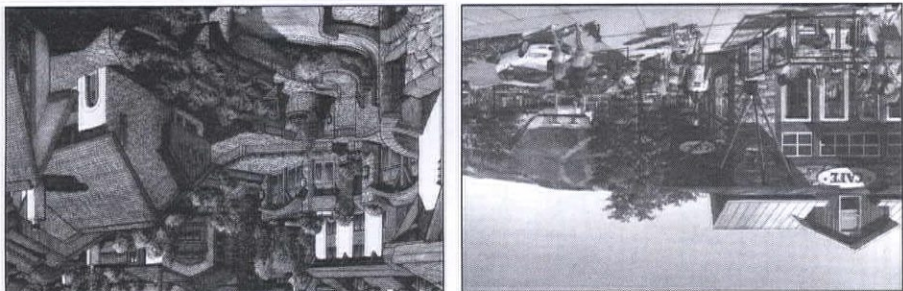
Folsom Stadium Expansion
Boulder, Colorado

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Architect: Sink Combs DeHoff
Structural Engineer: Martin/Martin, Inc.
General Contractor: Turner/Shaw

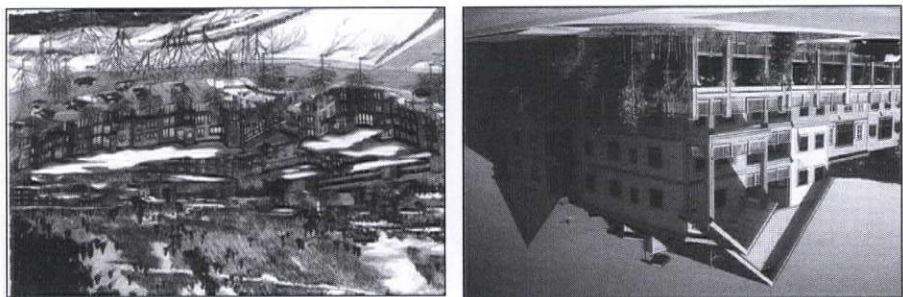
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The evolution of our metropolitan area has seen drastic changes over a brief time frame of the past 50 years. For recent transplants to our beloved "Queen city of the Rockies" (When is the last time you heard that phrase?) permit me to reminisce over how things were in a time not so long ago. Do you remember when?

- You stopped to pay a 25 cent toll at Broomfield on the "Denver/Boulder Turnpike"
- Highlands Ranch was a working cattle ranch



2004 AIA Denver President
 Michael Hicks, AIA

- CU Denver occupied the Tramyway Building, now the Hotel Teatro
 - Going to Vail required a tip over Loveland Pass
 - 16th Street was a street to where we are today.
- AIA Denver is a strong voice and an active participant in the collective process that determines growth, fosters preservation and recognizes the value of design. The work of our committees and individual commitments made by our members will make a difference in the next 50 years.
- I extend my personal thanks to all who have given so much of their time and talent. Our future depends on your continued participation. **AIA**

Remember When?

by Michael Hicks, AIA, 2004 AIA Denver President

within the Mayor's first 100 days of office. After four months of identifying problems and recommending potential solutions, the task force met its goal and published the 34-page report, "Denver's Development Review Process: Can It Be Fixed?" Formalizing some of our primary challenges with the current review process, the report served as a vehicle to encourage the city to invite us to the table where important decisions are made regarding the permitting process.

Where are we now?

- The AIA STOPP Task Force now meets with Peter Park, Manager of Community Planning and Development, on a monthly basis to inform the city about changes that need to be made, to evaluate proposed policy changes and to review the status of changes as they

- The STOPP report has been adopted by the American Institute of Architects to serve as a national model for cities to refer to when considering regulatory reform of their own.
- Neighboring municipalities have requested our assistance in setting up their own STOPP task force.
- Task force members were invited by the AIA State Government Network to panel a discussion at their national convention about how to start a task force in other cities.

How can you get involved?

- Visit the AIA-Denver website and look for a new section devoted to current STOPP activities. There's a place to post

(Continued on page 19)

AIA STOPP Program Gets Green Light From City

by Dyan Humphries, PA

regulatory reform is a serious and growing issue in cities across the country. While many complaints are heard about the permitting and design review process, little is actually done about it. That is, until now.

In May 2003, when then-Mayoral candidate John Hickenlooper made a promise to streamline Denver's permitting process if elected, AIA-Denver saw an opportunity to step up and help. As one of the city's most important and frequent customers, no one knew better than we did what was broken and how to get it fixed.

The AIA STOPP (Streamlining Our Permitting Process) Task Force was formed to develop a formal position for the Denver Chapter and presented it to the Mayor and City Council.

Designs on Sustainability within the Community

by Jim Ramsey, AIA, 2004 AIA Colorado South President and LEED™ Accredited Professional

public amenity opportunity. These community attributes – along with the broader aspirations for design quality that creates a greater sense of identity and place within the community – cannot be achieved by design alone. A dialog between community leaders, planners, developers, businesses, utility providers and (most importantly) citizens needs to unfold with architects as key players. In an effort to be more effective on a broader scale, AIA members throughout Colorado have been reaching out to their communities to enhance the diversity, livability, and now the "sustainability" of where we live. AIA Colorado South is actively engaged with Colorado Springs Utilities, the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, the Partnership for Community Design, and the development of xeriscaped wetland amenities in our arid climate (in lieu of more storm sewers) presents a wonderful



Jim Ramsey, AIA, 2004 AIA Colorado South President

As architects we would like to think so (of course). Design is what architects do – it is who we are. However, it is the balance between design and context, urban geography, and the broader community that may be the ultimate measure of the success of our work.

The vast majority of the built environment continues to expand without architects leading the design process – or without meaningful expression of architecture. Worse yet, aesthetics are often applied to more mediocre "commodities" (and not the commodity, firmness or delight to which Vitruvius aspired!). Building "blocks" seem to be mindlessly replicated based more on a market prospectus than a sincere effort to integrate the parts into the whole. Worse yet (even), the economic trend of expansive green-field suburban sprawl towards the accessible, lower-cost land at the outskirts of our cities tends to leave urban blight in its wake. Architects loose effectiveness if we are left to "design" against these trends, one building at a time.

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AIA Colorado North

The Next Step Sustainable Communities

by Scott Rodwin, AIA, 2004 AIA Colorado North President Elect

and Colorado Springs.

In Longmont, our firm has just com-

pleted the first "family style" mini-cohous-

ing project in the country. In this project,

called the Hildebrandt Hacienda, three

related families joined together to build

one large strawbale home composed of

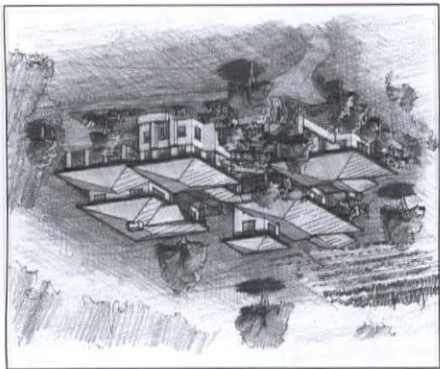
four independent wings around a court-

yard. Each wing is a small but self-suffi-

cient home, and in the "common house"

the families share a large dining room,

music room, library and home offices.



Hildebrandt Hacienda, Longmont by Rodwin Architecture, AIA

While almost all cohousing commu-

nities employ a host of green building

techniques, it is the lifestyle that they

enable that has the greatest impact on

sustainability. When many of our basic

needs and wants are met within our own

neighborhoods, it decreases the energy

we consume (cars), the pollution we

create (cars), and the resources we

consume (stuff) to fill the holes in our lives.

And in case you were wondering,

yes, it really does work. I live there. **AIA**

mortgage and each resident controls

their own home. Community decisions

are made by consensus through a

home-owner's association. There is a

"common house" where residents hold

meetings, social events, and have the

option to share meals a couple of times a

week. Other than sustainability and

community there is usually not a unifying

philosophy among residents. Cohousing

communities tend to be unusually

diverse and contain a wide range of unit

types compared to a conventional sub-

division. The creation of Cohousing pro-

jects is sometimes led by the residents

and sometimes by a developer. There

are approximately 75 completed projects

nationwide and 8 here in Colorado. The

concept for Cohousing is principally that

of an old fashion neighborhood, where

neighbors know each other, planning is

geared toward pedestrians instead of

cars and public life is supported by gen-

eros central public spaces. Front doors

tend to be focused toward the center of

the project instead of toward the perime-

ter in order to promote interaction

between residents. The front porch is the

physical and symbolic hallmark of

cohousing.

ost informed architects

these days can rattle

off the benefits,

principals and strategies of sustainable

design. Most of us are now working to

make our buildings more energy efficient,

less toxic and less consumptive. But above

that technical mind-set is the larger goal:

creating more satisfying and sustainable

lives for ourselves and our children through

good planning and building.



Nomad Cohousing, Boulder by Rick Epstein, AIA

There is an obvious link between

green building and sustainable planning.

In the residential world, one of the most

intriguing and successful models support-

ing that goal is that of "Cohousing."

Cohousing is a 20 year old idea imported

from Denmark. Communities typically

consist of between 18-36 units of

attached and detached condos,

town-homes and single family homes.

These neighborhoods are fully

owner-occupied with a conventional

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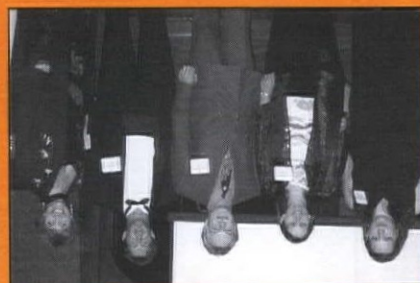
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Livable and Sustainable Communities

by Ann Darby, AIA

designing and implementing livable communities for the future. Sprawl, to some degree, is spreading in all of our backyards, as one cannot help but notice the gigantic big box stores with giant parking lots. These developments do not benefit any part of our community as the labor is being imported, revenue is being exported, and impact is immense. With our ability to be visionary and innovative, we all need to sell sustainability and act as leaders in the creation of better communities. When we see a proposed change for the community, we must ask ourselves two things:

1) What does this proposed change do for my community?

2) What effect will it have on the local environment? We can influence the direction of growth and transportation issues by getting involved and learning from the trends of redevelopment, new urbanism, and creating a better quality of life.

AIA

us that our water is a precious part of this community and should not be taken for granted.

Business can also participate in making our communities more sustainable.

For example, one of Vail's largest businesses, Vail Resorts, has implemented a "green" program that recycles on and off the ski mountain, buys wind power to operate snow making equipment, and might be implementing the use of natural gas fueled vehicles. All business should recycle not only the glass, newspaper, plastic, and aluminum products that we consumers leave in the break room - but also office equipment such as computers, ink cartridges, paper, pens, etc.

Businesses should encourage conservation by not using lighting if the office has adequate daylight. There is a statewide movement on energy conservation, as a state bill in this coming election proposes that certain businesses in Colorado will be required to purchase at least 10% of their power from the natural, renewable resource of wind.

We, as architectural professionals, can be instrumental in educating not only our clients, but the public with

Amendment 34 - A Ballot Issue From The Dark Side

by Christopher J. Green, AIA, 2004 AIA Colorado President

credible manner our legislators to help get construction defects legislation passed and signed by our Governor. Some key points of the current statutes are:

- Fair and equitable protection for homeowners, architects and construction professionals
- Triple damages and resulting attorney fees have been eliminated
- Construction professionals are to be notified of an action giving

(Continued on page 19)

s approach 10 years of living in the Vail Valley, I realize the image of

moving to a ski town for a couple of seasons has quickly faded and grown into a passion for living in a community which supports a fabulous quality of life. Vail, CO is a resort community, but it is surrounded by many livable communities throughout the western slope of Colorado. It is in everyone's best interest to maintain the small town charm and natural environment, which attracted many of us to settle down in this part of the state. We can all contribute to creating a more sustainable community by getting involved.

As a local resident, consumer, or good neighbor, one can participate in recycling, conservation, alternative transportation, and buying locally. The Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability is a non-profit group that administers recycling programs all throughout our valley, educates the public on sustainability issues, and consults on how to be a better community in the future. The Eagle River Environmental... posts humorous ads in the newspaper which remind all of

the ALA Colorado Board of Directors in August of this year, the Board went on the record with this statement:

"The Colorado Component of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) will appear on the ballot for the 2004 General Election in the State of CO." Amendment #34 does not provide better protection for owners

- Current construction defects

measures are fair, effective, and comprehensive

- Current construction defects regulations protect against unnecessary / frivolous claims
- The negative economic effect of Amendment #34 to our economy will be significant
- The social cost of Amendment #34 will adversely affect the availability of affordable housing

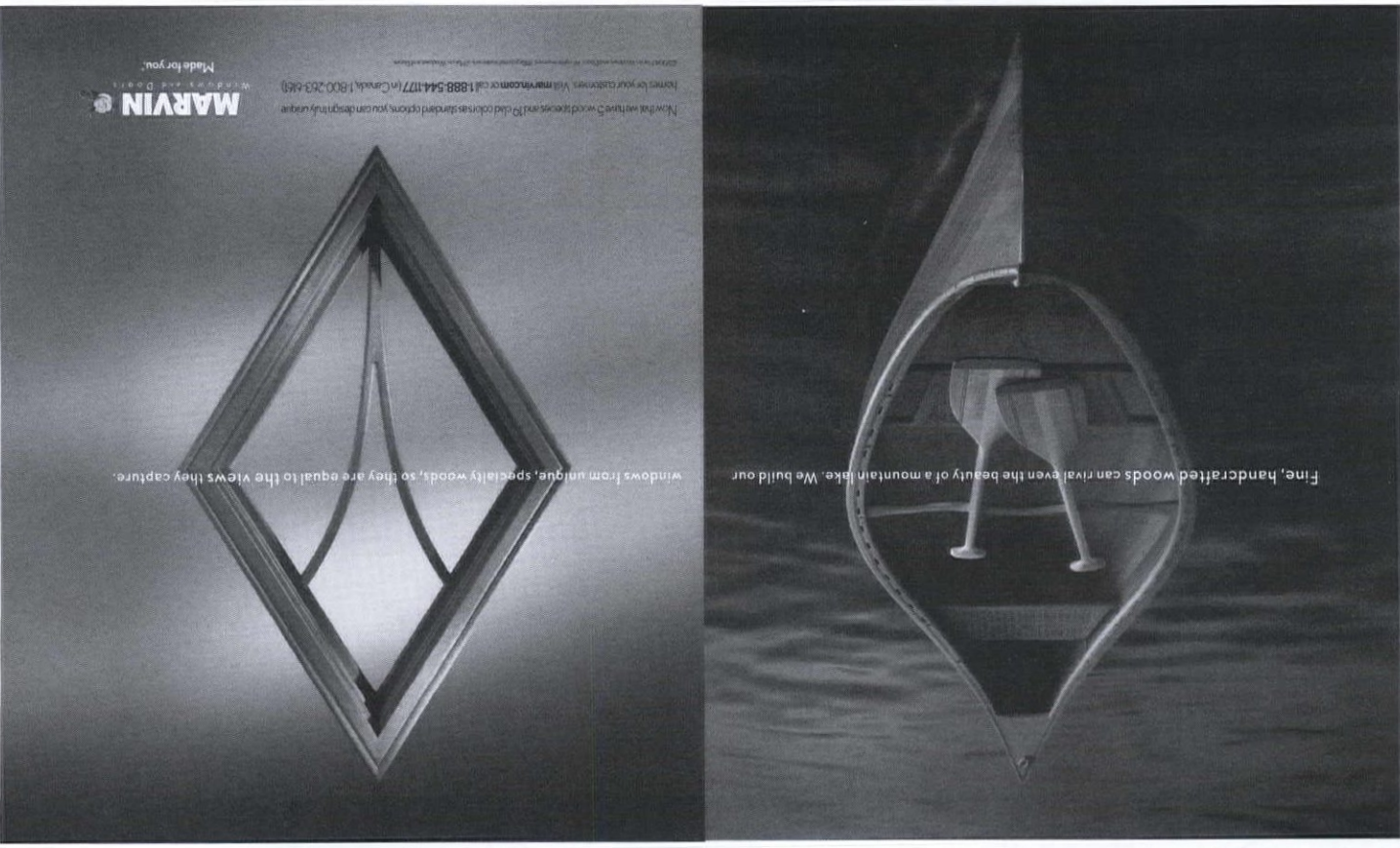
We (volunteer AIA Architect members) worked really hard to lobby in a convincing and

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(Continued on page 21)

The nature of this skin seems to reference the international style shading devices of Annex One as eyebrows incorporated into the horizontal windows. In spite of an anticipated intense play of light and shadow on this facade the current sectional diagram of the proposed fins are less convincing due to their thin metal detailing and complicated articulation. The architects admitted that the detailing of the proposed white metal skin is still under consideration and may be closely tied to budget limits.

The placement of the collision of the two volumes, and therefore newspapers are appropriate referring visually to both the pointed noses of the Webb building conference rooms and the defining tower of the Grave Library addition. The current resolution of this intersection is weak in not only its form but its materiality and needs further study to reach its full potential as perhaps the defining moment of the part.

The Post building is the controversial curved volume of the building and is intended to exploit an ability to be lightly detailed and transparent due to its favorable solar orientation. The materials are proposed as almost entirely glass save for the metal mullions that seem to offer a rather taught graphic plaid on the curved facade. The controversy over this curve is of course found in its striking similarity to the Webb Building. The architect's justification for the proposed curve facade is sound in its logic as curves found all over the park and ranging from the dome of the capital to catch high-lights of the Denver sun to the embracing form of the City County building. Edges of the park are defined by the curves of

by David Daniel, AIA, Urban Design Committee Chair, AIA Denver

Proposed Denver Newspaper Agency Building Critique

On August 28th the Denver held the first and one of the most successful charrettes on Civic Center District. Consensus among the participants demonstrated that growth in the study area boundaries needs to accommodate appropriate uses of high quality well designed buildings that maintain the strength of the original city beautiful plan. Attendees agreed that characteristics of the buildings in this district are, and should continue to be, monumental gestures that are of the same instance respectful to the family of buildings, contain the quality of materials consistent with timeless architecture, and incorporate an attention to detail that capitalizes on the play of light and shadow of the Denver sun.

In a recent presentation to the Urban Design Committee of AIA Denver the architectural firm of Newman, Cavender, and Doane acknowledged that the proposed Denver Newspaper Agency building will hold a unique place amongst Civic Center Park. The architect explained that the DNA building is not a governmental building meant to be "strong and handsome" such as the State Capitol or the City county building, nor is it a cultural facility using its form to aggressively compete for attention like the Ponfi or Libeskind museums or Groves' Library. Founding partner, Larry Doane frequently referred to this architectural challenge stating that "our dog is not in that race." On the surface it seems that Mr. Doane was referring to the importance of an architecture that is respectful and possibly subordinate to its historical and aggressive neighbors, but

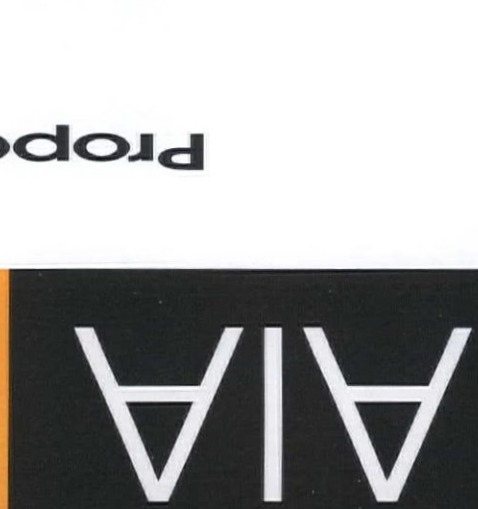
also revealed that due to the nature of his client and the constraints of budget that his "dog" may not have ever been able to compete.

The committee listened intently to a well executed presentation that addressed and answered many of the controversial issues that surround this project. The site as proposed is well conceived placing active retail and public uses at the active edges of the sidewalks and effectively internalizing the impacts of services and parking. Acknowledging the precedent of "front yards" around Civic Center Park the plan calls for a public cannonade along Coffax adjacent to a tree lined walk. Space is being provided for significant public art at the corner of 15th and Cleveland in order to terminate the visual axis from the Acoma Avenue of the Arts and to provide a visual destination to pedestrians on the 16th Street Mall who are seeking access to the park.

Perhaps the most aggressive site feature will be the eventual design to integrate Pioneer Park and its fountain to create a much needed programable urban hard-escape - a unique opportunity for a "quick victory" to activate the park as called for by citizens in the charrette. Currently proposed in the design of the connection to Pioneer Park is a signage pylon that will rise 60 feet high and 20 feet wide that will display banner type signage as well as changing items consistent with the daily events of the Post and News above. This billboard accompanied by an adjacent ticker tape digital display may significantly detract from the dignified character of not only the nearby Pioneer Fountain but the Civic Center at large and should be considered carefully before inviting commercialized character of Coffax to fully find a home in the park.

The proposed ground floor plan does react responsibly to the call of the public realm. The creation of an interior and exterior public space that will relate in scale to the neighboring Annex One building will serve as the living room of the building. The 38 foot high interior lobby will accommodate a range of public uses including an auditorium and ample space for periodic educational and art displays, while keeping security issues away from the public user. This lobby also serves to guise the significant parking reservoirs that are split into 3 levels above grade and 2 levels below to accommodate the overlapping shifts of this 24 hour facility. An Urban Cafe is planned to be as open and inviting as possible along the Pioneer Park edge to help tie the lobby, sidewalk and park together.

In the tower above the separate nature of the two newspapers has provided the metaphor of the building - the collision of two distinct forms and their associated skins. Each volume is carefully oriented in such a way as to pay equal respects to the State Capitol and City County Building while maintaining an appropriate street wall. The architects explained that each organization requires separate elevator systems and conference areas to maintain the integrity of their work. Both papers also desire an open and transparent feel for their facades that is consistent with the notion of Mountain News portion of the building communication. The rectilinear Rocky Mountain News portion of the building has a southwestern orientation and therefore has the most difficulty maintaining this sense of openness since it requires an articulated skin to shade



Freedom by Design Goes National

by Wayne Mortensen, 2004 National AIAS resident

Nebraska; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Buffalo, New York. With more than 120 other AIAS chapters across the country, this may be just the beginning for Freedom by Design. **AIA**



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This fall, a program with its beginnings in the Denver area will take root around the country with the help of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS).

Freedom by Design began in 2000 as a volunteer organization intended to ameliorate dangerous conditions in the homes of people unable to make the necessary alterations on their own.

Freedom utilizes the skills of volunteer architects and builders to survey homes, identify barriers and implement solutions that have a radical impact in the lives of its recipients. Often, a very simple amendment - a yard of concrete, a handrail - has a large impact.

For four years, Freedom by Design has been coordinated by its founder: Brad Buchanan, Principal of Buchanan Yonushewski Group, LLC, and his co-leader, former colleague Leslie Acosta (now the Communications Director for AIA Colorado). Relying on the self-promotion of its projects and countless volunteer architects and builders,

Freedom by Design has had a significant impact in the Denver community with over thirty completed projects.

Freedom continues to grow as teams sprout in Denver and the surrounding region. All of this - more than \$300,000 of construction impact - started from \$4000 of donated seed money and, since, the generous support of business- and volunteers to fulfill the time and supply demands of each project.

After hearing a presentation by Buchanan in 2003, AIAS representatives began to brainstorm ways to implement the program into architecture schools.

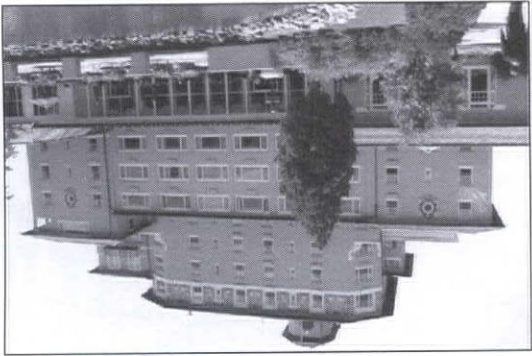
This fall, an AIAS Pilot Program will elevate Freedom by Design to a national initiative offer the plan was unanimously endorsed by the AIAS Council of Presidents at their annual meeting. In March, a jury selected six AIAS Chapters to participate in the inaugural year: Arizona State University, Kansas State University, University of Buffalo, University of Colorado - Boulder, University of Nebraska - Lincoln and University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Each school will

send a representative to Denver in October to share ideas, learn about the Freedom by Design process and take it back to their school for implementation. Freedom by Design offers architecture students a unique opportunity to lead the design and construction process.

Established in 1956, the AIAS is an independent, student-run organization with over 6000 architecture and design student members in 130 chapters across North America. The mission of the AIAS is to promote excellence in architecture education, training and practice; to foster an appreciation of architecture and related disciplines; to enrich communities in a spirit of collaboration; and to organize students and combine their efforts to advance the art and science of architecture. The AIAS is the largest design student organization in the country and is one of five collateral organizations that steer the architecture profession.

What began as an idea five years ago in Denver will soon impact communities in Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan, Kansas; Lincoln,

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Good Bones, Good Light - The Colorado Style

by Tim Geisler, AIA, LEED™ AP/Assoc., 4240 Architecture Inc.

It's the American Dream: A piece of land to call your own, unlimited opportunity, plenty of elbow room, freedom to choose your suburbs must start with an architectural framework that is compelling enough to accommodate individual choice without losing its integrity.

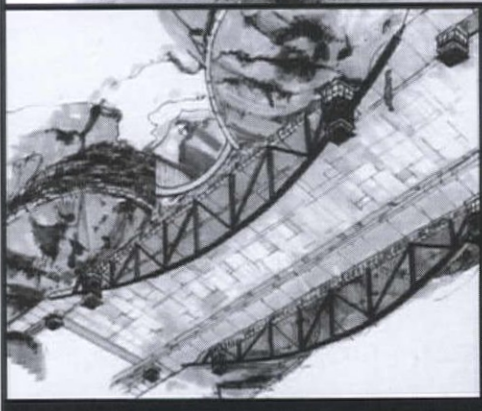
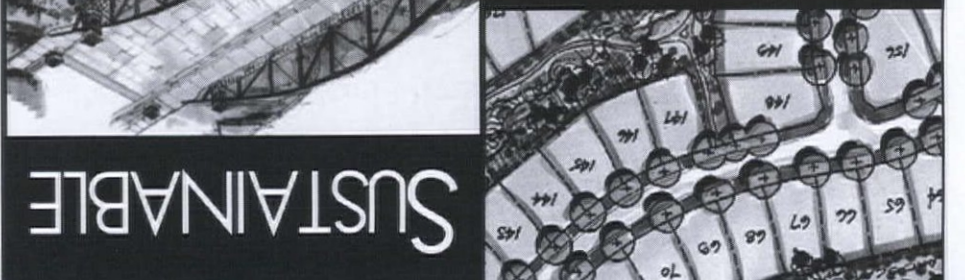
In one new community, 42 | 40 Architecture has identified the fundamental elements of a purebred Colorado architecture.

The house is conceptualized as a "link" between the realm of the street and the open space. "The biggest back yard in America!" reads one slogan.

42 | 40 has outlined the following basic principles:

1. Materials that season well.
2. Walls that open and extend to the outdoors.
3. Low-lying roof lines that reflect the breadth of the prairie.
4. Enlarge south-facing windows.
5. Deep eaves to south and west.
6. Walk-out level integral with main living space.
7. Native landscape flows across property lines. **AIA**

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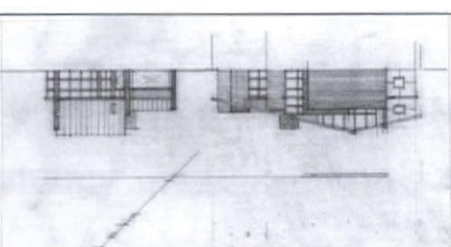
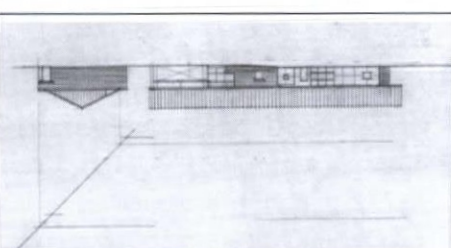
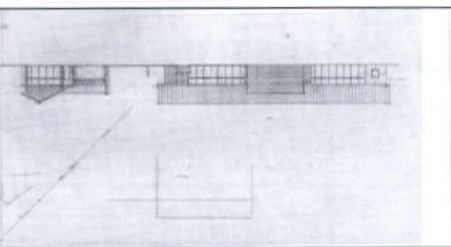
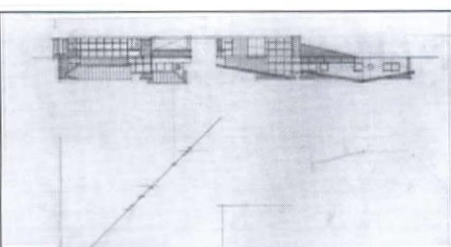


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Consider hosting a workshop and invite STOPP to share what we're doing.

- Do you have a unique solution for a problem that the city should know about? Take a moment to share your thoughts with us. We'd like to hear from you. **AIA**

(Continued from page 15)

From The Dark Side

- Homeowner's legal rights and remedies to have a construction defect corrected are maintained
- A definition of "actual damages" clearly and fairly defines damages that can be recovered
- The definition of "actual damages" is consistent with the intent of limiting claims for construction defects while maintaining the rights of homeowners to be made whole.
- "Probable loss" language is eliminated restricting damages to "actual" losses which is fair to the homeowner and construction professional.

The amendment 34 ballot issue seeks to eliminate current construction defects statutes. The author of this amendment, Scott Sullivan, is quoted as having said, "Every person and entity involved in the development, marketing and sale of a lot and the design, construction, marketing and sale of a home built on that lot potentially may bear responsibilities for defects in the home".

AIA Colorado is in the company of a significant number of other organizations that oppose this initiative. In statements

(Continued on page 20)

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Resume Referral Service - The AIA

Colorado Resume Services is an employment tool that allows employers to search a compilation of resumes provided by individuals seeking employment within the construction industry. Job seekers can add their resume to our resume listing in the AIA Colorado office, which employers can then review as needed by placing a request or by visiting the AIA Colorado office. Members receive a discount on all resume referral services. For more information, call 303.446.2266 or come by our office in Denver!

New Member Welcome

AIA Colorado would like to take this time to introduce our newest members.

AIA STOPP Program

(Continued from page 10)

your comments or write about a problem you're experiencing. We'll get it to the right people.

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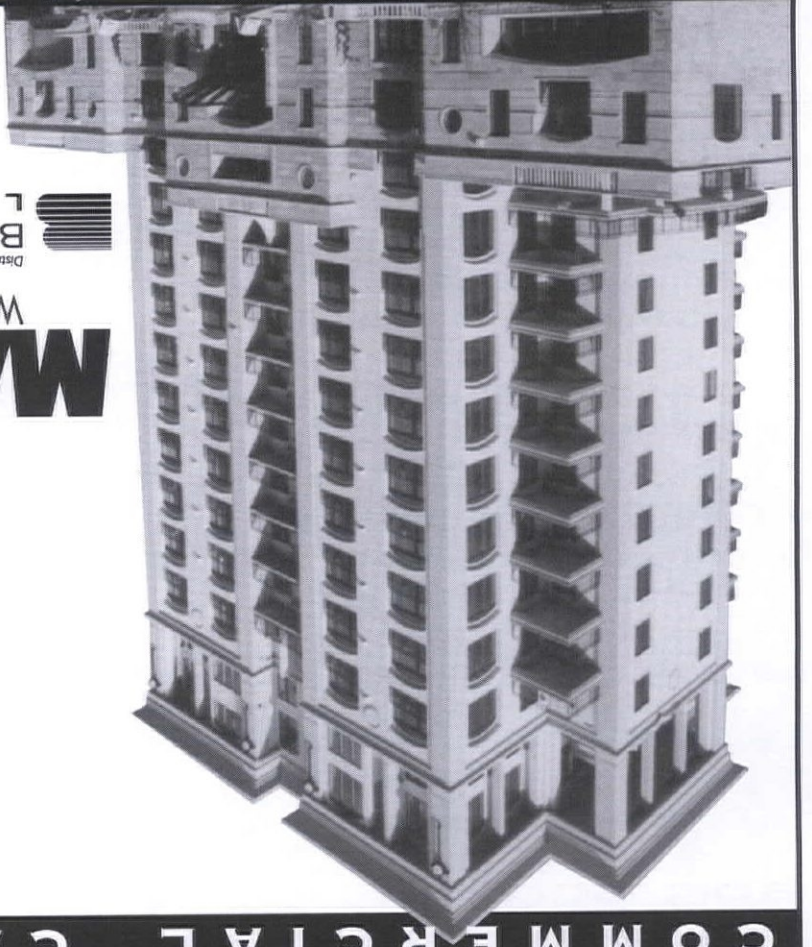
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Livable Communities and Politics

(Continued from cover)

I am aware of at least one direct example where the relationship an AIA Architect colleague developed with an elected official resulted in an agreement for a significant public project. The project will be well designed and will be an asset to the community.

I encourage you to consider your responsibility as an AIA Architect to the political process of your communities. I truly believe the elected officials of our communities need our talents, and credible problem solving skills. The process of political relationship-building is important and necessary toward achieving the objective of well designed livable communities. **AIA**

Member Corner

(Continued from page 3)

regulation of design and construction, and more. We work hard to protect your best interests and your licensure.

Career Development - AIA Colorado members are working with the University of Colorado at Denver's Graduate School of Architecture to foster mentorship between experienced architects and emerging professionals.

Additionally, AIA Colorado runs weekly classified ads listing **job openings** for all free for job seekers. (see below for more stages of your career. The publication is free for job seekers. (see below for more information)

Networking - Being involved with AIA is a

great way to meet peers within the design and construction industry, participating on a committee, attending a social event or speaking at a lecture gives you the opportunity to meet new people and even form **lifelong relationships**.

What can YOU do?

Want to get more involved with AIA Colorado? We offer multiple opportunities for members to participate in AIA sponsored activities. Join a committee! AIA has 30+ committees between the four local chapters and the state component. The Urban Design Committee, Code Committee, Professional Development Committee, Young Architect Forum and of course the Membership Committee are just a sampling of the choices available. Now's the time to explore areas you may have an interest in!

Maybe you don't have a lot of free time or being on a committee is just not for you. You can always volunteer for a specific event such as the AIA Colorado Design Conference! Or consider becoming involved in the mentorship program as a member or a protégé.

If you can't commit to something at the moment, stay involved by attending any of the great receptions, events and classes that AIA sponsors. If you have the time and the desire to help shape the future of AIA Colorado, please contact the office today at 303.446-2266. We'll be happy to help you find the right niche for you.

Did you know? AIA Colorado offers a variety of employment services that can help you whether you are a job seeker or an employer.

SEAC/AIA Architectural Committee Activities

by Michael Hicks, AIA, 2004 AIA Denver President

The Structural Engineers Association of Colorado (SEAC) Board joined with AIA Denver's

Board to support this joint committee

whose aim is to raise the level of under-

standing, and develop closer ties

between Architects and Structural

Engineers. This will hopefully foster better

communication between the professions

resulting in more profitable business rela-

tionships; more creative, collaborative

designs; and more fun, less confronta-

tional, working relationships.

Last summer the committee sur-

veyed Colorado Architects and

Structural Engineers to collect opinions

about the state of working relationships

between the two professions and asked

two questions: "What are the items in

your current Architect/Structural

Engineer relationship that you most

appreciate?" "What are the items in

your current Architect/Structural

Engineer relationships that cause you dif-

ficulty and should be improved?"

The committee used the responses

to form the basis for five discussion topics

and convened a panel of five prominent

Architects at SEAC's September 11, 2003

meeting. There was a lively discussion

between the panel and SEAC's mem-

bers. Our panelists were Jim Bradburn of

Fentress Bradburn, Harvey Hine of Harvey

M. Hine Architects, Paul Hutton of Hutton

Ford, Mary Morissette of Bennett,

Wagner, Grody and Ben Wilking of Lantz-

Boglio.

The five topics discussed were:

Consultant Selection and Fee Negotiation:

ceived value do you place on a particular

selecting a structural engineer; what per-

phases of a project. During consultant

nication between both professions at all

there needs to be much better commu-

The general consensus was that

Architects in Project Management skills?"

How do you go about training your

your Structural Engineer on your projects?

the appropriate level of experience from

Engineers perceive too inexperienced

Architects as Project Architects. Do you see

and therefore the owner, during CA?"

Other Miscellaneous Issues: "Structural

we as a team better help the contractor,

CA Phase/Construction Support: "How can

Structural Engineer with the most relevant

experience and do not base selection

purely on fees. The Architects typically

bring the Structural Engineer in at the end

of SD phase, but now realize the value

they may get from involving the

Structural Engineer earlier. The design

should be complete and coordinated for

major elements at the end of DD phase

and CD is just for finalizing details. As

change order requests to the Owner are

difficult some Architects said that they

are starting to build in an in-house design

contingency into their fees to cover

design team for re-design due to errors

and omissions. Senior personnel from

both parties should be involved through-

out all phases of a project.

Look for news of our upcoming dis-

cussion with a panel of Owners' repre-

sentatives at SEAC's Fall conference on

October 28th from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Details will be issued through AIA

Colorado.

We need more Architects! For

information about attending our

committee meetings please contact

committee chair Julian Lineham, P.E. of

Studio NYL Structural Engineers at

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Association of Homebuilders the effect

of eliminating current statutes will allow

triple damages to be re-instated,

increase the number of lawsuits, and

make everyone a potential target for

unscrupulous trial lawyers.

The website noted above will

provide you with those organizations

that oppose this initiative, the argu-

ments against the initiative, and you

will also find the AIA Colorado position

statement posted there.

This ballot initiative is frankly - bad

news. I urge all of us to make sure

everyone we come in contact with is

aware that this initiative will hurt our

communities and have a significant

negative effect on the livability of

Colorado communities. AIA

(Continued from page 19)

Jlineham@studionyl.com AIA

Studio NYL Structural Engineers at

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Architects said they typically select the

could be less confrontations later. The

expectations for the project earlier there

budget. If all parties communicate their

not on a percentage of the construction

required scope of services and schedule,

structural fees can be based on the

nication of the scope of the project so

selection there should be more commu-



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public since they are readily experienced and available for public consumption. Public expectation for the architecture increases with the selection of a prominent site especially when coupled with the perceived importance the building's use. Great civic leaders have consistently understood these truths and practiced them as an aspiration of duty rather than the fulfillment of a burden. It is upon the thoughts of these past and present leaders that the Urban Design Committee of the Denver Chapter of the American Institute of Architects wishes to acknowledge the duty that has been inherited by the Denver Newspaper Agency to rise not only to the equivalence of its architectural neighbors, but also to inspire the citizens of Denver. **AIA**

ings or cause both to detract from the integrity of Civic Center Park. Participants of the recent Civic Center Charrette agreed that all buildings either owned by the City, State, or other-wise should be held to an elevated architectural character. Although the DNA building is indeed unique in its use amongst the Civic Center, the private ownership of such a site and building only serves to inflate the expectations of its architecture and value to the City at large. Private ownership cannot mean the execution of a built product that exposes budget restraints rather than inspired design. The urban context of a city dictates that at a fundamental level all works of architecture are inherently

architects assure us that the execution of the skin of the building will effectively separate it from its existing counterpart. The skin of this facade is admittedly yet to be resolved but the hint of budget implications and the familiar description of a "graphic plaid" skin to the Webb building bring into question whether the success of the building should be resting on its execution. The principals of Newman Cavender and Doane have stated that the philosophy of their design is to be respectful of its neighbors but their replication of the curved facade has forced, not only the architects and the Denver Newspaper Agency, but the citizens of Denver as well, to walk a line in which the sensitivity to the detailing of this skin will either serve to improve both the DNA and Webb build-

Proposed DNA Building Critique

the Vorhees Memorial and the Greek Amphitheater as well as the paths of 14th and Coffey Avenues. The relaxed curve of the DNA building along Broadway will serve to open views to the park and give back valuable street frontage to the citizens. The extraordinary challenge Newman Cavender and Doane have created for themselves in their proposal is to deny the architectural form of the Webb building to remain unique - a defining characteristic of all the architecture in the Civic Center family, as suggested by the recent charrette on the subject. The

(Continued from page 16)

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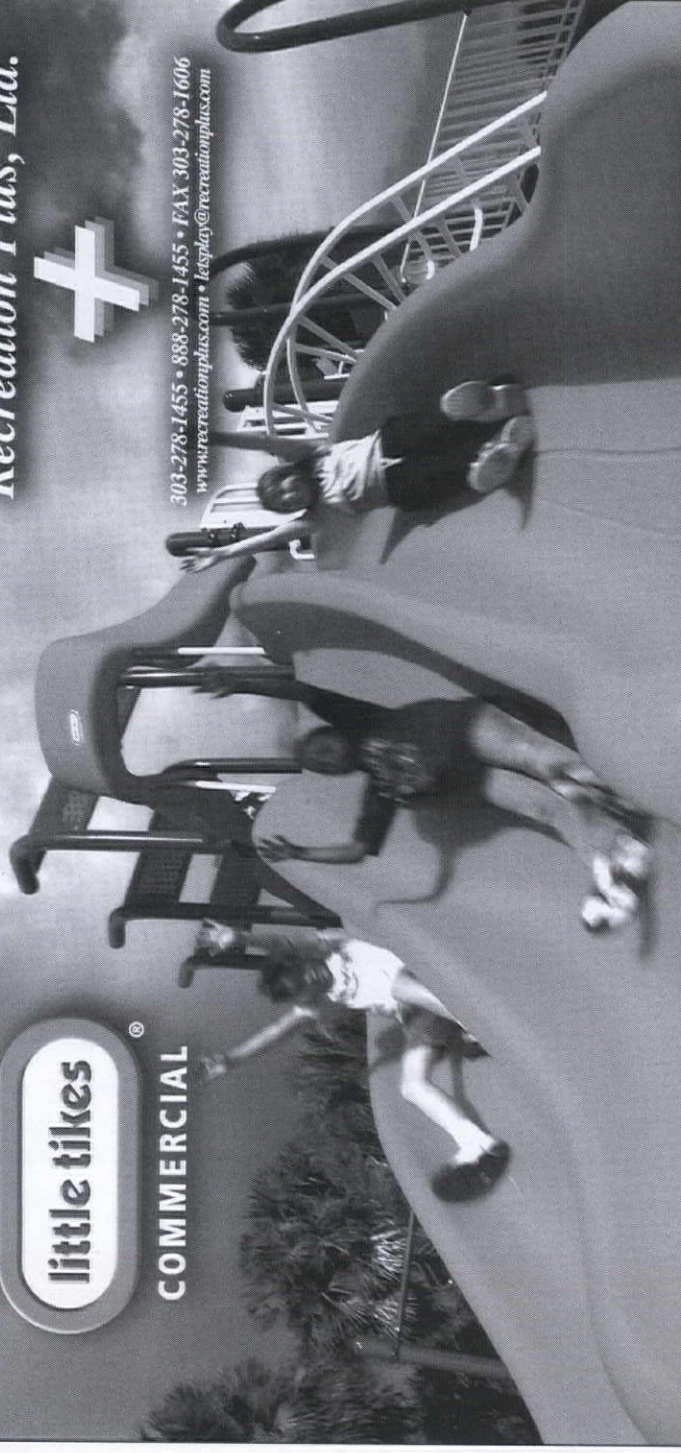
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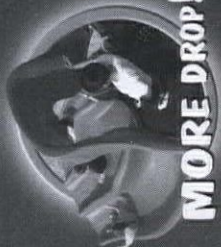
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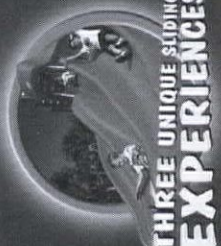
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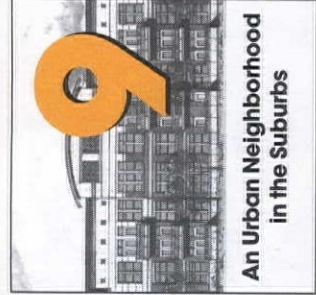
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Livable Communities and Politics

by Christopher J. Green, AIA, 2004 AIA Colorado President

In crafting this letter I cannot help asking a couple of questions: what responsibility do architects have toward involvement in the political arena; and, how does political involvement by an AIA Architect affect the livability of our communities?

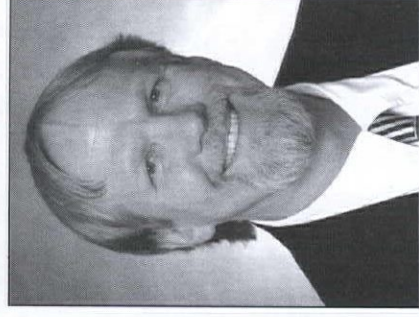
Mary Morrisette, AIA of AIA Denver has a political relationship with her local school board. She sat on a committee of the school board during their process of establishing the level of funding for a recent school bond issue. Her experience as an AIA Architect brought a needed perspective that had a positive and profound affect on her board members and the bond issue. She served her community positively and had a direct impact on the quality of new school buildings and the quality of livability for her community.

AIA Architects in Denver created the STOPP task force with the goal of promoting the adoption of the I-Codes by the City of Denver. This political process required these activist volunteer AIA Architects to develop relationships with planners, plan reviewers, and City Council members. The resultant positive relationships were important in helping the City of Denver understand the importance of these codes. The result of the efforts our Denver colleagues was Denver's adoption of the I-Codes creating a predictable environment of code enforcement. This regulatory success promotes even-handed code administration, making our job as Architects easier, and again, positively affecting our Denver's livability.

Construction defects legislation that was signed into law by Governor Owens in April, 2003 has directly affected the livability of our communities. AIA Architects lobbied with intensity and clear purpose in coalition with The Colorado Association of Homebuilders, Associated General Contractors, and ACEC to see this legislation pass. It has kept insurance premiums in check, keeping insurance reasonable for low income or affordable housing, and our architect members and their firms. An AGC lobbyist noted to me this week that there have been only four lawsuits relating to construction defects this year as a result of this legislation. Our political involvement has had a direct impact on the livability of our communities throughout Colorado.

Finally, when we get down to how we survive one never knows how a relationship with an elected official will affect the ability to put food on our tables and the design of our communities.

(Continued on page 19)



Chris Green, AIA
2004 AIA Colorado President