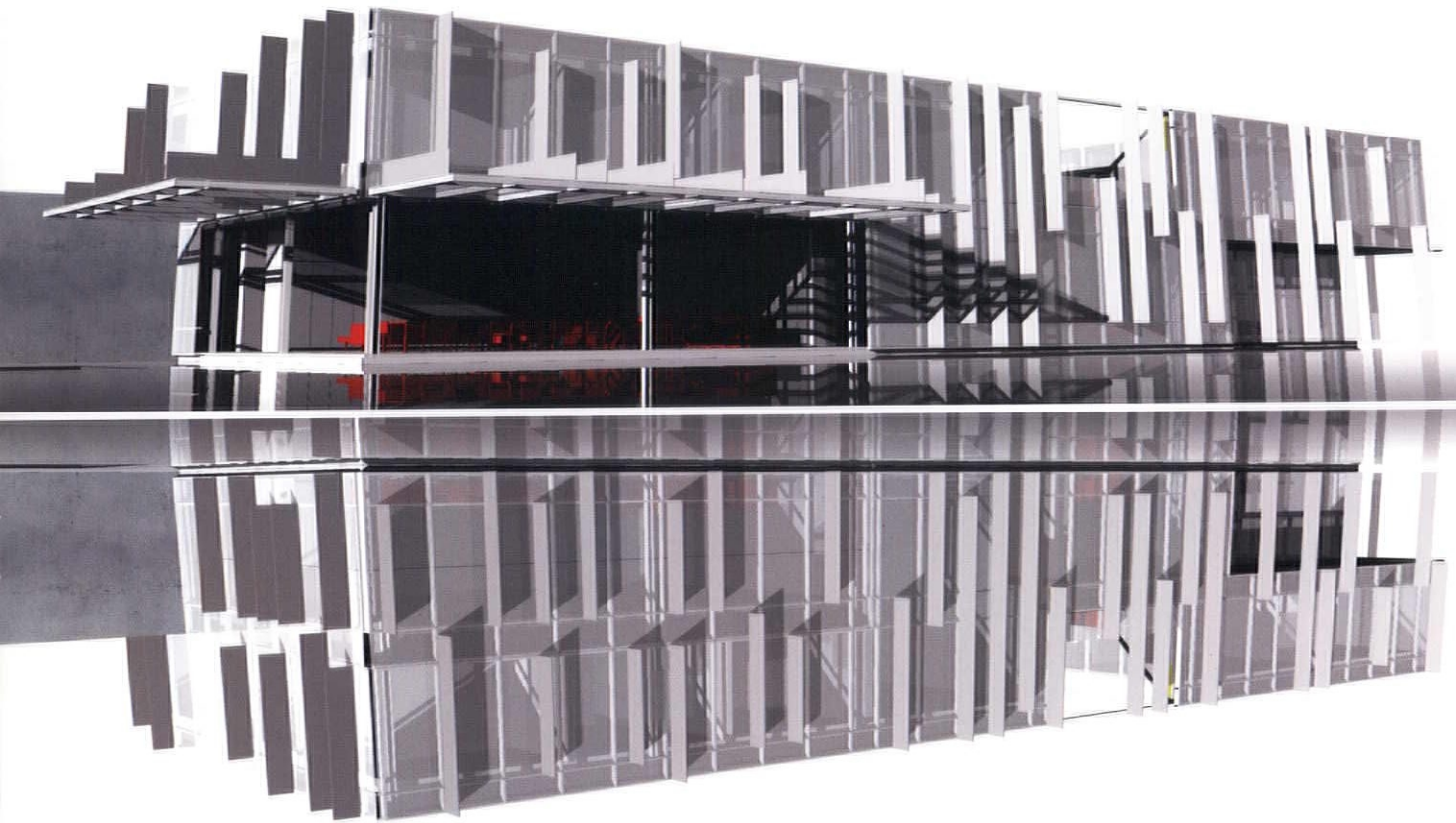


ArchitectColorado

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EVOLUTION

DREAMING
A FUTURE

SEEING WITH
THEIR MIND'S EYE

SPACES FOR COLLABORATION
AND SUSTAINABILITY

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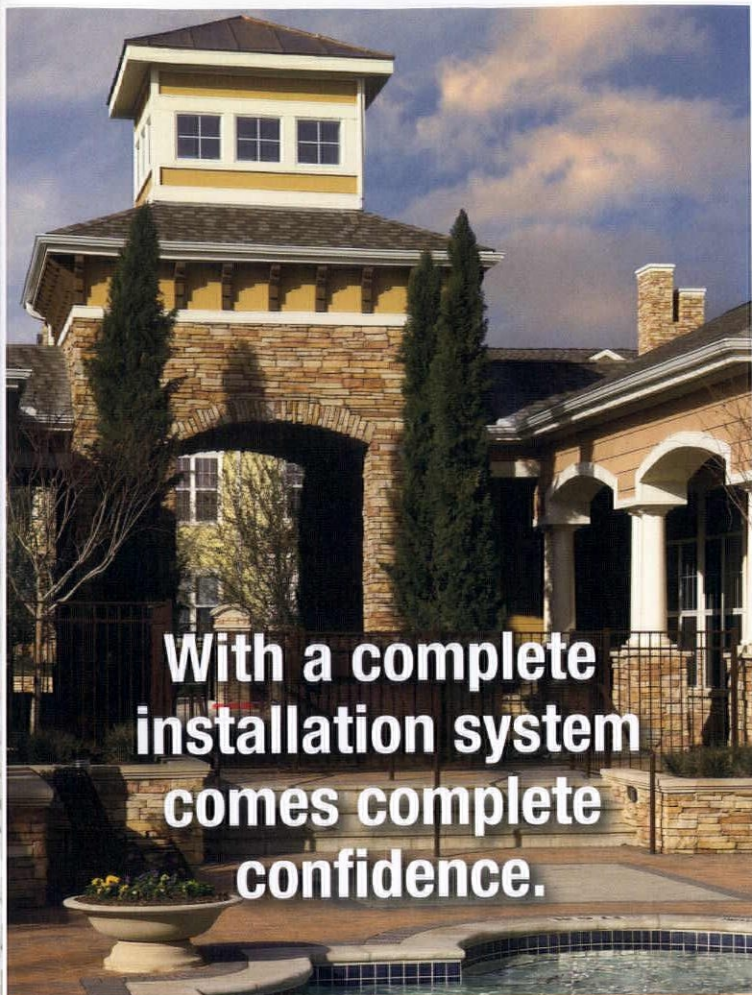


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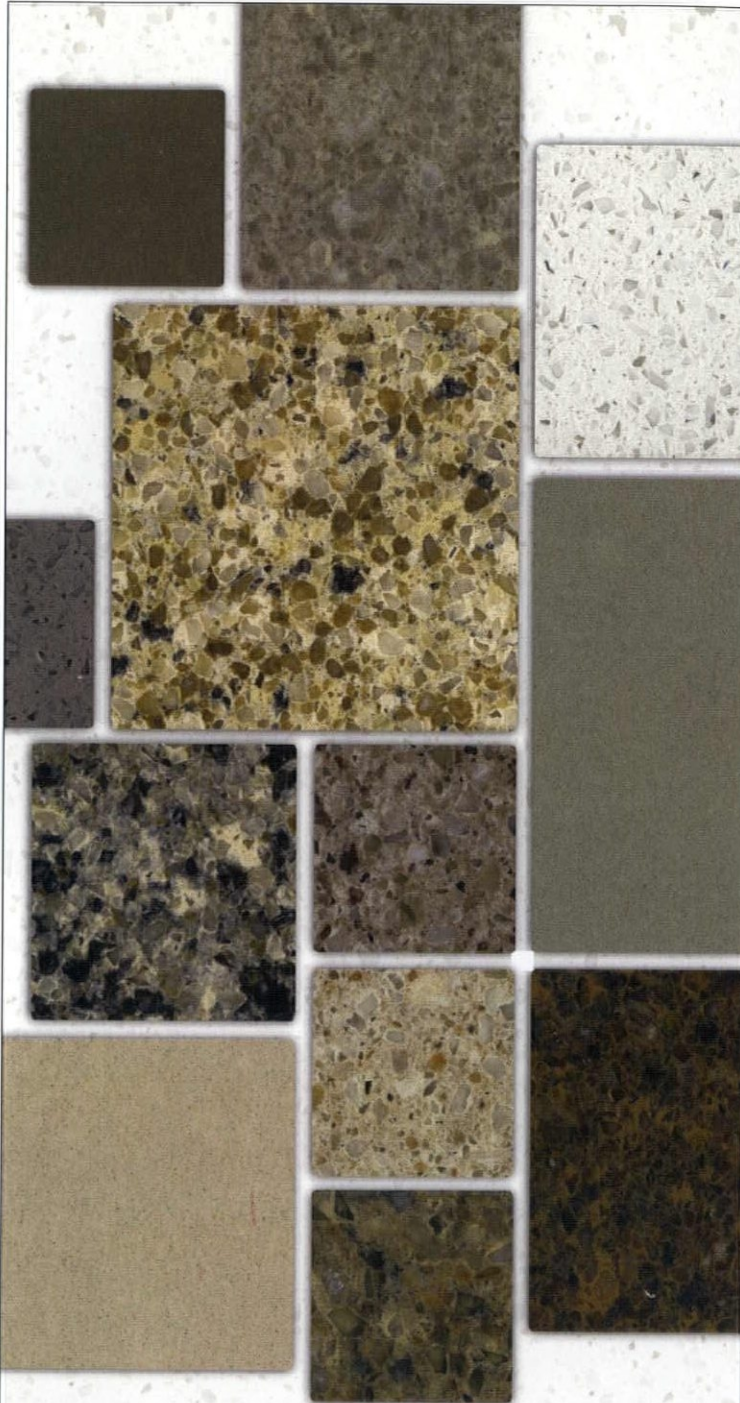


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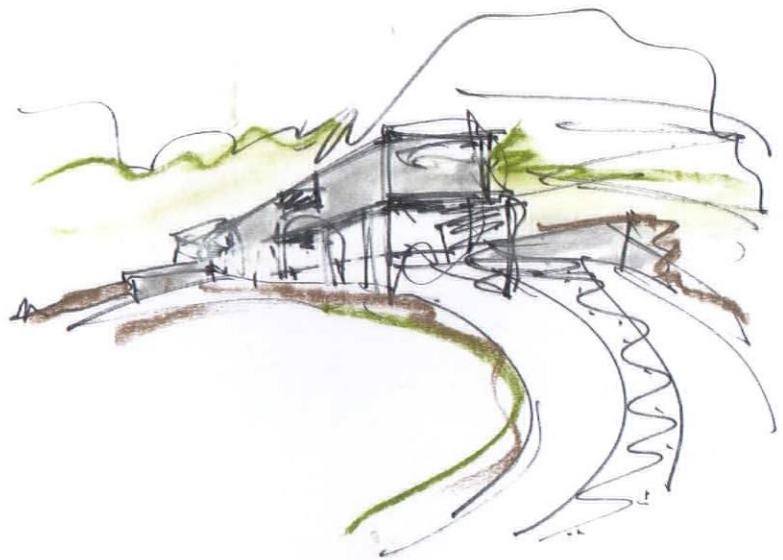
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Cover Image:
The Holtz residence, designed by
Studio B Architects, was conceived
as an evocative glass envelope that
contrasts with its rural setting.
Top Image: Doors Opened
Reflected Image: Doors Closed

Right:
Architect Scott Lindenau's
original sketch idea for the Holtz
residence in Old Snowmass.
Image Credit: Studio B Architects



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AIA Colorado has existed since 1892; initially as the Colorado Association of Architects, then the Colorado Society of Architects and now AIA Colorado. Names such as Fisher, Fuller and Hoyt are with us today as pioneers and leaders of the architectural community and AIA in Colorado.

It is with this long and rich past that we enter into the second decade of the 21st century. We start this new decade with eyes wide open, knowing we are stepping into a very unpredictable future. The future of the profession rests on the shoulders of each and every one of us. We must continue in a joint effort to define and protect the role of the architect in our society. This joint effort must rely on the AIA as its unifying entity.

AIA Colorado leadership has worked with resolve and focus to structure the organization so it is meaningful, valuable, relevant and serves the changing needs of our members. Starting with the 2009 Members Needs Survey and resulting in the 2010 Five-Year Strategic Plan, we have established a framework in which to work. Moving forward, we will use the strategic plan as our guide but remain nimble and flexible to change as our members' needs change.

If you attended the 2010 Practice & Design Conference, you know that "getting uncomfortable" in our daily lives and practices is the only way to survive. We all must continuously evaluate our practices, ensure we are asking the hard questions and make changes that allow us to flourish. Just as AIA must be nimble and flexible, we individually need to be nimble and flexible to prosper in our ever-changing world.

That said, we believe there are givens that do not significantly change. One is the value of belonging to a professional organization that provides a fundamental support structure. AIA remains an enduring entity for its members to rely on for a multitude of professional services and support. Whether continuing education, advocacy or networking, AIA has served its members since 1892 and will continue to serve as a fundamental element well into the future.

The next several years will include some exciting opportunities for AIA Colorado members. We look forward to the 2013 AIA National Convention and a new home for AIA Colorado in 2012. We will work through the Sunset Review process in 2013. We have a lot of work to do, and a lot of opportunity to strengthen and secure AIA Colorado as the central force in our profession and community.



Steve Schonberger

Steve Schonberger, AIA
2011 AIA Colorado President



Mary Morissette

Mary Morissette, AIA LEED AP
2010 AIA Colorado President

Christopher Herr, AIA, co-founder of Studio H:T in Boulder, Colo., won AIA Colorado's Young Architect of the Year award at the AIA Colorado 11th Annual Young Architects Awards Gala in April. To view the complete list of 2010 winners, visit www.imagineyaag.com.

The Oscar R. Sanchez, Assoc. AIA, Scholarship, for \$1,250, was awarded to **Marco Antonio Garcia** at the AIA Colorado 11th Annual Young Architects Awards Gala in April. The Oscar R. Sanchez, Assoc. AIA, Scholarship was founded in 2009 to introduce underserved students in the local community of Denver to the art and profession of architecture.

James Bershof, FAIA, principal at OZ Architecture in Denver; **H. Scot Latimer, FAIA**, senior partner at Kurt Salmon Associates in Evergreen, Colo.; and **August Reno, FAIA**, principal at Reno-Smith Architects, LLC in Aspen, Colo., were elevated into the College of Fellows by AIA National. Their names were officially invested into the College of Fellows at the AIA National 2010 Convention and Design Expo in Miami in early June.

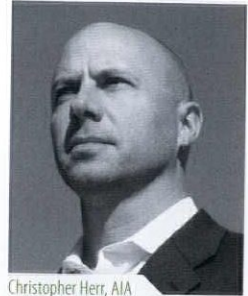
House Bill 10-1148, which repeals continuing professional competency

requirements for an architect to maintain his or her license to practice architecture in the state of Colorado, was signed by Gov. Bill Ritter in April. AIA Colorado would like to thank **Chris Stumm, AIA**, former AIA Colorado Government Affairs Committee chair, and the current Government Affairs Committee for all of their work on the bill. AIA Colorado would also like to acknowledge **Rep. Cheri Gerou, AIA**, and Sen. Abel Tapia for their tireless efforts and support of HB 10-1148.

Note: Continuing education requirements remain in effect and are separate from continuing competency.

Edward White, FAIA, was recognized at Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s 20th Annual Awards Dinner in April as the 2010 recipient of the 2010 Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Preservation. This award honors an illustrious mid-century modern architect and preservationist.

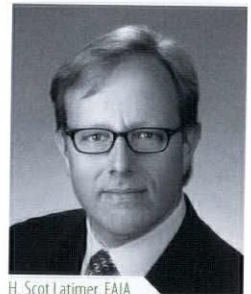
James Scott Brew, AIA, FCSI, LEED AP, principal architect at Rocky Mountain Institute in Boulder, Colo., has achieved certification as a Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC) by the Passive House Institute US. He is among the first people in the state to achieve this certification.



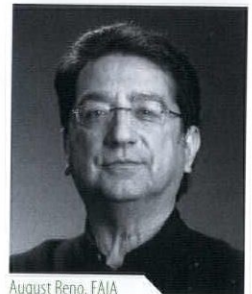
Christopher Herr, AIA



James Bershof, FAIA

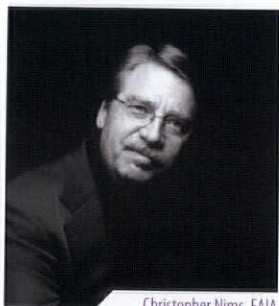


H. Scot Latimer, FAIA



August Reno, FAIA

RECOGNIZE



Christopher Nims, FAIA

Recognize: To show appreciation of achievement, service and merit.

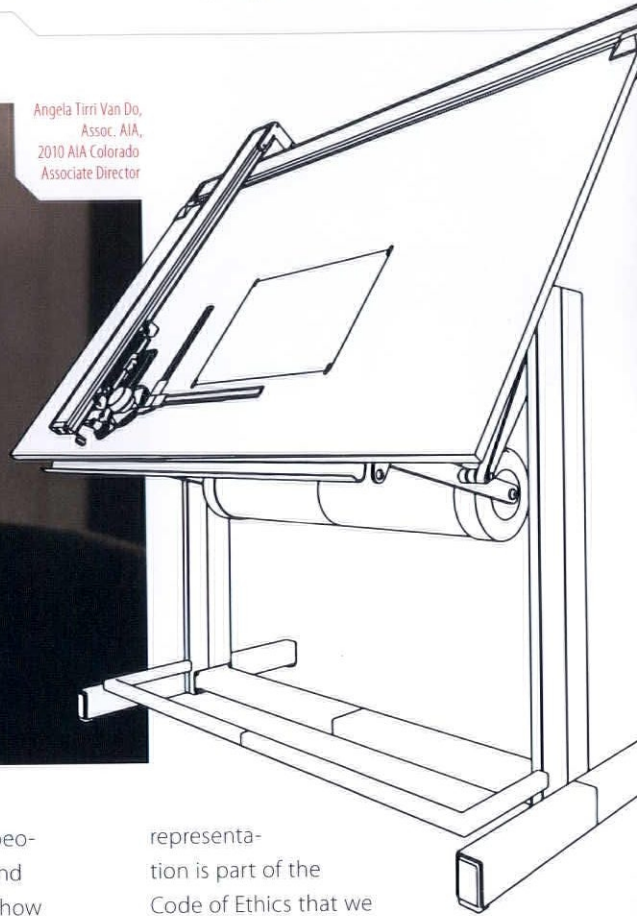
Christopher Nims, FAIA, is a member of the AIA Denver chapter and has been a significant contributor to the AIA Colorado Mentor Network for more than six years. The Colorado Mentor Network is a partnership between

AIA Colorado and the Colorado University College of Architecture and Planning. The intent of the network is to strengthen professional development and increase the sense of community among architects and emerging profes-

sionals statewide. For his past and ongoing contributions to the AIA Colorado Mentor Network, please **recognize** Nims for his exemplary service to AIA Colorado.



Angela Tirri Van Do,
Assoc. AIA,
2010 AIA Colorado
Associate Director



The economy has forced us all to re-evaluate how we practice architecture and our vision for the future of the profession. It has also inspired many associates and unlicensed professionals to strike out on their own, reinvent themselves and even start up their own firms. With this renewed ambition, some are calling themselves “architects,” using the term in their title as they are seeking work or in the name of their new firms. The problem is, unless you’re a licensed architect, none of those things are legal.

As students and associates, we’ve all been to parties, family gatherings or other social events when the question arises: “So, what do you do?” And, likewise, we have all been in the unenviable position of eventually having to explain what the phrase “intern” means: the education, the experience and the exams. Or maybe not. Maybe we’ve just taken the easy route and said, “I’m an architect.” For sure, it’s tempting. It’s just one word to someone who probably doesn’t know or care what you have to go through to be able to use that title. It worked for George Costanza; it works for software developers; why can’t it work for you? At least you have the edu-

cation and training, right? For most people, that’s a simple enough answer and is really all they want to know about how you spend your time. To others, though, it represents the achievement of a higher level of qualification and authority, and that is where we can get into trouble.

As Nathan Huyler, AIA, points out in his article, “I’m an Architect: Artistic Endeavor and Professional Responsibility,” in *Colorado* — and, indeed, in most states — you are not legally allowed to represent yourself as an “architect” or use any form of the word in your title or even your firm name unless you are licensed to practice architecture in that state. Not only is calling yourself an architect when you’re not licensed illegal, but it can also have serious implications on your abilities to eventually practice as a licensed architect — not to mention the fact that it can carry potentially stiff financial penalties. Finally, as AIA members, this

representation is part of the Code of Ethics that we are all bound to uphold.

Reserving the title of architect for those who are licensed preserves the prestige of the title once it is achieved. While this is not a new topic, nor one that will go away anytime soon, it is an issue that affects all of us and one we all end up having to deal with at some point in

***It worked for George Costanza;
it works for software developers;
why can’t it work for you?***

our careers. As associate director, I am particularly interested in what you, the students, associates and young architects of Colorado, have to say about the use of the word “architect.” As always, I welcome any thoughts, insights or suggestions you might have on this subject and look forward to hearing from you.

DREAMING a FUTURE



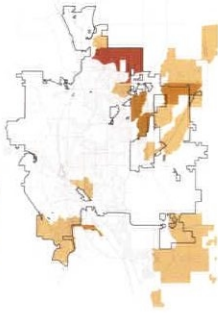
jnb2 design studio
market rendering

What happens when people from all walks of life – architects included – gather to reimagine their city? The Colorado Springs area is trying to find out what the future might hold. *by Kelly Roberson*

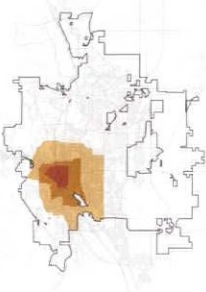


When 19th-century settlers headed west, settling in the shadow of Pikes Peak, each was in search of something different: fast treasure, steady work, a new future, a beautiful home. Some stayed, and some didn't. Regardless, the city and surrounding environs grew up around them.

Projected areas of growth - El Paso County



Proposed growth - urban densification



Proposed light rail - commuter bus districts



Existing water bodies



Proposed parks, open spaces - connecting trails



Fast-forward 150 years and some 500,000 residents later, and the story remains the same: Some families have been there for generations, others are relative newcomers, and for some, it's a stopover on the way to somewhere else. But economic, environmental and societal pressures are influencing those half-million people, and by some measures, the region seems to have lost its footing. There's growth that could be characterized as urban sprawl, civic fiscal meltdowns and a general lack of consensus about priorities and next steps.

Two years ago, a group of Colorado Springs citizens asked some essential questions: How do you create a city that's

Joseph Brown, AIA, owner of jnb2 design studio of Colorado Springs, Colo. "There's been massive outward growth and a neglect of downtown and historic parts of Colorado Springs."

Those realizations spurred organizers. Leadership Pikes Peak joined with partners, including *The Gazette* and the Pikes Peak Library District, to create Dream City 2020. The AIA Colorado South Chapter, the American Planning Association and the Congress of New Urbanists would come on board, too. Residents were asked for input about arts, education, transportation, the environment and safety, among other topics. The areas for discussion were

"When you look at a city, it's like reading the hopes, aspirations and pride of everyone who built it." — Hugh Newell Jacobsen, FAIA

livable and lived in? How do you balance different needs and desires within a realistic budget? Their questioning turned into a community-centered effort named Dream City 2020, and architects played an essential part. The process — and continuing conversation — may be as telling for the area as the results.

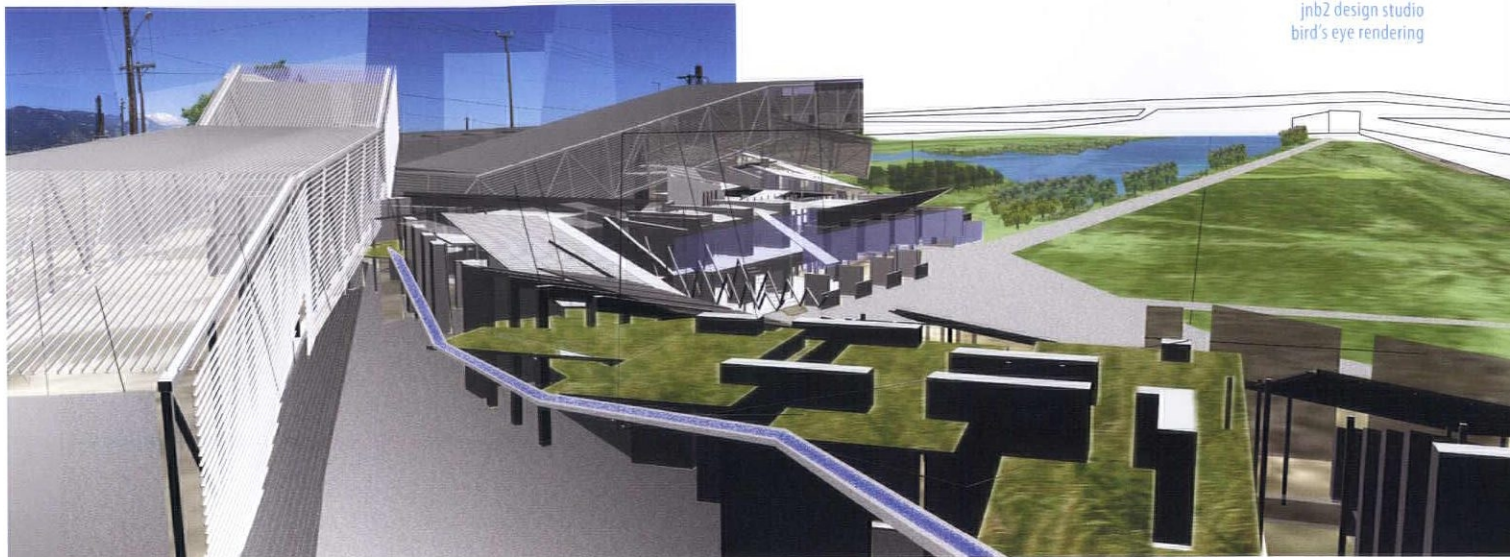
Reality and a Vision

It's not as though Colorado Springs had never taken a look inward; city leaders had various planning discussions and had created concepts periodically throughout the late 20th century. But in 2008, a new reality emerged. The area's projected population would reach 1.5 million swiftly — by 2020 — and there were growing doubts about its ability to deal with that influx and a lack of consistent public and private planning. Like many other metro areas, the Colorado Springs region is wrestling with how to create a livable community, even as the city core decays, older retail areas sit empty and people rethink walking versus driving. "One of the big problems is urban sprawl," says

loosely organized in three categories: inspiration, education and engagement.

Experts, including architects and planners, looked to other visionary urban planning efforts, including Salt Lake City, Utah; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Portland, Ore., for guidance. "The effort in Utah, for example, became a political force," says Mark Tremmel, AIA, owner of Tremmel Design Group of Colorado Springs. "The interesting thing is other cities such as Portland have growth boundaries, and we have an incredible amount of space to be built. It's great for developers, but if we don't control how it gets built, it's going to be stretching ourselves to what we consider to be unsustainably spread out."

Volunteers, including architects, broke into small groups to process the community input; eventually, firms were asked to submit boards that coalesced their creative ideas into plausible plans that were presented at a summit. "Dreams have to have a visual component, or they don't become real," Tremmel says. "As architects, we always establish a visual language with a client. If you envision a



future and say the words 'smart growth' or 'high-density,' suddenly people may have things on their minds that can be very negative, and we're trying to be very positive."

Plans on Paper

Before Dream City, many local firms had begun on their own to think about what was happening in the city — lack of public transportation, stressed infrastructure, closed schools. The latter had made the rounds at the offices of RTA Architects. "There have been a bunch of schools decommissioned in our neighborhood. We believed that could have a negative impact on the neighborhood, but the sites have great potential and we had talked about what to do with them," says Allison D. Johnson, Assoc. AIA, with the firm.

Dream City was a natural fit for RTA's brainstorming; they picked one school site, Ivywild, and created a proposal that rehabbed the blighted area, transforming it with gardens, a café and affordable housing. "We believed there was potential for the site, so we decided to dream big and be practical, too," Johnson says. "It was well-received at Dream City because it was so personal — people had gone to the school, were upset about it closing and wanted to figure out what to do with it."

RTA's boards, created with volunteer effort for a visionary citywide project with no money, even garnered a meeting with the school district's architect. "What we do in architecture school is dream, push the boundaries, and so often with practice, you get bogged down with bud-

gets and realities," Johnson says. "It was refreshing; that's what we're designed as architects to do. Going into Dream City, we had no idea what it was going to be and it was so collaborative. For a grassroots effort, for people to show up, spend all day and be concerned about the future of the city was very encouraging."

Brown used his boards to hone in on the neglect of downtown, suggesting mixed use, an extension to the library and a shared research facility for the city's three universities. "For a healthy city, Colorado Springs needs to refocus efforts downtown so we can have less of an impact on the environment and update our existing infrastructure, to do all the things that are going to create a 21st-century city — light rail and greenways and parks and pedestrian access," Brown says.



Ivywild
Elementary
Proposal

Inspiration and Reality

William Fisher, AIA, owner of Fisher Architects and 2010 president of AIA Colorado South, tracked the Dream City project from its inception. His firm also submitted boards for consideration. While the discussions certainly all had an aspect concerning the built environment, Fisher came to the realization that people were talking about much more than the physical form of the area. "There were a whole bunch of visions that didn't have anything to do with the built environment directly," Fisher says. "At a grassroots level, it was



The Lowell Neighborhood,
Aerial perspective looking southeast

about how to deal with the concepts of what a city is.”

Still, it was a process ideally suited to the training and talents of the architectural community. “As architects, a lot of times, this is exactly what we do — take a bunch of information that may or may not be directly related to a building and figure out the complex process going on,” Fisher says. “The buzzword is problem-seeking, and that’s what Dream City is — trying to organize problems into a solution. It’s a juggling exercise, and we need to juggle them into the right spot, and do so creatively and aesthetically.”

As with any dream, the transition to reality is fraught with all sorts of real-world concerns, but the Dream City participants are hopeful that there will be public and private partnerships to implement some of those visions. To start, a smart growth charrette

focusing on the metro area will be held in May. Not only city leaders but other groups, including developers, have begun to realize the recent pattern of growth

“For a healthy city, Colorado Springs needs to refocus efforts downtown so we can have less of an impact on the environment and update our existing infrastructure, to do all the things that are going to create a 21st-century city — light rail and greenways and parks and pedestrian access.” — Joseph Brown, AIA

is not sustainable. “Ring road decline is endemic but represents economic opportunity. Existing declining strips must be renovated into new ‘nodes,’ connectable to downtown and to their neighborhoods,”

Fisher says. “Older strips are surrounded by residents — customers — who drive elsewhere. These places are there, they’re not going away, they shouldn’t be that hard to fix, and they represent intelligent opportunities for urban and economic growth.”

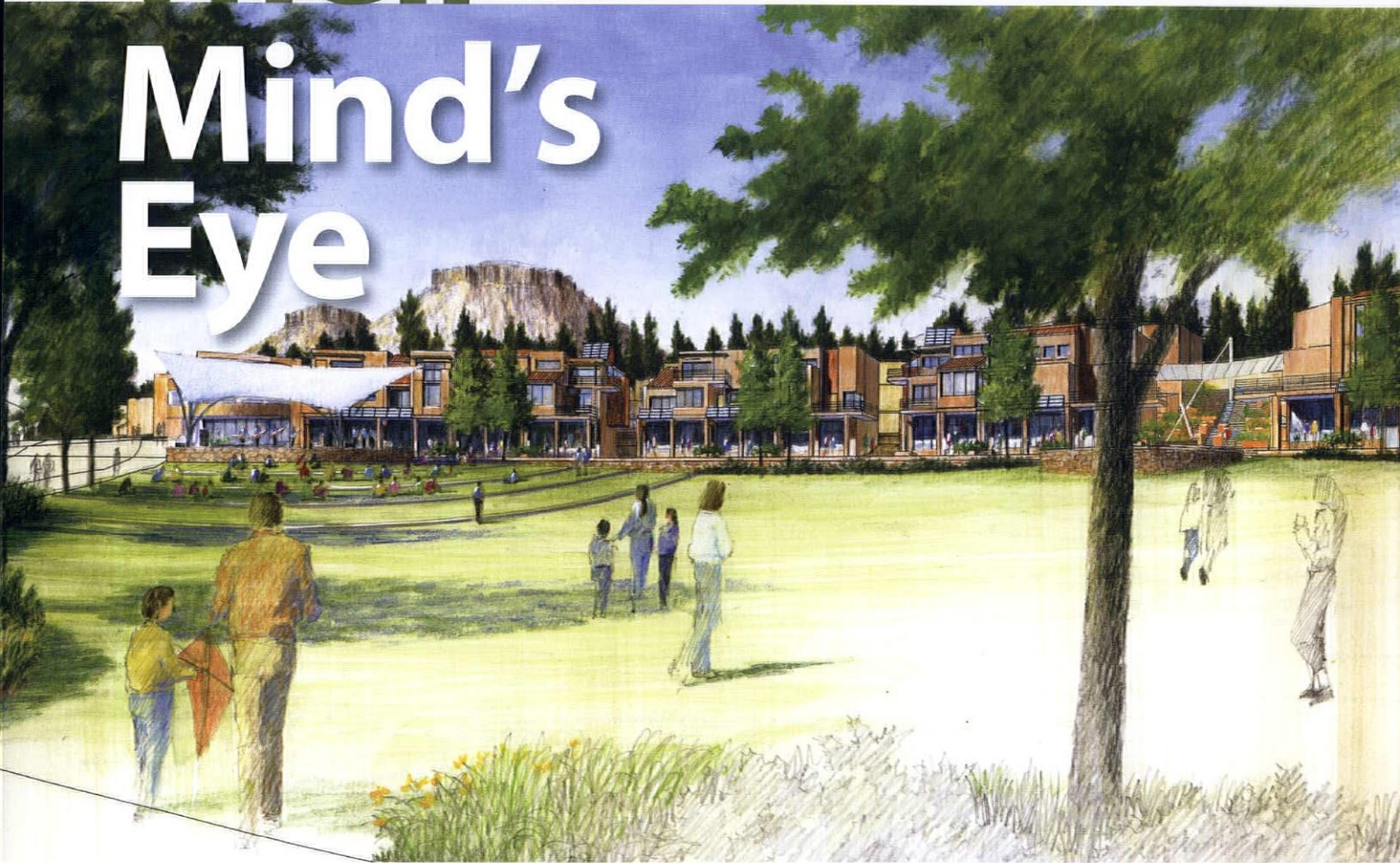
There seems to be an understanding now of what the city will look like, if the path it’s on doesn’t change and growth continues to happen as it is now. The design community, for one, is willing to help in making positive change. “There are alternatives to it, and the question is: ‘Can we create a bigger that’s also a better city?’” Tremmel says. “Dream City showed us that we had this group of volunteer architects,

planners and illustrators who came together at a moment’s notice with short deadlines and did beautiful work. It’s inspiring for us as a design community to see that kind of commitment to community.” ●

Seeing with Their

Mind's Eye

Colorado Architects Look Forward
by *Chryss Cada*



Dan Pullen

This is a rendering of the Central Green and Live Work Arc at the Artisan Core. The Central Green is a 1.5-acre park with adjacent transit hub, café, retail shops, community fitness center and higher-density living – a central heart to the community, active day and night.

Two Colorado architects are working on plans that put the “vision” in “visionary.” One had the concept of an innovative EcoVillage come to him as he walked a pristine parcel of land; the other discovered a vision of the future in his own mind. The results, while both pushing the design envelope, are very different. One project is grounded in the context of its surroundings and pays homage to them by dedicating 80 percent of the land to open space. The other is a futuristic model that redefines open space, design and architecture in a context that is yet to exist.

Grounded

Everyone involved with the Twin Buttes EcoVillage remembers the first time he or she “met” the site, which is located about two miles outside of Durango, Colo.

“When I first walked the site, it was one of those moments; it was late May, everything was green, and I was struck by what a phenomenal piece of land it is,” said Amy Kirtland, project manager of the Twin Buttes project for Boulder’s Barrett Studio Architects. “Since the site is so inspiring the way it is, we had to be sure that when we touched it, we did amazing things with it.”

David Barrett, AIA, principal at Barrett Studio Architects, was so influenced by the land that he went home and wrote up an “EcoVision” describing the “Living Community” of Twin Buttes 10 years after its inception. “One cannot take lightly this vision of sustainable development that has been the model of subsequent mountain settlement,” he wrote in the introduction. “At a time when the prevailing mentality was one still rooted in an oil-based economy and a ‘bigger is better’ mindset, the developers of this beautiful village laid the groundwork for what has become known as ‘Living Community Development.’”

“I’ve had a 30-year love affair with sustainable design, with nature as my model,” Barrett said. “When I walked the land with Eric [Flora, the land’s developer], I knew this was my opportunity — that my ideas’ time had come.”

Among those ideas are utilizing space through “elegant density” and a focus on connectivity, community gardening and open space. The “New Ruralism” at Twin Buttes features clustered density of the village’s 595 homes, 185,000 square feet of commercial and community space, five acres of community and commercial gardens and 80 percent of the 600-acre site dedicated as open space.

“I’ve always worked on a continuum of sustainability — this project is pushing that continuum to a new level,”



Barrett said. “As the old ways are dying away, we have the chance to try out our visions for what the next wave will look like.”

Barrett is a proud pioneer in the arena of green development. “Twin Buttes is a prototype for a new residential concept,” Barrett said. “By taking the step to create this type of community, we affect other development. By being models, we give credibility to these new ideas.”

He is also the first to admit that his vision goes to extremes. “I’ll admit that within the EcoVision, there were things that went over the top a little bit — like saying that the automobile would be eliminated,” Barrett said. “But you have to dream big and take meaningful steps to lead to something that is going to really work for our children and grandchildren.”

The land’s developer, Flora, was sold as soon as he read the first page of Barrett’s EcoVision. “I thought it was another financial proposal, and here he had sent me a story,” Flora said. “I had never seen this approach, this level of

This working half-acre organic test garden has proven the viability of the proposed 4.75 acres of Twin Buttes farms and 1.5 acres of dispersed community gardens.



meditative focus. It touched me to have him so eloquently retelling me the same story I had told him."

The developer was on board, but would city officials go along with such a cutting-edge proposal? The short answer is yes.

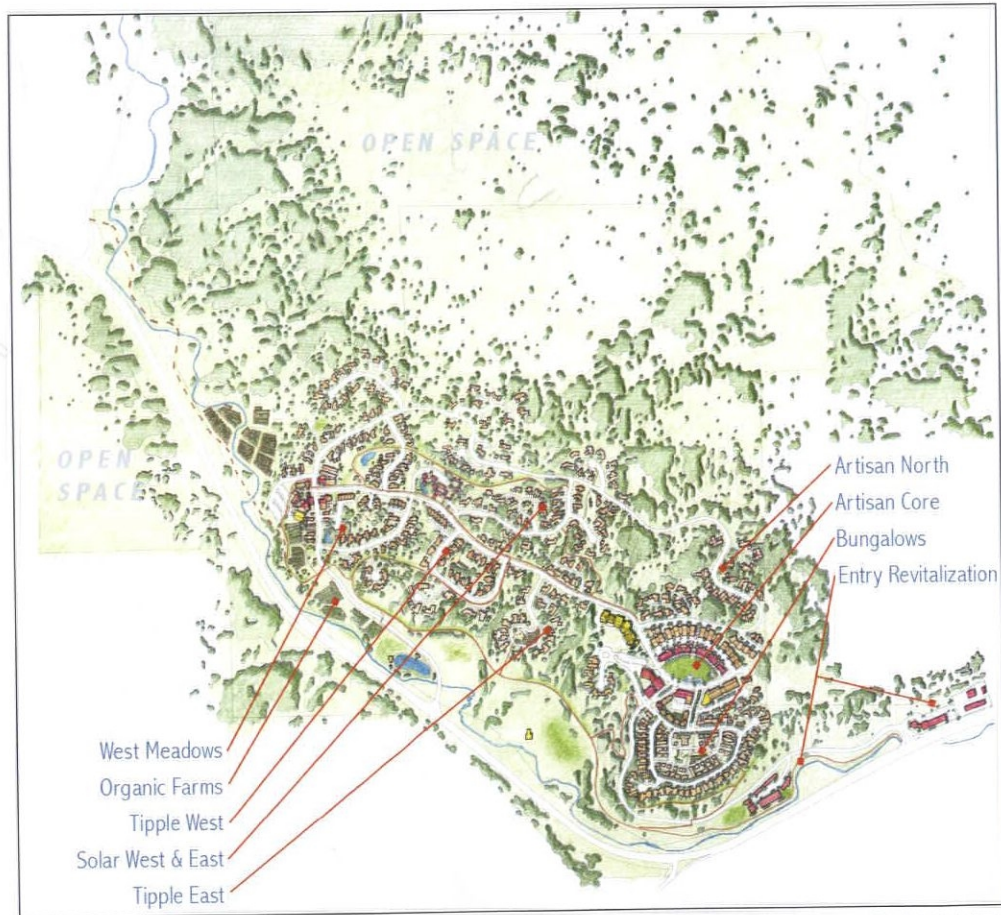
"For an architect to be the driving force behind the design of a subdivision, and I hesitate to call it that because it's so much more, is highly unusual," said Greg Hoch, planning director for the city of Durango. "What impresses me about Dave Barrett is that he has explored and articulated a vision of how to create an entire sub-community within the context of a municipality and in the process set so many high and progressive standards to be attained."

The project's mandates include a solar-powered fence, a rigorous green checklist and energy use at 50 percent below International Energy Conservation Code requirements.

The city council and the community members who turned out for public discussion of the project got behind the vision. The master plan currently holds unanimous approvals from the city of Durango, and construction is set to begin this summer. In addition, the city is considering adoption of several of the project's measures into their building requirements.

"This project, if built as proposed, will raise the bar for new development not only in Durango, but across the country," Hoch said. "Developers can follow this model

The Twin Buttes EcoVillage will feature clustered density.



Barrett Studio Architects





Omar Rodriguez Lavandero, 3D

to take the concept of green and sustainable to a whole new level."

Kirtland said the project has also changed the role of the architect. "This process has been more planning than architecture, and I'm an architect," she said. "We've talked about architecture throughout the process, but we're also talking about detached sidewalks, mixing densities and even gardening techniques. It's been an amazing experience translating my architectural background to such a large scale."

A Bold Look Forward

Far from the meadows of southern Colorado, Omar Rodriguez Lavandero had his vision of the future of architecture while in one of the most highly-developed cities in the world: Shanghai, China.

"I accumulated many ideas in the back of my mind with one common point, a project that is as much a template for a new way of building as it is a single design," said Lavandero, who was at the Archiprix International Design Workshops representing the United States. "I also wanted to talk about designing and supporting sustainability in a different way."

The design is for a market in hypothetical T-City, near the border of K-City. Both cities lack coherent urban development strategies and have placed short-term revenue over the long-term health of their urban fabric.

"The plan development for market for T-City begins by turning one of the most basic assumptions about design and architecture on its head," Lavandero said. "Typically, buildings begin with nothing. A frame is constructed, then clad in an exterior material. Thus an enclosure is created, generating interior space." The market takes

shape by carving out sections of a "mesh sponge" to create interior spaces. Lavandero calls this process "construction by subtraction."

"Any materials removed in this way of thinking (for example, wood, steel or glass) could then be recycled into interior retail stalls, doors and other structures," he said. "This way of building places very few limits on form."

Lavandero's vision includes a new definition of open space. "I decided to create my own landscape that would enable commercial activity," he said. "The result is a topographically rich expression that's difficult to achieve for buildings conceived the traditional way. By tunneling out spaces like this, a sense of organic landscape emerges, at times cavernous, sloping and canyon-like."

Lavandero embraces the opportunity to work in a world that doesn't exist yet. "It is not difficult to work on designs to make people think about some current problems," he said. "That is a job architecture also has. Market for T-City belongs to the theoretical realm of architecture. It is always nice to put ideas out there to push technology and other designers to create something valuable, spiritual or material." ●



PHIL COPE



Omar Rodriguez Lavadero, 3D

Interior spaces of the market for T-City were designed with social values in mind.



Omar Rodriguez Lavadero, 3D

At night, the light-emitting diode cloth on the market for T-City glows with the energy accumulated during the day.

Exemplifying the spectacular nature of the site, the barn at the lower meadow will be restored. The meadow will be preserved as open space, as will be the entire upper portion of the site including the Twin Buttes themselves.

After



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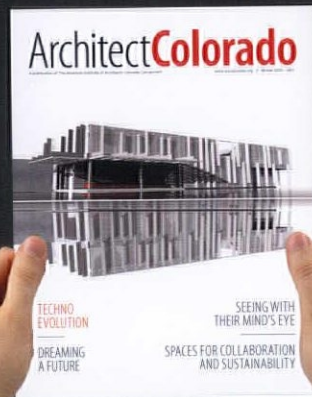
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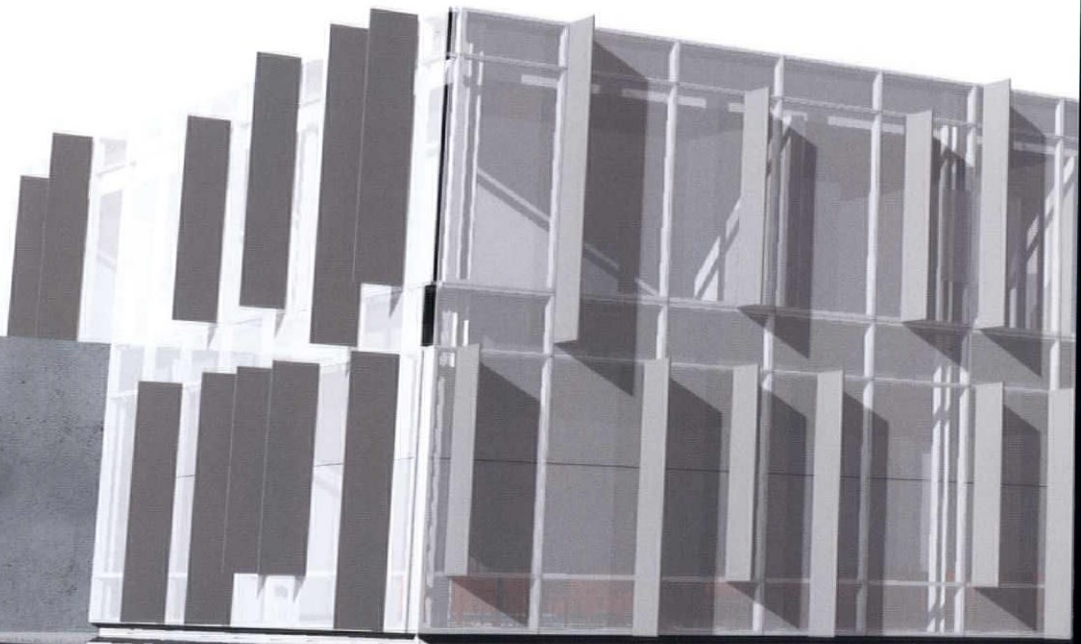
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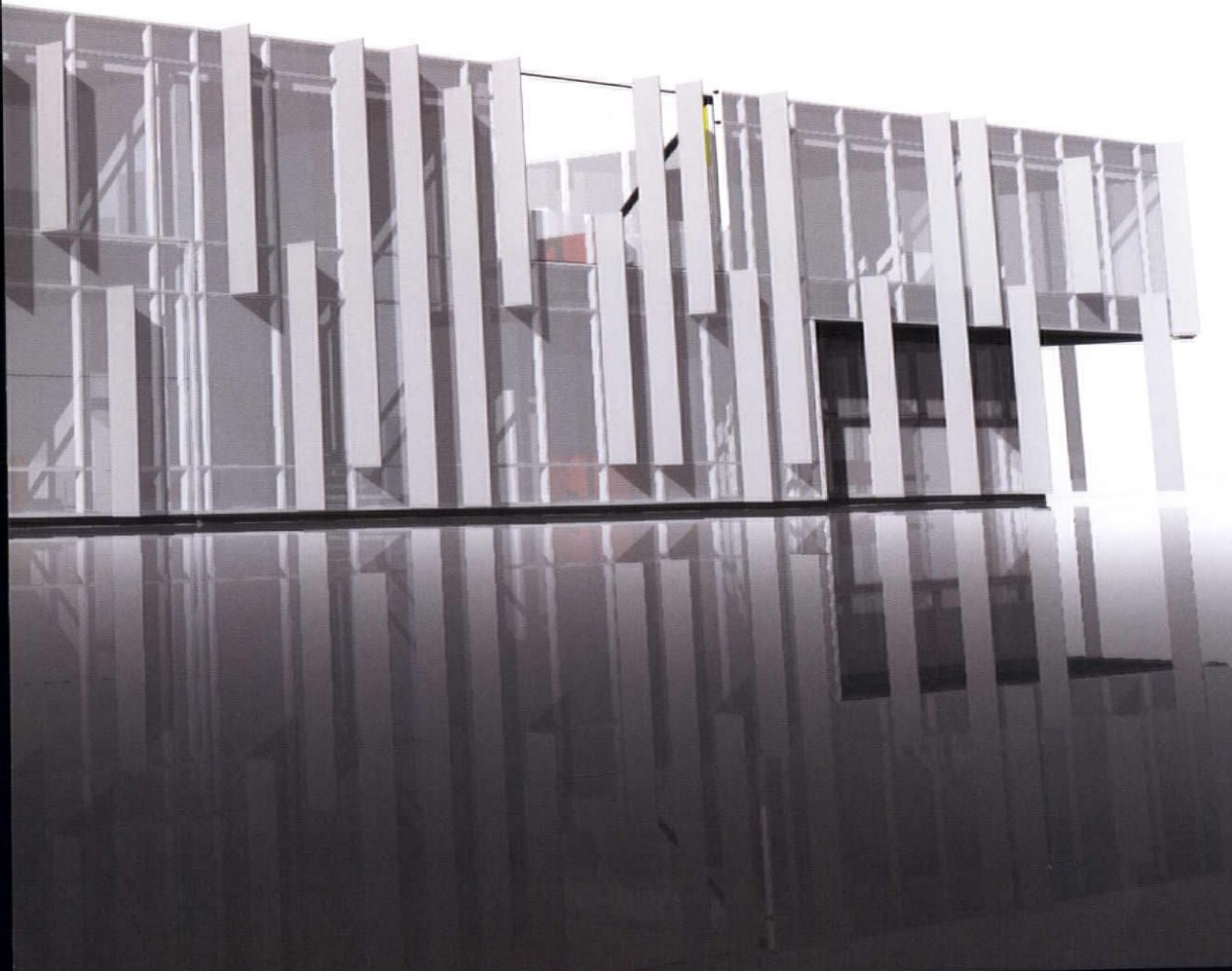
The Holtz residence, designed by Studio B Architects, was conceived as an evocative glass envelope that contrasts with its rural setting.

Studio B Architects



Advances in Building Science and Technology Allow Architects to Transform Vision into Reality *by Sarah Goldblatt, AIA*

The modern aesthetic of the unadorned box that cleanly expresses structure as ornament or diminishes it altogether to become a transparent envelope is again the prevailing language of the design vanguard. While many contemporary architects are paying homage to the progenitors of Modernism in America by designing with glass, steel and concrete in functional and logical ways, that is where the similarities end.



The difference? Technology.

The environment that Le Corbusier envisioned when he referred to buildings as “machines for living” can now be realized with livable results. Building science and technology is moving in stride with architectural innovation, although admittedly not at the same pace in the United States as elsewhere in the world. Eco-efficient design, also at the fore of architectural exploration, has deep roots in Europe and is now finding traction in the United States.

Two Colorado architects, one practicing in the high alpine regions of the state and the other in the plains and foothills, have each pursued a combination of architectural innovation and experimentation that has caused them to look beyond traditional building materials and to push the limits of technological possibilities.

The Art of Living

In a place where most people associate home design with the heavy timber mountain vernacular or gingerbread Victorian, the thread of Modernism runs surprisingly deep. Bauhaus Modernist Herbert Bayer left an indelible mark on Aspen, Colo., that continues to influence contemporary design in the region today.

Aspen residents Toni and Daniel Holtz had a permit in hand for the construction of their new home on a majestic home site in Old Snowmass when they contacted Scott Lindenau, AIA, design principal of Studio B Architects, for help. The problem? The original design, conceived by another architect, did not meet their ideal vision of home, and they were not prepared to compromise. As avid collectors of contemporary art, they longed for the translation of their aesthetic preferences into the architecture of their home. The catch? The footprint was immutable — locked in by previous approval processes. Only the building skin and interior layout were open for discussion.

As a point of departure, the Holtzes referenced Herzog and de Meuron’s design for the Dominus Winery in Napa Valley, where innovative materials were used to integrate the crisp rectangular

building into the natural landscape. Lindenau quickly found that he and his clients were in sync. His philosophy that “architects should not reinvent the past but interpret the future utilizing not only technologies at hand but researching new ideas” launched a design exploration that resulted in a vastly different solution for the Holtz residence.

provoking.” “Like art,” he continues, “I want the piece that constantly reminds you of what an elusive element art is, rather than having someone simply walk by and not notice that it is there.”

Studio B’s design for the enclosure and minimalist floor plan exceeded the clients’ wishes for a home that expressed their aesthetic sensibilities. However, the glass façade

“...architects should not reinvent the past but interpret the future utilizing not only technologies at hand but researching new ideas...” — Scott Lindenau, AIA

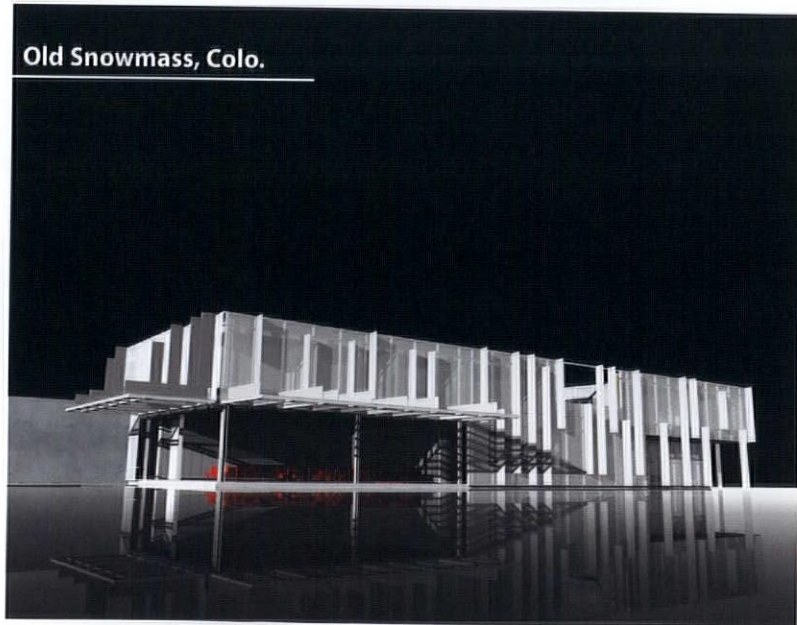
Instead of a structure that assumes the nature of its context, Lindenau designed a glass-skinned envelope that reflects and absorbs the surrounding alpine landscape like an artist’s canvas. The structure is slipped behind the butt-glazed curtain wall system to allow for unobstructed views of Mount Sopris and the Elk Mountain Range. Comparing the design to the evocative nature of the conceptual art that he and his wife enjoy, Daniel Holtz describes it as “thought-

had to be fine-tuned to protect the art and prevent thermal extremes. Fortunately, current glazing technology allows nearly every climatic condition to be addressed without compromising transparency. Lindenau consulted glass specialist James Carpenter — who has worked with Shigeru Ban and Frank Gehry — to distill the glazing concept. He also applied a lengthy solar analysis to study the sun’s movement across the site throughout the year to model how shadows were cast on the interior.

Old Snowmass, Colo.

Glass doors on a hydraulic system were specified to provide a seamless connection between the family’s interior and exterior living spaces. When open, the doors double as a shade canopy.

Studio B Architects



A combination of films, coatings and tinting was being considered, along with vertical glass fins to mitigate internal heat gain. The narrow fins, attached to solar-activated pivots, provide modulation and texture to the smooth exterior while transmitting long shadows to shade the interior.

To further push the literal technological boundary, the owners requested that a large portion of the glass skin open up to blur the boundaries between inside and outdoor living spaces. Aircraft-hangar doors on a hydraulic system were specified to achieve the effect. "Coordination and collaboration among consultants is paramount to achieving a high-performing building enclosure like this," project architect Noah Czech observes.

Though the house may seem to employ extreme measures to achieve comfort and delight, Czech comments, "We didn't reinvent anything; we just used materials and

The Alpine West house, designed by Studio H:T, was an ideal candidate to test the capabilities of the WeberHaus prefabrication system with its linear, volumetric form and optimal solar orientation.

Studio H:T



Boulder, Colo.

applications that you find everywhere — except in residential design."

The Green Standard

John Goodson is a software consultant who seeks quality. The same quality he exacts from his software products now

guides his other interests, particularly a development venture focused on the construction of hyper-energy-efficient homes. When building his own Boulder residence, he was introduced to a German WeberHaus prefabricated system that is precision-crafted and touts only 18 percent of the average energy use of a conventionally built home.

A hyper-energy-efficient home exceeds standard energy-efficiency levels through the intelligent application of prefabricated construction technology. These methods effectively reduce a home's carbon footprint to a trace without compromising quality. Not surprisingly, this system is a product of Germany's long-standing commitment to sustainable design strategies. While the concept of prefabrication may sound familiar, the product is anything but ordinary.

The reason? "Germany just didn't have the natural resources to be as wasteful as the United States," describes Goodson on the disparity of home building practices between the two countries. "For years," he continues, "the Germans have fine-tuned the process of building houses with minimal waste, making them perform as efficiently as possible." Goodson adds that "homes in Germany are built for a hundred-year lifespan and passed between generations."

With construction waste of a hyper-energy-efficient home at less than 2 percent as compared to a stick-built home that produces nearly 17 percent waste, Goodson's team felt that green-centric

Holtz Residence



Architect: Studio B Architects
 Scott Lindenau, AIA, design principal
 Noah Czech, AIA, project architect
Location: Old Snowmass, Colo.
Scope: 13,000-square-foot house on 25 acres
Purpose: Single-family residence

Owner: Danny and Toni Holtz
Contractor: Brikor, Aspen, Colo.
Electrical Engineer: Robert Singer + Associates, Aspen, Colo.
Structural Engineer: KL+A, Inc.
Interior Design: Studio B Interiors
Lighting Design: Studio B Architects
Landscape Design: BlueGreen LLC, Aspen, Colo.

Other Notable Projects by Studio B Architects

Christ Episcopal Church, Aspen, Colo.
 Aspen Middle School in collaboration with Hutton Architecture Studio, Aspen, Colo.
 Jussila Residence + Kukkula Winery, Paso Robles, Calif.
 Baobab House, Livingstone, Zambia
 Scholl Residence, Aspen, Colo.
 Aspen Fire Protection Districts headquarters station, Aspen, Colo.

Boulder, Colo., would be the perfect test market for the German WeberHaus prefabrication system.

Boulder-based Studio H:T principals Brad Tomecek, AIA, and Christopher Herr, AIA, had designed the contemporary

“There is no longer a barrier between architectural ambition and environmental conscience.” — Christopher Hawthorne, *Los Angeles Times*

Alpine West house in north Boulder for a developer. The home cascades down and across its steep, pie-shaped site to capture panoramic views of the Flatirons and the surrounding landscape. A series of crisp, modern “boxes” clad in stucco and glass were conceived to slip past one another as the house becomes increasingly more transparent as it telescopes toward its southern exposure.

The recent economic downturn temporarily stalled the project until Studio H:T began collaborating with Goodson’s development team. With their shared interest in sustainable design and modular construction, the group selected the Alpine West plan and site to adapt to the German WeberHaus system.

Tomecek explains that “the WeberHaus method offers a fully cus-

Alpine West House

Architect: Studio H:T

Location: Boulder, Colo.

Scope: Project design/factory coordination

Purpose: Hyper-energy-efficient single-family home

Completion Date: May 2010

Owner: J. Goodson

Contractor: Vireo, Boulder, Colo.

Mechanical/Civil/Electrical Engineer: Boulder Engineering, Boulder, Colo.

Structural Engineer: WeberHaus, Germany

Interior Design: Studio H:T

Factory: Weberhaus

Other Notable Projects by Studio H:T

Box House, Boulder, Colo.

32nd Street Modular, Denver

Shipping Container House, Nederland, Colo.

Shield House, Denver

tomizable panelized system that allowed us to adapt our design with very little impact.” Tomecek and Herr traveled to Germany to convert the plans to metric, make adjustments for load calculations and specific factory standards. In a little over three months after factory approval, the project arrived in 10 shipping containers, along with a German crew and crane to erect it.

Within nine days, the home was assembled and ready for local trades to connect

the infrastructure preset in the panels. The quality and precision of the German engineered system is apparent in the triple-glazed windows with a 0.21 U-value that come standard in the R-38 wall assemblies. Targeting LEED Platinum certification — although the home may exceed it — the house boasts a 9.25 kW solar photovoltaic array, a solar hot-water system that supports the radiant floor heating and domestic hot water needs and a gray-water treatment system. Interior material selections are non-toxic and certified sustainable from renewable resources. The house can even be recycled and moved to a new location. The result? A green tour de force. As *Los Angeles Times* architecture critic Christopher Hawthorne observes, “There is no longer a barrier between architectural ambition and environmental conscience.”

Indeed, current technology has facilitated the fusion of glass and sky, art and architecture, eco-efficiency and design innovation with no apparent performance limitations. ●



The home's interior spaces are oriented to capture ever-changing views of the Flatirons and surrounding landscape. All specified materials and finishes are non-toxic and from certified renewable resources.

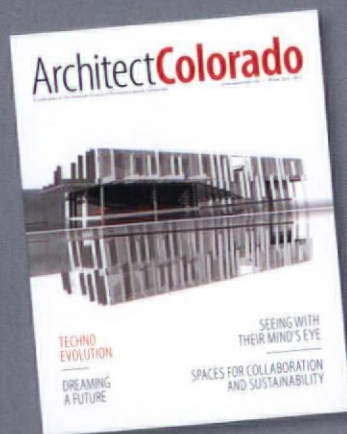
Studio H:T

Boulder, Colo.



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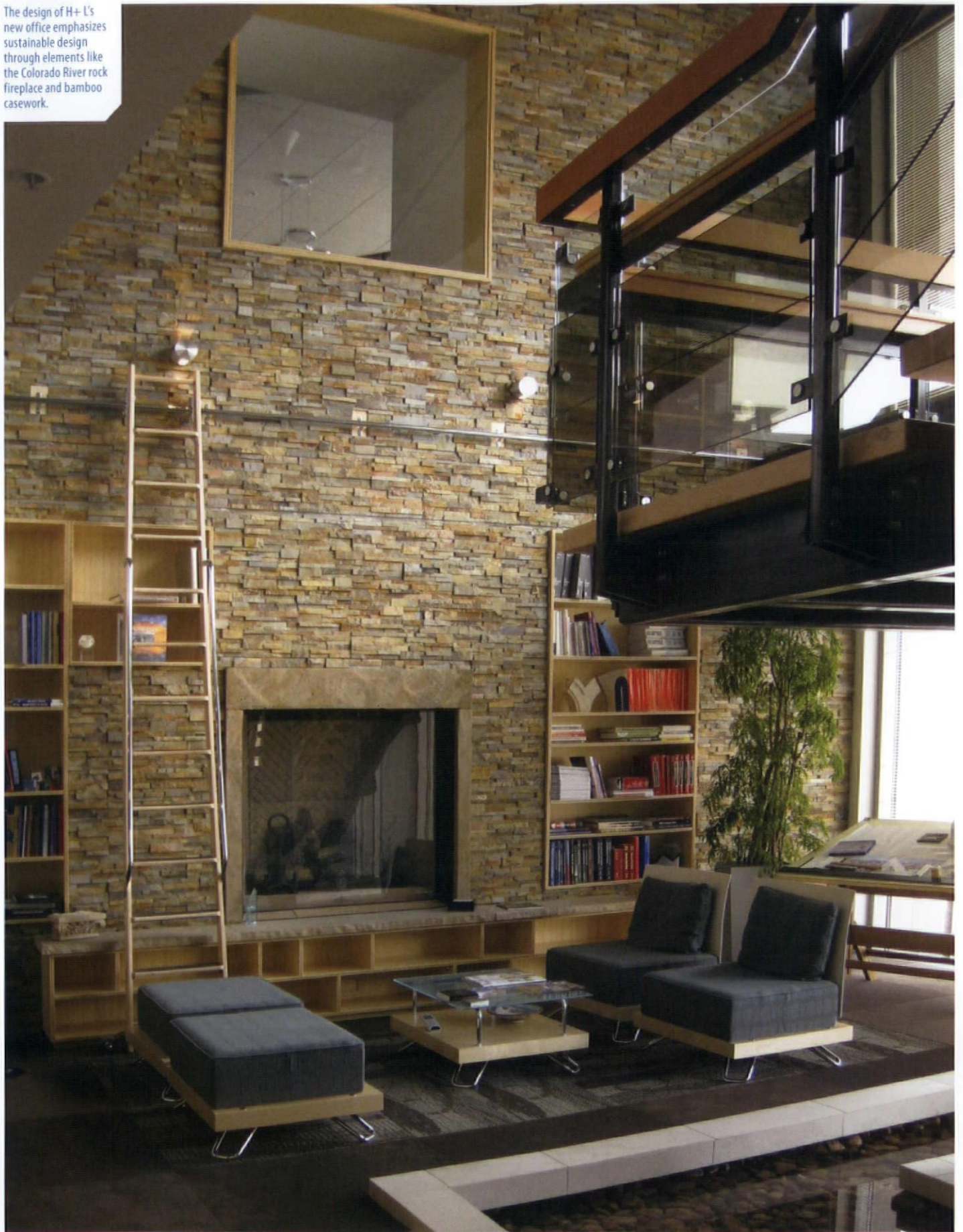


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The design of H+ L's new office emphasizes sustainable design through elements like the Colorado River rock fireplace and bamboo casework.



SPACES FOR COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Architects' New Offices Model Their Design Philosophies

by Mary Lou Jay

Architectural firms that promote ideas like sustainable design and open-office floor plans can offer many reasons why they are beneficial. But the architects' arguments become even more persuasive when they are able to demonstrate to clients how those concepts work successfully in their own offices.



Although this main conference room can accommodate more than a dozen people, most of the conference rooms in H + L's new offices are designed for two to six people.

H + L Architecture saw its move to new office space on the fourth and fifth floors of 1755 Blake Street in LoDo (Denver's lower downtown historic district) as an opportunity to implement a practice style more consistent with its design philosophy. "In our previous office, being very traditional, most of what we did happened off-stage. When we moved in over here, we wanted ourselves and our processes to be more on-stage," explained Phil Scott, Assoc. AIA. "Too many times, architects limit the coolness of their space to the lobby, and the rest of the space becomes back-of-house."

"We are 100 percent open-office except for an HR office, so there's a lot of learning by osmosis that goes on." — Phil Scott, Assoc. AIA

We don't want our clients to come in and tell us what they want while we will sit and nod our heads and then go back behind the scenes and perform this architectural magic. We're not operating in a vacuum."

By incorporating multiple collaborative spaces into its new 40,000-square-foot office, the firm encourages clients to see themselves as part of the design team.

"The genesis of the whole office was built around getting our clients involved with our design process, getting them into our offices and working in collaboration with us. The concept of a client/architect/design team really drove many of the ideas for the layout and spaces of our office," said Principal Chad Novak, AIA.

The configuration of employee workstations, for example, encourages greater interactions between clients and H + L employees and among the employees themselves.

"We are 100 percent open-office except for an HR [human resources] office, so there's a lot of learning by osmosis that goes on," Scott said. "Open-office is more interesting than the way our groups were siloed and removed from each other in our other location; this is a much more integrated way of practice." The office furniture is the 120-degree, panel-build Resolve System from Herman Miller. With air distribution and electrical conduits located in a recessed, accessible floor system, workstations are easy to move and reconfigure as design teams change.

H + L included multiple small conference rooms to accommodate the need for informal meetings or conference calls. "We figured out that the sweet spot is basically a space that can accommodate two to six people. Although we do have a couple of larger areas, most of the conference space is geared toward smaller groups," Novak said. Larger meetings can be held in the dream theater, the delight bar or the kaleidoscope room.

Clients can review materials and mockups in the design center. "We also have the capability of videoconferencing in that area, so that while we're working with clients and looking at a new technology or material, we can actually get a general contractor or a consultant on a video with us. We can show the clients where this product was installed and how it performs. It really takes it outside of our offices and provides our clients with real-time feedback," said Ariel Madlambayan, AIA.

All of the conference rooms, as well as the kaleidoscope room and the dream theatre, are smart rooms that include high-tech equipment and other features, such as writeable wall coverings, that make collaboration easy. "Most of the time, things are left up there or are in progress, which provides more of the learning by osmosis that we wanted. People ask, 'What's that detail; what is this you're working on?'" Scott said.

H + L's use of open office has changed some clients' plans, according to Madlambayan. "When we start the design process, it really does skew their thinking a bit. For

H + L Architecture Offices, Denver

Architect: H + L Architecture

Location: 1755 Blake Street, Denver

Construction Cost: \$15 per square foot

Scope: 40,000-square-foot, two-story office interior

Purpose: Architectural offices

Completion Date: January 2009

Owner: H + L Architecture

Contractor: Haselden Construction

Mechanical and Electrical Engineer: ME Group Inc.

Structural Engineer: Jirsa Hedrick & Associates

Other Notable Projects by H + L Architecture

The Children's Hospital, Aurora, Colo.

Exempla Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Palmer Ridge High School, Monument, Colo.

DU Sturm College of Law, Denver

NCAR Wyoming Supercomputing Center, Cheyenne, Wyo.

example, we had a client who was very much into private offices — about 90 percent of their staff works in them. We managed, on the project we're working on with them, to flip that around. They've started looking at the open-plan concept, and they probably now have about 15 percent private office and the rest open-office."

Clients also appreciate that an open-office configuration can serve as an employee recruitment and retention tool. "Besides the creativity and the immersion in the workforce, they understand that the newer generations of the workforce are a collaborative, interactive group that do not like solitary confinement," Scott added.

A Laboratory for Sustainability

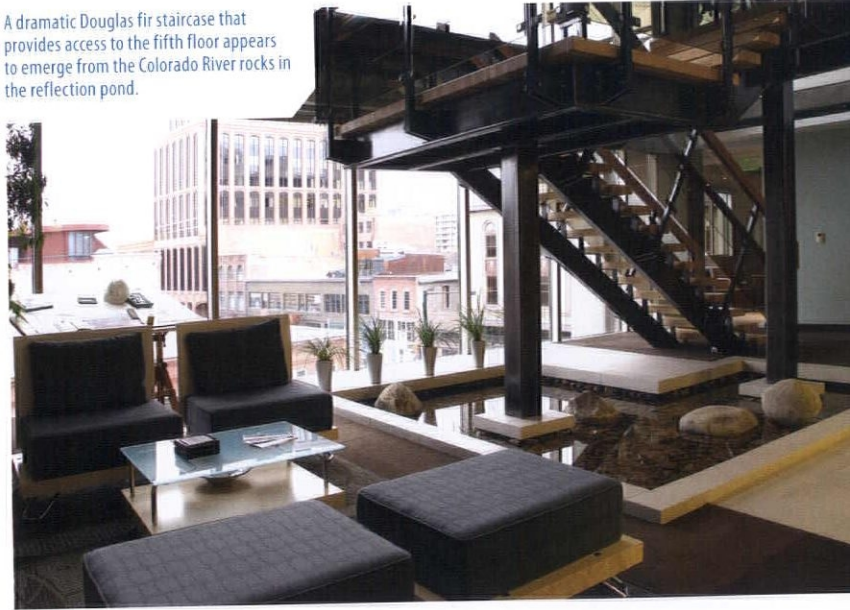
H + L's commitment to sustainable design is evident throughout its new offices, which includes elements such as Colorado River rock, natural daylighting and recycled acoustic ceilings. "We use cork flooring as a wall covering, and all of our case work in the gallery is bamboo. Those are not applications that are widely used," Madlambayan said. As part of the education process for both designers and clients, vendors change out the flooring type in one conference room on a monthly basis. "Because we use sustainable materials in our own office, we can actually quote costs to our clients. They have a better feel for the true value of the products."

H + L's own experience with sustainable design has provided valuable insights as well. "We started with a very low lighting level for ambient light and kept the bulk at task level at the work-stations. But we found that it was just a little bit too skinny in those areas, so we have beefed up the lighting," Novak continued.

At the same time, "clients understand that there's really no need to come in and broadcast a high level of floor candles over an entire floor plan when maybe only two-thirds of that floor plan is occupied over time. You can have highly efficient, energy-sensitive lighting controls and lighting fixtures ... People may either like or not like the low light levels, but they understand that's a consideration that should be addressed or thought about," Scott added.

The everything-on-stage approach that H + L has taken with its office space has enabled clients to make more informed decisions about their own buildings. "They are a lot more engaged in the process, and their involvement helps the whole design. They see it's not just a few people working on their project; it's an entire team. The fact that it's all out in the open gives them a better appreciation for the process in the long run," Madlambayan said. "Ultimately, what we want them to do is to have an experience that is memorable to them — something more than the typical architectural process."

A dramatic Douglas fir staircase that provides access to the fifth floor appears to emerge from the Colorado River rocks in the reflection pond.



H + L employees can quickly and easily rearrange the furniture in the dream theater to accommodate various meeting requirements.



The delight bar in H + L Architecture's new office building is the site of client celebrations, informal charrettes and events hosted by various community groups.



Recycled Space

SLATERPAULL Architects' new offices in LoDo are still in the planning stages, although the firm hopes to begin construction early this summer and move sometime this autumn.

"Our office is going to be in an old Denver Fire Department building," said Lyn Eller, AIA, an associate with the firm. "We will be trying to express our new and modern function as an office while respecting the historic character of the building shell."

The firm is working toward LEED Platinum certification for the 13,000-square-foot space, using elements such as a super-energy-efficient, chilled-beam heating and cooling system and photovoltaics to boost energy performance. The office will incorporate many recycled and salvaged materials, some with a fire-department theme and recovered from the building itself. "For example, the original firefighter lockers are still in the building, and we're hoping to convert them into library shelves," Eller said. They also hope to evoke the feeling of the old fire station by using roll-up garage doors to separate spaces.

Eller believes that clients will appreciate the ability to see sustainable materials like the wheat-board walls in actual use. "You can bring in samples, but it's not often that you can show clients an installed example. We're also planning another area that we're calling the R&D (research and development) space, where we'll be able to build mockups, experiment with materials and have vendors come in and plug in light fixtures, for example."

SLATERPAULL will emphasize the collaborative nature of architects' design and production in the arrangements of

SLATERPAULL Architects Offices, Denver

Architect: SLATERPAULL Architects

Location: 1331 19th Street, Denver

Construction Cost: \$1.4 million

Scope: 13,000-square-foot, two-story office building

Purpose: Architectural offices

Completion Date: November 2010

Owner: Engine House 5 LLC

Contractor: Spectrum General Contractors Inc.

Mechanical Engineer: M.E. Group with Rogers and Sons Inc.

Civil/Structural Engineer: Anderson & Hastings

Electrical Engineer: M.E. Group

Other Notable Projects by SLATERPAULL Architects

Valor Christian High School, Highlands Ranch, Colo.

City and County of Denver Building Restoration, Denver

Western State College Student Center, Gunnison, Colo.

workstations. "We want them to either become group work areas themselves or to be sized and arranged in a fashion that allows for more group work to occur nearby," he continued. "We want to show visitors how it's possible to accommodate a new, contemporary work process in a downtown historic area."

By demonstrating its commitment to sustainable, open design in its own offices, SLATERPAULL Architects hopes to influence some clients to try similar concepts in their buildings. ●



SLATERPAULL Architects hopes to achieve LEED Platinum certification for its new headquarters building in LoDo. The firm is renovating an old Denver firehouse with sustainable design in mind.

“I’m an Architect”

Artistic Endeavor and Professional Responsibility

by Nathan Huyler, AIA, LEED AP, BD+C



Governmental licensing boards and AIA have conceded that it’s OK to use the terms “architect” and “architecture” in fields wholly unrelated to building and site design and construction. This despite objections that overuse leads to a loss of cultural cachet, and especially when the terms are used in reference to computing systems. This concession does not, however, mean a relaxing of the rules regarding

“architect” and “architecture” for those who are in the building industries. The rules — laws, actually — are strict and can mean steep fines for misuse of the terms.

The reason for this is that the licensure of an architect means that he or she is legally bound to safeguard the life, health, property and public welfare of the people of his or her state and to protect them against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of architecture.¹ These laws vary somewhat from state to state. Some states go so far as to exclude architects licensed in other states (but not theirs) to even attempt to solicit work. The point is to stress the importance of an architect’s services and their complex and specialized set of skills. There is also the further danger (although maybe harder to prove legally) of the erosion of our profession from those who received no education or training in the history and practice of architecture.

As part of the research for this article, I conducted an informal survey of colleagues within the profession. I found that most of those questioned feel that it’s right to require licensure by law in order to practice architecture. And to refer to oneself

as an architect is also a very real matter of public safety and professional accountability. Many people have little love for the term “architectural intern” in reference to those on track to being an architect, particularly those people currently having to refer to themselves as “architectural intern.” “Architect in training” has been suggested by more than a few people.² This would be in line with the engineering profession and its “engineer in training” moniker. Further complicating this is personal ambition. While most architecture graduates intend to become licensed, some don’t, and others — most — take more than a few years to accomplish this. It becomes awkward when referring to a non-student in an otherwise-respectable profession as an intern.

The limitation of the survey was that I didn’t ask (because I don’t know) anyone who has set up a design business without a licensed architect. Their viewpoint may reveal different results. I suspect those who would use the terms in that way do so for one of two reasons. The first is acknowledgement of the cultural significance and broad definition of the terms “architect” and “architecture” but ignorance of the laws governing use of the terms. This can and has been bemoaned as contemporary culture’s willingness to borrow a quick fix of prestige without acknowledging the larger role and implications of the title. Referring to computer systems as “architecture” and programmers as “architects” can be seen as an example of this. The second is a willing disregard of those laws as well as the education and training that goes into architecture.

Regardless of how you feel, the law is still the same. If you are in the design and construction industry, don’t call yourself an “architect” unless you are licensed to practice architecture in the state. And don’t call your firm “_____ Architects” or say that your firm practices “architecture,” unless you or someone in your firm is a licensed architect. Period. ●

¹ Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 12, Article 25, Part 3: Architects, Section 12-25-301. General Provisions. Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. Effective July 1, 2008.

² “What do you want to be called in 2010?” *AIA Archiblog*, National Associates Committee, the American Institute of Architects. http://blog.aia.org/nac/2009/05/what_do_you_want_to_be_called.html#comments. Retrieved 2010-04-14.

Cherry Creek STEM Center

Hutton Architecture Studio P.C.

Todd VandenBurg, AIA

Location: Aurora, Colo.

Owner: Cherry Creek School District

Scope: Architectural design

Cost: \$12.5 million

Project Start: January 2009

Project Completion: August 2011

This progressive middle and high school science academy will enable students and teachers to work in a collaborative environment that encourages creatively contextual learning and exploration in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The building includes four "strands" of technology, biology, chemistry and physics, each equipped with two state-of-the-art labs and wrapped around an open collaborative learning space. Other rooms in the building are designed for maximum flexibility.

Science and math themes are embedded in the architecture itself, with features such as a column at the main entrance inspired by DNA's molecular structure, fenestration patterns derived from the Fibonacci series, and lines of latitude and longitude displayed on hallway floors.

STEM will be the most energy-efficient school in the Cherry Creek School District, decreasing the operational costs by half of the amount of similar facilities that meet energy code requirements.



Crandall Building

Rowland + Broughton Architecture and Urban Design

John Rowland, AIA

Location: Aspen, Colo.

Owner: Austin Lawrence Partners

Scope: Full renovation with third-level addition

Project Start: Fall 2010

Project Completion: Spring 2011

The renovation of the Crandall Building received the city of Aspen's Historic Preservation Commission's approval on December 7, 2009. This approval marks Aspen's first voluntary, commercial, post-war, landmarked building.

The project will bring this iconic 1970s building, designed by Thomas W. Benton, up to 21st-century standards. The renovation will include new code-compliant stairways; the addition of an elevator; significant upgrades to mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; enclosure of the interior courtyard; and new seating areas and landscape improvements along the streetscapes.

The new third level will feature a 2,500-square-foot, three-bedroom residential unit with 2,000 square feet of roof deck for outdoor entertaining. This addition will change the use of the building from commercial only to mixed-use. The form of the third-level addition complements the context of the city block as well as the modern sculptural essence that Benton strived for in his original design.



Prototype Residence for Motor Sport Country Club

Studio HiT with Design on Demand
Brad Tomecek, AIA

Location: Limon, Colo.

Owner: Motor Sport Country Club

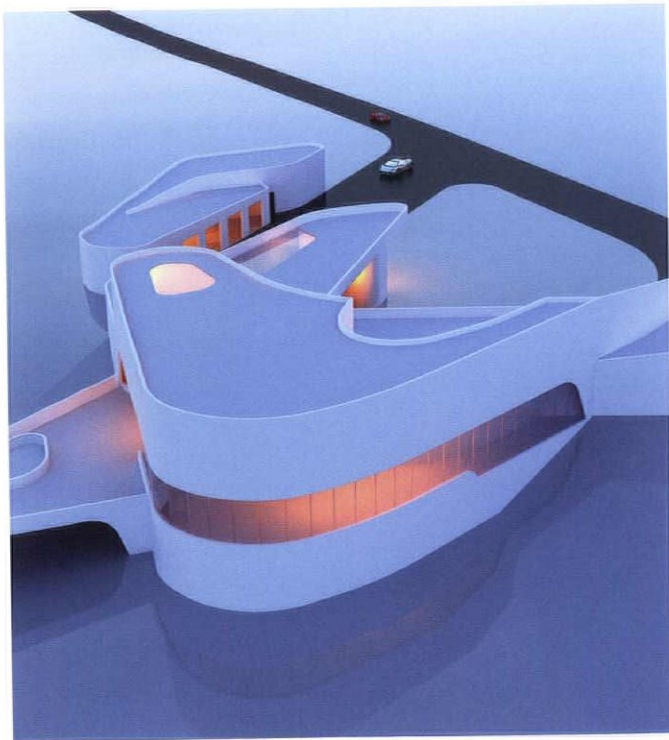
Scope: Concept for prototype residence

Project Start: 2012

This 8,000-square-foot concept residence will initially serve as the Motor Sports Country Club showroom and event center. The project exists at the intersection of auto enthusiasts, vehicles display and modern design. It is based on ideas of motion and landscape. The elegant curves of the project are derived from the technical aspects that create the beauty in racing.

The three-level structure will include the main public entertaining level, complete with an eight-car display garage, work space and spa-influenced locker rooms. The upper and lower levels contain the private entertaining and sleeping functions.

The racing resort, set amid 2,600 acres of breathtakingly scenic bluffs, canyons and rolling hills, will offer a grand, state-of-the-art clubhouse with generous amenities for the entire family. A limited collection of spacious home sites and luxury villas will provide owners an exclusive retreat to share the experience with friends, family and business associates.



Environmental Protection Agency Western Ecology Division Lab Modernization

RTA Architects

Stuart Coppedge, AIA, project manager

Scott Schuster, Assoc. AIA, project designer

Design Contract Manager: Plant Engineering Consultants; Dave Buesser, PE, project manager

Location: Corvallis, Ore.

Owner: Environmental Protection Agency

Scope: Full architectural and engineering services for lab renovation and 21,000-square-foot addition

Project Start: 2011

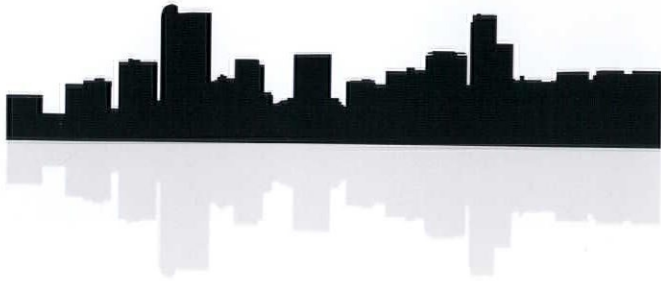
Project Completion: 2017

The phased renovation and expansion of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Western Ecology Division (WED) employs a number of environmentally sensitive design strategies while allowing the existing facility to remain operational during construction. The first of two additions will house support spaces for subsequent phases; the second will create a new main entry, a community meeting space, a research library, staff areas and a two-story atrium space. The renovation will provide new systems and flexible lab spaces.

The addition utilizes the precast grid of the existing International-style building as an organizational tool to express the program. The large expanses of glazing will be screened by a series of metal louvers and a vegetated wall wrapping the meeting space to filter the sunlight. The LEED® Gold design incorporates controlled daylighting and thermal mass, a ground-source geothermal system, an exhaust manifold for the lab fume hoods and a green roof. Existing sodded areas will be developed into wetlands and bioswales to retain and filter stormwater for the entire facility.



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Prepare for the New Energy Future™

In January 2011, AIA Denver will launch the AIA+2030 Professional Series, which is designed to help professionals create buildings that meet the ambitious energy efficiency goals of the Architecture 2030® Challenge.

The series consists of 10 four-hour sessions, which offer strategies to reach 60 percent to 100 percent reduction in fossil-fuel greenhouse-gas emissions, giving design professionals the knowledge and leverage to create next-generation, super-efficient buildings. This series will provide firms with skills that will set them apart in the marketplace.

More information about the series will be available soon! In the meantime, contact AIA Colorado Director of Local Chapters Robin Hickey at 303.446.2266 or robin@aiacolorado.org with questions.

The AIA+2030 Professional Series was developed by AIA Seattle, in partnership with Architecture 2030, Better Bricks and the city of Seattle. AIA Denver is presenting this local version of the series for the benefit of its membership.

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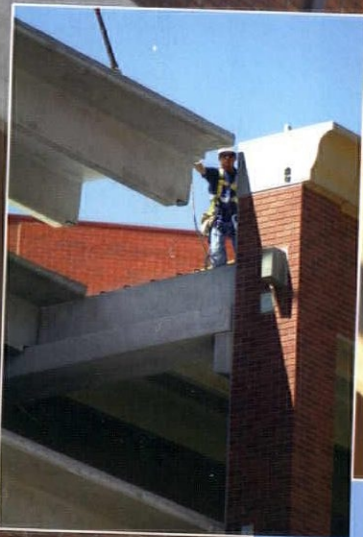
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