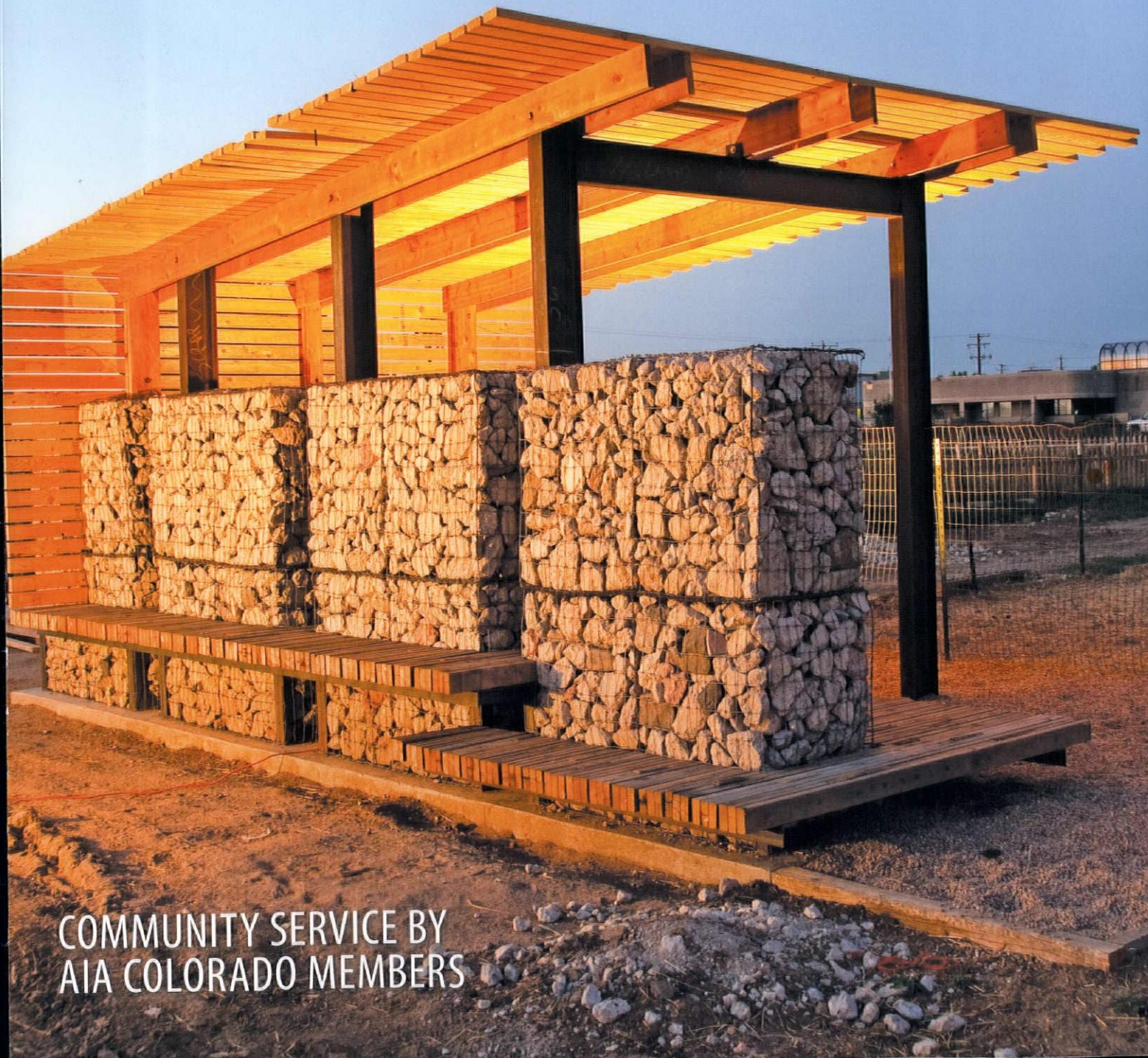


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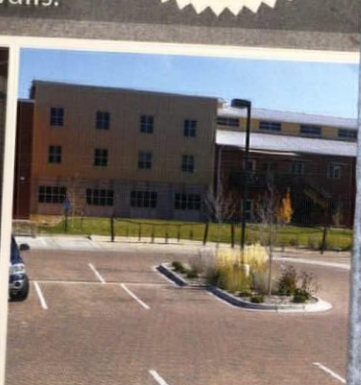


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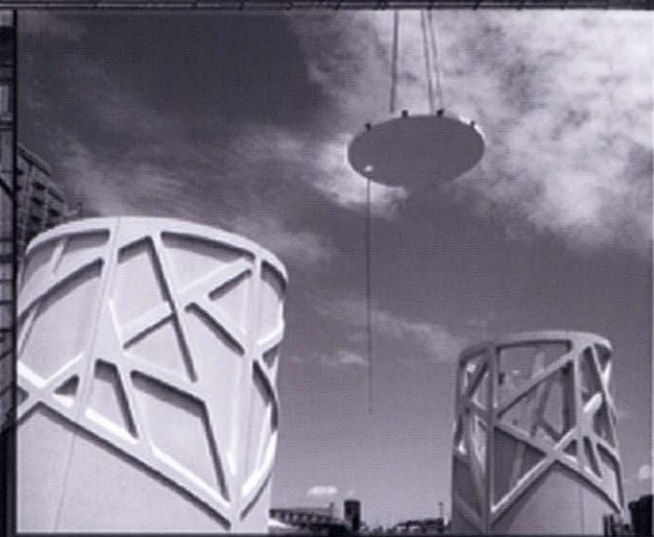
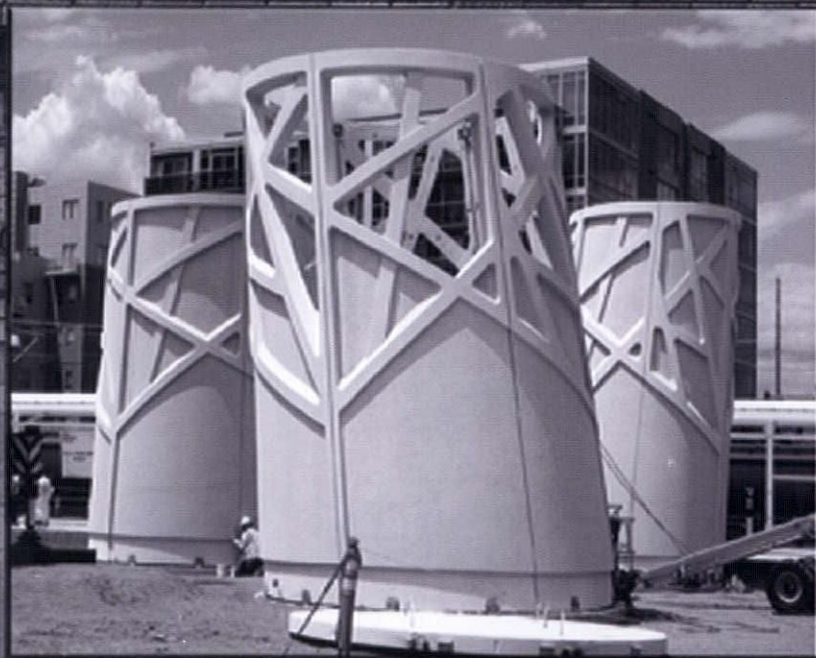
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On the Cover:
Students in the University
of Colorado Denver's
Design+Build Studio
collaborated to design and build
the Learning Cube and Dairy
House for Feed Denver and the
Urban Farm at Stapleton joint
site in Denver.

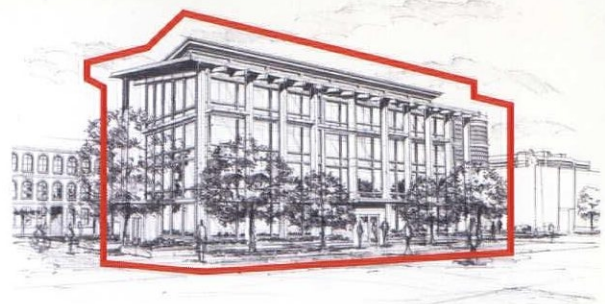
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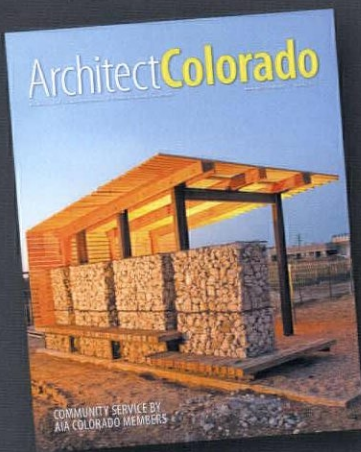


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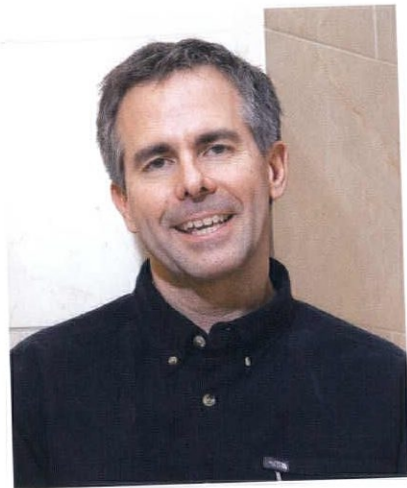
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Get Involved... Get Connected

by Chuck Shifflett, Assoc. AIA, AIA Colorado 2012 Associate Director



Volunteering — that noble step of participating in an undertaking without being paid, to freely give of your time — is the focus of this issue of *Architect Colorado*. Highlighting *pro bono* work that AIA Colorado members have performed is a topic and endeavor that deserves serious consideration by all involved in the field of architecture, from student to fellow.

As associate members of AIA, we bring the perspective of the recent graduate and the intern into the mix of discussions and activities. These are critical views to include in the discourse as they represent the future of the profession. With this in mind, the importance of involving yourself in some of the many activities associated with your career cannot be overstated. Whether joining an AIA committee, attending an AIA event or supporting some of the

other organizations involved in the building industry, your participation brings a fresh view and new energy. This strengthens and enriches the entire organization and the profession, both for now and the future.

Supporting volunteer efforts outside of the building industry brings similar benefits.

When an associate member gets involved with a neighborhood organization, a local school or a race event, for example, members of the community view your input as that of the

architectural profession. They respect and value that perspective, building and supporting the entire industry.

I hope that some of the projects presented in this issue will inspire you to get involved and volunteer some of your time to the profession and the community.

I look forward to representing the associate members of AIA Colorado in the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, thoughts or concerns regarding emerging professionals and AIA.



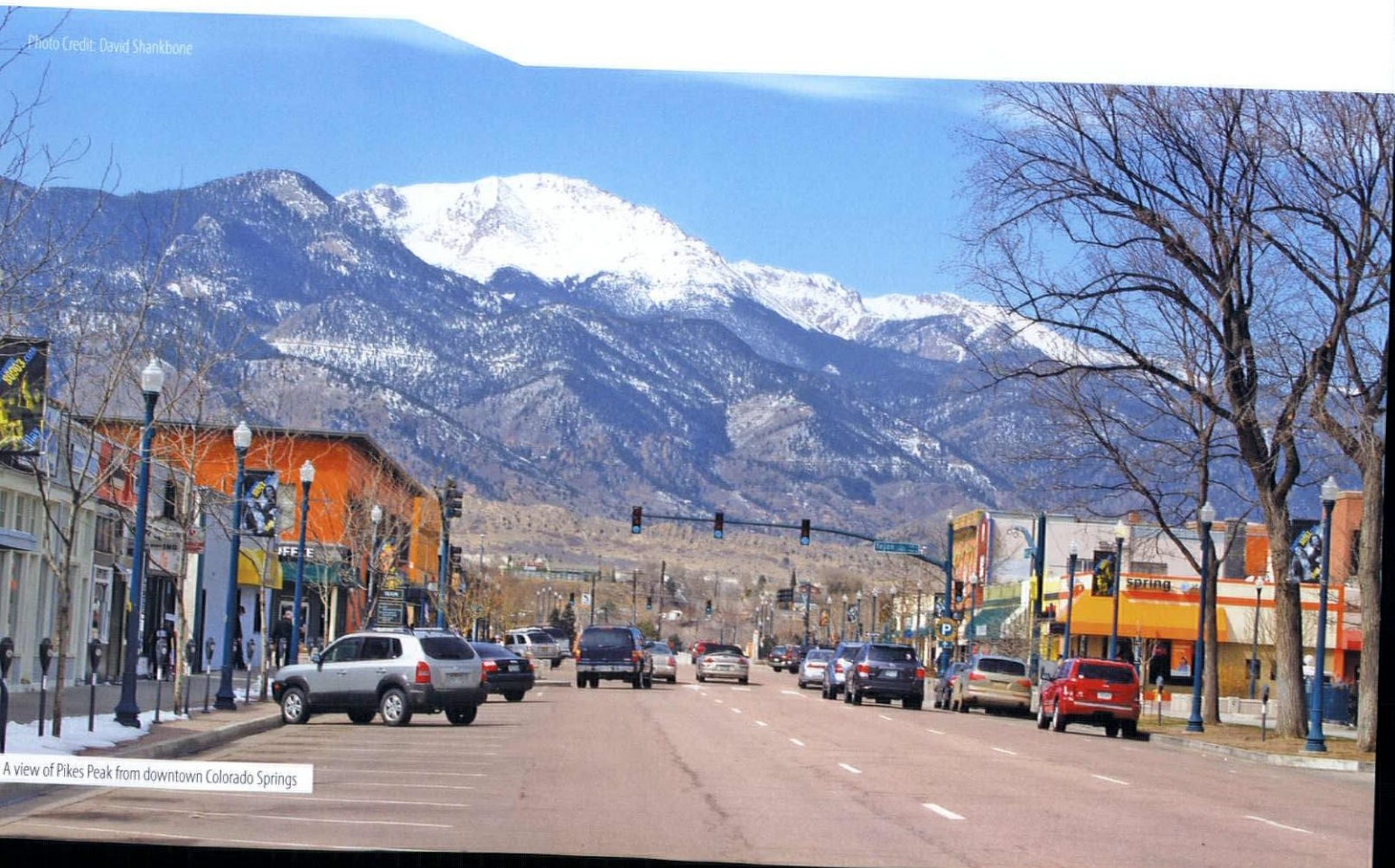
AIA Colorado members volunteer in the hardware store at a Colorado Architecture Month 2011 Box City for Kids event.

Redefining the Frontier

AIA Colorado South and
Its Community Partners
Rethink the Expansive
Vision That Established
the Pikes Peak Region
by Sarah Goldblatt, AIA

Fewer than 10 communities nationwide are selected each year to participate in a grant program funded through The American Institute of Architects Center for Communities by Design — a leading provider of *pro bono* technical assistance and participatory planning for community sustainability.

Photo Credit: David Shankbone



A view of Pikes Peak from downtown Colorado Springs

Last year, the Pikes Peak Region was one of those fortunate communities.

While grappling with the adverse effects of a down economy on the region's building industry, AIA Colorado South members have remained optimistic that focused planning and strategizing will allow the region to emerge as a leader in sustainable, livable communities. They have engaged in numerous initiatives, including the Livable Communities Charrette in June 2010, Dream City 2020 and the AIA Great Streets/Great Skylines AIA 150 project. Each effort pursued a vision for vibrant, sustainable growth and preservation of the

region's natural beauty. "The common denominator of all these events is the lack of true implementation strategies," acknowledged Lou Galletta, AIA, AIA Colorado South 2011 president.

submitted a grant proposal to AIA National for a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to assist the Pikes Peak Region and its citizens in addressing key issues facing their

"Our population is growing, but the single-family home is perhaps not the best choice — mixed-use development might be more appropriate." — Adam Thesing, AIA

In the fall of 2010, AIA Colorado South recognized an opportunity to move beyond dialogue. Members

community. These include transportation and connectivity, real estate and economic development, in-fill

SDAT Project Details

What Is the Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT)?

SDAT is a grant program of the Center for Communities by Design at The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Washington, D.C., that brings together architects and other professionals assembled from across the country to provide a roadmap for communities seeking to improve their sustainability.

Applicant: AIA Colorado South

- William L. Fisher, AIA, 2010 President, SDAT Steering Committee Co-Chair
- Lou Galletta, AIA, 2011 President, Urban Design Committee Chair
- R.J. Steer, AIA, SDAT Steering Committee Co-Chair, Urban Design Committee
- Adam T. Thesing, AIA, 2012 President

Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT) Members for Pikes Peak Region

- Lee Quill, FAIA – Team Leader
- Ron Thomas, AICP – Land Use/Sustainability

- June Williamson – Retrofitting Suburbia/ Urban Design
- Kristine Williams, AICP – Transportation
- Chuck D'Aprix – Economic Development
- Richard Ward, CRE, CECd, AICP – Real Estate Analysis

AIA National Staff Members

- Erin Simmons, Director – Design Assistance Programs
- Joel Mills, Director – Center for Communities by Design

Components of the SDAT

Community Assistance Program

- Preliminary visit.
- Three-day visit from a multidisciplinary team. A team of architects and other professionals is selected for each multidisciplinary SDAT team based on their credentials and the specific needs of each community. The team works in conjunction with local stakeholders to help shape the community's strategy to increase sustainability. In order to provide the

most objective assessment, the team members are from outside the particular communities.

- A report highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the community with regard to sustainability, along with the opportunities and obstacles to change.
- Consultations after a three-day visit.
- A conference call six months after delivery of the assessment report to review progress.
- One-day follow-up visit to complete a secondary assessment one year after the SDAT report is delivered.

Funding

AIA National provides up to \$15,000 in services for each project, and communities are expected to contribute a \$5,000 cash match and raise additional resources through in-kind donations and matches.

development and land-use policy, and sustainable regional planning.

Led by a multi-disciplinary team of volunteer experts from across the country and AIA National staff, the SDAT engaged in an intensive assessment effort with AIA Colorado South members, regional stakeholders and community leaders. The three-day process, following a preliminary visit, included public town-hall meetings, in-depth breakout sessions of the key study areas, working development sessions and a closing public presentation of the results. While the final report is expected in early 2012, chapter members are confident that the desired outcome of steps toward an implementable plan to help guide and shape a sustainable future for the region is attainable — but not without broad support and collaboration from the numerous partnerships that were forged through the SDAT process.

Indeed, as part of the SDAT application, AIA Colorado South discovered an encouraging level of consensus from other regional groups. It became apparent that many of Colorado Springs' institutions, military installations, and neighborhood and grassroots organizations are in pursuit of common goals. Some, like Fort Carson, are on the region's leading edge of sustainable policy and action seeking a net-zero community. Harnessing this momentum and garnering support from the newly empowered Colorado Springs mayor and City



SDAT member visit

Photo Credit: Center for Communities by Design

“The SDAT identified relevant case studies from throughout the country, and these will be a tremendous resource for us to explore to understand what others have done to turn their communities around.” — Lou Galletta, AIA

Council could help AIA Colorado South assist the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments make inroads on its imperative to create a Regional Sustainability Plan and set it in motion.

The Roadblocks?

Changing the perception of a public that has grown so accustomed to an automobile-oriented built environment and the policymakers who have promoted single-use zoning and unsustainable growth patterns. The SDAT team referenced the recent quality-of-life indicators for the Pikes Peak region and found that the suburban-style home is in abundance in Colorado Springs, but the baby boomers who currently dominate the area's population and many younger professionals are seeking more urban lifestyles. Adam Thesing, AIA, AIA Colorado South 2012 president, noted, “Our population is growing, but the single-family home is perhaps not the best choice — mixed-use development might be more appropriate.” Commercial corridors like

Academy Boulevard are in decline in areas with abandoned malls and big-box stores. Single-use zoning requires residents to leave their neighborhoods to access goods and services, thereby increasing traffic and demands on infrastructure and, in some cases, creating a lack of mobility due to insufficient transit options.

The Next Steps?

AIA Colorado South members and regional stakeholders agree it is time to move from conceptual to actual. But reversing decades of thinking about cars and cities is undeniably a slow process. “The SDAT identified relevant case studies from throughout the country,” Galletta explained, “and these will be a tremendous resource for us to explore to understand what others have done to turn their communities around.”

William Fisher, AIA, AIA Colorado South 2010 president, concurred. “It is invaluable having someone from outside looking at what we have and observing the patterns and trends that maybe we've stopped seeing and realizing that we have tremendous opportunities.” ●



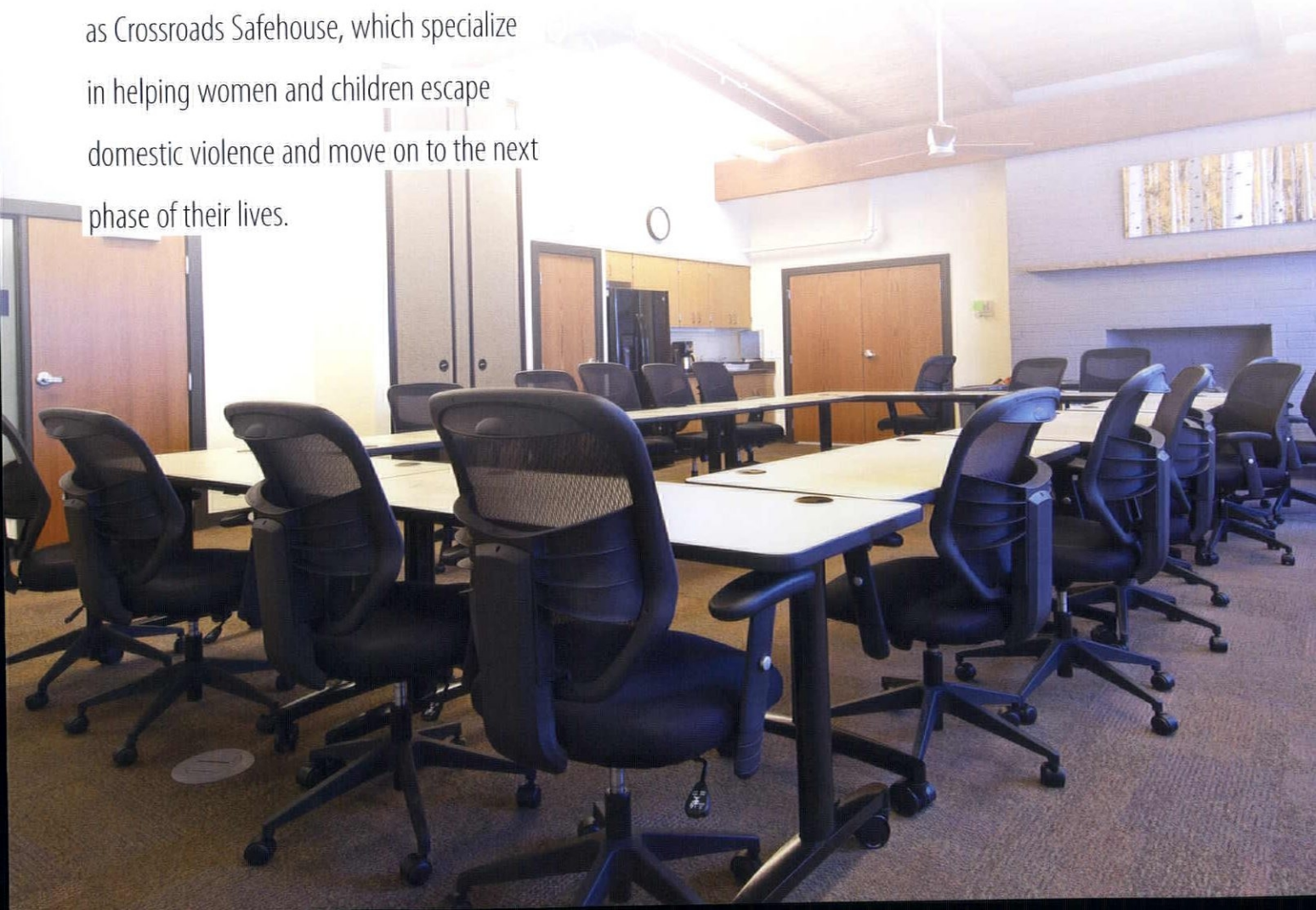
SDAT meeting

Photo Credit: Center for Communities by Design

Taking Back Control

Getting out of a bad situation can sometimes be just as difficult as living with a bad situation. However, there are facilities, such as Crossroads Safehouse, which specialize in helping women and children escape domestic violence and move on to the next phase of their lives.

VFLA Teams with Crossroads
Safehouse for an Improved Facility
by Deanna Strange





Crossroads Safehouse

Architect: Vaught Frye Larson Architects
Location: Fort Collins, Colo.
Scope: 29,000 square feet; 32 bedrooms — sleeps 104
Sustainability: LEED Gold Certified
Function: Center for women and children

Crossroads had reached a limit of how many people it could assist and was turning people away. According to Victoria Lutz, executive director of Crossroads, the existing facility was 7,500 square feet and could sleep 29 people, but it became apparent that the space needed to be expanded in order to accommodate the residents of Larimer County. Vaught Frye Larson Architects (VFLA) teamed with Crossroads to repurpose a former nursing home, which sleeps 104 people and is 29,000 square feet. “The point is to get someone out of a bad situation and turn the page,” said VFLA’s Justin Larson, AIA, NCARB, AIA Colorado North 2012 president.

Crossroads provides play areas for children, legal advocacy, security and unique living quarters. Crossroads’ spearheading committee researched safehouses nationwide to uncover what worked and what could be

improved upon. For the new facility, the committee wanted to make its visitors feel more at home and allow them to still maintain control over their personal lives. The living quarters are more akin to houses, including living rooms and kitchens. “We

offers everything from necessities to clothing and toys for kids.”

Unlike most safehouses, Crossroads isn’t in a hidden location, which means security was a major focus. “It’s important that it be secure but not feel like a fortress. It’s

“From a design aspect, it’s a fun balance to have a very heavy security side to the program needs, and on the other side, you have the warm and cozy feel.” — Justin Larson, AIA

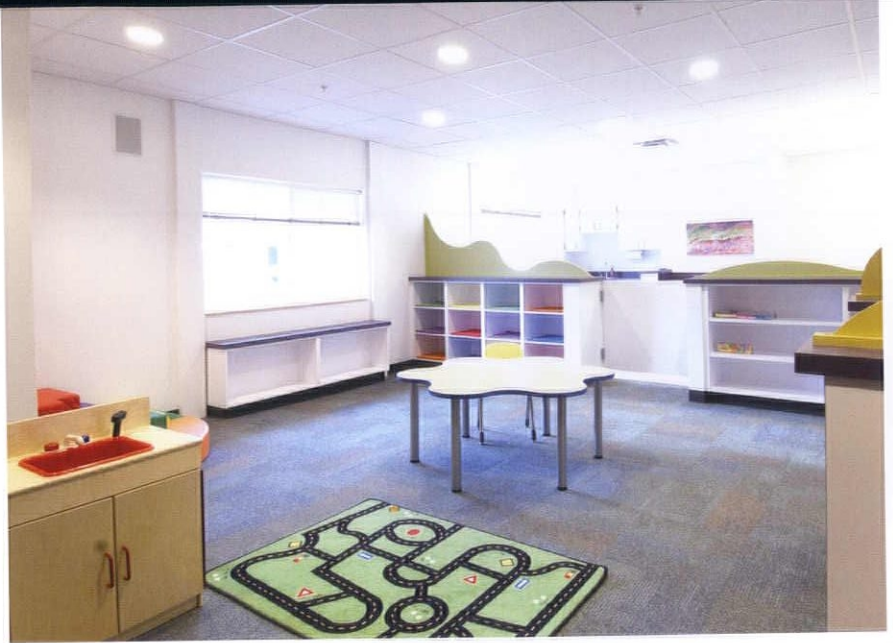
have a central commissary ... you can go to the corner grocery store and feed your family whenever you want,” Larson explained. “You have the ability to stay on your schedule.” In addition, Crossroads raised donations to add a boutique. “When someone gets out of a bad situation, they often leave with nothing. The boutique

in a neighborhood of single-family homes, so it is trying to be respectful of them,” Larson stated. “The security works best because people don’t know how it works.” A few of the security measures include safe evacuation areas in case of an emergency and working with the local police department to create a satel-

lite station. "From a design aspect, it's a fun balance to have a very heavy security side to the program needs, and on the other side, you have the warm and cozy feel."

As a nonprofit, Crossroads' project required support and funding from the surrounding community. According to Larson, the overall budget was close to \$3 million, and the project was funded through grants, state assistance and donations. "It speaks well that Crossroads was able to raise that money in a challenging economy," noted Larson. "The majority of construction dollars were community-funded."

VFLA's contribution was to volunteer all of its time — a contribution that was close to \$200,000 in work. "I think it's a huge opportunity for architects to be able to give back to their community," Larson said, explaining that VFLA's early contribution made it easier to attain



funding because they knew how much was needed. "The architects can come in and save the owner dollars. That really starts to reflect to other community members if you support the project how they can support it."

Domestic violence touches all classes in a community and comes in many different forms, so it is vital that the community offers its support. Larson added, "This is a social issue and not a class issue." ●

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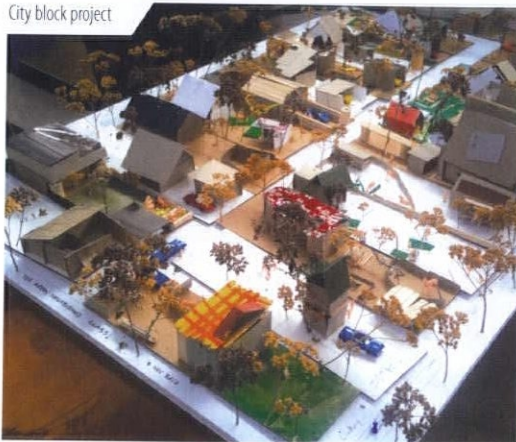
Turning *the* Classroom

Inside-Out



After-School Class Offers
Students a Unique
Perspective on the
Environment and Heightens
Their Sense of Place in It
by Sarah Goldblatt, AIA

City block project



It is never too early to study environmental literacy — or at least some elementary schools don't seem to think so. That is why an after-school enrichment class at Academia Ana Marie Sandoval is in the works. This Denver Public Schools' dual-language Montessori school — nestled in Denver's Highland neighborhood — is expanding opportunities for students to learn about their relationship with resources and sustainability right in their own backyard.

The Green Neighborhood Class, as it is called, was developed by architects whose children attend the school and who wished to share their expertise on the environment. In this case, their classroom is the school's neighborhood.

Michael Tavel, AIA, specializes in sustainable cities and urban neighborhoods. He began talking with teachers, parents and the principal a few years ago about how he and other design professionals within the school community could contribute to the students' learning opportunities. At the time, another parent and architect, Yael Nyholm, AIA, was continuing to develop the school's Garden Wellness Committee and nurture its relationship with Slow Food Denver — a local organization

that wanted Sandoval students to participate in a new Youth Farmers' Market. The two merged their ideas into a popular after-school program lasting from September until November. Principal JoAnn Trujillo Hays was delighted with the class, noting, "Traditionally, in schools, we have decided what we want children to do, but there is more power in a parent deciding to share what they love doing with the children — this comes from the passion of the parent, and it grows from there."

Building on the Montessori philosophy that "children's firsthand observation and research of the community as well as the natural world allow them to fathom the mysteries of the universe," the eight-week class presented first- through sixth-graders with the opportunity to explore their own physical

"Traditionally, in schools, we have decided what we want children to do, but there is more power in a parent deciding to share what they love doing with the children — this comes from the passion of the parent, and it grows from there." — JoAnn Trujillo Hays

urban environment. Through field trips, treasure hunts, art projects and work in the school's garden, the students were exposed to vegetable cultivation, local food, composting, raising animals, map reading and navigation with a compass, cycles of the sun and water, and sustainable architecture and landscapes. Each week, a different architect or landscape professional taught the class, adding his or her own unique perspective on local resources.

Farmers' market stand



One week, the kids got to tour the neighborhood to identify trees and leaves and their shading qualities. Another week, groups of children and instructors walked to neighborhood grocery stores — one commercial and the other specializing in local, seasonal products — each armed with identical lists of vegetables to locate. The investigation resulted in a stimulating conversation among the children about conventional and organic produce. A neighborhood treasure hunt introduced pedestrian wayfinding with compasses and maps leading to surprise destinations, including a solar home made from recycled materials and backyards filled with bees, goats and baby chickens. While the topic of each class varied, the one constant was the weekly measurement of the length of the shadow falling from the playground's tetherball pole to illustrate the Earth's rotation and changing sun angles. "The kids were impacted by the simplest things that don't require technology," Nyholm observed.

The class culminated with the development of a model city block where each student applied his or her newly acquired knowledge to a cardboard construction of his or her ideal sustainable home. Tavel acknowledged, "The emphasis wasn't so much on the building as an object but, rather, as a place that has an indoors and an outdoors." As he notes, the class "was not about imparting information to the kids. It was about giving them memorable experiences."

It is these experiences that Tavel and Nyholm hope will enable the children to connect with their surroundings and increase their awareness of the resources that make up their urban neighborhood. This sentiment parallels Principal Trujillo Hays' hope for her students that they become "citizens in the world, not citizens of the world." ●

Learning

by *Doing*

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Program Encourages
Practical Knowledge
Through Service
by Alexandria Lopez





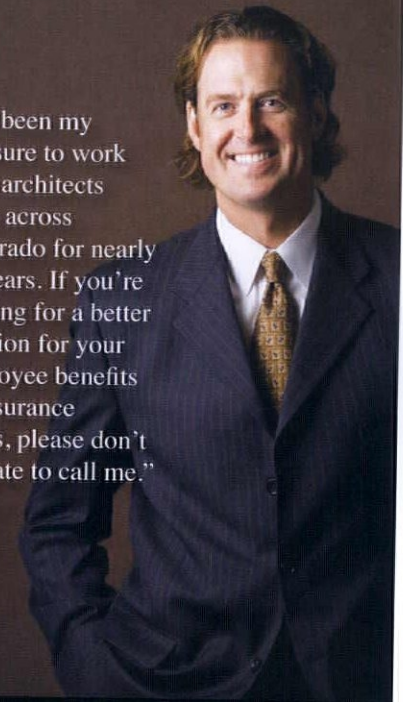
The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Freedom By Design™ program provides students with the opportunity to expand their architectural knowledge from the theoretical to the applicable. Founded in 1999 at the University of Colorado Denver, more than 60 AIAS chapters currently participate in the program nationwide. In 2011, students at the University of Colorado Boulder reinstated the school's Freedom By Design™ program with life-changing results.

Through Freedom By Design™, students complete a design/build project to improve the physical environment of disabled and low-income individuals. "The main goal is to help someone in need in the community who doesn't really have the means

to help themselves," explained Justin Hazelwood, AIAS 2010-2011 member. Though CU-Boulder had been inactive for several years, under the leadership of Richard Mapes, AIAS 2010-2011 chapter president, the chapter recommitted to completing an annual summer project. In 2011, several students collaborated to complete the inaugural project: constructing an Americans with Disabilities Act-approved backyard deck for Martin and Kathy Barrett to accommodate Kathy's multiple sclerosis.

After selecting the recipient of the project, the group began doing design work and research in May. "Once we met with the clients, we came up with a general idea of what we wanted to do and then spent about two and a half weeks creating the design," Mapes said. "The build took pretty much the

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rest of the time." Although the students had extensive experience drawing and modeling, the project marked the first time any of them had been involved in the construction process. "Construction was a challenge, but I think it ended up

Not only did the project allow students to gain hands-on construction experience, but it also gave them the opportunity to collaborate with a future colleague — Joseph Vigil, AIA, AIA Colorado North 2011 president.

"There was a lot of learning on all fronts during the construction process. It actually created this really tight-knit group because we sweated together. All of the students are now very close friends." — Richard Mapes

being an asset to the project," Mapes continued. "There was a lot of learning on all fronts during the construction process. It actually created this really tight-knit group because we sweated together. All of the students are now very close friends."



"The AIA Colorado North chapter board was crucial in giving us funding and allowing us to use their expertise on the project," Hazelwood stated. The board responded to the students' request for assistance by assigning Vigil to the project, who helped the group understand the building process and gave their drawings to his construction engineer for review. "Joseph made sure the structure was perfect," Mapes added.

For his part, Vigil endorsed Freedom By Design™ as "a great learning experience," noting that the program empowers students by helping them realize that they can make a difference. "Students, to that point, see everything as theoretical," he said.

"Until you see a final product — when you see a woman be able to go up a ramp — that's when you really see the impact that architecture can have."

"The students all gained a strong appreciation for social equity in design," Mapes concurred. "The fact that we designed this ramp to coincide with ADA requirements was a huge help. We really got to learn a lot professionally and ethically."

Upon completing the project in August, the students had a barbecue with the Barrett family. "We let Kathy put the last screw in the deck," Hazelwood remembered. "It was a great learning and community-service experience, and I highly recommend it. We wanted to make this project an example for the students following us, so they can say, 'Students made that; we can make whatever we want to.'" ●

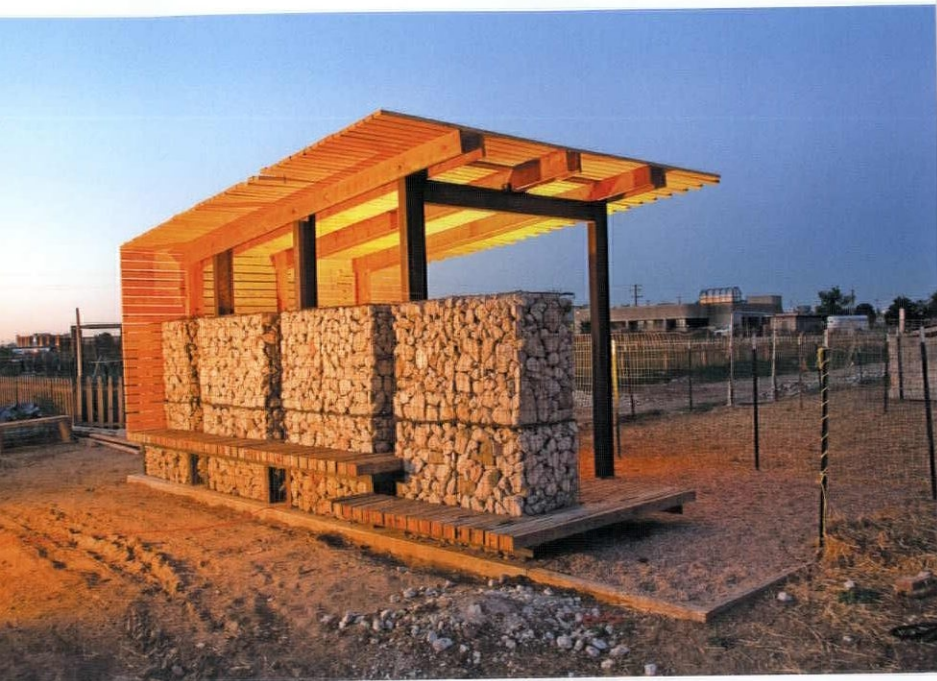


Cultivating the *Future*

CU Denver Students Turn
Scrap and Salvage into
Urban Farming Facilities
by Michael Adkins

P

resident Dwight D. Eisenhower was once quoted as saying, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." The same could be said for architecture students without the practical knowledge of how their drawings are transformed into functional structures by those in the construction industry.



Learning Cube and Dairy House

Design-Build Team: Graduate students in the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning's Design+Build Studio

Advisors: Christopher Herr, AIA, and Brad Tomecek, AIA, principals, co-founders and co-owners of architecture firm Studio H:T and adjunct instructors

Location: Feed Denver and the Urban Farm at Stapleton joint site, Denver

Cost: \$8,000 (including donated materials, fundraising and in-kind donations)

Scope: 0.22 acre (9,583.2 square feet)

Dimensions: 16 feet by 24 feet by 12 feet (Learning Cube); 14 feet by 22 feet by 10 feet (Dairy House)

Function: Urban agriculture/ education structures

Owners: Feed Denver and the Urban Farm at Stapleton

Students in the University of Colorado Denver's Design+Build Studio, however, learned about the practical side of their field in 2010 with their work — as well as how to deliver a practical finished product with no budget — all while assisting with a worthwhile cause.

Under the direction of Christopher Herr, AIA, and Brad Tomecek, AIA, principals, co-founders and co-owners of architecture firm Studio H:T and adjunct instructors at CU Denver, graduate students pursuing design-build certificates designed and constructed two structures for Feed Denver and the Urban Farm at Stapleton. Feed Denver is a non-profit organization that provides community-based urban agricultural solutions, training, jobs and support of food production endeavors, and the Urban Farm at Stapleton is Colorado's largest 4-H program, teaching more than 4,000 urban children about agriculture

each year. These two organizations' 20-acre shared site focuses on animal husbandry techniques.

The first structure, the Learning Cube, marks the entry point to the Feed Denver site and functions as an outdoor classroom, a market and the first stop for tours and events. The Dairy House, located near several animal pens, serves as a shearing station for goats and sheep and a milking platform for goats.

These structures were designed by 15 CU Denver students during the course of a semester and then built in three weeks on site by the students, with instruction and supervision from Tomecek and Herr. With literally no money available from the client or the university for construction, students had to scavenge usable materials from the jobsite — the northeast corner of the former

Stapleton International Airport in Denver — and secure donations of funds and supplies to make up the difference. The Learning Cube and the Dairy House were completed in May 2010.

The project proved successful because the students worked as a team, with each member playing to his or her strengths while learn-





ing about the process as a whole, Herr said. "Some students excelled at working with local lumber yards to get donations, while one student could operate a backhoe," he explained. "I was struck by the ingenuity of the students as they charged into unknown territory and solved the problems they encountered along the way."

"It was really rewarding to see so many people really take ownership of the project," Tomecek said. "Several of the students chose to stay later than required to see the project through to the end."

Experience like this is crucial to tomorrow's architects, Tomecek noted. "It's easy to draw something without understanding how it works," he said. "But when you build what you draw, you get a better understanding of what the contractor will go through to execute the plan you've created."



"It's important to connect the abstract exercise of design with the tangible exercise of building," Herr added. "Design-build ties those two exercises together, and that's a lesson I hope these students take with them into their own practices." ●



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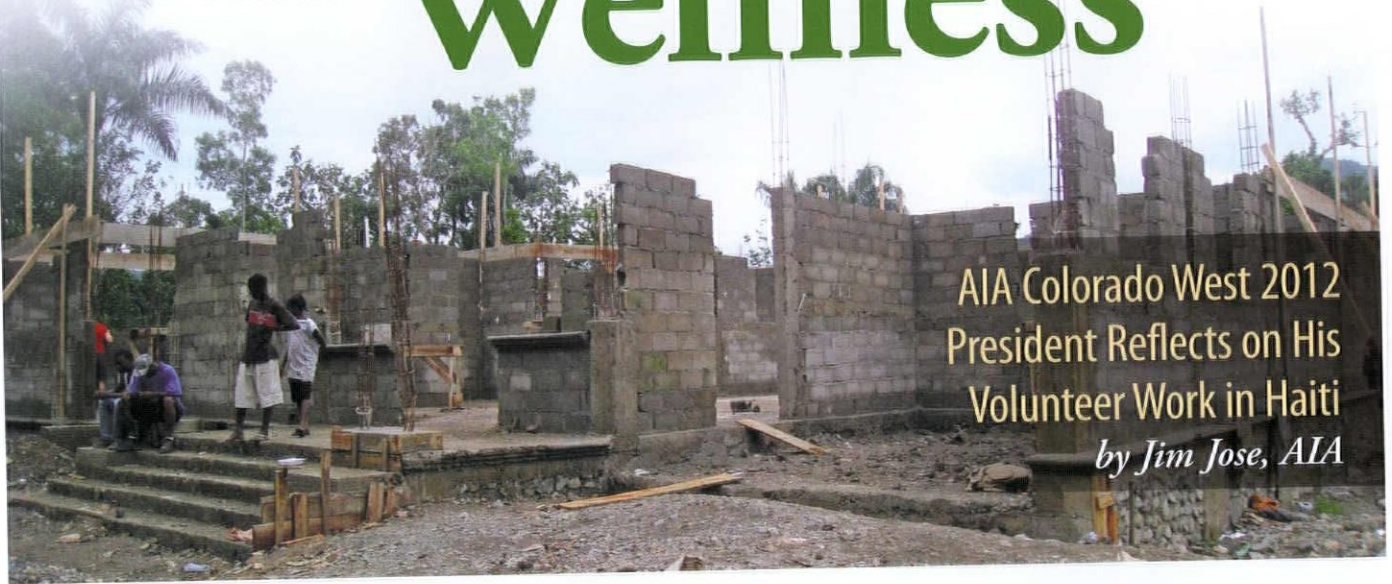
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Health *and* Wellness *in* Haiti



AIA Colorado West 2012
President Reflects on His
Volunteer Work in Haiti
by Jim Jose, AIA

Photos by Jim Jose, AIA

After every trip, it is difficult to reconcile myself back into daily life after spending the long days and short nights in the hot Haitian land. The conveniences of on-demand water and refrigerated food seemed distant as I stood in the marketplace with vendors selling everything from raw meat on a blanket to gasoline in a flow-erpot. There is need everywhere, including our own country, but we also have the most abundant resources to offer help. We have some of the most skilled professionals in all disciplines in all the world. These are things not readily available in developing countries like Haiti and, therefore, a good reason for contributing time and talent to ensure the greatest possible health, safety and welfare to people both here and abroad.



There is no need to sell the fact that architecture is so much bigger than the building. And this is evident in the way the people of Haiti utilize it. It is a place to congregate as much as a place to seek shelter from the intense heat or pounding rain; a place to share stories, good, bad or otherwise. Architecture creates these moments of protection and provision, and that is where our profession met the need in a multi-use clinical/educational project for the Centre for Evangelism and Development of Acul du Nord (CEDAN), founded by Pastor Henri Robert. Their schools have worked to substantially reduce illiteracy, raise the general level of education and produce pastors, leaders and teachers. Their clinics have helped improve personal hygiene and general health conditions throughout the region; and thousands have been fed, clothed and loved.

Our team was created for CEDAN as a part of eMi, Engineering Ministries International. eMI is a nonprofit Christian development organization





made up of architects, engineers, construction managers and other design professionals who donate their time, skills and travel costs to help people around the world. CEDAN has been serving northern Haiti in the region of Limbe for nearly three decades through its churches, clinics, meal services, pantries and schools.

The scope of our project is limited due to site capacity. There are currently two buildings on site with a third under construction. Our goal was to design a new multi-purpose building to replace a condemned building that currently houses the school and clinic and to make suggestions to both the existing master plan and structures on the site. The design of the building is driven by four major factors: the simple parts of the program, the site and utility service; but, more importantly, the ways in which CEDAN and the community function within this site. This building can see as many as 1,200 people a week in the clinic for general medical attention to dental work. It is also where 300-plus children are educated. We also made other improvements on the site, like designated parking, grading for better drainage, a new water supply and wastewater treatment.

What this project meant to us was a chance to share what we know with others in need. But what it meant to the people of this region of Haiti was a chance to survive.

I wish I was better at recounting all the stories, but one from my friend carries the weight of the project's impact. An elderly woman approached the guest-house to claim some water, which is common, as CEDAN shares all of their resources. Who knows how far she had come to get this water from the pipes on the side of the building. As she looked up at my friend on the balcony, their eyes met, and the woman spoke. My friend couldn't hear her but read on her lips "Thank you," as she smiled. What we do as architects has an impact — from the most mundane act to the grandest gesture. We have to continue challenging ourselves to create architecture that enriches the lives of others. ●



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A Place *to* Call Home

AIA Denver Members Collaborate to Design and Build a Sustainable Duplex for Two Deserving Families *by Alaina Gonzales*

In 2011, The American Institute of Architects Denver Chapter (AIA Denver) administered a design-build competition for Habitat for Humanity of Colorado/Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity. Eleven teams of AIA Colorado members designed homes, and the solution by Molly Blakley, Assoc.

Rendering by winning design team



AIA; Alan Ford, AIA; Kathy Ford, AIA; and Matt Weaver, Assoc. AIA, was selected as the winning design.

Goals for this project include demonstrating that sustainable design and building practices are not luxuries; creating a sustainable benchmark for Habitat for Humanity of Colorado and Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity; enabling multiple organizations to form a partnership for the greater good in hopes that other similar partnerships can

be replicated; and highlighting the value of architects in the community. The most important goal, however, is creating a home for Hazell and her son, Titus.

"The simplicity of the design is one of the key aspects. We took a lot of time just arranging spaces and figuring out the best use of space for everything in the home. With every decision, we kept in mind that this is a *home*, almost more than this was a design. Placing ourselves in the space and thinking, 'Would I want this piece, or this arrangement, or is this convenient?'" said Molly Blakley, Assoc. AIA.

In spring 2012, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity will break ground on a duplex for two families in Kittredge, Colo., furthering the Habitat for Humanity of Colorado mission to create simple, decent, affordable housing.

"Keeping the solutions simple and easy to build with volunteer labor was a primary objective. This was important both for affordability and build ability," said Alan Ford, AIA. "Given the small square footage of the home, it was critical to keep circulation down and functional efficiency high ... and considering that the design had the potential for being repeated, we set out to make the design solution adaptable to different sites."

This project began as an idea that the AIA Denver Housing Committee and AIA Denver Committee on the Environment (COTE) shared. After a great deal of brainstorming and discussion, the two groups took their idea to the AIA

Denver Board of Directors. AIA Denver immediately saw the value of the project and agreed that its members could take on administering the competition, promoting the project and fundraising for one-half of the duplex (AIA Denver members are responsible for gathering \$85,000, while Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity is raising the funds for the other half of the duplex).

Matt Weaver, Assoc. AIA, explained, "No matter what the budget of a project is, the approach is always similar to create high-quality space. Our goal is to bring in daylight, provide for fresh air and to carefully consider the possible uses of each space."

Hazell was abandoned at age 4 and grew up in foster and group homes. She has always worked hard as an adult, but when she got pregnant and decided to leave a toxic relationship, a women's shelter assisted her until Titus was born. She still volunteers there, giving back to those who helped her in such a time of need. Currently, Hazell and Titus live in a too-small cabin, and she works several jobs to support her son. She runs the snack bar at a local country club in the summer, does Spanish translation, cleans homes and sells her homemade salsa. She says she feels so blessed that she found Habitat for Humanity, as she has always longed for a home and stability, especially now that she has her "miracle child." More than anything, she wants to raise Titus "in a stable, warm atmosphere so that he has a bright future and grows into a healthy, successful man." She feels she has been on a long journey to find home and stability, and Habitat and AIA Denver are making that possible.

For more information about the project, visit www.aiadenverdesignbuild.org. ●

Arbol de Vida Orphanage

Location: Juarez, Mexico

Architect: Ewers Architecture pc; Peter Ewers, AIA, lead architect on Engineering Ministries International team

Scope: *Pro bono* master planning plus design services for a new education building

Size: 12,440 square feet

Cost: \$1.2 million (estimated)

Mission Trip: February 2008

Drawings Completed: October 2008

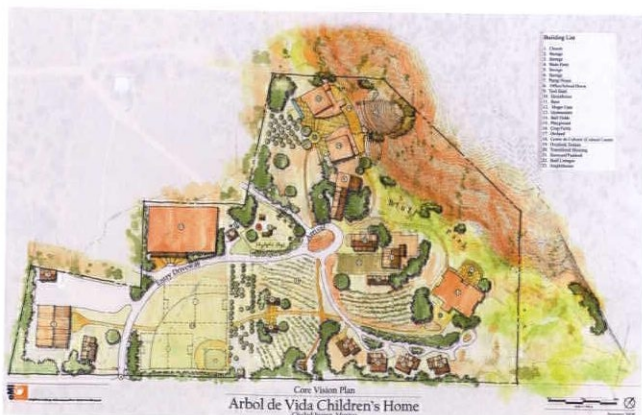
Construction schedule is dependent on fundraising

Arbol de Vida ("Tree of Life") is an orphanage located within sight of the United States that offers hope to children who otherwise would have none. Mothers drop off children they can no longer care for; police drop off street children in the middle of the night; infants in the orphanage are the children's children or younger siblings who have nowhere else to go. No one is turned away. And the needs are ever-increasing.

When Ewers Architecture was approached to provide *pro bono* design services for a master plan plus design for a new education building, the firm suggested that Engineering Ministries International (eMI) be a partner in this design process. eMI, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to mobilize design professionals to minister to the less fortunate in developing nations," was a natural partner for this project, and Peter Ewers, AIA, accepted the challenge to be lead architect.

A one-week mission trip with a dozen designers, surveyors and engineers yielded the schematic design. The team kept working after returning to the United States to create a full set of design documents adequate to move the project to the next step.

The design seeks to demonstrate to these discarded children that they have worth. The building exudes hope and beckons these children to believe in themselves because other people believe in them enough to invest in a building of this beauty. This design answers the challenge to create a structure whose magnificence matches the potential inside each of these children.



Heartline Maternity Center

Location: Port-au-Prince

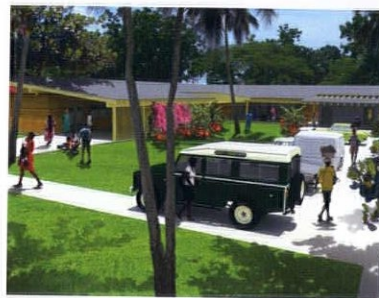
Architect: Semple Brown Design, P.C.; Sarah Semple Brown, AIA

Scope: *Pro bono* master planning, architectural design and 3-D modeling services to assist with fundraising

Size: 6,140 square feet (Maternity Center – Phase II); 2,830 square feet per unit, four units (Missionary Housing – Phase III); all buildings will eventually consist of approximately 41,028 square feet

Budget: \$350,000 (Maternity Center)

Construction schedule is dependent on fundraising



The current design for the Maternity Center and Hospital was a labor of love between Semple Brown Design and Heartline. The arrangement of spaces within the buildings was the

result of a collaborative effort between the architects and the end users. The current Maternity Center was analyzed and dissected by both the architects and the end users. Then numerous iterations of an improved design were sent back and forth between the architects and the midwives and medical personnel who will be using the facilities.

A number of local and sustainable concepts serve as drivers for the design of the Maternity Center and Hospital. Both buildings integrate the use of small "blocks" of indoor space surrounded by outdoor porches and corridors to minimize the amount of enclosed space but maximize the amount of shading and ventilation. Windows and doors have been strategically placed in order to utilize natural ventilation where possible. The roofs of both buildings are also separated from the building "blocks" in order to allow air passage and breezes between the roof and the inhabitable space.

Particular attention is being paid to making the buildings sustainable for the long term. Photovoltaic panels, solar water heaters, sustainable plumbing and rainwater harvesting systems are being investigated for the site.

The current design also allows for possible future expansion. Materials are intended to draw upon the vernacular of surrounding local construction types (corrugated metal, wood, thermal mass walls) while innovating the use of these materials to maximize their performance.

Theatre Aspen

Location: Aspen, Colo.
Architect: Charles Cunniffe Architects, Charles Cunniffe, AIA
Scope: *Pro bono* design services for a seasonal theater
Size: 6,900 square feet
Budget: \$1 million (construction)
Completion: Spring 2012



Seven years ago, Charles Cunniffe Architects (CCA) began working *pro bono* with the Theatre Aspen Board of Directors to design a new facility for its professional seasonal theatre. The existing 18-year-old tent located in Aspen's Rio Grande Park had undergone major repairs and been subjected to myriad weather conditions, including frequent flooding by the adjacent stormwater ponds.

Under the leadership of new directors, the Board initiated a major fundraising campaign to turn its vision into reality. The design encompasses a new performance tent and lobby structure on the existing site. The primary challenge was that the facility had to remain a seasonal venue with the structures assembled each spring and dismantled in the fall. CCA collaborated closely with the City of Aspen Parks & Recreation Department to develop the project on the city-owned site,

home to the John Denver Sanctuary, redeveloping several stormwater filtration ponds that will become a wetlands educational retreat and provide reclaimed water to irrigate the adjacent soccer fields.

A prefabricated tent structure met the theater's performance requirements of a black box, while the lobby structure needed to be more engaging to host opening night receptions and special events. An elegantly light polycarbonate and galvanized steel structure using entirely bolted connections was designed to mirror the simple gable form of the prefabricated tent. The polycarbonate panels "fade" from a milky white at the roof peak to clear panels at the ground plane. Several wall segments act as large upward-pivoting doors to expand the lobby outdoors.

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