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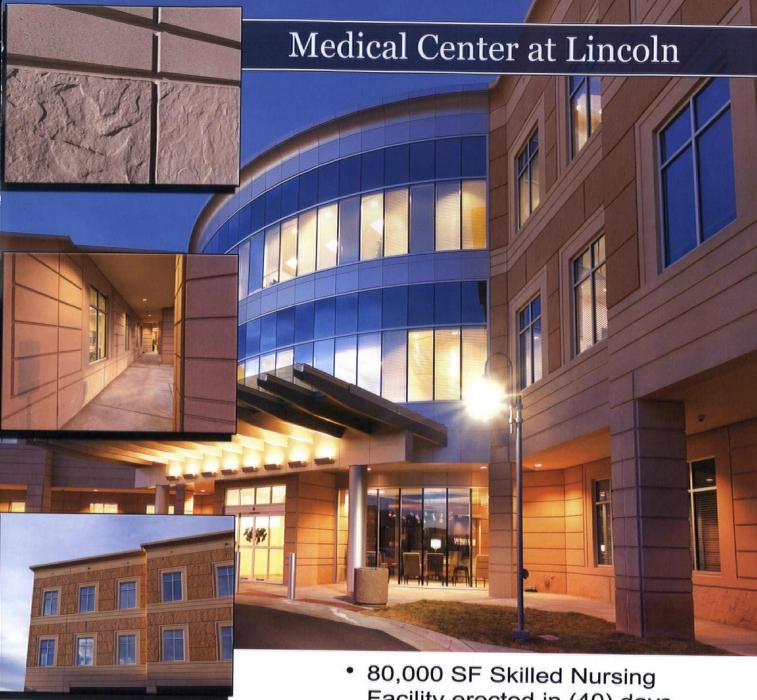




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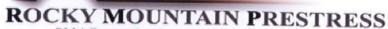




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Central Bistro & Bar makes heavy use of locally sourced materials — much like the restaurant's menu makes use of local, seasonal ingredients for its Americana cuisine.

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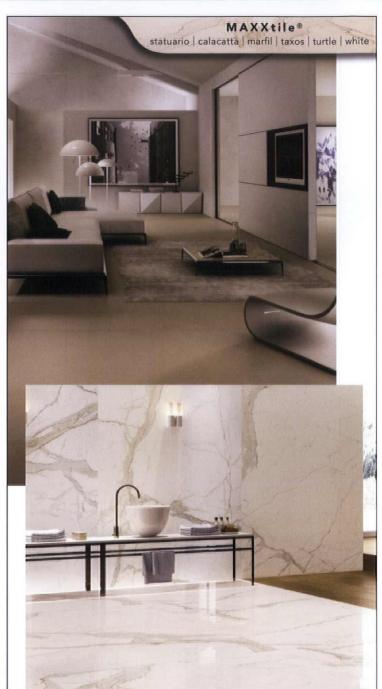
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Retreat, Reposition and Refocus



Leadership from the AIA state component and four local chapters in Colorado met in July for a two-day retreat to take a hard look at "repositioning" the AIA in Colorado based on the major initiative AIA National has undertaken the past year. (For more information on the national initiative, visit www.aia.org/ repositioning.) The

retreat was facilitated by Harrison Coerver, co-author of *Race* for *Relevance*, who argues that associations should operate in a lean and focused way to truly prosper and best serve their members. He contends that trying to be all things to all people actually makes organizations less effective. The AIA chapters in Colorado restructured in 1997 and have not examined the current structure since that time.

In 2009, AIA Colorado conducted a statewide member needs assessment, with surprisingly similar results to the recent repositioning data-collection efforts that AIA National instituted. (AIA National's findings are based on research from more than 31,000 touchpoints, including surveys and feedback from AIA members, AIA components and chapters, clients, peer organizations, staff members, nonmembers, and influential leaders in architecture.) Concurrently, all five of the AIA organizations in Colorado have strategic plans that are set to expire in 2014. Our leadership realized that this

repositioning initiative provided a great opportunity for us to collectively review our member services and benefits and strive to make sure all of our components bring our members the greatest value possible.

The retreat activities included:

- A review of the current governance model for the state component and local chapters in Colorado – (board size and composition, number of boards, frequency of meetings, etc.)
- A look at the relationship between the state and local chapters (is our Memorandum of Understanding still effective? Do we need to make changes?)
- A review of our priorities (a look the services and benefits that we provide, which will play into our new strategic plans and help set some baselines)
- A revision of our resources making sure we are truly allocating the most effective resources to the most important priorities

In the months following the retreat, the boards will review the proposed outcomes and present their recommendations at the AIA Colorado Annual Business Meeting in Keystone on Saturday, October 12.

This is an exciting time for the AIA in Colorado! Your leadership is actively working to make positive changes in your association to better serve you. Stay tuned ... there is more to come.

Sincerely,

Mike Wisneski, AIA AIA Colorado 2013 President

Metal D. While

Sonia Riggs, Hon. AIA, CAE AIA Colorado Executive Director

Architect Colorado, the official magazine of AIA Colorado, was started in 2005 as a glossy, quarterly publication. Prior to that, Colorado Architect existed as a printed newsletter for AIA Colorado members. Over the years, Architect Colorado has been published by McGraw-Hill, Dawson Publications Inc. and Innovative Publishing Ink for a total of 33 issues.

The magazine will be taking a hiatus following the fall 2013 issue when our contract ends with Innovative Publishing Ink. AIA Colorado and the four local chapters in Colorado are undergoing a repositioning to focus on what matters most to Colorado architects and emerging professionals in order to provide the best member value. If you submitted a project to *Architect Colorado*, we will keep it on file as we evaluate a printed magazine.

Across the Divide



You do not need to have 20 years of experience to know that the architectural community is not that big. For a profession tasked with shaping the built environment, the total number of licensed architects in the United States doesn't even equal the population of Fort Collins. As a result, the intertwined paths, both personal and professional, get more dense as careers progress, and success is directly proportional to the quality of the relationships you establish along the way.

If you are pondering a career in architecture or completing your journey through the well-insulated world of academics, I have one piece of advice: build relationships! Not the platitude-producing cocktail-napkin connections that are made at whatever networking event you may have recently attended but honest and meaningful connections with people who share your passions and interests. From the academics and the seasoned project architects to the retired elder statesmen, each has intrinsic value that will help guide you along your path. The point is not to secure employment, though employment opportunities will inherently present themselves as a result, but rather to build a community that can offer perspectives that are as diverse as the realities of the profession. They will help answer the tough unanswerable questions — questions like "What type of practice interests me?", "Does this community have what I am looking for, or do I need to cast out?" and the big question that doesn't get asked enough: "Is architecture the right profession for me?"

The truth is you should have already started. In order to gain a clear understanding of the realities of architecture as an aspiring professional, you must reach across the divide and be resolute about your path instead of progressing like a spectator of your own career. In this post-recession era, there is a healthy dose of discussion regarding the responsibilities of the profession to reach out and backfill the generation that was lost. The part that seems to be missing in the conversation is the responsibility of the new professionals to drive their own careers in directions that give them the most fulfillment, finding and making the necessary connections along the way.

I speak from experience when I say that you will find people to be more open and engaging than you expect. The wisdom passed to you will make you a better architect and, in turn, improve the overall health of the profession. So get up, get out, and talk to people, be curious and adventuresome, operate outside your comfort zone, and remember the words of Lou Kahn: "Design is not making beauty; beauty emerges from selection, affinities, integration, love."

Good luck, and I will see you on the other side.

Kevin Keady, Assoc. AIA, AIA Colorado 2013 Associate Director-Elect





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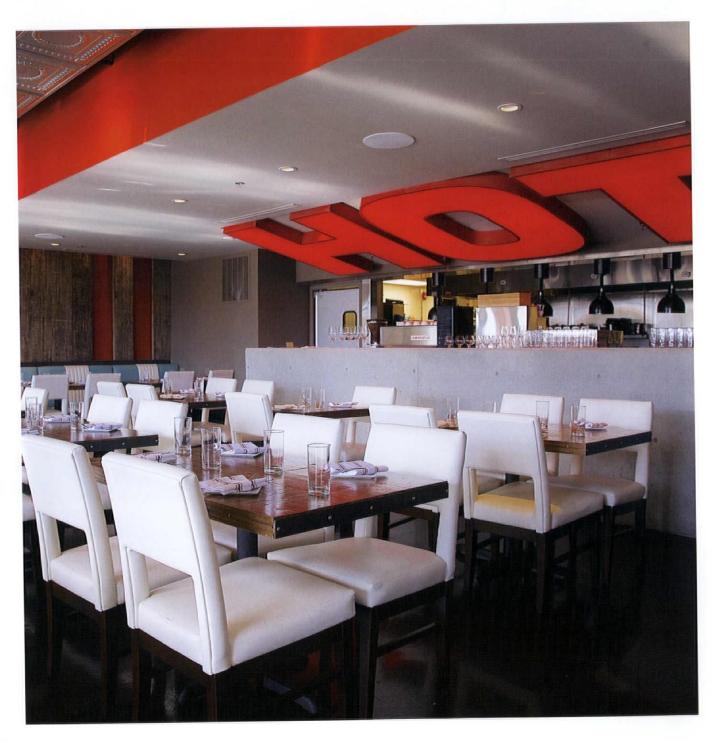






A Central Experience for Denver's Lower Highlands

Central Bistro & Bar by Michael Adkins



The best restaurants have it all — a great menu, a fantastic location, a stylish design, a warm atmosphere and that little something extra that makes you feel like you're where you need to be.

That's the kind of place Isiah Salazar, owner and managing partner of Central Bistro & Bar, set out to create. And, thanks in part to the sleek, sophisticated design conceived by Sprocket Design-Build, Inc., this restaurant has quickly become a favorite destination in Denver's Lower Highlands (LoHi) neighborhood.

Central Bistro & Bar is located in the Prospect on Central building, a mixed-use property developed by the Salazar family's Central Street Capital company. Prospect on Central caters to LoHi's young, trendy residents with contemporary and luxury apartments, and Salazar was looking to offer a dining experience to match — upscale without venturing into the area of fine dining, according to Matt McHugh, AIA, partner with Sprocket Design-Build, which Salazar selected to provide architectural services for this project.

"We'd done a lot of work in that neighborhood previously, so we knew the demographic of people who work and play there," McHugh said. "LoHi had been a bit of a hodge-

Central Bistro & Bar

Architect: Sprocket Design-Build, Inc. **Firm Partner:** Matt McHugh, AIA

Client: Isiah Salazar, owner/managing partner General Contractor: Williams Construction Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineer:

Priest Engineering

Graphic Design/Concept Collaboration:

BottleRocket Design

Location: Denver (Lower Highlands neighborhood)

Scope: 3,310 square feet

Budget: Approximately \$400,000 **Purpose:** Restaurant and bar space in

mixed-use development **Completed:** Summer 2012



podge in years past, but it's now becoming a center of modernism — an extension of modern downtown life. We catered to that crowd with our design." That crowd included Salazar himself, who lives in the LoHi neighborhood and whose knowledge of the area contributed heavily to the restaurant's design concept.

Initial design work began in 2010, and the restaurant opened for business in July 2012. The restaurant includes wall paneling and tables built from reclaimed boxcar flooring — an allusion to Denver's long history of trains and railway transportation. Whiskey barrels and weathered wall murals contrast sharply with jet-black polished concrete flooring and hot-rolled steel accents. The "HOT" sign over the bar is reclaimed from the "HOTEL" sign that once hung over the former Regency Hotel before its 2005 renovation.

The restaurant makes heavy use of locally sourced materials — much like the restaurant's menu makes use of local, seasonal ingredients for its Americana cuisine. "We wanted to use the raw materials in a sophisticated way," he said. "The boxcar flooring, for example, was a limited batch made available by a local company that reclaims local wood materials for reuse. It's that little edge on a really modern design that makes it stand out."

Central Bistro & Bar also stands out in part because of its breathtaking view of downtown Denver — an aspect McHugh's design takes full advantage of by way of an 18-foot NanaWall window wall to maximize diners' views of the cityscape.

For the more astute eye, the design also features some less-obvious facets — facets that were crafted







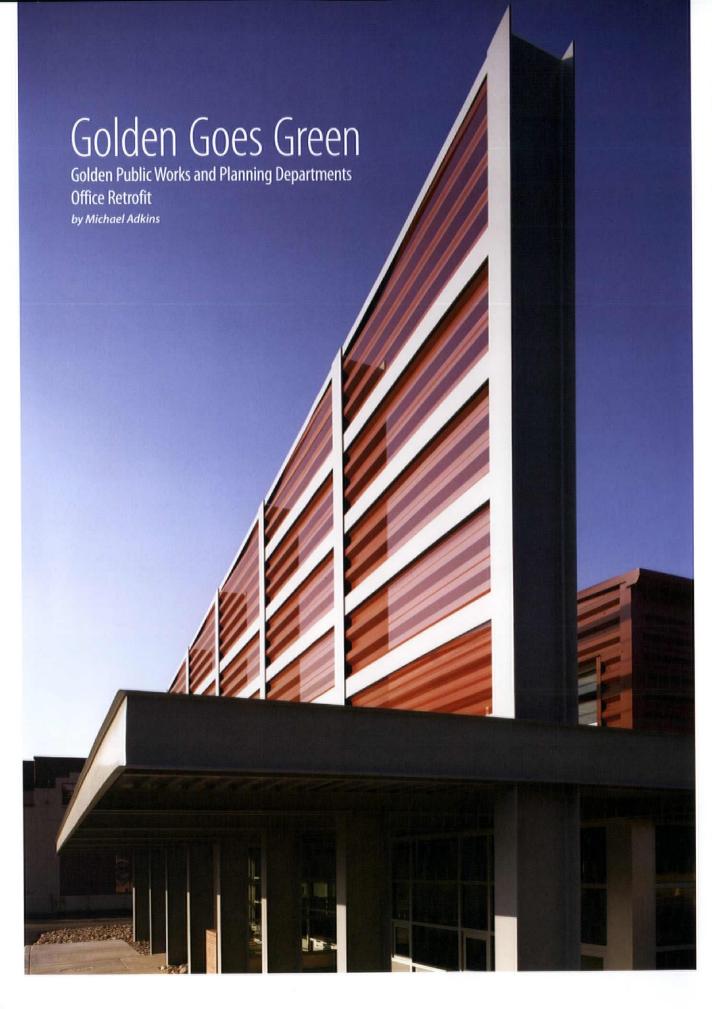


with the aid of Ben Larson, graphic designer and founder of BottleRocket Design. Larson designed the restaurant's logo and brand identity, which is incorporated in various ways throughout the space. "For example, we water-jet cut the logo in certain panels, and there's custom wallpaper in the bathrooms," McHugh explained. "You might not pick up on it on your first visit, but repeat customers might see some of these subtle features."

McHugh described this undertaking as a true collaboration, noting the synergy of the Central Bistro & Bar's menu, its strong brand identity and its contemporary design. "The materials and furniture choices interacted with the menu and the graphic design throughout the course of the project," he said. "Keeping the food, the atmosphere, the prices and the bar menu in mind was crucial. They all influenced the design, just as the design influenced the menu."

This interactive process proved to be the defining characteristic of the project, McHugh said. "It was a real collaboration," he emphasized. "The owner had a real vision of where he wanted to go with the restaurant and had great ideas for the feel of the location. We worked closely with him and the graphic designer to carry out a united concept throughout, rather than trying to fit each piece — graphic design, materials, food, atmosphere — in separately. I really feel that this process made the project more successful overall than it would have been otherwise."





As environmentally friendly architecture continues to grow in popularity, more and more owners are looking for ways to go green. One practice that can be quite environmentally friendly is retrofitting a space, which can conserve energy and resources compared to tearing it completely down and starting over with groundup construction.

That was the thought process for the city of Golden, Colo., and its recent retrofit of an old vehicle-maintenance and storage facility into office space for the city's Public Works and Planning departments. With the help of McMenamin Design Associates, LLC (McDA), based in Louisville, Colo., this formerly nondescript structure serves as a modern, vibrant example of Golden's commitment to green building.

Greg McMenamin, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, owner and principal of McDA, said he pushed early on in the project to keep as much of the original structure as possible. "I like to approach every building with at least a basic sustainability strategy, regardless of LEED certification," he explained.

McMenamin's design called for skinning and gutting the structure, retaining the rigid frame and the slab for the new design. The project was begun in March 2011 and completed in June 2012. "It was a case of fitting 10 pounds in a 5-pound bag," McMenamin recalled. "The building was 60 by 100 feet, and that was that. It was a challenge to make it all fit."

The exterior of the remodeled building consists of insulated metal wall panels that are just 2.75 inches thick but feature an R-20 insulation value. The panels' prefinished interior and exterior layers, coupled with McDA's structurally exposed, industrial-style design, greatly reduced the project's requirements for infrastructure and coatings.

The newly repurposed office building makes use of ample daylighting — particularly on its eastern face, which is where the entrance, the lobby and the main conference rooms are located. A newly designed and constructed steel-frame and metal-panel



screen wall serves both as protection from the sun for these open areas and aesthetic appeal for the building as a whole. "The paneling is identical to the ones on the side of the building but perforated to act as a giant screen," McMenamin said. "It also establishes a front to what could otherwise be a mundane, prosaic building. It gives the structure a storefront-style presence, paying homage in a contemporary way to the old storefronts of downtown Golden and to the mountains immediately beyond."

The color scheme used throughout the building is a contextual reflection of Golden's rich Western history and mining traditions. Deep reds and rustic oranges refer to the mined ores of Clear Creek, while vibrant purples hearken back to the "purple mountain majesties" of the Rocky Mountains.

Aside from the innate environmental benefits of a reuse project, the Golden

Golden Public Works and Planning Departments

Architect: McMenamin Design

Associates, LLC

Firm Owner and Principal: Greg

McMenamin, AIA, LEED AP BD+C Client: City of Golden, Colo.

General Contractor: Rand

Construction Corporation

Structural Engineer: Ascent Group

Mechanical, Plumbing and

Electrical Engineer: Priest

Engineering, Inc.

Civil Engineer: TST, Inc.

Landscape Design: City of

Golden, Colo.

Location: Golden, Colo.

Scope: 6,155 square feet

Construction Cost: \$1.05 million Purpose: Office and meeting

space for Golden Public Works and Planning departments

Sustainability: Pursuing LEED certification (LEED Silver or LEED

Gold expected)

Photographer: Raul J. Garcia Photography Architectural



The exterior of the remodeled building consists of insulated metal wall panels that are just 2.75 inches thick but feature an R-20 insulation value.

Public Works and Planning departments' office building makes use of several modern features to maximize sustainability, including LED lighting, low-use water fixtures, low-VOC coatings and recycled-fiber carpeting. The aforementioned metal panels reduce heating and cooling demands.

Also, the site was converted from a 100 percent impervious asphalt surface to one with only 38 percent impervious surfaces. The remaining 62 percent of the surface is populated with native grasses and trees. "It's a huge site improvement," McMenamin noted. "Getting the landscaping involved tremendously improved the site."





The Golden Public Works and Planning departments' office building is the city's first project conceived of with LEED certification as a goal, McMenamin said, with either LEED Silver or LEED Gold expected. This newfound focus on green building can be traced back to Golden's mayor, Marjorie Sloan, McMenamin added. "She's very focused on making Golden a leader on sustainable and green issues," he said. "It's something the city really wanted to begin the process with on this project, and the public works director, the town engineer and the sustainability coordinator were all on board."

That sense of sharing a singular vision for the project ultimately contributed to its success, McMenamin stated. "It's talked about a lot these days, but it's nice to get to work with a client who's actually focused on sustainable development," he said. "They were very open to doing the things needed to make this a truly sustainable project.

"I've had my own firm since 1996, and it's some of my best work," McMenamin continued. "A lot of credit for that has to go to the owner for being willing to branch out and try new things. It's a really neat project and one I'm proud to have been a part of."





Higher Education

A Look at the BEST Grant Program and Several Schools Designed Under the Program

Established in 2008 with the signing of C.R.S.22-43.7, Building Excellent Schools Today, or BEST, provides funding, in the form of competitive grants, to school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. BEST grant funds can be used for the construction of new schools as well as general construction and renovation of existing school facility systems and structures.

The BEST plan is unique in that it requires no new taxes. Instead, it leverages \$30 million to \$40 million of revenue annually from the School Trust Lands (property the federal government granted to Colorado for the benefit of its children upon statehood) and additional state lottery revenues to raise up to \$500 million in capital.

The BEST legislation addresses health and safety issues by providing funds to rebuild, repair or replace the state's most dangerous and most needy K-12 facilities. Issues addressed include failing roofs, structural problems, inadequate fire safety, faulty and dangerous boilers, asbestos, code issues, inadequate educational suitability, overcrowding, faulty and dangerous electrical service, poor indoor air quality, lack of ADA accessibility, and carbon monoxide contamination, among others.

The Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board, which consists of nine appointed members who may serve

up to three two-year terms, was required by the BEST legislation to conduct an assessment of all public schools in Colorado. The Statewide Facility Assessment assessed public school facility capital construction projects based on the condition of the facility; air and water quality; space requirements; the ability to accommodate educational technology, including but not limited to technology from individual student learning and classroom instruction; site requirements; and demographics, including a five-year projection concerning anticipated substantial changes in the pupil count of individual public school facilities.

As of November 2012, 284 school facilities have been impacted through BEST with more than \$979 million in grants.

Here is a closer look of some of the BEST projects completed by AIA Colorado members.

Vista Charter School

Vista Charter School (VSC) provides an alternative for students seeking a different avenue in which to earn a high school diploma by serving as an expulsion intervention program for the Montrose County School District. Its flexible class schedule allows students to hold a job while attending school.

VCS's original facilities were housed in three rundown prefab buildings on a dirt lot before Grand Junction, Colo.-



Vista Charter School



Vista Charter School

based Chamberlin Architects, P.C. designed the new facility, which includes eight classrooms, a common area, a teaching kitchen, an administration area, support spaces, an outdoor garden and a greenhouse. Chamberlin Architects' primary design goals were to create an environment supportive of alternative learning and an efficient, LEED-certified building.

"Being a BEST-funded school, we knew going into the project that this would be a highly sustainable project. We've been designing sustainable buildings for the public for over 30 years, long before it became popular with USGBC's LEED and CO-CHPS. This project was well suited for our firm's design philosophy," explained Jonathan West, AIA.

The school is inviting and stimulating with flexible spaces where students and faculty members can thrive. Each classroom has natural daylight. In rooms where traditional windows might provide distractions, daylight is admitted by clerestory windows and skylights. Classrooms can accommodate large and small classes, small groups and individual learning.

On track to earn a LEED Platinum certification, VCS may become the first LEED-certified building in Montrose County. This highly efficient building has a 20 kVA photovoltaic (PV) array, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and occupancy sensors for lighting and HVAC. Other sustainable features include exterior light shelves, spectrum glazing, operable windows, recycled materials and certified wood. A central display monitor enables students to track the building's efficiency.

Besides the BEST funding, this project had another aspect that made it different than others Chamberlin Architects had completed previously. "This project was completed at a time of economic hardship. Construction is very important to this area, and, because the school was built in a recession, it was viewed as a bridge over hard times for the community," West said. The new school building is much loved by the staff, and it silently speaks volumes to these often "at-risk" students that they are worthy of such a fine facility.

Vista Charter School

Location: Montrose, Colo. **Firm:** Chamberlin Architects, P.C.,

Grand Junction, Colo.

Architect: Jonathan West, AIA Size: 16,866 square feet

Budget: \$4.6 million **Completed:** August 2012

Scope: Planning, programming, design, interior design, site planning, construction administration

and LEED submittal

Photographer: Ken Redding Photography



Vista Charter School

Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School

The Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School is a representation of community pride and heritage, context and a commitment to education that is typical of rural communities; however, this project was not without its challenges.

"The project had some unique challenges, including how were we going to embrace this unique contextual setting, reflect the lineage of past graduates, inspire students for their future and accommodate grade-level diversity of students and create a community center all within a single facility," said Greg Cromer, AIA. "Like all challenges, the solution unfolds the more you craft [it] and listen to the stakeholders. What was special about this project was the commitment the entire design team made to explore and integrate these objectives into the building design."

Cromer continued, "Enough can't be said about the positive impact the BEST program is having on improving the quality of educational facilities in Colorado. The needs are tremendous, and the BEST program does a great job at maintaining its effectiveness in the politically

Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School

Location: Mosca, Colo.

Firm: klipp | a division of gkkworks, Denver

Size: 80,000 square feet Budget: \$17.5 million Completed: August 2011

Scope: Architectural design services, including all site improvements, for a new-construction PK-12 facility with classrooms, administration, commons area, a kitchen, two gymnasiums, a fitness and weights area, vocational areas and a separate bus facility; schematic design through construction-documents phases; interiors; a ground-source/geothermal system; LEED design criteria services; commissioning; sanitary design; a water well system; and telecommunications services

Photographer: James H Berchert Photography



Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School



Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School

charged landscape of public funding. The BEST program advocates energy performance goals [and also] maintainability and operational efficiency to reduce future demands on school budgets."

This highly sustainable school implemented a wide variety of strategies to attain a LEED Gold rating, including a horizontal geothermal field, displacement ventilation, baseboard heating, demand-based controls for lighting and mechanical systems, and xeriscape landscaping strategies.

"Because Sangre was part of the first wave of new schools from the BEST program and we had a great team throughout the project, our focus was to maximize the available funding and achieve something special, not in a grandiose way, but in a credible and thoughtful manner for the community and reflective of the intentions of the BEST program. This year marks our fourth consecutive year to complete a BEST project for a rural district; with each project, we are afforded the opportunity to be welcomed into their community and seek a deeper appreciation for what the opportunity means to them and their children," Cromer explained. "We focus on reflecting community intentions and strive to inspire users through design. The Sangre community understood that this was an incredible opportunity. From day one, they demonstrated a welcoming trust and participated in conversations they would never have dreamed of having before this opportunity. Simply put, they invested themselves in the project and embraced the design exploration."



Sangre de Cristo PK-12 School



Salida High School

Salida High School

Location: Salida, Colo.

Firm: Blythe Group + co., Grand Junction, Colo.

Size: 96,300 square feet Budget: \$23.2 million Completed: Fall 2012

Scope: Master planning, BEST grant submission assistance, architecture, interior design and FF&E

Photographer: Steve Maylone, Maylone

Photography of Architecture

Salida High School

The new Salida High School is an accomplishment of community perseverance, endurance and ingenuity. The final project, consisting of a new two-story educational wing, a performing-arts wing and an athletics/vocational wing, is a 96,300-square-foot building dedicated to the highest degree of education and the future of the area. The building also stands as a community center of sorts, opening its doors not only for the usual athletic and arts events but also as a gathering place for other various community functions.

The high school came with a unique set of challenges for the design and construction team. The team was required to "fast-track" the design and phase the construction. The new school was developed and constructed on the existing site (the school's athletic fields) while regular school operations continued in the existing building. Once the new structure was complete, the team had to demolish the old structure, build all the new sports facilities and finish the site work. "The project was completed in approximately 20 months for design and construction and is still going to achieve a LEED Gold status," stated Roy T. Blythe, AIA. "That is a lot to accomplish in this time period for a \$32 million project."

Materials on the exterior such as brick and natural weathered metal panels were used for their durability and life spans. Interior materials such as tile floors and wainscot and polished concrete floors were used for the same reason. Natural ventilation is paired with a high-efficiency HVAC system and electrical system. Natural daylighting was incorporated to every extent possible with stepped artificial lighting systems to complement it. The exterior envelope incorporates a super-insulated roof and walls to minimize heat gain and loss.

"BEST has developed guidelines and standards over the last few years that help establish expectations for the client and the design and construction team. We have learned that a BEST school will include sustainable design features;



seek LEED Gold accreditation; and generally be developed for durable, long-term use. Buildings included in the BEST program will focus on the educational/learning requirements for the school, require standards to ensure equity in the funds being invested and be developed to reduce energy/operational costs while still being customized to a specific school district's needs," Blythe said.



Salida High School

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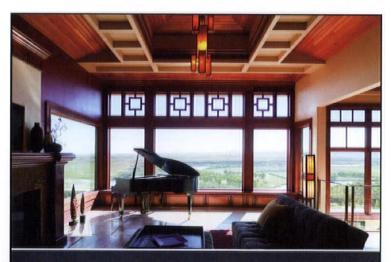
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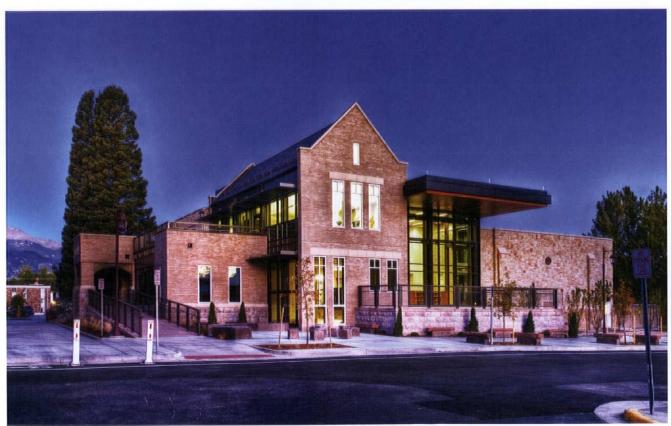
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Gottlieb Building



Gottlieb Building

Gottlieb Building at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) campus has been a landmark in downtown Colorado Springs, and, for more than 60 years, very little changed in the Gottlieb Building as it continued to serve deaf students on campus. Though the building was structurally sound and of great historic character, it was not supporting the current educational needs of students.

In 2010, the school received a BEST grant to renovate and transform this building. The planning process was centered on a strategy that the architect would provide the school design expertise and the Design Advisory Group from CSDB would provide strong guidance concerning the special needs of its student population. Utilizing interpreters, RTA conducted design charrettes that included administrators, deaf and hearing staff members, students and Board of Education representation.

The need for flexible spaces was balanced against the requirement for enhanced acoustical performance by creating a design with small classrooms arranged around a learning commons, which also provide social gathering spaces unique to each school level.

Small classes of six to 12 students are organized by needs and ability rather than by grade level. Classrooms are designed so that students can be arranged in a single arc around the teaching wall. The educational program leverages technology to reinforce the learning process using interactive LCDs, scrolling banners, distance learning, video recording and multiplane sliding whiteboards. This reinforcement helps the student receive all the information presented. The quality of light is critical to relieve eye strain and allow minute visual signs and facial expressions to be easily recognized from all angles. Classrooms are designed to rigorous acoustic standards and to remove outside visual distractions.

The project is currently pursuing LEED Gold certification. Sustainable features include the mechanical system, which uses an energy-recovery unit and is modeled at 41 percent better than baseline for energy usage. The building is equipped with a lighting-control system that communicates with occupancy sensors. The building envelope was insulated and provided with new thermally broken windows to optimize thermal comfort. The green roof is irrigated using condensate water that is collected from the mechanical units.

The renovated building has become the epicenter on campus, containing the media center, the auditorium and community classrooms. Distance learning environments allow the classrooms to fully connect to deaf students in remote areas of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. The ability of these remote students to fluidly connect with the campus enriches their lives in a way not previously possible. •

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

Location: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Firm: RTA Architects, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Principal in Charge: Brian Calhoun, AIA
Project Manager: Stuart L. Coppedge, AIA

Project Architect: Ken Gregg, AIA

Budget: \$6.8 million Completed: August 2011

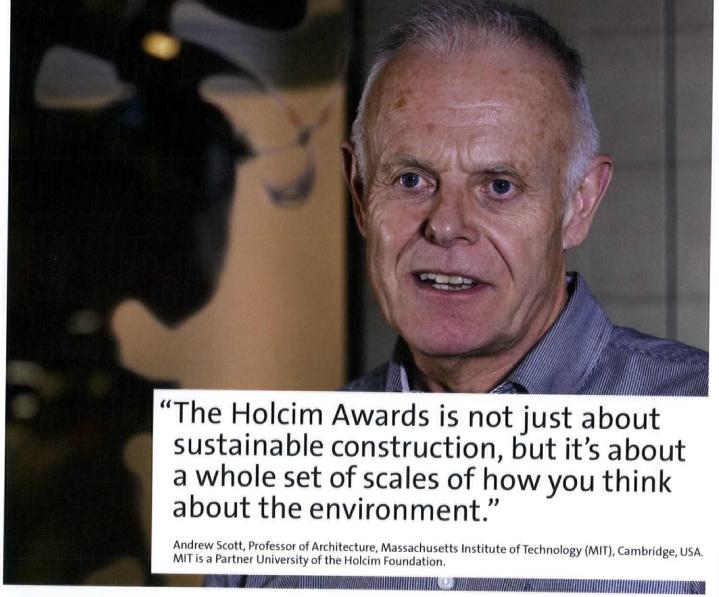
Scope: Renovation and addition of a historic K-12 educational facility, including all design and coordination responsibilities, programming, and

educational specifications

Photographer: Terry Shapiro Photography



Gottlieb Building



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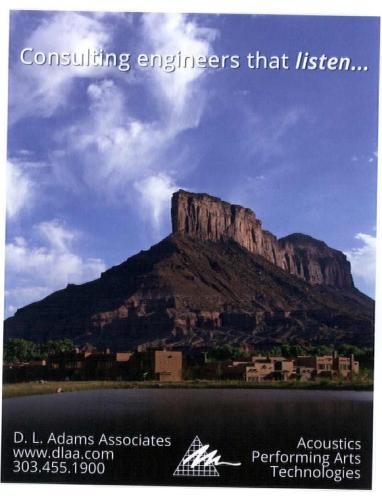
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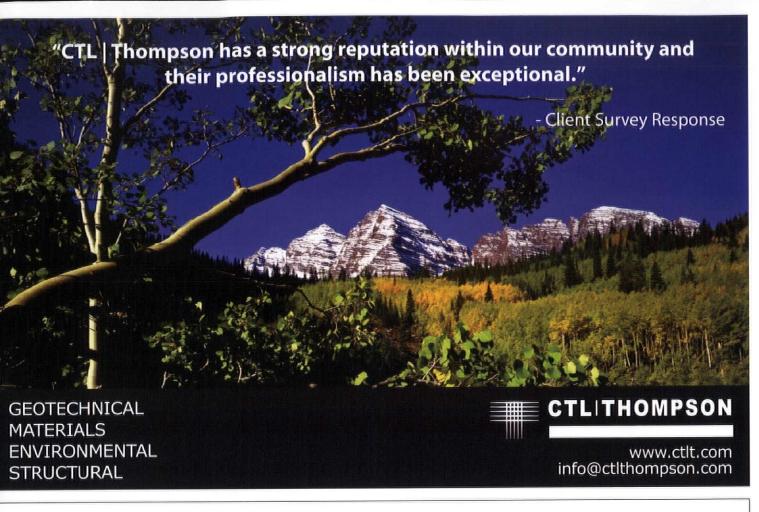


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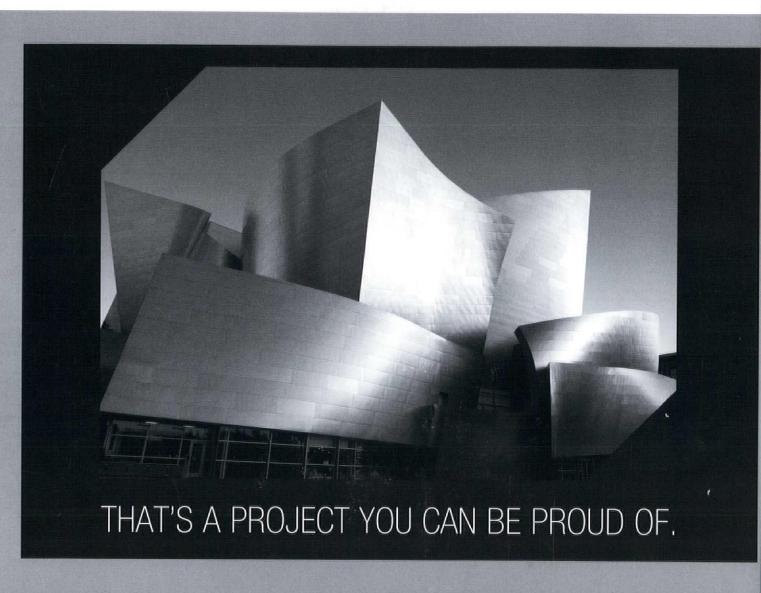


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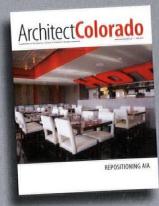
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