

# FORUM

NOVEMBER 2009

a monthly publication of the las vegas chapter of the american institute of architects



***Congratulating Windom on the WMR Silver Medal are (L to R) Terry Brown, FAIA, Windom Kimsey, FAIA, John Anderson, FAIA and Phil Gerou, FAIA***

## **AIA LAS VEGAS MEMBERS HONORED BY WESTERN MOUNTAIN REGION**

Windom Kimsey, FAIA, principal of Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects, has been awarded the highest honor that can be presented to an architect within the AIA Western Mountain Region. The WMR Silver Medal is awarded annually by the WMR Council to the individual architect who has made significant contributions to the Institute, the profession and to the citizens of the Western Mountain Region, and who has transcended local boundaries in making these contributions.

Mr. Kimsey is recognized for his outstanding leadership within the AIA community over his 25 year career. He served as president of the local chapter in 1997, chaired the AIA's National Committee on Design in 2004 and represented Nevada on the national steering committee to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Institute. Windom's design work has been featured in Architecture, Architectural Record, L'ARCA and World Architecture magazines. Over the past several years, Windom's projects have been honored by the American Institute of Architects at the local, state, regional and national levels. In 2004 Windom was inducted into the AIA's College of Fellows, an honor bestowed on only four Nevada architects.

Flo Rogers, President and General Manager of Nevada Public Radio has been honored with the Western Mountain Region "Award of Distinction" for her dedicated efforts to promote public awareness and appreciation for architecture within the region. The Award of Distinction is specifically given in recognition of those individuals and organizations, outside the AIA membership category of Architect, who have recorded, illustrated or contributed to a better understanding and interpretation of awareness of architecture in the Western Mountain Region.

Over the last six years, Ms. Rogers has worked in partnership with the AIA Las Vegas Chapter to inform and educate the public regarding architectural issues that impact the community. She serves as a member of the Editorial Board for the Chapter's Architecture Las Vegas magazine and works diligently to promote quality architecture throughout the community. She is most deserving of this special recognition.



***Flo Rogers, President & General Manager, Nevada Public Radio***

## **DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

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## **VEGAS VALLEY BOOK FESTIVAL 2009**

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## **15 FOR 12 MEMBERSHIP OFFER**

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***Congratulations to EDWARD A. VANCE, AIA – newly elected to the AIA National Board of Directors, representing the Western Mountain Region.***

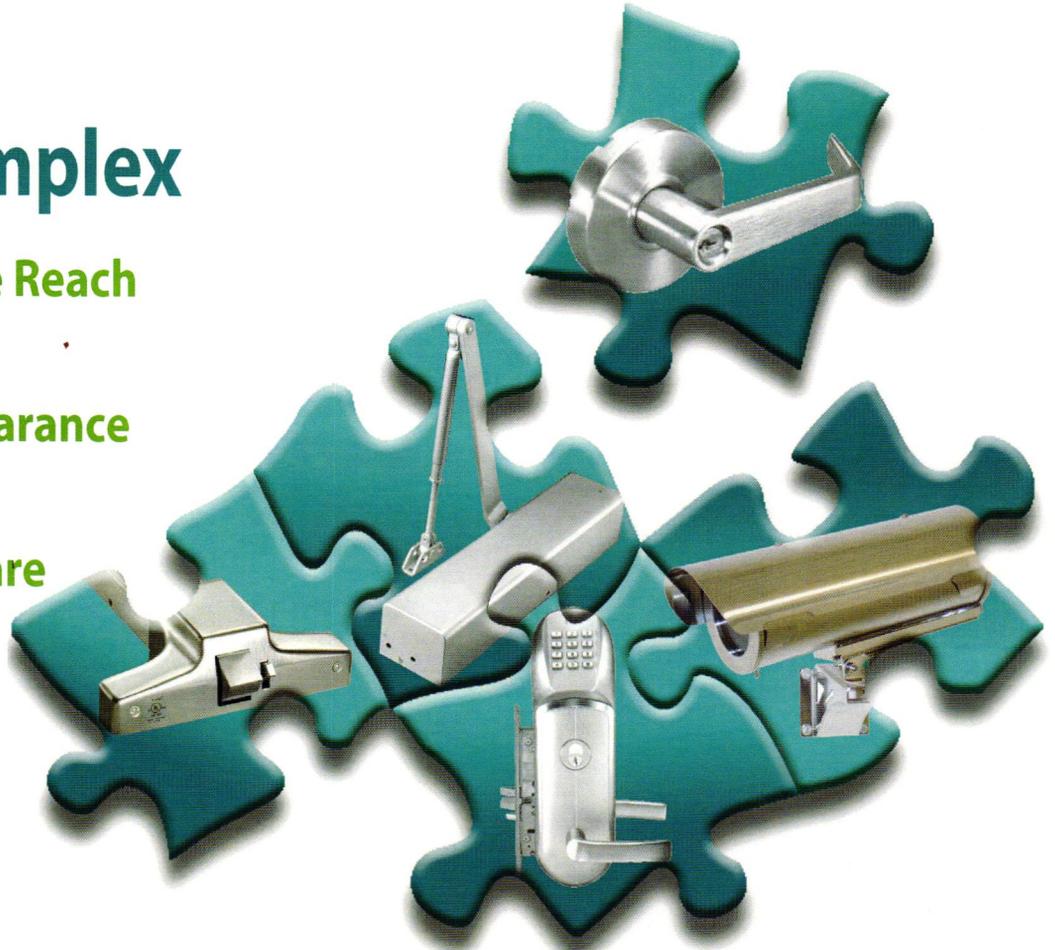
***Ed joins RIC LICATA, AIA as a WMR Director and both are from Nevada. With such qualified and dedicated directors, the state and the region will be well represented in Washington, DC.***



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**AIA LAS VEGAS  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
SEAN COULTER, AIA



I attended a symposium late last month to discuss architecture in our state. The symposium was called "Finding a Nevada Voice." The focus was to explore the idea of an indigenous Nevada architecture and discuss how we, as a profession, are more than capable of designing any project in our state without the need to go out of state for design services. The symposium took place at the Goldwell Open Air Museum in Rhyolite, NV - yes, that's right, the ghost town of Rhyolite! There were about 45 people in attendance (most of them architecture students from UNLV, with a mix of professionals.) The scenery was spectacular and peaceful, the weather was a bit warm, but in the end, it was a great place to have a hootenanny...or was it a shindig? Hmmm. Anyway, it was **ERIC STRAIN, AIA**, from assemblageSTUDIO, who developed the idea for this gathering, procured the grants and coordinated the whole effort. My compliments to him and his crew for their hard work!

There were five presenters: Eric Strain from **ASSEMBLAGESTUDIO**, **JEFF ROBERTS, AIA** from **LUCCHESI GALATI**, **JACK HAWKINS, AIA** from **HAWKINS & ASSOCIATES**, **JOEL SHERMAN, ASSOC. AIA** from **JLS DESIGN** and myself. Each of us had 30 minutes to present our projects, thoughts, etc. During our lunch break, we all took a quick tour of Rhyolite, a ghost town built in the early 1900's and abandoned in the 1920's. At the end of the day we had a roundtable discussion lead by **DAVID BAIRD, AIA**, the new Director of the **SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AT UNLV**. To me, this was the most interesting part of the day, as we discussed the state of design and the impact it could have on our communities in the future. Not to mention, it was great to have the roundtable outside in the shade of the red barn as the sun set over the open desert. It was one of those moments where I truly felt the impact the desert has on me as a designer.



As I sat listening to the presenters, I began to realize that we all had a common goal of creating quality architecture that makes a positive impact on people's lives. I saw in all of the presentations how each one responded to the environment, to the owners needs, to the site, to materials and to form. Though each presenter had a different approach to design, in the end, each one kept coming back to the idea that quality design does make for a better way of life.



One aspect I found interesting was the discussion of LEED and of how it should or should not be implemented during the design process. It is obviously a force to be reckoned with, as everyone touched on the topic to some degree. The opinions ranged from rejecting LEED, by stating that design should naturally respond to the environment, to declaring that LEED is not stringent enough, as architecture should be regenerative and not just sustainable. It made me think about the effects that a quantitative process, such as LEED, has on architecture and how we, as architects, may or may not allow that to affect the qualitative aspects of the spaces we create.

I won't speak for all of the presenters, but I feel that LEED is one of those things that we, as a profession, used as a marketing tool at first, but has now taken on a life of its own, almost dictating form. I don't necessarily mind a process that quantifies certain aspects of design, such as how much recycled material is used in a project; when it starts to quantify the amount of light that hits a surface and forgets about the quality of that light, that is when it starts to become a bit problematic. I believe we should rely on our talent as designers; we possess intuition and can conceptualize space in our mind, so let's use that to our benefit! Science can and will help us create space that is more efficient, but we must rely on our abilities to create space that is worthy of inhabiting.

EVENT PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH SNODGRASS, AIAS

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## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AIA Las Vegas will join with the UNLV Downtown Design Center and the Klai Juba Lecture Series to present the November meeting, featuring Environmental Graphic Designer, **LAURA MCCANNA, KiKu Obata & Company** on Wednesday, November 18th at the Historic Fifth Street School.

Ms. McCanna is a Senior Associate, Senior Project Manager and Graphic Designer for in the St Louis office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (KiKu Obata & Company). She coordinates graphics services for projects beginning with client consultation and continuing through programming, design, documentation and construction administration. She has designed and managed architectural signage and environmental graphics projects, exhibits and art programs for a broad range of national and international clients.

RSVP online at [www.aialasvegas.org](http://www.aialasvegas.org) and plan to attend the November Membership Meeting.



## DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

It's going to be a "Charlie Brown Christmas" for AIA Las Vegas. Not real fancy or upscale...but certainly filled with gratitude and glad-tidings. It's been a tough year for all of us and it will be time to celebrate and rejoice in the things we have accomplished and the friends we have made.

Come join the celebration -- Wednesday, December 16th, 6:00PM in the Historic Fifth Street School Auditorium. \$25 for AIA Members, \$50 Non-members and Guests. Don't forget to bring a gift or donation for Safe Nest so that we can share our holiday spirit and help someone else's holidays to be a little brighter. Make your plans now and go ahead and RSVP online at [www.aialasvegas.org](http://www.aialasvegas.org).

## AIA 2010 MEMBER DUES PAYMENT PLAN (MDPP)

These are tough financial times for all of us, but you need to keep your AIA membership active -- And here's a good way for you to do it. If it would be helpful for you to pay your 2010 member dues in installments, AIA Las Vegas / Nevada has arranged for you to do so. We have joined the MDPP program being offered by AIA National. 2010 Dues Invoices will be mailed out at the end of October with payments due by January 31st, 2010.

## To take advantage of the MDPP program, here's the process:

Eligible members interested will be able to enroll online at [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org) beginning January 4, 2010. Members will be required to authorize The American Institute of Architects to make withdrawal payments against a valid credit/debit card based on the scheduled terms for the payment of annual dues.

Members who have not renewed their membership by April 6, 2010 will be considered lapsed and will not receive member benefits until either dues payment is made in full or the member enrolls in the MDPP. The deadline to enroll is April 30, 2010. New and reinstated members are NOT eligible to participate in the MDPP.

The installment term for the 2010 plan will be for six months only, starting January 4, 2010, and ending June 30, 2010. Members need to enroll into the plan prior to April 30, 2010. Firms who choose to use the MDPP on behalf of their employees must enroll their Institute members individually online. This must also include the authorized credit or debit account from which each member's dues can be paid.

## HIGH SCHOOL DESIGN AWARDS NEEDS ADVISORS

Each year AIA Las Vegas hosts the High School Design Awards in Clark County's high schools. We are in need of mentors who can volunteer their time to help answer questions, critique work, and add valuable insight to these high school student design projects. If you'd like to be an advisor and help to inspire young minds, please contact **YISSA RENTERIA** at 702.435.1150 or [yrenteria@pscarchitects.com](mailto:yrenteria@pscarchitects.com).



**VEGAS VALLEY  
BOOK FESTIVAL**  
November 4-8, 2009

**VEGAS VALLEY BOOK  
FESTIVAL 2009**

*A CELEBRATION OF THE  
WRITTEN, SPOKEN AND  
ILLUSTRATED WORD*

Make plans to attend the Vegas Valley Book Festival on November 4-8th. It is the largest annual

literature event in Las Vegas and will present a full schedule of readings, panel discussions, book signings, workshops, word performances, exhibitions, children's literature and special events. Most events are free and open to the public.

The Festival opens on November 4th, with Aaron Betsky as the keynote speaker, presenting "The Art of Presentation" at 7:00PM in the auditorium of the Historic Fifth Street School.



Aaron Betsky is an architect, critic, curator, educator, lecturer and writer on architecture and design who since August 2006 has been the director of the Cincinnati Art Museum. From 2001 to 2006 Betsky served as director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Although Betsky was born in Montana, he grew up in The Netherlands. He graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in History, the Arts and Letters (1979) and a M.Arch (1983). He then taught at

the University of Cincinnati from 1983 to 1985 and worked as a designer for Frank Gehry, and Hodgetts & Fung. From 1995-2001 Betsky was Curator of Architecture, Design and Digital Projects at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art before moving back to The Netherlands.

Betsky has written numerous monographs on the work of late 20th century architects, including I.M. Pei, UN Studio, Koning Eisenbert, Zaha Hadid and MVRDV, as well as treatises on aesthetics, psychology and human sexuality as they pertain to aspects of architecture, and is one of the main contributors to a spatial interpretation of Queer theory. Betsky was named as the director of the 11th Exhibition of the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2008.

For more information, visit [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org).



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## EMERGING PROFESSIONALS NEWS

The American Institute of Architects would like your input. As an architecture school graduate, what does the future hold for you? What are your needs to help you attain your goals? AIA Staff in Washington D.C. are conducting focus group conversations, via conference call, that will focus on your current professional environment, your career goals and how the AIA can provide resources, tools, opportunities etc. that can help you attain them. If you would like to share your thoughts on how AIA can meet your needs, please email Justin Madigan at Justinmadigan@aia.org.



### 15 FOR 12 MEMBERSHIP DEAL!

Don't you know someone who SHOULD be a member of AIA? Now's the time to encourage them to JOIN! They will receive membership for the rest of 2009 and all of 2010 for

only one year's dues. 2010 membership dues and benefits information is available at [www.aialasvegas.org](http://www.aialasvegas.org)

Tell your friends to go to the website and click on "Join the AIA" ...then select their membership category (Architect, Associate, Allied), and download the application. Fill it out and send it in with their dues payment and they are all set to receive all the benefits of membership from now through all next year. We have great programs, C.E. opportunities, activities and celebrations planned. So, be a part of it....and encourage all your friends and associates to join you.

## facebook

### AIA LAS VEGAS NOW HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE

We have created a new way to keep our members and the public informed with all we having going on at AIA Las Vegas. Please take a moment to visit our Facebook page and click to become a fan. Once you have added us to your site, you will receive posts regarding events, news and updates. We have also uploaded several event photos and plan on creating a "discussion board" which will allow you to add your comments regarding current events and issues that affect the design community.

If you do not currently have a Facebook page, why not take a few moments and sign up! It is fast, easy and a great way to communicate with co-workers, groups and even old high school friends...OK, maybe that is too much communicating for you. But you get to control who you reach out to and who gets to hear from you. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to sign up. You can put as much (or as little) info on your site as you wish.



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**AIA NEVADA  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*CURT CARLSON, AIA, LEED AP*

Did the Fat Lady Sing?

Thank God the recession is over. Or at least that's what the news and the feds are saying. I feel so much better now.

I really don't plan on celebrating anytime soon. I see more interest in projects and more discussions, but I don't see that many projects turning into reality. I have been on a couple of panel discussions and had some conversations with bankers, developers and brokers and they don't see much either. I don't want to sound too dismal, but it sounds like it is going to take Las Vegas (and especially our profession) a little while longer to rebound. There are quite a few statistics working against us right now that need to improve before we see recovery. Namely: the high office vacancy rate, the empty high-rise condos, the housing foreclosures and the pending credit crisis in the commercial market. House prices have dropped here in the valley, but with tighter credit constraints - potential buyers aren't qualifying for loans.

Real Estate Forum magazine stated that there has been a big move by REIT's to raise billions of dollars of capital to be poised to jump into the market and "pick up the pieces." That sounds vaguely familiar to the plan of attack back in the 80's to get out of that recession. The REIT's, unfortunately are looking to acquire existing, financially (dis)stressed properties as investments at rock bottom prices. In other words - buy them out of foreclosure - like the housing market. The bad news for us is that this is for existing buildings - not new construction. There isn't going to be a big need for new buildings until the existing buildings are a little closer to being occupied.



The government side of projects isn't doing any better when it comes to new buildings. The CIP for the state this year was dismal and no new projects are anticipated to be funded in the next list. Any money that is available is slated to go to maintenance and repairs. Schools, colleges and most local government agencies are feeling the same pinch. With tax revenues down - from property taxes to sales taxes - the funding mechanism for them is drying up. But wait - don't forget there is federal stimulus money! Sorry I meant to say: Forget the federal stimulus money.

So where is our profession? Trust me, I don't have the answers. But there are some things our profession can do now to strengthen ourselves.

1. Be strategic project problem thinkers. Don't just look at a project as a building on its own - look at the whole picture.
2. Be resourceful designers. How can a project be designed and built for less upfront cost and less operating cost. That savings could potentially lead to another project, a larger project or a more value added project for the client/user.
3. Be leaders and advocates for the built environment. There is no need to sacrifice sustainable building attributes at this time because of a higher perceived cost. This could be the time to advocate more due to lower operating costs.
4. Don't sell yourself short. We still provide a valuable service.

It is definitely going to be bumpy starting into next year and getting through next year. But don't worry, the recession is over.....

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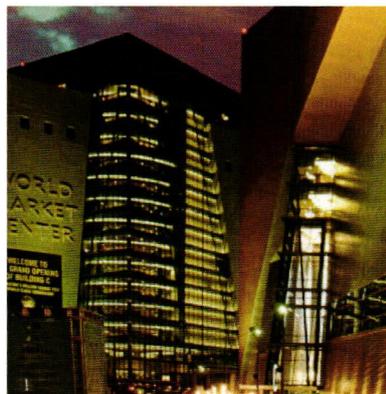
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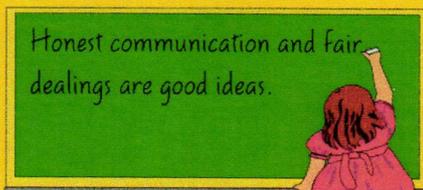
**EMERGING TRENDS IN REAL ESTATE 2010***SURVIVING THE RECESSION*

The real estate market continues to be a challenge for everyone. Attend the third annual Urban Land Institute presentation of Emerging Trends and a lively discussion on local, regional and national real estate trends. Dean Schwanke, Senior Resident Fellow, ULI will present the annual Emerging Trends findings for 2009. Rick Myers will then lead a discussion on Las Vegas trends related to the different product types and capital markets, with the ULI team of experts. Please join us for the third annual comprehensive look at the Las Vegas real estate community. Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at The Orleans Casino – 7:30AM Registration and Continental Breakfast. 8:00AM to 10:00AM – Program. Register online at [www.uli.org/register](http://www.uli.org/register) before November 16th, 2009.

**ALL INDUSTRY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION  
HOSTED BY THE LAS VEGAS DESIGN CENTER**

We've been invited to a wonderful party!! By we, I mean – US – all of us AIA Members. The Las Vegas Design Center (World Market Center) is holding a fabulous holiday party for all members of the Architecture and Design industry. It's

being held high atop Building B at the Las Vegas Design Center at 6PM on Tuesday, December 8th. No charge for attendance and there will be music, dancing, wonderful food and drink and gifts. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Watch for further information via email and your invitation by regular mail.

**TalkToCCSD.com**

Communication with all participants: parents, teachers, students, community activists, facilities staff, school board members, bond oversight committee members, the design community, the press... everybody!

**CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS**

There is a lot of activity and discussion these days in Nevada about Clean Energy and the Future. Join us for the Clean Energy Legislative Briefings when The Nevada Conservation League and AIA Las Vegas join forces to review and discuss the latest actions on Renewable Energy in our state. The dates are Tuesday, November 17th and Wednesday, December 9th. RSVP for these events online at [aialasvegas.org](http://aialasvegas.org)

**Music, Food, Gifts, Cash Rebates / Rewards and you're invited ...**

Please join us for a cocktail party as **Thermador** introduces its **Star Partner Program**. The program includes *cash rewards* for designers and architects who specify Thermador kitchen appliances, a *50% personal use discount* and a design contest. The details of the program will be discussed at the event. As an additional incentive, a raffle will be held for a *free* Thermador dishwasher with a value of \$1,399

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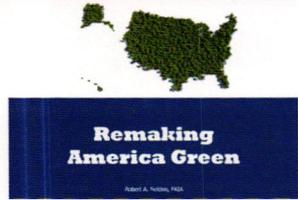
**2009 CONTINUING EDUCATION LUNCHEON SCHEDULE**

Thursday, November 12 – Hosted by Kathy Kaiser of Schirmer Engineering – Gordon Biersch - "2009 Model Code Update"

Thursday, December 10 – Hosted by Michael Gentile of Phillip Chun – Memphis BBQ – "Current & Pending Changes to Accessibility Design Provisions in Southern Nevada"



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**New Books**  
The new books list for September is available at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/collections/newstuff/newbk.php?catid=2>

Here are a few selected titles:

**FIXING BROKEN CITIES : THE IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES** / John Kromer. New York : Routledge, 2010

**PLANNING THE NIGHT-TIME CITY** / Marion Roberts and Adam Eldridge. London ; New York : Routledge, 2009

**INSTALLATIONS BY ARCHITECTS : EXPERIMENTS IN BUILDING AND DESIGN** / Sarah Bonnemaison and Ronit Eisenbach. New York : Princeton Architectural Press, c2009

**DESERT ARCHITECTURE** / Michelle Galindo. Berlin : Braun ; London : Thames & Hudson [distributor], 2009

**INNOVATION IN SMALL PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT** / Shu-Ling Lu & Martin Sexton. Chichester, U.K. ; Ames, Iowa : Blackwell, 2009

**UNDERSTANDING GREEN BUILDING GUIDELINES : FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** / Traci Rose Rider ; edited by Karen Levine. 1st ed. New York : W.W. Norton & Co., c2009=

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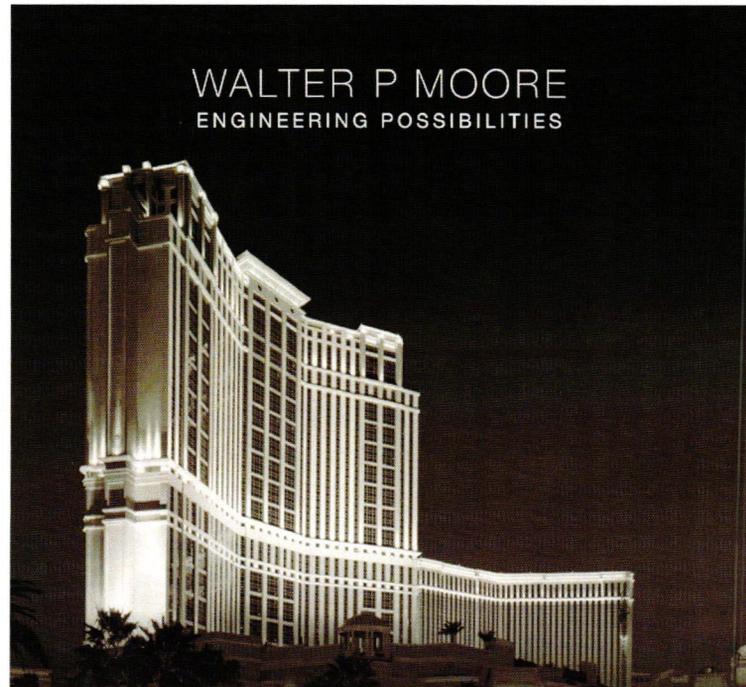
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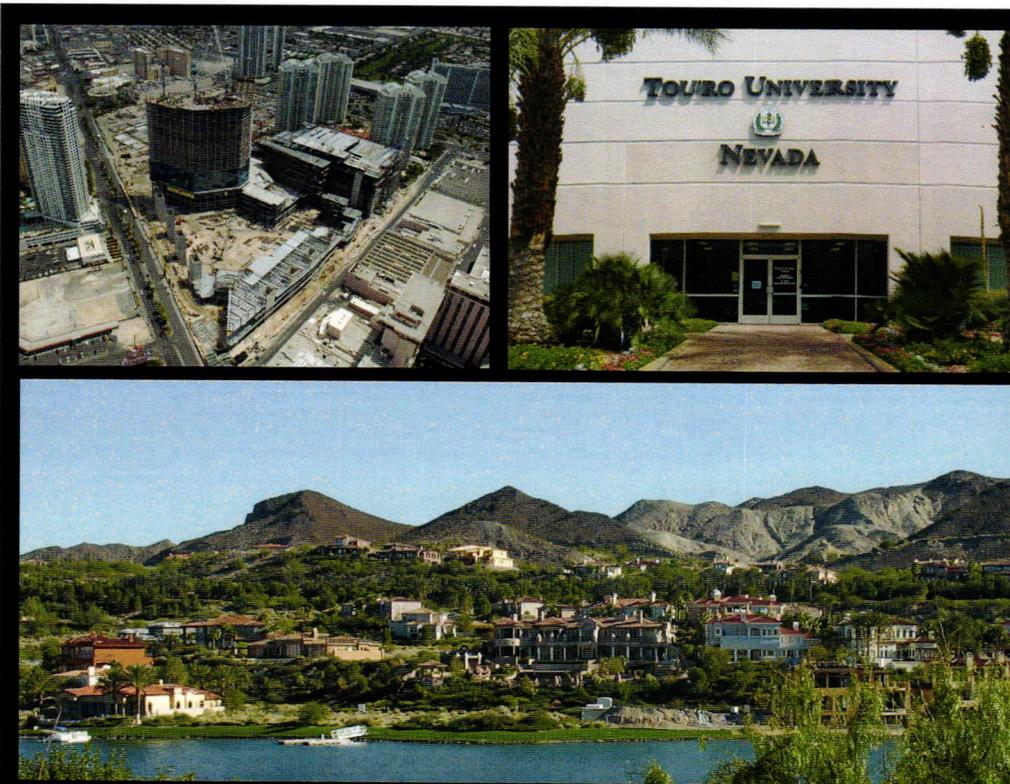
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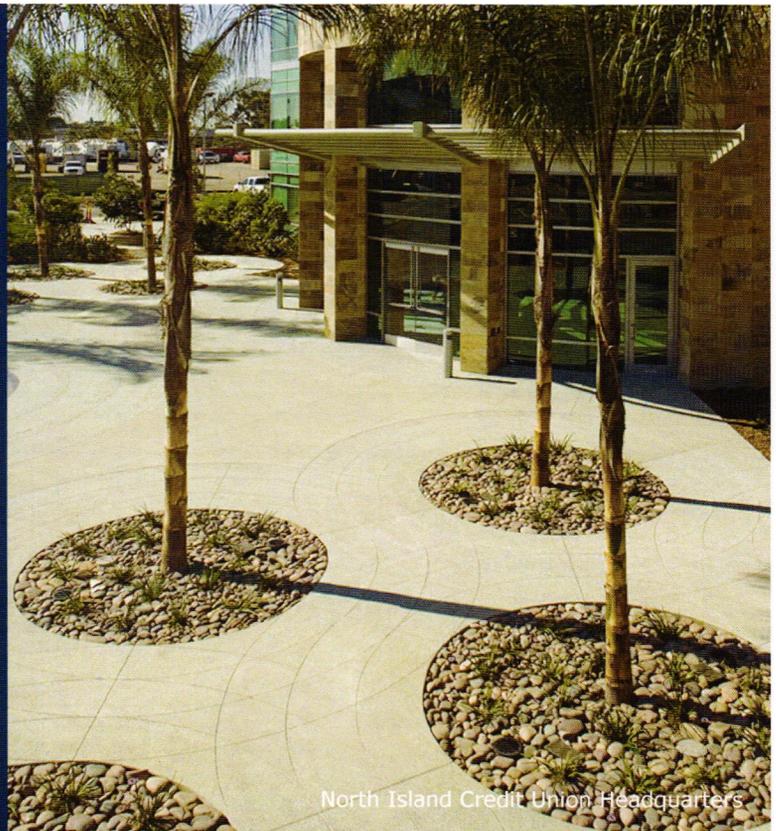
## Systems

Installing superior concrete paving involves a system: proper subgrade, formwork, reinforcement, joint control, finishing, sealing, and maintenance. There are no shortcuts to providing a high level of craftsmanship.

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# NOV

4

"The Art of Presentation" by Aaron Betsky at the Vegas Valley Book Festival- Historic 5th Street School

10

AIA LV Board Meeting

12

Continuing Education Luncheon - Hosted by Kathy Kaiser of Schirmer Engineering "2009 Model Code Update"

18

Membership Meeting - Laura McCanna, Environmental Graphic Designer and Project Manager, Kiku Obata & Company  
 Joint event w/ Klai Juba Lecture Series

# DEC

8

AIA LV Board Meeting

10

Continuing Education Luncheon - Hosted by Michael Gentile of Phillip Chun "Current & Pending Changes to Accessibility Design Provisions in Southern Nevada"

16

Holiday End-of-Year Celebration

17

AIA NV Ex Com Meeting

Dec 20 - Jan 4

AIA Las Vegas Office Closed

# JAN

12

AIA LV Board Meeting

14

Continuing Education Luncheon - OPEN

20

Membership Meeting

21

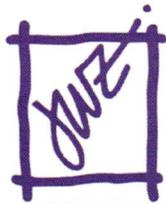
AIA NV Ex Com Meeting

28

Continuing Education Luncheon - OPEN

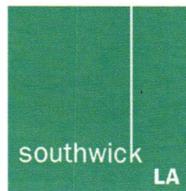
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