Member Survey Results Are In!

by Joseph M. Jackson, Associate AIA

Let me start by thanking all of you who participated in the 1996 AIA Colorado Member Survey. Of the 1350 surveys mailed, we received responses from 244 members, resulting in a very impressive 18% return rate — certainly more than enough to be considered a success.

The survey consisted of five divisions: Membership Services, Publications, Organization, Annual Design Conference, and Identity Questions. The responses received were enlightening, and in many cases candid. Let me share some of the major findings with you.

### Member Services

Considered by far the most important member service we offer, as it relates to you and your professional practice, is Public Relations/Awareness, followed by Professional Development/Continuing Education; Liability Issues; Governmental Relations Issues; Environmental Issues; Access to AIA Documents; and Architect Selection Methods. Least important, and perhaps contrary to common perceptions is the opportunity to carry after your name the AIA Designation.

Nearly half of you (46%) consider yourselves to be active and involved members. The three most common reasons for being involved are Service to the Profession, Networking with Peers, and Access to Professional Information followed closely by Involvement with Committees and Programs, and Leadership Opportunities. Most members attribute inactivity to Not Enough Time, and state that the Office/Job Is A Higher Priority. A small handful are inactive because we offer Nothing Of Interest. Nearly all inactive members feel that they would be more active if they just had More Time.

Sixty-seven percent of you pay your own dues (as opposed to your firms paying them). Of those that don’t currently pay your own dues, one third reported that if you had to pay your own dues, you would not be a member. Three out of five respondents feel that their dues are a Good Value, and more than half feel we have been at least Somewhat Successful over the past two years in communicating our themes of Visibility and Value.
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Dennis Humphries, AIA

My apologies for not keeping up with the newsletter writing. As with most all of you the past few months have been extremely busy and active. I thought this month I would write about a variety of the issues and opportunities that have been presented to AIA Colorado.

Many thanks for the overwhelming response to the Membership Survey. Our return of nearly 20% represents twice the number that successful surveys of this nature typically experience. The results will be invaluable as we continue to set the course of programs and objectives for the AIA in Colorado. For additional information about the specifics please refer to Joe Jackson’s column in this issue. Your local component boards also have copies of the tabulated results.

The AIA national convention in Minneapolis this past May was, as always, very stimulating and rewarding. Probably the most talked about feature of the convention was the presentation of the Carnegie Foundation’s report on architectural education and practice. The report titled Building Community: A New Future for Architecture Education and Practice was written by the late Ernest L. Boyer and Carnegie senior fellow Lee D. Milgang. The study commonly referred to as the “Boyer Report” recommends broad changes in architectural education and practice to place architecture more firmly behind the goal of building not only great buildings but more wholesome communities. This landmark report will be discussed for years to come significantly influencing how we teach and practice. Dean Patricia O’Leary, AIA of the University of Colorado will help facilitate our future discussions.

My congratulations to Elizabeth Wright Ingraham, FAIA’s efforts to run for national AIA Vice President. Unfortunately, Elizabeth was unsuccessful in her quest, being one of five candidates, the only one who did not come with previous national Board experience. I believe she made a difference in the election and put forth a great effort representing Colorado and the West. Thanks, Liz, for your commitment and efforts.

Continued on Page 4
MEMBER INFORMATION AND CHAPTER REPORTS

CHAPTER REPORTS

AIA Colorado South Chapter

There will be a reception for Colorado South Chapter Associates and Interns on Tuesday, July 9 at the Hillside Community Center. Guest speakers will be Steve Frey, Associate AIA, AIA Colorado Associate Director, and Margaret Gilbert, AIA, secretary of the Colorado State Board of Examiners of Architects. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Architectural Registration Exam, the Intern Development Program, and NCARB. The reception is planned for 5:30 to 7:00 PM.

Dennis Humphries, AIA, and Joe Jackson, Associate AIA, will attend the July 11 Board meeting, and will report on the progress of the reorganization of the structure of the AIA in Colorado.

We have begun preparation for the South Chapter’s exhibit at piazza!AIA in August. All South Chapter members are encouraged to participate (see ad on page 6).

The South Chapter is planning a just-for-fun outing to the Sky Sox baseball game on August 29. All members and their guests are invited.

Denver Chapter

AIA Denver “Lost Denver” Gallery Exhibit. A Denver Chapter exhibit exploring the idea of “Lost Denver” was held at the piazza!AIA gallery on Friday, June 7, 1996. The opening reception honored contributors to the 1996 AIA Denver Sponsorship Program. Featured in the exhibit is the Hobart House, a modernist home, designed by Denver architect, Joseph Marlow. The house, featured in a 1951 Progressive Architecture article on Denver architecture, was “renovated” in the late 1980’s. Among the images included in the exhibit are photographs provided by the Western History Collection of the Denver Public Library, and the private collections of Norman Cable, AIA; Alan Gass, AIA; Donald Wiederspan, Architectural Photographer; Swinerton and Walberg Builders; and Rocky Mountain Prestress, Inc.

AIA Denver 1996 Sponsorship Program. The 1996 AIA Denver Sponsorship Program has been in full blast since January 1996. Our goal with this year’s program is to raise $55,000 for program and committee activities. Our original goal had been $40,000, but we experienced several losses in our revenue stream this year and the original projection was revised. To date, we have raised $37,850 from contributors to AIA Denver. The chair of the Sponsorship Committee is Peter Orleans, AIA, President-elect for AIA Denver. Peter has received invaluable assistance from the following individuals who made solicitation phone calls: Ned White, AIA, Jam Wong, AIA, D.A. Bertram, AIA, James Paull, AIA, Brit Probst, AIA, Rich Wolfe, AIA, Steve Schonberger, AIA, Paul Jeselnick, AIA, Rich von Lahrte, AIA, Michael Jacoby, AIA, Jack Brokaw, AIA, Steve Newman, AIA, Ron Abo, AIA, and Roy Perlmutter, AIA.

AIA Denver Lecture Series. The Lecture Series Committee held its first lecture on May 30, 1996 on “Planning Schools in the 21st Century.” The keynote speaker was William Brubaker, AIA, of Perkins and Wills Architects in Chicago. Dennis Reseutek, AIA, facilitated a panel discussion with William Deno, AIA, Robert Kronewritter, FAIA, and Mark Rogers. The lecture was well-attended by 100 architects from Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs.

General Membership Meeting. A general membership meeting was held on May 29, 1996 featuring an excellent presentation of four different residential projects. The projects ranged from fairly conventional townhomes to creative re-use of historic buildings, and included a presentation on pre-stress concrete construction by Rocky Mountain Prestress. This program was in response to member requests for more open membership meetings.

AIA Colorado North Chapter

The June Board Meeting was held at the Public Library Building in Estes Park on June 11. The primary business ideas focused on the budget, the chapter’s new Partnership Program, membership and the Summerfest.

There was no membership meeting in June. The Summerfest will be on August 2 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club. The Golf Tournament will be in the afternoon, starting at 1:00 PM. The Awards and Certificates from "COLORADO NORTH CHAPTER PRESENTS" will be presented following dinner.

Continued on Page 7
President's Message continued from Page 2

The AIA Colorado Board held a statewide collaborative planning retreat also in May. The specifics and process were described in some detail in last month’s Field Report. Some of the items to be implemented in the near future are a statewide newsletter and a statewide Membership Directory/Firm Profile. The inaugural issue of the newsletter is scheduled for October to celebrate our hosting the Western Mountain Region conference in Aspen. It will feature pull-out sections for each of the respective components as well as an expanded emphasis on our work and practices throughout the state. The format, still being developed, will most likely be patterned after national’s AIArchitect. This will be an important communication and outreach tool. The statewide Profile will take the place of those previously published by the local components and will hopefully be published during the first quarter of 1997. The Profile will be organized by city; somewhat in the same fashion as the “yellow pages.” The publication will be distributed at no cost to school districts, municipal agencies, and other groups typically involved in the procurement of architectural services.

And finally, I would urge all of you to block out October 11-14 for the annual AIA Colorado and Western Mountain Region AIA Design Conference in Aspen. This blockbuster event organized by Shira Geller, AIA, has a theme of “Building the New West.” The conference will generate thoughts on how we as a profession must lead the way in building healthy communities that are in harmony with their surroundings creating a renewed sense of beauty and place. The conference will also include a diverse array of activities including fly fishing and riding for the outdoors enthusiasts and “Camp AIA” for the children in attendance. Don’t miss this very special conference.

I urge you to contact me or any other members of the AIA Colorado Board with your issues and thoughts. And I promise to be more diligent in writing future “Notes.”

State Board of Examiners from Page 2

After discussion about how they might better define or interpret “responsible charge,” they decided not to change the rule. Apparently, the Board’s intent was to better address complaints about architects stamping plans not prepared under their responsible charge. They will review this issue further as they prepare for the renewal of the licensing law next year. The GAC appreciates the Board of Architect’s continued commitment to improving the Rules and Regulations.

AIA COLORADO SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 1997 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The AIA Colorado Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates have been nominated for the 1997 Board of Directors:

For President-Elect:
Ron Abo, AIA
Cliff Taylor, AIA
AIA Denver
Colorado South Chapter AIA

For Treasurer-Elect:
Ron Goodman, AIA
Dean Ibsen, AIA
Tom McKenzie, AIA
Colorado North Chapter AIA
Colorado South Chapter AIA
AIA Denver

For Secretary:
Jane Adams, AIA
Kelly Karmel, AIA
Steven Loos, AIA
Colorado North Chapter AIA
AIA Denver
Colorado North Chapter AIA

For Associate Director:
Rick Dominick, Assoc. AIA
Shaun Gaither, Assoc. AIA
Colorado West Chapter AIA
Colorado North Chapter AIA

There may be filed with the AIA Colorado Secretary, by July 19, petitions signed by not less than five (5) members eligible to vote, placing in nomination one or more candidates other than those filed by the Nominating Committee (per AIA Colorado Bylaws).

Ballots will be mailed to every AIA and Associate AIA member by First Class Mail on or about August 1. Included with the ballot will be statements, bios and photos of the nominated candidates. Return envelopes will be provided and will need to be returned by 5:00 PM, Friday, August 23.

Call Nominating Committee Chair Steven B. Walsh, AIA at 303/295-1717 if you have any questions or comments.
When asked the question “If AIA Colorado could provide only five of the following services, which would be most important to you?” the number one response was Continuing Education. Also considered important is Legislative Representation, Access to Information and Staff Resources, the Field Report, and the Design Conference. Less critical services included Public Relations (which interestingly contradicts the number one response in the question above regarding services as they relate to your professional practice), AIA Document Sales, Employment Services, and Social Involvement. The piazza/AIA gallery space ran a very distant eleventh place, a rather disappointing showing considering the gallery space occupies approximately one third of our square footage here in Lower Downtown Denver.

On the issue of continuing education, we asked if you were aware of the mandatory AIA/CES requirement for AIA membership, and 94% responded Yes. Most of you will be attending Local Chapter and State Events, and utilizing Self Study programs, while a few of you plan to attend Allied Organization and National Events to meet the requirements. Three out of four respondents feel that the AIA/CES requirement is an enhancement to their practice and value as an architect, while sixty-two percent feel that continuing education should be required for licensure in Colorado.

■ Publications

When asked if the Field Report is an effective information source for the profession, 75% of you responded Yes. The modifications you would like to see most are More Information Written By Members and Committees; More Photos/Graphics; Critical Analysis; and More “Outside” Information.

We also asked your opinion on our plans to develop a single, consolidated statewide newsletter on a monthly basis (to replace the Field Report and local chapter newsletters), encompassing all state information along with an individual page or pages for each local chapter. Seventy-four percent of you responded Yes, this is a good idea. As a result, a task force has been formed with representatives from all chapters, with a goal of launching our premier issue in October of this year, to coincide with the Design Conference.

Another proposed publication in the works is a quarterly regional design magazine. We asked if you thought this would be a good public outreach vehicle to help increase the visibility of the profession. While we added that most other states that take on this type of publication generally find the endeavor to be unprofitable in the monetary sense, the majority of you (76%) still feel this is an opportunity AIA Colorado should participate in. However, we also asked if you would be willing to help subsidize the cost of the magazine through the purchase of a $25 subscription ... of the 76% that agree with the magazine concept, 53% feel that the subscription should be in the $10-20 range. Three quarters of the respondents feel that any monetary losses from this program should be written off to “building public awareness.”

■ Organization

Regarding the structure and organization of chapters in Colorado, 63% of you feel we should keep things as is, with no changes. Twenty-seven percent answered that we should move toward one statewide association by eliminating the local chapters and replacing them with (perhaps more) localized “sections.” Only 5% of the respondents felt we should consider adding additional local chapters.

When asked how we can best represent the views of membership to various groups outside the profession, the highest marks went to lobbying before the state legislature/government agencies, followed by presenting architect’s views to the media. Also important were our public outreach/communications efforts, and our efforts to initiate K-12 education programs in schools. Once again, a distant fifth place choice were the piazza/AIA gallery exhibits.

Government affairs issues have historically been a primary function for state AIA chapters, and eighty-five percent of you feel that AIA Colorado is adequately involved in this arena. We also announced that we are planning a Mini-Grassroots Day at the Capitol in February of next year to increase our visibility “on the hill.” More than 120 of you said you would be interested in participating in this event. We are considering sponsoring legislation in 1997, so you can bet we will be taking you up on your offer ... there’s strength in numbers!

■ Design Conference

Popular among our members is the annual Design Conference.

Continued on Page 7
Call for Entries

"Unbuilt Projects: Architecture by AIA Colorado South members"

Show will run at piazzaAlA from July 29 through August 30, with a reception on August 2, during LoDo Denver’s “First Friday Gallery Walk.”

Submittals May Include:
- Sketches
- Schematics
- Drawings
- Plans
- Models
- Photographs
- Slides (for projection during the show)

Work must be mounted appropriate for public display. Any project for which a foundation has not been poured is eligible.

The exhibit will not be juried. At least one piece from each Colorado South Chapter AIA member who enters will be shown. The committee will limit additional pieces only as space limitations require.

Entry forms and additional information will be sent, or call 719/633-0801.

Work must be delivered to Cliff Taylor’s office no later than July 26, 1996. For more information call 719/633-0801.

AIA Colorado South
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Gallery Committee: Lou Wynne, Hon. AIA Colorado South, Cliff Taylor, AIA, Mike Cook, AIA, Belinda Zink, AIA

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LEARNING UNIT OPPORTUNITY

Earn up to 16 AIA Continuing Education Learning Units by attending this CAD Seminar. Studio V and Graphisoft, a certified continuing education provider, will offer a seminar introducing the latest version of the powerful 3D CAD program ArchiCAD. The seminar will be held July 19 at the Denver Athletic Club in two sessions:

- Morning, (8:30 AM to 12:00 PM)
- Afternoon (1:00 PM to 4:30 PM)

By attending this free seminar and completing the Graphisoft interactive CAD course, you will receive 4 Learning Units for your attendance and 12 Learning Units for completing the ArchiCAD self-guided course in your home or office. The CAD course costs only $29.95 plus $2.75 for the AIA/CES registration fee. Course materials (including a video, software and tutorial) will be available for sale at the seminar. To reserve space for the seminar and request a CES Course, please call 303.770.2632. Registration can also be made via e-mail and the web at http://www.rnii.com/~view3d/. AIA member offices may also schedule demonstration and course presentations at their offices by calling Bruce Cousins at Studio V.

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HELP WANTED

Positions Open to all AIA Members.

Have an impact on your future
Find out how government works
Bring new viewpoints and ideas
"Interviews" being held the 2nd Friday of each month at 2 pm.
Call John Williams, AIA, Chair, 303/295-6190
or
Joe Jackson, Assoc. AIA, 303/446-2266

Government Affairs Committee
When asked the reason for attending, the vast majority of registrants are attracted by the **Speakers**, followed by **Exhibits, Networking, Social Aspects**, and the **Design Awards**. The primary reason for not attending was due to the **expense**. The majority of those responding plan to attend this year’s conference in Aspen, and feel that the new location is a nice change of pace and that future conference locales should be rotated throughout the state.

The response toward our design awards program was less favorable — nearly sixty percent feel that we do not meet our objective of recognizing and publicizing the best of Colorado design. You feel that we could improve this program by involving owners/developers/contractors, by **re-thinking the jury system**, and by adding **more award categories**. We’ve listened, and you will notice significant changes in this year’s AIA Colorado design awards program. Also, many of you answered under “other” that we tend to be inwardly focused in our publicity, so we will try to increase public awareness of the program, with a little less emphasis on internal communications within the profession.

### Identity Questions

Eighty percent of those responding were male. The age of most respondents (37%) was in the 41-50 range, followed by 31-40 (28%), and 51-65 (22%). Most survey participants (55%) are members of the Denver chapter (which is understandable since 57% of our members belong to that chapter); the remainder were evenly spread over the North, South and West chapters. Most (77%) fall under the AIA category of membership, while 9% are Associates, and 7% Fellows. Seventy percent of you are owners in your firms.

Again, thank you for participating in this survey. Your input has helped us better understand the needs and opinions of you, our members. Watch for adjustments to the services we provide, and the way we do business in the near future.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MASONRY INSTITUTE
OFFERS ARCHITECTURAL
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Have you designed and built with masonry in the last five years? If so, the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute invites you to enter the 1996 Steve Dach Architectural Excellence Awards. Co-sponsored again this year by AIA Colorado, the awards program will consider any work of architecture located in Colorado, completed between January 1, 1991 and June 1, 1996, in which brick, block or stone is the dominant building material. Entries may be of any size, and may include new construction as well as restoration projects.

AIA Colorado President Dennis Humphries, AIA will head a panel of five prominent jurors. In addition to a number of category awards, one entrant will be selected to receive the program’s Steve Dach Memorial Scholarship Award—a $2,500 top prize to be given in the winning architectural firm’s name to a student of the University of Colorado’s College of Architecture and Planning.

Time is running out to enter! The current deadline to submit an entry form is July 10, but may be extended...call the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute, 303/691-2141 for more information.

IN INTRODUCING
CAMP AIA
AT DESIGN CONFERENCE

Registrants for the AIA Colorado/Western Mountain Region Design Conference are encouraged to bring your families to Aspen, October 10-13. In addition to the area’s incredible recreational activities, the school-age children of the conference participants can register for “Camp AIA.” This interactive, hands-on 2-day session will utilize programs designed by architects to teach children about architecture. Camp attendees will have the opportunity to do research, create designs, and build models all within the beautiful environment of the Aspen Meadows Institute, the headquarters for the Design Conference. Through the generosity of Lego Systems, there will also be 35,000 Lego pieces on hand to meet the imaginations of the participants. Camp registration is $45 per day, and includes lunch, instruction and supplies. Call AIA Colorado at 303/446-2266 for more information.

MEMBER NEWS FROM PAGE 7

MEMBER NEWS

New/Reinstating Members

AIA

Robert Huxley, AIA (Colorado North)
Charles Marr, AIA (Denver)
Kristi Picton, AIA (Colorado North)
Timothy Tafoya, AIA (Denver)

Associate

Tareq Abu-Sukheila, Associate AIA (Denver)
Bill Campbell, III, Associate AIA (Denver)
Sanjeev Malhotra, Associate AIA (Denver)

Professional Affiliate

Georgeann Waggaman, PA (Colorado West)

Member News

The staff of AIA Colorado would like to thank Richard Crowther, FAIA emeritus for generously donating several of his original works of art for display in the staff office area of AIA Colorado.

In Memorium

Charles Ogden, AIA emeritus, died June 10 at St. Joseph’s Hospital. A retired Naval Commander, he received a bachelor degree from the University of Kansas School of Architecture in 1963 and was elected to the Tau Beta Pi, engineering honor society, Tau Sigma Delta, architectural honorary, and Scarab, professional architectural fraternity, and a student member of AIA. He worked at Phillips, Carter, and Reister, the W. C. Muchow Architectural firm (of which he became a partner in 1979). In 1988 he joined Haller and Larson. He was an AIA member, a member of the U. S. Naval Academy Foundation and the Association of Naval Aviation. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a son, Bill, San Francisco; a daughter, Elaine Nelson, Phoenix; his mother, Margaret; a brother, Duane; two sisters, Judy Randall, and Jane Mangone; and two grandchildren.

INTRODUCING CAMP AIA AT DESIGN CONFERENCE

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Call for Entries

By now you will have received the Calls for Entry for both the Western Mountain Region / AIA Architectural Design Awards and the AIA Colorado Annual Design Awards. If you have not, please call AIA Colorado at 303/446-2266 or 800/628-5598 and we will fax the information to you.

Please note that the Request for Entry forms and entry fees, including the name and location of the submitted project, are due on July 15. Submission binders are due in Denver Colorado by 5:00, August 13.

Entries may be any built work of architecture completed since January 1, 1991. There is no limit to the number of project entries by a firm or an architect. Projects executed anywhere in the world are eligible.

Colorado Design Awards
Architects and other design professionals practicing in the State of Colorado may enter one or more submissions. Projects may be for any location, but must have been directed and substantially executed by the firm or design professional. Joint venture firms must be identified. Projects receiving awards in previous AIA Colorado awards programs are not eligible. Projects receiving awards in other awards programs are eligible. The project name and address must be included to enable at least one juror the opportunity to visit the project between July 15 and August 6, 1996. The jury, assembled from the Western Mountain Region, is:

- Garrett Smith, AIA, New Mexico
- Phil Dinsmore, FAIA, Arizona
- Ray Kingston, AIA, Utah
- Mark Johnson, L.A., Colorado
- Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (invited), Public Member

Western Mountain Region/AIA Design Awards
For the WMR awards, entries must have been designed by an architect registered in one of the six states represented by WMR at the time of the project's completion. The entry must be submitted by the firm of record, or in its absence, the architect of record. When the architect is not the sole author of the project, all other participants substantially contributing to the design of the project must be credited in the submittal, regardless of their professional discipline. Projects receiving awards in previous WMR awards programs are not eligible. Projects receiving awards in other awards programs are eligible. Entries should exemplify the highest standards of design quality, including sensitivity to environmental and social context, as well as, user requirements. The project name and address must be included to enable at least one juror the opportunity to visit the project between July 15 and August 17, 1996. The jury, assembled from the Western Mountain Region, is:

- Robert W. Peters, FAIA, New Mexico
- Virginia Senior, AIA, Arizona
- Stephan Pappas, AIA, Wyoming
- Jess Holmes, FAIA, Nevada
- Jan Striefel, ASLA, Utah
- H. Alan Zeigel, AIA, Colorado

Winning entries from both will be displayed at the AIA Colorado Design Conference/WMR (inference, and slides will be shown during the awards ceremonies. Winners may be requested to prepare presentation boards for display at the conference.

Please call AIA Colorado for entry fees.

Remember, Requests for Entry must be received by July 15, 1996.
As architects we have a responsibility. It is imperative that we become more involved and effective in shaping a healthy future for the Rocky Mountain West. With social and physical deterioration of the heavily populated areas of the East and West coasts, people are moving to the last best place, exerting enormous pressure on unprepared communities in the Rocky Mountains.

We can continue with business as usual, repeat mistakes, and witness the demise of our beloved landscape and cities. Or we can use the impending development as a last opportunity to try to get it right. Architects can lead the way to healthy communities, in harmony with their surroundings, with sustainable economies, and build with a renewed sense of beauty and place.

This is no easy task. The '96 AIA Colorado Design Conference at the Aspen Meadows, Aspen, Colorado, will present a broad spectrum of writers, planners, developers, politicians and others who have had some experience in this process to help us define new roles and strategies.

We will begin with an amusing, if sobering, account of the history that has shaped the West thus far and an unflinching look at where these policies appear to be heading. We will then hear from some people that seem to be moving in a positive direction, and finally learn how we can approach these goals through interactive sessions.

Presenters will include:

Jonathan Rose, President of Affordable Housing Inc., developer of affordable housing and innovative communities across the country.
Michael Kinsley, Senior Research Associate of the Economic Renewal Department at the Rocky Mountain Institute.
Patricia Limerick, historian, Campus Fool at CU and author of several books on Western history including Legacy of Conquest.
Tyler Norris, Community Planning Facilitator.

Make your hotel reservations now
Aspen Institute / Aspen Meadows
1 800 452 4240
$95 per night Tax not included
Accessibility Requirements for Multi-Family Buildings

ADA? Fair Housing Act? UFAS? UBC? State or Local Law? Which Law(s) or Code(s) Do I Follow?

Recent inquiries and events have made staff at the Colorado Civil Rights Division aware that some architects are confused about which accessibility standards to follow in designing multi-family projects. One unhappy developer has just been informed he must replace interior doors and also modify bathrooms and kitchens in his partially-completed apartment complex to meet accessibility requirements. Why? His architect, mistakenly believing the ADA applied, designed a building with only two accessible units, when he should have complied with the Fair Housing Act, which requires all ground floor units to be accessible. Following are the laws and codes which apply to multi-family buildings. But remember:

1. Don’t count on using just one code. Most of the time, several will apply.

2. If there is a conflict between codes/laws, the most stringent applies.

3. Advice from local building inspectors is not the last word. Cities and counties are not responsible for interpreting or enforcing federal laws.

Fair Housing Acts (federal and state)
All multi-family dwellings with four or more units in one building, whether financed with federal or private funds, and whether they are for sale or for rent, must have seven specific accessibility features in all units of elevator buildings, and ground floor units in non-elevator buildings. Enforced by HUD and the Colorado Civil Rights Division.

1973 Rehabilitation Act (UFAS)
Applies to buildings financed with federal funds. Requires 5% of the units to be accessible for persons with mobility impairments, 2% accessible for persons with vision or hearing impairments, according to UFAS standards. Other units must meet Fair Housing Act standards.

ADA (ADAAG)
Although the ADA generally does not apply to privately funded housing, it does apply to any part of housing defined as a “public accommodation” under the Act, such as a rental/sales office; common area (pool/clubhouse) if rented out to the public; nursing home; dormitory; and multi-family housing used for short term stays as “lodging.” State and local governments constructing or altering housing do have requirements under the ADA; they may use ADAAG or UFAS.

Buildings Constructed by Public or Private Funds — Standards
This Colorado statute (C.R.S. 9-5-101 et seq.) requires approximately 1 out of 7 units to be accessible according to ANSI standards.

UBC, Local Ordinances
Most Colorado cities follow the UBC. The 1991 UBC contains the Fair Housing Act standards. The 1994 UBC requires 2% of the units to be accessible, in apartments containing at least 20 units. Some cities have local ordinances in addition to the UBC. These do not override federal requirements.

For further information, call Nancy Snow, Colorado Civil Rights Division, 303/894-7822, ext. 325 or 800/262-4845; HUD 303/672-5437 or 800/669-9777; ADA InfoCenter 800/949-4342.
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*August Projects: Arch. by Colo. South Members’ reception 5:30