U R BAN T O P O G R A P H Y

It’s hard to think about topography and Colorado and not construct a mental image of our mountains. Continue this thought, and contrast becomes evident between the relief of the mountains and rolling prairies. However, at this time, our urban topography is influenced more by man than by nature. This is no more evident than in the open spaces of the Central Platte Valley.

There is little tradition in Denver of exploring the urban landscape in any archetypal sense as one might in Barcelona, Vienna, or Beirut. In Denver, the “archeologics” if the term can be applied, is sometimes detached from its context and is found in flat books, microfilm, or computer databases.

This graphic and written documentation overlays the abandoned landscape in the form of streets, utilities, lot lines, structures, covenants, and railroad easements. Existing or as a memory, all of these elements have had an impact on the urban site, describing a complex and compelling dimension of abstract and physical elements that exist. This material, with all of its contradictions and constraints overlaid onto the physical site, became the primary departure point for our design of the connections along 16th Street.

In 1997, ArchitectureDenver was engaged to develop a master plan for the continuation of the 16th Street Mall through the proposed Central Platte Valley redevelopment. The ultimate goal was to re-establish the historic connection between the west Denver neighborhoods and downtown. The connection was previously made with several long viaducts placed high over the valley, ignoring the landscape below. As the valley redevelopment plans became defined and the viaducts removed, the focus for any new connection was at grade, incorporating the new Commons Park and adjacent streets.

To complete the connection, three obstacles had to be overcome. These included the South Platte River, Interstate 25, and the Consolidated Main Line (CML), the common freight rail link through the area.

CML Millennium Bridge

The CML Millennium Bridge has a span of 125 feet and a deck height from grade of 30 feet. A true urban folly, a 190-foot-tall, cable-stayed mast will support the 80-foot-wide deck over the tracks with 32 front cables and five large backstays. The creation of a dynamic space formed by the asymmetrical cable configuration and the experience of moving up and over the deck, the creation of its own unique topography, will be unique to any structure in the region. In addition to staircases, elevators will provide alternative access to all people. At night, these stairs will be intensely lit, taking on the quality of lanterns.

Platte River Crossing

The Platte Crossing bridge has a span of 210 feet and consists of a pair of splayed Varendeel trusses, 32 feet high at the center, running parallel to the span and attached to a tubular “spine” below the wood deck. The deck arches up at the center, offering a perspective of the river, the park, and the other crossings. A variation of grade at each riverbank and the integration of the massive abutments from the old viaduct created unique challenges. This bridge is the most pastoral of the three, taking on the sculptural qualities found in Oriental garden structures.

Interstate 25 Crossing

The most visible, but the last to be built, the I-25 bridge will span approximately 250 feet with 59-foot-tall, twin-arched trusses suspending the deck below. The deck and the trusses are symmetrical about one axis and asymmetrical about the other. Much like the Platte bridge, the approaches are not equal in elevation and will require unique abutment and bearing design.

As architects, the dialog that we undertake today is focused mostly on buildings with structures and systems that interrelate with each other. However, our environment is in an original quality that anchors an element or form within its specific time and place, as well as in the process of “making.” This idea does not reject historical precedent; neither does it only embrace modern design ideals. It balances our need to move forward in time—both technologically and culturally—with the search for structures, textures, and patterns that speak to our human need for going beyond the base or utilitarian to achieve delight in design and, therefore, the evolution to the applied art of architecture.

To us, this is the challenge.
A COLORADO KIND OF ARCHITECTURE

This month’s theme, designing with geography, reminded me of an interesting conversation I was involved in with a gentleman from Fort Collins at the AIA Colorado Design Conference out at Stapleton a couple of years ago. This guy was a bit exasperated about the fact that Colorado didn’t have anything like a recognizable architectural style. He was concerned that Colorado architects had not developed an architectural identity for our state, similar to that enjoyed by New Mexico with its southwestern style. The fact that this brand of architecture was the result of a long heritage of response to local building materials, labor talent, and environmental parameters didn’t seem to count for much in the search for this “style.”

This exchange still resonates with me because the response I tried to make seems particularly relevant during this period of prosperity, when we are defining so much of our architectural legacy to the future. I tried to make (and failed) the point, by necessity, that Colorado’s architecture must be responsive to a very broad range of environmental influences.

This state is both blessed and cursed with very impressive geographical extremes—alpine wilderness, high desert, prairie grassland, true southwestern desert, and lowland sand hills, to name a few. Each of these environmental contexts exerts its own special brand of demands on architecture—demands that must be accommodated if serious difficulties are to be avoided. Blazing sun, extreme temperature swings, expansive soil, an incredible freeze/thaw cycle, relentless wind, killer ice jars, they all have serious consequences for the uninstructed. What is appropriate in Cortez won’t cut it in Sterling. What works in Grand Junction isn’t right in Denver. You get my point...

These exceptional contrasts will continue to frustrate every attempt at defining a “Colorado” style. What is so exciting to me, however, is that real Colorado architecture is defined and enriched by these demanding design parameters. I have always believed that our Colorado style should be the result of the architectural community’s creative response to this unique place on the planet—an architecture of place, of the purest kind where our built environment is shaped in direct response to locale and context. The results may be harder to recognize than the “Santa Fe style,” but they will be no less effective in creating a sense of architectural correctness. I firmly believe that this type of design will speak directly to that intuitive sense we all have of what “feels right.”

I had the opportunity to attend the West Chapter’s recent 10x10 presentation in Vail. I was very impressed by how well our high-country associates have found their “voice” in this extreme design definition. To me, most of the projects had that strong sense of “fit” so often lacking elsewhere. What is also very impressive is that they have accomplished this feat without importing so many of their significant design ideas from elsewhere. Granted, this is an exceptional context with rich architectural potential, but the quality and character of the design is far beyond the oddly uncomfortable products of the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s. Indeed, the only problem I foresee is the danger of becoming so articulate with this architectural “language” that it becomes an end unto itself and strangles further exploration and development of the underlying ideas.

—Stephen Loo, AIA
President, AIA Colorado

Now, I know that none of these ideas is particularly new or ground-breaking. What is unfortunate, however, is how rare this kind of context-driven, environmentally/geographically responsive architecture is in Colorado. Give this idea some thought the next time you are asked to create that Georgetown-ball-simmer/Tyrolean vernacular/southwestern/Cape Cod cottage facade for that new townhouse project in Douglas County. Don’t let them tell you that this is the one type that will sell. People are recognizing the right Colorado “fit” up in the mountains and are paying for it as never before.

Before I forget, look for the launch of the new AIA Colorado Web site around the end of the month. Carolyn Livingston and the AIA Colorado staff have been hard at work creating something very special for our net address. I had the opportunity to preview what is being developed by our Web site designer, Michael Keoll of Phorium, and can tell you that it is going to have the right “fit.” The Web site is going to feel architectural, with plenty of evidence of style, wit, and creativity. Log on soon and check it out!
Are you interested in regional design? Regionalism is an idea whose time is long overdue in the Rocky Mountain area. The more our world becomes uniformly the same, the more many people in Colorado seek places that are uniquely expressive of our climate, geography, and culture. We want to meet with practitioners around the state who are seeking regional expressions in their own work.

We intend to run a free workshop in each local AIA chapter, which would provide a forum for practitioners to discuss with one another the special regional qualities in their area. We will ask participants to bring in visual examples—either of their own work or of others—of historical and contemporary buildings, landscapes, and town layouts that capture regional qualities.

We intend to present this collected work to the AIA National Convention in Denver in May 2001. The workshops will be conducted over the next six months, and schedules of specific places and times will be announced in a later edition of this publication. We want to schedule these to suit the people who are most interested in attending, so please let us know if you want to participate. You can contact us at: Virginia DuBrucq, AIA, virginia@du.brucq.com; Mark Gelernter, University of Colorado at Denver, Mark.Gelernter@cu.edu.

These workshops are made possible in part by a grant from the AIA Colorado Educational Fund.

AIA Denver firm profile:

ANDERSON MASON DALE ARCHITECTS

Anderson Mason Dale Architects is dedicated to the belief that public architecture must reflect the highest cultural standards of society. A building should heighten and shape an individual's sense of place and values. It must also be sensitive to the environment and minimize the depletion of natural resources.

We and our clients are honored with these responsibilities and together, we create places that will evolve and endure as meaningful contributions to our communities. We ask our people to embrace these ideals, and our buildings are shaped by this guiding ethic.

Anderson Mason Dale Architects was founded in 1960 and continues today with a staff of 65. Our projects are diverse and include Colorado's Ocean Journey, the Daniels College of Business at Denver University, the Benson Earth Sciences Laboratory at the University of Colorado, the Visitor's Center at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Denver's new Federal Courthouse, and a variety of single- and multi-family housing projects.

By focusing on projects that challenge and enable our staff to develop professionally, Anderson Mason Dale Architects has become a regional expert in the design of facilities for education, justice, visitor centers, multi-family housing, senior living, and laboratories.

Contact: Ron Mason, FAIA, 303.294.9448.
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Design Build Roundtable Discussion
July 20
Small Contractors doing Design/Build—In addition to some of the well-known commercial projects utilizing Design/Build, many smaller projects use this project delivery method. Plan to attend this roundtable discussion that will focus on projects with a total budget below $200,000. Types of projects include general contractors, subcontractors, and tradepeople for residential, tenant finish, and remodel work. The involvement of consultants typically under the architect's umbrella will also be discussed.

The roundtable will take place at the Denver Design Center, 593 S. Broadway, with a light breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. Cost: $12 members/$20 non-members. RSVP to the AIA Office at 303.446.2266.

Kwal-Howells Tour
July 26
Recently named as a AIA Continuing Education registered provider, Kwal-Howells will be conducting a Paint Plant Tour and specification lesson on July 26th. The event will take place from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at 3000 Joliet Street and qualifies for 1.5 learning units. Call Joel Parker at Kwal-Howells to reserve your spot! 303.307.2189

AIA Western International Summit 2000
Exploring the Spirit in Architecture
September 21, 22, 23, 2000
Our world is a cacophony of action and reaction. We run from task to task solving myriad problems, while maneuvering through the minefield of client expectations and business management. But where in this chaos is the art in architecture? Where is the spiritual essence of our profession? How can we ensure—in the middle of this maelstrom—that we don't lose our raison d'être?

This September in Sun Valley, Idaho, "Exploring the Spirit in Architecture" will examine those elusive factors that elevate our profession. Three relaxing days of presentations and panel discussions will inspire you to explore the spiritual potential in your own work.

If chasing your tail has become your life, this conference will be the pause that reminds you what the chase is all about.

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The attendees at the Young Architects' Awards Gala at PS1.
AN ARCHITECT’S LIABILITY FOR ERRORS AND OMISSIONS BY ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

This article addresses an architect’s liability to the owner for negligent errors by engineers hired by the architect. The AIA’s owner/architect agreement provides that “[t]he architect’s design services shall include normal structural, mechanical and electrical engineering services.” (AIA Document B141-1997, Art. 2.4.1.) The AIA form does not exempt the architect from liability for errors by engineering consultants the architect retains to provide “design services.”

Colorado courts have held that when a general contractor agrees to perform a specific task, he may not, by hiring an independent contractor to perform the task, escape liability for breach of contract damages resulting from the negligence of the independent contractor. If an architect agrees to provide “design services” that include “structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering services,” then the architect can not avoid liability for errors in those services by hiring an engineering consultant operating as an independent contractor.

To avoid liability for work by consulting engineers, an architect may try to modify the AIA form contract by adding a contract addendum which makes it clear that:
- The architect is retaining independent subcontractors to provide structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering services.
- The architect will incorporate engineering recommendations from these consultants into drawings and specifications; but the architect has no control over—or responsibility for—engineering recommendations made or engineering work done. The architect is not responsible for ensuring that engineering designs and recommendations are safe, accurate, valid, comply with building codes, or are otherwise adequate.
- The architect is not responsible for acts or omissions of the consulting engineers, whether negligent or otherwise. Colorado courts have upheld “exculpatory” language precluding negligence liability, as long as the exculpatory language is clear and there is no obvious disparity in contract bargaining power.
- To encourage owners to agree to contract changes, architects should ensure that hired consultants have adequate professional liability insurance. Article 12.8.1 of the AIA’s architect/consultant form contract, AIA Document C141-1997, allows an architect to require engineering consultants to provide proof of insurance coverage for negligent work. Architects should obtain proof of insurance—regardless of contractual arrangements with the owner. Insurance should cover both the job period and a reasonable time period following job completion.
- The architect should also try to ensure that excusable language is included in the architect/consultant contract. AIA Document C141-1997, Article 2.3, states that a consultant is an independent contractor “responsible for methods and means used in performing the consultant’s services under this Agreement, and is not an employee, agent, or partner of the architect.”

Finally, the architect should deal with consultants in a manner consistent with their independent contractor status. An independent contractor is defined as one who performs services for another according to his own methods and manner, free from direction and control by the employer in all matters relating to performance of the work. As a general rule, a person hiring an independent contractor to perform work is not liable for the independent contractor’s negligent acts.

Consistent with this definition, architects should avoid exercising control over the consulting engineers’ work method. If the architect exercises too much control over work method, the engineer may lose his independent contractor status and be deemed an agent of the architect, despite excusable language in the engineer/architect and architect/consultant contracts. In this situation, the architect could be held vicariously liable for the consultant’s work.

Under Colorado law, an architect may exercise control over the end result, rather than the work method, without jeopardizing the consultant’s independent contractor status. Independent contractors may be subject to control sufficient to ensure that the end result contracted for is reached.

To the extent an architect considers modifying a standard AIA contract form, he should first consult with an attorney. Modifications to one provision of a form contract may be inconsistent with other contract provisions.

Philip Cardi and Bill Esbenshade are attorneys with Jackson & Kelly PLLC, in Denver. Their practice focuses on construction litigation, with special emphasis on the representation of architects and other design professionals. Mr. Cardi is author of the “Construction Litigation” chapter of the Colorado Methods of Practice series published by West Publishing. He has presented numerous seminars on issues relating to construction law.

Philip B. Cardi, Esq.
William D. Esbenshade, Esq.
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We've been Colorado's premier AEC Technology Consultants since 1994.
In 2001, thousands of architects worldwide will descend on Denver for the AIA National Convention. That doesn't mean that Denver is all that many of which will be eligible for continuing education credit (LUs).

This Tour subcommittee is planning many of the convention tours for next year—many of which will be eligible for continuing education credit (LUs). The subcommittee is diligently planning these tours in time for the September 1st deadline for inclusion in the Official Convention Guide.

The subcommittee estimates that it will need approximately 100 volunteers to help run the tours next year. Tour guides who are familiar with the architectural significance/history of the toured areas are especially needed. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in the 2001 National Convention Tour Program—or any other aspect of the convention—please call or e-mail me.

Sonia Riggs is the 2001 Convention Manager for AIA Colorado. You may reach her at the AIA Office, 1515 Arapahoe St. #1-110, Denver, CO 80222, 303.446.2266, sonia@aiacolorado.org.

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A new Web site has been launched through a partnership of the Boulder Energy Conservation Center (BECC) and the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC). This Web site brings a wide variety of energy-related topics together for easy reference and provides hundreds of links for quick access to more in-depth information.

ColoradoENERGY.org provides architects, designers and builders with some of the information that you need to design and build homes and buildings that are energy and resource efficient. On the site are links to information that can help you determine the best approach to take for improving the energy efficiency of your project, the resource efficiency of your project or how to incorporate renewable energy into your project.

Some of the topics covered include:

- Energy Efficiency Information—The Ideal Home
  This short pamphlet describes the keys to designing and building a home that is comfortable, durable, efficient and of high quality. It includes a checklist and a sample "ideal wall" section to help you get started in the right direction.
  The Colorado Renewable Energy Resource Guide is a renewable energy information guide for builders, architects, and engineers. The guide contains background information and a directory of where to find renewable energy information and products in Colorado.
- EREC Renewable Energy Fact Sheets
  The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (EREC) has produced a number of fact sheets over the years as it relates to renewable energy and they are posted in both HTML and PDF format on the EREC Web site. Topics include Active Solar: Solar Water Heating; Geothermal Energy...Power from the Depths; Photovoltaics; Basic Design Principles and Components; Wind: Small Wind Energy Systems for the Homeowner.
- Codes
  Colorado does not have an updated statewide energy code. Colorado communities are free to adopt their own energy codes. This section will help you determine what energy code applies to your jurisdiction.

Visit www.coloradoenergy.org/tips/builders today and bookmark it for future reference.
EnvironDesign4: Choices

—James R. Plagmann, AIA, Terra Verde International, LLC

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rom May 18th to 20th, more than 600 architects, designers, teachers, builders, manufacturers' representatives, and representatives from various governmental, non-governmental and non-profit organizations converged on the Westin Westminster for EnvisionDesign4, a conference, "For the way environments need to be in the 21st Century—as told by the visionaries who are making them happen."

This is no exaggeration. Sustainability has moved from a sideline issue in the '90s to an absolute priority today. I'll not reiterate the list of reasons why we must become more conscious of our design choices. Instead, I'll list three areas that many of the largest multinational corporations have embraced sustainability speak for itself. Companies such as Nike, Herman Miller, SC Johnson, Steelcase, and even Ford Motor have developed projects that are not only sensitive to the environment, but also to the environments they create for their occupants.

These efforts are not just for the public relations value of being able to say they are building green. These organizations are realizing that sustainable design is yielding the kind of green that stockholders appreciate. And the list is growing as more companies and the Federal Government are making sustainability a requirement of the designers and products they use. Documented lower operating costs and higher employee productivity are proving that, when done correctly, sustainable design can be a win-win situation for the environment and the economy.

Produced by Interiors and Sources magazine, and co-hosted by the U.S. Green Building Council, this interesting and informative included four keynote speakers: 25 workshops on topics such as building green on a budget, sustainability analysis tools, case studies of buildings and communities, marketing sustainable design services, and Feng Shui; tours of the National Renewable Energy Laboratories; McStain's Meadowview development in Longmont; Denver's REI flagship store; Architect Jim Logan's residential projects; and 23 booths representing manufacturers who incorporate sustainability in their products.

The conference began Thursday evening with Architect Sarah Susnik's presentation, "A Not So Big House. Not So Big Planet." Her book, The Not So Big House, suggests that homes should reflect the way we live today, and that smaller, well-designed houses that focus on quality over quantity are the right kind of resources. The book has struck a chord, selling over half a million copies, an extraordinary number for a book on architecture. To find out more, visit http://www.notsobighouse.com.

Architect William McDonough opened Friday with his address, "Leading the Design of the Next Industrial Revolution", a rather large vision, but one that he is vigorously pursuing. For the last decade, McDonough has been at the forefront of, as he prefers, "Sustaining Design." Time recently recognized his efforts in the Earth Day Issue, honoring him as one of the "Heroes of the Planet." He spoke eloquently on the philosophy, biology, and history of sustainability, and introduced his "Sustainable Indicators Toolkit," intended as a means to measure quality of life and success of designs from a sustainable perspective. More information on McDonough's many endeavors can be found at http://www.mcdonough.com.

Saturday's keynote was another of Time's "Heroes of the Planet," Colorado's own L. Hunter Lovins, co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, and co-author of the book Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution. (This idea of the next industrial revolution is popular!) Natural Capitalism is a proposed business model for the future, addressing the fact that, where in the past we had abundant natural resources and scarce labor, we now face the opposite conditions. And, as with McDonough's ideas, these are not just high-minded theories of what might work. These are practices being implemented by major companies and even entire industries that will revolutionize the way we live. More information on "Natural Capitalism" and the Rocky Mountain Institute can be found at http://www.rmi.org.

Saturday's closing address was by David Barram, administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA), about the creation of "Planet GSA," an initiative to incorporate sustainable practices in all areas of our government. Since the GSA is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the nation, it is clear that sustainability is not just a passing trend. For more information on EnvironmentDesign, please visit http://www.enviroidesign.com.

James R. Plagmann, AIA, is a project architect at Terra Verde International, LLC and a member of the Colorado AIA Committee on the Environment. He can be reached at 301.530.3232.
Zehren & Associates: Specialists in resort community design

Founded in 1983 and with offices in Vail, Colorado and Santa Barbara, California, Zehren & Associates employs 26 people, including two full-time planners and seven registered architects. Providing a full range of services including master planning, architecture, and interior design, Zehren specializes in undertaking projects with unusual operational needs or special environmental locations for mountain, coastal, and other resort communities.

By incorporating special knowledge of mountain sites, the alpine environment, special needs of the resort hospitality industry, and economic realities of four-season mountain resort communities, Zehren provided the overall master plan, authored the architectural design regulations, and designed many significant buildings at Beaver Creek, Colorado. The firm has similar relationships with the communities of Vail, Telluride, and Mount Crested Butte in Colorado and with Schweitzer and West Rock in Idaho, Solitude, Utah; Mount Hood Meadows in Oregon; and Peek 'N Peak in New York.

In addition to mountain resort communities, Zehren & Associates has designed for golf and coastal resort communities such as Cordillera in Edwards, Colorado; Patriot's Point in South Carolina; and Ennisbrook in Santa Barbara, California.

**Two Elk Restaurant**

One special project of the firm is Two Elk Restaurant, which is located on a spectacular spot at the top of Vail Mountain. At 11,240 feet, the site commands long-range views of the Gore Range, Mount of the Holy Cross, and China Bowl. With nearly 30,000 square feet, the restaurant is designed to be a self-supported scramble-style cafeteria with seating for 900 people. The design addresses many climactic considerations: energy use, microclimatic control, building orientation, and environmental conditions. It won the 1991 EYHBA Award for Best Interior Design and the 1992 Snow Country magazine Award for Honorable Mention for the Day Lodge category.

The design intent behind Two Elk re-creates a classic western mountain lodge. Logos and heavy timber beams contribute to a rustic building exterior. Inside, expansive windows next to the seating areas let guests enjoy the views, while being reminded of the Ute Indian heritage.

An environmental extremist group burned the original Two Elk in 1998. Determined that such an iconic symbol of Vail not be lost, Vail Associates engaged Zehren & Associates to help rebuild Two Elk; the task was accomplished in only nine months and on Christmas Eve 1999. The new design is true to the original character and architecture, while it includes an employee apartment and expanded seating capacity.

**Vail Town Center**

Another issue that touches on the issues of the environment, site, and mountain architecture is the Vail Town Center, a proposed cultural, educational, and recreational complex that will be located in the center of the Vail community. It also embodies a civic component. While the program is still being studied, the Vail Town Center will be a public-private joint venture, intended to revitalize and rejuvenate Vail. The design is being carried out by an affiliation between Zehren & Associates, EDAW, and HGA.

The design intent behind the Vail Town Center is to refine the master planning concepts for a variety of civic facilities for the town and to provide it with a large public gathering space, much like the great plazas and gathering places in Europe.

Along with public input sessions and independent market analysis, the design group devised program elements that include a conference and learning center, retail shops, galleries, restaurants, a performing arts space, two sheets of ice, a family recreation and entertainment center, employee housing, and additional parking. The goal is to blend private and public facilities around a central town plaza with vitality of uses, dynamic architecture, and direct engagement with the special natural environment of Vail.
The Hudson-Meng Research Center is located in the Oglala Grasslands—a gently sloping landscape located 30 miles outside of Chadron, Nebraska. The site contains the largest bison bonebed of its age in the western hemisphere, harboring the remains of an extinct 10,000-year-old Plains Bison species. The remains of more than 600 bison, together with stone tools and projectile points, have raised many questions among archaeologists and other researchers. As a result, the site has been the focus of a major research effort and has become a key component of the US Forest Service interpretive program.

Research on the site is conducted during the summer and early autumn months. Before construction of the new facility, researchers would carefully excavate and re-bury the fossil bed each year. In June, beginning with heavy equipment, the first layers of the site were removed. After several feet had been stacked, the researchers would begin the painstaking process of using hand tools and finer implements to uncover the actual bone bed. In the fall, the bonebed was carefully buried and secured until the following spring when the process was repeated. The design team was asked to design a permanent facility that would eliminate this labor-intensive procedure and provide a place for visitors to view this remarkable site.

A relatively small area was required to provide the resources for several years of summer research; subsequent archaeological sites would be serviced by mobile facilities, such as tents or temporary shelters.

Minimizes disruption

The new 7,000-square-foot structure was sited to minimize disruption to the bonebed area and to take advantage of an existing pond that is close to a planned visitor parking area. The cottonwoods and other vegetation associated with the pond and drainage ravine established a natural "place" within the rolling hills. The trees and contours screen the parking from the facility. Visitors leave their cars and move toward the pond along the edge of the trees, which terminate on a narrow land bridge. The bridge serves as a natural threshold and marks the arrival to the visitor center and working compound.

Members in the news

H+L Architecture announces the promotion of Chad Novak, AIA, and Tana Crane, AIA, to associates. Chad specializes in educational facilities and Tana focuses on large-scale medical projects. Most recently joining H+L is Gil Hack, Associate AIA, assisting in the firm’s Health Care segment.

Sami A. Miro, founder of S.A. Miro, Inc., was recently appointed as vice chair of the Denver International Airport Business Partnership, an organization charged with attracting and retaining a business presence within the DIA district. Miro will move to the chair position in 2001.

RNL Design welcomes Bryan Ausmiller, AIA, in transportation; Troy Schneider, Associate AIA, in commercial architecture; and Jesse Adams, Associate AIA, in institutional architecture. RNL also received an excellence in interiors award from the American Society of Interior Designers. (see related story on page 15.)

OZ Architecture in Denver has added to its staff Steve Gottman, AIA, as a project manager; Matt Piper, AIA, as a project manager; Kenneth Cilla, Associate AIA, as an intern architect; and Teresa Westhoven, Associate AIA, as an intern architect.
Landscape taking shape in Colorado Springs

The state of the Colorado Springs landscape is beginning to realize the effects of the revised Landscape Code, in place now since November 1998. The City of Colorado Springs Landscape Code and Policy Manual requires compliance of all new construction and major additions, except single- and two-family residential. More than 220 plans have been reviewed under the auspices of the revised code, which has been recognized through awards for its approach to obtaining a landscape within the context of the regional character, that "sense of place."

The City of Colorado Springs implemented a major overhaul to its landscape code by creating and adopting the Landscape Code and Policy Manual and the Signature Landscape Design Manual. As a departure from the previous version of the code, the new code takes a more comprehensive approach to the provision of landscaping in the built environment. A partnership between the Colorado Springs City Planning Group and the Colorado Springs Utilities-Water Resources Department, new policies provide for a more qualitative approach to design, along with the existing quantitative look at the landscape. Key components of the code and resulting landscapes are water conservation, sustainability, and the regional landscape character.

The code includes the typical quantitative approach of many landscape codes by providing for specific quantities and areas devoted to landscape based on the particular development and location. Where this code goes farther is in the implementation of policies that are specific to water conservation, sustainability, and the regional landscape.

To address water conservation, limitations were placed on the amount of high-water turfgrass (bluegrass, etc.) and associated slopes to minimize run-off potential. Irrigation plans are now part of the review process, verifying that the irrigation design is consistent with plant materials, slope, aspect, etc.

Landscape plans submitted for City review are to be accompanied by a soil analysis, with the appropriate amendments to be incorporated into the soil. This is an effort to work toward a sustainable landscape. With an understanding of the soil, the plant materials can correspond to the specific soil types and, hence, more effective design, reducing the long-term fertilizer requirements, creating a soil structure that has a greater water holding capacity and is well-suited to the proposed landscape.

It was important when developing the code that the regional character of Colorado Springs and the Front Range be reflected in the built landscapes. To address this issue, the term "Signature Landscapes" was coined to reflect the naturally occurring landscape patterns within the region. Specific plant communities were identified with associated climate zones from the high foothills to the low plains, from which the developed landscape character reflects.

Overall, the code requires appropriate horticultural practices, site preparation, efficient irrigation systems, preservation of natural areas, configuration and grading of landscape areas that can be efficiently irrigated, enforceable installation standards, and long-term maintenance. The Landscape Code and Policy Manual and associated Signature Landscape Design Manual provide the tools to achieve quality landscapes throughout the city that are compatible with—and representative—of the regional character.

With City development running the gamut from the neighborhood strip center to "signature" architecture, the landscape is one area that offers the opportunity to create the fabric that ties the community together. As much as anything, the natural landscape of Pikes Peak, the Garden of the Gods, and the Rampart Range has become synonymous with Colorado Springs. As the City continues to grow and develop, it will be the treatment of the built "natural" environment that leaves an additional lasting impression.

Ron Bevans is City Landscape Architect with Colorado Springs Planning Group and the current President Elect of the Colorado Chapter of ASLA. 719.385.5375
AIA Denver Special Award Nominations

A time to recognize those who have contributed to AIA and the profession

AIA Denver is accepting nominations for the five special awards it may present at the Denver Design Awards Gala on September 29, 2000. Please take the time to review each category and nominate those persons who have affected you, your firm, and the architectural profession. You can get the full descriptions of award purpose, eligibility and nominating process by calling the AIA Office at 303.446.2266.

Deadline for award nominations is Tuesday, August 15, 2000.

Here are brief descriptions of award categories:

Award of Distinction—recognizes achievements of public service architects and architects in private corporations who manage or produce quality building design or urban design within their organizations or agencies.

James S. Sudler Award for Contribution to the Denver Chapter—Recognizes an outstanding contribution to the AIA Denver chapter for dedication, leadership, ability, and commitment that improved the quality of services offered by AIA Denver.

Young Architect’s Award—Recognizes significant contributions made during the early stages of an architect’s career that exemplify outstanding built or unbuilt work of any scale, as well as projects, initiatives, and brilliant beginnings that warrant attention of the profession or the public.

Planning and Research Award—Recognizes design, urban design, planning, and research for the future. This award is given for vision and creativity.

Phil Milstein Award for Community Service—Recognizes outstanding accomplishments by a non-architect or organization in the Denver metro area for contributing to the quality of the built environment or contributions to a better understanding and interpretation of architecture, planning, urban design, and landscape architecture.

Thank you for your nominations in recognizing all those who make our lives better!
Knollenberg Residence—Home in Rockscape

As architects, we are presented with both the responsibility and the privilege of bringing habitation to places of beauty and fragility. The Knollenberg site is both. Construction of the home, juxtaposed with the spectacular landscape, was an undertaking not for the faint at heart. Precariously perched granite boulders seem to anticipate a roll down the mountain into neighbors 600 feet below. Thankfully, we had an owner with the vision to realize this site required an atypical approach to construction—and the commitment to see it through.

To preserve the qualities that had attracted them to this rocky precipice required a marriage of science and art. It was this balance that became the soul of the architecture. As the design unfolded, it was clear that this was an opportunity to experience rock, sky, and distant vistas. It would be both sanctuary and an atmospheric observatory. As home for a couple—a scientist and a fiber artist—it was to blend architecture and engineering, masculine and feminine, earth and sky.

Concepts/Systems

The site, located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, is a spectacular geological event. Just as a lizard suns itself on a rock, the house was envisioned as an organism resting on the granite pile, opening itself to sun and views. All mechanical systems are contained in the underbelly, in lieu of excavation that would have disturbed the delicate ecology of this place. The elevated steel structure rests on piers anchored into bedrock. This approach allows for a delicate addition into the natural vocabulary of the site. The result is an elevated structure intertwined with rocks, trees, and sky.

Architecture

The architecture mimics the colliding forms of this rock pile—nature’s chaos. The uplifted roof forms bring a balance of light and ventilation into the home. Spatial definition is reinforced volumetrically in lieu of walls that define “room.” The house is open and flowing, organized around a spine gallery that takes you out to this very special perch. The feeling on the eastern side of the house is one of soaring. The western spaces, in contrast, wrap around the outcropping, stepping down to a grounded natural rock garden.

The exterior skin, in chameleon-like fashion, is derived from the lichen-mottled rocks. Glass-like troweled stucco, steel roofing, steel and glass rails, and slate terraces complete the exterior palette.

This is truly a home as lens. From this exciting location, one is able to observe and experience the dynamic fluctuations in the Colorado climate. This lens reveals not only weather and atmosphere, but also a sacred rock world that asks us to pay attention and take care.

Owner: Robert and Barbara Knollenberg
Architect: Barrett Studio Architects (formerly Barrett Steele)
David Barrett, Principal in charge of Design
Tom Scrimgeour, Project Architect
Structural Engineer: Neujahr Gorman
Builder: Tom Stanko Construction

Construction

Our initial intent was to minimize site disruption by touching down lightly on the site—the “lunar lander” approach. We planned to concentrate loads on a minimum number of piers, doweled into the stable bedrock, and use a steel space frame to span in two directions off the piers. The space frame, based on a 60° triangle, became the fractal cell from which the house geometry grew. Systems such as waste, plumbing, and heating were contained below in the thick floor cavity.

Over the course of the process, the space frame was found to be elegant but too expensive. The constructed system, designed by Mike Gorman of Neujahr Gorman, Structural Engineers, used conventional steel with cantilevers up to 24 feet. The geometry and the overall systems approach remained the same, though the inspiration for the geometry, the space frame, was no longer present. Construction was limited to manual labor on the site with the steel craned in instead of the piers. The geometry and the overall systems approach remained the same, though the inspiration for the geometry, the space frame, was no longer present. Construction was limited to manual labor on the site with the steel craned in instead of the piers.

Precast Concrete Panels to Accommodate Any Imagination!
DFA prepares for 2001 Convention

F rom now through the 2001 AIA Convention in Denver next May, the Denver Foundation for Architecture is planning a number of activities. The following are some of the projects that have been proposed.

♦ Co-sponsor (with the Golden Triangle Association and AIA Denver) an design competition for a pedestrian bridge from the Golden Triangle to the Sunken Gardens across from Speer Boulevard.

♦ Continue to sponsor our annual "Art by Architects" exhibit. This spring's exhibit received 56 entries; 29 were selected and hung in the AIA Colorado gallery.

♦ Continue the summer walking tour series. This summer, the Foundation is conducting the tours listed here. In addition, new tours are being organized and planned for the 2001 National Convention for May 17 to 20, 2001.

♦ Increase the Foundation's membership and its funding. The Foundation is preparing for a membership and funding drive to be conducted this fall.

♦ Complete the Denver Architectural Guide Book. This Foundation effort is well along, and will be completed this year. Assistance will be needed for distribution and sales activities.

♦ Plan and sponsor a public fall architectural lecture. Both the date and subject are open to suggestions and a combination event or co-sponsors are welcome.

We invite and solicl comments, participation, and involvement in the Foundation to execute the Foundation's mission to the public. If you are interested in participating in one or more of these projects, please contact the Foundation.

Upcoming DFA tours

LoDo: July 8 and 29; August 5 & 26; September 9 & 30
Civic Center: July 15
Geology of Downtown Denver: July 22
Central Business District: August 12
People and Steeples: August 19
Golden Triangle: September 16
Auraria Campus: September 23

Denver Foundation for Architecture
PO. Box 481882
Denver, CO 80248
303/779-9193
E-mail: denverfdnarch@aol.com

In passing

Longtime friend of AIA Colorado, Clarence Arthur (Cal) Briggs died May 27, 2000 at the age of 87. He was Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Colorado until his retirement in 1977. The research he did on Italian Renaissance architecture in Tuscany influenced the policies governing further campus development in Boulder.

His articles on architecture were published in Japan, England and the United States. His interests included collecting art, ice skating, and tennis and he was active on the Committee for the Conference on World Affairs.

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**INSTITUTE HONOR AWARDS FOR INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE**

The Institute Honor Awards for Interior Architecture acknowledge the excellence of buildings or interiors created by architects who are licensed in the United States. The intent of this awards program is to draw attention to the broad diversity of completed interior architecture. Entries may be large or small in scope and may involve renovation, adaptive use, or new construction. Submissions in the areas of residential, institutional, commercial, corporate, retail, hospitality, and miscellaneous are equally welcome. All entries are judged on merit, regardless of scale or budget.

Entry forms must be completed, submitted with the entry fee, and postmarked no later than August 18, 2000. All submission binders must be sent to the AIA Honors and Awards Department, 1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20006-5292; Attention: Institute Honor Awards for Interior Architecture, and postmarked no later than September 1, 2000.

To request a call for entries or for more information, contact the AIA Honors and Awards Department, 202.626.7586 or rlee@aia.org.

**Watch for Web site**

AIA Colorado will launch its new Web site this month. A Web site task force has been hard at work to determine the focus of the new site and the overall graphic identity.

The concept of the site is to show the creative thinking process that happens in architecture. Included in the site will be conceptual sketches, creativity, and unexpected fun that goes and drawing symbols—all meant to remind us of the thinking, and thoughtfulness in preservation, restoration, or alternative use of existing buildings, regardless of their original architectural intentions.

Entry forms must be completed, submitted with the entry fee, and postmarked no later than August 4, 2000. All submission binders must be sent to the AIA Honors and Awards Department, 1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20006-5292; Attention: Institute Honor Awards for Architecture. Entries must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2000.

Awards for Interior Architecture

Each entry in the Institute Honor Awards program is judged for the success with which the project has met its individual requirements. Entries are weighed individually—not in competition with one another.

Projects must be submitted in one of the following two categories: design resolution, which demonstrates exemplary skill and sensitivity in resolution of formal, functional, and technical requirements; or design advancement, which advances the contemporary understanding of design by proposing new approaches to the development of architectural form.

In addition to design achievements, projects may be exemplary in the following subcategories:
- Societal advancement, which demonstrates a commitment to social progress
- Technical advancement, which explores new technologies and their architectural applications
- Environmental advancement, which demonstrates a commitment to sustainable design and/or conservation of resources
- Preservation/restoration, which demonstrates skill, sensitivity, and thoughtfulness in preservation, restoration, or alternative use of existing buildings, regardless of their original architectural intentions.

Entry forms must be completed, submitted with the entry fee, and postmarked no later than August 18, 2000. All submission binders must be sent to the AIA Honors and Awards Department, 1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20006-5292; Attention: Institute Honor Awards for Interior Architecture. Entries must be postmarked no later than August 18, 2000.

To request the call for entries or for more information, contact the AIA Honors and Awards Department, 202.626.7586 or rlee@aia.org.

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Site Planning • Urban Design • Park Planning & Design
14 Growth bills introduced to House, 6 to Senate

GAC MONITORED 41 HOUSE, 20 SENATE BILLS

Do you know a candidate running for the legislature?

The Government Affairs Committee is asking AIA members who know candidates running for election to the Colorado House of Representatives or the Colorado Senate to contact Joe Jackson at the AIA Office, 800.628.5398. AIA Colorado will compile the information to help us strengthen our legislative relationships in the future.

THE ENVELOPE PLEASE!

The second annual Interior Design Awards (the IDAs) sponsored by the Colorado Chapter ASID, were presented at a grand ceremony held May 9 at the Auditorium of the Denver Design Center. The awards were presented at the close of the session after 20 years of design excellence in design. More than 70 submissions in the categories of Residential and Commercial Design were received. Numerous AIA members were included in the winners. In Residential Interiors, Doug Walter, AIA, of Doug Walter Architects received two awards.

In Residential/Commercial Interiors, Chris Nims, AIA, of Gensler; James Johnson, AIA, of JG Johnson Architects; and Doris Sung received awards. And in Commercial Architecture, David Tryba, AIA, David Owen Tryba Architects; Janette Ray, ASID, of Davis Partnership Architects; James Johnson, AIA, of JG Johnson Architects; Chuck Albright, AIA, RNI, Design, Ron Shuler, AIA, Shuler Group, and OZ Architecture all received wins.

AIA Logo Usage

Many firms use the AIA logo (the Eagle and Column) on their stationery and brochures. AIA National has provided the following rules that apply to its use.

- Individual architect members and their firms may use the logo if each living person in the firm's name is a current AIA member.
- The logo may not be used by a firm if a firm name includes the terms "Incorporated," "PA," "Company," and "Associates" or a similar term, or if the firm name is a trade name such as "Architecture & Design," in which personal names are not used.
- When using the Institute's name or initials "AIA," there are further guidelines that must be used. They are:
  - "AIA" may be used after an individual member's name in the name of a firm, for example, "John Jones, AIA Architect.”
  - "AIA" may not be used following a firm name that includes terms such as "Incorporated;" "PA;" "Company;" and "Associates" that are not the names of individual members.
  - Please be aware of these rules and use them appropriately in your firm. If you have any questions, call either the AIA Colorado office or AIA National. Both will be happy to assist in answering any questions you may have.

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### July Events

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**For more information on any of these events, call AIA Colorado at 800.628.3398, unless otherwise noted.**

| 10 12 p.m.              | 11                        | 12 7 a.m.                        | 13 14 Noon-2 p.m.                | 15 10 a.m. |
| 12 p.m.                 | 7 a.m.                   | South Chapter Board of Directors | Noon-2 p.m. Government            | DFA Tour |
| Denver Foundation       | South Chapter             | Board of Directors               | Affiliates Ctr., AIA Office      | Civic    |
| for Architecture, AIA   |                          |                                 |                                  | Center   |
| Office                  |                          |                                 |                                  |          |
| AIA Denver Design Award |                          |                                 |                                  |          |
| entry deadline          |                          |                                 |                                  |          |

| 18 7:30 a.m.            | 19                        | 20 7:15 a.m.                     | 21 11 a.m.                       | 22 10 a.m. |
| Housing Ctr., AIA Office|                          | Design Build Roundtable, Design Center | Editorial Board                | DFA Tour |
| 3 p.m.                  |                          |                                 | 12:30 p.m.                       | Downtown |
| North Chapter           |                          |                                 | Finance Ctr.                     | Geometry |
| Board of Directors      |                          |                                 | 2 p.m.                           |          |

| 24 7:30 a.m.            | 25                        | 26 7:30 a.m.                     | 28 7:30 a.m.                     | 29 10 a.m. |
| Historic Preservation   |                          | Preservation Ctr.                | Denver Golf Tournament—Fox       | DFA Tour |
| Ctr.                    |                          |                                 | Hollow                          |          |

**GALLERY EXHIBITS**

June 15 – July 15
UCO/Barbara Ambach "Interactive Architecture"

**AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS**

18 GAC Retreat, 12 noon – 4 p.m.
AIA North Chapter Golf Tournament

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**Colorado ARCHITECT**

July 2000

**IT'S OFFICIAL!!**

The 2000 AIA Colorado Design Conference will take place October 13-15 in Aspen and Snowmass. This year we return to the popular Aspen Institute with its pristine setting and relaxing atmosphere. Mark your calendar now, and plan to join us as we focus on new Architecture.

The conference will explore the new thoughts, new attitudes, new clients, new technologies and new cultures that will define a new Architecture for the millennium. We have been very fortunate in securing a major player in our industry as one of our conference leaders—Jim Cramer, president of the Greenway Group and editor of DesignIntelligence. He has agreed to be a keynote speaker and to participate in the entire conference to offer his insights and ideas.

We are also very fortunate to secure a prestigious design awards jury from the Boston area that will be chaired by David Mannfredi, AIA, of Elkay / Mannfredi Architects Ltd. Joining him will be Warren Schwartz, AIA; Fred Koester, and Peter Kuzner, FAIA. Call for Entries registrations for the 2000 Design Awards are due July 28, with submittal deadlines due August 31.

AIA Colorado president Steve Loos, AIA, said, “This is going to be a conference that will be energizing and thought-provoking while you are there and one that will tickle your imagination continually as you head back to work. We are working to create a conference that will change the way you look at things forever!”

In concert with our theme of new Architecture, AIA Colorado is directing Awards and Conference participants to its Web site for registration and all general information. Please view the site at aicolorado.org to learn more about this exciting event.