THINK GRIDS, FORGET BOXES

As a profession of leadership and creativity, architects need to quit focusing on boundaries. There is no longer a reason to be concerned about whether you're in the box, getting out of the box, or thinking outside of it. Why would architects, who are such intelligent people, put themselves in a box in the first place?

I propose to you that grids are the expanding networks of information, knowledge and organizational change that we as architects really work in and what we are about as a creative profession. Architects are Grid People, not Box People.

I have never liked the glass half-full or half-empty question either. It is a similar sort of false boundary. This always seemed like a design problem to me. It is not a matter of whether the glass is half-full or half-empty, you just have the wrong size glass. Otherwise, why be concerned about a static observation, it will change the next time you see it. If it doesn't, you're probably not looking through the glass anyway.

John Williams, AIA
2001 AIA Colorado President

COLORADO ARCHITECT UPDATE

Thank you all for your patience in waiting for the next issue of Colorado Architect. What you are reading now is simply an “interim” newsletter that, along with the weekly update on our web site, will bring you up to date on the happenings of AIA Colorado. The next official Colorado Architect will arrive on your doorstep in early July, and will be well worth the wait.

We are excited about our new publishers, Meyer Direct, and the sleek, colorful new look they have given to our masthead. The Colorado Architect will now be a quarterly, 16-20 page publication, with the first issue coming to you in July and the last in October for 2001. In addition to these two issues, Dodge Publications is producing a beautiful 4-color, 60 page Convention Magazine, as well as the Colorado Profile, and an end of the year another 4-color magazine.

Until the unveiling of the July issue, we will do our best to keep you informed via our web site, e-mails and an interim newsletter such as this one in April and June.

For your convenience, the Colorado Architect will be placed on our web site, as well as in your mail box.

If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, or on our web site, please contact Gates Scott at Meyer Direct (303) 620-9578 or gates@meyerdirect.com or contact Nancy Sells, Communications Manager at nancy@aiacolorado.org

WHAT IS AN ARCHITECT?

“An Architect is a person who draws buildings and draws little dots and the Architect tells the workers what to build on the little dots.” Mike Platts, 2nd grade class, Henderson Elementary
NEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!
As the AIA National Convention is only two months away, the sponsorship committee has created some exciting NEW sponsorship opportunities:

* 5k run/walk  
* Host Chapter Party  
* Dining by Design Events

For more information on sponsorship, or to receive an information packet, contact the AIA Colorado offices at 303-446-2266 x17 or via e-mail at sonia@aiacolorado.org.

Creating A Guidebook  
by Dennis R. Humphries AIA

The Denver Architectural Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of the *Guide to the Architecture of Denver with Regional Highlights*. The guide is arguably the most comprehensive portable source of information on Denver's built environment published to date. It is intended that he guide will be an educational resource about design and the building of a great city.

The Foundation believes that by singling out examples of both well designed and problematic buildings, the guide will afford people the opportunity to see what is good—and sometime not so good; and most importantly start to understand why. Our hope is that this book will be not only a guide for the neophyte but also a source for the architecturally aware who are seeking to expand their knowledge. Simply, the purpose of the guide is to encourage the reader to discover, look at and appreciate the influence of design in the city.

The Guide will be available to purchase during the convention at a reduced price of $24.95 and then available at local bookstores at a retail price of $29.95.

HOST CHAPTER PARTY  
AIA National Convention  
MAY 19, 7:00 PM- Midnight

What do tigers, buffalo, salmon and otters have in common? They will all be (in one form or another) joining us at Colorado Ocean Journey for the AIA Colorado Host Chapter Party!

Come join the fun at our new aquarium on Friday night! We've packed the building with music, food, drink and lots of good times. Catch up with old friends or visit with the new ones you just met while enjoying the jazz, flamenco, a capella and downright swingin' salsa.

So what about this building? Ocean Journey is a fabulous building built to explore the path of water (starting as a snowflake in the Rockies) as it travels from the Continental Divide by way of the Colorado, Arkansas, Platte and Rio Grande rivers to the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Just remember 6:30 PM, catch the bus and join the fun!!

WE'RE STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD WALKING TOURS

The Denver Architectural Foundation has been engaged to operate one-half of the walking tours for the convention. While many firms have encouraged their architectural staff to participate, many have already volunteered, but more volunteers are needed.

We would like to encourage our AIA members to announce in staff meetings the need for architects' willingness to participate. DAF has done all the research related to each tour and through a couple training sessions will prepare volunteers to lead a tour(s). The need for volunteers is great and an abundance of them will demonstrate to the National Convention Committee, Colorado's commitment to creating a successful convention. This is our chance to show off our dedication and great state! Anyone needing more information should contact ReJean Peeples at 303/972.4458 or by e-mail: rpeeples@mercyhousing.org.
What's new with DAF?

The Denver Architectural Foundation, now beginning its second year of reactivation, has successfully completed its first public outreach effort, the Peter Calthorpe event on March 5th. Peter's new book, The Regional City, has just been published and the Foundation obtained 35 copies, all of which were purchased by attendees and signed individually by Peter. This was a successful fundraising effort by the Foundation, which netted over $5,000 including sponsorship from Forest City Development, Cleworth Associates, Urban Design Group, Matrix Design Group, EDAW, Inc., CRL & Associated, Inc. and Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber, P.C.

We have a number of events on our calendar and encourage you to join us. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

May 17-20 DAF will provide 55 walking tours of downtown Denver. We know you'll all be quite busy during the National Convention, but pencil in a few hours to spend with us. Look for more details in your convention magazine.

This summer the Foundation will sponsor "Behind the Facade Tours" showcasing buildings under construction, in order to carry out its mission of enabling the public to understand the impact of architecture on their quality of life. Watch for more detail on these tours. The Foundation's fall event will be presented in conjunction with the new "George Washington Architect Exhibit", which is touring the country and will be here in Denver from October 8 to November 18, 2001.

MARCH 2001
WWW....Have you seen the AIA Colorado web site lately?

We've been busy making changes, giving the site a fresh look and updating information. A new Communications Advisory Board has come together to modify and improve the information that is available to you. We are excited about, and dedicated to, making the AIA Colorado web site a step above the rest and perhaps a model of what other states will strive to pattern themselves after.

We are researching a number of enhancements and upgrades, such as on-line document sales and registration, surveys, online voting and much more. Keep in mind that these changes don't happen over night, but they will happen.

For your convenience, our newsletters will be on the web site as well.

What’s new in membership?

As many of you know, the National AIA has been in the middle of a database conversion. The project has been an enormous undertaking and has not been without its share of glitches. New member numbers, invoicing problems and delays in membership processing are a few of the "side effects" from the conversion. The AIA staff has been working diligently to resolve pending problems, but many of you have been waiting for service for weeks and even months in some cases. We acknowledge the frustration that you are experiencing, and are doing our best to take care of each individual situation as promptly as possible. Thank you for your continued patience! In the long run, the conversion will allow us to serve you better than ever!

Do you need membership assistance? Call or email Taryn Jensen, Membership Manager, at 303/446-2266 Ext. 16, taryn@aiacolorado.org. Or, call AIA National directly at 800/242-3837.

The New and Improved AIA COLORADO CLASSIFIEDS!

As of April 1st, the AIA Colorado Job Board will be the AIA Colorado Classifieds. Now you can use the Classifieds to advertise employment, in addition to space availability, buy/sell, and architectural services of all types! The AIA Colorado website is receiving several thousand hits a week due to convention! If you want National advertising exposure at a great price, now is the time to place your ad in the Classifieds!

The new publish date for the AIA Colorado Classifieds, will be every Monday by 5pm. The deadline to submit an ad to post in the following Monday's Classifieds will be every Friday by 5pm. View our website at www.aiacolorado.org for more information, and download the new ad submittal form under the "Member Resources" link. Questions? Email classifieds@aiacolorado.org, or call 800/628-5598 Ext. 18.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mr. Aubrey Breisford, emeritus AIA, who passed away recently. We would also like to send our thoughts to Charlie Campbell, AIA, South Chapter, who lost his daughter, Heather, at the young age of 30.
Christopher G. Nims, AIA Elevated to College of Fellows

Washington, D.C., April 1, 2001—The American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated 72 architects to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made contributions of national significance to the profession.

Out of a membership of more than 66,000, there are fewer than 2,500 AIA members distinguished with the honor of fellowship. It is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA who have made significant contributions in the following areas: the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; the standards of people through an improved environment; and to society through significant public service. Please join us in congratulating Christopher G. Nims, FAIA of Gensler for being selected to received this tremendous honor.

The new Fellows, who are entitled to use the designation "FAIA" following their names, will be invested in the College of Fellows at the 2001 National Convention in Denver on May 18.