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Contents

Features
Infinite Energy ...................................................... 11
Thinking Locally .................................................... 12
Caring Cuisine ....................................................... 16
Thank You, Convention Sponsors! .......................... 19
AIA Colorado 2012 Design Awards ....................... 20
AIA Colorado's 2013 College of Fellows Class ....... 22
A Place to Call Home ............................................. 24

Departments
From the President .................................................. 9
From the Associate Director ................................. 10
On the Boards ....................................................... 25

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From the President

Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, through the legislative process. Quietly, while we doodled in our sketchbooks, pounded on our keyboards and administrated our designs during construction, these volunteers enabled us to continue working as licensed architects, afforded us legal protection for our practice, and enabled the next generation of students and interns the chance to follow in our profession.

By all early measures, the 2013 AIA National Convention will be a great success! Did you know that nearly 200 AIA Colorado member volunteers worked for more than 18 months to identify and secure venues, tours and parties? It’s true! We don’t have enough column space to mention all of them, but you’ll know who they are. They will be the ones wearing the tired, satisfied grins at the end of the convention, signifying a job well done.

At the 2012 AIA Grassroots Leadership Conference, AIA National initiated a repositioning of the organization by hiring outside experts LaPlaca Cohen and Pentagram. They conducted thousands of interviews and surveys, collecting 31,000 points of data. The results were shared during the 2013 AIA Grassroots Leadership Conference. Immediately following the conference, AIA’s leadership in Colorado, representing the local chapters, the component and the region, met to set a consistent message and begin taking action. Very soon, you can expect to hear how you are empowered to make AIA in Colorado work more effectively and efficiently for you.

Already, so much has been accomplished on your behalf by AIA this year. The next half of the year is up to you to take control. The AIA repositioning is a real chance to make AIA a visionary membership organization providing advocacy, leadership and resources for architects to design a better world. Your AIA leaders are ready, willing and able to take the next steps to accomplish this vision and are eagerly looking forward to your input and participation.

Sincerely,

Mike Wisneski, AIA
AIA Colorado 2013 President

It’s hard to believe that we’re halfway through the year, that sunset review of the architects’ licensing law has passed, the 2013 AIA National Convention has landed in Denver, and we’re well into deciphering the AIA repositioning effort, but we are!

Many of us simply want to practice architecture as we know it. Thanks to the AIA Colorado Government Affairs Committee, we can continue to do just that. The committee successfully maneuvered Senate Bill 13-161, Concerning the Continuation of the State Board of Licensure of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, through the legislative process.
Why Denver Is the Place for Me

When meeting someone for the first time, inevitably the question of where I am from comes up. I always laugh at my answer because even though I am not an Army brat, it seems like I should have been. I have lived in six states, from New York to New Mexico. My moves were due to education and career opportunities, and even though I really enjoyed living in those places, I was always ready to leave and try something new when the time came. I have lived in Colorado for more than two years now and can honestly say I have no intention of leaving. I love it here!

When I move to a new place, I devour the city: trying new places, exploring new areas, reading up on new things to do. Denver has so much to offer that for every place or activity that I cross off my list, two new ones take its place. The best way I have found to describe Denver is that it is a combination of Houston and Manhattan; it has friendliness mixed with great culture. With dozens of neighborhoods, each with its own personality and things to do, there is never a dull moment. I love playing tour guide to my friends and family members who visit me here. “This is the best meal I have ever had!” or “I had no idea Denver was so big!” or “You have that here?!” are typical comments. Various styles of architecture can be found with various types of food to try and various types of live music to listen to. All these things are prerequisites for a city I live in, and Denver does not disappoint.

Being host to the 2013 AIA National Convention is a great honor, but one that Denver deserves. This city will surprise you with how amazing it is. So enjoy the 24th-largest city in the United States, and share some of our 300 days of low humidity and sunshine.

Cynthia Fishman, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
AIA Colorado 2013 Associate Director
Infinite Energy

Attend the AIA Colorado 2013 AIA National Convention Host Chapter Party

As the local host of the 2013 AIA National Convention and Design Exposition, nearly 200 of our members have been planning and coordinating our myriad convention activities — more than 40 different building and site tours, 11 Design + Dining events, and our lounge on the expo floor, among others — since late 2011. We are particularly excited to entertain the expected 1,500 attendees of our Host Chapter Party, *Infinite Energy*, on Friday, June 21, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Party attendees will experience the boundless potential of Colorado within the expanse of the renowned Denver Performing Arts Complex — the winner of the prestigious AIA Western Mountain Region 2012 Twenty-Five Year Award, which recognizes a built structure that has significantly influenced design and lifestyle in the region.

Whether it’s the renewing power of the Colorado sun, the creativity of its entrepreneurs or the artistic endeavors of its citizens, *Infinite Energy* represents the power and capabilities of Colorado in all its forms. Soak up some of that inspiration as AIA Colorado presents a sampling of the state we are proud to call home. From performance artists and music to homegrown food and drink (plentiful, if not inestimable), the endless range of Colorado inspiration will be on display.

The vast galleria space of the second-largest performing-arts center in the world will be transformed, welcoming those lucky enough to be immersed in, and energized by, the limitless loop of the Colorado experience. *Infinite Energy* — a night so big we needed the longest day of the year to contain it!
Thinking Locally

Joint Public Safety Facility Reconsiders the Language of Civic Architecture

by Sarah Goldblatt, AIA
Typically, one doesn’t think of farm buildings as design models for public safety facilities and civic architecture. But sometimes, given the context, drawing inspiration from vernacular form is the way to go. Case in point: For the new combined police and fire rescue station for the city of Cherry Hills Village and South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR), Roth Sheppard Architects did just that. The Denver-based firm has been involved in the planning and design of more than 50 public safety buildings across the country, and generally its designs embody a degree of monumentality that denotes civic stature. However, this recent commission altered the firm’s thinking about the expression of civic architecture. Instead of designing an iconic structure that would be an anomaly in this semi-rural residential context, the architects chose to take a local focus that links the community’s past to its future.

Like many small municipalities with aging facilities, the city’s police and SMFR Station #38 were operating with outdated and inadequate spaces. “The police station had been designed for half its current staff, and the evidence room was completely overflowing,” explained Rob Zuccaro, the city’s community development director. The original fire station, built in 1979, was designed for a volunteer corps. It now accommodates full-time firefighters and lacks the requisite amenities.

After more than a decade of carefully assessing its space needs and considering ways to organize its 17-acre site into a cohesive municipal complex — one that would optimize open space, maintain neighbors’ views and minimize environmental impact — the city issued an RFP for the design of a joint police and fire station to address its most pressing needs.

Cherry Hills Village and South Metro Fire Rescue Joint Public Safety Facility

**Architect and Interior Designer:** Roth Sheppard Architects, LLP  
**Principal:** Jeff Sheppard, AIA  
**Project Architect:** Kyle Yardley, AIA  
**Contractor:** Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
**Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing:** VH Engineering, LLC/C3S, Inc.  
**Structural Engineer:** Monroe & Newell Engineers, Inc.  
**Civil Engineer:** JVA, Inc.  
**Landscape Architect:** Lime Green Design, Inc.  
**Lighting Design:** Roth Sheppard Architects, LLP/C3S, Inc.  
**Location:** Cherry Hills Village, Colo.  
**Scope:** 21,000 square feet  
**Purpose:** Public safety facility for Cherry Hills Village fire and police departments  
**Owner:** Cherry Hills Village/South Metro Fire Rescue  
**Completion Date:** January 2013
The city selected Roth Sheppard to design the facility, and it was during the community input phase that Jeff Sheppard, AIA, principal and co-founder of the firm, recognized that this project was different from the others they had designed. “This isn’t a neighborhood that wants to have a civic edifice as their main entry feature,” Sheppard explained. “We viewed this as an almost anti-municipal building.”

Roth Sheppard looked to the area’s agrarian roots and found a community deeply passionate about preserving its barn heritage and rural charm. To organize the building’s programmatic elements, the architects embraced the additive feel of a traditional farmhouse that often started with a barn and a modest main house and expanded over time. They utilized a simplified gabled barn form to help define the major elements, along with contemporary materials, like glass and steel, to connect them. The result is a village of small buildings organized in an “L” shape that wraps around a secure entry court.

The largest barn, proportioned to approximate a riding stable, houses the fire department’s apparatus bays. Roth Sheppard tucked mechanical units into the excess roof volume and provided louvers at the gable ends for ventilation. Opposing clerestory windows bring natural light deep into the interior space. The firefighters’ living quarters are directly linked to the apparatus bay to optimize response time. The firefighters, along with the police, also have access to fitness equipment and a training room designed for in-service workshops.
A second, smaller barn encloses the training room (which doubles as a community room) and also serves as the gateway to the site. Behind this structure's glass and metal panel façade is a light-filled space with a vaulted ceiling that enhances the room volume. Sheppard said, "This element provides the tie-in to the community, so it's more transparent and has the most public presence on the site."

The police department's holding facility and evidence room occupy a third, more-solid barn form. The central police position within the building — with its offices oriented to the street and toward the public entry — reinforces the new philosophy of "Community-Oriented Policing," which advocates a proactive response to public safety issues. The offices are bookended by a secure auto court that provides quick access to the patrol cars.

Although Roth Sheppard's design clearly delineates the building's public and private zones, it also conveys a sense of openness and belonging to the community. As Jeff Sheppard noted, "We questioned whether every police and fire building has to speak this civic language and concluded that we would rather do something that feels right for the community."
For more than 21 years, Project Angel Heart has been delivering healthy, nutritious meals to people who are living with life-threatening illnesses. From its initial effort in the fall of 1991 — serving 12 clients from a single pan of lasagna donated by a restaurant — Project Angel Heart has experienced tremendous growth, delivering more than 445,000 meals to more than 1,900 clients in 2012 alone.

With that growth comes the need for expansion — which is where Denver-based architecture firm Sink Combs Dethlefs (SCD) came in.

In 2007, Erin Pulling, Project Angel Heart’s president and CEO, asked SCD CEO Don Dethlefs, AIA, to help Project Angel Heart find a new building that would be more suited to the philanthropic organization’s expanding operations. Together, they found a former warehouse/cooler facility that fit the bill, and Project Angel Heart purchased the facility in October 2007.

At 31,150 square feet, space was not an issue, Dethlefs said. “In fact, it was probably more space than they would need right away,” he explained. “But it gave them a lot of space to grow.”

The problem was adapting the space from its past as warehouse space to its future as food production and distribution space — and all on an extremely tight budget. SCD, in addition to providing its services pro bono, helped Project Angel Heart assemble a project team.

### Project Angel Heart

**Architect:** Sink Combs Dethlefs (all services pro bono)

**CEO:** Don Dethlefs, AIA

**Project Manager:** Tony Deagan, Assoc. AIA

**General Contractor:** Jordy Construction (preconstruction services pro bono)

**Structural and Civil Engineer:**

**Mechanical and Plumbing Engineer:** Martin/Martin (all services pro bono)

**Electrical Engineer:** Innovative Electrical Systems (all services pro bono)

**Kitchen Consultant:** Ricca Newmark (all services pro bono)

**Landscape Architect:** DHM Design (all services pro bono)

**Location:** Denver

**Scope:** 31,180 square feet

**Budget:** $7.1 million

**Purpose:** Preparation and delivery of healthy meals to clients living with life-threatening illnesses throughout the Denver area

**Completion Date:** January 2012

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couldn't believe it was the same place at the grand opening."

Project Angel Heart moved into the renovated facility on January 21, 2012. Sandy Nagler, Project Angel Heart's vice president of programs, said staff members and volunteers are thrilled with the organization's new home. "Every aspect of our operational needs was addressed in our intelligent design from Sink Combs Dethlefs, and we're grateful for their commitment to not only exceptional design but to provide these tremendous services pro bono during a difficult economy," Nagler noted. "Our clients now and the many more we'll be able to serve in the future because of our new home are full of appreciation, as we are too."

To view a virtual walkthrough of Project Angel Heart's facility, visit www.projectangelheart.org/about-us/capital-campaign and click on the "Take a virtual tour through our new home!" link.
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AIA Colorado
A Component of The American Institute of Architects
AIA Colorado 2012 Design Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the AIA Colorado 2012 Design awards! The following 16 awards were selected from 108 entries submitted by Colorado architects who are members of AIA Colorado. These were presented by AIA Colorado 2012 Design Awards Jury Chair J. Windom Kimsey, FAIA, of Tate Snyder Kimsey (Las Vegas).

1. Honor Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine (La Jolla, Calif.)
   Firm/Architect: Fentress Architects (Denver) and Davis Davis Architects (San Diego)

2. Honor Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
   Firm/Architect: Tryba Architects (Denver)

3. Merit Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Brown Hall Addition & Renovation (Golden, Colo.)
   Firm/Architect: Anderson Mason Dale Architects (Denver)

4. Merit Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Mineta San Jose International Airport, Terminal B (San Jose, Calif.)
   Firm/Architect: Fentress Architects (Denver)

5. Merit Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Denver Central Platte Campus (Denver)
   Firm/Architect: RNL (Denver)

6. Merit Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Eastside Human Services (Denver)
   Firm/Architect: RNL (Denver)

7. Merit Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Tori Tori Restaurant (Mexico City)
   Firm/Architect: Rojkind Arquitectos (Mexico City)

8. Merit Award for Unbuilt Architecture
   Project: START Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility and Transit Center (Jackson, Wyo.)
   Firm/Architect: RNL (Denver)

9. Citation Award for Built Architecture
   Project: 2290 (Boulder, Colo.)
   Firm/Architect: Arch11 (Boulder, Colo.)

10. Citation Award for Built Architecture
    Project: University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus – Health and Wellness Center (Aurora, Colo.)
    Firm/Architect: H+L Architecture (Denver) and Cannon Design
11. Citation Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Parker Arts, Culture & Events Center [PACE] (Parker, Colo.)

12. Citation Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Linear House (Aspen, Colo.)
   Firm/Architect: Studio B Architects (Aspen, Colo.)

13. Citation Award for Built Architecture
   Project: Paisano Green Community (El Paso, Texas)
   Firm/Architect: WORKSHOP8 Inc. (Boulder, Colo.)

14. Citation Award for Interior Architecture
   Project: Engine House 5 (Denver)
   Firm/Architect: SLATERPAULL Architects (Denver)

15. Citation Award for Unbuilt Architecture
   Project: Wail House (Aspen, Colo.)
   Firm/Architect: CCY Architects (Basalt, Colo.)

16. Citation Award for Unbuilt Architecture
   Project: Gran Sir D, Barbados (St. James, Apes Hill, Barbados)
   Firm/Architect: Roth Sheppard Architects (Denver)
How has your involvement in AIA Colorado impacted your career?
The biggest impact has come from opportunities presented by AIA to contribute in areas I've been passionate about. Chairing the AIA Colorado 1997 Design Conference, "Toward an Architecture of Compassion," was one of the most rewarding of these experiences. In an attempt to fuse topic and physical venue, we transformed a wonderful abandoned timber hangar at the former Stapleton airport into an interactive “agora” of ideas and performances. By bringing together humanistic and environmental architects with a theologian, a poet and even dancers, we broke out of our comfort zone and engaged in discussions on larger issues of meaning in our work. I appreciated AIA's willingness to try an approach that challenged the established conference model, as well as the enthusiasm that many young and experienced practitioners brought to the effort. We may not have changed the world, but I do think that we shifted some thinking and helped pave the way for the explosive greening of our profession. It was certainly proof positive that AIA is an institution that evolves as we channel our creative energy to manifest.

Tell me your thoughts on the future of the architecture profession.
I often begin lectures with the opening line from A Tale of Two Cities — "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." My sense is that this is where we currently stand in our profession. There is a real need to design ourselves out of the mess we have collectively, as the human species, created. Almost every system, from technologies to buildings to cities, is in need of reinvention. It is a time where young designers will be needed to step up and rethink the way things have been and how we will pull out of this impending nose-dive! As a profession in this context, we are no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity. We must claim our role, as we simultaneously let go of the old individualistic Howard Roark model. Instead, we will morph into exceptional team players in a multidisciplinary process. A post-petroleum world that responds to the cries of a warming planet and spreading inequality will need new ways of doing more with less, as well as the creation of exciting places that make life a more qualitative experience for more people. It is a time for inspiring leadership that architects are particularly suited for. It is a challenge that I truly hope the new generation fully embraces … there is no time to waste!

How and why did you first get involved with AIA?
I realize the three letters in AIA mean a great deal within the architecture and design profession. At its most basic, it's a designation that you put after your name acknowledging your profession, but being AIA means a great deal more than that. AIA architects maintain a commitment to continued professional development. They also adhere to a higher code of ethics and professional conduct that serve both the client and our built environment.

What does it mean to you to be elevated to the College of Fellows, particularly as you will be invested in Denver during the 2013 convention?
If I could have written the story, this is the way I would have written it. First, having AIA National Convention attendees fly into the airport I designed is fantastic. Next, being invested in the city where I began my career in 1980, and hosting colleagues from around the world in one of my most revered and respected design projects, the Colorado Convention Center, is unbelievable. Honestly, how many Fellows can say that their elevation experience is going to be like mine?

What are some of your favorite projects that you have worked on in Colorado?
I love that I was a player in the design of the Colorado Convention Center because the project provided a major economic boost to the city and was a catalyst for urban infill in Denver's downtown core. Soon after the convention center opened, the city gained four hotels, two residential towers and a new opera house, and it prompted merchants along 14th Street to contribute $4 million to a city fund to enhance the streetscape and for maintenance. In 2011, the Colorado Convention Center brought an economic impact of $653 million to the city. I love that I can tell my kids and, someday, grandkids that I played a part in Denver's success. Denver International Airport (DIA) is a major part of so many Coloradans' lives. Our team was determined to find a solution to the city's budget issue, and that was to flip the terminal upside down, put the mechanical systems in the basement, and to create the tensile-strength, Teflon-coated roof. The design was affordable — as it required less steel, concrete and time to build — and has become a Denver landmark!
What does it mean to you to be elevated to the College of Fellows, particularly as you will be invested in Denver during the 2013 convention?
In addition to the professional honor of being invested, I have the great emotional honor of welcoming the ceremony into a building we designed! The Ellie Caulkins Opera House was a labor of love in our office for more than a decade, and it combines so many of the things that drive our practice: preservation, community engagement, sustainability — and the challenge of creating space that is beautiful. It's very fulfilling.

How has your involvement in AIA Colorado impacted your career?
AIA has impacted my career primarily by setting standards for design excellence through the design awards program. We have consistently submitted projects to the awards program and have received 44 awards from the AIA Denver chapter and AIA Colorado component. Additionally, Semple Brown Design was recognized as the AIA Denver Firm of the Year in 2002 and the AIA Colorado Firm of the Year in 2005. The award programs establish standards in design excellence that we try to achieve. We believe that the promotion of design really happens not in receipt of awards, but in the pursuit of engaging the public in projects that people love to be in and experience the value of good design. These positive experiences through design have continued to impact my career in the pursuit of design excellence.

Do you have any advice for other AIA members?
My advice, in general, would be to focus on issues that affect the communities in which we live. Having experienced Denver's growth over the past 30 years, I am so proud of the many accomplishments that we are benefiting from. The planning efforts of those before us are now being realized in so many positive ways. The strength of our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, the connectivity through our transit and parkways systems, and the overall planning of Denver is awesome. The efforts of planners, architects and citizens of Denver have all resulted in a great city. Most of this great planning has been through the support of organizations such as AIA.

How has your involvement in AIA Colorado impacted your career?
I have made a point of connecting with folks to address architectural, advocacy and local policy issues as part of my practice. My involvement in AIA Colorado — and, for that matter, in national issues — provides a perspective that people appreciate. I am currently chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the town of Avon and am able to bring perspectives from a number of important sources from around Colorado to the important discussions surrounding the development of Avon and other communities in the area. Involvement in AIA Colorado has allowed me to be a credible resource in important discussions relating to the sound and thoughtful development of the mountain community in which I live.

Tell me your thoughts on the future of the architecture profession.
I am excited about the future of the profession. My view is based on some significant accomplishments that have been made in the energy and sustainability arenas nationally, regionally and locally. We are working hard at a national level to bring energy modeling into the standard vernacular of the architect's design language. I am particularly focused on the small-practice architect who really needs this tool in order to be effective in their work. To be sure, we have challenges. Architecture, when combined with technical issues of sustainability, is not necessarily getting easier. We are a smart profession, and we are continually demonstrating our ability to be relevant in an ever-demanding marketplace, leading building owners to better buildings, leading homeowners to healthier and more resource-conscious dwellings, and leading our communities in thoughtful dialogue that improves the built environment.

Do you have any advice for other AIA members?
One of my favorite lines from a Grassroots Leadership presentation equated membership in AIA to a gym membership. If you don't use it, everyone else who joins gets the benefit of your money, and you don't get the health benefits of that investment. I equate the health benefit to professional health. I have seen firsthand the depth of resources available to every member who makes the conscious choice to join AIA. In all but a few very rare instances, the volunteer members I talk with that get involved say they get much more back than they give. Volunteer members get engaged in what they do, they build relationships with other architects, and they contribute not only to the sustainability of the profession, but also to the future of communities and the environment. My advice is simple — get involved. Get involved at whatever level you are comfortable — get involved. We will all be better for that.

Compiled by Alaina Gonzales
A Place to Call Home

What began as an AIA Denver initiative to design and build a home for Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity evolved to become the AIA Colorado 2013 AIA National Convention Legacy Project

In 2011, AIA Denver and CAD-1, Inc. embraced the opportunity to support the Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity design-build duplex project in the town of Kittredge, Colo., and initiated a juried design competition for AIA Colorado members. Eleven teams designed duplexes, and the winning solution by Molly Blakley, Assoc. AIA; Alan Ford, AIA; Kathy Ford, AIA; and Matt Weaver, Assoc. AIA, was selected. (The architect of record is Denver-based Alan Ford Architects P.C.)

Since then, the project has evolved from an idea to reality. In the spring of 2012, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity broke ground on a duplex for two families in Colorado, furthering Habitat for Humanity of Colorado's mission to create simple, decent, affordable housing. With the support and expertise of Adolfson & Peterson Construction, the home will be completed in 2013. BOULD, The Company Behind Everbuild Pro, is submitting the home for LEED Platinum certification.

"Keeping the solutions simple and easy to build with volunteer labor was a primary objective. This was important both for affordability and buildability," Alan Ford, AIA, said. "Given the small square footage of the home, it was critical to keep circulation down and functional efficiency high ... and considering that the design has the potential for being repeated, we set out to make the design solution adaptable to different sites."

Giving homeowner Hazzell and her young son, Titus, a comfortable, safe and affordable home was AIA's first goal. Other goals include promoting the importance of good design and the value of AIA architects in the community, setting a sustainable benchmark for Habitat homes, and demonstrating that sustainability is not a luxury.

We invite convention attendees to tour the AIA Colorado Legacy Project: LEED-Certified Habitat for Humanity Home, June 19-21 (tour #ET117a, #ET117b or #ET117c), or learn more about the project from members of the design and construction team during Habitat Design Competition: A Case Study in Design, Sustainability and Affordability, on June 22, 8:30-10 a.m. (session #SA208).
ARTIST STUDIO

Project Location: Aspen, Colo.
Architect: Studio B Architects
Project Size: 1,000 square feet
Project Scope: Single structure
Expected Completion: January 2014

Located in a private, dense aspen grove, this 1,000-square-foot retreat provides an open floor plan and expansive glass façade, allowing it to become completely integrated within its surroundings. The owners requested a small, simple and separate studio away from their main house to make art, escape and retreat.

A single dividing volume provides privacy while also containing all necessary utilities. The diverse use of materials creates a cloaked exterior, comprised of an anthracite zinc roof and siding made from burnt Japanese cedar, better known as shou-sugi-ban. The detailing of the skin and interior is consistent in its exploration to coexist with the main house and the clients' expectations.

SHANGHAI ZHONGYOU INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL PLAZA

Project Location: Shanghai, China
Architect: Hangar 41
Project Size: 2,010,548 square feet
Project Scope: Mixed-use/retail
Expected Completion: n/a

Born from an invitation-only international design competition, this five-star hotel and shopping center engages the public through its dynamic circulation and site geometry. Located just south of Shanghai's Pudong district, the site evolved to include meandering pathways and gardens representative of historic Chinese watertowns. These elements create dynamic interactions, allowing for exploration around corners and sightline intersections to views of retail spaces, green spaces, the conference center and the main hotel structure. Natural lighting is accomplished through peeling back the "living wings" of the building. Expansive views showcase the prominent retail spaces below, inviting visitors to explore and shop.

The site's formal geometry was inspired by the region's silk and salt industries. The structures' shimmering skin treatment represents wealth and luxury, lending itself to the once-secretive Chinese silk production. The salt crystal is scalable, possessing a fractal rectilinear geometry informing the final faceted dynamism of the tower elements and site layout.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ALPINE RETREAT
Project Location: Pitkin, Colo.
Project Size: 1,400 square feet
Project Scope: Single-family retreat
Expected Start: Summer 2013
Expected Completion: Fall 2017

180 FILLMORE RETAIL + RESIDENCES
Project Location: Denver
Architect: open studio | architecture
Project Size: Less than 40,000 square feet
Project Scope: Mixed-use infill/partial recladding
Expected Completion: Fall 2013

With a prominent site location along Second Avenue in Cherry Creek North, 180 Fillmore Retail + Residences is a welcomed and fitting infill to the already thriving locale. The material palette echoes that of neighboring sites, creating a uniform design aesthetic. The retail renovation takes queues from existing storefronts to enhance its street-level presence. The residential addition, comprised of 33 high-end rental units, requires an additional layer of warmth and individuality that contrasts its retail and office components. A perforated screen system wraps the existing parking garage, further connecting the project’s new elements to its present architecture. Weight played an issue in material selection, as the building was originally designed for supplemental loading, and the team needed to minimally impact the building’s foundation.

Aesthetics aside, the project’s complexity need not go unnoticed. The site recently underwent a planned unit development (PUD). PUD is a designed grouping of both varied and compatible land uses within one contained development. The project team complied with strict entitlements and paid special attention to site conditions.

The clients’ only request was that this home be unique, not the archetypal mountain chalet. Perched at 11,200 feet above sea level and located on a historic 20-acre mining claim, this "off-the-grid" single-family structure is in every sense of the phrase an alpine retreat. Only accessible via forest service roads and snowmobiles, the site rests on a natural rock edge with 180-degree views of the Continental Divide and Green Mountain. The design seeks to tuck the home within the trees, with one side firmly anchored into the landscape with a cast-in-place concrete wall — carefully articulated to also serve as firewood storage and create a façade that changes with the seasons. In contrast, the other side is elevated on stilts as the land rapidly falls away.

In addition to the single cast-in-place site wall, the home also consists of concrete sonotube piers, turned log columns, steel cross-bracing and wood glulam beams. The structural system allows for large expanses of non-load-bearing glass walls and exterior walls that can be placed independently of the roof, simplifying construction. The maintenance-free exterior material palette of timber wood decking, reclaimed wood and rusty steel plate siding and the exposed end grain of firewood will help integrate the contemporary forms into the surrounding setting and keep the structure protected from the harsh alpine weather.
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