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on the cover...

ACE Cares teams with local design community to refresh a Colorado Coalition for the Homeless facility, Beacon Place.

See Feature Article on page 6.
It’s hard to believe that my tenure as Chapter President is quickly coming to a close. At the end of the ASLA National Meeting & EXPO in Boston (Nov. 15-18, 2013), I will officially had over the reigns to next year’s President, Mr. Robb Berg, and continue my presence on the Executive Board as Immediate Past-President.

I am excited for the last few months of my term, and the programs planned for the chapter. In mid-September, the Chapter host’s the second annual “End of Summer Social” at the Denver Botanic Gardens. If you didn’t attend last year, this event is a good place to catch up with other professionals in the area for a relaxed, social gathering in a beautiful Colorado venue.

Fast forward to December and we have our annual Chapter Design Awards, an event recognizing top projects designed by ASLA Colorado members and firms. For the third year in a row, the event will be held at the posh Four Seasons Hotel in Downtown Denver. Come out and celebrate the creativity and professionalism of your fellow ASLA members.

Finally, I can’t end without mention of the “BIG” event planned for 2014, the ASLA National Meeting and EXPO in Downtown Denver. Planning will commence in early December, beginning with a kick-off meeting hosted by staff of ASLA National. There will be plenty of opportunities to participate in the planning and execution of this event, so look for upcoming details as December approaches.

I leave my year as President with a sense of satisfaction. We accomplished a lot as a chapter, from changing policy as it relates to our profession, to building stronger alliances with other groups and organizations. I am confident that over the course of the next year, the strong leadership and vision of our incoming President will make our organization even better.

Abraham Medina
2013 Chapter President
president@aslacolorado.org
EXECUTIVE BOARD & COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Executive Board is the governing body of ASLA Colorado and is chaired by Abraham Medina, Chapter President. The board meets monthly, the Council of Directors is a larger group that meets quarterly to support the board by providing support for association programs. The following is a highlight of the general chapter board activities since the last issue of Exposures.

June and July 2013. There was no Executive Board meeting in June. In July the Executive Board and the Council of Directors met jointly. Plans for the End of Summer Social were finalized and sponsor solicitations began. The event is scheduled for the Denver Botanic Gardens on September 12. Marketing for the Small Business Boot camp series began and registrations opened. Potential vacancies on the Council of Directors were identified and candidate recruitment began with elections slated for August.

August 2013. Elections for the 2013-14 Executive Board were conducted and the results were certified by the Teller Committee. David Gregory was elected President-Elect, Erin Degutis was elected Secretary, Judith Ward was elected Treasurer (two year term, 2nd term), Jesse Young was elected Vice President Public Relations (2nd Term), Susan McCabe was elected Vice President Programs (2nd term). The new Council of Directors will be installed at the ASLA National Conference in November. Plans moved forward to develop a list of duties and responsibilities for the co-chairs of the 2014 ASLA National Conference which will be in Denver. It was agreed that due to printing and mailing costs the next issue of Exposures will be digital only.
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless facility receives much needed upgrade by AEC Cares and local design professionals. **BY JESSE YOUNG**

In March of 2013, AEC Cares, a branch of Reed Construction Data, contacted ASLA Colorado with a call to action for landscape architects. The call was for a local firm to donate design and management services for a volunteer project they were working on as a kickoff to the AIA convention to be held in Denver in June.

In the third year of their program, AEC Cares had already completed sizeable renovation projects in Washington, DC in 2011 and New Orleans in 2012, both as pre-cursors to the AIA convention. For 2013 they selected Beacon Place at 3636 West Colfax in Denver for their annual humanitarian project. Beacon Place is a long-term re-habilitation facility for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless that provides invaluable services to a wide spectrum of people in need.

A design team was assembled quickly, led by Denver design/build firm Landwise and other local ASLA members. We began a collaborative process working with the Beacon Place staff, AEC Cares, and architects from Path 21 Architecture to develop a landscape design that would re-invent the outdoor space at the facility.

Over the years, the extensive courtyard that runs the length of the 100-year old building had fallen into disrepair. At our first site visit, despite six inches of snow on the ground, we could tell that the grounds were essentially bare dirt punctuated by dilapidated picnic tables, overgrown Siberian Elm trees, a resident pigeon population and deteriorating concrete. Despite this state, the outdoor area was clearly dear to the constituents of Beacon Place, and a heavily utilized social space. Though falling apart, an old gazebo served as the center point of the long and narrow courtyard.

As we worked through the design process and spent more time on the ground at Beacon Place, it became more and more apparent that there existed a wider than normal spectrum of personality types that would be using the space. We observed many small clusters of 2-4 people who would hang out together for hours playing chess or talking. Others were perpetually solo. At lunchtime, large groups would come outside to eat together. With these observations in mind, we developed a comprehensive design and construction strategy that allowed for multiple spaces within the courtyard to give the residents as many options as possible.
The final design extended a large patio area from the existing adjacent dining hall and connected to three individual hardscape patio areas. Additionally, the installation of an entirely new irrigation system made it possible to incorporate a good-sized lawn area as a flexible, soft space. Entirely through donations, a beautiful new gazebo was incorporated into the central area as well. The old Elm trees got a thorough prune, the existing fence was repaired and painted, and the potential of the space began to come to life.

On June 19th, 2013 the project came to a head with a “blitz build” day with upwards of 140 volunteers. While many of the volunteers worked on the interior renovations, ASLA members worked tirelessly on the ground managing teams of unskilled volunteers through the installation process. The site was transformed into a beautiful park-like setting. After numerous follow up visits to Beacon Place, we have received countless expressions of gratitude from the residents, the staff, and the neighbors as well.

Jesse Young is the current Vice-President of Public Relations for ASLA Colorado. He owns and manages the Denver design/build firm, Landwise. www.landwisecolorado.com
In the spring of 2013, a class of twenty-five junior and senior Landscape Architecture students at CU Boulder were invited by the City of Boulder to create an outdoor classroom for Horizons K-8 Charter School. It was part of a design/build curriculum led by instructors Brian Cook and David Kahn, in conjunction with the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. Many students were fulfilling a required practical experience credit, but they came away with a sense of how to implement local community improvements that are responsive and relevant to the people who will live with and use them.

CONTEXT
The location was Burke Park, a farm-turned open space-turned neighborhood park in south Boulder. It now sits in the midst of a diverse community. Single-family homes, apartment buildings, a church, a retirement center, and a K-8 school are all immediately adjacent. Thunderbird Lake sits on the northeast half of the thumb-shaped park. Boulder Valley School District owns the south half of the park; the City of Boulder owns the north half.
THE PROCESS
The class began by collecting and analyzing contextual information. Students discovered the site’s geological and ecological underpinnings, its rich farm history, and studied its contemporary role as a neighborhood space. During community design workshops, representatives from the neighborhood, school, and retirement center met with the CU class to share their stories of the park, as well as what they would like to see happen with it. Fourth and fifth grade Horizons students shared ideas for improving Burke Park, while senior citizens shared stories of the park dating back 60 years. Teachers and parents requested opportunities for nature play and education, and the elderly residents asked for a place to sit and that the new design not obstruct their view to Boulder’s beautiful Flatirons.

During the design process emerged the idea of “universal space,” in which diversity and inclusion of activities and user groups are paramount. There were diverse—even contradictory—needs to accommodate, but the universal desire was for a space to share. For people ranging from toddlers to seniors, everyone who had a say requested that the new infrastructure be a place for community to connect.

Through many iterations, the manifestation of the community’s desire became “strands” emanating from each of the community interests and meeting at a central deck, which was to function as both the outdoor classroom that was commissioned and as a general community gathering space. The strands were implied paths that stretched from the deck to the wetland edge of the lake, to the school, and to the neighborhood. Each took on a different character according to the connection it made.

The strand that leads in from the school represents a transect of Colorado ecology and includes montane, grassland and wetland “pocket ecosystems” represented by appropriate plant species. From the neighborhood comes a swath of elliptical native grass mounds surrounded by an educational arboretum. Some trees were already present, and more were added to show a diverse representation of native species. A concrete seat wall was added to the mound nearest the central deck to define the space and include more opportunity for flexible gatherings. Flagstone steps make a short but steep slope more navigable to those who wish to experience the edge of the wetland. Although the project is modest in scale, this design sought to unite the diverse, multi-generational community and foster interactions between people who may not otherwise have occasion to mix.

THE RESULTS
After the “build” portion of the semester, during which the design class excavated cobble by hand and battled snowy conditions, the students had the chance to observe their work in action and saw the value of making a place. A previously underused section of the field now hosts frequent gatherings, both planned and unplanned. Neighbors meet and talk while their children play on the deck or grassy
mounds. Elderly residents listen as young students regale them with tales of the day’s recess. After-school groups meet for discussions and activities like bird watching. The changes were simple, but they helped make a place that promotes un-programmed activity like sitting, reading, and discussion, as well as scheduled class activities.

Of course the value of place is emphasized in any design curriculum, but it cannot be fully realized without real practice. Gathered by space and time, people will mesh and a community will thrive. The design students came away with the knowledge that successful design is not in finding an exact physical manifestation of space, but rather involves establishing a context in which relationships can be made. A community was presented with such a space, and uses it just as the class had hoped: to gather and grow.

Erin Mapes is an Environmental Design student at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She will be entering her senior year in fall 2013. After college she plans to pursue further education and a career in design and writing. She can be reached at erin.mapes@colorado.edu, and her blog about this project can be viewed at burkeparkdesignbuild.wordpress.com.

CHAPTER | Firm News

ValleyCrest Design Group is pleased to announce the following additions to its Denver office.

Terry Stone, LEED AP has joined the firm as a Senior Associate, strengthening the firm’s design and project management capabilities. He is a Registered Landscape Architect with more than eighteen years of experience on a wide-variety of landscape architecture, urban design, and planning projects internationally. They have included parks, riverfronts, mixed-use developments, office buildings, universities, and hospitals, as well as regional and city planning, including several award-winning projects. Initially, Terry will be supporting ValleyCrest Design Group’s efforts on the new Bahamian luxury resort - Baha Mar.

Jesse Michael has rejoined the ValleyCrest Design Group. He will support the firm’s growing portfolio of projects, including a number of residential efforts. He has eight years of experience on design and planning projects both in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to his return
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Wes Horner, ASLA

B.A. History
Washington & Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

M.L.A. Landscape Architecture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Wes Horner began his career in landscape architecture over 40 years ago. He earned an MLA from the University of Illinois, and after graduation joined the planning group at HOK Architects in 1972. He spent the next eight years in the St. Louis office, followed by five years in Denver. His work at HOK focused on corporate and collegiate campuses, as well as industrial visual improvement planning. In 1985, he joined HOH Associates, a Denver area planning and landscape architecture firm. His work at HOH was strongly connected to the home building market. In 1993, he left HOH to work as a sole practitioner for two years before joining Randall and Blake, Inc. (RBI) in 1995 as head of design/build. RBI later merged with West Coast Bridge in 2000 to become American Civil Constructors (ACC). Wes’ contributions at ACC included design coordination, budgeting, scheduling, pre-construction services, and personnel. His projects included the design and construction of landscapes for commercial and real estate developments, master planned communities, parks and recreation facilities, universities, and corporate campuses.

In addition to his professional accomplishments and contributions, Wes was an active ongoing member of ASLA Colorado, and a long time member of the Board of Directors. Wes officially announced his retirement from the profession in the spring of 2013.

The Executive Board of ASLA Colorado would like to thank Wes for his contributions to ASLA and the profession. We wish him the best as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

Consilium Design Finals in MAME Awards

Consilium Design has earned three finalist awards for the MAME Awards (Major Achievement for Marketing Excellence) from the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver’s Sales and Marketing Council.

The awards are for the Best Associate Website (Consilium Design), Best Logo (Leyden Rock), and Best Professional Partner Craig Karn, President Principal).

“We are honored to be finalists in these prestigious industry awards,” shares Craig Karn.

The awards will be announced Saturday evening, September 14 at the Seawell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Center for Performing Arts.
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For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Greg Williams, Executive Director of ASLA Colorado at info@aslacolorado.org
The 2013 Professional Design Awards Call for Entries has been released, and is available online at the ASLA Colorado website (www.aslacolorado.org/awards). The deadline for submitting your project is November 1, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. Please see the form for more details. The Design Awards Program is ASLA Colorado’s premier event, recognizing top work from chapter members in Colorado and Wyoming.

For the third consecutive year, the Awards Event recognizing the winners of this year’s program will be held at the beautiful Four Seasons Hotel in Downtown Denver on December 12, 2013.

The activities of ASLA Colorado are made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors and individual donors. Show your support for ASLA Colorado by sponsoring this great program. Contact Greg Williams, Executive Director, at info@aslacolorado.org.
## upcoming EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>SEPT.</th>
<th>2013 End of Summer Social at the Denver Botanic Gardens, September 12. This is an ASLA Colorado “members only” event. RSVP required as space is limited.</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOV.</td>
<td>ASLA National Meeting and Expo in Boston, MA, November 15-18, at the Boston Convention Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC.</td>
<td>2013 ASLA Colorado Awards Event at the Four Seasons Hotel, Downtown Denver, December 12, at 5:30 p.m.</td>
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**FELLOWSHIP** is among the highest honors the ASLA bestows on members and recognizes the contributions of these individuals to their profession and society at large based on their works, leadership and management, knowledge, and service.

The Fellows Nominating Committee of ASLA Colorado is currently accepting candidate nominations by chapter members for consideration. The Fellows Nominating Committee reviews potential candidates at the chapter level, and submits the best candidates to the ASLA Council of Fellows, who reviews candidates across all chapters. The Council of Fellows selects those candidates who will be elevated to the honor of Fellowship.

If you would like to submit a candidate for review at the chapter level, or would like more information on the process, please contact the chapter President.

president@aslacolorado.org

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