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Membership
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If you are interested in attending the review session for free and you or your firm can provide us with a conference room, please contact Lesanne Weller at 303-948-0766 or lweller@architerragroup.com.
On the cover

Fruita 2008 Community Plan, Fruita, CO

Photo courtesy of EDAW/AECOM, a landscape and planning studio located in Fort Collins, CO.

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Happy New Years from the Executive Committee of ASLA Colorado! I am excited to assume the role of Chapter president and I'm looking forward to a busy year on the Front Range. As this is my first message to the Chapter, I would like to acknowledge a few people for their dedication and service to the Chapter over the last few years.

Our 2009 president, Kim Douglas, had a great year that included the transformative redesign of the ASLA Colorado website and increased public relations activities. Thank you, Kim. Ron Bevans completed his second term as trustee, totaling six years of service to the Chapter, not including other positions he has held, such as the presidency. Thank you, Ron. Our dedicated, indefatigable treasurer Gail Barry has served our Chapter for over 20 years and continues to be a valuable assest to ASLA Colorado. Thank you, Gail. And, of course, a big thanks to Chapter stalwarts Craig Coronato, Mark Tabor, Courtney McRickard, Kurt Munding, Robb Williamson, Brian Koenigberg, Lesanne Weller, Judy Ward, and all the other committee members who continue to serve the Chapter year after year. Your service is truly appreciated.

What’s next for ASLA Colorado in 2010?

As you may recall, a membership survey was circulated last year which asked respondents to rate various Chapter activities, initiatives and programs. Over 20% of our members participated in the survey and the results were revealing. Continuing education, sustainability, public policy, annual conferences and feature articles in Exposures Magazine rated high among your preferred activities and topics of interest. You have spoken and we are listening. As we plan for 2010, there are several areas of focus that we will be developing in order to add value to membership, promote professional development, increase awareness of the profession & influence public policy & community design issues.

Professional Development

The Chapter has initiated a Lunch and Learn series that will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Gates Room of the Denver Central Branch Library (so mark your calendars!). These presentations will focus on topics such as sustainability, technical design, health/safety/welfare issues, emerging industry trends and regionally- and locally-relevant topics. Most of these presentations will offer Continuing Education Units for various state licensure requirements and some will also count towards the newly-implemented Green Building Certification Institute’s LEED AP Credentialing Maintenance Program. As for our non-Denver metro area members, we are actively pursuing options for recording these educational sessions and providing them online so stay tuned to the website and future e-bulletins.

Community Involvement

ASLA Colorado members hold positions on influential groups such as the 16th Street Mall Technical Advisory Committee, the Civic Center Conservancy and other active community groups. I believe it is important for our profession to have a voice in local and regional issues that affect our communities and we will continue to seek additional positions of influence. We will also pursue opportunities to partner with local agencies and community groups to create demonstration projects that can be planned and designed by our members.

Government Affairs

We have achieved licensure but our activities at the Capitol will continue. ASLA Colorado will maintain a presence on the Hill to monitor bills relevant to our profession and to influence public policy. Additionally, we will continue to work with the Department of Regulatory Agencies regarding licensure increased registration fees, and we will evaluate future opportunities for continuing education legislation.

Partnerships with Allied Professions

ASLA Colorado was recently asked to join the newly-formed Sustainable Building Council of Colorado (SBCC). This group is comprised of familiar associations such as AIA, APA, ULI, USGBC and ACEC as well as real estate, development and government associations such as the GSA, NAIOP, and the Governor’s Energy Office. The SBCC mission is “to provide a conduit for resources and education that foster cooperation and collaboration for a sustainable Colorado.” We are excited to be a part of this group and we will continue to provide more information about their activities as they emerge.

While I am looking forward to 2010, the world we live in has certainly changed much. Membership is down, jobless rates are up and RFP’s are like fresh meat to a pack of wolves. We will look for opportunities to keep our members involved in the profession, regardless of employment status. The Chapter cannot create jobs but we can provide a forum for our members to interact together, continue their professional development and stay involved in the design community.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Chapter please contact Judy Ward at jward@criticalhabitats.com. We are actively filling committee positions now so this is a great opportunity to participate. Lastly, I am always available to speak with you regarding your concerns or ideas for Chapter activities so please do not hesitate to contact me at ianderson@designstudioswest.com.

Wishing you a prosperous year,

Ian Anderson, ASLA
Colorado Chapter President
As this is the last issue of the year for our newly redesigned magazine, we wanted to share some of the feedback we have received regarding layout, content, and more.

“This pub has taken a HUGE step forward and again the chapter should be commended. Good Job!”

“I have found the new format to be much more interesting, and I make a point of reading it instead of just glancing through.”

“Thank you for taking this on! The new format and expanded content has greatly enhanced the exposure (no pun intended) of our local chapter.”

“This new look is refreshing, vibrant, informative, beyond interesting…and with great design!”

“I want to let you know that I just finished reading—from cover to cover—the latest issue of Exposures. I have never (and I mean never) read a professional publication in its entirety!”

“I greatly appreciate the efforts to print Exposures on 100% recycled paper from managed forests. It’s refreshing to see the commitment towards sustainability from the organization.”

“A great benefit of our membership! Thank you.”

Thank you to everyone who has taken time over this past year to write the editor of Exposures with your comments about articles, requests for future authors, and encouragement of this new look and direction. Here’s wishing you have the greatest success this coming year.

Brian Koenigberg, RLA, AICP
Exposures Editor & Director of Communications
Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the governing body of ASLA Colorado and is chaired by Ian Anderson, Chapter President. The committee meets monthly to provide guidance and direction relating to the activities and finances of the association. Meetings typically occur on the first Wednesday, beginning at 5:30 pm, and are held at member offices along the Front Range. Attendees typically include voting and non-voting board members. All chapter members are welcome to attend or to participate through teleconference. Please contact Greg Williams, Association Manager, if you are interested in receiving an agenda packet (by email) for future meetings.

The Executive Committee met and ASLA Colorado held its annual business meeting on November 4, 2009 at the office of Norris Design. New committee members were introduced and Ian Anderson welcomed everyone. Gail Berry (Chapter Treasurer) kicked off committee business by delivering the Treasurer’s Report. The operating budget was discussed and committee members were asked to begin preparing 2010 budget requests. Greg Williams (Chapter Manager) provided a brief update on government affairs, and consideration was given to continuing education legislation for 2010. The annual Awards Event and the ASLA sponsored Pheasant Hunt were also discussed, and the events were deemed a success based on member attendance. Committee members were then presented with the annual member’s survey and were asked to provide their analysis of the results future monthly meetings.

On December 2, 2009, the committee met at the office of Design Concepts for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The Annual ASLA Colorado Spring Conference was discussed and the board voted in favor of postponing the event in 2010, due to tough economic times in the industry. In lieu of the Spring Conference, the committed agreed to support the planning of monthly Lunch and Learn seminars, which would provide members the on-going opportunity to earn continuing education credits throughout the year. A summary of the first ASLA Colorado Lunch and Learn was presented by the chapter President and future lunch and learn ideas were discussed. Additionally, opportunities to make future lunch and learn events available to chapter members though online streaming video were discussed.

Volunteer opportunities for interested members were discussed as part of the December meeting. The Colorado Nursery Growers Association (CNGA) requested three volunteers for their Ad Hoc Tree Selection Committee, and ASLA Colorado requested various volunteers to serve on chapter committees, including the Constitution/Bylaws Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Tellers Committee. The committee most recently gathered to discuss business on January 6, 2010 at the office of Land Architects. Ways to increase membership, enhance the Lunch and Learn series, and the involvement in the association UCD’s upcoming portfolio review.

For more information on current ASLA Colorado events, be sure to visit www.aslacolorado.org and check out the “Calendar” tab located in the website’s title bar. Contact information relating to Executive Committee members can be found by clicking on the “Executive Committee” tab found under the “About” tab on the website’s title bar.

Government Affairs

The Colorado State Board of Landscape Architects met in October. At that time there were 709 licensees in Colorado, 31 lapsed licensees, and 47 applications in progress. The board discussed modifications to the licensure application form to reflect CLARB exam passage. New officers were elected; Jamie Ramos will replace Ted Ciavonne as chair in 2010. Jennie Staroska-McCoy will be Vice Chair and Todd Williams was elected as Secretary. Charlie Adams, Program Director to the Board, has resigned and will enter the private sector. A new Program Director will be designated in the future. For a direct link to the Colorado State Board and to CLARB visit the ASLA Colorado website at www.aslacolorado.org.

The First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Colorado General Assembly will convene in early January and is expected to address several measures of interest to the Landscape Architecture profession. Regular reports will be made in the bi-weekly e-newsletter. Members of CCLA met with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Abel Tapia in the fall and winter to discuss issues of mutual concern. CCLA is also in regular communication with other design and engineering professional associations as well as the associations in the green industry. It is anticipated that a Proclamation naming April as “Landscape Architecture Month” will be issued by the Governor. Plans will also be made soon for ASLA’s Annual In-District Advocacy Day where ASLA Colorado members meet with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation to discuss critical issues and concerns on the federal level.

The Colorado Council of Landscape Architects (CCLA) is jointly represented in the legislature and before state agencies by Greg Williams, of Redpoint Resources, and Scott Meiklejohn, of Meiklejohn Consulting, to monitor state legislative and regulatory activity. Neil McLane is Vice President of Government Affairs and Chair of the American Society of Landscape Architects – Colorado Government Affairs Committee. He provides liaison between the two groups and reports on state and federal government affairs issues to the ASLA Colorado Executive Committee and can be reached at neil@mclaneasssoc.com. Don Godi is chair of CCLA and can be reached at dgodi@dhgainc.com.
Annual Membership Survey

ASLA Colorado’s Annual Membership survey was completed on October 7, 2009 and 105 members (approximately 20% of the membership) responded by offering their views and concerns regarding the association and the Landscape Architecture profession. This year’s survey had 27 questions with an opportunity for respondents to rate over 100 association products, events, and activities. There was room for additional comments and suggestions and over 150 were submitted. Comments from members included the following, “the Chapter does a great job”, the new web site is “much better than the old site”, and Exposures is a “great publication”. There were also numerous specific (and colorful) comments about future activities. The following is a brief overview of the survey results by general category. For more information contact Greg Williams, Association Manger, at info@aslacolorado.org.

ASLA Events and Activities
The top three events that most members participated in and are interested in are the ASLA National Conference, local professional educational programs, and the ASLA Colorado Conference. The suggested highest priorities for the chapter are Continuing education and professional development opportunities, Public policy, and Public relations.

Education Programs
The top four education programs that are of most interest to the members are Sustainability, Plant materials, Planning and urban design programs, and Stormwater management.

Government Affairs
The top three policy issues for the association are viewed to be Water conservation, Sustainability, and Energy policy. When asked if continuing education requirements for licensure was an important policy issue 75% of the respondents said it was either very important or somewhat important. When asked if they would support a continuing education requirement for licensure in Colorado 46% replied that they would and 16% said “no”.

New Website
Over 72% of the respondents reported that they had visited the newly redesigned ASLA Colorado website. All of the features of the website received high marks but the graphics scored the highest “excellent” rating. Other high or “excellent” ratings went to the information content available to the membership and the way the website represents the profession to the general public.

Exposures Magazine
Over 85% of the respondents reported that they read the newly redesigned ASLA Colorado magazine Exposures. The most popular features of Exposures are the “Features” and ASLA “News and Departments”, “Essays” and “In the Know” tied for third place.

E-Bulletin
99% of the respondents reported that they read the ASLA Colorado bi-weekly e-newsletter. 63% “usually” read it, 36% “sometimes” read it. Less than 1% reported that they never read the e-bulletin.

Membership Value
81% of the respondents said that they are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the value that they receive for their dues to the state association. By comparison 75% said the same about the value that they receive for their dues to ASLA National. 51% of the respondents reported that their employer pays for their membership (or reimburses the cost).

Demographics
33% of the respondents were between 26 and 40 years of age, 45% were between 41 and 55, 19% were between 56 and 65, and 2% were over 65. 8% of the respondents have been practicing less than two years, 17% three to 10 years, 32% 11-20 years, and 17% have been practicing for over 30 years. 27% of the respondents reported that they work in the private sector, 63% work in the public sector, and 3% work in academics. 70% of the respondents report that they live and work in the Denver metro area, 16% in western Colorado, 5% in southern Colorado, and 6% in northern Colorado.

Work-Related Changes
In the last year, 50% of the respondents reported no change in their employment status, 13% experienced a salary reduction without a change in hours, 9% experienced reduced hours, 10% were laid off and are seeking employment, 5% voluntarily changed their job to pursue other opportunities in the profession and 4% started their own firm.

Design Specialties
The top design specialties reported by respondents were public/commercial/institutional over $500,000 (49%), public/commercial/institutional under $500,000 (45%), planning and urban design (44%), residential design (31%) and golf and ballparks (8%).

Licensure
62% of the respondents reported that they were licensed in Colorado. Of those who have allowed their licenses to lapse less than 1% reported that it was due to cost. Several individual respondents indicated that they are no longer engaged in design projects in Colorado. Of the total respondents 40% indicated that they or someone from their firm stamped the drawings that they submitted for entitlement and permits as a result of the new law, 34% said no.
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By Chips Barry

Planning has always been a critical but unseen component of any large water utility operation. As long as water comes out of a faucet when opened, no one thinks about where it comes from or whether the supply is sufficient. In the water world “planning” is not about design, and it is not about aesthetics; but, it is about hydrology, demographics, the physical supply of water, and the degrees of risk and reliability tolerated or demanded by your community. Planning for water utilities has changed markedly in the last ten years, and it will continue to change because of the forces and factors explained herein. The paradigms for water planning are changing. But, as some recent pundit noted, “…when changing paradigms, be sure to put in the clutch…”

In the past, water planning was a comparatively simple exercise of matching the supply of water with the demand for it. To determine future demand, you examined the past 5 years of usage, assumed no change in pattern or timing of use, or in the weather, and multiplied that usage by a percentage (1 - 4% typically) that reflected the population growth in your service area. Then, you asked whether you had water treatment capacity to meet that demand on an hourly, daily, and seasonal basis, to accommodate uses that peak on the system during the summer. If you lacked treatment capacity, you built a new plant or added capacity to an existing one. The formula on the supply side of the equation was similar—determine what your water rights would yield on an average, or on a dry-year basis. If supply was sufficient to meet demand you were fine; if not, purchase some more water, or build some new storage, or both; thereby increasing the water yield of the system.

Although the planning methodology explained above may still work in some locations, to many of us in the west it seems hopelessly outdated and naïve. We no longer just “determine” demand; we make a very concerted effort to manage demand. We manage it by rules and regulation on use; with aggressive water conservation programs and rebates; by ascending block water rates, and by public education campaigns that urge people to “use only what you need”. It works. We have succeeded in reducing demand in Denver by about 20% in the last eight years, and we believe there is more that can be done without adversely affecting any customer’s quality of life. But unmanaged demand is more easily predicted than managed demand. We know that the results from shifting to water efficient hardware (toilets, washers, etc) will be sustained, but savings that depend upon changes in behavior are less certain. Is water conservation a fad, or is it permanent cultural change? How can we tell? What effect will global climate change—particularly warmer temperatures—have on the demand for summer irrigation water? This means that figuring out how much customers actually will demand is more uncertain than it was in the past. The same is
true for a determination of future demographic change. Future growth rates were once an exercise in extrapolation; the past accurately predicted the future. With an uncertain economy, high home foreclosure rates, and cancelled or delayed developments, no one is certain what the future growth rate in the west will be. The conclusion from all this is that future demands on water are more difficult to predict.

Determinations of future water supply are equally difficult for a number of reasons. We know the global climate is warming, and we can probably predict with some accuracy the range of future ambient temperature in Colorado. Temperature increases alone will decrease supply by increasing evaporation and decreasing runoff. That is the easy part. The hard part is that no one can predict what happens to precipitation in the central Rocky Mountain area. Will we get more rain and less snow, but the same average amount of water? Will we have bigger storms, but longer and deeper droughts? Spring runoff will be earlier, but will it be more, or less? The best guess now is that precipitation will be much more of a variable than it was before. As Yogi Berra once said, “The future just ain’t what it used to be.” The past hydrologic record was a superb indication of what the range of future precipitation—and thus water yield—would be. It is still the best indication, but it seems far less reliable than before.

Global climate change exacerbates the uncertainty about future water supply, but so do the questions about the Colorado River Compact. In 1922, the seven basin states (California, Arizona, and Nevada in the lower basin; Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming in the upper basin) divided the water of the Colorado River in half, giving each basin 7.5 million acre feet of water. However, their assumptions about the amount of water yielded by the river each year were based on abnormal wet years prior to 1922. The river flows less than 15 million acre feet, even without climate change, and this means that the upper basin guarantees 7.5 million to the lower, and divides what is left by a percentage formula among the four upper basin states. Colorado gets about 51% of the upper basin share, and there is still water allocated to Colorado that we can develop. But mathematical and legal availability does not mean development based on all of our shares is wise. Too much development by Colorado of our Colorado River water could increase the probability of a “call” from the lower basin if the upper basin does not deliver 75 million acre feet in any given 10 year period. A “call” is a complicated legal matter, but it could result in calling out all post 1922 depletions along the Colorado River. If that were to occur, many of Denver’s Colorado River basin water rights in the Blue and Fraser Rivers are at risk. Thus, as with demand, there are multiple layers of uncertainty for water supply in the future.

For many, the answer to uncertainty is simply to get more data which will enable a better decision. For the demand and supply circumstances described above, new data and more data will not necessarily be a great deal of help. The uncertainties will remain, and water planners must grapple with how much risk is tolerable, and how much reliability is required. The answers lie in more creative and flexible ways of managing demand—and additions to water supply that add flexibility; reduce reliance on one source, drainage, or type (ground vs. surface) of water; and which promote the sharing of risk and economic value between urban and agricultural entities. In the end, we are left with yet another Yogi Berra pithy quote: “Forecasting is a difficult thing to do, especially if you are talking about the future.”

Chips Barry, has been Manager of Denver Water since 1991. He was the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources before that. Chips has broad experience in various aspects of natural resources law and policy in Colorado since 1975. Mr. Barry was a Vista lawyer in western Alaska late 60’s and a legal services lawyer in Micronesia during the early 1970’s. Chips holds a BA from Yale and a JD from the Columbia Law School. He is married to local landscape architect Gail Barry, of ASLA Colorado fame.
I’ve been passionate about re-urbanization since before it was touted as a “trailblazing risk,” cool, or more recently, sustainable. Even during my undergraduate education I would drive around Milwaukee and envision a future for brownfields, greyfields, or abandoned and underutilized lands. My graduate thesis even focused on a brownfield redevelopment on the Milwaukee River, a vision that eventually became a reality and today has improved vehicular and non-vehicular connectivity between adjacent neighborhoods, includes apartments and condominiums, and even includes a microbrewery. The area is known as “Beer Line B.” Most of my career I’ve focused on urban projects, bringing life back to distressed downtowns, neighborhoods or parcels.

When the Congress for New Urbanism asked me to help publish a book on the urbanization of Colorado, I obliged. The book was produced for CNU 17 (Congress for the New Urbanism), held in Denver in June 2009. We met for nearly a year, debating on what were the best examples of new urban development in Colorado, then researched and wrote about these great places. The result: Colorado Urbanizing: Experiencing New Urbanism in Colorado. The book includes an overview of urbanization in Colorado, as well as chapters on Downtown Denver, Denver Neighborhoods, Boulder, the Metropolitan Region, the Mountain Region, and Connecting the Region with TODs; as well as a forward by Susan Barnes-Gelt and detailed development statistics for each project discussed in the book.

We are in a very exciting time from an urban design, planning and development perspective. The old mantra of low intensity suburban and ex-urban mindless sprawl has not totally died with our economic recession. However, I do believe that a major paradigm shift is upon us on a much larger scale than ever before realized. I trust that future greenfield development, of which some will still be necessary to accommodate Colorado’s future growth, will be completed in a much more sustainable way. This will occur either through local jurisdictions becoming more engaged and stringent from a regulatory standpoint, or through builders/developers that have changed their business model and philosophy. Perhaps with both entities pushing, and the right design firm assisting them, we can create a new post twenty-first century recession urbanism to rival the ‘post WWII suburban sprawl’ that has been the topic of headlines for decades.
Experiences New Urbanism in Colorado

Colfax Avenue

U.S. 40, one of America's first transcontinental highways, stretches 26 miles east to west through the Denver metro area, including the cities of Aurora, Denver, and Lakewood. Locally known as Colfax Avenue, it began as one of the first routes to the Wild West, and by the early 20th century had become one of America's main streets. Colfax Avenue's big boom time, the 1930s through 1960s, ended when I-70 cut through the metro area, leading vehicles to bypass the avenue. Today, Colfax is an eclectic mix of period motels, small mom and pop businesses, chain restaurants, offices, a smattering of housing, and some big box development. The last trolley left in 1950, but the RTD bus that traverses East Colfax is the busiest bus transit line in the Denver metro area.

Redevelopment and new transit options led by civic and grassroots efforts are spurring a renaissance that has garnered investments and new visions for Colfax. The Lakewood Reinvestment Authority has identified a zone for focused reinvestment. And Denver business improvement districts (BIDs) for Colfax on the Hill and West Colfax are working to regenerate commercial uses, intensify the corridor, improve physical conditions, and create their own identities.

East Colfax

At the east end of the metro area, a one-mile stretch of Colfax in Aurora is undergoing a complete transformation. The 578-acre former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center is being redeveloped as the Fitzsimons Life Science District and Anschutz Medical Campus, a high-tech health care, research, and business campus. Among the new facilities are the Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, including the university's hospital, health sciences schools, and the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes. A new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital will also be built at the site.

On the northern part of the campus, Forest City Science + Technology Group, with master planning by Elkus Manfredi Architects, is building the 184-acre Colorado Science + Technology Park, dedicated to life sciences companies. Design Workshop completed the initial master plan for this area for the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, the agency overseeing all redevelopment at the site. Recently finished at the village core of the site is 21 Fitzsimons, developed by Pauls Corporation, which has 240 apartments over retail with a fitness center and pool.

The combined medical campus at build-out is expected to have 18.5 million square feet of space and provide 44,000 jobs, as well as millions of dollars in property taxes. Two light-rail stations are expected as part of the I-225 light-rail line. This transit investment has spurred other investment on the site's perimeter, particularly the south side of Colfax. Older motels, a mobile home park, and other underused sites have been purchased and are being redeveloped into mixed-use projects. Investments of some $500 million are underway from retail, hotel, and housing development surrounding the campus. One project is Fitzsimons Village, a 31-acre mixed-use development master planned by the PCS Group, with 2 million square feet of office and commercial space, two hotels, 865 housing units and six acres of open space.

The Aurora Urban Renewal Authority has focused both public-sector improvements and private-sector investment in the East End Arts District along Colfax, the only main street that Aurora has ever known. The Lakewood-based developer Medici Communities took a big risk between 2004 and 2007 and completed Florence Square, a 4.5-acre mixed-use project in the heart of the new district. The RNL design for 180 rental apartments and live-work units and 16,000 square feet of retail space remains fully leased and focused on affordable units for households earning between 40 and 60 percent of the area’s median income. The City of Aurora built a new public library and parking in the district, and an African-American theater company, the Shadow Theater, has relocated there.

The Lowenstein Theater/Tattered Cover Redevelopment (see page 60), located between Elizabeth and Columbine streets, is a thriving cultural-retail complex and an anchor for redevelopment along East Colfax. Completed in 2006, it was the first project launched under the new Main Street form-based rezoning (see page 64), which has been adopted and mapped along most of Colfax in Denver. Most of the recent development that follows Main Street zoning is located in the Colfax on the Hill District.

A catalyst project, Chamberlin Heights, located at Colfax and Steele Street, was the first new residential development on Colfax in 80 years. Designed by Buchanan Yonushewski Group and completed in 2005, it has 56 condominiums and 5,200 square feet of retail space.

Along East Colfax in east Denver, where a BID known as The FAX is being established, modest one-story, one-block-long retail projects have been built since 2005, and developers have shown interest in
I get excited when I think of the amount of re-urbanization that will occur during our next real estate boom. The potential to develop lands that already have urban services; that already are in close proximity to jobs, commerce, residences, schools, multimodal transport, and recreation; to provide increased tax base for the community; and ultimately—to return economic and social vitality to a local neighborhood. This is why the re-urbanization of America, and of Colorado, is so critical. Not to mention through a re-urbanization focus, we may save just a little of our natural environment that we admire so much in Colorado.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Colorado Urbanizing book for $25, please contact Korkut Onaran at 303-447-2786.

Deana Swetlik, AICP, is Owner and Principal of Entelechy, a planning, design and development professional services firm in Denver. Deana has over 15 years experience with a background in architecture, planning and real estate finance. She has worked on a wide range of projects including the Stapleton redevelopment in Denver; a downtown plan for St. Louis, Missouri; public housing master redevelopment plans in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and in Denver; and transit alignment, planning, development, and connectivity studies in Colorado and Texas. She can be reached at 303-331-1171 or deana@entelechydesign.com.
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When Denver’s current zoning code was implemented the city’s population was 415,000, Dwight Eisenhower was president of the United States, the country’s average household income was $4,700, and the Valley Highway was five years from opening.

My, how things have changed.

Denver’s residents expressed their desire for a new zoning code through the Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 and Blueprint Denver, the 2002 supplement to the Comprehensive Plan. Both documents emphasized the need to create a more functional zoning code in order to implement the Comprehensive Plan’s goals of managing growth and change through land use policy, expanding housing options and, creating a sustainable economy. Simply put, the new code will make it easy to create quality and hard to create crap.

Lot Size

While interest in suburban life has not withered on the vine, urban life has taken over like an (welcomed) invasive species. The 1953 zoning code prohibited single family lots less than 6,000 square feet. It seems to have been an attempt to re-create the suburban atmosphere of the then “new developments” in the burgeoning suburbs. The thinking was that a 25 foot wide lot was too narrow for a two-car garage to sit in front and of and to the right of the home, as a display of the individual prosperity in the swelling economy.

The new zoning code will allow single family residential lots as narrow as 25 feet and two-unit lots as narrow as 37-½ feet. The public sentiment, or the planners’ sentiment, seems to have recognized that more is not necessarily better. Denver’s proposed zoning code is not so much a form-based code as it is a context-based one. This means that the form of the building takes precedent over the uses within it but the form of the building is controlled by its context.

Growth & Parking

Denver, as every other large city, grew by annexing its way to its current boundaries. Some parts were annexed in the 1880s, others in the 1980s. These areas often have no physical similarities regarding the street grid, lot width or depth, yet the current code views them all the same. To be sure, there are still elements of Euclidean zoning within the new document, but the parking requirements, for example, are not the same throughout the city. This was achieved by identifying the context of various parts of the city.
A fast food restaurant in the current code has the same parking requirements and setbacks irrespective of the residential or commercial density surrounding it. The third draft of the new code requires 2.5 spaces per 1,000 gross square feet for a restaurant in the Capital Hill neighborhood and 5 spaces per 1,000 gross square feet for the same restaurant in the Hampden neighborhood. This is obviously meant to address the parking needs of various development patterns. One can expect more pedestrian traffic to a restaurant in Capital Hill. In the draft code Hampden is approximately 26,000 persons per square mile as opposed to the Hampden which as fewer than 6,000 persons per square mile.

This shift to a context-based approach has created an interesting residential situation. Many areas of the city currently zoned for single family, considered low density by some, will in effect be up-zoned even while staying single family and maintaining the same built environment. This might come as a surprise to advocates for single family detached development who believe that single family detached development equates to low density. However, by allowing lots for single family detached structures as small as 3,000 square feet, which is not uncommon in Denver’s older neighborhoods, the city will allow the same development pattern to continue without the routine need for variances.

**Solar Access**

A concern of some residents is the lack of language that specifically addresses solar access. Many cities, like Boulder; Santa Barbara, California; and Ashland, Oregon have ordinances that require houses in certain areas to remain under a certain height and/or be spaced a minimum distance apart. Solar access proponents are split into two camps: One is for the promotion of passive solar heating; the other is mainly for active solar use, such as photovoltaic panels or gardening. There is, however, no doubt a wide swath of overlap between the two. The passive camp maintains that passive solar access will help lower heating bills in the winter by allowing sunlight to stream through the south-facing (hopefully not single-paned) windows. While there is no question about passive solar heat’s benefits, this author’s research suggests that the increase in warmth and reduction in energy consumption provided by a well-insulated house outweighs the benefits to a solar access ordinance, especially given Denver’s less than nine hours of direct sunlight this past December 21st.

The active solar access point has somewhat more merit. Urban gardening has been popular for the last decade or so. Denver has recently passed ordinances allowing bee-keeping and residents with a permit can keep chickens. Allowing goats is currently under discussion. While sunlight will allow residents to grow vegetables in backyard or side yard gardens, houses currently can be built to 35 feet tall, and an ordinance commonly known as Quick Wins II, passed in 2003, requires 62.5% open space on the lot. The draft code allows the same structures that are currently allowed, but allows them on smaller lots than the existing code.

For those individual residents still concerned about solar access they can increase active sunlight into yards by pruning trees, removing privacy fences, placing solar panels on garages, and taking advantage of required rear-yard open space where sunlight is often plentiful.

This presents an interesting situation for landscaping. On one hand, residents with largely shaded yards will likely use less water than residents with similar sized sunny yards. On the other hand, residential gardens on small lots harkens back to the pre-depression era when many of the houses in the more desirable areas are located. They promote sustainability by reducing demand for pesticide-laden veggies, fewer trips made to the grocery store, and fewer trips and/or lighter loads from the farm to the market. Water use certainly may increase for a home garden plot, however. This is obviously a significant issue for us in Colorado.

**The Next Draft**

The fourth draft of the new zoning code is scheduled to be posted to the city’s website on February 18, 2010. The planning staff will readily admit that the new code will not be perfect. They fully expect rezonings to occur after the language and map are adopted. But, this author believes that the new code will be as close as any code can be to perfect. As people continue to create new ways to conduct business and life, the code will eventually become the tangle of legislative favors and contradictions that the current code has become. Hopefully this new effort will outlive its predecessor.

**Jeff Walker,** is a senior siting and land rights agent with Xcel Energy. He has lived in Denver since 1999 and has served on the West University Community Association Board of Directors and on the Saint Anthony Hospital Relocation Task Force. He was a founding member of the Rosedale/Harvard Gulch Neighborhood Association. He currently serves on the Denver Planning Board and the American Planning Association Colorado Chapter Executive Committee. He received a bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication from Miami University (Ohio) and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Akron. And he’s tall.
At the recent Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Liaison and Subcommittee annual meeting at the ASLA national conference in Chicago, members agreed that there was a wide spectrum of understanding in state chapters regarding what HALS is, what role state ASLA chapters play, and what is going on nationally with the documentation program. It was obvious that more work needed to be done at the Chapter level to inform ASLA members about the documentation program.

The Historic American Landscape Survey was established in 2000 as a Heritage Documentation Program overseen by the National Park Service. HALS mission is to “record historic landscapes in the United States and its territories through measured and interpretive drawings, written histories and photographs.”

Three main parties participated in defining the program—the National Park Service, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Library of Congress, the repository for all completed HALS projects. ASLA’s continuing role in the program is to “aid and encourage the Survey in various ways, including the enlistment of support, financial and otherwise, and the giving of professional advice when needed and called upon.” As part of this directive, the ASLA HALS Subcommittee created a national network of HALS Liaisons, a HALS representative for each state chapter that helps facilitate HALS activities at the local level. When in early 2009, Pat Mundus of Mundus Bishop Design asked me to become the the HALS Liason for ASLA Colorado, I gladly accepted. There are many duties and responsibilities associated with the volunteer position, some of which include:

- lobby federal legislators for HALS funding;
- maintain a list of local examples of historic landscapes that are threatened, highly significant, and/or highly valued;
- communicate with the Chief of HALS, Paul Dolinsky, at NPS as well as local, state and federal agencies about state HALS projects and issues.
- Perhaps most importantly, for the purposes of this article, an ASLA HALS Liaison should “promote public [and chapter] awareness of the importance of historic landscapes and the use of HALS.”

The majority of the HALS guideline standards on the National Park Service website describe a Level I HALS Survey, the most detailed documentation option of three in the program. A Level I survey includes archival measured drawings, a detailed written history, and archival quality large format photographs. The first Colorado HALS Level I project—Lawrence Halprin’s Skyline Park, designed in 1973—was completed by Associate Professor Ann Komara and Ann Mullins, FASLA as part of a graduate studio class.
taught at University of Colorado Denver. There is now a permanent record of Halprin’s version of Skyline Park before its subsequent redesign by Thomas Balsley Associates, New York.

HALS has two other documentation level options. For a Level II project the “historical documentation [portion] is slightly less exhaustive” but the written historical report should be completed as closely as possible to the Level I standards. 5 Level III is a HALS Inventory Form (HALS-I Form), the shortest and easiest option, which provides a baseline of information including site name, location, historical summary, statement of significance, bibliography, and digital photographs (jpegs). 6 This HALS-I form can be used for local or state significant sites, or where budget and time constraints are extremely restricted. 7

Other ASLA chapters have been using the HALS-I form to promote and document historic landscapes in their regions. The Northern California chapter, under the direction of Chris Pattillo, ASLA and past chair of the Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network, is particularly active with HALS, initiating with David Driapsa, the ASLA HALS Liaison Coordinator, a national “Theme Park Challenge: Documenting the Landscapes of Childhood” using HALS-I form. 8 Wisconsin HALS Liaison, Dr. Arnold Alanen at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Oklahoma HALS Liaison, Dr. Charles Leider at Oklahoma State University, have used the HALS-I format in their landscape architecture departments to teach students about HALS and complete several short survey forms for their respective states. As I become more familiar with what is happening with HALS and ASLA nationally, I hope to plan similar documentation initiatives for ASLA Colorado.

For next year’s national conference, the ASLA HALS Subcommittee formed a HALS Planning Task Force to organize HALS related activities, training, and tours for the 2010 ASLA gathering in Washington D.C. I volunteered to serve on this task force and I will update the chapter as details become available.

Many Coloradans have a strong connection with the landscape in our state, especially landscape architects. With the present challenging economic conditions, some may question the relevance or necessity of historic documentation to their current practice, particularly if they do not specialize in preservation or are not historians. In the last year, Riverside Cemetery, a designated National Historic District, has been receiving increased attention in the press. 7 Rights to Riverside’s former water source, the nearby South Platte is no longer available for irrigation and installing a municipal tap is prohibitively expensive at this time. As a result, the landscape has declined rapidly. Historic trees have died or are dying and many have been cut down for safety reasons. As dead trees are removed, newly opened and unintentional viewsheds emphasize the industrial surroundings and the genius loci of the cemetery’s interior is fundamentally altered.

Colorado Preservation Inc. listed Riverside on its 2008 “Endangered Places Program” with an alert status. 10 Last month, the Cultural Landscape Foundation put Riverside Cemetery, along with the 16th Street Mall, on their 2009 Landslide list. 11 According to the TCLF website, this year’s nominees were, “organized under the theme, Shaping the American Landscape, spotlight[ing] great places designed by seminal and regionally influential landscape figures, which are threatened with change.” 12

Two trees stumps near the James Archer monument at Riverside, Block 13, November 2009. Archer was president of the Denver City Water Company in 1870 and a founder of Denver’s gas and water works. (Factual source: the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 8, page 13, housed at the Colorado Historical Society).
Riverside Cemetery faces numerous challenges—water sources, financial constraints and the preservation and maintenance of the grounds and monuments. They also need to unite a multitude of interested organizations, communities and families in a long-term solution. Currently, volunteers are installing and maintaining test plots, with plant materials donated by local companies. Others are donating time and services, like tree removal, as part of their company’s community day of service outreach. These efforts are coordinated through the Fairmount Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of both Riverside and Fairmount cemeteries. While these actions address some of the immediate concerns at the cemetery, Riverside also needs a long-term, multiphase master plan. So how can a documentation program like HALS help?

By completing a Level I HALS documentation project at Riverside, preservationists and landscape architects could reference a comprehensive examination of the landscape’s history, the plantings, their evolution and significant milestones. In turn, creative design solutions could be drafted—solutions that acknowledge the historic design intent, highlight extant contributing elements and incorporate a more climate appropriate resolution to Riverside’s challenges. Restoring Riverside to its former irrigated glory may not be possible, or even ecologically responsible given the situation. Inherent in the problems are opportunities, where a Level I HALS Survey could inform thoughtful solutions that revitalize this important and threatened Colorado cultural landscape.

Want to get involved at Riverside? Contact the Fairmount Heritage Foundation at http://fairmountheritagefoundation.org for community group visits, to volunteer services, or to volunteer as an individual.

Jenn Thomas, MLA, ASLA, is the HALS Liaison for Colorado and is also the administrative coordinator for the Center of Preservation Research and the Colorado Center for Community Development at the University of Colorado Denver, College of Architecture and Planning. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Jane Silverstein Ries Foundation, the nonprofit branch of ASLA Colorado. For more information about HALS or the Center of Preservation Research please contact her at jenn4thomas@yahoo.com.

2  “ASLA HALS Liaisons Appointment and Duties”, a document distributed to all ASLA HALS liaisons, page 1.
3  Ibid, page 3.
4  See http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/standards/halsguidelines.htm.
6  The form and instructions are available on the NPS HALS website at http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/standards/HALS/HALS-HALSInventoryForm.pdf.
7  Ibid, Page 5 of “Historic American Landscape Survey Guidelines for Historical Reports”.
8  See http://www.halsca.org/.
10 See http://www.coloradopreservation.org/epp/sites/epp_08_04.html.
11  See http://tclf.org/annual-spotlight/shaping-american-landscape.
12  Idem.
By Pauletta Tonilas

FasTracks is just what it sounds like—building multiple rail lines literally on the fast-track. Considering most transit agencies typically build one rail project at a time, Denver’s Regional Transportation District (RTD) is breaking new ground with its FasTracks transit expansion program.

FasTracks is RTD’s voter-approved plan to expand rail and bus service throughout the eight-county RTD service area. FasTracks will build 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces to its system, redevelop Denver Union Station as the transit hub of the Denver metro area and redirect bus service for easy, convenient bus-rail connections. All of this was originally planned to be completed within 12 years. Passed by voters of the Denver metro area in 2004, most would agree it’s an ambitious effort.

“It’s a comprehensive plan that was supported unanimously by all of the mayors in the Denver metro area as well as a majority of the region’s voters because it is a vision that is achievable, and our stakeholders realize the critical nature of planning for the future,” says Bill Van Meter, RTD’s Assistant General Manager of Planning. “The region understands that FasTracks will deliver on providing mobility and transportation alternatives as the metro area grows by another million people over the next 20 years.”

From a planning standpoint, conducting seven environmental processes at once has had its challenges. Project requests by outside stakeholders and requirements by third parties such as the railroads for agencies planning to operate in their freight corridors have stretched schedules and staff resources.

“One of our lessons learned has been to allot more time for future planning processes, more like three-to-five years for a full-blown environmental study,” says Van Meter. “Also, interaction with stakeholders as early on in a process as possible helps to minimize project delays.”

The FasTracks planning phase is in the homestretch with most of the processes now complete, and this year, citizens are starting to see more visible signs of their tax dollars at work. The
The first FasTracks rail line to be built and open to the public—the West Corridor Light Rail Project—has moved into full construction, which is providing a boost to the local economy. The West Corridor will be a 12.1 mile light rail transit corridor between the Denver Union Station in downtown Denver and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden, serving Denver, Lakewood, the Denver Federal Center, Golden and Jefferson County. The West Corridor project alone is expected to create 600 construction-related jobs, and at the height of construction when all of the lines are being built at the same time, it’s estimated that FasTracks will create more than 10,000 construction-related jobs.

“This investment initiative we call FasTracks is already an economic driver for the Denver metro area, putting people to work and creating numerous direct and indirect benefits to the local economy,” said Phil Washington, RTD’s Interim General Manager.

Like other entities trying to build public improvement projects, the current economy has posed plenty of challenges for RTD. The FasTracks program is currently facing a $2.2 billion budget gap to complete the plan as intended. Since the plan was developed in 2002 and 2003, the agency has seen unprecedented increases in the cost of construction materials from its initial estimates, and sales tax revenues to help pay for the program are substantially lower than original projections. As a result RTD’s Board of Directors is considering going back to voters for another sales tax increase to complete the whole program sooner rather than later. But the agency believes the slumping economy is the very reason the metro area needs to continue to forge ahead with FasTracks.

“The benefits are endless,” says Washington. “Better mobility, less congestion, less pollution, more jobs. And besides providing multi-modal alternatives to get from point A to point B, FasTracks will provide opportunities for cities and counties to create livable, sustainable communities and affordable housing.”

Back in the 1990s when Denver International Airport was being built, the Denver metro area was facing challenging times. Much like today, the local economy was struggling, yet DIA put many people to work and created jobs and opportunities. Today, the airport is considered one of the best in the world. RTD believes when FasTracks is complete and provides a vast multi-modal network across the Denver metro region, it, too, will be valued for its service.

“Once FasTracks is completed, it will transform the entire region, continuing the Denver metro area’s history and foresight of being a visionary community that invests in projects like DIA and FasTracks,” says Washington.

Daily commuting by rail has been part of the fabric of many of the nation’s major east coast cities for decades. However, many western states, including Colorado, have jumped on the rail bandwagon. RTD opened its first light rail line in 1994, and three more lines since then. Ridership on all four lines exceeded initial projections almost immediately, and the presence of transit has already been a catalyst for development around station areas.

RTD’s staff works closely with local communities on station area planning so that the presence of transit and community redevelopment plans complement each other.

“The 57 new light rail and commuter rail stations added to RTD’s system through FasTracks will create even more opportunities,” says Bill Sirois, RTD’s Manager of Transit-oriented Development. “FasTracks will give communities renewed opportunities for future revitalization.”

The strong regional collaboration between RTD, the Colorado Department of Transportation, local cities and counties, and business and community organizations has become a model for the nation. Transit professionals, elected officials and business leaders from across the country have made road trips to Denver in an effort to glean from RTD insight on how they can emulate the regional vision and partnership of FasTracks in their own communities. Even in tough times, RTD’s goal is to keep the strong coalition of the Denver region focused on its united purpose of FasTracks, to improve infrastructure, mobility options and quality of life for future generations.

Pauletta Tonilas, works for the Denver Regional Transportation District as RTD’s Public Information Manager for the FastTracks program - RTD’s 12-year transit expansion program across the Denver metro area. Pauletta oversees the communications, public outreach and media relations for the FastTracks program. Prior to working on the FastTracks program, Pauletta worked for RTD on the Transportation Expansion (T-REX) Project Public Information Team.
State of the Membership

While we started the year (2009) maintaining our chapter at 500 plus members, we did indeed have a decline due to the economy. Membership is down 7% compared to 2008. In our follow up calls with those whose membership lapsed, we found that 41 members left because of job loss, employer’s no longer funding membership, or changes in personal finances. It is admirable that some members, not wanting to burden their company’s bottom line, took it upon themselves to fund their membership. Also, we were able to save approximately 10 members through the Dues Relief Program offered by ASLA. This program allows a member to maintain their membership status when circumstances make payment burdensome.

If you would like more information about the status of your membership or the Dues Relief Program please contact Judith Ward at jward@criticalhabitats.com.

AWARDS

ASLA Colorado 2009 Awards Event

Over 65 attendees braved an early winter snowstorm to participate in the ASLA Colorado 2009 Awards Event on Wednesday, October 28. The event was held at SPIRE, one of Denver’s newest high-rise residential communities located in the heart of downtown Denver. The event also featured a very successful silent auction on behalf of the Jane Silverstein Ries Foundation. The Keynote Speaker was John Desmond, Vice President of Urban Planning and Environment, Downtown Denver Partnership. John spoke to the group on why good place-making is good for business.

Award recipients and guests were treated to a pre-opening insider’s view of the architecture of SPIRE’s two-level resident’s lounge and deck (which included a pool and hot tub), comfortable sofas and lounge chairs for small-group discussions, lots of hors d’oeuvres, a magnificent 9th and 10th story view of Denver and the falling snow, as well as a generous open bar featuring SPIREtini’s and assorted beverages.

The awards were presented by ASLA Colorado member Robb Williamson of Williamson Images. ASLA Colorado (founded 1973) is a professional association of nearly 600 Landscape Architects in Colorado and Wyoming. For more information please go to www.aslacolorado.org or email info@aslacolorado.org.

Event partners were Colorado Homes and Lifestyles Magazine, the SPIRE, and Ken’s Reproductions.

New ALSA Colorado Members

Brannon L. Bleggi, ASLA – Verdone Landscape Architects
Brett Desmarais, Associate ASLA
Kristin Heggem, ASLA
Scott Jordan, ASLA – Civitas Inc.
Christine Poirier-Shine, Associate ASLA – Shine Line Studio
Marcus H. Pulsipher, Associate ASLA – MHP Design
Cindi L. Rowan, ASLA – Rowan Design & Consulting, LLC
Marisa Santacruz, ASLA – Verdone Landscape Architects
George Haskins, ASLA
Ryan Sand, Associate ASLA
Carrie A. Waldron, ASLA
Adrienne Mercurio, Associate ASLA
Adam Barratt, Affiliate ASLA – Arapahoe Sign Arts
Anna Cawrse, Associate ASLA – Colorado State University
Seth Clark, Associate ASLA – LMI Landscapes, LLC
Alison Cotey, ASLA – Design Studios West, Inc.
Nate Ferguson, ASLA – Design Studios West, Inc.
Drake M. Fowler, ASLA
Mitch Fries, Associate ASLA
Christopher Hoy, ASLA – Christopher Hoy Design Group, Inc.
Rolland C. Kuhr, ASLA – Naturescape Designs
Bill Mahar, Associate ASLA
Christine Yates, Associate ASLA

Contractor Supplier of the Year. Chevo Studios. Andrew Dufford (left), Darin Schulte (center), Vince Emmer (right).
Our 2009 ASLA Colorado Platinum Sponsor was landscape-forms. Design Workshop, DHM Design, and studioINSITE were all contributing event sponsors.

Bar sponsors were Philosophy Communication and Silvercloud Construction Group.

Contractor of the Year  Andrew Dufford of Chevo Studios was honored with the Contractor of the Year Award.

Volunteer of the Year  Judith Ward of Critical Habitats received the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Design and Planning awards went to Landscape Architects in several categories. The work of the award recipients will be featured throughout the year on ASLA Colorado’s website and other outlets including a planned awards board display at the Denver Public Library in early 2010 and an online Awards Gallery featured on www.coloradohomesmag.com. Awards were presented to recipients in the following categories:

Planning
President’s Award of Excellence
Design Workshop, Aspen
Callaway Gardens Land Management Strategy.

Honor Award
Design Workshop, Denver
Denargo Market

Land Stewardship Award
Merit Awards
BHA Design
Centerra Natural Area Design Guidelines

David Kahn Studio with Michael Tavel Architects
GEOS Net-Zero Energy Mixed-Use Neighborhood

Design Workshop, Aspen
Rosemount and Empire Township.

Ballfield Park Design
Merit Awards
EDAW / AECOM, Fort Collins
Twin Rivers Community Park Ballfields

EDAW / AECOM, Fort Collins
Centennial Park Ballfields

Residential Design 1A -- Over $100,000. President’s Award of Excellence. DTJ Design. Front Range Residence, Colorado Springs.

Residential Design 1A (Over $100,000)
President’s Award of Excellence
DTJ Design
Front Range Residence

Honor Awards
Design Workshop, Aspen
Red Butte Ranch Guesthouse

Design Workshop, Aspen
The Residence at Wildcat Ridge

R Design
Boulder Rooftop Garden

Design Workshop, Aspen
Streamside Garden

Research and Communication
President’s Award of Excellence
Architerra Group
Simpson Mine Park

Honor Award
Bluegreen
Redstone Coke Ovens Historic Park

Merit Awards
DHM Design
Croke Reservoir

Merit Awards & Land Stewardship Awards
Wenk Associates
Taxi 2 Redevelopment and Stormwater Gardens
DHM Design, Carbondale
Carbondale Promenade Park

The Architerra Group
Little Dry Creek

**Design Awards 1A (Over $500,000)**

**Honor Awards**
DHM Design
Columbine Memorial

Design Workshop, Denver
Pima Community College

**Merit Awards**
DHM Design
Arabelle at Vail Square

Design Workshop, Aspen
Avon West Town Center Capitol Improvements

Design Workshop, Aspen
Lake Street and Avon Station

Design Workshop, Denver
Chapungu Sculpture

**Park**

**Merit Awards**
Design Concepts, CLA
Hideaway Park Event Space and Park Renovations

Norris Design
ARISTA

**Merit Award and Land Stewardship Award**
Norris Design
Forsberg Iron Spring Park
THANK YOU TO OUR 2009 AWARDS PROGRAM SPONSORS
**Firm News**

**Belt Collins Offers Engineering, Planning and Landscape Architecture from New Boulder Office**

BOULDER, Colorado – Belt Collins, a planning, civil engineering, landscape architecture and environmental consulting firm headquartered in Honolulu, announces the move of its Colorado operations to new offices on Pearl East Circle in Boulder. The move consolidates the operations of Love & Associates, Inc., a water and environmental consulting firm, and Shapins Belt Collins, a planning and landscape design firm. The consolidated company will operate under the name of Belt Collins West. The combined practice offers a wide range of related services under one roof, including specialties in water resource studies and design, stream restoration, heritage tourism and communications design. Projects are performed for public sector clients within the Denver Metropolitan Area and across the country, such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Boulder staff recently completed the design of the largest flood control project ever undertaken by either the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District or the City and County of Denver. Other recent high-profile projects include planning and design projects at Fire Island National Seashore (New York), Gateway National Recreation Area (New York/New Jersey), and Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada.

In addition to continuing to serve its existing clients, Belt Collins West will support Belt Collins offices in Hawaii and Seattle, Washington, as well as the international offices. Recent collaborations include the Golf Dunes Resort in St. Petersburg, Russia and a beachfront resort in the Seychelles focused on a manmade lagoon.

**Unique Artistry in Classic Form**

DENVER, Colorado – Alberta Development Partners, the owners of the Streets at SouthGlenn in Centennial, CO wanted to duplicate this artistic ambience that water fountains have provided in public spaces for hundreds of years. Closely following CommArts’ 3-D rendering, Colorado Hardscapes, designed large, monolithically cast concrete fountain bowls. In order to stand up to damaging freeze-thaw cycles, chemicals, and coins tossed into the fountain, the bowls were structurally reinforced and constructed with GFRC (glass fiber reinforced concrete), a material that has more than double the compressive strength of regular concrete. With extensive mock-ups and testing, the team at Colorado Hardscapes developed an edge and carved pattern for the bowls that would produce the desired water-flow effect and a structural form that could support the weight. The most unique aspect of this fountain’s construction concerned the largest of the bowls that was cast with GFRC on-site in its permanent location. An elaborate scaffolding system supported the custom foam molds (supplied by Nostalgic Stone) while a large crew operated a mini-GFRC production plant and hand finished the inside of the bowl at a height of 12 feet in the air. By casting the largest bowl in place, the need for seams and potentially damaging transport was eliminated. Could this 21st Century efficiency technology reproduce the artistic aesthetics common in classic Old World fountains? The end product answers that question with a resounding “yes!” With an Arcustone crushed limestone coating bonded to concrete, the fountains are modern-day marvels that duplicate the timeworn polished stone of ancient fountains. Multi-colored mosaic tiles in patinated greens and browns line the fountain, projecting the level of artistic detail found in an aged European fountain.

Add state-of-the-art hydraulics, water treatment, and lighting that only can be found in modern fountains to the visible aesthetics of these works of art and you have a unique combination of art and function. This combination makes the large, centrally-placed fountain in the Streets of SouthGlenn a natural landmark where families can gather for day on the Streets. The audible and visible flow of water, the timeworn exterior stone look, and the massive, yet balanced, structures are a natural draw to first time and return visitors. One such visitor commented, “I always tell my family to meet me at the large fountain in the center. From there we decide who wants to do what on the Streets and pick a time to re-group at the same fountain. We love to spend time just hanging around the fountain because the little ones can dip their hands in it and we adults can enjoy the natural beauty of its sights and sounds.” Just like in ancient cities, water features today are becoming that hub of our community.

**Centennial Park in Rifle begins Phase I construction of master plan by Design Concepts**

LAFAYETTE, Colorado – Park construction began last week on the $3.5 million first phase of construction for the new Centennial Park in Rifle, Colorado, designed by Design Concepts.

The 14-acre linear park is located in the heart of Rifle between the Park Avenue and Railroad Avenue residential neighborhoods, and connects to the historic downtown on the south end and the county fairgrounds on the north end. It will feature a “walk through time” along Rifle Creek with interpretive areas that tell the story of the city over the past century.
The intent of the community park is to highlight the city’s rich history, natural environment, and cultural diversity, and to bring the community together along Rifle Creek. The park provides open space and passive recreation opportunities for neighboring residents. It provides safe pedestrian connections over the creek to Rifle Middle School, an existing trail system, other city parks, and downtown. It also will serve the entire community by providing a space for larger gatherings, community events, and festivals. Challenges of designing the park, located in a flood plain, included designing features to accommodate occasional flood waters and seasonal high flows from the creek and to allow for efficient maintenance and clean-up.

A historic timeline will follow the existing trail, including a wayside for each decade of Rifle’s history from the early 1900s. The waysides will offer seating, shade, and interpretive signs that explain the city’s history and provide a perspective of events then current in the world. The trail will weave together elements such as a fitness course, a sprayground, a stage, an amphitheater, wetlands, a themed play area, a tot lot, a pond, picnic areas, shelters, and restrooms. A large central green called “the Great Bowl” will provide space for community events and informal games like Frisbee. New municipal infrastructure includes six pedestrian bridges, parking lots, an irrigation pump station, and a dam on Rifle Creek. Environmental education components include outdoor classrooms and opportunities to teach the community about stream health, hydrology, native vegetation, and wildlife. Gateways to the park will be located at 3rd Street, 5th Street, and Railroad Avenue.

Design Concepts began working on the project in January 2005, the year Rifle celebrated its centennial. The site was undeveloped, except for the existing trail along the creek. Working with the community, the firm created a master plan, which was instrumental in helping the community pass a 1 cent sales tax for parks and recreation in November 2005. Lack of funding led to a delay in implementing the master plan. More recent grants totaling $1.5 million supplemented the city’s $2 million in funds for the park, and allowed the city to go ahead with the first phase of park construction. The city received grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the state, the county, and Clean Energy Economy for the Region. Design Concepts helped the city write a successful $750,000 regional park grant awarded by GOCO.

Design Concepts in June completed the construction documents for the park. Phase I is scheduled to be finished by August 2010. Phase I construction includes stabilizing the creek bank, preparing for flood control, and putting in infrastructure such as bridges and utilities. ECI Site Construction Management of Loveland is building the park. The project is expected to employ local subcontractors, creating jobs and stimulating the area’s economy.

“This will be a great addition to the community, giving recreational amenities we currently do not have and more pedestrian connections from the Park Avenue neighborhood over the creek to downtown and to the middle school,” says Aleks Briedis, recreation director for the City of Rifle.

KALAMAZOO, Michigan – Landscape Forms is pleased to announce the publication of Site Furnishings: A Complete Guide to the Planning, Selection, and Use of Landscape Furniture and Amenities, written by Bill Main, President and CEO of Landscape Forms, and Gail Greet Hannah, a writer on design-related topics. Published by John Wiley & Sons, it is the first comprehensive guide to site furniture principles, processes and best practices. The book makes its debut at the ASLA ’09 Conference in Chicago on September 19.

Site Furnishings is intended for landscape architects, architects, designers and urban planners, as well as contractors, civil engineers and other professionals. It explores the ways that furniture contributes to the quality of outdoor spaces and how it can be used to achieve programming goals. It provides conceptual tools, technical information, an in-depth overview of site furnishing elements, discussion of critical issues that inform site furniture selection, and a guide to furniture planning. It includes examples of successful applications and case studies of best practices, supported by numerous photographs and illustrations.

Main, who was asked by Wiley to write the book because of his professional expertise in site furnishings, holds a degree in landscape architecture from Michigan State University. The offer to explore the subject of site furniture in depth was, he says, “an opportunity too interesting to turn down.” He explains, “My interest in urban design goes back to my years at Michigan State. I’ve spent most of my career building an organization and designing and marketing furniture, but this created a great opportunity to go back to my roots and think about urban design and how furniture is being used.”

The book gives what Main views as much-needed attention to an important but overlooked field: “Professional landscape architecture training and practice now encompass such broad and complex disciplines, from master planning to horticulture, water management to urban streetscape design, that site furniture may sometimes get lost,” he explains. “The subject of site furnishing is learned largely by trial and error and knowledge is passed down in oral tradition – a process that is slow, undependable and doesn’t efficiently capture new learning. Some important thinkers, starting with William H. Whyte, believed that furniture in outdoor spaces really mattered. We thought the subject deserved more attention and that the most current learning should be investigated and codified.”

In the end, Main says, writing and doing extensive photography for the book was a learning experience. “The most fun was going out into the field, visiting the spaces, interviewing people, looking and hearing to learn what was working and what wasn’t.
I came away with a much stronger sense of how furnishing involves more than the pieces you introduce to the site. It’s about how they relate to the total environment, where people congregate, and the places they tend to use and not use.”

Main’s background in the nuts and bolts of furniture design and manufacture and his critical scrutiny of site furniture in situ undertaken for the book make Site Furnishings: A Complete Guide an entertaining, education, and extremely useful guide for professionals who select, plan, install, maintain and manage furniture in active outdoor spaces.

**Mundus Bishop Design Receives Starburst Director’s Choice Award**

**DENVER, Colorado** – Mundus Bishop Design, Denver Parks and Recreation, and the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation are proud to announce that their work on the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan was awarded a 2009 Starburst Director’s Choice Award by the Colorado Lottery.

The Denver Mountain Parks system includes 25 accessible mountain parks and 21 conservation areas covering over 14,000 acres in four separate counties along Denver’s Front Range. The Master Plan addresses current recreation needs and facility improvements, while preserving natural and cultural resources. The plan helped the City and County of Denver build partnerships with Clear Creek, Douglas, Grand and Jefferson counties, which all are home to acreage included in the Denver Mountain Parks System. In addition, the public participated in the plan’s creation through public meetings, special workshops and the Denver Mountain Parks Web site.

“This was a good use of planning activity to expand the available park amenities to meet the demands of the citizens in Colorado,” said Colorado Lottery Director Jack Boehm.

The Colorado Lottery Starburst Awards recognize excellence in the use of Lottery proceeds for projects that promote community-building, partnership, conservation and commitment to the recreational needs of Colorado residents. The Director’s Choice Award was given to the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan because the project demonstrated outstanding public involvement in the creation and management of resources that will benefit the state for the next 100 years and beyond.

**On the Boards & More**

**DENVER, Colorado** – Nuszer Kopatz is pleased to share the following news about its recent successes and some current projects.

**Festival Plaza – Lafayette, Colorado**

Downtown Colorado, Inc., announced in September that Festival Plaza, designed by Nuszer Kopatz Urban Design Associates, was the recipient of the 2009 Governor’s Award for Downtown Excellence in the Best Public Space category. Festival Plaza is a gathering place comprised of four interconnected plazas designed to be the heart of Old Town Lafayette. The plazas contain vibrant, changeable and flexible elements that relate to the four seasons, events, public art, shade and lighting. The Performance Plaza features a covered “stage” area for performances, while the Garden Plaza is an intimate, shaded setting that accommodates small events such as the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt. The highlight of the Interactive Plaza is an animated water spray plaza that attracts both children and adults. A large, colorful shade sail will cover the Event Plaza, providing a plaza area with colorful decorative hardscape that can be utilized for a variety of events, fairs and festivals.

The jury’s comments include: “This project’s innovation is found in the creation of a magnificent venue for many community activities just by closing down a section of a city street. It has created a downtown public space that enhances the pedestrian experience, functions as a gathering and event location, and stimulates the economic viability of downtown Lafayette.”

The Governor’s Awards for Downtown Excellence recognizes outstanding projects and people that reflect an attitude of perseverance and dedication to community revitalization in Colorado. Successful projects often combine “best practices” from more than one discipline and often become the catalyst that spurs other development in the community.

**Trailhead Lodge at Wildhorse Meadows – Steamboat Springs, Colorado**

Construction was recently completed on the outdoor pool and spa at Trailhead Lodge. Located at the heart of Wildhorse Meadows, a well-planned, architecturally rich and convenient resort community that reflects the authenticity of Steamboat Springs, Trailhead Lodge is a group of buildings that provide residents with resort-quality services. The landscape and site reflect a high level of sophistication, providing a series of outdoor spaces for relaxation, conversation, and group gatherings. A naturalized mountain landscape weaves throughout the site with a rich palette of high altitude plants. Nuszer Kopatz teamed with Colorado Hardscapes, OZ Architects and Resort Ventures West to create this upscale new addition to the Steamboat resort community.

**Casper Streetscape – Casper, Wyoming**

After completing the Streets Enhancement Study during the spring and summer of 2009 for Casper, Wyoming, Nuszer Kopatz is excited to announce that construction document work on the $2 million Phase I portion will begin this fall. The Streets Enhancement Study explored the need for improvements to a 30-square block core area in Downtown for all modes of transportation. Key goals of the study included: encouraging continued investment in the Downtown core, conveying a Downtown identity to visitors and residents, providing for flexibility in re-development, providing better bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to neighborhoods and Casper College, and identifying strategies for traffic calming and improved roadway safety. Outreach with the general public and a variety of local and state agencies and businesses was an integral component to developing the final recommendations.
New Work in Djibouti, North Africa

Also on the drawing board is a recent contract awarded to Stanley Consultants and Nuszer Kopatz to begin work on the Base Appearance Plan for the U.S. naval base in Djibouti, North Africa. Although France has had presence in Djibouti for several years, the base is a relatively recent occupied base for the U.S. to strategically position forces and resources in the North Africa and Persian Gulf arena. Djibouti is a major, well-equipped, port that is used extensively by France and Ethiopia. The Base Appearance Plan includes signage and wayfinding, entry design, as well as overall base landscaping.

Chris Geddes of studioINSITE Receives John Parr Leadership Award

DENVER, Colorado – A participant in the Downtown Denver Partnership’s 2009 Downtown Denver Leadership Program (DDLP), Chris Geddes, a Senior Associate with studioINSITE LLC, was elected recipient of the 2009 John Parr Leadership Award.

In honor of John Parr’s longstanding support and involvement in the Downtown Denver Partnership and its Downtown Denver Leadership Program, the Downtown Denver Partnership created the Downtown Denver Leadership Program’s John Parr Leadership Award. Parr, a recognized civic leader in Denver, left behind a legacy of community and consensus-driven activism. John Parr Leadership Award is given to the Leadership Program participant that best exemplifies John’s outstanding community leadership skills.

The award recipient was announced at the final Leadership Program presentation in November 2009. The 2009 Final Report and DDLP details can be found at http://www.downtownderver.com.

Chris Geddes was also elected Trustee for the 2009 Downtown Denver Leadership Program. Chris will join the six other Leadership Program Trustees in the important role of determining ongoing enhancements to the Program, such as the John Parr Leadership Award and the Leadership Luncheon Series. In addition, the Trustees are involved in Program participant selection and evaluating the projects that future Leadership classes will work on.

DDLP is an elite course aimed at shaping the future leaders of downtown Denver. The rigorous immersion program delves into such topics as urban issues, policies and practices. It also incorporates a project that challenges the participants’ capacity to research, analyze and work in a team setting. Chris Geddes was among 60 participants selected for the 2009 program.

Geddes is a senior associate and urban planner/designer with studioINSITE. A seasoned veteran with 11 years of industry experience, he has been with the firm since its founding in 2001. Among the major projects in which Geddes is currently involved are the 16th Street Urban Design Plan, Phase II, Downtown Denver; New Mexico Highland University Master Plan in Las Vegas, New Mexico; the University of Colorado at Boulder Basketball/Volleyball Practice Facility; and the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado.

Milestones

Russell L. Butler ll (1946 – 2009)

Russell Butler of Evergreen, Colorado passed away on December 11, 2009. He was born on January 9, 1946, in Midland, Michigan and has lived in Colorado since the early 1980s. An avid skier, fly fisherman, loving husband and attentive father, creative artist, animal lover, and caring grandfather, Russ was an insatiable force of life to all that knew him.

He has dedicated his entire career to the landscape architecture industry in order to create environments that leave the world a better place. Russ earned a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University in 1969, studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and received a Master of Arts in Graphic Design from Kent State University in 1983. Over the course of his 40-year career, he helped reconstruct the country of Rwanda and headed up international projects in Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Nigeria, Saipan and China, in addition to his work throughout the United States. Russ was honored with endless awards and he was inducted into the prestigious Council of Fellows, FASLA in 2002.

After twenty-eight and a half years as design principal and vice president of San Francisco-based EDAW, Inc., Russ took the opportunity to join studioINSITE of Denver’s River North Art District which was founded by his friend and well respected colleague, Dennis W. Rubba, RLA, ASLA.

Russell is survived by his wife and best friend of thirty-three years, Deborah, daughters Christine M. Marshall (Jon) of Clayton, California, Jessie L. Pellant (Joshua) of Boise, Idaho, Tracy Hoffman and his father-in-law, John Cheney Humphreys of Dayton, Ohio. He is also survived by his two grandchildren Jacob and Jordan, sister-in-law Patricia DeWeese (James) and several nieces and grandnieces.

Russ, you are missed by a profession…by many friends.