Mix
Design by frog design

landscapeforms®

Vivian Kovacs, Denver Sales Office
888.741.6739 | 303.799.0028 | 303.799.0029 fax
viviank@landscapeforms.com
CITYDESIGN + CITYBUILD 2010 
ROUNDTABLE
September 14-16, 2010, Hyatt Regency Convention Center Hotel

CITYDESIGN + CITYBUILD 2010 is an interactive stakeholder dialogue among recognized thought-leaders from utilities, service providers, clean energy, real estate developers, and the investment community – all sharing a common need to understand the risks and opportunities of the world’s growing built environment. CITYDESIGN + CITYBUILD 2010 connects vital topics such as water and energy, smart grid and smart buildings, optimization and energy efficiency, new designs for transportation systems, and the latest on waste and waste-to-energy.

For more information about this event please visit www.montreuxenergy.com/roundtables/citydesign-roundtable-2

A CELEBRATION OF COLLABORATIONS
September 22, 2010
Denver Botanic Gardens
(4:30 pm – 8:00 pm)

Presentations on plant exploration, Plant Select® program updates, and the benefits that branding can bring to your bottom line. There will also be a dedication of the new Darlene Radichel Plant Select® Garden, with refreshments and a cash bar, then enjoy the newly renovated gardens and Henry Moore sculpture exhibit.

Please reserve a place by Friday, September 17th by calling 970-481-3429 or emailing info@plantselect.org.

JSR FOUNDATION FALL CELEBRATION
Thursday, September 23, 2010
Denver Botanic Gardens
(5:30 pm – 8:30 pm)

You are invited to join the JSR Foundation at their 2010 Fall Celebration. Food, drinks, and a great venue make this an event you will not want to miss. Presentation of the JSR Award to the Denver Botanic Gardens and a presentation by this year’s student scholarship winner will be highlights of the evening. A tax deductible donation to the JSR Foundation is suggested for entry. Hope to see you there!

For more information about this event please visit www.jsrfoundation.org
On the cover
Centerra
Loveland, CO
Photo courtesy of DTJ Design, Inc., a planning, architecture, landscape design firm located in Boulder, CO.
I would like to begin this edition’s President’s Message by congratulating chapter members Robby Layton, Jana McKenzie and Troy Sebelius for their recent induction into the 2010 Council of Fellows. Our chapter was three-for-three on our applications to this prestigious group of landscape architects and each candidate represented a unique aspect of the profession. We are proud of their accomplishments and thankful for the continued support they have provided the chapter over the years.

The ASLA Colorado Lunch and Learn Series continues to be a success and has experienced increased attendance throughout the year. Presentations have included topics such as landscape water conservation, the Sustainable Sites Initiative and construction quality control. We will continue to seek out subjects that are relevant to the profession and we always appreciate input from the members regarding potential topics and instructors. The Lunch and Learns are held on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30-1:00 PM at the Gates Room of the Denver Public Library Central Branch.

ASLA Colorado has been actively involved with planning the design tracks for the 2011 ProGreen Expo. Thanks to the efforts of chapter members Robby Layton, Kurt Munding, Jill Wuertz and others, we will have an increased level of planning and design presentations including topics such as urban agriculture, historic landscapes, living walls, community health and urban water systems. Mark your calendars for February 8-11 as the 2011 Expo will be an excellent professional development opportunity.

In September, we will transition to the 2011 ASLA Colorado Executive Committee which will be led by President-elect Kurt Munding. It has been a valuable learning experience serving as president of the chapter and I strongly encourage members to get involved with the organization. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would simply like to attend a monthly meeting, please contact myself or our membership director Judy Ward for assistance.

Cheers,

Ian Anderson, ASLA
Colorado Chapter President
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 in person or by teleconference.

The May meeting wrapped up the 2010 legislative session with a legislative report. HB 10-1148 (concerning continuing education for architects) was signed by the Governor (ASLA Colorado supported this measure and testified in the Senate). HB 10-1131 (concerning the Kids Outdoor Program) was also signed by the Governor (ASLA Colorado supported this measure). Kurt Munding reported on Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. A redesign of the ASLA Colorado tabletop booth display was initiated. Volunteers for the HALS Liaison position were solicited. The Doors Open Denver report was presented and this year’s program was a “big success.”

The June meeting saw the Government Affairs Committee focus on developing a licensure compliance outreach and education program that will extend into the fall and 2011. Research documents and supporting materials are to be assembled and developed. The monthly Lunch and Learn programs are a continuing draw for new and repeat LA’s. The 2010 Awards Event was scheduled for October 14th at the Brown Palace. Speakers and a design program for the ProGreen Exposition in 2011 were sought out. This marks a renewed effort on the part of ASLA Colorado to participate in the planning for the ProGreen Expo.

The July meeting focused on expanding the Lunch and Learn program to occasionally host a “sponsored” event where attendance is free and the costs are covered by an industry sponsor. The Denver mixer at Alameda Nursery was a success and the special “Social Life of Small Urban Spaces” event was also a success. The 2010 awards boards on display at Denver Public Library was scheduled to end in June but has been extended because of the popularity. Plans for the annual membership survey were discussed and the annual Golf Tournament was promoted.

In August the Government Affairs committee reported that the licensure compliance and outreach education program was continuing. The committee will invite representatives from the Department of Regulatory Agencies Landscape Architecture to upcoming Executive Committee meetings in order to build communication. It was announced that awards entries for the Awards Event were due on August 18th. There was discussion about special plans for the Awards Event; including identifying a keynote speaker and making arrangements to hold the JSR Silent Auction that evening as well (October 14th). The slate for 2010-2011 Officers and Executive Committee members was being developed.

Volunteer opportunities for interested members are always available. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee or an event that is hosted or supported by ASLA Colorado contact Judith Ward, Volunteer Coordinator, at jward@criticalhabitats.com. For more information on current ASLA Colorado events, be sure to visit www.aslacolorado.org and review the “Calendar” tab located on the website’s title bar. To be placed on an upcoming agenda contact Ian Anderson, Chapter President, at landerson@designstudioswest.com. Contact information relating to Executive Committee members can be found by clicking on the “About Us” tab on the main title bar.

Government Affairs

The Government Affairs Committee has embarked on an ambitious five-point compliance effort in 2010. The first phase involves municipal outreach program that involves drafting a letter explaining the Landscape Architecture Act as well as compiling talking points and sample ordinances from municipalities that have taken a lead in complying with the act (such as Pueblo). When these items are assembled the committee will begin meeting with the larger municipalities to encourage them to comply with the law. The remaining phases will involve outreach to allied professions, self-enforcement, possibly monitoring insurance claims through a reporting mechanism, and preparing necessary records for the sunset review of the licensure act in 2017. Discussions with legislators and others during the 2010 legislative session underscored the importance of proactively approaching the sunset review process as early as possible.

On other matters the Executive Committee agreed to close the association Political Action Committee due to a lack of funds and the ongoing reporting requirements. It was also decided to invite representatives from the Department of Regulatory Agencies Board of Landscape Architects to future Executive Committee meetings in order to build an ongoing relationship and establish solid lines of communication between the members of the profession and our state regulators.

ASLA Colorado meets regularly with the GreenCo Legislative Committee (and their lobbyists) to keep apprised of ongoing and upcoming issues of legislative and regulatory importance. When an urgent issue of importance arises it is conveyed to the membership as an advisory in the bi-monthly E-News Bulletin.

ASLA Colorado is represented in the legislature and before state agencies by the Colorado Council of Landscape Architects, Gregory Williams of Redpoint Resources LLC, and Scott Meiklejohn of Meiklejohn Consulting LLC are under contract from December-May to monitor state legislative activity and regulatory developments. They also represent ASLA Colorado at meetings involving other allied organizations on new and ongoing issues of mutual concern. Neil McLane is Vice President of Government Affairs and chair of the ASLA Colorado Government Affairs committee. This committee also oversees the activities of the Colorado Council of Landscape Architects. Neil can be reached at neil@mclaneassoc.com.
Reach ASLA Colorado’s Membership through Sponsorship Opportunities

With approximately 600 members and growing, our sponsorship packages pack a powerful marketing punch. Our members are connected, informed and better at what they do. Reach the profession’s top producers through the chapter publication with ads, logo placement on our website and special recognition at our signature events. Sponsor our organization yearlong or at individual events.

To become a sponsor visit our sponsors page at http://www.aslacolorado.org/sponsors/ and download the sponsorship information pdf.

For any and all advertising questions contact the ALSA Colorado association manager Greg Williams at info@aslacolorado.org or for FAST assistance phone him at 303-748-0321.
As the popularity of interactive fountains and splash pads continue to be strong, it is becoming clear that a practical approach for minimum standards for water quality be included in the design of these features. Currently in the United States there are very few codes that address interactive fountains in public spaces and splash pads installed outside of the fenced swimming pool environment. Some municipalities have adopted portions of their swimming pool codes for application to interactive fountains and splash pads in the absence of clearly written guidelines for these types of water features installed in public spaces and parks. This article will attempt to provide some guidelines for the design of these types of features to the landscape architect who is charged with designing and specifying a water feature that falls into this category.

Let's first address what makes a fountain interactive. Clearly any water feature that either by intent or by default allows the public to enter the water should be considered interactive. This includes streams that are lined and filtered and pose no barriers to people entering and playing in the water. Naturalistic streams that are part of pond systems would not be considered interactive although they may be enjoyed as such, but the delineation would be the attempt to filter or keep the water at 'swimming pool' quality. Deck mounted fountains; those that have nozzles popping up and down are interactive as is any body of water that does not prohibit people entering the water.

The problems that can be encountered with the design of these types of water features are both a hydraulic issue but more so a siting issue. In a controlled public swimming pool environment, the patrons come in their bathing suits and are encouraged to shower before entering the pool. This is to wash off sweat, oils, skin, lint and hair before entering the water to reduce the load of this material in the pool. At many interactive fountains, while you may see kids in bathing suits, there are usually many more in street clothes playing in the water and both are there without the benefit of a pre-shower. Additionally, many of these types of water features are located in shopping centers or parks where whatever is on the pavement can end up on the feet or shoes of the participants and eventually end up in the water. This condition is especially prevalent in park installations where there is often a play ground, planting beds and lawn areas adjacent to the water feature. It can easily be seen that material from each like loose rubber play surfacing, bark mulch and grass can make it into the water. These materials are not seen in the public swimming pool environment and therefore the codes written for pools do not address the issues that interactive fountains have.

Hydraulically, swimming pools in Colorado are required to filter the water in the pool at least once every 6 hours, wading pools every hour and spas every half hour. This is called ‘turnover rate’ and would typically dictate what your filter flow rate should be. For example a 20’x 40’ pool with an average depth of 4-1/2’ would have...
a volume of approximately 27,000 gallons. To turn this volume over in 6 hours would require a filter rate of 75 gallons per minute (gpm). What is misleading about this number is that while the filter flows at this rate, based on the laws of dilution it takes 4-5 turnovers to filter 98 percent of the water. That means that to actually filter all of the pool water it takes 24-30 hours.

Let's look at a different aspect of swimming pools, the amount of water per person. In that same 20 x 40 swimming pool, let’s assume that half of the pool is less than 3-1/2' deep and the other half is more. Based on Colorado code, the maximum number of bathers of this pool is 43 people (1 person per 24 square feet over 3-1/2' and 1 person per 15 square feet under 3-1/2'). So this pool with 27,000 gallons has about 627 gallons per person in volume. A 20' diameter wading pool (20 bathers) has about 3,523 gallons in it which relates to about 176 gallons per person. A 6 person hot tub with 300 gallons in it has 50 gallons per person. You can now see how the pool codes address the smaller bodies of water with higher filter rates, assuming there will be greater organic loads.

Getting back to interactive fountains and splash pads, one of the questions to answer is how much water to design into the system. We use as a minimum 2,000 gallons and as much as 5,000 gallons in tanks or cisterns separate from the play surface. In years past, a popular method of design was the suspended paver system that spanned the pool, but we have found that the pipes and cables involved with the mechanics of the fountain often block debris from making it to the filter and the pavers do not allow for easy inspection of the water body. The more water the better, but more water means more filtration and more cost, so make sure to adequately estimate the budget. A 5,000 gallon tank equates to a 12’ x 12’ x 6’ deep tank.

For the filter system we design to a 30 minute turnover rate because we know that the bather load in these types of fountains is much greater than that of a pool. Colorado only requires a 1 hour turn over for these types of fountains as they consider them wading pools. As mentioned above, we have to contend with windblown debris, hair and lint, dirt and particulate from shoes and feet and not to mention whatever was in the grass—think geese. Having said this, we still see issues with the filtration being challenged by extremely high bather loads due to so many people in these small play areas at once. Remember, what we are designing is a free water park with little oversight. The maintenance personnel at shopping malls are better suited to managing the number of people in these water features but at public parks with departments already stretched thin, it is difficult for them to manage how many people get in the water.

One of the other issues for filter systems is the pump and strainer arrangement. The strainer is a basket in front of the pump designed to catch larger debris and anyone familiar with a swimming pool pump has probably seen one. A standard swimming pool pump has a very small strainer and only a handful of leaves will reduce the flow through the filter and defeat the flow rate. We use larger strainers in front of the filter pump.

The means of sanitation for interactive features is chlorine and Ultra Violet (UV) at a minimum. Chlorine is a requirement of the Health Department and is used because it is easy and safe to use and stays in the water as a residual, ready to kill bacteria when it comes in contact with it. Chlorine however, does not readily kill a bug called Cryptosporidium, or Crypto, and UV is used for that purpose. Both the chlorine dosing systems and the UV sanitizer are typically located on the filter system, so it is imperative that the
HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN:

✓ Design the fountain with as much water as possible but at a minimum, 2,000 gallons.

✓ Keep planting areas with mulch away from the fountain as much as possible or design them as raised beds with surround walls.

✓ Have a break point in grading where storm water drains away from the fountain. Do not allow walkways and plazas to drain to the fountain.

✓ If using stone or bricks, use mortar set and not sand set. Use latex modified mortars around fountains.

✓ Design the filter pump with large strainers.

✓ Design the filter for a 30 minute turnover but oversize the filter tank.

✓ Design the filter with automatic backwash if possible.

✓ Use stabilized chlorine tablets and UV for sanitation.

✓ Design the filter system to run 24 hours.

✓ Advise the owner to place signs requiring swim pants on infants, no diapers, and discouraging people that are sick from entering the water.

✓ Advise the owner to have a Trained Aquatic Operator on staff to help manage the fountain.

✓ Become knowledgeable with all codes that may apply. In the Denver area, Tri-County Health actively enforces code requirements on interactive fountains.

✓ Interactive fountains costs start at about $200,000 and up.

Dominic Shaw is the owner of Waterline Studios, Inc with offices in Ft. Collins, CO and Austin, TX. He has been designing water features for 30 years and has completed projects worldwide. His experience includes manufacturing, product design, construction, project management and consulting.
TRANSFORMATIVE WATER: RESTORING A NEGLECTED RANCH

By Sarah Chase Shaw

A once neglected landscape that had been a working ranch and then a road stone manufacturing plant for the construction of Colorado State Highway 82, is now a picturesque fisherman’s paradise, thanks to the creative vision of landscape architects. Says Richard Shaw, principal-in-charge of the project, “This project defines the notion of successful teamwork. It combines our collective imagination and desire to recreate the landscape utilizing its natural systems, and the owners’ commitment to preserving remnants of the social and agricultural heritage of the Roaring Fork Valley. The end result is a complete transformation of a forgotten property into a thriving new place.”

Transformative Water is located on a flat glacial terrace above the Roaring Fork River near Woody Creek, Colorado. The site appears to be a carefully preserved compound of historic buildings, set amid rolling meadows with long views to the surrounding mountain peaks and ridgelines. Forested glades, several ponds, and a stream full of hungry trout render a painterly impression of a thriving natural landscape. Behind this bucolic ideal lies the story of how creative design and much effort restored this badly damaged ranchland.

Until the 1980s, the site was part of a larger property that was home to a working cattle and sheep operation. At that time, construction on the adjacent highway required the creation on the property of an asphalt batch plant to produce roadbed material. The site was purchased by the current owners in the mid-1990s, by which time the smaller sixty-acre parcel had become overgrown with weeds, and the ground was hard-packed, impenetrable, and strewn with piles of river rock and asphalt. Multiple historic outbuildings, moved here by generations of ranching families, were scattered about the property.

The owners, interested in the ranching and social history of the valley, wanted to integrate the outbuildings into a more focused site plan and restore the landscape to the beauty and purpose of an earlier era. The result is a recreated ranch compound consisting of the main ranch house, located below a bluff on the banks of the Roaring Fork River, and five historic outbuildings that were carefully moved, rotated, and, board by board, reconstructed in a domestic quadrangle that also nestles against the steep bluff wall. The buildings, restored with designs by local architects in Aspen, sit in a plane of native grass. The cabins’ simple forms and dark-stained clapboard are roofed in corrugated metal, their front doors a bright red to match the restored main house. The road base for the main ranch road consists of recycled asphalt, found in piles throughout the site. No curbs were constructed, allowing water to infiltrate the

Photographed in 1917 from a trail on nearby Triangle Peak, the Gerbaz Ranch once included a house, barn and auxiliary cabins. The property rests between State Highway 82, seen above, and the Roaring Fork River, seen below the ranch. (photo courtesy of the Aspen Historical Society)
adjacent swales.

The arrangement of shrubs and trees next to each cabin and within the larger compound is reminiscent of historic ranches throughout the Western United States. The main house and cabins are connected by a great lawn, an entertainment space that recalls an era when the property was used for community gatherings. Red-twig dogwoods, Woods rose, potentilla, and mountain nine-bark mark the front entry to each cabin. Groupings of narrow-leaf cottonwood, ponderosa pine, and Lombardi poplar serve as focal points in the quadrangle. A meadow of lupines, daisies, and tall native grasses—all part of a specific grass and herbaceous plant mix developed specifically for this site—creates a transition between the lawn around the cabins and the riparian meadows. A shelter belt of spruce, cottonwood, and aspen trees provides protection from the prevailing winds on the west side of the property.

Despite the property’s degraded condition at the time of its purchase, it had plentiful water rights. An easement had been placed on the property dictating that it serve as a holding facility for water rights for all users and landholders in the immediate vicinity, so water storage was a significant factor in the site design. To create a natural functioning riparian habitat for the stream, the storage areas were consolidated into ponds and integrated into the design. Material from the pond excavations was used to sculpt the flat site into a subtly rolling and topographically interesting landscape.

A stream, constructed to emulate high-mountain trout habitat, meanders through the property. The aquatic environment was enhanced by the placement of gravel spawning areas in the stream bed. Groupings of Bebb’s, Drummond’s, and Geyer’s willow, red-osier dogwood, river birch, thin-leaf alder, and Colorado spruce, and other water-loving plants grow along its banks, mimicking the natural plant geography of the region. There are no formal path systems along the stream, though tree groupings, shrub massings, and rocks are placed strategically with fishing and exploration in mind. Careful site grading of the stream, landforms and roadways, much of it completed by hand, ensured that all existing trees were preserved. Glacial boulders found onsite were reused in the stream feature, presenting opportunities for fishing, stream crossings, or wading. Siltation basins, created wetlands, and aeration systems that include ozone and bacterial injection help to maintain the water quality and increase dissolved oxygen in the ponds and in

One of the earliest homesteads in the Roaring Fork Valley grew to be a successful agriculture and ranching operation. Later converted into an asphalt plant, the plan proposes the rehabilitation of the landscape, restoring the property’s heritage and environmental importance.
the stream flows from adjacent properties. Around the ponds are found wetland plantings of softstem bulrush, beaked sedge, scouring rush, creeping spikerush, Nebraska sedge, Merten's rush, and Hall's rush.

The landscape offers a sense of respite from the adjacent road, a busy state highway that borders the property. Tall evergreens mixed with groves of cottonwoods provide a vertical mass that acts as a barrier and screen to buffer the sounds and sights of the thoroughfare. The ponds and the stream, which run continuously throughout the year, reflect seasonal changes, providing an interesting and ever-changing habitat for the natural environment that exists below the surface and along the banks. Tall grasses in the meadows tilt and curve with the topography, sway with the wind, and offer glimpses of the streams, ponds, and the horizon down the valley.

Sarah Chase Shaw is a landscape architect and free-lance writer. After receiving a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Cornell University, she began her career as a landscape architect at Design Workshop in Aspen. She is the author of New Gardens of the American West – Residential Landscapes of Design Workshop (2003) and Garden Legacy, a second compendium of residential landscapes by Design Workshop, set for release in the fall of 2010. Other recent work by Sarah can be seen in Urban Land, Garden Design, and Western Art & Architecture. She lives in Aspen and can be reached at sarahshaw@sopris.net.

Landscape architecture: Design Workshop, Aspen
Architecture: H3 Architects
“People sit where there are places to sit.” This was just one of many profound discoveries of American urbanist William H. Whyte’s classic study of New York’s plazas in “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.” Written in 1980 and subsequently made into a short film documentary, this observational study of social behavior within urban spaces still provides timeless advice for designers today. Whyte suggests that the design of these spaces directly influences social behavior and community interaction.

On June 17th, ASLA Colorado, the Union Station Advocates and APA Colorado hosted a screening of the film in conjunction with a presentation of the recent design proposal for Denver’s Union Station. The discussion was led by DenverInfill.com founder and Matrix Design Group planner Ken Schroeppe as well as City of Denver planner Ellen Ittelson.

The presentation began with an exclusive screening of Whyte’s film followed by an in-depth presentation of the proposed design for Union Station’s public spaces. This provided the attendees with a review of the fundamentals of urban space design and served as a basis of review for the downtown mixed-use development.

Denver Union Station is the largest transportation redevelopment project in North America and will become the metropolitan area’s multi-modal transit hub, featuring light rail, commuter rail and bus rapid transit. Elements of the public space design include plazas, gardens, water features and flexible streetscapes and can host a variety of events and uses.

After the film screening and Union Station presentation, an open forum discussion was held in which attendees could ask the presenters questions regarding the specifics of the proposed design. Frequently, the questions referred to the topics from the film and how they could be applied to the current design.

Following is a summary of the questions, answers and comments related to the proposed Union Station design:

17th Street Promenade
C: Not sure what is going to compel (pull) people into the garden rooms from the wide sidewalk.

C: The linear gardens don’t read so much as rooms as corridors. Perhaps they should be broken up more and made bigger or even create notched areas that make them feel and read more like rooms.

C: Perhaps there should be mountable curbs rather than hard edge curbs and it would be great if the road surface either matched the sidewalk material to create a wall to wall feel. And if that is impossible, than something nicer than asphalt.

C: The movie showed how corners and steps really made great seating areas. Shouldn’t these be incorporated into the plan?
C: Have you considered getting Denver Urban Gardens involved? Perhaps one of the garden rooms could be an urban farming/community garden area. You could lease the space to residents, or create a program that would hire the homeless to maintain it.

C: Will the rooms be flexible, i.e. reconfigurable? Can artwork be placed in the rooms and that may be a reason why they should be reconfigurable.

C: Children’s areas should be considered like permanent hopscotch or a chess board. Something like the Cherry Creek Mall children’s play area.

C: The rigid configuration does not allow for playful meandering throughout the gardens. It would also be fun to peer into the bus box below through the skylight and see the activity. Something like the church window in the film.

C: The rhythm of the linear gardens needs to be broken up by creating something in the center.

C: Need more seating at the edges.

C: Need a zone(s) where people can sit and see each other that encourages interaction.

C: The whole design needs more surprise and engagement rather than being so rigid.

C: Another idea instead of water is lighting that is reactive to people. Like the ground plane bubble game at the Art Museum.

C: The landscape palette should be designed to offer year round interest.

C: The design is too regimented. Maybe it should be more organic with curves.

Q: Does the structure for the bus box allow for adequate fill for plantings?
A: Yes, there is approximately 4’ of fill.

Q: Where are the air vents:
A: At the light rail plaza

Q: Can there be a water feature?
A: No, the structure below does not allow for it.
Wynkoop Plaza

C: Ground floor retail needs to be something interactive, not like a bank lobby.

C: Perhaps there should be a pathway through the fountain to allow for traffic flow even when it’s on.

C: There should be good advance planning on the public art component and not just end up with “plop” art at the end of the day. And it should be kid playable.

C: Concern expressed about the sense of arrival and integration of the design and paving materials especially into the context of the site, including the buildings on the other side of Wynkoop.

C: The paving needs to be of the highest quality, not just concrete.

C: The film illustrated that people like to be near the edges and not in the middle, so why put permanent benches in the bosque of trees. They only create barriers.

C: There needs to be more porosity in general.

C: The worst experience on the site is the travel path down the stairs. Need to improve that.

C: Carry the paving materials of the plaza onto the crosswalks on the street and on street in front of entrance to station building.

Q: If the fountain is turned off in the winter, will there be anything in that space to animate it?
A: The designers are working to make the fountain work year round.

Q: Will the two lines of trees at the plaza edge next to the street block the view between the street and station building.
A: The trees will be spaced widely enough with some gaps to allow for views.

Q: What will be the format/timing for on-going discussion?
A: Not sure, but it needs to happen. In particular need feedback on plant selection. DUSPA responsible for public outreach. Space at 30% design. City has yet to approve.

Q: Isn’t there suppose to be a local Landscape Architect on board to help with the plant selection?
A: Yes, but there is not one selected at this time. Hargreaves has actually done quite a bit of work in Denver and probably knows about plants that do well in this climate as a starting point.

Q: How does the public space design integrate with Fastracks?
A: The public realm is actually primarily the pedestrian circulation space on the site to facilitate the transit function of the site. But it is also an amenity for the public.

Q: What is the height of the south wing building? Should the landscaped side and the plaza side be reversed?
A: 65’ and the south side is the sunniest based on extensive sun and shade pattern study.

Q: Can some evergreens be integrated into the landscape palette?
A: No, there are some evergreens on the 17th Street Promenade, but they want the Wynkoop Plaza to be sunny in the winter.

For more information on the proposed Union Station planning, design and construction, please visit the following websites:
www.denverunionstation.org
www.unionstationdenver.com
www.downtowndenver.com
www.denvergov.org

Ian Anderson, RLA, LEED AP, is a Senior Associate with Design Studios West and the current chapter president of ASLA Colorado. He is a licensed landscape architect in Colorado, California, Kansas and Indiana and a LEED Accredited professional.
THE CORE OF WATER EFFICIENT IRRIGATION IS HERE
As the design profession reels from the impacts of the economic recession, it is important to examine the imperatives that drive design for landscape architects in Colorado as we look to the future. Without an understanding of these we run the risk of becoming irrelevant in the emerging economy. The 2011 Progreen Expo offers landscape architects a chance to investigate some of the topics that will lie at the core of our design work in the coming years. CCASLA has been working with organizers of the Expo to incorporate a strong design track into the lineup of educational sessions for the conference that will take place next February 8th through the 11th at the Denver Convention Center. Here is a preliminary look at what is in store.

Sessions offered at the conference will touch upon several emergent themes in landscape architecture today. For example, the growing connection between the outdoor environment and societal issues will be highlighted by trend-spotter and outdoor living expert Susan McCoy in her talk, “From Mega-trends to Garden Trends”. This session will provide designers with insight into how trends in the larger society translate into specific values, actions, and behaviors that are relevant to landscape architecture.

Trends toward active living and healthy eating are two important ones that will be explored in seminars on community health, designing for active living, and urban agriculture. Teresa Penbrooke, a planning and management consultant who specializes in the field of parks and recreation, will show how current research is revealing the connection between healthy lives and the availability of parks, green space, and other affordances. This revelation is lending new significance to the work of landscape architects, and should have an impact on the way spaces for human habitation are designed.

Childhood obesity is of particular concern to community health professionals today, and play is being recognized as an important tool to combat this growing health issue. But play is not just for kids anymore. Current research shows that play is an important part of a healthy life for everyone. New trends in play include all-ages playgrounds, natural play areas, and the incorporation of play into other aspects of people’s lives. Trish Kurnik is a landscape designer who has worked on a number of play environments, including the Denver Public Schools’ Learning Landscapes, and the recently completed Discovery Playground in Spokane Valley, Washington. She will present a session on “The Landscape of Play” that explores the significance of play and some developing trends in providing spaces for play.

Access to healthy food is also an important attribute of healthy communities, and one that is being found to play a role in the nation’s obesity epidemic. John Lanterman, landscape architect and educator, will offer a session that explains the history of urban agriculture as well as the current significance of agriculture in the urban environment. His talk will include a case study that shows...
techniques, strategies, and design principles for creating sustainable urban landscapes from food crops. Other sessions related to urban agriculture at the Expo will be featured, including a presentation on “Edible Landscaping the Permaculture Way” by permaculture expert Ellen Rosenthal.

Beyond urban agriculture and permaculture, other ways to make the urban environment greener will be explored through sessions on green roofs, living walls, and healthier street trees. Members of DESIGN4 will present a case study of their unique project that used public art as a vehicle for raising awareness of the importance of good design and best management practices in the urban landscape. Their lessons learned can be applied by others to promote awareness and understanding of the role of landscape architects in creating livable and sustainable places.

The contextual and regional perspectives of design will be explored through a variety of sessions. An understanding of the role of cultural and historic landscapes will be provided in “Historic Landscapes: Process & Practice” by Patrick Mundus. Knowing where we’ve come from, what to hold on to, and how to make it part of our future is important for defining an appropriate design paradigm for Colorado. It’s also important to know where we must go. A glimpse into this will be provided by Paul Lander, Ph.D. in his session on “Designing Resilience—Urban Water Systems and Landscape Professionals”. He will show how the future of water distribution systems on a large scale within the state should be influencing design decisions made by landscape architects today.

As sustainability and water management become more imperative in Colorado, interest in the use of native plants and natural landscapes will continue to grow. A panel discussion on “Natural Landscaping for Urban Environments” featuring natural resource planners and managers David Chenoweth and Robert Finch will look at how protected, preserved, reclaimed, or recreated landscapes can be integrated into the urban fabric, and the importance of good design in managing these landscapes for human purposes. Other sessions on native plants, water management, and best practices will offer a range of techniques and strategies for implementation and management of native and naturalized designs.

One landscape architect who has had notable success in creating landscapes that connect people to the native environment is Christine Ten Eyck. Her presentation to a packed room at the 2010 Progreen was the highlight of the conference for many, and she is coming back for 2011. Her work in Arizona has not only gained her national notoriety, it has shown how landscapes of comfort and beauty that sustainably respect and enhance the natural ecology can be created even in harsh environments like the Sonoran Desert. She has recently returned to her native Texas to apply her talents towards the unique geographies of the Lone Star State. Ten Eyck’s work with arid landscapes and her inspired approach to regionalism offer important insights to landscape architects in Colorado who seek to re-interpret the landscapes of mountains and plains for sustainable living.

For Colorado landscape architects, the future lies not just in the landscape of our region, however. Many Colorado practitioners now do most of their work out of the state and out of the country. Many more will follow them in the coming years. There they will find new design challenges. The expanding boundaries of landscape architectural practice are the topic of a panel session on international practice. The discussion will focus on the “who”, “what”, and “how” of practicing landscape architecture beyond our borders.

Wherever we practice, the need to make places where people can live happily and safely should be at the core of what we do. As shown here, the broad imperatives of healthy and sustainable place-making encompass a wide range of strategies and practices for landscape architects. The topics offered by the 2011 Progreen Expo should be just the beginning of a long and productive exploration of these.

Rob Layton, ASLA is one of ASLA Colorado’s representatives on the program planning committee for the 2011 Progreen Expo. Please feel free to contact him with questions, suggestions, or other remarks at rob@dcla.net.
Bruce Nussbaum has stirred up a fierce debate with his article "Is Humanitarian Design the New Imperialism?". Nussbaum criticizes groups like Project H, Acumen Fund and Architecture for Humanity for being perhaps naive about the post-colonial landscape they face in Asia and Africa:

Is the new humanitarian design coming out of the U.S. and Europe being perceived through post-colonial eyes as colonialism? Are the American and European designers presuming too much in their attempt to do good?

What’s more, Nussbaum says, we ought to be focusing our efforts closer to home: "And finally, one last question: why are we only doing humanitarian design in Asia and Africa and not Native American reservations or rural areas, where standards of education, water and health match the very worst overseas?"

Of course, Emily Pilloton of Project H has shot right back, saying it is Nussbaum himself who is out of touch with the younger generation of humanitarian designers, designers who are well-aware of the cultural and political landscapes in which they’re working, and are in fact increasingly focused on problems closer to home:

"It is only through this local engagement and shared investment that the humanitarian design process shines. It is through this personal connection to place and people that the human qualities of design rise to the top of the priority list, through which our clients are no longer beneficiaries, but experts and co-designers right there with us. In his infamous address titled "To Hell With Good Intentions," Ivan Illich puts this beautifully: 'If you have any sense of responsibility at all, stay with your riots here at home...You will know what you are doing, why you are doing it, and how to communicate with those to whom you speak. And you will know when you fail. If you insist on working with the poor, if this is your vocation, then at least work among the poor who can tell you to go to hell.' We all have to learn how to be citizens again: citizens first, and designers second. Citizenship is inherently local, defined by our connection and commitment to the places we best know and most love."

[Recently] there have been different takes on this debate from leading thinkers like Cameron Sinclair, Susan Szenassy and Robert Fabricant. Now, I have conflicts of interest all over the place here—Emily and Cameron are friends, I’ve sat on a panel and shared ideas with Susan, and Worldchanging is discussing a project with Frog Design—so I’m not going to take sides, but I find the conversation extremely encouraging.

That said, some things are missing here, I think. In particular, the whole discussion has glanced over two critical realities: the scope, scale and speed of the planetary crisis we face, and the profoundly
unequal distribution of access that exists to tools of innovation globally. I don’t have time to write a proper essay today, but I’d like to share a few thoughts.

Most of us in the Global North are out of touch with the scope, scale and speed of the problems we face. We live in a global civilization that can measure its life expectancy in decades if it continues to operate as it does today. We know that we’re straying beyond a series of non-negotiable ecological boundaries (the most obvious being the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere). The predicted consequences are profound in a way that’s difficult to fully grasp, but could well involve the complete collapse of large portions of human society and almost unimaginable suffering and destruction.

“This is not a small probability of a rather unattractive outcome,” as Lord Stern, former Chief Economist of the World Bank, reminds us. “This is a big probability of a very bad outcome.”

This planetary sustainability crisis is impossible to tackle unless the Global North redesigns its own prosperity to be at least carbon neutral (and probably actually carbon negative) by 2050. Because it takes time for innovations to spread and become universal, that 2050 goal, in turn, means innovating many of our urban land use, transportation and energy systems (as well as the products and services we use) to be carbon neutral by 2030. Zero impact is the only rational goal, and we need to be working towards it right now.

In addition, between two and four billion young people are expected to raise themselves into the global middle class in the Global South over the next 40 years, and billions more poorer people will have to find stable systems of survival in a rapidly changing world. The new global middle class can only adopt a bright green, climate-responsible model of prosperity if such a model is available when they need it. That forces us to confront a second planetary reality: the international distribution of problem-solving resources is profoundly unfair.

A gigantic imbalance in capacities and resources exists between the Global North and Global South. This is, obviously, not to argue that Southern designers, engineers and entrepreneurs are less capable (or less innovative) than their Northern counterparts. If anything, the evidence points to the opposite conclusion.

But in Northerners’ desires to avoid the pitfalls of cultural imperialism and the failed model of top-down aid (and, let’s be honest, to be seen to be down with other cultures), we go whistling past the mountainous reality of power inequality in our global society, and the extent to which, in a knowledge economy, that power is about the ability to generate and deploy ideas.

The Global North has the vast majority of the world’s finest universities, libraries and broadband connections. It has the lion’s share of the best-trained designers and professional innovators: there are probably more top-level product designers in New York than in all of India; probably more top-flight software engineers in the Bay Area than in all of Africa. That’s not even getting into corporate R+D labs, incubators, fellowships, internships and all the other capacity that spins off the design, technology and engineering industries: almost all of which are in the developed world.

What’s more, we know that innovation sparks from clusters of talented people in close proximity—from scenius—but it catches
fire when exposed to capital, subjected to debate (in magazines, at conferences, on campuses) and connected to networks of other equally talented professionals in other fields. Most of those clusters are in the Global North; the remainder are in places (like Sao Paolo and Shanghai) that are already approaching “developed” status. Hotbeds, conferences and venture capital are not fairly distributed around the Earth.

It’s a harsh reality that the vast bulk of the world’s ability to solve system-scale problems is concentrated in wealthy countries. If a bright green model of prosperity is going to be invented in time for billions of young people to adopt it, big chunks of it will have to come from the Global North and be spread through partnerships between the North and South.

Obviously, complexities abound. Some of the world’s most innovative thinking is happening on “the edges” of the wealthy world, in newly emerging economies. The Global North often stifles innovation with outdated codes and regulation. Many designers in New York or London may not have the foggiest clue what on-the-ground challenges present themselves in the cities of the Global South, and so lack the ability to design solutions at home that will have a broader value. Many people cannot afford to participate in the major capitalist forms of innovation diffusion. Furthermore, flowing innovations to the bottom billion is wrought with difficulties. Some nations suffer from a hipness invisibility (what some have called the Ninja Gap), which makes them unable to draw even the most modest notice from folks in a position to help them solve problems. Finally, the ability of experts operating in ignorance of context to screw a system or place up beyond recognition should never be underestimated.

Yet, yet, yet... the reality is that we inherited a broken future, and designing a better one is going to take the whole-hearted participation of hundreds of thousands of creative, innovative people in the cities of the Global North. It’s going to take grappling with remaking our own cities and systems into sustainably prosperous forms—and doing it with an eye to global realities, the need for innovation diffusion and the cultural minefields involved. It’s ultimately going to take redesigning (or at least reconsidering) pretty much everything about the way our cities work.

So, perhaps it’s worth shifting the debate a little to discuss the obligations of not just humanitarian designers, but all designers to design responsibly? Maybe presumption is less the problem than a lack of planetary thinking.

This article was originally published on the Worldchanging website on July 15, 2010 (http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/011386.html), and is reprinted here with permission.

Alex Steffen is an American writer, editor, public speaker and futurist most noted for his bright green ideas. Steffen edits the online magazine Worldchanging, and is the site’s Executive Editor and CEO. He also edited the book "Worldchanging: A User’s Guide for the 21st Century" and has written for magazines and newspapers including Business Week and Wired. In the last six years, Worldchanging has become one of the world’s leading sustainability-related publications. The critically-acclaimed site has won the Utne Independent Press Award, and been nominated for Webby Awards (the Oscars of the Net) for Best Blog and Best Magazine, as well as Bloggies for Best Writing and Best Group Weblog. Worldchanging’s work and Alex’s role as a leading voice in planetary futurism have inspired over 600 stories in the media, including a CNN documentary and a New York Times Magazine profile.
UCD Portfolio Review

On April 7th eight landscape architecture professionals volunteered their time to review the University of Colorado Denver (UCD) landscape architecture graduate students’ portfolios. This was the culmination of events planned by the University’s student ASLA officers throughout the 2009-2010 school year. It began with two seminars in November—one conducted by some of the UCD faculty who discussed the academic side of a portfolio and one conducted by landscape architecture professionals who covered the professional side of a portfolio, including the interview process. In March, Harold Linton, author of Portfolio Design, presented a lecture and workshop on how to physically set up a portfolio. Each of the seminars had between 25 – 30 student participants while the Linton lecture/workshop had approximately 20 student participants. Some Colorado State University landscape architecture students were able to attend one of the seminars as well as the Linton presentations.

The portfolio review held in April gave students a chance to get critiques from professionals on the portfolios they had put together over the school year. Most of the attendees were third year students who were getting ready to graduate. They were extremely pleased with the prospect of having so many professionals review their portfolio before they graduated. One student said, “I was planning on setting up three or four interviews with professionals just so I could get feedback on my portfolio before I graduated. But this was great to have them all in one room! That’s one more thing I can check off my to-do list.” All students made comments on how helpful the professionals’ feedback was as well as being appreciative of the time given by the professionals. “You should make this an annual tradition,” encouraged another student.

15th Annual ASLA Colorado Golf Tournament

On August 20th the Raccoon Creek Golf Course in Littleton hosted the 15th Annual ASLA Colorado Golf Tournament. 60 landscape architects, landscape contractors, and industry product suppliers played in the tournament. It was a beautiful sunny day, with lots of birdies and way too many bogies…

Once again the tournament was a great success and could not have been realized if it were not for the tireless work of Vivian Kovacs of Landscape Forms and Jim Pokorny of Goodland Construction. A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to Vivian, Jim and all of our sponsors!

ASLA Colorado is pleased to thank and recognize our wonderful sponsors for this event:

**Platinum Sponsors**
- Landscape Forms
- Hunter Industries

**Hole-In-One Prize**
- Keller-Lowry Insurance, Inc.

**Event Sponsors**
- Hydrosystems (Lunch)
- Valleycrest Landscape (Award Ceremony)
- Rainbird (Beverage Cart)
- LandTech Contractors (Beverage Cart)
- Ken’s Reproductions (Breakfast)
- JVA, Inc.

**Hole Sponsors**
- Churchich Recreation
- American Civil Constructors
- Children’s Playstructures
- Woods Sites & Playscapes
- Pavestone Company
- DBC Irrigation Supply
ASLA Colorado Mixer at Alameda Wholesale Nursery

On June 17th Alameda Wholesale Nursery hosted an ASLA Colorado Spring Mixer and education session. Turnout was great with nearly 50 people attending to hear from two of Colorado’s leading plant experts Pat Hayward—Executive Director of Plant Select and Jim Ord—Sales Representative/Tree Expert with J. Frank Schmidt and Sons Co. Pat talked with the group about 15 essential plants for western landscapes. As a bonus Pat also shared with us some of her favorite specialty evergreens, evergreens are her passion and expertise. Jim shared with us a list of 25 replacement trees for tired landscapes. Trees that are not so commonly used in the region but ones that have great characteristics and do well in the region.

A very big thank you goes out to Alameda Wholesale Nursery for hosting the event and providing all the refreshments. A number of lucky attendees got a personal tour of the Nursery with Stan Brown. Another special thank you goes out to Pat and Jim for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm of plants with our group of eager Landscape Architects and designers. Since this was so well received we plan to hold similar types of events in the future to connect plant experts and nurseries with our membership. If there is any interest in hosting or speaking at future mixers please email Kurt Munding at kurt@dcla.net.

New ALSA Colorado Members

Matthew W. Alfele
Robert D. Berg, ASLA – HOK Planning Group
Taran M. Jensvold, Associate ASLA – Mundus Bishop Design
Amanda Jeter, Associate ASLA – Design4
Gabriel Kruse, ASLA
Chapin LaChance, Associate ASLA
Katie A. McKain, Associate ASLA
Christie Murman, Associate ASLA
Laurel S. Raines, ASLA
Dennis Richard, Affiliate ASLA – Golden Triangle Construction
Martha Rooney Saitta, ASLA
Brian Stuhr, Associate ASLA
SDA Elects New Board

DENVER, Colorado – The Society for Design Administration Denver Chapter held their annual meeting April 21, 2010 in Denver, Colorado. Elected to the Board of Directors for 2010-2011 year were: President, Debra Ellis, CDFA, Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture; Past President, Anne McNeely, SDA, Gensler; Vice President, Carol Wolford, SDA, Anderson Mason Dale Architects; Treasurer, Kay Riley, SDA, MKK Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Secretary, Jennifer Hinkle-Karnisky, SDA, H+L Architecture; Director Ruth Nester, SDA, Hutton Architecture Studio; and Director, Paula Coyne, SDA, Architectural Engineering Consultants.

The Society for Design Administration Denver Chapter began in 1982. Established in 1959, the Society for Design Administration is the largest organization directed to Architecture/Engineering/Construction Administration. SDA's mission is to promote the exchange of ideas and to educate its members in the related disciplines of design firm administration and management.

For more information on the SDA Denver Chapter, contact Debra Ellis at 303-455-1366.

Landscape Forms Will Host 'Xtreme Challenge

KALAMAZOO, Michigan – For the third year, Landscape Forms, an award-winning designer, manufacturer and marketer of outdoor commercial furniture and accessories, has announced that it will host Xtreme Challenge, an intense 2-day charrette event calculated to challenge and inspire emerging Gen-X design leaders. These 12 young landscape architecture professionals will be identified by their firms to join 12 outstanding landscape architecture students selected from The University of Texas at Austin master's degree program as best-in-class, and will be divided to work in two teams under "celebrated" team leaders. This event scheduled for September 22 – 23, 2010 will foster creative thinking, teambuilding and facility of expression in an extraordinary opportunity to create designs for critical urban initiatives in one of the country's most vibrant cities; Austin, Texas.

This impressive professional development program is intended to provide exposure and experience that will benefit both the participants and the firms in which they work. The young professionals will be mentored by prominent landscape architects and will, in turn, have the opportunity to mentor promising students preparing to enter the profession. The plan is to provide a memorable experience that is stimulating, educational and fun.

Landscape Forms Hosts a Leaders Roundtable

KALAMAZOO, Michigan – Landscape Forms, North American's largest designer and manufacturer of site furniture, invited the Landscape Architecture Foundation to join in sponsoring a Landscape Architecture Leaders Roundtable in May, 2010 at Chicago's Elysian Hotel. Twenty-four leaders from fifteen states and all regions of the country explored a broad range of specific topics. Moderator for the event was Edward Uhlir, Director of Chicago's Millennium Park.

Distinguished professionals from major multidisciplinary firms and small landscape architectural practices included Leo Alvarez, Principal, Perkins + Will; Dennis Carmichael, Principal, AECOM; Richard Conant, Principal, Foster Conant & Associates; Barbara Faga, Principal, AECOM; Peter Hedlund, Principal, Sasaki; Deb Mitchell, Director of Design, JIR; Cindy Sanders, Principal, OlinPArtnership; Peter Schaudt, Principal, Hoerr Schaudt; Christy TenEyck, Principal, TenEyck Landscape Architects; and Ernie Wong, Principal, Site Design Group.

Participants shared ideas on the changing nature and scale of work, opportunities in the US and overseas, on public and private projects, competition within and from outside the profession, the impact of the economy on the bottom line and how businesses are rethinking and adjusting, continuing commitment to sustainability, and whether landscape architecture remains a viable professional path for young people.

Barbara Faga provided an overview, observing that the profession is undergoing a paradigm shift and that the opportunities for landscape architects are now in projects related to infrastructure, including water resources, healthy cities, and transportation. She was both cautionary and hopeful: "The easy projects are done. Now they are all going to be difficult. They're not going to be green-fields. They're all going to be in town, they're all going to be complicated, and they're all going to have political action attached to them. We should be involved in these because that's where the work is and that's something we know about doing. It's still our work. We've just got to reorganize it."

Words used during the Roundtable to describe the state of the profession today included improving, stressful, challenging, hopeful, frustrating, sleep-deprived, optimistic, opportunistic, and transitional.

Colorado Hardscape Install di Giacomo Design

DENVER, Colorado – The City of Westminster wanted to pay tribute to its sister city in England by developing a park that reflected one of its more famous landmarks, Westminster Abbey. The design called for a central courtyard with specialized finishes to mimic the streets of the city and the river that flows through it. Rock artisan Philip di Giacomo worked with the city to create an interactive play structure that would make this park not only a pleasing tribute to England's Westminster Abbey, but also a destination playground for area families.

The street paving surrounding the tower varied in finishes and textures, using several Sandscape colors and Lithocrete. Blue glass embedded in blue stained Lithocrete were used to create the river effect.

The rock features included realistic tree bark texture and boulders encasing a playground slide. All the vertical rock elements invite exploration, climbing, and playing in a safe environment. The intentional knots in the hollowed-out log allow children to playfully peak through and parents to have constant visual contact with their children.
Colorado Hardscapes utilized every area of its expertise to produce the paving and rock features at this new City Center Park. The resulting features flow seamlessly together because they were installed by one contractor skilled in all areas of hardscaping, di Giacomo returned to Denver from his California studio shortly after this job was completed. He commented on the expert craftsmanship of the crews of Colorado Hardscapes and their ability to take his schematic design and breathe life into it.

**Design Workshop Names Rebecca Leonard as Firm Partner**

ASBEN, Colorado – Design Workshop is pleased to announce that Rebecca Leonard was recently named as the firm’s newest partner. In this role, Leonard joins Design Workshop’s eight other partners (shareholders) as part of the executive leadership team, and she will continue to oversee operations for the Austin office. Prior to being named partner, she was a Principal with the firm.

“Our newest shareholder has clearly demonstrated leadership skills, quality project plans and designs,” said Becky Zimmerman, President of Design Workshop. “She is strategic and tenacious in her business development pursuits, advances the firm in community and urban planning, has unending energy and enthusiasm, and her leadership is beneficial to the future of the firm.”

Leonard was a Senior Long Range Planner for Eagle County before she began her career at Design Workshop’s Aspen office in 2005. In 2008, she moved to Austin to open a new office for the firm. Leonard’s experience is in the areas of community planning, urban design, redevelopment, tourism planning, regional planning and site design. She is known for her strategic initiative and ability to integrate in-depth knowledge of an area’s environment, community and economy with strong physical design and public spaces.

Leonard spent eight years in Colorado and her award-winning approach to planning and design can be seen in such notable projects as Avon Town Center, Vail Strategic Plan, Eagle Area Community Plan, Snowmass Center Redevelopment Plan, Aspen Area Community Plan, Glenwood Springs Streetscape Manual, and Avon Comprehensive Plan. She also served on the board of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association from 2005-2007, and on the board of Healthy Mountain Communities from 2005-2007.

Leonard graduated from Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning where she received her bachelor’s degree in Environmental Design in Architecture and her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning. She and her husband, Steven Spears, live in Austin and are expecting their first child in September.

**Design Workshop Associate Named as Co-Chair for Denver Chapter of the Society for Environmental Graphic Design**

DENVER, Colorado – Kelan Smith, an associate with Design Workshop, an international landscape architecture, land planning, urban design and strategic services firm with six offices in the U.S. and work spanning the globe, was recently appointed as co-chair for the Denver Chapter of the Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD).

In this role, Smith intends to integrate his involvement with the River North Art District (RiNo) with educational tours of artists who specialize in public and environmental art. The Denver chapter will plan three group events this year focused on education and best practices in the industry.

**Design Workshop Helps Guide The Village at Avon to Achieve LEED Certification**

VAIL, Colorado – The second phase of redevelopment in Avon, CO known as The Village at Avon, achieved LEED certification last week, becoming one of the first buildings in Vail Valley to be built within the eco-conscious LEED standards. In order to achieve LEED certification, the development’s owner Traer Creek, LLC enlisted the help of Design Workshop, an international landscape architecture, land planning, urban design and strategic services firm with offices in Aspen and Denver.

Design Workshop guided the building team for The Village at Avon in learning the LEED process and gaining expertise in the technologies associated with “green” design and construction. After nearly three years of project planning and construction, The Village at Avon received LEED certification on March 15, 2010. “We are very excited to announce another LEED certification for Design Workshop,” said Darla Callaway, one of the LEED Accredited
Grand opening of Design Concepts’ Discovery Playground in Spokane Valley Draws Hundreds of All Ages and Abilities

LAFAYETTE, Colorado – The Spokane Valley community gathered on May 13, 2010 to celebrate the grand opening of Discovery Playground at Mirabeau Point Park in Spokane Valley, Washington. The “destination” playground was designed by Design Concepts in partnership with ecoPlan & Design, located in Wenatchee, Washington. The crowd included the city’s mayor and both current and former city council members.

Located in the City of Spokane Valley at the south end of Mirabeau Point Park, the 1.5-acre $1.6 million playground was designed to be inclusive and accessible for people with a wide range of physical and developmental abilities. City officials hope that it will become a regional draw. On opening day, people came from all over the region, and the playground has had a steady stream of visitors since.

The City of Spokane Valley had multiple goals for the playground. City officials wanted play elements that could be used by people with a wide range of abilities and would provide a variety of physical challenges, interest for all age groups, and meaning for the community. They wanted the project to be accessible to people with physical and developmental handicaps, but also to allow for fully integrated play, so that everyone could play and socialize side by side. They also wanted the playground to be educational, and large enough to be used by school groups.

Working with the community, the firm designed the playground to focus on the theme of “Exploring Eastern Washington.” The playground teaches about regional geography and geology and features local plants, animals, and fossils. The Palouse Prairie Rolling Hills, a series of six sculptured and turf-covered mounds designed for running up and rolling down, represent local land formations. A climbing wall of basalt reflects the region’s geology. A salmon wall shows the lifecycle of the fish from ocean to spawning grounds. People can dig for fossils and tell time by standing on the sun clock designed for the site’s latitude and longitude.

Bluegreen Landscape Architect Awarded LEED Certification

ASpen, Colorado – Christine Poirier Shine, a landscape architect at Bluegreen, is recently recognized as a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design—or LEED—Green Associate. A LEED Green Associate has a strong understanding of the integrated approach to green building design and construction, as well as a general knowledge of the principles of sustainable design, especially as they relate to the LEED Green Building Rating System.

This summer, Christine will use this knowledge to help

New Erie Community Park Drawing Crowds for Softball Tournaments, Outdoor Movies, and Big Mountain Views

LAFAYETTE, Colorado – Thousands of people who have attended Erie Community Park’s recent softball tournament games or have gathered on the Civic Green for movie night or played on the playground have discovered a great central gathering place to play, relax, and meet friends and neighbors. The 43-acre $6.1-million park is located in the heart of Old Town Erie, in the new civic precinct next to the Erie Community Center and the Erie Community Library on the corner of Erie Parkway and County Line Road. It was designed by Design Concepts CLA, a community and landscape architecture firm located in Lafayette, Colorado, that specializes in parks, playgrounds, and school landscapes.

Working with town parks and recreation staff and the community, Design Concepts in November 2008 began working on a vision for the community park. The vision focused on providing spaces for gatherings, picnics, play, active sports, and cultural and civic events. The vision also underscored the importance of sustainability and celebrating the native prairie, the seasons in Colorado, and the site’s spectacular mountain views.

The park offers multiple spaces for community activities and gatherings, including a picnic grove with shelters and a play area. The oval-shaped Civic Green features a quarter-mile promenade around the perimeter. The Civic Green is being used this summer to show outdoor movies at night, among other events. East of the Civic Green, a hilltop covered in prairie grasses will provide a sledding hill in the winter months.

Design Concepts designed the park with sustainability in mind. On the south side, landscaping with native trees and plants creates shade and screening along County Line Road. A half-mile trail with interpretive signs called the Fox Trot Experiential Prairie Walk loops around the ballfield complex. Here visitors can view and learn about prairie grasses and wildflowers, as well birds and animals that live on the prairie. Images sandblasted in walls and boulders provide a built-in scavenger hunt for kids.
Bluegreen develop the blueGREEN database, one of the first of its kind for landscape architecture professionals in the nation. The database provides an easily accessible and continually searchable resource for environmentally sustainable products and resources, including local products, innovative designs and clean energy technologies.

Christine has a dual master’s degree in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Colorado at Denver and is an American Society of Landscape Architects National Honor Award recipient.

Research Support Facility Site Infrastructure at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Will Test Sustainable Landscape Rating System

DENVER, Colorado – The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) announced the selection of the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Research Support Facility (RSF) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as one of the first landscapes to participate in a new program testing the nation’s first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance.

The Research Support Facility (RSF) will join 150 other pilot projects from 34 states as well as from Canada, Iceland and Spain as part of an international pilot project program to evaluate the new SITES rating system for sustainable landscapes, with and without buildings. Sustainable landscapes can clean water, reduce pollution and restore habitats, while providing significant economic and social benefits to land owners and municipalities.

SITES, a partnership of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden, selected the Research Support Facility based on its many environmentally friendly elements. These sustainable practices include improving storm water quality and reducing runoff through the application of various porous pavement technologies; the creation of habitat and open space and the reduction of water demand through the use of native and adapted plant materials; as well as, the reduction of energy and resource consumption through the use of recycled and regional materials.

Brian Nicholson, LEED AP, RNL, said of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, “I am thrilled to see NREL’s Research Support Facility selected for the Sustainable Sites Initiative, one of the nation’s first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance. This Sustainable Sites Initiative challenges designers to go beyond current standards of sustainability, to think about our sites in the long term and better understand how they perform and how to optimize that performance.”

The Research Support Facility was designed by RNL and constructed by Haselden Construction. The 32-acre site was developed to demonstrate Department of Energy’s commitment to sound environmental management that serves as an example to others and supports NREL’s sustainable energy mission. Like the other pilot projects, the site will test the point system for achieving different levels of site sustainability on a 250-point scale, and the performance benchmarks associated with specific credits within the Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009. The site’s other sustainability features include an integrated campus shuttle network and extensive bike rack stations, widespread use of cooler reflective pavements, onsite energy creation and the innovative use of onsite materials for retaining walls.

On-Line Database of Built Environment Photography Launches Newly Redesigned Website

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – Sitephocus.com was founded in 2005 by two Nashville-based landscape architects. The idea began with a simple question: “Where can I find images of a metal gate?” The founders, Chris Whitis and Brian Phelps, were searching for photographs to include in a project presentation, and they quickly realized how frustrating and inefficient searching for images on Google Images or Flickr can be. They also realized how that kind of image search can cost a design firm time and money.

Today, sitephocus.com includes more than 26,000 high-resolution photographs of more than 1700 locations on four continents. The pair travels regularly and posts between 300 and 500 new images per month.

The new site has enhanced search features, now allowing design professionals to browse by location, search by keyword, or surf through a “master keyword” list that organizes the shots by type. Master list items include links for bike lanes, green streets, balconies, skate parks, and more than 400 other categories. There are even direct links to images of LEED® Certified projects.

Pricing options have also been revamped and improved. Taking a cue from other stock photography websites, sitephocus.com now offers the purchase of credits, along with its annual unlimited subscription. Though anyone can browse and organize their images into the “lightbox” for free, the downloading of high or medium resolution shots for use by firms in presentations, visual surveys, and proposals is where sitephocus.com makes ends meet. With credits starting at less than one dollar each, though, this is an affordable option for design firms.

Whitis and Phelps are launching the new site because of the feedback they have received from their current subscribers and other design professionals. “We know what it’s like to spend hours on line, sifting through the family vacation photos, looking for pictures of waterfronts,” says Whitis. “That’s why we created this site, and that’s why we’ve added new features to help you find what you’re looking for.”