Colorado ASLA in the Public Eye | Dennis Brookie, AIA, Vice President of Government Affairs

Chapter members are actively involved in a number of notable projects, ensuring that Landscape Architects contribute to the vision and design of future development. This is critical for the profession and for the continued stewardship of the land and Colorado’s historic and cultural landscape.

These projects include:
- Denver Union Station Plaza - Phil Flores is a member of the Open Space Initiative Group (OSIG) that has formed to study and encourage a procedure that brings about the most beneficial use of the historic open space in and around the Historic Denver Union Station Plaza.
- Denver Civic Center – Mark Tabor is participating in a select panel considering proposals to relocate the Colorado History Museum.
- 16th Street Mall - The Government Affairs Committee is investigating the proposed changes to the granite pavers on the 16th Street Mall.

Rocky Mountain Exposures will feature stories on this activity throughout the year. Anyone that would like to become more involved in one of these projects, or identify other chapter activity, should contact Dennis Brookie (dbrookie@nuszer-kopatz.com).

Denver Union Station Plaza
CCASLA was asked by the AIA to participate in a charrette that identified alternative uses of the plaza in and around the Denver Union Station Plaza. Additionally, Phil Flores, FASLA is a member of the Open Space Initiative Group (OSIG) that has formed to study and encourage a procedure that brings about the most beneficial use of the historic open space in and around the Historic Denver Union Station Plaza. The OSIG along with other associations, professional designers and concerned citizens are encouraging the City of Denver to develop a Comparative Analysis Study for the Denver Union Station Plaza proposed development.

The Open Space Initiative Group has met with The Honorable John Hickenlooper, Mayor, City and County of Denver. They presented a letter that outlined their efforts and recommendations. "The Open Space Initiative Group (OSIG) consists of design professionals and Denver citizens concerned with the future plaza that will front Denver Union Station between 16th and 18th Streets along Wynkoop Street. Our purpose is to encourage a procedure that brings about the most beneficial use of this historic space, and at the same time, support planning that brings about the financial success of the project."

The OCIG’s letter emphasizes that the early Master Plan has changed significantly and “...the original Vision Plan has largely been abandoned.” Therefore, the OSIG has requested that a comparative analysis of land use and design concepts be completed that will lead to a creation of a great public space and the defining image of the new Denver Union Station Regional Transportation Hub.

ASLA has not taken a formal position in support or opposition of the current design. However, ASLA has supported the OSIG’s initiative to encourage a comparative analysis.

...continued on page 3
What Can ALSA Do For You? | Patrick Mundus

As Chapter leaders we are often asked what can ALSA do for me? While we usually approach this in the reverse manner – what can I do for ALSA? the question is important and at the very core of the organization's mission. It is clear to us that membership benefits are important at both the chapter and national level.

One of the most frequent questions I hear is “what does national do?” This is legitimate question, when the majority of our individual annual dues go to ALSA in Washington. Obviously stated ALSA represents the profession on a national level in many important ways – government affairs, public awareness, professional recognition and education. We all know there is the magazine and national conference but there is much, much more. One recent addition is development of the ALSA advocacy network - an online network available to help the membership stay abreast with the national political climate and track legislation that affects our profession. Sign up soon. Another initiative that we have been waiting for will soon be completed - standard contract documents are on their way, to be made available to all members. I have found that ALSA has many resources available and they are underutilized by the membership. I would like to encourage all of our members to use these. It all starts at asla.org where a directory of staff is available. Call, email, ask questions.

ALSA also supports their Chapters by providing resources and assistance to Chapter initiated programs. CCASLA participated in the Chapter President's Council in San Francisco, a day long sharing session with local chapter leaders across the nation and ALSA staff. Individual Chapters shared ideas and approaches for Public Relations, Resource and Education Development, Membership, and Government Affairs. ALSA asked how national can assist the local chapters and we responded – the responses were many, including helping to develop and share member programs, assisting with public relations initiatives and leading the effort on a more unified continuing education program. We brought back many of these ideas and have shared them with the executive committee and program leaders.

At the local level we continue to develop programs and initiatives that we believe benefit our membership. CCASLA is building and maintaining partnerships with allied professions both in the design and planning fields (APA, AIA, USGBC, and others) and the green industry (GreenCO). We look forward to providing a variety of continuing education opportunities for the membership including a joint design and planning conference with APA – Colorado in September. We will be participating in community events across the state and we are continuing to build a program to reach out into local schools. I would also like to encourage our membership to continue to participate in government advocacy efforts, community affairs and local design and planning issues. This activism is the core of energy in our profession.

As always feel free to contact me with your ideas or comments, pat@mundusbishop.com

Patrick Mundus, ASLA
President
ASLA Active in Denver Civic Center Discussions
Mark Tabor, ASLA Colorado Past President

This fall, ASLA Colorado was asked by City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb and the Mayor’s Office to participate in a select panel considering proposals to relocate the Colorado History Museum. Two of the sites under consideration were City-owned properties. The first was the City’s former permit center on the southwest corner of Bannock and 14th. The second was a site within the Civic Center Park incorporating the McNichols Building (former Carnegie Library) and a new building on the southwest corner of the park including the subterranean area between them. Meetings of the panel began in September and included presentations about the Museum operations, preliminary architectural concepts, and cost estimates. The panel was asked to consider this information and assist the City in evaluating the proposals. As the proposals were still in a very preliminary stage, ASLA did not take a formal position in support or opposition of any of the proposals but ASLA Colorado offered the following suggestions to the City as they considered the proposals:

• ASLA urges conformance to the existing Civic Center Master Plan.

• A much more comprehensive design solution for the History Museum and related site improvements needs to be developed before any proposal is finally approved.
• If buildings are remodeled or built within the park, they needed strong outdoor relationship to activities in the park.
• Some of Civic Center’s biggest problems are related to a lack of adequate park access. Any development or redevelopment within the park needs to address these access issues and contribute to solving them.
• Any partnership with the State to build the museum within the park needs a wider commitment to improving the park and connecting with visitor parking, the 16th Street Mall, other attractions around Civic Center and public transit. The City and State must commit to specific access and circulation improvements to the park before any development is approved.
• A wider public awareness and discourse of these proposals is required.

At the beginning of December, Mayor Hickenlooper and Councilwoman Jeanne Robb released a joint statement outlining the city’s counterproposal to the Colorado History Museum’s proposal to build in Civic Center. They noted that the city is putting forth a counterproposal and discussions and negotiations will continue. The primary elements of the counterproposal include:

1. Restoration of the McNichols Building and creation of adjacent underground space for use by the Colorado History Museum;

2. Construction of a one-story glass exhibit hall in the southwest corner of the park to serve as a public cultural center for year-round exhibits, programming and events;

3. Renovation of the Permit Center to accommodate possible office or storage needs of the Colorado History Museum as well as the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and cultural non-profits. (Lease payments from office rentals would generate revenue dedicated to support park programming)

ASLA Colorado will continue to be actively involved in the discussions of this proposal and others associated with Civic Center. If you are interested in participating in this, or other civic or government issues, contact the chapter Vice President for Government Affairs Dennis Brookie or Mark Tabor. Your participation and input is welcome.
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Despite blustery, 50 mph winds, over 100 Colorado and Wyoming landscape architects traveled to Estes Park on October 19-20, for the 2007 Professional Design Conference. This year’s theme, “Toward 2025: Advancing Our Communities,” embraced a variety of sessions, from sustainable community design, to strategies for creating more complete streets, green roof design, and a healthy and long-lived urban tree canopy.

In response to a survey conducted following the 2006 Design Conference, offerings were expanded to two tracks over 1½ days, for a total of 15 separate sessions. Conference organizers, especially the Programs Committee, led by Brian Braa, ASLA, sought to tap the knowledge and leadership in other settings and communities: four of the sessions featured out-of-town guest speakers or keynotes – and according to an exit survey, were among the sessions rated the most popular. These included:

- Friday morning keynote speaker Auden Schendler, Aspen Skiing Company’s Executive Director of Community and Environmental Responsibility. Though Auden faced the dreaded 8:00 am time slot on the very first day, he delivered a rousing talk on implementing sustainable design measures and measuring their impacts that left the approximately 125 attendees inspired.

- Tom vonSchrader, LEED® AP, PE, and Steve Moddemeyer, PE, both from Seattle, shared that city’s experience in green city streets, and more recently, in creating “complete streets.” Seattle has long been a leader in these initiatives, and Tom, an engineer in private practice, and Steve, an engineer with the City, described how to bring public works agencies on board with these ideas and how to integrate them into the City’s “green design” scorecard. A great thanks to Todd mead, ASLA, a principal at Civitas, for both organizing this session and sharing lessons from his own project work.

- Astrid Haryati, ASLA, Assistant to Chicago’s Mayor Daley for Sustainable Design, served as Saturday’s keynote. Her talk focused on Chicago’s efforts to become “the greenest city in America” and was rated as the most interesting and informative in an exit survey of conference-goers.

- Jim Sipes, ASLA, spoke on Saturday morning about emerging digital technology – including Building Information Modeling, or BIM – and the implications for landscape architects in the coming years. Jim, who is a Senior Associate at EDAW’s Atlanta office, is well-known for his technology column in Landscape Architecture magazine. If you missed this talk – well, let’s just say that big changes in how we work and in the efficiency of our workflow, are on the horizon. Savvy landscape architects would do well to become familiar with BIM.

A highlight of this year’s conference was the Estes Park Riverwalk Tour, led by Bob Eck, ASLA, and John Lanterman, ASLA, of Design Studios West. Participants braved high winds and cold to see this wonderful project, which has become an important community asset. Later Friday evening, it was recognized with the President’s Award of Excellence in Design at the annual Design Awards banquet.
Don Brandes, President of DSW, accepting the award from Robb Williamson for the Estes Park Riverwalk

The banquet was incredibly popular this year – with over 200 participants attending. Thirty-five individual projects took home a total of 42 awards – making for a long evening, but a very pleasant one, as a very broad range of firms was recognized. Thanks go to the Utah chapter for jurying all those awards – and based on the volume, we owe you a couple of years of jury service in return!

Awards Dinner

Despite the great speaker lineup, and the wonderful exhibits put on by almost 40 industry suppliers, there was significant drop-off between the Friday and Saturday sessions, which was very disappointing. The Chapter hosted an online survey in late November to solicit feedback, and received just over 100 responses, including about 50 members who did not attend. Responses suggested that for many, staying over a Saturday was problematic – and that holding the conference during the weekdays might be a better option. A small minority thought that one day might be sufficient.

The 2008 conference will be held September 10-13 in conjunction with the Colorado chapter of the APA at the Beaver Run resort in Breckenridge – so, it’s not too early to mark your calendars! Planning is just gearing up, so if you like to be involved, please contact Mark Tabor, ASLA, who is serving as the 2008 conference chair.

On behalf of my conference co-chair, Vivian Kovacs, who once again organized a wonderful exhibitor and sponsorship program, we’d like to extend very special thanks to the following people who made this event possible:

- Programs Chair Brian Braa, ASLA and his committee, Mark Naylor, ASLA and Britta Herwig, ASLA;
- Robb Williamson, ASLA, assisted by Josh Orth, who put on a fabulous design awards program;
- Gail Barry, ASLA and Dana Stillman, who handled the financial end of things and online web registration, respectively;
- Kristin Danford and Marissa Solomon, who developed the graphic identity and produced all program materials; and
- Greg Williams, our new Association Manager, who joined us when we were most of the way through the planning process and who kept us impeccably well-organized while in the home stretch.

Last but not least, we thank all of the participants, and generous sponsors and exhibitors – and look forward to seeing you again next year!
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Government Affairs has continued this fall with many initiatives that were ongoing. We have developed a strong Government Affairs Committee this year, which includes:

- Dennis Brookie
- Craig Coronato
- Phil Flores
- Austin Allen
- Jon Spencer
- Jeff Shea

We are still encouraging others to join and participate. Please contact Dennis Brookie (dbrookie@nuszer-kopatz.com) to get involved.

Congratulations to all new licensed landscape architects. However, the state received a very slow stream of applications from October through mid-December. At the time of this writing there have only been 81 applications submitted. The Landscape Architecture Act is now in effect. If there are any questions please refer to the State Board of Landscape Architects website at:
http://www.dora.state.co.us/la/index.htm

On December 13, 2007 CCASLA hosted a Licensure Teleconference moderated by Greg Williams and featuring Craig Coronato and Charles Adams. The teleconference was well attended and Colorado landscape architects heard first hand how the licensure process works, application questions and overall general explanation of licensure from the Program Director of the Colorado State Board of Landscape Architects, Charles Adams. A replay of the Licensure Teleconference is available on the home page of ccasl.org.

The Government Affairs Committee along with the Colorado Council of Landscape Architects (CCLA) and our lobbyist are just getting started with this year’s session and proposed legislation. Stay tuned for updates in the next issue of Rocky Mountain exposures.

New Licensure Law for LA’s Requires E&O Insuran
Troy D. Sibelius, CIC, ASLA

As of January 1, 2008, Landscape Architects who get licensed must be aware that the new Colorado licensure law requires that you have professional liability insurance. The statute requires that you or your firm carry a minimum limit of $75,000 of coverage per licensee with a maximum limit of up to $500,000. So, if you have more than seven licensed landscape architects on your staff, your firm must carry at least $500,000 in insurance coverage.

There are no requirements in the statute that require you actually prove that professional liability insurance is in place but you should make sure that it is in case of any inquiries. Most Professional Liability Insurance carriers will offer coverage limits between $100,000 and $1,000,000 with higher limits available if necessary. On average, most design firms will carry $500,000 to $1,000,000 limits depending on specific project contract requirements and the types of projects that they work on. Prices for Professional Liability usually start at a minimum premium of $1000 to $1500 per year depending on limits and deductibles requested. Most Professional Liability carriers will determine the annual premium based on your annual design fees (revenues) and/or the number of landscape architects that you have on staff. Most common deductibles are $2500 to $5000 per claim. Higher deductibles are available but many carriers will request to review financial reports to confirm that you can afford to pay the higher deductible if you do have an E&O claim.

Often, Professional Liability carriers will require that you carry General Liability Insurance before they will bind the Professional Liability coverage. Make sure that you have this coverage in place if necessary. Many project contracts will also require this type of coverage and a $1,000,000 limit is standard. The cost for General Liability Insurance usually starts around $500 per year and there are a variety of insurance carriers that offer this type of insurance. You can usually also get property insurance coverage that covers your office contents included in this type of package policy. The property coverage normally protects your contents against a variety of losses including theft, vandalism, water damage, etc.

Professional Liability Insurance is often referred to as Errors & Omissions Insurance, or E&O Insurance, and it provides just
It covers errors and/or omissions in your design that may result in bodily injury or property damage to another party. As a landscape architect, your professional opinion or your design work is your product and this is what the Professional Liability Insurance covers. Most General Liability Insurance policies will have exclusions for professional services, thus the reason for needing Professional Liability Insurance.

The most common carriers for Professional Liability Insurance are Leatzow & Associates, which offers coverage through AIG and is probably the largest provider of E&O Insurance for landscape architects. Other common carriers include, The Victor O. Schinnerer Company, Design Professional Insurance Company (DPIC), Zurich, James River, Landmark American, and Lloyds of London. In order to access these types of professional liability markets, you will need to contact your local Independent Insurance Broker. If you don't currently have a broker, you can find one in your area by visiting www.trustedchoice.com and you can perform a search by your Zip Code.

When pursuing a local agent, make sure that the agent is knowledgeable about the differences between Professional Liability and General Liability Insurance. One very important difference is that Professional Liability Insurance is provided on a "Claims-Made" insurance form. This means that in order for coverage to apply, the claim must be reported while the policy is in force. This is very important to understand because once you start Professional Liability Insurance, you only have coverage as long as the policy is in effect. If you ever let your policy lapse and you try to report a claim after the lapse date, you will not have coverage for that claim. Therefore, you must carry the insurance for as long as your firm is in practice and often beyond that depending upon the various circumstances.

It is also very important that your Broker understands what you do. As many landscape architects know, it is common for people to assume that you are a landscape contractor, not a designer when they hear the word "landscape". You must make sure that your agent also understands this difference and understands your profession. This is a very important distinction when it comes to setting up the proper insurance coverages, as the insurance coverages for landscape contractors are very different and often times more expensive.

Troy D. Sibelius is a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and has been a member of ASLA since 1992. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture from Colorado State University in 1991 and practiced landscape architecture for 5 years before switching to the insurance industry. He is now the President of Keller-Lowry Insurance, which has been serving Colorado since 1972. As a licensed Insurance Broker, Troy provides insurance packages for landscape architecture firms around the country and has been a speaker at numerous National and State ASLA Conventions where he has spoken about insurance coverages and risk management techniques for landscape architects. Troy served on the CCASLA Executive Committee for over 10 years and was the President and Trustee of the Colorado Chapter during his involvement. If you have further questions about licensure and your E&O Insurance, please feel free to contact Troy at (303) 756-9909 or via e-mail at troy@kellerlowry.com.

Treasurer's Report 12/5/07
Gail Barry, ASLA CCASLA Treasurer

2007 was an eventful year for CCASLA. The Chapter was active in providing member services, educational events, government advocacy and partnering with allied professions on community service projects. In 2008 CCASLA will continue to increase member services, events, educational opportunities and government advocacy. The communications team is working hard to continue to bring a vital newsletter to members and redesign ccaslao.org.*Please be aware that the report below reflects all the income for the annual conference and design awards events but only partial expenses. The final year closeout will occur after receipt of bank statements in early January 2008.

Income from 1/1 to 12/5/07

... continued on page 10
During this upcoming year, some of the activities that the CCASLA ExCom Fellows Committee is undertaking include:

Identifying future CCASLA Council of Fellows nominees. In the past, the CCASLA Fellows Investiture Dinner, which recognized selected CCASLA Fellows nominees, was an opportunity for Fellows to invite young professionals to meet the diverse CCASLA Fellows and increase their awareness of the Chapter and Fellows activities. This activity continues to be well received and will be scheduled later this year. In addition, the Committee will be pursuing other venues to increase opportunities for both future nominees and Fellows. Suggestions are welcomed.

CCASLA Council of Fellows Nomination Jury Membership. Recently, Don Godi, FASLA, served on the jury and spoke favorably of the individual experience and the benefits to CCASLA. This five-member jury serves a three-year term and provides a balanced representation of different practice types and jury diversity. CCASLA Fellows that may be interested are encouraged to speak with Don or Patrick Shea, FASLA for additional information. Future jury participation is a good two-way opportunity for the individual and the Chapter.

Volunteers Wanted
Lesanne Weller, CCASLA Student Education Coordinator, is recruiting volunteers to participate in Career Days at local middle and high schools. Career Days typically take place in April, and only require half a day of your time. Presenters usually give between 2-5 presentations to interested students during one of these events. Please contact Lesanne Weller at lweller@architerragroup.com for more information. This is a great way to participate during Landscape Architecture month.

The CCASLA accounts may be viewed during normal business hours, by appointment, by calling 303 355-0673.
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Green Standards Coming for Site Development
The Sustainable Sites Initiative seeks to expand green practices beyond buildings. | Deb Guenther, Mithun

With sustainable building and greenhouse gas management practices being adopted across the nation, landscape architecture is now advancing the challenge. A new initiative will expand green standards to guide and motivate the sustainable design, construction and maintenance of landscapes. The Sustainable Sites Initiative links research with practice to encourage site development that not only reduces environmental footprints, but also contributes to the long-term health of our communities and the planet.

According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, buildings produce almost half of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. But our nation’s land practices also have significant environmental and economic impact.

From pollution to depletion of natural resources to use of non-renewable and environmentally harmful materials, our landscapes pose the same challenges as buildings. For example, turf grasses, including residential and commercial lawns and golf courses, are the single largest irrigated crop in the United States. This “crop” consumes vast amounts of water and huge amounts of nitrogen-based chemical fertilizer. According to NASA’s Ames Research Center, approximately 2.2 billion gallons of fossil fuels are used on lawns nationwide, making turf a major contributor to global warming. Additionally, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment targets nitrogen-based chemical fertilizers as a primary global threat to water quality issues.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative grew out of a discussion in 2002 among a group of concerned landscape architects who met at the first Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in Austin, Texas. The American Society of Landscape Architects and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center agreed to spearhead efforts with a coalition of 11 stakeholder organizations to establish an industry-wide standard for sustainable land development and management practices. This year, the U.S. Green Building Council committed to use the Sustainable Sites metrics in the next iteration of its LEED rating system.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative is built upon the concept of ecosystem services, referring to the natural goods and services that landscapes provide — such as water and air purification, climate regulation, food, raw material production, waste decomposition, erosion control and biological habitat. Because the natural world provides so many ecosystem services, humans often underestimate or ignore their value when making land-use decisions. The Sustainable Sites Initiative will establish a credible and authoritative basis for evaluating the performance of sites and their ecosystem services for both building and site-only projects.

Portland State University’s Stephen Epler Hall, designed by Mithun, has an urban bioswale as part of a system to reduce potable water use. Photo by Eckert & Eckert Photography

The Sustainable Sites Initiative product development committee includes representatives from a broad spectrum of interests, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Recreation and Park Association, the U.S. Green Building Council and the Nature Conservancy, among others.

The first Sustainable Sites Initiative product was made available Nov. 1: A draft best management practices to address the land development and management industry’s approach to soil, hydrology, vegetation and materials. More than 300 organizations are reviewing the document.

The research devoted to this report has illuminated a number of strategies that can be adopted now:

Conscious hydrology
Conventional practices often treat water as a waste product, with drainage systems quickly diverting large volumes of water to stormwater systems and eventually to streams and lakes. This contributes to increased downstream flooding, erosion, pollution and a higher water temperature that harms fish, wildlife and natural habitat.
The Sustainable Sites Initiative recommends valuing all water on a site to establish a balance that mimics the functions of the natural hydrological cycle. Precipitation, ground water and stream system recharge, potable water, rainwater, gray water and wastewater can and should be used to maximize economic, environmental and human benefits.

Keeping natural hydrological features intact has measurable value. For example, when the quality of New York City’s drinking water from the Catskill Mountains was threatened, the city compared the costs of purchasing land and restoring the Catskill’s watershed to the costs of installing an artificial filtration plant. The city determined that it would cost $6 billion to replace the natural ecosystem, and decided to purchase and protect the watershed at a much lower investment of taxpayers’ money.

**Healthy soils**

Healthy soil is a combination of rich organic matter and microbes that promote strong disease- and pest-resistant plants. Maintaining healthy soil seems like common sense, however, it is often compacted during construction or removed at the start of a project only to be replaced with imported soil.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative best management practices suggest soil protection as a routine part of construction specifications, just as tree protection has become a standard over the last 20 years. Amendments, such as compost and organic fertilizer that increase biomass and improve water-holding and nutrient absorption, maximize soils’ ecological value. Also, understanding the functional characteristics of different types of soils can inform the land-use plan, placement of buildings and overall landscape design.

Soils are more effective than vegetation at holding greenhouse gases. The biomass of the root zone sequesters significantly more carbon than a tree canopy. Soil sequestration efficiently captures many of the six greenhouse gas culprits in global warming, such as methane, sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide.

Testing a project’s embodied carbon, including soil sequestration during the construction process, can be done using a carbon calculator developed by Mithun, the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center and the University of Washington.

**Optimizing vegetation**

Another Sustainable Sites Initiative best practice is to select and maintain vegetation that optimizes ecological function.

Trees and plants sequester or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and help to reduce the “urban heat island” effect by providing a natural cooling source for buildings. Each year in the United States, urban trees store 771 million tons of carbon (equivalent to the amount emitted by almost 500 million cars) and uptake an additional 25 million tons. Also, native and drought-tolerant plants conserve water, while alternatives to traditional lawns, such as planted landscapes (including green roofs and rain gardens) are superior at recharging groundwater.

**Managing materials**

The Sustainable Sites Initiative targets a “zero waste site.”

Yard and landscape waste contributes about 32 million tons to the municipal waste stream, accounting for 13 percent of total waste in the United States. The waste generated by landscape development and maintenance can be significantly reduced or eliminated through on-site composting and the reuse of existing soil, rock and other organic features.

Like the natural world, human preferences follow cycles. Our trend toward sustainable landscapes harkens back to the Olmsted’s legacy. Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted brothers, known for their distinctive artistry of park systems across the United States, also applied a whole-systems method. They integrated natural systems with infrastructure, driven by the positive health benefits of outdoor spaces.

Subsequently, conventional practice compartmentalized services, and focused on the beautification of green spaces. Now the pendulum is swinging back with new knowledge and urgency to respect the interrelationship of natural and built systems, and their impact on public health.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative’s next round of study will look at the economic impact of healthy ecological systems on human well being in terms of bio-regional differences.
Landscapes have the unique ability to enhance or regenerate natural resources. From our management of soils to how we value ecological systems services to materials specifications, we can make choices that support positive economic, social and environmental outcomes. Based on the land development and management industry’s ever-increasing commitment to sustainable practices, the Sustainable Sites Initiative will become an essential professional tool — helping us make intelligent decisions for a healthy future.

Deb Guenther is a principal at Mithun, an integrated sustainable design practice based in Seattle, and is the ASLA representative on the Sustainable Sites Initiative product development committee.

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2007 was a year of planning for the Jane Silverstein Ries Foundation. Out-going President, Lynn Moore and out-going Vice President, John Birkey set the year’s agenda on the future of the Foundation. The Foundation Board held two visioning sessions over the course of the year. These sessions were led by Cynthia Kemper, Principal of Marketekute, who facilitates business development strategies for the design workforce and non-profit organizations. The board worked towards refining its Vision, Mission, and Values, while also brainstorming the following aspects: The Board, Programs, Structure, and Finances.

The Foundation Board continued the legacy of presenting the JSR Student Scholarships in May at the JSR Memorial Lecture at the Denver Athletic Club. Charles Birnbaum was the keynote speaker and gave a motivational presentation for the event. Jenn Thomas from University of Colorado Denver and Melissa French from Colorado State University were the 2008 JSR Student Scholarship Recipients.

The 2007 Jane Silverstein Ries Award was presented to Susan Barnes-Gelt at the CCASLA Annual Award Banquet in Estes Park. Unfortunately Ms Barnes-Gelt was unable to attend the conference, however, a private presentation was held at her home in December. Ms. Barnes-Gelt was an exemplary recipient for this year’s award. Her past involvement with the Pena Administration set the stage for many of Denver’s noteworthy accomplishments. She served as a member of the Denver City Council for eight years as an at-large representative focusing on maintaining and improving Denver’s historic parks and parkways, preserving historic buildings, and insuring that the City implemented smart planning policies. Since leaving government Ms. Barnes-Gelt has continued her commitment to design and planning by writing columns and conducting debates, always having an opinion and defending that opinion, just as the Awards namesake.

The Foundation Board would like to welcome its newest board members for 2008; Cynthia Kemper and Brian Braa. Cynthia will be the first non-landscape architect to join the board. After working with Cynthia in the visioning workshops, the Foundation Board felt she would be the right fit to help lead our foundation into the future. Brian, a landscape architect with over six years experience in Denver, has been involved in many JSR sponsored events, He will be put to great use as a Director and jumping right in, serving as Treasurer.

2008 JSR Foundation Officers:
President: Kimberly Douglas
Vice President: Dick Marshall
Secretary: Lynn Moore
Treasurer: Brian Braa

2008 JSR Foundation Board of Directors:
Ron Bevans
John Birkey
Tom Hawkey
Cynthia Kemper
Catharine Mitchell
Pat Mundus
Mark Tabor
Bob Smith
The Board will continue to grow and evolve over the course of 2008. Look for updates in the Exposures Newsletter and updates posted on www.ccasla.org.

If you are interested in making a generous donation to the Jane Silverstein Ries Foundation or would like to be more involved as a volunteer please contact Kim Douglas (kdooglas@studioinsite.com). The Foundation Board is ready to be of assistance.

**2008 Doors Open Denver**

**Save the Date: Saturday April 12th and Sunday April 13th**

In its 5th year since its inception, Doors Open Denver 2008 celebrates "150 years of Denver". This two-day event allows the public to go behind the scenes of the city's significant architectural gems and public spaces. The event features both self guided and expert-led tours of Denver landmarks. This year there has been a fantastic effort by the DOD organization to involve buildings and sites from each decade since Denver's beginning, 150 years ago. CCASLA's involvement in this event is growing this year, with a greater inclusion of historic parks, plazas, and open space networks around Denver. There are fantastic guided tours, self guided tours, and the plans for a bicycle guided tour of Denver's open space networks. For more information about the event contact Doors Open Denver Project Manager Carol Hiller at 303-282-5073 or caroleyyii@aol.com CCASLA will be asking for members to volunteer at the event. If you are interested in participating in the event as a volunteer or tour-guide contact Scott Anderson, CCASLA's representative, at 303-885-5265 or Scott.Anderson@RNLDESIGN.com

We hope to see everybody there!

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January 21 - January 25, 2008

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**Sitephocus.com Image Library for Designers and Developers Continues Growth**

Sitephocus.com, the on-line image library dedicated to documenting urban form and public spaces, continues its leadership in providing images and related management tools for professionals involved in shaping the built environment (i.e. architects, landscape architects, urban designers, developers). With this month's update complete, the site now comprises over 15,000 images of sites from around the world. The update includes the first part of a two part series focusing on Seattle, Washington and the surrounding area.

"Reaching this milestone has underscored our commitment to providing new and exciting images every month," said Co-founder Chris Whitis.

Previous updates have included Barcelona, Vancouver, Minneapolis, and other major cities. By continuing its commitment to providing between 300-500 images a month, sitephocus.com is projected to exceed 20,000 images by the same time next year.

Sitephocus.com is a subscription based service started by Brian Phelps and Chris Whitis, two landscape architects who became frustrated with lack of easy to find, relevant imagery on-line for designers. "We love design, we love to travel and we love photography. Putting them all together has been very exciting for us," said Phelps.

Together they have created an easily searchable, cost-effective resource that assists design professionals in quickly finding photography for presentations, reports, and communications with their clients. The image library includes a wide array of subject matter relevant to their subscribers. Examples include streetscapes, public spaces, architecture, parks, site furniture, site elements, and transportation.

For more information visit sitephocus.com at [www.sitephocus.com](http://www.sitephocus.com).
At CoCal, Flower Power never went away.

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What could be more groovy than that, man?
Denver Botanic Gardens 2008 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series

Denver Botanic Gardens

The Collector in the Garden
Natural Garden Design Using Uncommon Desert and Mediterranean Plants
With Sean Hogan, co-founder of Cistus Design in Portland, Ore; formerly a horticulturist at the University of California, Berkeley Botanic Gardens, and Chief North American Consultant for the must-have book of the past few years, “Flora: A Gardener’s Encyclopedia.” Weds., Jan 23, 7 p.m.

The Writer in the Garden
The Garden as Metaphor and Paradox
with Jamaica Kincaid, one of the most influential and important authors writing today. Her works include best-selling novels “Annie John” and “At the Bottom of the River.” A visiting professor at Harvard University and an avid gardener, her gardening books include “My Favorite Plants: Writers and Gardeners on the Plants They Love,” “My Garden (Book)” and “Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalayas.” Tues., Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Paul Meyer
A Plantsman in Asia
China is the home of the richest flora in the temperate world and its people have had a rich tradition of cultivating the land and making fine gardens for millennia. Since the re-opening of China in the late 1970’s, Paul Meyer has visited China nine times. In this illustrated lecture, Paul will discuss the garden design traditions of China and how these concepts might be adapted to our gardens. Also, he will discuss the Chinese flora and its utilization in both Chinese and American gardens. Sat., Jan. 12, 2 p.m.

7NEWS Chief Meteorologist Mike Nelson
Whether or Not the Rain Comes: Weather for Gardeners
Come hear 7NEWS Chief Meteorologist Mike Nelson give insight into Colorado’s dynamic, frustrating and wonderful weather. As all gardeners soon come to know, it is the weather that is the most determining factor in garden success or failure and the factor over which we have the least control. This is your chance to learn more about the weather patterns and phenomena that create joy and despair from this popular local weather guru. Tues., Jan. 15, 7-8 p.m.

Horticulture Magazine Symposium with Nan Sinton-Down to Earth Gardening
Garden smarter, problem solve and go green with the best new plants, presented at this spectacular all-day garden symposium, including a rare presentation by David Howard, head gardener at Highgrove to HRH The Prince of Wales, speaking on “The Elements of Organic Gardening.” Also hear Ireland’s Helen Dillon give the keynote on “Down-to-Earth Gardening”, Debra Lee Baldwin on “Savvy About Succulents,” and Marcia Tatroe on “Gardening with Altitude.” Details and to register, visit www.hortprograms.com or request a brochure by calling toll-free 877-GDN-PROG (877-436-7764).

Planting Design
In this class, students will gain an understanding of the many considerations-functional, horticultural, ecological and aesthetic—that go into preparing a well-designed planting plans. Participants will learn practical techniques for drawing up successful planting plans, inspired by examples of local gardens and the work of great designers, including Gertrude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf. Thurs., Feb. 28 and Mar. 6, 6-8:30 p.m.
Instructor: Travis Beck, is a Denver landscape designer with Eco-Savvy Design and Landscapes, LLC, his own design/build firm.

Lifestyle Al Fresco
Outdoor Living, with Curtis Manning
Back yards are no longer a sheet of grass and a tree; many have become outdoor living rooms. Curtis will offer ideas and examples of the latest, most innovative and cutting-edge amenities of all types for your four-season life-style, including architectural water features, fireplaces, built-in grills and kitchens, pergolas, and even outdoor showers. Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For details go to www.botanicgardens.org
Aurora Parks & Open Space Department

Planning Design & Construction Division restructures to provide improved customer service and new opportunities.

Aurora, CO – In the spirit of offering the best parks and open spaces in which citizens can play, recreate and recharge, Aurora’s Planning Design and Construction Division (PD&C) in the Parks and Open Space Department decided to streamline planning and project management by restructuring the division to suit individual areas of expertise. Tracy Young, Division Manager, saw the unique opportunity to showcase the experience and creativity of her team. The design section, which plans, designs and manages capital projects, is now divided into teams: one responsible for developed park sites and the other for open space and special projects. PD&C staff members have been promoted to lead these teams.

For more than sixteen years, John has offered insight and expertise as a Landscape Architect with the City of Aurora. He generates park plans and concepts that are both innovative and environmentally sound. John leads the Developed Parks team as a PLA and says the restructure allows his staff members to follow a majority of their projects from start to finish. Renovation of Utah Park in Aurora is his most high-profile current project. Neighbors and park users are chomping at the bit for an opportunity to start using this community park, set to re-open in summer 2008. John says his goal as PLA is to “provide unique and memorable park designs and spaces for all our citizens to enjoy now and in the future.”

Mark Bernstein
Principal Landscape Architect, Open Spaces & Special Projects

Mark joined the City of Aurora staff as a Landscape Architect in 2006 and has since offered his expertise on a variety of projects. Mark was promoted to PLA in March 2007. He has been working in landscape architecture for more than eight years. General’s Park is likely his most notable project to date in Aurora. The park received the Columbine Award for Park Design from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association for innovatively connecting the past and present. Mark’s staff is involved in all aspects of trail planning, interpretive facilities, natural resource management and restoration. Mark believes the recent shift in responsibility will enhance the entire division. “Ultimately it’s all about customer service; the restructure will maximize our resources and ability to serve the citizens of Aurora.”

Chris Ricciardiello
Principal Landscape Architect, Plans Review

Chris Ricciardiello was promoted in order to provide oversight and direction related to new development. With more than twenty years of experience as a landscape architect, Chris leads the Plans Review team with efficiency. His team is responsible for reviewing all development as it pertains to parks and open space policy. They have compiled a list of standards and policies which
ensure that current and future citizens of Aurora are provided with a diverse and plentiful park system. “We have employed our new communication and review strategies with these projects and the developers have been very receptive to the early involvement of the Parks and Open Space Department review staff,” Chris commented.

New Staff

New hires on the PD&C staff benefit the division with their skills and unique knowledge. Allan Gill, Sr.LA and Katie Thompson, LA are the most recent additions. Brad Chronowski, Sr.LA and Trent Wooley, LA also joined the team last year. These new additions round out the talents of veteran staff including Peggy Golden, Sr.LA, Doug Hintzman, Sr.LA, Curtis Bish, Principal Planner, and Hollie Kikel, GIS Specialist.

Design Concepts Wins Two Design Awards in 2007

Lafayette-based Design Concepts, a 19-person community and landscape architecture firm that specializes in recreation master planning and design for parks, schools, and new communities, has won two design awards for projects in 2007. The awards include:

Silver Hard Hat Award for Outstanding Landscape Project from Colorado Construction for Utah Park. Design Concepts won the award as the landscape architect for a renovation and redesign of the 47-acre Utah Park in Aurora, Colorado. Utah Park has long been a popular community park and flood-control facility for the City of Aurora. The park, however, was formed like a big bowl with a muddy lake in the bottom, and the potential beauty of the site as a confluence of Westerly Creek and Jewell Tributary was hidden underground in pipes. Design Concepts created a master plan that “daylights” or brings the creeks to the surface to flow naturally through creekbed areas in the park. Through regrading, the redesign also included areas for passive and active recreation, including trails, shelters, a community amphitheater, multipurpose fields, baseball and softball fields, tennis and basketball courts, and a destination playground.

Honor Award in Planning and Urban Design from Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for Durango Community Park Master Plan. Design Concepts developed the master plan for this 75-acre site to accommodate both passive and active recreation in the park and to serve as a benchmark for future park development in the City of Durango. The park site is located approximately five miles from downtown Durango, and is adjacent to a new regional hospital, future elementary and middle schools, and the new Three Springs Neighborhood. This location established the new park as an important bridge between the older Durango community and the new development taking place around the Three Springs Neighborhood. The park master plan preserves the natural drainages that flow through the site and includes a pond, multi-use fields, a lighted synthetic-turf championship field, a lighted softball-field complex, tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, a dog park, and a destination playground.

studioINSITE Receives Three CCASLA Awards

studioINSITE was honored by the Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects with three awards for Professional Design Excellence. Clayton Lane at Cherry Creek North received an Honor Award on account of its success in transforming the once desolate infill site into a vibrant urban, mixed-use development complete with upscale retail shops, a five-star hotel, build-to-suit office space and elegant residential lofts. The work is so highly acclaimed that it has become the catalyst for the redevelopment of future Cherry Creek Business Improvement District streetscapes and outdoor public places.

Both the California Streetscape Improvements at Hyatt Regency Denver and the California Street Pedestrian Mall Redevelopment at Creighton University received Merit Awards for their innovative designs. The California Streetscape Improvements set a new standard for design quality, functionalism and environmental care. Having established an exciting new direction for future Downtown streetscapes, studioINSITE was recently hired to conceive and implement the redesign of the block’s west side between 15th and 16th streets. The California Street Pedestrian Mall at Creighton University, previously a sloping walkway limited to hazardous linear pedestrian movement along iron streetcar rails and deteriorating clay pavers, now encourages sitting and gathering, supports outdoor festivals and serves as the social heart of the campus.
studioINSITE, LCC is a national leader committed to the design of Meaningful and Memorable places. Its services range from master planning to design implementation in the areas of urban spaces, multifamily housing, mixed-use and transit-oriented developments, higher education and health care campuses, and civic and cultural facilities.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.21.08-1.25.08</td>
<td>ProGreen Expo</td>
<td>Colorado Convention Center, Denver</td>
<td><a href="http://www.progreenexpo.com">www.progreenexpo.com</a></td>
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<td>1.24.08</td>
<td>CRES Monthly Meeting “The Governor’s Energy Office and Colorado’s New Energy Economy”</td>
<td>Jefferson Unitarian Church 14350 W. 32nd Avenue</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm <a href="http://www.cres-energy.org/events/#nextntg">www.cres-energy.org/events/#nextntg</a></td>
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<td>2.6.08-2.8.08</td>
<td>Saving Places 2008</td>
<td>Sherman Street Event Complex, Denver</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coloradopreservation.org/uc/">www.coloradopreservation.org/uc/</a></td>
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<td>3.5.08-3.18.08</td>
<td>Tour: A Brazilian Odyssey; the Gardens and Landscapes of Roberto Burle Marx</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jeffsainsburytours.com/brazil2008.html">www.jeffsainsburytours.com/brazil2008.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.30-08-5.2.08</td>
<td>Sixth Annual International Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards &amp; Trade Show</td>
<td>Baltimore Convention Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greenroofs.org/baltimore/">www.greenroofs.org/baltimore/</a></td>
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<td>5.25.08-6.5.08</td>
<td>Tour: Arts and Crafts Gardens of Southern England and South Wales</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jeffsainsburytours.com/Arts+Crafts2008.html">www.jeffsainsburytours.com/Arts+Crafts2008.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.10-08-9.13.08</td>
<td>2008 CCASLA/Colorado APA Joint Annual Conference</td>
<td>Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccasla.org">www.ccasla.org</a> or <a href="mailto:mark_tabor@nps.gov">mark_tabor@nps.gov</a></td>
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Visit the CCASLA Website for regular calendar updates at www.ccasla.org

The deadline for articles and events for the Mar-Apr Rocky Mountain Exposures is 2/1/2008
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