(Re-) Building Place and Community in New Orleans
— A Critical Reflection

Joern Langhorst and Lori Cockerham

The University of Colorado Denver (UCD) Department of Landscape Architecture faculty and master's students have been involved in the study of New Orleans since hurricane Katrina. Most recently students led by professors Lori Cockerham and Joern Langhorst completed a design-build project in the Lower Ninth Ward. At first glance, this project seems simple and straightforward, but it is really a strategic piece in the larger plan for the redevelopment and revitalization of the community. Beyond, it showed the limitations of the standard practices our discipline employs to run projects on all scales when working with disenfranchised, disadvantaged and traumatized communities. The students and faculty gained critical insights that could form a basis to rethink how landscape architects operate in highly diverse and contested situations and communities.

"Specifically," the complaint read, "we refer to poor housing and overcrowded conditions of our schools; the disease-breeding septic tanks, cess pools, outdoor toilets, stagnant water in the

continued on page 3..."
It is approaching mid-year and the Executive Committee and the membership are continuing work on several important initiatives that we believe will make us a stronger Chapter, better serve the membership and help to elevate our profile in the community. Here is a quick run down of the major initiatives that CCASLA is undertaking to strengthen the organization.

Communications
A committee of volunteers, led by Chris Condit — VP of Communications, has been working to redefine and integrate our trio of member communication tools – the web site (ccasla.org); the newsletter (Rocky Mountain Exposures) and the bi-monthly E-Bulletins from our association manager Greg Williams. The group is working towards a web site update, redesign and re-launch in 2009.

Annual Conference
The annual conference committee, led by Mark Tabor – Past President, is working with APA – Colorado to develop this year’s conference to be held on September 13, 14 and 15 in Breckenridge, Colorado. We are looking forward to this joint conference with our allied professional organization, American Planning Association. The conference is well integrated with plenty of opportunity for crossover in both the sessions and social functions.

Public Relations
CCASLA has retained Philosophy Communications to assist with implementing our public relations and marketing plan completed in 2007. Courtney McRidick - VP of Public Relations is leading this effort. Philosophy will help us to develop a system to quickly and effectively reach both allied professions and the general public.

Government Affairs
With licensure in place we now have approximately 473 landscape architects licensed in the state (April 2009) and many more to come this year. Our VP of Government Affairs – Dennis Brookie and Trustee – Ron Bevans, are working with the Executive Committee to define CCASLA’s role in future licensure issues. I have noticed, and maybe you have too, that some governmental agencies are now requiring and/or accepting stamped drawings from licensed landscape architects.

Professional Education
Our VP of Professional Education, Dennis Nagao has developed an up to date and comprehensive professional education calendar on the web site, ccasla.org. This page functions as a clearinghouse for educational opportunities and provides links to events sponsored by other organizations.

Member Survey
Our member survey will have been completed by the time of this reading. This is a simple tool that we will be using on an annual or semi-annual basis to track the pulse of the membership. To all of you that participated – thank you! continued on page 3...
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gutters; the flooded and muddy streets; the uncollected trash and garbage and the foul odors in the air." Upon researching the conditions alleged in the petition, an incredulous Councilman Fred J. Cassibry responded, "It is almost unbelievable that some of the things listed in your complaint do exist." Among other factors, the systematic indifference of city officials towards the quality of human life turned the Lower Ninth Ward residents into key players in the struggle for school segregation and civil rights.

Sadly, this attitude prevalent among City, State and Federal officials has not changed: While residents in Lakeview and parts of New Orleans East (more affluent, predominantly white neighborhoods), which partially lie lower than the Lower Ninth Ward and sustained more flooding, quickly had power and services restored and returning residents were supplied with FEMA trailers, while Lower Ninth Ward residents could "visit" their houses under the "Look and Leave" policy, enforced by the National Guard.

The destruction in the North West quadrant, close to the Levee breach, is clearly visible. The darker color in the street grid in the northern part of the Lower Ninth Ward is remnant floodwater.

Aerial of the Lower Ninth Ward, taken in September 2005, weeks after Katrina.

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Good Luck Cody

Our long time Southern Director, Cody Funk has moved on to a new venture in his home state of Iowa. Cody will be missed but we would like to welcome Suzanne Casagrande of HDR, Inc. to that position. We look forward to working with Suzanne this year. Thanks Cody, and welcome Suzanne!

Regards,
Patrick Mundas, ASLA
The Lower Ninth Ward is almost an island – bounded by the Mississippi River to the South and the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands to the North, the Industrial and Inner Harbor Canal system to the West, and by Jackson Barracks, a National Guard garrison that form a de-facto wall from River to Bayou and isolate the Lower Ninth Ward from St. Bernard Parish to the East.

The Bayou Bienvenue wetlands were once a critical part of the Lower Ninth Ward and its community. Connections between the neighborhood and wetlands were severed when the Florida Avenue Levee was constructed after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, and salt-water intrusion through the Mississippi-River-To-Gulf-Outlet Canal (commonly referred to as “MRGO”) slowly killed the native cypress forest.

In January 2006 the Landscape Architecture Department, a graduate design studio involving twenty-eight students and four faculty members (Austin Allen, Jake Frankhouse, Joern Langhorst and Tony Mazzeo), focusing on the question of “How can we live here?” The semester from January through May included numerous trips to the Lower Ninth Ward to assess the physical conditions and the long- and short-term needs of the community. In March 2006 the class as a whole held a two-day workshop with returning residents of the Lower Ninth Ward, examining the potential for recovery on three transects from the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands to the Mississippi River, along Tennessee, Caffin and Tupelo Streets. The strong traditional ties between the community and the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands became very evident and their importance was reinforced during a second community workshop in May.

Students and faculty went through a very steep learning curve, shedding a great number of preconceived notions about the viability of a neighborhood below sea level. The limitations of an analysis exclusively looking at physical, geographical and hydrological qualities became very apparent, as did the need to confront our roles as landscape architects in situations, are fraught with latent and acute racism, political backroom maneuvering, and the fact that we as a discipline might become inadvertent accomplices in continuing patterns of discrimination – something that the Urban Land Institute and Ian McHarg’s old firm, Wallace Roberts Todd, experienced first hand when they got heckled and lost all credibility with residents after suggesting to redevelop areas below river and sea level as “parks and green space”. Since then it has been impossible to use these terms so critical to our discipline in New Orleans without triggering an immediate and massive negative response.

It became very apparent to every person involved in this studio how critical it is to develop a relationship of trust with the community, just to even get them to talk about their experiences, concerns and ideas. Without this, the understanding of the Lower Ninth Ward, its problems and opportunities would have been incomplete and rendered any attempt at developing scenarios for its future flawed and negligent. Building this trust took a lot of time and willingness on the side of the faculty and students to suspend their prejudices, listen and slowly enter a critical dialogue with upset, traumatized and angry residents.
Workshops with UCD landscape architecture students and Lower Ninth Ward residents and stakeholders, Spring 2006

A key part to the success of this process was to walk a fine line between taking the residents' concerns and ideas seriously, and being critical and forthcoming about the possibilities, limitations and challenges. In hindsight, it was embarking on this somewhat counterintuitive and immensely time- and energy-consuming dialog that put the Department of Landscape Architecture in a unique position in the Lower Ninth Ward and formed the foundation for a successful continuing involvement.

The studio ended with a kit of parts, addressing short-, midterm and long-time needs of the Lower Ninth Ward. It ranged from sloping alternative evacuation strategies to wetland restorations, from alternative flood-resistant and flood-responsive housing schemes to urban redevelopment schemes identifying and developing key sites, and from communication strategies for a community in diaspora to memorializing Katrina and its victims.

Not only has the department developed a relationship with the neighborhood but it also began collaborating and building relationships with other organizations, schools and universities. Louisiana State University's (LSU) School of Landscape Architecture had a history of working in New Orleans prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita and was engaged in a number of award-winning studios addressing the recovery and redesign of the Lower Ninth Ward. Starting in November 2005 the two programs began a dialogue and planned how to collaborate in the Lower Ninth Ward recovery process. By June 2006, both programs concluded that the restoration of the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands was critically tied to a successful restoration of the Lower Ninth Ward. During the Summer 2006, the UCD Department of Landscape Architecture strengthened its ties to the communities of the Lower Ninth Ward and began to build relationships with a host of other organizations, schools and departments of universities who were doing various projects in that neighborhood. This eventually led to the creation of a coalition of educational, community and non-profit organizations dedicated to the restoration of the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands. All parties agreed that the coordination of individual projects would create a synergy of activities that could speed-up the recovery process.

Whilst strategizing about how to approach the Bayou Bienvenue connections, other key sites for the recovery of the Lower Ninth Ward were explored in studios during the Fall semester, developing proposals for the former Holy Cross School site (17 acres of riverfront property) and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, occupying a critical location at the intersection of Caffin Street and Claiborne Avenue, across from what formed a sort of civic center for the Lower Ninth Ward. Both projects relied heavily on the participation of residents, stakeholders, public officials and the neighborhood organizations, and were comprehensive redevelopment plans.

The Unified New Orleans Planning Process for Planning District 8 (Lower Nine) listed the Restoration of the Bayou Bienvenue and protecting wetlands as the second highest priority stated by residents participating in the process. Residents of the Lower Ninth Ward across the board recognized the importance of maintaining and taking best advantage of their natural resources and defenses against future flooding.
A host of Lower Ninth Ward organizations are systematically considering the most ecologically sound methods for planning, designing and recovering the portion of the neighborhood between Claiborne and Florida Avenues. The gain of 408 acres of wetlands as part of the Lower Ninth Ward north of Florida Avenue would restore the old relationships dating back to pre-Hurricane Betsy, and would allow residents to think actively and creatively about a comprehensive plan of social, political, economical and spiritual restoration with the full backing of the institutions dedicated to securing the safety of the community.

With the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board currently involved in exploring a massive Cypress forest restoration effort in the Bayou Bienvenue, Lower Ninth Ward residents continue to be active participants in rebuilding their homes, their streets, their neighborhood, their city (and their own protections.)

The University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Water Management, has recently been awarded a McKnight Foundation grant over $100,000 to work with the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, one of the first neighborhood organizations to re-emerge after Katrina, on the Bayou Bienvenue wetland restoration. This grant provides funding for immediate research necessary to develop a restoration strategy at and around the Bayou Bienvenue, while securing a financial basis to advise and support residents of the Lower Ninth Ward on opportunities for a long-term, sustainable community development, based in a critical understanding of the ecological and hydrological conditions around them. The understanding of the wetlands and its role in the life and safety of the neighborhood will make Lower Ninth Ward residents some of the most informed citizenry in the U.S. in regards to the potential of wetland ecosystems to protect community.

The platform built this spring by the UCD students is a critical piece in pursuing these opportunities for the Lower Ninth Ward, the City of New Orleans and the Region. The design process to determine how to connect a community with an adjacent landscape that had been forgotten and is significant to their future began during a studio in the Fall of 2006. During this time students and residents of the Lower Ninth Ward led by Dr. Austin Allen engaged the Army Corps of Engineers in a dialogue regarding the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands. During these conversations students presented ideas expressing the significance of the Bayou to the future of the neighborhood and illustrating how the levee could be traversed.
This was emotionally devastating for all involved. The feeling of disappointing the residents of a neighborhood in which promises had repeatedly been unfulfilled prevailed. We worried that we had contributed to this community’s pain by presenting great ideas and not being able to follow through, just as so many other organizations and schools before.

As painful and frustrating as this experience was, it provided a tremendously important learning opportunity: It helped the students understand that despite all their best efforts and preparedness, projects can and likely will be influenced by forces outside of the landscape architect’s control. And it allowed them to relate to the experience of being victimized by a system that so much shaped the daily life of the residents of the Lower Ninth Ward. The residents remained extraordinarily supportive.

Several concerns became evident as planning for the implementation proceeded. It became obvious during one of the site visits that finding sufficient lumber, supplies, and tools in New Orleans would be impossible. In addition the site did not have access to electricity or potable water. Therefore, elements such as the sub-structure for the platform were designed to be pre-assembled in Denver. The metal posts for the staircase handrails were precut and predrilled. The pre-assembled elements along with lumber, hardware, and tools were loaded in a rental truck and driven by three students to New Orleans. The rest of the class met them in New Orleans last May. Shortly after the groups arrival approval to proceed with the construction of the project was reversed.
In order to finish the platform work continued late into the night and the project was finally completed in January of 2008. This platform has become more than just an access to the Bayou for the University of Wisconsin’s research team. It has become the agent for change. Research has begun on the restoration of the Bayou. Neighbors go there to experience, for the first time since 1965, a large and immensely significant landscape in their neighborhood. Residents, students from the nearby Martin Luther King Jr. School, visitors and politicians go there to discuss the sustainable future of the Lower Ninth Ward.

It is still too early to draw definite conclusions about this project, the almost two and a half year involvement in the rebuilding of the Lower Ninth Ward and the implications for practice and education in landscape architecture. It is appropriate, timely and necessary to engage in an ongoing reflection of what we do and teach as a critical part of both practice and education. Not to draw determinate conclusions, but to start a critical and constructive conversation on how to improve what we do, how we do it and how to best educate our students and future landscape architects to be able to meaningfully, critically and responsibly respond to the challenges of situations not just as post-Katrina New Orleans, but to the ones particular to any project.

While New Orleans and the Lower Ninth Ward appear to be extreme and exceptional situations, they share many characteristics with projects landscape architects are commonly involved in. The key question of why landscape architecture as a profession and academic discipline was so ill prepared, how to address the definite shortcomings will not just improve the response to post-disaster conditions, but also the way we handle projects, such as urban renewal, brown-, grey- and infill developments that are potentially contested.

Several of the reasons lie in the past and traditions of our discipline: its deep roots in modernist-positivist thought tend to support the assumption that all people and communities are essentially the same, and there is a proven right way to address their needs just by applying good science. While that might hold true on the highest level of abstraction (food, shelter etc.) it often fails dismally to respond to and address the subtleties that make a community and place distinct. The experience in the Lower Ninth Ward showed the nonnegotiable need to work extremely closely with a community to understand their relation to the place they are living in as well as their attempts to influence their environment. We found out that, for example, the patterns of public and open space use in New Orleans (such as the use of street medians, called ‘neutral ground’ or the ‘stoop culture’) were vastly different from what we ‘norm’ took for granted; an understanding that informed the planning and design responses to a great degree. We as a profession and discipline in a diverse society cannot assume anymore (and maybe we never should have) that we can extrapolate and
impose our understandings and ideas without entering into a dialogue with the people that have to live with the consequences of our proposals.

Another root cause that became apparent as the design and planning disciplines started to respond to the aftermath of Katrina was the largely apolitical character of landscape architecture. Not understanding (whether by choice or inability) the underlying political, economic and racial conditions, the proposals and plans failed to acknowledge, let alone respond to critical issues such as the acute and latent racism or the longstanding patterns of economic and political discrimination. Landscape Architecture’s withdrawal into the defensible space of applied sciences, its focus on ecological and physio-geographical expertise in the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s and 90’s, its removal from issues that would have forced to engage it in a highly charged political discourse are partially to blame for this. The thorough understanding of the socio-cultural, political and economic situation a project is situated in and of the people it affects is as much part of the site analysis as understanding the drainage patterns. If ULI and Wallace Roberts Todd had analyzed the site in this way they might have understood that suggesting turning areas prone to flooding into parks and open space was ecologically and hydrologically a perfectly good and appropriate proposal, but in this situation amounted to an act of racism and discrimination. The avoidance of the messy political discourse made them vulnerable to become accomplices in political agendas that would at a minimum be considered unethical.

These are by no means issues exclusive to landscape architecture, and none of the planning and spatial design professions and disciplines was prepared to deal with this kind of situation. The biggest challenge the aftermath of Katrina in New Orleans posed was not the physical damage — this is well within the expertise of our profession and discipline — it was the fact that the natural disaster exposed all the underlying social, racial, cultural and economic inequalities and issues. Not one single discipline has the breadth, width and depth to meaningfully address situations of this degree of complexity and contestation alone.

The approach the studios taught at the department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver took, defined the design process as a discursive; an open-ended series of inquiries, decisions, reflections and critiques that
shape and reshape what the project is. Instead of defining a-priori what the project's scope and content is (what design and planning professions traditionally do), this allowed the project to shift and respond to new insights and the rapidly and constantly changing conditions and framework on the ground. This incremental, open-ended method not only opens up and necessitates a multi-disciplinary dialogue and invites meaningful participation by the residents, but also alleviates the need (and urge) to masterplan aspects that are ignoring the dynamics of unfolding social, cultural and economic processes, the realities on the ground and critical aspects of site. It refocuses the project from its formal aspects and physical qualities to its performative qualities — what it does becomes more relevant than how it looks and what it is like.

The ability of faculty and students to work outside the constraints of a landscape architectural practice in a highly contested situation was and is critical to gain insights that will inform both education and practice. It is the dialogue between education and practice that is critical for further developing landscape architecture into a field that is able to meaningfully contribute to the quality of human life and fulfill the notion of "placemaking". The students and faculty involved in the New Orleans studios have started a conversation on what are critical aspects of Landscape Architecture's future — a conversation that will need to continue and to expand.

2 Ibid.
3 The former department chair, Gene Bressler, deserves exceptional credit for understanding early on the critical implications and effects Katrina and New Orleans would have on the discipline of Landscape Architecture, and for creating the conditions and resources that allowed students and faculty to pursue this effort.
4 This addresses the high-modernist housing schemes such as Cabrini Green in Chicago or Prewitt-Igoe in St. Louis as well as the unmodified standard patterns most New Urbanist developments are based on.
5 This points to the dangers of maintaining the idea of "Nature" and "Culture", or "Ecology" and "Culture" as separate, dichotomic concepts. The effects of Katrina on the Gulf coast communities show that those two are inextricably linked and need to be addressed in their connections and simultaneously in the design process. Reconsidering how those areas and their relationships are taught within a professional curriculum and incorporated into practice are among the big challenges the field faces. It also strongly suggests the need for further and deeper interdisciplinary collaborations.

"It's Not Easy Being Green" | Jane Kulik, ASLA

In the past several years, approaches to stormwater management have evolved from traditional engineering solutions, which emphasize rapid conveyance of runoff through storm drains and underground pipes, to the increasingly-popular landscape-based systems that infiltrate runoff and function as attractive gardens. A major driver for this shift has been a growing appreciation of water as a non-renewable resource: encouraging groundwater recharge and reuse have emerged as popular and sustainable solutions.

Portland and Chicago have been widely viewed as leaders in this "green infrastructure" movement. Portland's new Convention Center is surrounded by pools and rain gardens that capture and treat storm runoff from the Center's roof and parking areas. In Chicago, Mayor Daley's mission to become "the greenest city in America" has included installing a "green roof" on City Hall. Even sprawling, auto-oriented Los Angeles is considering retooling its stormwater management program.
Where do we find “green infrastructure” in Denver? For the most part, in selected private development projects whose accomplishments are not always celebrated in the media. The new TAXI development, the Sunflower Market and the Safeway at 14th and Krameria — have all incorporated “green infrastructure,” sometimes despite resistance from the engineering community and rounds of added development review to explain these ideas.

Sunflower Market, Denver: Wenk Associates

City dwellers have a strong environmental ethic, love their parks and gardens, and care about water conservation — so they doubtless would embrace landscape-based stormwater treatment if there were visible examples. Moreover, the metro-area Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, some years ago developed a landmark technical guide for water quality best management practices that is widely copied by other communities. So — why aren’t there more “green infrastructure” projects in the City, and importantly, how might they be encouraged through Denver’s new Greenprint initiative, the upcoming infrastructure bond, and stormwater fees that residents and businesses already pay?

During the past 18 months, Wenk Associates co-directed a major study funded by the Water Environment Research Foundation that identified why certain communities are successful in implementing green infrastructure — and others are less so. Fifteen communities across the country were studied to answer this question. Findings suggest five key rules that might provide some insight.

1: “If the City can do it, why shouldn’t everyone else?” City leadership sets the standard for the actions of the private sector. In Portland and Chicago, green infrastructure techniques were tested repeatedly through pilot projects on City properties, or in the public right-of-way. In Portland, a demonstration curb, extension project led to calls from neighboring residents asking “how can I get one of those gardens on my street?” Seattle has developed its Natural Drainage Program to treat stormwater as well as beautify the public right-of-way. Presented with successful projects that the public supports, it is hard for the private sector to say “no.” Notably, in each of these cities, ordinances requiring green infrastructure came much later in the process, and again after technology had been ably demonstrated in City projects.

Rule #2: Start with small, highly visible demonstration projects. Portland’s first “green roof” was pilot-tested on a City landscape architect’s residential garage. Chicago’s was on its own City Hall — violating the “small” part of the rule but certainly underscoring the “visible!” Now the City makes “green roof grants” of up to $5,000 available, and 80 have been installed thus far. Burnsville, Minnesota’s pilot test was conducted in an existing residential neighborhood, where homeowners were asked if they would maintain a rain garden if the City paid for design and installation. Virtually all said yes, and within the first year of installation, runoff had been reduced by 95 percent. The gardens have become a neighborhood amenity.

Rule #3: Make projects beautiful as well as functional. Aesthetics and design go hand-in-hand with function; if well-designed, then rain gardens will be accepted and desired by the public. This was as true in Burnsville — where rain gardens were installed in highly visible front yards — as it was in Portland, where roadside infiltration gardens have been highly sought after.

Rule #4: Educate the community — both the public and practitioners. Education is important to overcome misperceptions, as many are not comfortable being “first out of the chute” with a new idea. In the Reno area, the Nonpoint Source Education Program for Municipal Officials (NEMO) has partnered with the regional stormwater authority to host regular workshops aimed at developers, engineers, landscape architects, contractors, and residents.

Rule #5: Create a “green permit” office that can expedite development applications that “do the right thing.” Philadelphia, Chicago, Portland and Milwaukee all offer a special, expedited development review for applications that include green infrastructure or other sustainable site design elements. These units
process only “green permit” applications. Developers have learned that their processing time can be cut by as much as half by choosing engineers and landscape architects who know how to design and build these types of projects.

Significant opportunities exist for Denver to make great strides in making “green infrastructure” a part of our everyday life. The infrastructure bond issue contains funding for numerous public projects, including streets, parks, and City buildings. Incorporating green infrastructure can reduce the load on the City’s stormwater system, while making Denver a more attractive place to live. The stormwater fees that residents and businesses pay to the Stormwater Enterprise Fund, is another logical funding source. While it’s sometimes not easy being green, opportunities abound for Denver to make a strong statement about sound stewardship of water resources!

Jane is Vice President and Principal at Wenk Associates, Denver-based planners and landscape architects. Her background combines physical design and planning, policy analysis, economics and public finance, and public facilitation. Most of her projects focus on large-scale physical master plans, with an emphasis on open space, parks, greenways, and urban waterway restoration. Jane also speaks frequently on benefits, costs and impediments to adoption of green infrastructure, and on new forms for urban public space in the 21st century.
The 2008 CCASLA year has successfully begun with big plans for a total redo of the web site, and for much more public relations work for our chapter. The newsletter continues to get better and better. Our new membership and volunteer chairs have great plans. Since the advent of licensure, education sessions preparing for the LARE have been more frequent. Student support is going to new heights. A new member survey is being launched. Please contact us with any ideas you may have to make us better and more responsive to you, our members.

Beginning balance as of 1/1/07 $ 86,364.00

Income from 1/1 to 12/5/07
Membership Dues $ 34,373.68
Administrative Services $ 4,405.40
Member Activities/Events $ 41,083.47
Member Communication $ 21,214.70
Gov’t. Affairs-Licensure Grant $ 7,500.00
Community Serv./Pub. Relations $ 2,300.86
Professional/Student Ed. Programs $ 59,116.50
Total Income $ 135,620.93 $ 169,994.61

Expenses from 1/1 to 12/5/07
Administrative Services $ 23,024.23
Member Activities/Events* $ 24,449.11
Member Communication $ 17,806.76
Gov’t. Affairs-Licensure $ 31,616.30
Community Serv./Pub. Relations $ 5,367.07
Professional/Student Ed. Programs $ 30,525.75
Total Expenses $ 132,789.22 $ 132,789.21
Balance on Hand as of 12/5/07 $ 123,569.40

The CCASLA accounts may be viewed during normal business hours, by appointment, by calling 303 355-0673.
2008 State of the Membership

In the table and pie charts that follow the Membership Committee presents the membership statistics for 2008. It is a snapshot of the membership as of February 2008. We will be using it as the baseline for tracking and measuring our membership. Ideally this level of analysis would be done at the same time each year however, this year we intend to conduct the analysis again later in the year to coordinate with the start of the new President’s term. This analysis will then become the baseline for the following year and establish a yearly date for analyzing the membership. We thought this peek into the membership would be of interest and value to you.

Enjoy.

The Membership Committee
we remember

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THE NON PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER WORLD IS A LABORATORY FOR SELF-REALIZATION." Mae West

ASLA Colorado is always in need of people with passion and talent to help out on committees and special events. If you have these attributes and are interested in sharing them please contact Judy Ward at jward@criticalhabitats.com or 303.679.8262.

The Communications Team is currently looking for two individuals to fill volunteer positions: an Events Coordinator and a Resources Coordinator. As we review requirements for the ASLA Colorado website in preparation for a new design we think we could do a much better job of tracking and posting Events that may be of interest to members and Resources that are available through a variety of different channels. Both positions are good opportunities to network and should only take a few hours a month once you get things rolling. If you are interested please contact Christine Condit (c_condit@comcast.net) or call 303-885-2654.

Landscape Architects Professional Licensing Act Update | Jerry Adamson, FASLA

On January 1, 2008, the Professional Licensing Act for Landscape Architects in Colorado became law. All individuals calling themselves landscape architects or practicing the profession of landscape architecture were required, by law, to be licensed in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 12, Article 45. A State Board of Landscape Architects was created as part of the Division of Registrations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). Members of this newly formed Board were appointed by the Governor to:
1.) Define and issue the rules to accomplish the requirements of the law;
2.) Examine the licensure applicants for qualifications;
3.) Review special cases of applicants;
4.) Grant the licenses of duly qualified applicants to practice landscape architecture.

The Bylaws and Rules of the State Board of Landscape Architects outline the necessary procedures to apply for licensure. There are essentially four ways to apply for Colorado licensure: prior practice; endorsement; examination; and passage of a CLARB examination in another state.

Licensure by prior practice requires either a professional degree in landscape architecture from a degree program accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) and six (6) years of practical experience in the practice of landscape architecture, or ten (10) years of practical experience in landscape architecture. The ten years of practical experience may also include a combination of experience and education as defined in the Bylaws and Rules.

A limitation of statutory provision on licensure by prior practice is also established in the Bylaws and Rules. This provision terminates the application by prior practice effective January 1, 2009. After January 1, 2009, the “Grandfather” provision in the law essentially terminates and applicants will only have three ways to apply for licensure and the opportunity to apply based on experience and education will no longer be available.

Licensure by endorsement requires an applicant to be licensed and in good standing in another U.S. jurisdiction. The Board must receive written verification from the original licensing jurisdiction indicating how the applicant qualified for licensure and the status of the license.

Licensing by “Grandfather Clause” from another jurisdiction will not be accepted in Colorado.

Licensure by examination requires the applicant to meet all of the states requirements for education and experience to qualify to take the examination. The examination will be the CLARB LARE exam administered by CLARB at an authorized testing center. The final application for licensure is based on an applicant passing the CLARB examination in another state. Applicants can request CLARB written verification that they have successfully passed the LARE in another state.
Currently the State of Colorado has issued 390 licenses to individuals to practice landscape architecture and another 130 applications are pending review and approval. Based on the projected number of practicing landscape architects in the state, a large number of individuals have not yet applied for licensure. It is extremely important that all individuals understand the penalties associated with the unauthorized practice of landscape architecture. An individual practicing without an active license is committing a class 2 misdemeanor for the first offense and for the second or any subsequent offenses the individual is committing a class 6 felony. Currently, there has not been any grace period extended for the practice of landscape architecture without a license past January 1, 2008.

The application fees for licensure have already been established by the Director of Regulations for the Department of Regulatory Agencies, but the fee for renewal of licenses is still pending. This yearly renewal fee will be determined on the basis of the number of licensed landscape architects that have been approved. To help keep the renewal fee as low as possible, it is imperative that maximum number of licenses be approved and counted before the fee structure is determined.

The effort to achieve licensure was an extremely difficult and challenging venture. To maintain and keep the positive energy of landscape architects licensure at the forefront, we must all understand the requirements of the law and uphold our professional rules of conduct. Support the profession and become licensed.
CHAPTER TO TEAM WITH APA ON '08 STATE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for the 2008 ASLA-Colorado Design Conference in Breckenridge on Sept 10-13, 2008 at Beaver Run Resort.

This year the conference will be in conjunction with APA-Colorado and we expect 400 or more attendees which makes this an excellent marketing opportunity for you. The exhibition/education hall will open throughout most of the conference.

Anyone interested in being an EXHIBITOR and/or a SPONSOR for our upcoming 2008 Breckenridge ASLA Conference, please contact the following:
Exhibitors: Vivian Kovacs at 303-799-0028 (email: VivianK@landscapeforms.com)
Sponsors: Carol McClanahan at 303-575-8533 (email: Carol.McClanahan@RNLdesign.com)

We're anticipating over 400+ attendees for this conference...don't miss out on being a part of this exciting conference!

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LARE Graphic Review Sessions

The LARE Graphic Review is Saturday May 3 at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, $30/member and $75/non-member. All sessions include a CD of study materials for all sections of the exam. The CD of study materials only is available (review session not included) $10/member and $35/non-member.

Location for all sessions is the UCD Building, 1250 14th Street, Denver (14th and Larimer), Room 470 (this could change for the May and/or August sessions, so people should be encouraged to check the ASLA Colorado website for any changes as the dates get closer). Method of accepted payment is check only, payable to ASLA Colorado, and mailed to either Dennis Nagao or Lesanne Weller. Registration for classes prior to the sessions is required; registration form and instructions are posted on ccasla.org.

Please contact Lesanne Weller (lweller@architerra.com) or Dennis Nagao (dennis_nagao@nps.gov) for more information.

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DENVER AREA MIXER & STONE-CARVING DEMO

On June 19 from 5-7 pm, join your CCASLA colleagues for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a stone-carving demonstration at Chevo Studios. Artist Andy Dufford will show the various techniques used to turn a quarry block into a finished piece. Then you can seek your inner Michaelangelo by trying your hand with hammer and chisel. Chevo Studios is at 4747 National Western Drive, off the Washington St. exit of I-70. This is an outdoor event, so dress accordingly -- enclosed shoes recommended.

You can preview Dufford's work at www.chevostudios.com
American Horticultural Society’s 2008 Great American Gardeners Award Winners honor Herbert R. Schaal

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is proud to announce the distinguished recipients of the Society’s 2008 Great American Gardeners Awards. Individuals, organizations, and businesses that receive these awards represent the best in American gardening. Each has contributed significantly to fields such as plant research, garden communication, landscape design, youth gardening, teaching, and conservation. The AHS applauds all of this year’s recipients for their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields. This year’s Great American Gardeners Award recipients follow. Congratulations to Herbert R. Schaal of Fort Collins, Colorado — the recipient of the Landscape Design Award.

Harold Pellett (Mound, Minnesota) — Liberty Hyde Bailey Award | Thomas G. Ranney (Fletcher, North Carolina) — H. Marc Cathey Award

David Salman (Santa Fe, New Mexico) — Paul Ecke Jr. Commercial Award | Herbert R. Schaal (Fort Collins, Colorado) — Landscape Design Award

Francis X. Flaherty (Alexandria, Virginia) — Meritorious Service Award | Irene Virag (Fort Salonga, New York) — B. Y. Morrison Communication Award | Renny Reynolds (Wrightstown, Pennsylvania) — Frances Jones Poetter Award | Holly Harmar Shimizu (Washington, D.C.) — Professional Award | Betty Brown Casey (Washington, D.C.) — Catherine H. Sweeney Award | Michael H.C. Devlin and Valerie R. Frick (Camden, New Jersey) — Jane L. Taylor Award | Laura Deeter (Wooster, Ohio) — Teaching Award | Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (Lincoln, Nebraska) — Urban Beautification Award

On June 6, 2008, the American Horticultural Society will honor these award recipients during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet, held at the Society’s headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, please contact Jessica Rozmus at (703) 768-5700 ext. 137 or jrozmus@ahs.org.
Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Awards John MacKay and Higher Ground Design with the First "American Dream Recognition" from the Colorado Springs Gazette

John MacKay is a small man with a passion as big as the Colorado horizon—a love for the mountainous landscape and environment. A Colorado native and member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, MacKay is dedicated to the preservation of the state's natural quality of life through education, stewardship, and physical interaction with the landscape.

His passion for crafting and molding the natural landscape began in high school as a summer job, mowing lawns. When he discovered Colorado State University offered a degree in landscape architecture, he jumped at the chance to pursue a career where he could interact directly with the natural beauty of the state. A 1993 graduate of CSU, MacKay launched Higher Ground Designs, Inc. in 2001, shortly after the tragedy of 9/11. Despite the national calamity and a looming recession, he chose to follow the direction of his dream—to combine his passion for landscape architecture with his desire to serve people by connecting them to the beauty of their environment. MacKay, who says that he is living the American Dream "one hundred percent" has reaped the benefits of that decision ever since.

"I believe that reaching the American Dream starts with a vision but also requires an attitude of service. With the determination and hard work that it takes to run a small business, I am privileged to work at something I enjoy while I do what I do best—serve people in our community through landscape architecture. It also gives me the ability to make the living I need to support, serve and love my family.”

Preservation of the environment is a matter of informed balance for MacKay’s landscape architectural firm with the idealistic name—Higher Ground Designs, Inc. "We don't approach the environment with a radical, thoughtless attitude toward conservation. We balance our client's needs and budgets with innovative and creative design, while maintaining a vision for the development of this planet that has been entrusted to us in stewardship.”

Using the latest architectural technologies, Higher Ground Designs, Inc. provides professional landscape architecture and irrigation design solutions. The firm's diverse projects include commercial, athletic-park, hospital, multi-family housing, school, industrial, non-profit, childcare, streamside, and private-residential housing construction.

Current projects include:
- The landscape and irrigation design and construction drawings for the 40-acre University Village project on the City's north Nevada corridor, which will include a Lowe's, Kohl's and other retail and restaurant buildings. The project includes the creation of an inviting streetscape and a trail and retaining wall system.
- The landscape and irrigation design and construction drawings for the 90-acre Broadmoor View at Spring Creek project will include plans for a central park, open space, play areas, trail system, multi-family and single family housing and streetscapes.

To learn more, go online to www.highergrounddesigns.com.

Stephanie Finley, President of the Government Affairs and Public Policy division of The Chamber states: "We are delighted to highlight a business whose very foundation is built on integrity, prompt service and high quality for their customers. We want to make sure that political, business, and community leaders all know the treasures we have right here in our own community. Congratulations to John MacKay and his team for receiving the first American Dream recognition from the Chamber."
Are you in need of Irrigation Design Services?

Higher Ground Designs, Inc. is committed to excellence, integrity and attention to detail. Our collective irrigation design and installation experience allows us to provide premier design solutions for any application - traditional, two-wire & sub-surface micro-irrigation systems. We incorporate basic design elements - balance, proportion, symmetry and clear graphics to produce the highest quality irrigation drawings.

Higher Ground Designs, Inc. strives to foster meaningful communication between our company and the irrigation contractor to ensure proper installation practices and the most efficient systems possible.

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A1 Organics Receives "Composter of the Year" Award by US Composting Council

A1 Organics of Eaton, CO, received the "Composter of the Year" award from the US Composting Council at the 16th Annual USCC Conference and Trade Show held in Oakland, CA this February, 2008. The US Composting Council is a national non-for-profit organization dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry in the US. The USCC also directs the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF), a charitable foundation, which administers public and private research and education activities.

Every year, the US Composting Council evaluates and reviews the nominees for their Composter of the Year award, making a final determination going to the commercial-scale composting facility, public or private, which has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution. Additionally, the facility must be in operation for a minimum of 5 years and in regulatory compliance for the last 3 years.

A1 Organics is the only compost manufacturer in the State of Colorado who participates in the US Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. This program is of immense benefit to both composters and compost users as it is a testing and information disclosure program to improve the image and value of compost. It promotes customer oriented composters by assisting program participants who rigorously test their products, and provide end-use information to their customers to differentiate themselves from composters who are not. Compost customers and specifiers, compost facility operators and regulators, and consumer plant and soil all benefit from this program – a great advantage over non-STA certified facilities.

A1 Organics has been in the organic recycling/composting business since 1974 and currently has multiple State of Colorado permitted facilities along the front range of Colorado. As "Colorado's leader in organic recycling" for over 33 years, A1 is recognized for setting the standard in quality compost/mulch products. A1 also encourages the businesses and residents of Colorado to recycle their organic waste materials and use compost amendments/mulch for full circle sustainability. Visit their website at www.a1organics.com.

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs proudly presents its 2008 Denver Garden Tour

The dates of the Tour will be June 28 and 29 – 10am – 3pm.

The tour will begin at the fabulous Phipps Mansion. Built in the early 1930s the 33,123 square foot Georgian Mansion has 70 rooms, two imported from England. It is furnished in Chippendale and Queen Anne styles and features American, European and Asian Art. There are 5 acres of formal gardens and grounds designed in "Country Place Era" style. The formal William and Mary inspired gardens are framed by brick walls, pergolas and feature a variety of annuals, perennials and roses. The landscape is made up of an automobile "parking garden", sweeping lawns, and comfortable courtyard and terrace areas.

For more information or photos contact Lorin Fleisher at 303-871-3442

Five other gardens in the Bel Caro area will feature statuary, water features, and many beautifully landscaped plants. One is the home of a landscaper eager to share with us his wonderful talent.

Tickets are $15 per person, a contribution to the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. CFGC is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, charitable organization. Tickets will be available at Front Range King Soopers.

For more information contact Sandee Teitscheid
303-466-0637
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51/2” Spring Snow Crab.
Several 4 to 5 inch caliper English &
columnar English Oak are available.
Locally grown.
Civitas is Winner of AIA Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan has been awarded the AIA Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design, the highest honor bestowed on a project by peers. The master plan focused on the rehabilitation of 32-miles of the concrete channel known as the Los Angeles River and the regeneration of more than 750 acres of contiguous real estate along it.

Civitas, Inc., as part of the Tetra Tech team, led an extensive public participation process to understand the community’s perception of the river, their needs, fears and desires for its transformation. As a result, five different urban nodes were studied for open space, commercial, educational, recreational and industrial land uses, and regional water quality. The plan also proposes a multi-generational vision to restore the river’s ecology and create a chain of parks within the City, as well as a short-term strategy to leverage existing funding and partnerships.

The consultant team was led by Tetra Tech Inc. and comprised Civitas Inc., Wenk Associates Inc., Mia Lehrer + Associates, Urban Planners, Asset Strategies, The Robert Group, GCG Rose & Kindel, HNTB, Transportation and Land Use Collaborative, Urban Semillas and David Marquez and Associates.

Civitas Announces New Staff

Civitas, Inc., a Denver landscape architecture and urban design firm, announces the addition of six studio professionals. Gavin Woodworth joins the firm as a landscape architect with six years of experience and is currently working on the Red Rocks Centre Master Plan, Belleview Station TOD, Lyons Ridge, and the Lagae Ranch Parks and Master Plan in Castle Pines. John Young, a Nashville native, brings his four years of experience to Civitas and is working as landscape architect on the Red Rocks Centre Master Plan, Pillars of Fire Parks and the Coronado Hills Elementary School. In addition, he is working on the Real Salt Lake stadium project. San Nguyen-Coye, an urban planner from Seattle with two years of experience, is currently working on Pillars of Fire in Westminster and the Castle Pines Master Plan. Isa Reeb comes to Civitas as an urban designer after two years with a Wisconsin architectural firm. She is currently working on an urban design plan in St. Louis, Missouri, and on the Velocity 1287 Master Plan outside Denver International Airport. Robin Rooney brings her 8 years of design/build experience to Civitas and is curren...
Dr. Bhandary joins the Urban Development Landscape Architecture Studio as a geographic information specialist. He holds a Ph.D. in Design and Planning from the University of Colorado with a Master’s degree in Regional Planning and an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering. Most recently Bhandary has been teaching courses related to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment at the University of Colorado. He has 10 years of experience managing civil engineering infrastructures. RNL uses GIS for enhanced decision-making in the design and planning of projects. Different spatial, socioeconomic and demographic data are overlaid to analyze existing conditions of the project area and anticipated biophysical and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project. RNL also prepares 3D visuals of the proposed projects to provide clients about how their community would look after project implementation.

Blugreen Hires New Landscape Architect

Bluegreen is very excited to welcome Chanté Floreani to their landscape architecture and planning studio, as well as to the Roaring Fork Valley. Chanté is a graduate from Colorado State University, earning her degree in landscape architecture. During her academic career, Chanté completed an overseas study in Italy, France and Switzerland, exploring innovative design and planning strategies. This experience has enhanced her interest and understanding of different cultures and her desire to contribute to communities in responsive and creative ways.

Chanté has worked in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service to improve existing park infrastructure and ecological habitats near the Indian Peaks Wilderness and with the City of Fort Collins to present opportunities for green infrastructure in the urban environment. Currently, Chanté is a key member on a project with the Aspen Skiing Company, assessing their facility needs and composing an infrastructure master plan based on their short-term and long-term goals.
Nuszer Kopatz Principal Receives Distinguished Cash Designation

Denver, CO (February 22, 2008) – Randy Duzan, senior principal of Nuszer Kopatz urban design associates, a land planning, landscape architecture, architecture and community visioning firm; has received a Certified Active Adult Specialist in Housing (CAASH) designation from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

"With the intense growth of the active adult market, Randy's designation gives our firm the additional expertise to help our clients succeed in the increasingly competitive 50+ market," says Mark Kopatz, managing partner of Nuszer Kopatz.

Nuszer Kopatz Opens Regional Offices

Denver, CO (March 20, 2008) – Nuszer Kopatz urban design associates, a land planning, landscape architecture, architecture and community visioning firm; announces the opening of several regional offices, including Steamboat, Fort Collins and Phoenix.

"Based on our involvement in a number of new resort and community development projects, opening these additional offices was a natural fit," says Mark Kopatz, managing partner of Nuszer Kopatz. "We are confident that this move will help us to better serve our clients' needs."

Nuszer Kopatz was recently honored as the planning and design consultant for Southshore, named as the 2007 'national master planned community of the year' by the National Association of Homebuilders.

studioINSITE to Commence Master Planning Services for Regis Jesuit High School

Denver-based studioINSITE is adding a local private high school to its repertoire of master planning experience.

Regis Jesuit High School has contracted studioINSITE to provide master planning services for improvements and additions to its existing campus. The plan, which will address current and future demands of the high school from both an economic and spatial standpoint, is to be based on a space program plan recently completed by Regis.

The master plan's broad scope involves the adaptive reuse of existing facilities as well as the development of new ones. Expected changes include additions to academic space, a centralized administration, a performing arts center for music and art programs, improvements to playing fields, a field house and additional parking.

Phase I of the project calls for three alternative conceptual plans, which studioINSITE will present to the Board of Trustees in June. Once a direction has been defined, the project will enter into its second phase of execution.
At CoCal, we treat every day like Earth Day.

Now that everybody is "thinking green" it is a good thing. However, CoCal has always made sure that how we operate is sound for the environment. That includes using "Greenizer" products from Get Micro Solutions, which are people, pet and planet friendly. It is not just an "Earth Day kind of thing", but an everyday kind of thing for CoCal.

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Ken's is Denver's Reprographic Leader.
APA/ASLA Colorado 2008 Joint State Conference
September 10-13, 2008
Save the Date


This year’s conference is being held jointly by APA/ASLA Colorado and we anticipate 400 or more attendees with over 30 exciting program sessions, events, receptions, and networking opportunities.

In keeping with the green theme, Paths to Sustainability, the preliminary conference program will not be printed but instead will be available online in May. Be sure to mark your calendar now for Sept 10-13, 2008.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3.08</td>
<td>LARE Graphic Review 9am-1pm</td>
<td>UCD Building, 1250 14th Street, Denver (14th and Larimer)</td>
<td>$30/mem &amp; $75/non-mem Lesanne Weller (<a href="mailto:lweller@architerra.com">lweller@architerra.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.22.08</td>
<td>Green Roof Infrastructure Design &amp; Installation 201</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Buster's of Denver, Denver, CO</td>
<td>Go to greenroofs.org and click on Denver</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.25.08-6.5.08</td>
<td>Tour: Arts and Crafts Gardens of Southern England</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jeffsainsburytours.com/ArtsCrafts2008.html">www.jeffsainsburytours.com/ArtsCrafts2008.html</a></td>
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<td>6.5.08</td>
<td>North Area Mixer 5pm – 9pm</td>
<td>Louisville Community Park</td>
<td>F etails email <a href="mailto:kurt@dcla.com">kurt@dcla.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.19.08</td>
<td>Denver Area Mixer 5-7pm</td>
<td>4747 National Western Drive</td>
<td>Ian Anderson, <a href="mailto:Ianerson@designstudioswest.com">Ianerson@designstudioswest.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.28.08-6.29.08</td>
<td>Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs - 2008 Denver Garden Tour</td>
<td>Denver - Begins at the Phipps Mansion</td>
<td>Tickets are $15/person @ an Front Range King Soopers. Sandee Teitscheid 303-466-0637</td>
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<td>7.16-08-7.20.08</td>
<td>DBG Roadtrip $675 mem, $725 non-mem</td>
<td>Alpine Glory on West Spanish Peak, CO</td>
<td>Meghan 720-865-3580 <a href="http://www.peopleware.net">www.peopleware.net</a></td>
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<td>8.14.08</td>
<td>Green Roof Infrastructure Waterproofing &amp; Drainage 301</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Buster's of Denver, Denver, CO</td>
<td>Go to greenroofs.org and click on Denver</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.22.08</td>
<td>ASLA Colorado's 13th Annual Golf Classic</td>
<td>Legacy Ridge Golf Course, Westminster</td>
<td>questions / sponsorship Jim Pokorny 303-278-8100</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ccasl.org">www.ccasl.org</a> or <a href="mailto:mark_tabor@nps.gov">mark_tabor@nps.gov</a></td>
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<td>9.10-08-9.12.08</td>
<td>2008 ASLA Colorado/Colorado APA Joint Annual Conference</td>
<td>Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccasl.org">www.ccasl.org</a> or <a href="mailto:mark_tabor@nps.gov">mark_tabor@nps.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.3.08-10.4.08</td>
<td>2008 ISA-RMC Annual Conference &amp; Tree Climbing Competition</td>
<td>Colorado Springs</td>
<td>For details contact Elizabeth Carleo at (303) 798-0601 or <a href="mailto:ecarleo@hughesstuart.com">ecarleo@hughesstuart.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9.08</td>
<td>Green Roof Infrastructure: Plants and Growing Medium 401</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Buster's of Denver, Denver, CO</td>
<td>Go to greenroofs.org and click on Denver</td>
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If you would like to include your event on this Calendar, please send information to News@ccasl.org