

DESIGN ISSUE

exposures

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How can a design firm
thrive in today's economy?



EXCLUSIVE

A Model of Success: Design/
Build within the Commercial
Landscape Industry



ASLA
COLORADO

smart growth project; and The Walnut, an urban infill project near downtown Boulder.

The Denver Design District will incorporate the Regional Transportation District's Alameda Station into the development, and will take advantage of the Broadway Station adjacent to the project. The project will also expand upon existing Denver Design Center tenants such as Quest diagnostics and Wells Music, adding a significant education component. By retaining current tenants the developer ensures that surrounding neighborhoods will still have convenient shopping options. The project is also planning a series of parks and open spaces that will incorporate sculptures and outdoor art projects. The program calls for nearly 900,000 square feet of retail, wholesale and office uses on the site.

LEED Accreditation



Aspen, Colorado – Valerie Alexander Yaw, principal at Bluegreen, is recently recognized as an accredited Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design—or LEED—professional. According to the United States Green Building Council, which oversees this designation, LEED accreditation “is the mark of the most qualified, educated, and influential green building professionals in the marketplace.”

Motivated to become a LEED accredited professional following the adoption of the Pitkin County Energy Action Plan, Valerie notes LEED accreditation adds to her firm's already solid commitment to the green-building philosophy. In 2008, Bluegreen received ZGreen certification, a unique City of Aspen program that distinguishes businesses implementing real environmental efforts from those “selling” general green washing.

“Green washing is too common in today's design industries. Environmental stewardship certification from a trustworthy and verifiable source, such as LEED, is paramount,” says Valerie. She goes on to describe her enthusiasm for the new, specialty LEED AP tracks, scheduled for release this summer. The new tracks include the ability to specialize in a particular field such as neighborhood development or building design and construction.

Valerie is a graduate with distinction from the University of Oregon and an American Society of Landscape Architects National Honor Award recipient. In addition to her LEED accreditation, Valerie is a licensed landscape architect in Colorado and Arizona, chairperson and founding member of River Stewards, and member of the US Green Building Council and Society of Wetland Scientists.

Bluegreen, founded in 2001, includes a team of seven professionals addressing all phases of planning and design, from shaping ideas to directing implementation. Visit Bluegreen at 300 South Spring Street in downtown Aspen, or on the web at www.bluegreenaspen.com.

Before It Was Pretty

Aspen, Colorado – SAW (Studio for Art + Works) Gallery in Carbondale, Colorado hosted an exhibit where local architects, landscape architects, furniture designers and lighting designers were the featured artists. The gallery's theme: Before it was Pretty. Designers were invited to create art installations that demonstrated the design process in action. No finished drawings were allowed; no flashy marketing images; just raw, gritty, sketchy, and inspirational works to offer a glimpse into the designer's mind. To illustrate the process, design teams creatively used materials ranging from trace paper sketches to 3D models, and construction materials to office toys to create their individual exhibits from floor to ceiling.

During the opening reception, the general public and designers alike were invited to participate in a model-off competition, entitled Shake your Model Maker. Six teams were given a bag of recycled materials and 60 minutes to construct a model from a top secret brief that was not disclosed until teams were geared and ready. Although every team was a winner, the Bluegreen team (the only landscape architect team participating in the event), took home first prize for their innovative model. That's right, the landscape architects prevailed!

Timed well with landscape architecture month, the gallery has been open for display throughout the month of April. The exhibit uniquely demonstrated a range of work and methods of process. Approximately ten local firms participated along with many folks from the local community attending. The event was a huge success and would not have been pulled off without the hard work of the organizer, Andrea Korber from Land+Shelter.



Colorado Design Firms Win National Award For Net Zero Energy Neighborhood



Eldorado Springs, Colorado – The American Society of Landscape Architects in Washington DC has announced on May 5th that an Honor Award has been bestowed on the Geos Net Zero Energy Neighborhood planned for Arvada, Colorado.

Designed by David Kahn Studios of Eldorado Springs, Colorado and Michael Tavel Architects of Denver, Colorado, Geos will be the largest net-zero energy, urban mixed-use neighborhood in the United States. Earth and sun power will completely sustain the community's energy needs, and replace all fossil fuels. The neighborhood is intertwined with natural systems, stormwater fed landscapes, and civic places. Rain and snow melt feed street tree rain gardens, percolation parks, plazas, and community gardens. Geos received final development approval from the City of Arvada and will begin construction in 2009.

The Geos Neighborhood incorporates symbiotic relationships in site planning and architecture, at all scales. Urban density is optimized with passive solar access. Stormwater is integrated and omnipresent within the neighborhood layout. Energy is generated from ground source loop fields, solar thermal panels, and photovoltaic panels on every rooftop. The architecture utilizes high performance building envelopes and super efficient mechanical systems. The overall town plan aims to foster bio-civic relationships with natural processes, neighborhood ecology, and environmental stewardship.

The neighborhood is the brain child of developer Norbert Klebl, who is seeking to build a demonstration project in sustainability that will encourage radical improvements in the American homebuilding industry.

EVENTS

ASLA Colorado 2009 Conference: Tools for Change

The reviews are in and the ASLA Colorado 2009 Conference, Tools for Change, held at the University of Denver on May 15, 2009 was filled with “high energy” and “excellent content” that was relevant “to the current economic climate”. Local humorist David Shirley was the luncheon keynote. He provided a very entertaining presentation with an important message about laughter and life.

The conference was attended by nearly 70 registrants, speakers, guests, and exhibitors, who together brought eleven hours of non-stop education, entertainment, socializing, networking, and business opportunities to the Landscape Architects and sponsors who participated in the day-long event. This springtime conference marked a move from the usual fall conference schedule. Future ASLA Colorado conferences will also be held in the spring in order to fall “conference fatigue” and competition with ASLA national's conference.

Exhibitors included A1 Organics, Children's Playstructures and Recreation, Churchich Recreation, CoCal Landscape, Graffs Turf Farms, Horizon Turf Nursery, Keller-Lowry Insurance, Ken's Reproductions, Landscape Forms, Landtech Contractors, Pavestone Company, Recreation Plus, Made in the Schade, Rain Bird, Siloam Stone, and ValleyCrest Landscape Development. The Landscape Architecture firm sponsors were Design Concepts, EDAW, Mundus Bishop Design, Norris Design, Phase One Landscapes, and studioINSITE.

This year's conference planning committee was chaired by ASLA Colorado Past President Pat Mundus, of Mundus-Bishop Design. The conference could not have happened without the volunteers on the steering committee; Seth Clark of ValleyCrest Landscape Development, Kimberly Douglas of studioINSITE, Lucy Ginley of EcoDesigns Landscape Architecture, Vivian Kovacs of Landscape Forms, and Scott Sinn of EDAW. Mary Jo Lagesse of Conference Direct was invaluable in working with the meeting facility. Greg Williams, ASLA Colorado Association Manager, provided overall support and coordination services.

The next ASLA CO conference will be in the spring of 2010, watch the regular membership eBulletins and monitor the website at www.ccasla.org for updates and future information.

