

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The American Institute of Architects (Denver) Actively Involved in Reviewing the New Denver Zoning Code**

**DENVER (Nov. 12, 2009)** – Architects are the primary users of the Denver Zoning Code, which is why the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Denver chapter, is actively reviewing the draft of the newly proposed zoning code. AIA Denver strongly believes in the importance of making the new code the best it can be for industry parties and the public. In doing so, AIA Denver is providing a service to its members by acting as a catalyst to analyze the code, to inform them of its findings and to act as the voice of the AIA Denver members. AIA Denver also believes in providing a service to the public, by analyzing the code to better educate the public on the impact the code will have on future development in Denver. Robert Schmid, AIA, of the AIA Denver Urban Design Committee, states, “the new zoning code is a seminal document, that along with Blueprint Denver and Greenprint Denver, will shape the development environment for the next 50 years. Formulating and establishing the best possible document is to everyone’s best interest. It is AIA Denver’s public interest responsibility to assist in this process.”

The new zoning code will significantly affect the way architects execute their efforts in the City of Denver. For example, the code will change the process of developing project designs, which could decrease the amount of time involved in addressing site parameters. Paul Brady, AIA, of the AIA Denver Housing Committee, says “the zoning code has a direct link to property values, density, how growth will occur in Denver, and how that growth will look. AIA Denver members are looking to see how development potential on property within the city is changing and are working to communicate that information to our clients and citizens of Denver.” It is examples like this that have caused AIA Denver members to actively review the code, so it performs in practice the way it is intended to on paper.

AIA Denver will be hosting an event to present its findings on portions of the code that highlight these direct effects on architects. Key stakeholders, City of Denver Zoning Code Task Force members and city council members have been invited to attend, and the meeting is open to the public. The event will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m., at the University of Colorado at Denver College of Architecture and Planning (1250 14<sup>th</sup> St., Room 470, Denver, 80202). The meeting’s presentation will feature more than a dozen residential projects that have been built or designed under the current zoning code, and will graphically show what implications the new zoning code will have on these projects. The projects will include additions, older single-family homes, townhomes, four-story apartment buildings and mid-rise condominium buildings. In addition, specific issues including accessory dwelling units and solar access will be discussed. There will be time for questions and answers at the conclusion of the presentation.

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Please RSVP to AIA Colorado Programs Coordinator Jenna Cather at [jenna@aiacolorado.org](mailto:jenna@aiacolorado.org) or 303.446.2266, ext. 112, by Tuesday, Nov. 17. For more information about AIA Denver's involvement in reviewing the new zoning code, visit [www.aiacolorado.org](http://www.aiacolorado.org).

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### **About AIA & AIA Denver**

*For more than 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.*

*AIA Denver is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado component. This chapter is comprised of members from nine counties in the metro Denver area. The voice of the profession of architecture, AIA Denver inspires its members as leaders in the design of the built environment.*

### **About the AIA Denver Urban Design Committee**

*This committee focuses on growing into the role of "community resource" of expertise and assistance in the development designs involving local and regional urban issues.*

### **About the AIA Denver Housing Committee**

*This is a forum for architects who specialize in residential building, by following current issues in codes, government regulations, evolving technology and current housing and marketing trends.*