

News Release

Media Contact: Sonia Riggs
303.446.2266, ext. 117
sonia@aiacolorado.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Institute of Architects Elevates Three Colorado Architects to College of Fellows *AIA Fellowship Recognizes Significant National Contributions to Profession of Architecture and Society*

March 24, 2009 (DENVER)—The American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2009 Jury of Fellows has elevated three AIA Colorado members to its prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the profession.

The AIA Colorado members receiving fellowship are:

Martha L. Bennett, FAIA, a principal at Bennett Wagner & Grody Architects, PC (Denver), was elected to receive this honor because of her contributions through 30 years of leadership. Bennett has challenged AIA to embrace diversity in the architectural profession and is nationally recognized as a pioneer and one of the first female leaders of the Colorado architectural community. Beginning in 1976, Bennett organized and became the first president of Denver Women in Architecture. As the first woman elected to the AIA Colorado Board of Directors in 1979 and the first woman elected to the AIA Denver Board of Directors in 1981, she became a model, changing mindsets and mentoring colleagues. Today, Bennett still is leading by example with her own firm, Bennett Wagner & Grody Architects, which currently is celebrating its 20th year in practice, is the largest woman-owned architectural practice in Colorado, is able to uniquely maintains a 50:50 gender balance with a staff nearing 40, and openly shares options for change in the practice of architecture.

Stephen K. Loos, FAIA, of the Mulhern Group, Ltd. (Denver) was elevated to the College of Fellows as the result of more than 20 years of continuous leadership and service to AIA at local, state, regional and national levels of involvement. Loos has dedicated his career to efforts to improve the institute and to ensure its future by getting people involved, committed and excited about AIA. This has meant fostering involvement and leadership development for emerging professionals and young practitioners, working to strengthen membership commitment and shared values, and building effective communications for more informed and effective advocacy. His leadership has been marked by a steadfast commitment to strengthening a shared vision of community among his fellow professionals. Loos currently serves at the secretary on the AIA National Board of Directors.

John E. Yonushewski, FAIA, a principal at Buchanan Yonushewski Group, LLC (Denver), has been committed to expanding the role of the architect as master builder throughout his professional career and 23-year membership in AIA. Long before the term design-build existed, Yonushewski embraced the concept of integrated design and construction without compromise to architectural integrity. That commitment has led to him and his firm, Buchanan Yonushewski Group, to be nationally recognized leaders and pioneers in architect-led, single-source project delivery. He has shared these tools of systems and process with AIA on both the local and national levels. Yonushewski also has worked closely with the University of Colorado to expand its curriculum to include a graduate certificate program in design-build. Also, he has extended his design-build concepts to the national community by being a founding board member of Freedom by Design, an organization dedicated to providing pro-bono design and construction services to the disabled community. The impact of his work, education of the profession and students, combined with his professional and community leadership has advanced the ideals and thoughts of architect-led design-build.

Out of a national membership of more than 86,000, there are fewer than 2,600 AIA members distinguished with the honor of fellowship. It is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA who have made significant contributions in the following areas: the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; the standards of architectural education, training and practice; the building industry through leadership in AIA and other related professional organizations; advancement of living standards of people through an improved environment; and to society through significant public service.

The new fellows, who are entitled to use the designation "FAIA" following their names, will be invested in the College of Fellows at the 2009 AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in San Francisco on May 1.

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Editor's Note: For more information about any of the three fellowship recipients or photos, please contact Sonia Riggs at 303.446.2266, ext. 117, or sonia@aiacolorado.org.

About AIA Colorado & AIA National: *With more than 2,400 members, AIA Colorado, the voice of the profession of architecture, inspires and supports its members as leaders to improve and sustain the quality of the built environment. We promote the value of the profession and provide resources and education for members. www.aiacolorado.org. 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.*