

Letter to Editor for *Denver Post's* The Open Forum

**By: Brit Probst, AIA
2006 President
The American Institute of Architects, Denver Chapter**

**Subject: Creation of an Architectural Peer-Review Panel for the Courthouse at the
New Denver Justice Center**

Word Count: 199

Mayor Hickenlooper recently announced the creation of an architectural peer-review panel for the courthouse at the new Justice Center. The panel consists of a noteworthy architect, landscape architect and urban planner working with key individuals from the architectural and master planning teams already involved in related portions of the project.

The American Institute of Architects, Denver Chapter, believes the mayor's creation of this panel is a positive step forward and a welcome demonstration of the city's ongoing commitment to design excellence. Moreover, we appreciate the fact that the panel will offer a balance between the fresh, out-of-town perspective of its three new members, coupled with the knowledge base and local experience of Denver-based practitioners.

While design review panels cannot guarantee that any project will reach the pinnacle of achievement, they certainly can ensure that the quality of design will be elevated, provided of course that the panel is well-conceived, is convened in time to make a difference and is given a reasonable level of authority.

We encourage the mayor and his appointed project managers to give this process its greatest opportunity for success, which means that the panel must have the time, resources and authority to make a difference.