

BY AMY SPAGNOLA

THE (MILE)HIGH LIFE: ARCHITECTURE IN DENVER

The Mile High City is home to both historic and modern architecture and boasts more than 300 designated historical landmarks and historical districts including LoDo, Capitol Hill and Country Club. Denver is where old meets new. There are traditional multi-story mansions, vestiges of the late 1800's and the gold and silver boom, including Victorian homes like the Molly Brown House, alongside the likes of lofts like the 23-story Glass House (that sits on 17th and Bassett streets in the heart of Riverfront Park) which is an ode to modern living as it's comprised of glass and steel with dramatic views of downtown.

And while downtown Denver may be getting a futuristic facelift, these three architects have more to say about Denver's ever-evolving art and architecture scene.

TOP 10 DENVER ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

(according to the *Rocky Mountain News*)

1. **Sage Building** 16th and Welton
2. **Taxi I and II** 3457 Ringsby Court
3. **16th Street Mall** Downtown Commercial Area
4. **The Red House** 1702 Wazee St.
5. **The Blue Bear** Colorado Convention Center
6. **MCA Denver** 1485 Delgany St.
7. **Hamilton Building** Broadway and Bannock
8. **Glasshouse** 17th and Bassett Streets
9. **Pura Vida Fitness and Spa** 2955 E. 1st Ave
10. **One Lincoln Park** 100 E. 20th Avenue

PHOTO COURTESY OF PANACHE PARTNERS, CITY BY DESIGN DENVER

These prominent Denver architects share their thoughts on what it means to design and dwell in Denver.

THE ARCHITECTS

Kelly Davis, AIA

OZ Architecture

Kelly Davis, the Managing

Principal of OZ Architecture (the

largest architecture firm in the Denver

and Front Range Region and one of

the 50 largest architectural firms in

the United States) views Denver's

architecture scene as one that's

evolving. He says, "Denver has become

more knowledgeable about global

trends in architecture and we are seeing

that in many of the new projects."

Davis, who has 20 years experience

and received his Bachelor of Science

degree from the University of Kansas,

explains Denver's blossoming in terms

of a growing sense of sophisticated style

and an almost universal environmental

stewardship. He says, "Our regional

appreciation for our natural landscape and resources has demanded that projects in Denver and the Front Range incorporate advanced environmentally sustainable solutions."

What does Davis expect for the

future of Denver? "I think Denver will

continue to gain respect nationally

and internationally for the balance of

our natural and built environments

and the lifestyles they enable. We

will continue to see smarter land use,

more compact urban development and

more sophisticated design solutions.

At OZ, we are excited to be a part

of this ongoing process to make

Denver one of the 'best places to

live,'" says Davis.

Josh Rudolph

Rudolph Architects LLC

A third generation architect,

Josh Rudolph studied architecture

at Princeton University. In New

York he became a lead designer

under the tutelage of his father and

grandfather, and decided to move

to Colorado in 2006 and today

ARCHITECTURE ONLINE

The Denver Architectural Foundation exists to increase public awareness and appreciation for architecture through education, participation and advocacy for excellence. Check it out at denverarchitect.org

DESIGNING DENVER

Kelly Davis

OZ Architecture

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Josh Rudolph

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Rodney J. Kazenske

Colorado Master Builders and Architects

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Rudolph believes the Denver homeowner is savvy and sophisticated and sees the housing market being resuscitated by the lifestyle Denver has to offer, "We are seeing signs of an improving market in Denver and across the country. Renovation projects have been steady, and custom home projects are picking up steam. Homeowners are more conservative in their approach to home design. New homes are tending to be smaller, but folks want to get more out of less space. The appeal of Denver's sunny climate, vibrant downtown, easy access to our Rocky Mountain playground and wonderful cultural opportunities make it an exceptional place to live."

Rodney J. Kazenske
Colorado Master Builders and
Architects (CMBA)

An architect and partner at Colorado Master Builders, Rodney J. Kazenske has a Masters degree in

architecture from Montana State University and is a licensed architect in Colorado. Established in 1990, CMBA is a collection of tool and construction junkies who just happen to complete many residential architecture projects. Kazenske believes architecture is seeing an increased focus on urban design and development, and that it provides the ideal opportunity for experimentation. In addition, Kazenske also views green or sustainable design at the forefront of the architecture scene and hopes that it becomes the norm rather than the exception in all styles of architectural development.

Concerning the Denver architecture scene, he says, "It's a very dynamic time to be in architecture and in Denver in particular right

now. The public's interest and highly publicized push for sustainable design, energy conservation, and general environmental awareness has really spurred a flood of developing technologies in the construction industry." Kazenske goes on to say, "Denver is also going through some major changes with the adoption of the new 'Blueprint Denver' plan. Increasing urban densities, creating sustainable, walkable, and vibrant urban neighborhoods along with expanding mass transit corridors will begin to change how we design our communities and how we live, creating new opportunities in architecture."



DENVER'S DIVERSITY

Fascinated by the diverse architectural fabric of the Denver area? Order a copy of **City By Design Denver**—a beautiful hardcover coffee table book published by Panache Partners—that captures the essence of the city's brilliantly complex urban and suburban landscapes. Featuring more than 200 vibrant photographs of architectural projects from leading local firms as well as an insightful foreword by Mayor John Hickenlooper, the 288-page book will intrigue both casual and avid architectural enthusiasts. \$40. panache.com

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