

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The American Institute of Architects Colorado South Chapter Announces Sustainable Design Assessment Team Application Approval**

**DENVER (Jan. 28, 2011)**—The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Colorado South chapter, announces its Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) application approval.

AIA Colorado South members believe in the importance of developing a more sustainable and livable environment within the Pikes Peak region. The chapter participated in and sponsored a number of recent planning events in attempts to bring together key stakeholders to define a vision of what sustainability means for their community. As the next step in these efforts, AIA Colorado South submitted an SDAT application to the AIA Center for Communities by Design. In December 2010, this application was approved.

The SDAT, a \$15,000 grant program funded by the AIA Center for Communities by Design, will lend expertise in support of a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary planning effort with the desired outcome of an implementable plan to guide and shape the built environment into the future. While 15 to 20 applications are received each year, fewer than 10 awards are granted nationwide per year.

“The SDAT program presents a unique opportunity for our community to engage with national expertise in the pursuit of a regional vision of sustainability that can revitalize our built environment, stimulate our local economy and preserve the natural beauty of the Pikes Peak region,” said AIA Colorado South 2011 President Lou Galletta, AIA.

The SDAT program is a collaborative effort between architects and other professionals (such as urban designers, landscape architects, planners, hydrologists, economists and attorneys, among others) assembled from across the country. The team works with community decision-makers and stakeholders to develop a vision and framework to reach a consensus on sustainability - as defined by a community’s ability to meet the environmental, economic and social equity needs of today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The SDAT process helps communities:

- understand their structure at various scales and contexts;
- explore interactions between ecological, sociological, economic and physical systems;
- visualize potential futures;
- articulate the qualities of a place;
- advance the principles of sustainable communities; and
- define the role of stakeholders and players in both the public and private sectors.

AIA Colorado South has formed a committee that will work directly with the SDAT to ensure the right experts are identified and the objectives outlined in the application are realized, assemble a broad-based, multi-disciplinary stakeholder group from within the community for a truly inclusive process, and serve as liaison between the SDAT and community in coordinating, scheduling and communicating all associated activities and work products. The committee will also work to secure a \$5,000 community match as required by the application.

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AIA Colorado South will release more information as it becomes available.

A full copy of the application has been posted to the AIA Colorado South website at [www.ppsdat.org](http://www.ppsdat.org).

**About AIA & AIA Colorado South**

*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 Colorado South is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado component. This chapter is comprised of members from 18 counties in south and southeastern Colorado and includes the cities of Colorado Springs, Alamosa, Pueblo and La Junta.*

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