



a r c h i t e c t s

A LEADING COLORADO  
ARCHITECTURE FIRM CELEBRATES  
THEIR FIRST 60 YEARS



DAVID KRESS REBECCA SPEARS CORKY BRADLEY KEN FIELD

*RB+B Architects, Inc. wishes to thank the photographers who have provided the images in this piece including Bill Sallaz, Paul Brokering, David Patterson, Fred Fuhrmeister and Greybox Studios.*

*The firm's appreciation is also extended to our consultants and clients who supported this effort as a celebration of RB+B's first 60 years.*

We're calling this the First Sixty Years! The wonderful thing about a big birthday is the chance we get to look back on our history, appreciate our present, and look forward to the plans we have for our future.

As part of looking back we've delved into the archives of old drawings and photos and re-discovered how great an influence the designs of this firm have had on the shaping of our Northern Colorado community. We enjoyed seeing civic buildings of the 50's, religious landmarks of the 60's and 70's, and Fort Collins' tallest office building (the Key Bank tower). Significant residential developments marked the 70's and 80's. Innovative educational facilities were created throughout many of our first 60 years. Over the last decade, our sustainable, daylight schools (many of them right here in Fort Collins) have been nationally recognized. We've also had fun capturing some stories of the early days from the founding matriarch, Eleanor, wife of Bill Robb, along with partners Bill Brenner and George Brelig, (the R, B, and B of RB+B).

We have been fortunate to work with exceptional clients, consultants and quality contractors to complete hundreds of projects; many returning again and again throughout our history and continuing to work with us today on their next buildings. Along with great clients, consultants and contractors, the Staff at RB+B is critical to our success. They enjoy working in an environment that promotes growth and creativity, sharing their knowledge and ideas to make each project better.

Over the years we've seen many changes. The tools of the profession have evolved from hand drafting to computer building information modeling systems. Our current work is centered on sustainable design with the clear understanding that we are responsible stewards of our environment and that we must be sensitive to the impact our buildings have on that environment. This understanding fits within our original goal established 60 years ago – providing lasting, quality spaces to delight and serve the users of our designs.

We hope you enjoy our special publication. Thank you for helping us celebrate this milestone as we look forward to the next 60 years!

Ken Field ■ David Kress ■ Corky Bradley ■ Rebecca Spears  
Principals, RB+B Architects, Inc.

# HONORING THE LEGACY

Woven through the architectural fabric of Northern Colorado is the work of a firm known for the attributes of excellence, integrity and service. As RB+B Architects, Inc. celebrates a 60-year legacy, those leading the firm today acknowledge with a sense of pride infused with humble gratitude that firm has become known for

- EXCELLENCE in Design & Innovation
- A Corporate CULTURE Reflecting Health, Happiness & Enduring Relationships
- Living the Ideals of SUSTAINABILITY
- A FUTURE of Great Places

## AUGUST 1953

Since its founding sixty years ago by the first of three inspired entrepreneurial architects the firm of RB+B Architects, Inc. has contributed to the architectural diversity and design excellence of its home community, Fort Collins, Colorado. The iconic structures designed by RB+B Architects, Inc. have become identifiable and lauded landmarks with structures and interiors gracing the landscapes and buildings throughout the region, the state and beyond.



### WILLIAM B. ROBB

1953 Robb opened shop as William Robb Architect.

“Throughout the ages, it has been the simple buildings that solve a problem (that) become the representative buildings of their time.” –Bill Robb



### WILLIAM BRENNER

Brenner started work with the firm in the late 50s. In 1971 he became a principal, and the firm became Robb & Brenner Architects and Planners.



### GEORGE BRELIG

Brelig joined the firm in 1979 becoming a principal in 1986 when the firm changed its name to Robb, Brenner & Brelig Architects and Planners.

# REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

George Breilig has said, “We think every design is an award winner.” Spoken not as a boast, but affirming a philosophy that fuels the best effort in every project, it would seem the award community agrees with the firm’s aspirations. The awards have been abundant, coming from the trade and design communities alike to recognize beauty, innovation, sustainability, and function.



Dr. Thomas P.F. Hoving,  
associate director of the Metropolitan  
Museum of Art, New York City,  
described the St. Luke's as,

**“...ONE OF THE LOVELIEST EXAMPLES OF  
CONTEMPORARY CHURCH CONSTRUCTION  
IN THIS COUNTRY OR EUROPE.”**

***St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
Completed in 1974***

Two new principals, Ken Field and David Kress, were named in 1998 and 2003 respectively, and as the firm grew, its own need for space grew. In 1998 the firm moved to the Mawson Block on East Mountain Avenue – a project which earned the Design Honor Award from the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



DAVID KRESS



KEN FIELD

**“TO WORK IN AN RB+B-DESIGNED BUILDING  
IS TO KNOW THE COMFORT OF HEALTH AND  
HAPPINESS IN A SPACE THAT FUNCTIONS  
EFFECTIVELY FOR OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS.”**

**–KEN FIELD**

**Fossil Ridge High School**

RECEIVED THE FIRM'S FIRST  
LEED CERTIFICATION IN 2004

**JAMES D. MACCONNELL AWARD**

Received from the Council  
of Education Facility  
Planners International in 2006

**Zach Elementary School**

2003 ENERGY STAR AWARD

Received for the school's  
energy-efficient design

**CITATION AWARD**

Received from the Council  
of Education Facility  
Planners International



# THE CULTURE OF RB+B ARCHITECTS, INC.

## THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS: ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLIENTS AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

The foundation of RB+B's body of work is the enduring relationships with clients, staff members, and professional cohorts. RB+B believes these relationships to be the firm's most valuable assets.

Continuity and stability at all levels of RB+B staff provides a culture in which clients feel comfortable engaging RB+B to meet the challenges of new projects. While the firm enthusiastically welcomes new talent to the company, at the same time it values the experience and growing knowledge of seasoned staff members. In recent years of economic downturn, as many architectural firms closed their doors for lack of work, RB+B sustained staff and reinforced the company's culture by creatively examining staffing patterns. Focused on protecting its talented employee pool, the firm enlisted the collective support of the staff, principals included, in taking an unprecedented 10% reduction in pay. By 2013 the firm was back at full time, increased compensation, and increased staff by more than 10%.

RB+B weathered the storm, and rightfully celebrates its 60th year of business success.

## TEAMING OPPORTUNITIES

In a 2003 Fort Collins Coloradoan article, written in acknowledgement of RB+B's then 50-year longevity, Frank Vaught, AIA was quoted as an architect who formerly worked for the firm: "[RB+B] has probably started more competition for themselves than any other company in town. So many of us went on to start our own businesses." Vaught's company, then known as Vaught Frye Architects, now called VFLA, is one of the firms that used the experience gained at RB+B to build a successful company.

RB+B has never feared competition and has, in fact, developed strong teaming partnerships, including some with architectural firms that would typically be considered the opposition. These teaming opportunities are one way the firm provides clients with superior service and design.

RB+B is rightfully proud of the relationships the firm has with its vendor and teaming partners. They in turn chose RB+B as the firm chose them for the quality of work and the exemplary care taken to satisfy client objectives. Through mutually respectful relationships, trust and loyalty each part of the team depends on the other for the completion of today's project and tomorrow's growth. A partner recommendation is as prized as any award in the RB+B portfolio.

## STEADY, SMART GROWTH

Where RB+B excels is where its clients excel. The structures the firm designs, the planning it does, the programming it manages have a single focus: client satisfaction.

Client relationships open with a dialogue, which continues through the entire process of the project – simple or complex. From determining the statement of need to the day a project reaches its defined goal, the conversation is transparent and honest.

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**"OUR INTERNAL CULTURE REFLECTS THE FIRM'S DESIGNS. WE ARE A LIVELY ASSEMBLY OF TALENTED PEOPLE WORKING IN A STUDIO ENVIRONMENT. WE SHARE WITH EACH OTHER, WE CARE FOR OUR WORLD, AND WE DARE IN DESIGN INNOVATION."**

**– REBECCA SPEARS  
NAMED PRINCIPAL IN 2012**





Obstacles are discussed as challenging opportunities for innovation. All points of view are fused into strong, successful solutions.

One result is that over 50 percent of RB+B's work is for its established clients. Another is that a satisfied client is the best source of new business a company can hope for. And RB+B continues to grow new business on a solid foundation of time-honored, highly-valued relationships.



**"WORKING IN CONCERT WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS IS LIKE AN INSURANCE POLICY FOR CLIENT SATISFACTION. IT IS GRATIFYING, AND IT'S FUN! IT IS PART OF OUR RB+B CULTURE, AND IT MAKES WORK PLEASURABLE."**

**—CORKY BRADLEY  
NAMED PRINCIPAL IN 2012**

**Congratulations**  
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 years of business  
 in Northern  
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 on your 60<sup>th</sup>  
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***“Working with RB+B over the years has been rewarding as they work as a team to resolve issues in a manner that is effective for all involved.”***

—Tom Stone,  
Project Executive,  
Adolfson & Peterson  
Construction



## SUMMIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

***“I got to spend some time drooling over the unique feel of Summit Elementary School yesterday....WOW. This place is incredible. The daylighting, open houses, common space, it all just feels good, balanced, poised. Excellence in physical form to match the excellent performance of our learners. I cannot wait to see kiddos learning and living in this atmosphere with our instructional team. Dreams do come true.”***

—Mark Antrim, Assistant Superintendent,  
Natrona County School District No. 1

## BETHKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

***“Through the spirit of collaboration, the Poudre School District team and RB+B Architects lifted their talents to a new standard in constructing a state-of-the-art renewable energy school.”***

—Jerry Wilson, Ph.D., Former Superintendent, Poudre School District



## A visionary business deserves a visionary bank.

*There has been no more perfect partner than RB+B to design the Home State Bank buildings, especially as we planned for our offices in the heart of Old Town Fort Collins on Mountain Avenue. RB+B shared our vision of uniting the heritage of our bank with the historic architecture of Old Town, the result being a signature building on the landmark Mawson Block. How befitting that our two companies can proudly share a legacy spanning 60+ years and a building whose design reflects our commitment to community.* —Harry Devereaux, President



*Partnering with great businesses like RB+B has made Home State Bank an award winning bank in northern Colorado for over 63 years.*

*Your home for better banking.*



# Home State

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## RED HAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"I appreciate your problem solving, communication, and most of all commitment to the owner."*

Todd Piccone, Construction Project Manager  
St. Vrain Valley School District



## CSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

*"On behalf of all of our Residents and Staff of Apartment Life and Housing and Dining Services, I want to thank you for the great work you did on the International House addition."*

Christie Mathews, Director,  
Apartment Life, Housing & Dining Services,  
Colorado State University





**Adolfson & Peterson Construction**

### VALUE BEYOND BUILDING



Dept of Military & Veteran Affairs: Windsor Readiness Center

**Value in collaboration.**

A&P is proud to have been working collaboratively with **RB+B Architects** for more than a decade on **20 successful projects!**



Weld County District: Greeley Central High School



Natrona County School District: Eastside Elementary



St. Vrain School District: Red Hawk Elementary

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# Congratulations on 60 years!



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# SUSTAINABILITY

## DESIGN INNOVATION

Clients are demanding buildings that operate efficiently and perform well in terms of saving energy. It is a demand welcomed by RB+B Architects – the firm wouldn't have it any other way.



The First LEED Platinum building designed by RB+B was Seven Generations Office Park in 2008. Below are just a few of the many ways RB+B Architects has been recognized throughout the years for sustainable design practices.

- COLORADO CONSTRUCTION BRONZE HARD HAT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SUSTAINABLE DESIGN  
New Belgium Brewery Packaging Hall, 2007
- COLORADO ENERGY CHAMPION AWARD FROM GOVERNOR BILL OWENS/OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION  
Fossil Ridge High School, 2006
- ENERGY STAR AWARD WINNER  
Zach Elementary, 2003

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*Congratulations to RB+B Architects on your 60th Anniversary!*

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# ONE PLANET ACTION PLAN

We're using a One Planet Action Plan to help us live within a fair share of the earth's resources

Focused on an integrated design process, RB+B strives for sustainability in every building project. The firm is committed to the future of sustainable building as a registered member of the AIA 2030 Commitment.

In addition to sustainability in its design products, RB+B is committed to long-term change throughout all of the business's organizations. The firm's goal is not only to reduce waste and make the company greener, but also to educate and challenge staff members to live and work in a sustainable way.

## MISSION

**RB+B INCORPORATES SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PRACTICES IN EVERY PROJECT NO MATTER WHAT SIZE OR BUDGET, DESIGNING BUILDINGS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE MEETING THE USER'S NEEDS. AS WE BELIEVE IN BEING RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS, WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO INCORPORATING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES INTO OUR DAILY OPERATIONS.**

**Proudly Partnering with RB+B Architects, Inc.  
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*on Celebrating Their*

## 60th Anniversary!

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“RB+B DESIGNED OUR LAST TWO BREWERY EXPANSIONS, AND WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE RESULTS. THEIR WORK ALLOWS US TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE, CREATIVE, DISTINCTIVE AND AFFORDABLE SPACES WITH LOTS OF SMALL YET SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS THAT GENERATE A GREAT “WOW FACTOR.” OUR EXPANSIONS REQUIRE HIGHLY TECHNICAL BUILDING DESIGNS AND RB+B HAS ALWAYS MASTERED THE SPECIFICS TO ENSURE THAT OUR OPERATIONS WILL FIT PERFECTLY IN THE SPACES THEY DESIGN.”

*—Wynne Odell*

# SUSTAINABILITY

*continued*

The development a Sustainability Management System (SMS) is moving the firm toward its goal.

Within the SMS, RB+B has adopted the One Planet Living Framework, a vision of a sustainable world where people lead healthy, happy lives within their fair share of the Earth's resources. The top priorities are:

## ZERO CARBON

Demonstrated by the Lights Out Lunch program

## HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Demonstrated by Foliage for the Future

## ZERO WASTE

Instituting the Divert to Dirt composting project

## SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Green Cleaning using products designed to be less harmful to the environment

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Art Installation at the Rialto Theater following artist David Griggs's Up in Lights theme



Additionally, RB+B has made a commitment to work with teaming partners, as well as trade and professional contractors, who also want to build within the resources of our planet. As a reinforcement of its commitment, many of the principles that have been incorporated into the company's SMS are also being built into consultant selection and contracts.

One of RB+B's innovations in sustainability is the development of a "Building Instruction Manual", which allows building owners and users to understand the reasoning behind the design decisions that created their facility. The manual also offers instruction about the best way to operate the building to save energy and water resources.

RB+B is committed to designing buildings to meet the requirements of third party sustainability verification systems.



**"WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT WE DO AS HUMANS AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF ALL LIFE ON OUR PLANET. IT IS A NATURAL EXTENSION OF OUR BELIEFS AND PRACTICE TO IMPLEMENT THE RB+B SMS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE AIA 2030 COMMITMENT."**

**—DAVID KRESS  
NAMED PRINCIPAL IN 2003**

**"THIS IS A FANTASTIC PROJECT, DONE TO THE VERY HIGHEST PRESERVATION STANDARDS, AND ONE FOR WHICH YOU SHOULD BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD."**

**—Stephanie Meeks,  
President of the  
National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**



"WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT THIS BUILDING WILL BECOME THE GATEWAY TO ONE OF COLORADO'S PREMIER ENERGY PARKS."

*-Bob Datson, Design and Project Management Branch Chief, Colorado Department of Military & Veterans Affairs*

WINDSOR READINESS CENTER



CASEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



BETHKE ELEMENTARY



CASEY



# SUSTAINABILITY *continued*

RB+B has led the state and nation in this area with projects like these:

## THE FIRST LEED SILVER HIGH SCHOOL IN COLORADO & THE THIRD IN THE NATION

Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins saves the taxpayers in Poudre School District over \$115,000 per year in energy, waste and water costs, compared to other high schools of similar size.

## THE FIRST LEED PLATINUM (HIGHEST LEVEL) MIDDLE SCHOOL IN COLORADO

Casey Middle School, Boulder, CO

## THE FIRST LEED FOR SCHOOLS GOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE NATION AND THE FIRST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE CERTIFIED UNDER THE GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE'S GREEN GLOBES PROGRAM

Bethke Elementary School, Timnath, CO

## THE FIRST LEED PLATINUM READINESS CENTER IN THE NATION

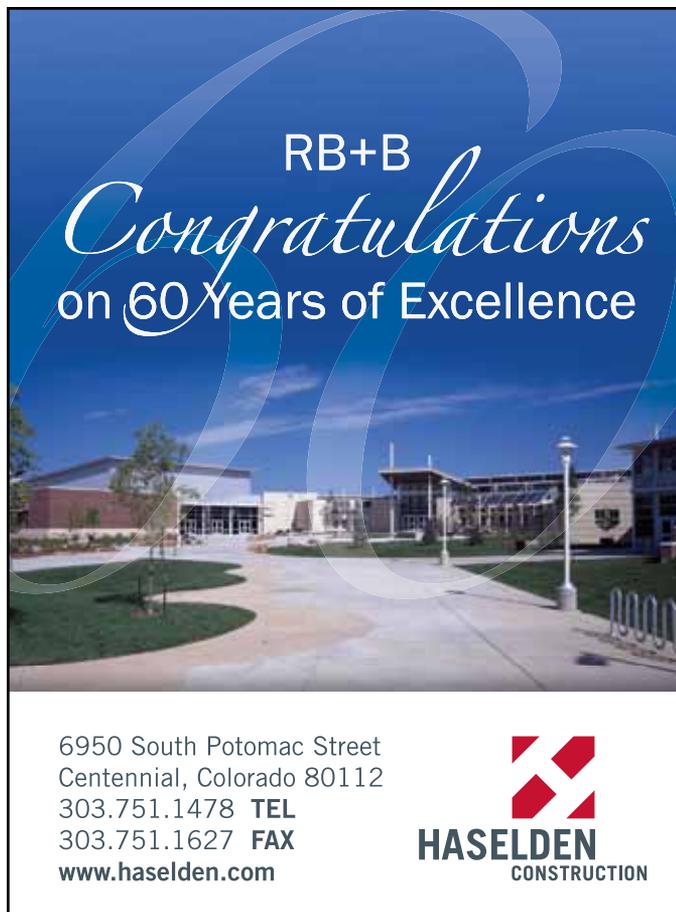
Colorado Army National Guard,  
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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
RB+B on your **60th** Anniversary!

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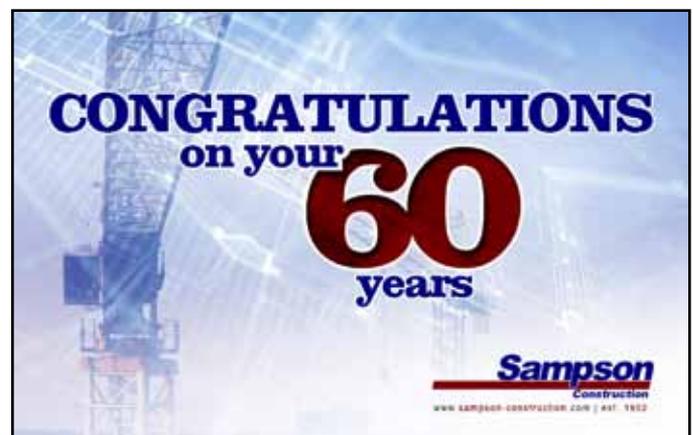
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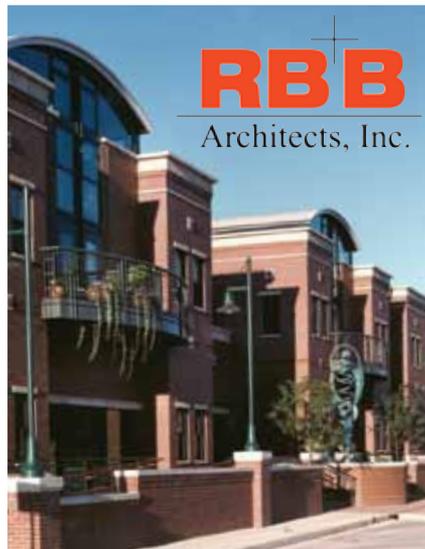
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on your **60** years

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# DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

***The next decade and the decades  
beyond will be defined by the  
futures of the firm's clients, vendor  
partners and the RB+B staff.***

“RB+B Architects takes pride in the awards that have recognized client satisfaction and design excellence we’ve achieved in our first 60 years. Our future success will be built on the foundation of past achievement and will rise to greater heights by challenging ourselves to meet the expanding expectations of our clients. Continuous improvement in the use of advancing technologies, our unremitting dedication to client satisfaction, and our commitment to our community and the environment is our master plan for the future.”



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