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## **BOULDER MIXED-USE PROJECT WINS NATIONAL DESIGN AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- RNL Design received a 2003 Charter Award from the **Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)** for the **15<sup>th</sup> & Pearl Parking Structure** in Boulder, Colorado. The \$11.2 million, 260,000 s.f. mixed-use facility was honored as one of this year's best examples of New Urbanism, a pedestrian-friendly structure that promotes a walkable, mixed-use neighborhood. The project was completed in association with Denver-based firm Shears & Leese, now Shears-Adkins Architects.

Back in April 2003, jurors deliberated for two full days on the 169 international entries from over 100 firms and selected only 15 projects. Jurors held the projects up to high standards, ensuring that the winners would fulfill and represent the best examples in New Urbanism. The Charter recognizes architectural excellence as an important element of urban places.

"Pearl Street is one of the only functional car-free streets in America, but it could be a Death Star with its parking demands," noted juror Peter Katz, Consultant and Author of "The New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community." "The ability of a building like this to provide parking and still be good urbanism is key."

With the increasing popularity of retail and office space in downtown Boulder, Colorado, parking used to be increasingly difficult to supply. In addition, property owners living there were frustrated by downtown visitors who used neighborhood streets for parking.

In 1997, the Boulder Central Area General Improvement District voted to finance a new parking structure at 15<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Streets, at the end of the popular Pearl Street Mall. Facing the challenge of building a structure in close proximity to the historic storefronts along Pearl Street, the design team created a garage facility that was integrated with the retail and office facades facing public streets.

The 15<sup>th</sup> & Pearl Parking Structure features 7,500 s.f. of retail on the first floor and 7,500 s.f. of City office space on the second floor with a post-tensioned concrete garage that holds approximately 700 cars on eight levels, two below grade. In addition, the structure incorporates highly detailed brick work, a garage featuring open stair towers and a glass-enclosed elevator, fitting contextually and welcoming downtown visitors with convenient parking.

The Charter Award event was held during a special awards luncheon at the Eleventh Congress for the New Urbanism in Washington, D.C. This is the sixth award that the RNL/Shears team has received for the 15<sup>th</sup> & Pearl Parking Structure, including the prestigious **2001 Award of Excellence** from the **International Parking Institute**.

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that was founded in 1993. It works with architects, developers, planners, and others involved in the creation of cities and towns, teaching them how to implement the principles of the New Urbanism. These principles include coherent regional planning, walkable neighborhoods, and attractive, accommodating civic spaces. CNU has members throughout the United States and around the world. It sponsors annual conferences, known as Congresses, for the sharing and discussion of best practices in New Urbanism.

Since its inception in 1956, RNL Design has built its practice providing innovative design solutions to clients, exceeding their needs and bringing ideas to life. RNL offers clients around the world a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, facility programs, feasibility studies, urban design and planning, landscape architecture and engineering. Testimony to RNL Design's success are the many partnerships with clients spanning several decades and many prestigious awards including the 2001 Firm of the Year award from The American Institute of Architects Western Mountain Region. For more information, visit [www.rnldesign.com](http://www.rnldesign.com).

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