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RNL WINS BIG IN 2003 COLORADO CONSTRUCTION GOLD HARD HAT AWARDS

DENVER, CO -- Four RNL designed projects received recognition from **Colorado Construction Magazine's 2003 Gold Hard Hat Awards** competition, with two top honors, one tie and one semi-finalist recognition for projects that demonstrate the power of architectural design to meet strategic goals. The **NORAD Space Command Headquarters** in Colorado Springs won the top Gold Hard Hat prize in the Outstanding Design-Build Project category, and the **Clayton Lane Mixed-Use Parking Structure** in Cherry Creek also picked up a Gold Hard Hat award for Outstanding Private Project. In addition, the **Denver Museum of Nature and Science Parking Structure** tied for first place and received a Silver Hard Hat prize for Outstanding Architectural Design Project while **Certified Financial Planner** in Denver placed third in the Outstanding Interior Finish/Painting Project category, receiving a Bronze Hard Hat award.

Colorado Construction Magazine held its First Annual Gold Hard Hat Awards competition at a breakfast ceremony at the Lakewood Country Club. A panel of seven judges considered 54 entries in 14 categories based on design quality and innovation, craftsmanship, contribution to the industry, solution of unique design and construction challenges as well as overall excellence.

In April 2000, RNL was selected as part of a design/build team with Swinerton Builders and Merrick Engineering to design and construct a new \$70 million Space Command Headquarters for NORAD and the US Army (NORAD/USSPACECOM & USARSPACECOM). The new headquarters consists of two separate buildings totaling 231,000 square feet, constructed adjacent to the existing Air Force Space Command headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. Designed and built on a fast-track basis, the two buildings are situated to form an entry courtyard with the two new buildings complementing the architecture and sleek, space-age exterior skin of the original building, creating a high-tech campus environment.

RNL, in association with Denver-based firm Shears & Leese, now Shears-Adkins Architects, was selected to design the Clayton Lane Mixed-Use Parking Facility in Denver's Cherry Creek neighborhood. The new facility occupies a former parking lot for the Sears Roebuck Company,

one of the very first retailers in this thriving retail/commercial district. The project was designed to address future parking needs for the shopping district, the neighborhood, Sears, and the balance of the Sears Master Plan development.

The new facility provides 450 parking spaces on five levels and a basement with approximately 16,000 s.f. of street-level retail buffering the parking from the street and extending the pedestrian scale and character of the urban streetscape that is a central feature of the neighborhood. The upper levels of the structure step back to further minimize the scale of the building and maximize daylight exposure on the street. The upper levels also provide additional area for office space.

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science Parking Structure is a 550-car facility designed to relieve surface parking congestion for the Museum and City Park patrons. The garage is located adjacent to the primary museum entrance and consists of one level of surface parking and two subterranean levels. Design began in May 2002 and the garage opened in June 2003.

With a very unique site plan, the garage is located in a prominent section of City Park where the design conceals the typical imagery of a parking structure by integrating with the surrounding landscaping of the adjacent park land and the existing surface parking lot. In addition, the garage itself is almost invisible except for the vehicular entrance and the elevators that lead to the museum's front door. The elevators create a pavilion building among mature evergreen trees that frame a terraced light-well, bringing natural daylight into the lower parking levels.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. required new office space for their growing organization, and high-rise office space in downtown Denver provided a perfect location for the training, certification, and governance of their membership. Initial client interviews and design charette meetings uncovered key identity drivers for the client, including education, professionalism, a sense of history and permanence. However, the client still desired modern undertones to enhance their recruitment and retention. The resulting project is a 21,000 s.f. demolition and tenant finish of the entire sixth floor at 1670 Broadway in Denver where the design, plan and details purposefully play conceptual chess with the forms and ideas of tradition.

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.