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DENVER – October 17, 2008 – Richard von Lührte, president and senior principal of RNL, has been named **2008 Architect of the Year** by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Colorado. The announcement was made at the annual design conference held at the Vail Cascade Resort and Spa on September 27th, which recognized achievements in architecture.

As a prominent and influential voice in the Denver urban landscape with a highly distinguished career spanning more than 40 years, von Lührte's work focuses on sustainable urban design, transit facilities, mixed use, and new community master planning. Marvin Sparn of Boulder, jury chair, presented the honor award to von Lührte.

"I want to thank the AIA for this distinction, especially since it comes at a time when sustainability and good planning are in the forefront of the public's awareness," says von Lührte. "Since the survival of our society depends on using our resources in an intelligent and responsible way, this requires community and professional leadership to find new solutions for the continued blight of urban sprawl. As architects and urban designers, we have the responsibility to seek out and embrace new models of sustainable design that conserve our water, reduce pollution, and conserve energy. What was viewed as highly idealistic or impractical just ten years ago, is considered today be the mainstream of good planning and development. It is our greatest challenge to embrace these opportunities with enthusiasm and leadership."

Von Lührte's work has been widely recognized by the Congress for New Urbanism, the Urban Land Institute, the University of Colorado, the AIA and the U.S. Department of Transportation. He continues to serve the city and state through many key organizations

that have been instrumental in shaping Denver's future, including the Downtown Denver Partnership, 16th Street Mall Steering Committee, the Denver AIA Urban Design Committee, the Colorado Urban Land Institute, and the Civic Center Conservancy Board among others. Von Lührte is an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado at Denver where he also is the chairman of its advisory board within the College of Architecture and Planning. He is the recipient of an Alumni Recognition award by the University of Colorado, a top honor recognizing community leadership. In addition, he is a member of the alumni leadership council and a member of the board of directors for the University of Michigan's alumni association.

Recent projects of his include Horizon Uptown, a sustainable new community in Aurora and Union Park in Las Vegas, both of which are pursuing Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design for New Development (LEED-ND) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Monrovia Transit Oriented Development in Monrovia, California, and numerous international master plans in Cairo, Egypt, Dubai and around the world. Von Lührte recently orchestrated a winning design-build competition for a new Zero Energy Building (ZEB) for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, which is being designed to go beyond the LEED-Platinum level of certification by the USGBC.

RNL is a global, full-service design firm specializing in sustainable, integrated design. RNL offers a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, and engineering. RNL has offices in Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles and an affiliate office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. For more information, please visit www.rnldesign.com.

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