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**CONTACT: Jacqui Argyres**  
**Argyres Communications**  
**408.266.2324**  
[jargyres@earthlink.net](mailto:jargyres@earthlink.net)

## **RICHARD VON LUHRTE EARNS ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD FROM CU – DENVER**

### ***RNL President Honored for Career and Community Service***

**DENVER, CO** -- In recognition of a distinguished career that spans more than 35 years and with continuous service to the community, the University of Colorado at Denver presented RNL President and Senior Principal Richard von Lührte, FAIA, with the 2004 Alumni Recognition Award. Von Lührte was honored at the 2004 spring commencement, held at the Auraria Field in Denver.

The Alumni Recognition Award is presented each year to an alumnus/alumna who has excelled in his/her career field, as well as in service to the community. This year's award was given by Doctor James Shore, Chancellor and Elizabeth Hoffman, President of the University of Colorado at Denver. Nominations for the award were made by each of the individual colleges, and followed by an all university selection committee making the final recommendation to the present the award to von Lührte.

"We were thrilled and not the least surprised when Richard von Lührte was chosen over all of the very distinguished nominees from the other academic disciplines," said Dr. Mark Gelernter, Dean of the College of Architecture and Planning. "He has added immeasurably to the quality of our built environment through his firm RNL, as well as through his strong and public advocacy of quality design."

Reared in Chicago, von Lührte received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan and then studied planning and urban design at CU – Denver's College of Architecture and Planning. Von Lührte began his career at Skidmore Owings and Merrill and then joined CF Murphy Associates in Chicago, where he later helped establish Murphy's Denver office. After working for the Regional Transportation District (RTD) as Chief Architect and Director of Urban Design, von Lührte joined RNL Design in 1979, where he currently serves on the firm's Board of

Directors and is responsible for all urban mixed-use and urban design projects. He has been a principal since 1984 and became President in 2002.

Mr. von Lührte is a member of CU – Denver's College of Architecture and Planning's Advisory Board and is also a past chair. In addition, he's an adjunct architecture professor at CU – Denver, the current national director of the University of Michigan Alumni Association and has lectured and juried extensively for both of his alma maters.

Dedicated to making urban spaces better environments in which to live, work and visit, von Lührte was chosen as the 2001 Architect of the Year by the Denver chapter of the AIA. He chaired the AIA task force on growth management, is a founder of Denver's AIA urban design committee and is an advocate for transit-oriented development as a remedy for urban sprawl. His civic achievements include Past Director of the Downtown Denver Partnership, Past Chairman and current director of the DIA Business Partnership, Past President and Board of Director of the Denver Chapter of the AIA, a member of the Auraria Higher Education Center Design Review Board, design review committees and task forces.

Von Lührte's significant landmark work includes: **Colorado's Ocean Journey Aquarium, Coors Field** and the original urban design concepts for the **16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall**, an award-winning project designed by I.M. Pei. He has created a new downtown master plan for Leawood, Kansas, mixed-use developments in Kansas City, Salt Lake City and a new town master plan for Luchaogang, China. He is currently the Co-Principal on a six million square foot master plan for Downtown Las Vegas.

RNL Design is an integrated, full service architectural firm with offices in Denver, Los Angeles and Phoenix, serving clients locally, nationally and internationally. Since its inception in 1956, RNL 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. For more information, visit [www.rnldesign.com](http://www.rnldesign.com).

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