

**Institute Center Defines 'Green'**  
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A conspicuous red sandstone wall snakes across the grounds of the Aspen Institute, through a reflecting pool and into the latest architectural feat on the world-renowned think tank's campus, before emerging on a riverfront terrace. The wall, dubbed "Stone River," serves as both artistic marvel and fitting metaphor for the wealth of ideas beginning to rush through the new Doerr-Hosier Center, a \$15 million endeavor evoking the Aspen Institute's storied history.

The 22,000 square-foot center, designed by architect Jeffrey Berkus, builds off the work of Bauhaus-trained Herbert Bayer, who Walter Paepeke commissioned to design the institute's Aspen Meadows campus, along with Fritz Benedict, more than a half century ago.

Inside the building, floor-to-ceiling wrap-around glass usher in Colorado shine, while the center's layout flows clockwise, mimicking the bend in the Roaring Fork River as seen through the windows.

"The idea is to help diffuse the tension of these intense, politically charged conversations," said Berkus, a Santa Barbara, Calif., transplant now living in Aspen. "Walking clockwise into the building, crossing the bridge, you cleanse your preconceptions to set yourself up for a sense of awareness and open-mindedness of the dialogue that is taking place in the building."

Aspen Institute Trustees Jerry Hosier and John Doerr, a retired lawyer and venture capitalist, respectively, are the primary donors to the building bearing their names. They pitched in \$3 million each to fund the building that think-tank brass said was needed to keep up with the institute's many aspirations. The Doerr-Hosier Center has been tapped as a meeting place for health-minded programs and seminars, which suits Berkus's green sensibilities nicely. Heated and cooled by the aforementioned reflecting pool, which serves as a 14-foot-deep and 80-foot-wide geothermal energy center, the building is the first in the Roaring Fork Valley to attain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Gold Rating.

Berkus and builder Shaw Construction sought advice from the esteemed energy firm Rocky Mountain Institute in Old Snowmass to locate materials that have a low impact on the environment, and they capitalized on the natural light flowing into the center. The red sandstone wall at the building's entrance - the creation of celebrated British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy - includes stones from around the world. Stones from India, China, Jordan, England and other locales are interspersed among rock from Colorado and Utah. The wall is meant to establish common ground.

"Weaving the Stone River sculpture into the meadow and through the center reinforces the connection with nature and the building," said Berkus, noting that almost every room has at least two ways in and two ways out so that "energy never gets stuck in a corner" and that the glass walls face to the north to reduce glare to ensure "you don't step out of a conference with dilated eyes." There is also nearly 3,000 square feet of terraces, with sweeping views of the Roaring Fork: River, the mountain ranges beyond the area's pastoral setting. The center officially opened last month but finishing touches are ongoing.

## **Aspen Institute brass emphasize Doerr-Hosier as community asset.**

Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson said the Doerr-Hosier Center "may be the nicest meeting house in Colorado. Its a great asset for the community." To that end, Isaacson said the public is welcome to rent the building from the institute (a nonprofit) for parties and special events. There has already been a wedding held there, a party for outgoing Aspen Mayor Helen Klanderud, and a luncheon for Nobel Prize in literature winner Woli Soyinke. "One night we can have the Rotary Club and the next night we can have a Nobel laureate speaking to our African and American leadership groups," he said. Allowing the public to use the building should help debunk the myth that the highbrow institute is disconnected from the community, Berkus added.

Aspen Institute Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Amy Margerum, who closely monitored the building's birth, said there have always been plans for a such a center on the property, but it wasn't until a few years ago that a committee was formed to raise funds and establish a clear vision for the site. Like everyone else who has seen the center, she is more than impressed.

"I like the way the building flows, especially when a lot of people are in it," said Margerum, adding that somewhere around 1,000 people utilized the space for the Best Chef's dinner at last month's Aspen Food & Wine Magazine Classic. Downstairs, the Resnick Art Gallery will feature exhibits from around the world, starting with a retrospective of the artwork of Bayer, the late architect. On the building's main level, Goldsworthy's art is featured. There is also the Isaacson History Room in the center of the art gallery to highlight other art projects.

"Goldsworthy is a natural succession to Bayer. To have his wall come into the building where there is a Bayer gallery, we get back to our roots as well as look forward," Isaacson said. "It's truly the best meeting hall I've been to."