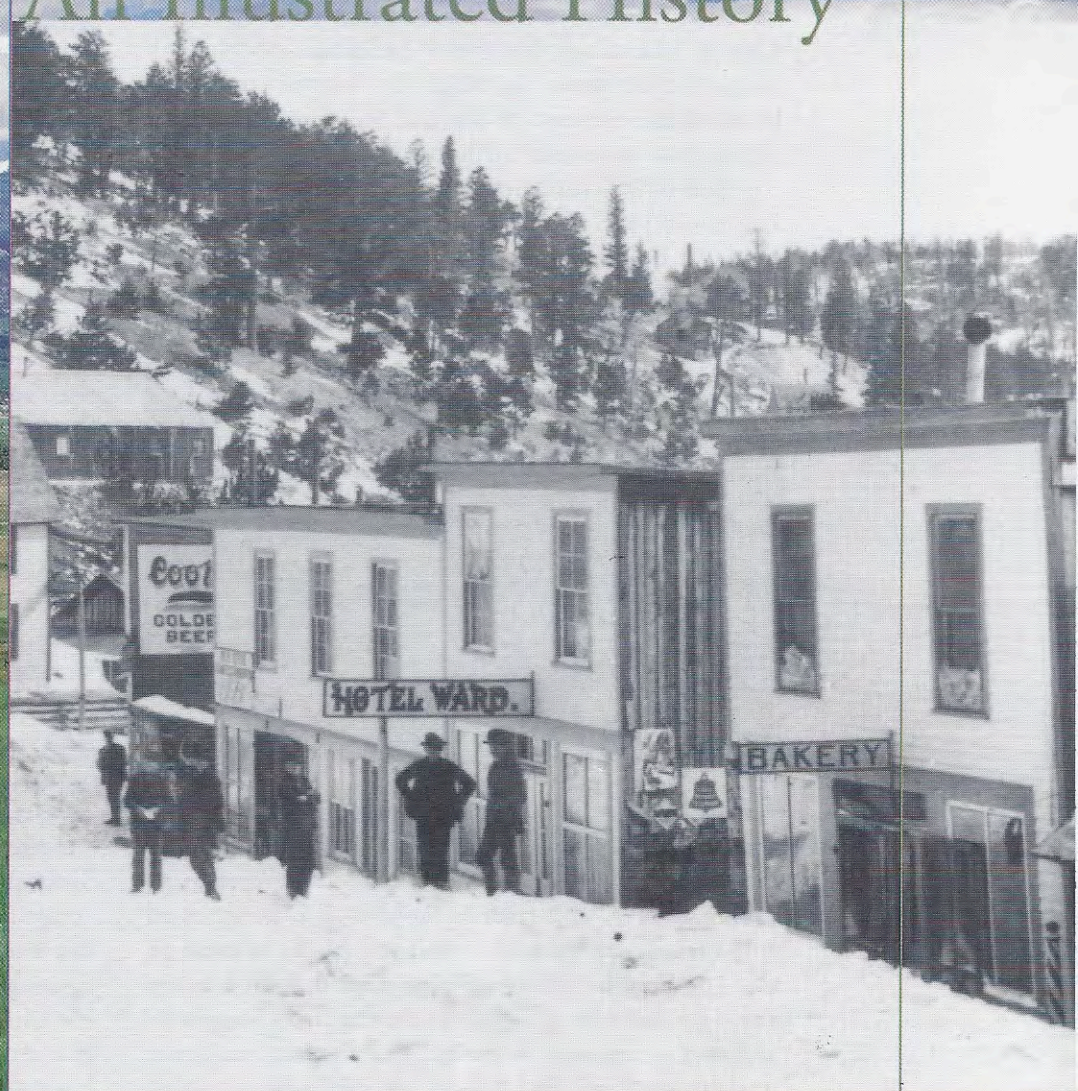


BOULDER COUNTY

An Illustrated History



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architectural manœuvres, p.c.

*In an age of throw-away architecture scattered indifferently on the landscape, buildings that seemingly grow from their sites herald a rare aesthetic pleasure and environmental ethic. These latter buildings characterize the work of *architectural manœuvres*, which takes cues from the planar landscape and refracted light indigenous to Boulder to create memorable residences and commercial buildings.*

Founded by J. Matthew McMullen in 1989, the firm derives its inspiration from Frank Lloyd Wright's use of site materials and forms, from Robert Henri's American Impressionist paintings of blended natural elements which re-create an American landscape, and Charles Haertling's sculptural buildings. McMullen's interpretation results in design by "organic cooking," blending the elements of site and building to create an artistic and functional architecture.

McMullen's residential projects sing with "organic impressionism." Crooked Pine is a 5,100-square-foot home in Boulder, located where flat plains meet the



vertical Rocky Mountain slopes. Diverse fragile ecosystems and the fragmented landscape, which included an eroding sandstone formation and subsequent rubble, produced a fractile building geometry fused with organic site materials, sensitively placed to preserve the 100-year-old crooked pine tree that thrives on site. Familiar with Wright's work, the client sought an architect who shared that ethic. The resulting residence was dropped into the hillside to minimize its visual impact and preserve views both for the owners and



their neighbors. Vibrant stucco textures and colors reflect those of the surrounding rocks and sky. Rusted metal columns and hammered railings recall the area's mining history.

Believing that good design is possible for all budgets, McMullen designed a residence for clients with a modest budget who wanted Mediterranean-type hillside architecture built in Sunshine Canyon in Boulder. Their home sinks into a mountainous site, which required blasting to drop the house into the granite substrate. It echoes with the contextual color, planar surfaces, outdoor rooms and use of natural light typical of Mediterranean design. Vibrant stucco colors reinforce the changing daylight.

Committed to the Boulder Valley community, *architectural manœuvres* has designed a variety of community outreach and commercial projects. The firm has provided architectural consultation to Attention Homes, Inc. in Boulder, a nonprofit that provides residential care and counseling for abused, homeless and delinquent individuals. It donated its design and visualizing capabilities to provide a fund-raising tool for the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center. Other projects include the redesign of University Hill's retail center to bring life back to the shopping center, a re-design of La Iguana, a Hill restaurant, and the new Pueblo Bank. Holding the client's vision as sacred, *architectural manœuvres* creates cost-effective, people places that bespeak the soul of what Boulder's landscape and community offer.

◆ Conceptual design for renovation of Pueblo Bank & Trust — 30th & Pearl branch
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◆ Private residence — foothills above Boulder
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