

Rodwin collects Young Architect award

Boulder architect lauded for 'green' building designs

By Andrew Villegas
For the Camera

When Scott Rodwin was little, he built cities in his imagination.

Today, the 38-year-old Boulder resident creates real buildings, too, and he was recognized Saturday as "Young Architect of the Year" by the American Institute of Architects. The award is given to a handful of architects around the country with less than 10 years of experience.

The president of Rodwin Architecture, at 1425 Pearl St., creates "green" buildings for clients looking to make their homes and businesses more environmentally friendly. The projects combine energy efficiency with touches such as lead-free paint and non-toxic construction adhesives.

Melanie Sala, director of AIA

Colorado, said Rodwin's focus on green architecture is going to be important to how people build in the future.

"It's really on the cutting edge to conserve energy," Sala said. "He's reducing energy consumption by up to 50 percent. That's really amazing."

Rodwin's Boulder projects include Japango restaurant, 1136 Pearl St.; the Aikikai Dojo, 2424 30th St.; and a redesign of the Tara School for the Performing Arts campus, 4180 19th St.

Rodwin said each new project brings a different perspective and needs a fresh approach.

"You have to think about each one individually," he said. "We just did a yoga studio, and for the main studio we put bamboo floors down. It takes oak 40 years to mature to be used

in flooring, but with bamboo, it only takes four years to mature. And we're able to renew that resource much easier."

Rodwin said he values projects like the Tara campus redesign because it helps the students learn about architecture. Suggestions from the student body will be incorporated into the final blueprints, and Rodwin is taking the opportunity to teach a group of seniors about sustainable design.

School Administrator Greg Fisher said Rodwin is an excellent teacher.

"The kids are getting this very hands-on experience," Fisher said.

He said that when Rodwin interviewed for the project, he came out "way on top."

"He has a real compassion for projects he really likes," Fisher said.

Rodwin graduated from Cornell University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He was a karate instructor for 10 years and is a dancer and

artist whose alabaster sculptures have been exhibited at the Smith Klein Gallery in Boulder and Sculpture in the Park in Loveland.

He said he hopes his designs provide a good example for other architects to follow.

"In Boulder, the idea of sustainable design is expected, and that's wonderful," he said.

Rodwin said he gives every building the same amount of attention, no matter how big or small the proposal.

"There are no good or bad projects," he said. "Every project with proper attention can be turned into something really wonderful."

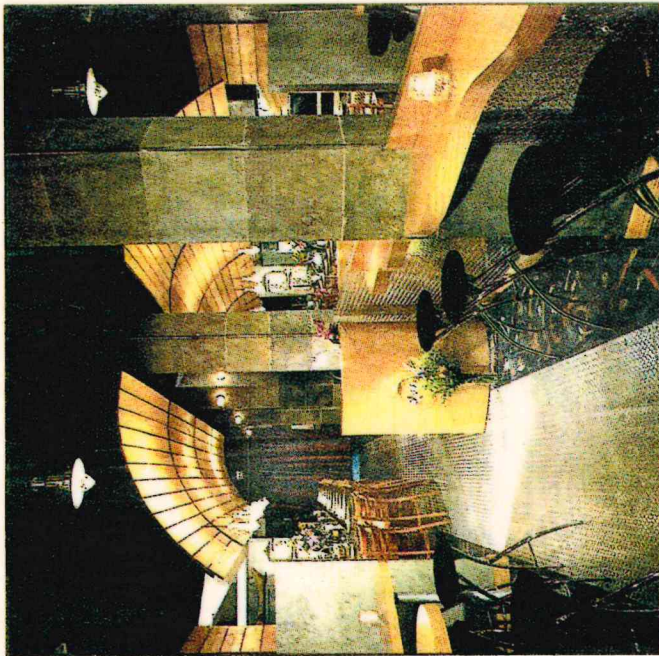


Photo courtesy of Rodwin Architecture

The entrance to Japango restaurant, 1136 Pearl St., Boulder, was designed by Scott Rodwin, who was named "Young Architect of the Year" by the American Institute of Architects on Saturday.

