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## **Denver Architecture Foundation Launches New Lecture Series to Honor Influential Denver Architect Alan Golin Gass**

*Gass's contributions span a sixty-year career advocating for Denver's built environment*

**DENVER, CO. — March 20, 2025** — The Denver Architecture Foundation (DAF) has launched a new named lecture series to honor powerhouse Denver architect and urban advocate Alan Golin Gass and his six-decade career and longer tenure as a devoted advocate for Denver's built environment.

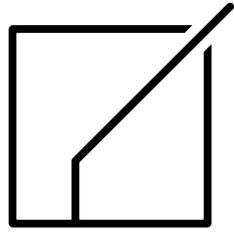
The inaugural Alan Golin Gass Annual Lecture will take place on Wednesday, April 23, and feature Los Angeles-based architect Ron Radziner, whose first job for an architectural firm while studying at CU Denver's College of Architecture and Planning in the summer of 1984 was working for Gass. Radziner now leads Marmol Radziner, an award-winning design-build firm that offers architecture, landscape, interior design, and fabrication services.

"The Alan Golin Gass Annual Lecture series will help us celebrate architectural excellence, innovation, and education," said Meg Touborg, CEO of DAF. "Alan has been a stalwart of all those things since the 1950s, as well as a driving force behind the Denver Architecture Foundation. We're thrilled to honor him in this way."

"I was dumbfounded," Gass said about learning of the honor. "I don't consider myself that spectacular of an architect, but I guess other people do."

Gass—who turns 94 in May—is a fourth-generation Denverite who graduated from East High School in 1949. He attended Harvard, where he studied chemistry but switched to architecture after two encounters with Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus School.

"I heard Gropius give a lecture where he described his visit to the potential site of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs," Gass said. "That led him through Denver, down what he described as a terrible street, with cheap motels and bars and no sidewalks. It was Santa Fe Drive. That made me want to study architecture, so I could return to Denver and contribute something."



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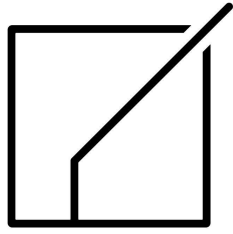
Gass received a Bachelor of Art from Harvard in 1953. He earned a Master In Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1956, and began his career as an intern for the world-renowned I.M. Pei. Gass spent the next six decades designing buildings in Denver, Aspen, and New York City, consulting for a dozen different architectural firms, and maintaining his own, Alan Golin Gass Architect, known as AGGA.

Gass designed or worked on the design team for notable projects including Chatfield High School; the original Solar Energy Research Institute; the original solar design for the Front Range Community College campus; the former World Savings Building at 400 16th St.; the Sentry Insurance building at 401 Broadway, now the offices of Fentress Architects; the Yale and Jewell Elementary schools in Aurora; five schools in South Dakota; and the Joan and Irving Harris Concert Hall in Aspen. He led the renovation and expansion of several designated landmark buildings in New York City, including the Swiss Bank Tower and the Compton and Goethals Halls at City College of New York.

Gass's residence, which he designed and built in 1961 on South Harrison Lane in Denver—in part to convince his girlfriend, Sally Speken, to marry him—was designated a Denver historic landmark in 2023. The Alan Golin Gass House features a dramatic roof with a domed skylight and overhanging eaves, large decks with broad expanses of glass connecting indoor and outdoor spaces, and symmetrical and geometric design elements. The landmark designation notes the house's representation of mid-century modern architecture in Denver. Many of Gass's projects incorporated active and passive solar technology, through which he contributed notably to the environmental design field.

As a volunteer, one of Gass's passions for decades has been the development of Babi Yar Park, at 10451 Yale Ave. Gass serves as president of the Babi Yar Park Foundation and helped bring to fruition the 27-acre memorial landscape park, designed by Lawrence Halprin and Satoru Nishita, which is intended to provide a place of quiet contemplation to memorialize Ukrainian Jews massacred in a Kyiv ravine in 1941. For his work on that project, the Mizel Museum awarded Gass their Volunteer of the Year award in 2010.

Gass has been active in a number of other civic organizations, including the Denver Architecture Foundation, where he's an emeritus board member; the AIA Denver Urban Design Committee, which he founded in 1962; and the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Denver Regional Council of



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Governments, where he served as vice chair. Gass was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 1998.

Denver Architecture Foundation envisions the Alan Golin Gass Annual Lecture as a way to honor Gass and promote thoughtful architecture and design in Denver for years to come.

“This annual event will be a platform for esteemed architects and urban designers to share ideas, foster dialogue, and inspire audiences of practitioners, students, and the public to envision the future of Denver’s built environment,” Touborg said. “It’s fitting that the event’s named after Alan.”

Tickets for the inaugural Alan Golin Gass Annual Lecture [are available here](#).

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