**Architect:** Abo, Ron  
**Birth/Death Dates:** 1946  
**Practice Dates:** 1969 - Current  
**Firms:** Seracuse Lawler & Partners, ABR Partnership, Barker Rinker Seacat Architects, Abo Gude Architects, Abo Copeland Architects, Abo Copeland Architects, Abo Cervantes Loos Priebe Architects, The Abo Group, Inc.  

Biography researched and compiled by Meghann Brown, UCD Student. 2022.

**Biographical Information**

Ron Abo was born in Idaho in 1946. He moved to Denver with his family in 1952 and grew up in north Denver, eventually graduating from North High School. He then went on to study architecture at the University of Colorado, where he graduated in 1969. Abo has long been invested in community service and took part as a student in the West Side Workshop program in lieu of a traditional thesis project. The West Side Workshop program was a part of the Community Design Center movement, which provided design and community planning services to marginalized communities. Abo later went on to direct Denver’s Community Development Design Center in 1972. His first job as an architect was with Seracuse, Lawler, and Partners until he moved to work with ABR Partnership in 1972.

In 1976, at the height of the recession, Abo saw the difficulties the industry was having. Firms were running out of work and many were leaving the profession. He decided to start his own firm, primarily doing residential additions and remodels at that time featuring passive solar design. Abo’s commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness in his designs has continued throughout his career.

In the 1970s, Abo designed the Community Alcohol Drug Education Center in Denver. Since then, he has worked on numerous other community-oriented projects. This work included a conversion for the Asian Pacific Development Center in Denver and work with Servicios de la Raza in their old location at 29th and Federal in Denver, as well as with Crusade for Justice’s building at 16th and Downing. In addition, the Abo Group is notable for their long-term commitment to sustainable, energy-efficient designs. In addition, the Abo Group, Inc. was one of the firms to work on the Denver International Airport concourse buildings and has done design work for the National Renewal Energy Labs in Golden. Much of Abo’s other work has been in restoration or conversion of historic buildings, often for adaptive reuse. These buildings include the Grant–Humphreys Mansion in Denver and the Sterling Union Pacific Railroad Depot in Sterling, Colorado, among many others. He also worked closely with the local community to make the the Highland Square neighborhood revitalization project a success for the historic district.

Abo’s devotion to community service has continued throughout his life, including a stint directing the Community Development Design Center, a seat on the Sakura Foundation’s board of directors, and being founding chapter president of the Colorado chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, and president of the board of directors for Savio House. Of all the work that he has done, Abo cites a current project to build townhomes for Savio House, a nonprofit family treatment center, as the project he is most proud of. He considers culmination of the work he has done and the impact he has tried to make over the course of his career.

As of November 2022, Ron Abo is looking towards retirement in late 2023 after a career of over fifty years. He is in the process of converting his firm, The Abo Group, Inc., into a co-op.

Much of Abo’s work has been in conversion and preservation of historic buildings. As a result, much of the following list reflects that work.
Credited Buildings (partial list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>Date*</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Alcohol Drug Education Center</td>
<td>3315 Gilpin St, Denver, CO 80205</td>
<td>5DV.4197</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Highland Square Revitalization Project</td>
<td>32nd and Lowell, Denver, CO, 80211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sterling Union Pacific Railroad Depot preservation</td>
<td>113 N. Front St., Sterling, CO, 80751</td>
<td>5LO.188</td>
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<td>Grant–Humphreys Mansion restoration</td>
<td>770 Pennsylvania St, Denver, CO, 80203</td>
<td>5DV.194</td>
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<td>Castle Marne restoration</td>
<td>1572 Race St., Denver, CO, 80206</td>
<td>5DV.123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan County Courthouse restoration</td>
<td>315 Main St, Sterling, CO, 80751</td>
<td>5LO.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver International Airport Concourse</td>
<td>8500 Pena Blvd., Denver, CO, 80249</td>
<td>5DV.4790</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruitdale School rehabilitation</td>
<td>10803 W 44th Avenue, Wheat Ridge CO</td>
<td>5JF.2084</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Completion date is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor date is shown if completion date is unknown.

Information Sources
Discussions with Ron Abo, November 2022.
Voices from Colorado: Perspectives of Asian Pacific Americans by Nestor Mercado.
Progressive Architecture Magazine, June 1991
Sakura Foundation
The Abo Group, Inc.
Pacific Citizen newspaper, Oct 14, 1983
Savio House

Revised: 2/2023