



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.

S

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)

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

*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.
Green Thumb News, January 1991, 1995
Pacific Citizen newspaper, Oct 14, 1983
 Savio House

Revised: 2/2023