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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **RTA Architects Receives Two 2016 Design Awards from the American Institute of Architects Colorado**

***AIA Colorado and AIA Colorado South Both Recognize RTA's Design of the Moffat PK-12 School for Outstanding Architectural Achievement***

**Colorado Springs, Colo. (October 18, 2016)** – RTA Architects was presented with two 2016 Design Awards for their design of the Moffat PK-12 School by The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Colorado during the 2016 AIA Colorado & Local Design Awards Gala in Copper Mountain, Colo. RTA received an AIA Colorado Award of Merit, as well as an AIA Colorado South Honorable Mention Design Award. Only two public school projects were recognized this year by AIA Colorado. A total of 36 Design Awards were presented this year to deserving members of the Colorado architecture community each recognizing design excellence in the form of the built environment.

Moffat PK-12 was designed to fill a void in the small, close-knit community of Moffat, Colorado. The school previously struggled with an aging school, decreasing enrollment, and migration of students to nearby and larger school districts. The District asked RTA to focus on four key tenets: student engagement, a welcoming school to support the community, public engagement during the design process, and flexibility to accommodate the evolving learning environment of the school. Because Moffat PK-12 is an anchor in the community, the new school was designed to encourage “life-long learning” and maintain the school as the “heart” of the Moffat community. The jury praised the design for its ability to accommodate the wide range of ages in the school, balancing the need for grade separation with community cohesiveness.

Moffat PK-12 utilizes regionally inspired materials and forms and features flexible collaborative learning spaces both indoors and outdoors. The metal panel exterior of the building was designed to protect inhabitants from the harsh climate of the area and to reflect the simple regional architecture. Passive heating and cooling strategies are utilized throughout the building, including the use of large thermal curtains which expand over the glazed walls to help retain stored heat during cold nights. The project is pursuing LEED Silver certification, another aspect of the project recognized by the jury.

“We are extremely proud of this year’s Design Award honorees. Their accomplishments are reflective of the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and competence, and each contribute to the built environment surrounding us every day,” stated Cathy Rosset, Executive Vice President/CEO of AIA Colorado.

Doug Abernethy, RTA Architects Principal-in-Charge said, “We are very fortunate to work with the Moffat community, school board, and Moffat School District Superintendent, Kirk Banghart. This was truly a collaborative process among the community, students, staff, design team, Owner’s representative, and general contractor. The final design is a product of the combined efforts of all those involved.”

The Moffat PK-12 project team included: NV5 (Owner’s representative), Haslenden Construction, Diesland Construction, JVA Engineering (civil engineering), DHM Design (landscape architecture), ME Group (MEP engineering), Webb Design (kitchen design), and Group 14 (energy modeling).

The 2016 AIA Colorado Design Awards Jury Chairs included Katie Faulkner, AIA, LEED AP of NADAAA Architecture, Louis Fung, AIA of Fung Associates, Inc., Sharon Johnston, FAIA of Johnston Marklee & Associates, and Robert Miller, FAIA, RAIC, LEED AP of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.

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### **About RTA Architects**

RTA Architects has created award winning architectural and interior designs for the Colorado built environment since 1975. RTA specializes in education, healthcare, retail, and commercial properties, delivering beautiful buildings that serve the unique needs of their owners and occupants. In addition to our core strength of architecture and design for new construction, renovation, and adaptive re-use projects, RTA provides technical expertise in a broad range of related services, including: feasibility studies; site

selection and comparative analysis; master planning; site planning; facility programming; interior design; and environmental graphics, signage, and way-finding. RTA's website is located at [www.rtaarchitects.com](http://www.rtaarchitects.com).

**About AIA Colorado**

For more than 150 years, AIA Colorado has been the voice of the architectural profession in Colorado. As a membership organization for architects, those working towards licensure and allied industry professionals, AIA Colorado provides education and resources for its members and tools for the public to find and work with architects. With more than 1,750 members from across the state, AIA Architects are dedicated to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence. AIA Colorado is a state chapter of the national American Institute of Architects. [www.aiacolorado.org](http://www.aiacolorado.org).