

VESTAR CAPITAL PARTNERS

FEDERICO F. PEÑA
Managing Director

March 15, 2004

Mr. Rodney L. Swink, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Swink and other members of FASLA:

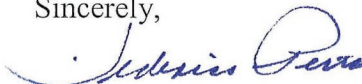
I endorse the nomination of Jane Silverstein Ries for the ASLA Medal. She is highly deserving of this professional recognition because she positively influenced ideas of regional design in Colorado and significantly contributed to Denver's civic development.

Through volunteerism and community involvement, and also through her design work, Jane taught peers, public officials, and her clients about sustainable land uses and intelligent stewardship of the environment. She advocated regionally-appropriate design and planning during a time when these were not popular topics of discussion. Jane helped her residential clients understand that gardens should promote stewardship of the land through use of native plants and suitable building placement. As a result, her gardens serve as excellent examples of appropriate and aesthetically-interesting regional design during Colorado's current severe drought.

Jane was also the creative force behind many civic improvement projects, including the Denver Botanic Gardens, Civic Center Park, Colorado Heritage Center, Denver Art Museum, and the renovation of the Governor's Mansion. Much of her design aesthetic evolved as a result of the efforts of one of Denver's mayors, Robert Speer. He advocated the City Beautiful form of design and instituted a massive tree-planting program. Jane was able to take this aesthetic further and adapt it to the area's semi-arid climate. She has left a lasting imprint on the Denver metropolitan area and a legacy for future generations.

The design work and advocacy of Jane Silverstein Ries has had a lasting impact on public welfare and the environment of Colorado. I hope your Society bestows her this much-deserved honor.

Sincerely,



Federico Peña
Former Mayor of Denver

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