

**TITLE**

Firm Principal

**YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

33

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Arts, Architecture,  
Magna Cum Laude  
University of California, Berkeley  
Minor: Environmental Design in  
Developing Countries

**LICENSURE**

Licensed Architect in CA, NV, AZ,  
UT, ID, PA, FL, and HI

**BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

AIA Las Vegas Placemaking  
Committee- member  
Beacon Academy Board of  
Directors- chair  
HopeLink of Southern Nevada  
Board of Directors- member  
Southern Nevada Strong Steering  
Committee- member  
Neighborhood Housing Services  
of Southern Nevada Host  
Committee- member  
Nevadans for Clean and Reliable  
Energy Board- member

## RICK VAN DIEPEN

AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, Green Globes Accredited Professional

Rick is a visionary architect whose work transforms communities and uplifts the people within them. With a career dedicated to public-interest and community-focused design, he blends technical expertise with a deep understanding of social impact, creating spaces that address urgent needs and inspire hope. His designs span a wide range of initiatives, from affordable housing and homeless navigation centers to nonprofit incubators and historic preservation, each guided by a commitment to thoughtful, human-centered architecture.

Throughout his career, Rick has helped communities across multiple states reimagine what public spaces can do—providing safe, dignified environments for vulnerable populations, supporting family and community services, and preserving the cultural and historical fabric of neighborhoods. His work is characterized not only by functional excellence but also by empathy, ensuring that architecture serves as a catalyst for social change and a foundation for stronger, more resilient communities.

In addition to his commitment to community impact, Rick is a passionate advocate for sustainable design. He integrates energy-efficient strategies, environmentally responsible materials, and innovative building systems into every project, ensuring that the spaces he creates are not only functional and welcoming but also resilient and future-focused. By aligning thoughtful design with sustainability principles, Rick helps communities reduce their environmental footprint, optimize long-term operational performance, and foster healthier, more livable environments for all.

**Relevant Project Experience**

- Family Promise of Greater Phoenix Family Navigation Center, Glendale AZ
- Division Circle Homeless Navigation Center, San Francisco CA
- Stockton Mens Shelter, Stockton CA
- Kern County Navigation Center, Bakersfield CA
- City of Sacramento XB Navigation Center, Sacramento CA
- City of Sacramento Meadowview Navigation Center, Sacramento CA
- Washoe County Nevada Cares Campus Dormitory Expansion, Reno NV
- City of Phoenix Navigation Center Campus & Bridge Housing, Phoenix AZ
- City of Medford Rogue Retreat Bridge Housing, Medford OR
- Harrison House Historical Preservation, West Las Vegas NV
- Family Promise of Las Vegas, Family Navigation Center Site Feasibility Analysis, Las Vegas NV
- Southern Nevada Non-Profit Incubator; Goody Two Shoes Foundation; Master Plan, Las Vegas NV
- Habitat for Humanity, Las Vegas; LEED Platinum Certified Affordable House Prototype, Henderson NV
- Bridge Housing Phase 1, Salt Lake City UT
- Mission Street Supportive Transitional Housing, San Francisco CA

## COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN RESUME

RICHARD D.VAN DIEPEN, AIA NCARB LEED AP BD+C

### EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Architecture, Magna Cum Laude, University of California, Berkeley 1993. Minor: Environmental Design in Developing Countries

### EXPERIENCE:

Rick made Las Vegas his home after graduating from the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design in 1994. After 20 years working for commercial firms, Rick co-founded GRN Vision, a mission-based design and green building consulting firm. In over 30 years of professional practice as an architect, Rick has extensive experience in commercial, public, and residential projects of all sizes; most recently as project manager and designer of over two dozen community projects addressing homelessness, transitional housing and affordable supportive housing in several western states.

In addition to being deeply passionate about sustainability and the social benefits of good design, Rick is also a firm believer in a community based, collaborative decision-making process. Rick has helped facilitate numerous community-based design projects involving neighborhood design charrettes, user surveys, and community outreach campaigns. A LEED 2.0 Accredited Professional since 2004 and having served two terms as President of the US Green Building Council Nevada Chapter, Rick is passionately committed to the practice and advancement of sustainable design and has been a featured guest speaker and on the subjects of sustainable, integrative design, affordable housing, and low barrier homeless navigation centers.

2014-Present	GRN Vision LLC, Las Vegas, Nevada <b><i>Principal &amp; Founder</i></b>
2013-2014	Green Chips ( <i>Now Impact NV</i> ), Las Vegas, Nevada <b><i>Executive Director, 2013 Board President</i></b>
2004-2013	PGAL Architects, Las Vegas, Nevada <b><i>Associate Principal, National Sustainability Manager</i></b>
1994-2004	Designer: KGA Architects, LGA Architects, Tate Snyder Architects, Marnell Architecture

### PROJECTS:

Affordable Housing/ Low Barrier Homeless Navigation Centers/ Transitional Housing

- Yakama Nation Low Barrier (LB) Homeless Navigation Center
- City of San Francisco Mission Street Transitional Cabins and Family Navigation Center, CA
- Naval Hospital Bremerton Emergency Covid Isolation and Testing Facility, Bremerton, WA
- Division Circle LB Homeless Navigation Center (Phase I and Phase II Expansion), San Francisco, CA
- Kern County LB Homeless Navigation Center, Bakersfield, CA
- City of Huntington Beach LB Homeless Navigation Center, Huntington Beach, CA
- Sacramento X Street LB Homeless Navigation Center, Sacramento, CA
- Sacramento Meadowview Avenue LB Homeless Navigation Center, Sacramento, CA
- Salt Lake City LB Micro Shelter Village, Utah
- City of Phoenix LB Homeless Navigation Center and Transitional Housing Village, AZ
- City of Reno Nevada Cares Campus Dormitory Expansion, NV
- City of Stockton Family Navigation Center, CA
- City of San Luis Obispo Welcome Home Village LB Transitional housing, CA

- Family Promise Glendale Family Village transitional housing & Navigation Center, AZ

#### Sustainable Design Consulting (Partial List):

- LEED, Green Globes, National Green Building Standard certified buildings (sample list):
  - Las Vegas Convention Center West Hall, Debra March Center for Excellence, Las Vegas Municipal Courthouse, Nevada Hand Affordable housing- Decatur Commons & Flamingo Pines, Marriott Renaissance Hotel, Tanager Echo Apartments, Habitat for Humanity

#### Pro Bono/ Community Based Design:

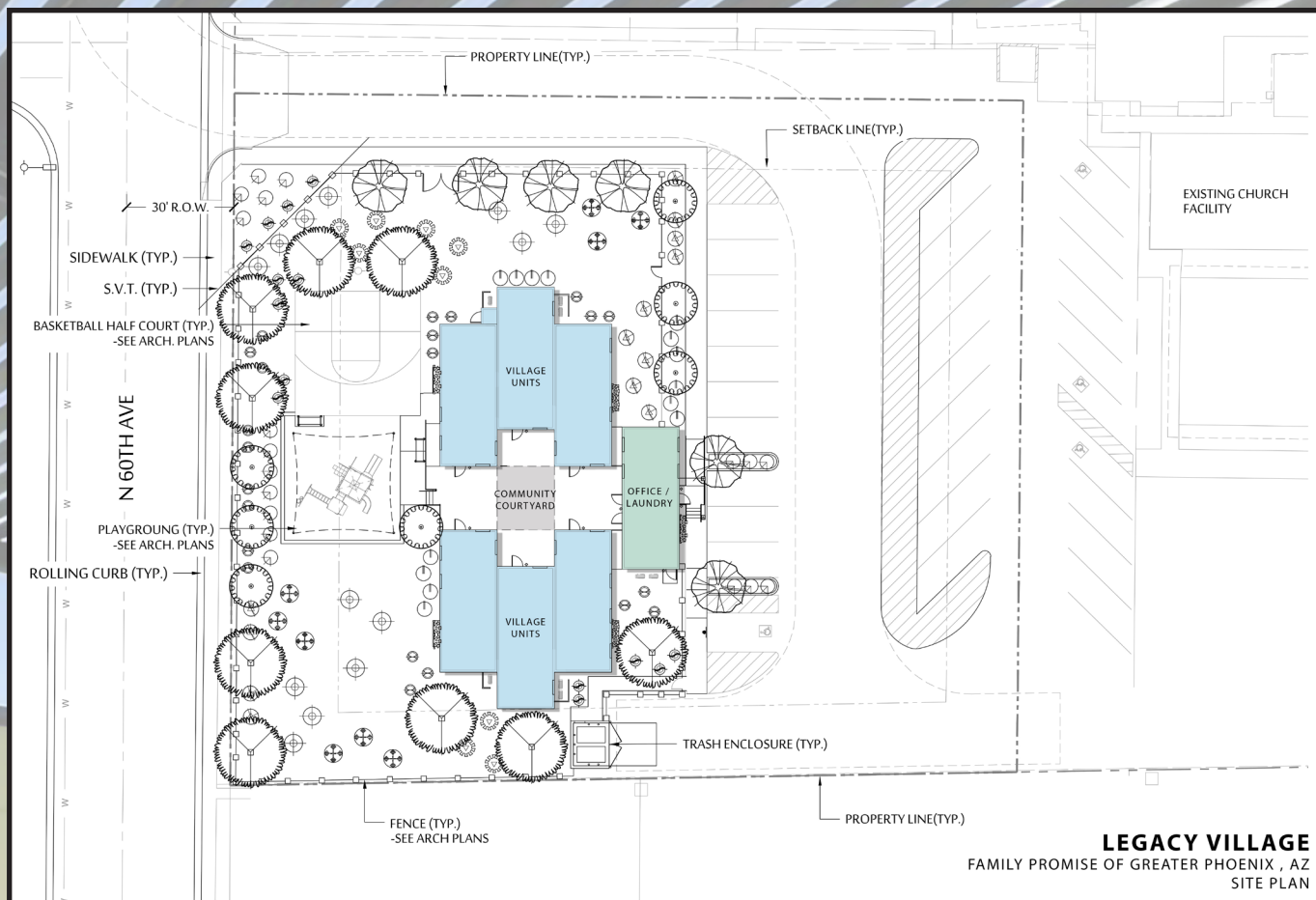
- Southern Nevada Non-Profit Incubator; Goodie Two Shoes Foundation; Master Plan (ongoing)
- City of Ely Community Center; Don W. Reynolds Foundation; Master Plan and grant writing (un-built)
- Habitat for Humanity, Las Vegas; LEED Platinum Certified Affordable House Prototype, Clark County, NV
- Site Feasibility Studies: Olive Crest and Family Promise
- HCJB World Radio, Quito Ecuador: Facility Master Plan, Office Headquarters Building and Volunteer Housing Facility

#### MEMBERSHIP/ VOLUNTEER BOARDS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- American Institute of Architects, Las Vegas Board of Directors: Treasurer, 2018-2023
- Southern Nevada Strong, Advisory Board member, 2023-present
- HopeLink of Nevada Board member & Secretary 2025-present
- Beacon Academy of Nevada, Board Member, 2023-present
- City of Las Vegas Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee on Chronic Homelessness, 2016
- AIA Las Vegas Committee on the Environment – Co-founder and Chair, 2018-2023
- US Green Building Council Nevada Chapter President, 2010-2012
- Green Chips (now Impact NV) board member 2011-2013
- Nevadans for Clean and Reliable Energy (NCARE) AIA representative, 2009-present
- AIA Las Vegas Board of Directors; Intern Director, 2002 to 2007
- AIA Las Vegas Intern & Associate Committee Chair, 2002 to 2007
- Habitat for Humanity, Design and Construction Assistance – Modesto, CA and Las Vegas, NV
- AIA Las Vegas Committee on the Environment - Curatorial team, fundraiser for the “Ten Shades of Green” Exhibition, Las Vegas, NV – 2002
- Board of Directors, Citizen Alert, 2006-2007
- Co-chair, AIA 150 24-Hour Town Hall on Livability: Affordable Housing Solutions Group
- Volunteer; American Planning Association and Clark County School District Box City Program - 1998 to 2002
- HCJB World Radio, Quito Ecuador; assisted facilities architect with design and construction documents for various building renovations and long-term facilities planning – 1994
- Modesto Gospel Mission – homeless housing facility design committee

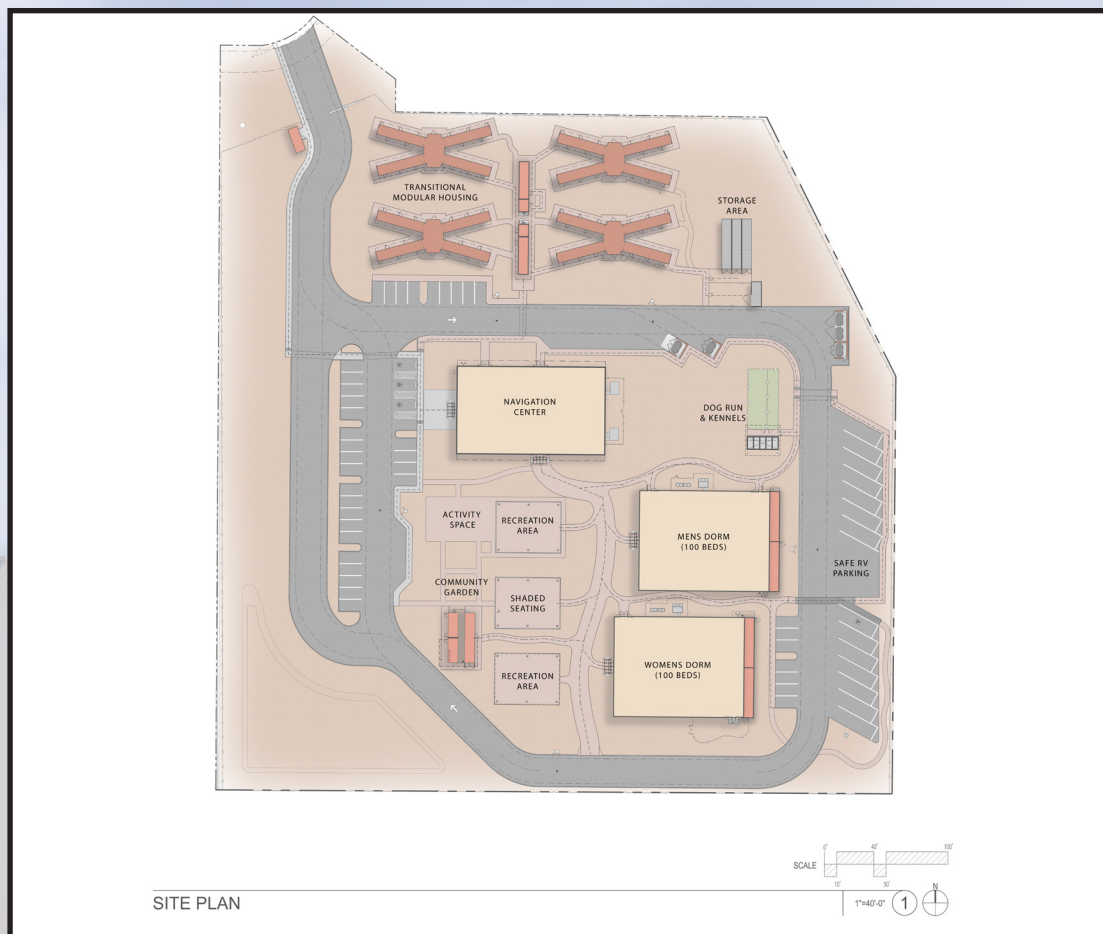
#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- AIA Las Vegas President’s Award for Community Service, 2023
- US Green Building Council Nevada Chapter Service Award, AIA COTE, 2012
- Design Honor Awards:
  - Non Ferrous Bolt & Manufacturing Building
  - Clark County Justice Center
- US Department of Defense ‘Best of Breed’ Design Award: Bachelors Enlisted Quarters Campus and Dining Hall Package 4, US Marines Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA



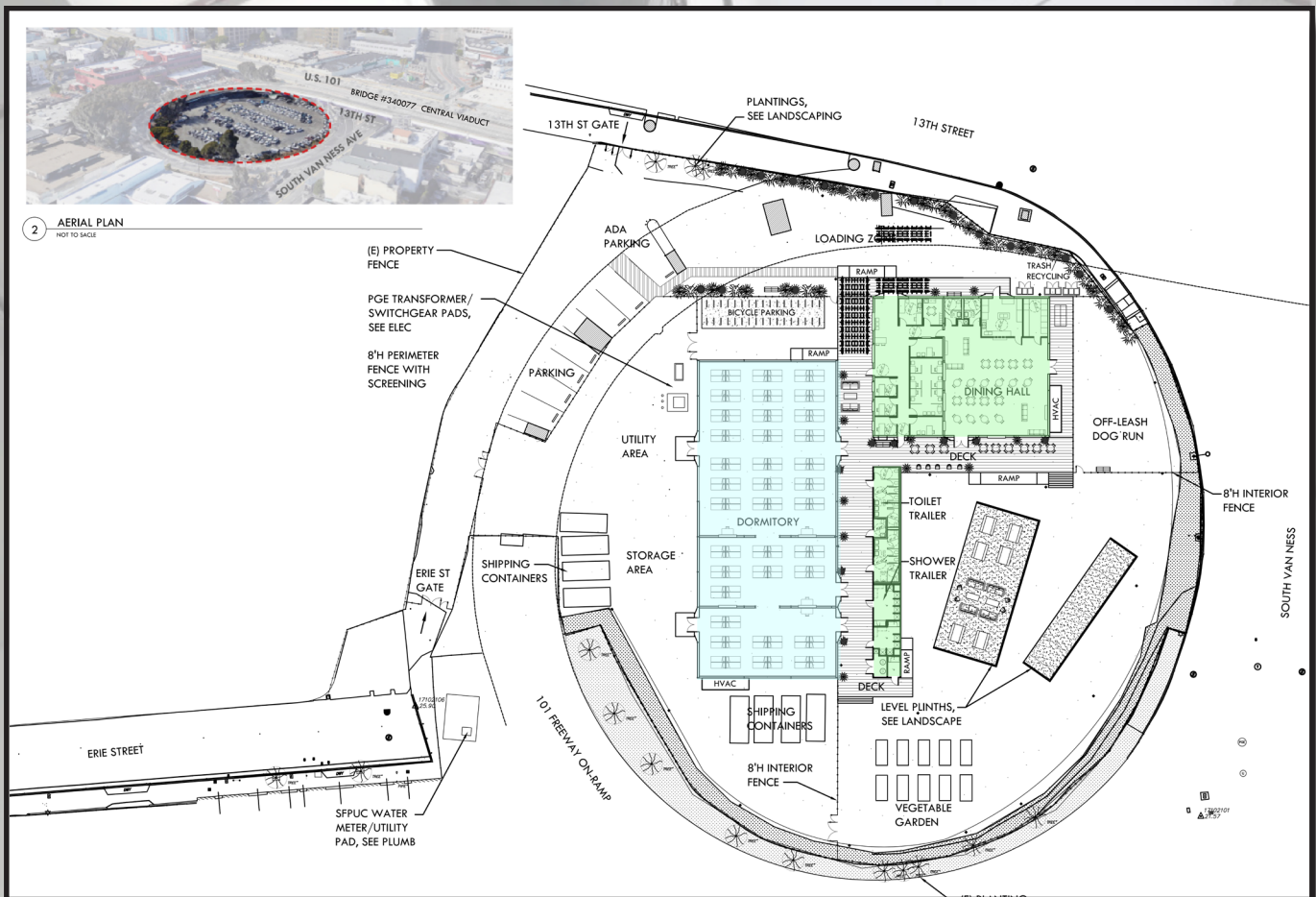
## Project Name: Legacy Village

**Community Impact:** The Family Village provides transitional housing for families experiencing homelessness, offering a safe, supportive environment for stability. Developed with Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, the project combines dignified micro-homes with on-site services connecting residents to childcare, job resources, and counseling. By transforming underused land into a place of renewal, the village strengthens community ties and shows how thoughtful design can restore hope and opportunity.



## Project Name: Phoenix Navigation Campus

**Community Impact:** The Phoenix Navigation Campus is a 280-bed facility designed to address the city's homelessness crisis. Recognizing the urgent need for shelter and support, Phoenix officials created this campus to provide individuals with a path to stability. On-site wraparound services, including case management, behavioral health support, job training, workforce development, and medical care, offer personalized assistance to help residents overcome challenges and rebuild their lives.



## Project Name: Division Circle Navigation Center

**Community Impact:** The Division Circle Navigation Center is a 186-bed facility developed to address homelessness in San Francisco's Mission area. Operated by St. Vincent de Paul, it provides safe refuge and comprehensive on-site services—including case management, medical care, behavioral health support, and housing placement—to help residents stabilize and transition to permanent housing.



October 2025

**AIA Nevada Design and Service Awards Jury**

AIA Nevada  
861 East Bridger Avenue,  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Jury Members

I am writing this letter in support of my friend and colleague Rick Van Diepen, AIA in nomination for the **Citizen Architect Service Award**. I have known Rick for many years, and I am familiar with his history and passion for community service - service to the profession, to sustainable design, and advocacy for homelessness.

Rick was a sustainability champion for his previous employers and remains so in his firm GRN Vision. He has provided pro-bono design and consulting services to nonprofits; he has been an active AIA Las Vegas board member; and organized many events that include community design charrettes, speaker series, sustainable design presentations, and affordable housing discussions.

Rick's company, GRN Vision, is a mission-based firm that provides sustainability consulting and community design with a primary focus designing dignified transitional housing and shelter facilities for our homeless populations.

Rick is dedicated to sharing his passion for community based design as a mentor to future architects and students.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monica Gresser", is positioned above the printed name.

Monica Gresser NCARB AIA LEED AP  
principal architect / aia nevada citizen architect  
**brazen**architecture

October 8, 2025

AIA Nevada Awards Committee  
AIA Nevada  
861 East Bridger Avenue,  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Members of the AIA Nevada Awards Committee,

It is my distinct honor to recommend Rick Van Diepen, AIA, for the AIA Nevada Citizen Architect Service Award. For more than twenty years, I have known and worked alongside Rick, and during that time, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment to community service, professional leadership, and sustainable design advocacy.

Rick embodies the very best of our profession – a rare combination of passion for design, compassion for people, and a deep dedication to community service. He has been a consistent champion for sustainability within the firms he has worked for and has provided pro bono design and consulting services to numerous nonprofit organizations.

As an active member of AIA Las Vegas, Rick has served as a board member and played a key role in organizing community design charrettes, speaker series, and educational programs focused on sustainable design and affordable housing. His leadership and outreach have advanced vital discussions about design's role in creating resilient, equitable communities.

Rick's dedication extends to mentoring emerging professionals and advancing sustainable design practices across Nevada and beyond. His leadership in promoting environmental responsibility and his tireless advocacy for design excellence have enriched our profession and strengthened the AIA community.

Through his company, GRN Vision, Rick leads a mission-driven firm providing sustainability consulting and community design services, with a primary focus on creating dignified transitional housing and shelter facilities for unhoused populations.

Rick personifies the spirit of service, leadership, and integrity that this award seeks to honor. I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,



David F. Moss, AIA  
Principal, PGAL, Inc.  
117 Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hoboken, NJ 07070

ALEXANDRIA  
ATLANTA  
AUSTIN  
BOCA RATON  
DALLAS/FORT WORTH  
DENVER  
HOBOKEN  
HOUSTON  
LAS VEGAS  
LOS ANGELES  
SALT LAKE CITY  
SAN DIEGO



**AIA Nevada Design and Service Awards Jury**

6 October, 2025

AIA Nevada  
861 East Bridger Avenue,  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Members of the Jury,

I am writing in support for Rick Van Diepen, AIA and his nomination for the Citizen Architect Service Award. I have known Rick and worked almost daily with him since 2017. RPM Team is an engineering and program management company and we work exclusively with GRN Vision on our low barrier homeless navigation center projects as well as our transitional housing and permanent supportive housing projects in several states. Rick has served as our design architect and AOR on more than 30 projects during that time and I can attest to his professionalism, honesty, and his dedication to fostering sustainable communities.

Rick's commitment to the community and to alleviating human suffering is evidenced in the tireless work he puts into each project and volunteer initiative he gets involved in. He has been a loud voice advocating for dignified, trauma-informed design that can be seen in the bright, daylit and colorful spaces inside each of our homeless navigation centers and modular bridge housing projects. These projects are literally giving a second chance at life for unhoused citizens who just need a safe place to stay where they can get the services they need and begin to feel a sense of hope and self worth.

Rick is equally dedicated to making a dent in the climate crisis one building at a time and he regularly provides consulting and CEU educational sessions to developers, contractors, and other architects on the benefits and the necessity to design buildings that are net zero energy and low carbon.

Rick participates on several nonprofit boards and volunteers his time to causes he cares about. Rick truly epitomizes what a giving, Citizen Architect should be and he is very worth of this recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Renard", with a stylized, flowing script.

David Renard  
President  
RPM Team



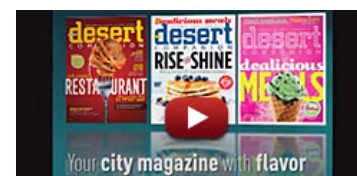
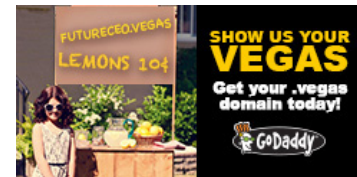
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  - 9/10/14 One to hear: Brittany McKay
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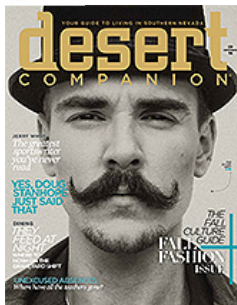
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## Features



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## Rick Van Diepen: The green knight

Story by Tony Illia

**Who will bring eco-friendly living to the masses? This guy with the \$20 power bill might be the one**



Rick Van Diepen gets some of his greenest ideas by experimenting on his own home.

Rick Van Diepen wanted to become an architect since he was 5. "I liked drawing, so I thought architecture would be a cool job," he explains. He's achieved that dream - and then some. Today he's an associate principal with PGAL, the architecture firm designing McCarran International Airport's \$2.4 billion third terminal building. It's a far cry from Van Diepen's first job after college, designing an office building for a nonprofit radio station in Ecuador. The pro-bono project lasted only three months, but his passion for civic-minded projects still persists - and his modest but quietly marvelous home is a fertile lab for common-sense approaches to making our homes more environmentally friendly.

Van Diepen's inspiration comes from architects such as Glenn Murcutt, who's known for his simple, vernacular architecture that focuses on nature. Pritzker Prize-winning Australian architect Murcutt is a sole practitioner known for economical and multi-functional work that takes cues from the environment, resulting in innovative and technical architecture that is nonetheless forthright and honest.

"Murcutt lets the site and climate govern the design, which is often modern and clean but still rooted in the land," says Van Diepen, who served as 2010 local president of the U.S. Green Building Council. "He believes in touching the earth lightly."

Van Diepen's own architecture follows a similar philosophy. And he has the perfect laboratory for it: His 1,723-square-foot Las Vegas home.

"We try to do one or two major upgrades a year," he says. "Our power bill is \$250 a year, which makes people's jaw drop. It makes us feel good. Some homes spend that much in a month."



Habitat for Humanity's prototype home earned a rare platinum LEED rating.

“We wanted to see how sustainable we could make a home while still making it affordable,” says Habitat for Humanity’s Guy Amato.

“We wanted to see how sustainable we could make a home while still making it affordable,” Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas President and Chief Executive Officer Guy Amato says. “It’s twice as energy-efficient as a normal house.”

He’s being a bit modest. Completed in September, the one-story, three-bedroom home at 1808 Merze Ave. landed a rare, platinum-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is a building sustainability report card that awards points for air quality, recycling and energy efficiency. (Platinum is the equivalent of an A plus.)

And there’s a local hero in this story, too. Rick Van Diepen, an associate principal with architecture firm PGAL, gave up his weekends and spare time to design the roughly 1,200 square-foot home. Van Diepen knows green. He served as the Green Building Council’s 2010 Las Vegas chapter president.

“I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity while I was in high school,” Van Diepen says. “I always liked their mission. This is a lifelong dream for me.”

## GREEN INSIDE AND OUT

**The modest-looking home** is a dream for its owners’ pocketbook, too, with money-saving features that lower utility bills while reducing impact on the environment. Light-colored reflective concrete roof tiles and low-energy windows, compact fluorescent lighting and a solar-powered, tankless hot-water system trim electrical costs. There are also tubular skylights in the hallway and bathroom for bright and lamp-free interiors.

“We opened up the living area to let in more natural light, making the space feel larger than it really is,” says Van Diepen. “It also creates natural ventilation to move through the house from east to west.”

The residence is sealed up airtight with caulked joints and rigid, Styrofoam insulation that keeps heat from escaping through the building’s wood frame. It works similar to the way a Styrofoam cup keeps coffee warm. The result is high-efficiency air conditioning and heating that doesn’t bust the wallet.

“We suspended insulation from under the roof tile, which moves the building envelope up to the roof,” Van Diepen explains. “The mechanical



Reflective roof tiles and a solar-powered hot-water system trim energy consumption by 30 percent.

equipment consequently operates at near-ambient temperature, thereby reducing the system needs by a ton.”

The green thinking ventures outside as well. The home also reduces water use through drought-tolerant landscaping, and low-flow showerheads and faucets. A rooftop collection system, meanwhile, gathers rainwater for planted fruit trees and a vegetable garden that lets homeowners grow their own. As a result, the prototype design trims water use by 40 percent. And as long we’re talking stats: Compared to an average home, the Habitat house cuts carbon emissions by 35 percent, solid waste by 70 percent and energy consumption by 30 percent. But for homeowners, those stats translate into bottom-line savings.

“Habitat wants to help people help themselves by become more financially stable,” says Van Diepen. “That becomes possible when utility bills are lower and homeowners can grow their food.”

## WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?

**Construction of a similar home** might be pricier, since the project attracted 50 civic-minded sponsors who donated time and

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