



Steven Holl Architects Leaves Denver Justice Center Project

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[Steven Holl Architects](#) left the Denver Justice Center project this week. The firm's local architectural partner, [klipp](#), will handle design of the center's \$127-million courthouse.

No specific reason was given for the New York City-based firm's decision to exit, though the budget is believed to have been a major concern. Klipp released a statement on Wednesday saying the project's objectives "could not allow [Holl] to design a building consistent with Steven Holl's design philosophy."

Brian Klipp, whose firm had been working with Holl for the last eight months on the project, says Holl's sudden departure shouldn't adversely affect the timeline for the project. "For the last six months, we've been working the programming and planning," Klipp says. "That's all completed now, so we were in the early stages of design with Steven."

Klipp says he is disappointed that Holl left the project. "It's been a great relationship. Steven and I have a good friendship, and that will continue," he says. "I'm disappointed, of course, because he's a very talented architect, but we are the architect that has committed to the project. It's a tremendous opportunity, and we're excited about designing a great building for Denver."

Steven Holl Architects deferred all calls made to their offices about the firm's departure to klipp.

Nick Koncilja assistant Justice Center project manager for the City of Denver would not comment on the departure.

Last December, Holl and klipp were picked for the courthouse component of the \$378-million Denver Justice Center after a 15-person jury chose them from nine finalists. [Hartman-Cox Architects](#) of Washington, D.C., was selected to design the jail.

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In addition to klipp, [Ricci Greene Associates](#), a New York City-based consultant, is part of the courthouse team. The Hartman-Cox team also includes Ricci Greene Associates, as well as Denver's [OZ Architecture](#) and Boulder's [Voorhis Robertson Justice Services](#).

AR7 [Hoover Desmond Architects](#) () is the architect for the \$17.5-million post office and parking garage, the first part of the justice center to begin construction. [Haselden Construction](#) is the general contractor.

A tower crane was raised at the site on Sept. 15, and foundation work is under way. The post office and parking garage are scheduled to be completed next July.

After that, sitework for the courthouse is scheduled to begin, with construction expected to finish in December 2009.

Meanwhile, the jail site is scheduled to be vacated by the Denver Newspaper Agency this month, with hazardous material abatement to begin immediately; demolition is set for January. Construction is scheduled to finish in December 2009.

A general contractor hasn't been named for the jail and courthouse.

"We are negotiating a contract with our first-ranked contractor for the project but have not finalized our agreement," says Koncilja.

[Jacobs Facilities Inc.](#) will provide project management services for the justice center construction

Diana Murphy, for Engineering News-Record

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