

# Mesa del Sol Selects Antoine Predock, AIA To Design \$10 Million Town Center

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Contact: Anne Monson, 505-400-3021  
Melanie J. Majors, 505-266-5637

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Mesa del Sol has selected world-renowned architect Antoine Predock, AIA, of Albuquerque to design the new 78,000 square foot mixed-use town center building. It will house Mesa del Sol's visitor center, business office space and retail businesses. The town center will be the hub for Mesa del Sol, a new mixed-use district located on Albuquerque's south mesa.

A groundbreaking for the new \$10 million town center is anticipated before year's end. The target date for occupancy is late second quarter 2008.

"As always, our commitment to Albuquerque and New Mexico is to tap our resources right here and use them to the best advantage. Antoine Predock is an amazing local resource," said Michael Daly, chief operating officer of Forest City Covington NM LLC, in making the announcement.

"His understanding of our community in combination with his vision of creative contemporary architecture for the Southwest makes him a valued partner in our efforts," Daly said.

The building will have a unique footprint, as it will serve both civic and practical purposes. The town center, which will be east of Advent Solar and south of Albuquerque Studios at Mesa del Sol, has an iconic design feature that includes a curved "fritted" glass curtain wall on its north side and stucco and glass on its other faces.

When asked about the mixed use building project, Predock said, "It's great to be working on a project in our own backyard and with the support of a visionary client. This town center responds to the conditions of the site while addressing the larger implications of New Mexico."

"The building is an urban activator on all sides: the visually permeable arcing glass wall activates an urban park to the north, the south side faces parking for convenient retail and restaurant access, and the east and west sides form the street edges. The arrangement of entries, and the building's openness to pedestrians focus the social life on the outdoor environment: the street, the sky and the views," he continued.

In making the announcement, Daly said that Klinger Construction of Albuquerque would be the building contractor. It is Klinger's second construction project at Mesa del Sol as it built the Advent Solar, Inc. solar energy facility.

Chris Anderson, director of commercial development for Mesa del Sol, said, "The town center building will make a strong visual statement and demonstrates our strong commitment to sustainability."

He also said that the rental leases for this building would be competitive with other new office and retail space available in Albuquerque. The local offices of CBRE will lease the office space and the local office of Grubb and Ellis will lease the retail space.