

Lloyd and Associates Architects Celebrates 25 Years, 600 Projects in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

By Bob Quick of The New Mexican. November 2006

Back in the early 1980s, not too long after he designed the luxury condominiums at Los Miradores, Santa Fe architect Wayne Lloyd, AIA heard several times from a man by the name of Bill Zeckendorf that Santa Fe needed a good hotel

"I didn't know him," Lloyd said in an interview at his Halona Street offices. "But the next time he said that, I intended to ask him "Why don't you build one?"

Soon after his challenge to Zeckendorf, the New York developer sent Lloyd a site plan for a hotel with a comment that he needed at least 200 rooms for the hotel to succeed. "I told him (the site (where Big Jo Lumber was located) wasn't big enough," Lloyd said. "We needed (the space occupied by) two houses on

Johnson Street to make it work"

Zeckendorf immediately bought those properties from a local businessman, and Lloyd went to work on the hotel's design. Despite subsequent criticism of its size, the structure was approved by the Historic Design Review Board at the first meeting.

Such was the development of the Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe's largest and just one of the many hotels, schools, banks, residences, condominium projects and art galleries which Wayne Lloyd has worked on over his 25 years in Santa Fe.

A few weeks ago, more than 100 people gathered at the Lloyd & Associates offices on Halona Street, off Paseo de Peralta, to celebrate Lloyd's 25th anniversary. For the event, the walls were hung with large, rectangular posters of Lloyd's work, including Los Alamos National Bank, the state

Capitol buildings First Presbyterian Church, and many more.

"We've done 50 to 60-in the downtown area alone," Lloyd said, adding that in the 25 years he's been working in Santa Fe, he has completed more than 600 projects.

When asked about his favorite projects, Lloyd quickly replied, "The one I haven't designed yet."

But Lloyd again mentioned the Eldorado Hotel — "It was the first hotel I designed in Santa Fe," he said — and then ran through a list of other hotels he had worked on including La Posada, The Bishop's Lodge, Inn of the Governors, the former Radisson hotel and others.

"I like hotel work," he said

Lloyd likes it so much he recently competed to design a \$700 million luxury golf course, hotel and residential development on the coast of Spain called El Mayorazgo.

"We came in second," Lloyd said. A Miami architectural firm won the bid. That was one disappointment — another was not being chosen winner in the competition among five architectural teams to design Santa Fe's Civic Center and conference center.

"That was my greatest disappointment," Lloyd said. "I really wanted to do that job."

The competition was won by Santa Fe architect Beverly Spears working with a Denver firm, Fentress Bradburn Architects. Work is expected to start soon.

Lloyd began his career working with architect Ted Waddell and later with John Midyette.

"We worked together about a year and a half," said Midyette, who has practiced architecture in Santa Fe since 1969. "We had a good time, but (Lloyd) didn't want to stay with residential, and he wanted a bigger office than

I did."

Lloyd then joined architect John McHugh, who had worked with John Gaw Meem, father of Pueblo Revival style from 1945-1955. McHugh's first project was the Santa Fe Opera in 1955, Lloyd said. "All of John's projects are in the UNM archives."

Lloyd was born in Pennsylvania and knew from an early age what he wanted to do with his life. "I wanted to be an architect from the age of five," he said. "I couldn't imagine not doing it."