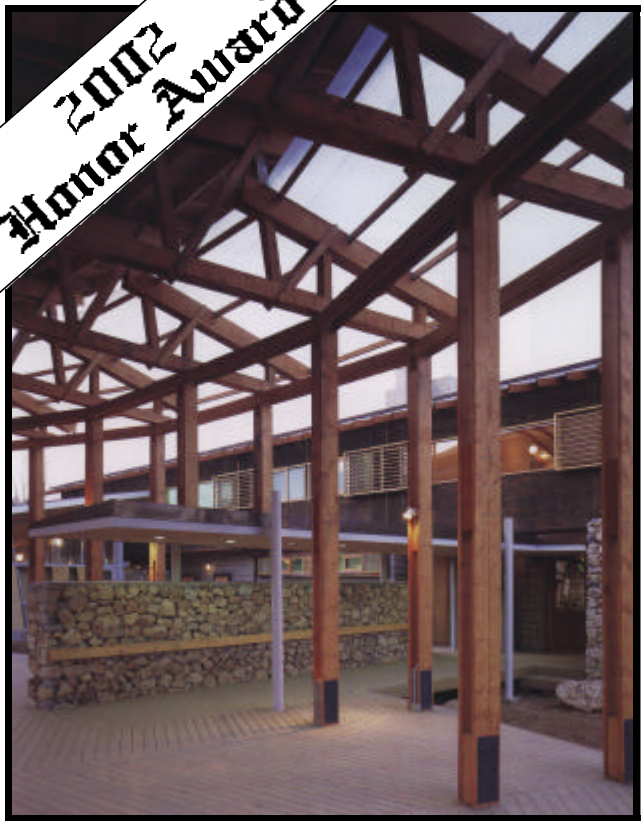


**2002  
Honor Award**



**AIA Montana 2002  
Design Award of Excellence  
Honor Recipient**

**Byoungsoo Cho, AIA  
School of Architecture  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana  
406-994-7353  
bcho@montana.edu**

One of the many problems of being mentally handicapped is that you can forget where you are and where you want to be next. Uri Village for mentally handicapped people is concerned to establish senses of place. Particularly moments in space by which people can orient themselves.

This is done in plan by making a linear building for vocational education work, and a round one with an inner court for sleeping and home. Cafeteria and exercise room are between them. The home circle is surrounded by a covered deck for poor weather and overlooks a sheltered, ideal landscape. The site is barren and rocky, but the complex draws some of its essence from the geology and topography. Stone walls organize the complex and in a way the very individual nature of natural stones give a sense of place, once learned. Like the stonework, all other parts are made with visual clues and are crisply detailed, without being off-puttingly austere.

## *Uri Village*

The whole place has been made with touching sensitivity for inhabitants who often have some sense of height, direction, or time. It could have been like a prison and doubtless, a generation or two ago. But its protective devices are carefully organized and the complex speaks generously of gentleness and care.

