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**RSP EXPANDS SERVICES TO INCLUDE URBAN DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE**

*Strategic hire of new team members strengthens firm's offerings in planning as well*

Minneapolis (June 7, 2011) — RSP Architects announces an expansion of the firm's services in planning, landscape architecture and urban design. With an existing base practice in large-scale master planning for government, corporate and educational clients, RSP has significantly strengthened and expanded the firm's experience and offerings by hiring two established experts. The key hires each bring over 20 years of experience in landscape design and planning. RSP Planning + Landscape Architecture will focus on serving an array of national and international clients and allows the firm to work across scales — from small, intimate spaces to large planning projects and beyond.

"This exponentially expands the firm's capacity to affect not only architecture but the larger built environment both nationally and internationally," said David Norback, RSP President. "Adding this practice fits well within the firm's total offering and allows us to respond more effectively to the diverse needs of our clients. With this new expertise in planning and landscape, RSP will be able to offer our clients more."

RSP Planning + Landscape Architecture will offer master planning, urban design, landscape architecture, concept design, site design, parks, recreation, urban regeneration, dry climate and sustainability design, irrigation design, visual resource planning, planting design and flood control recreation master planning.

"We are firm believers in bringing together different voices, strategies and ideas to get to the most robust solution. This is when we do our best work, and our clients have come to expect that from us," Norback said. "We are now able to offer more comprehensive, smart real estate solutions, whether our clients are managing complex portfolios or a single structure."

The leadership of the new practice features two prominent and experienced professionals: Jay Hicks, ASLA and Dave Harris, ASLA. Both will be based in RSP's Phoenix office and will build a team that crosses the firm's five locations.



**Jay Hicks, ASLA**, will lead RSP Planning + Landscape Architects as Director of the firm. He has more than 25 years of experience in planning and design for both the private and public sectors. Prior to joining RSP, Hicks was with EDAA I AECOM where he served as Principal, Vice President of the landscape architecture practice. His work spanned urban design, resorts, master planned communities, campus planning and parks. Hicks has won numerous awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects for such projects as Kierland Commons in Phoenix, Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan for Maricopa County, AZ. His design for Phoenix Civic Space Park was recently featured in the February issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. Other noted projects include the W Hotel in Scottsdale, Westgate City Center in Glendale, J.W. Marriott at Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, The Hills Village at Summerlin in Las Vegas, USAA Insurance Campus in Phoenix, RealCAPITA Free Trade Zone Business Park in Tangier Morocco and Union Life Healthy City Master Plan in Wuhan, China . He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas.



**Dave Harris, ASLA**, has been named Senior Associate with RSP and brings over 20 years of experience in the desert southwest with over 10 years at EDAW | AECOM. Harris brings experience with large- and small-scale landscape architecture, urban design and planning projects, including four years of landscape construction experience. As Design Studio Leader, Harris provided client services in advanced administrative design, project management and construction administration including all levels of municipal projects, parks, trails, rights-of-way, public and private open space, master planned communities, resort and design review. Harris has completed several projects in the desert southwest such as Marley Park Master Planned Community in Peoria, AZ, Cibola Vista Resort and Spa in Peoria, AZ, Verrado Parks and Streetscape in Buckeye, AZ, and Southern Highlands Master Planned Community in Las Vegas, NV. Over the last four years Harris has managed projects in Dubai and most recently the landscape strategy master plan for Diyar Al Muharraq, a 3,600 acre island in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He thrives on managing complex projects with fast-track schedules. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture Environmental Planning from the School of Landscape Architecture, Utah State University.

For more information or high resolution headshots, please contact Jackie Peacha at [jackie.peacha@rsparch.com](mailto:jackie.peacha@rsparch.com).

## About RSP Architects

RSP is one of the largest firms in Minnesota, serving any facility-oriented need. Working holistically, RSP helps clients proactively manage their real estate portfolio — whether one building or 800+ locations. We excel at finding efficiencies for our clients through the consolidation, re-organization or creation of space. Inviting, sustainable, productive environments are what we strive to achieve.

Our teams provide traditional architectural design services; tenant improvement and workspace strategies; planning and landscape architecture; facility management analytics; and employee-centric experiential strategy and design. Our clients are category leaders in the corporate, retail, government, healthcare, higher education, hospitality, institutional, science and technology industries.

RSP works nationally and internationally, serving clients from our headquarters in Minneapolis, the west coast office in Phoenix, and satellite offices in Rochester, MN, Bangalore, India, and Tianjin, China. Throughout our 32 year history, RSP has excelled at customer service, earning awards and accolades from our Fortune 500 clients.

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