

Jon Previtali, Civil Engineer

Civil Engineer Jon Previtali is pursuing his Master's degree in Building Systems at the University of Colorado (CU) in Boulder. Building Systems is a group within the Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering Department that examines high-efficiency building design and renewable energy systems. Jon's area of study is the aesthetic integration of natural building materials, photovoltaic systems and passive heating and cooling systems in design.

Jon is a member of CU's Solar Decathlon 2005 team, which has designed a state of the art solar-powered home to submit in the national Solar Decathlon competition (www.eere.energy.gov/solar_decathlon). The competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and will take place in Washington, D.C. in October 2005 with 18 competing university teams from around the world and an estimated 150,000 attendees. Upon completion of the contest, CU's Solar Decathlon home will be relocated to the Solar Village, an innovative solar-powered neighborhood in the new Urbanist Community known as Prospect New Town, located in Longmont, Colorado.

Recently, Jon was hired as Project Coordinator by the CU-Boulder Environmental Center (www.ecenter.colorado.edu) to oversee energy improvements of three major campus buildings and manage the project's \$120,000 annual budget. In his part-time role as Project Coordinator, Jon will: identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for University Memorial Center, Recreational Center and Wardenburg Health Center; serve as the liaison between the Campus Energy Officer, Environmental Center Energy Program Manager, and proctors and occupants of each building; oversee Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification renewal process; manage the project budget and report to University of Colorado Student Union (UCSU) Finance Board and Legislative Council; and conduct post-evaluation surveys.

A California native, Jon has lived in rural, suburban and urban areas of his home state. He has seen the best and worst of California from a multitude of perspectives, including: environmental, economic developmental and population density. The link between the large amount of energy used by most U.S. communities and problems with human health, the environment and U.S. foreign policy has led Jon to become a strong advocate of mixed-use community planning and buildings with a minimal environmental footprint. Jon's family is originally from the hill town region of Northern Italy, where he learned to appreciate regional community development rich in beauty, economically and environmentally sustainable, and following slow growth rates in pace with the needs of the people.