

Contact:  
Tami Hausman  
Capelin Communications  
212/779-4949  
[thausman@capelin.com](mailto:thausman@capelin.com)

## News

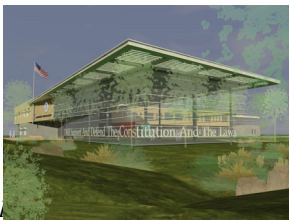
### DESIGNER AT 4240 ARCHITECTURE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR TALENT, LEADERSHIP



Robert Benson,  
4240 Architecture

Robert Benson picked by *Building Design + Construction* magazine for its annual “40 Under 40” list, which recognizes “shooting stars” in the design and building industry around the world for their work and contributions to their profession and communities.

Chicago [IL] and Denver [CO], Jan. 29 – By the time he reaches 40, **Robert Benson** wants to have done three things: capture first prize in a major international architectural competition and the commission to do the building, finish a screenplay, and make an edible crème brulée. What this 36-year-old bachelor has already achieved is national recognition as an up-and-coming architectural designer.



Benson/4240 Architecture's design for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Citizenship and Immigration Services Building, Van Horn, Texas

Benson, design director for the Chicago Studio of **4240 Architecture**, has been included in this year's list of “40 under 40” rising stars, according to *Building Design + Construction* magazine.

The winners, selected from 244 entrants, are featured for outstanding leadership, inventiveness, client relations, and professional training skills in the January 2007 issue of *BD+C*, “the only national publication for the entire building team.”

Benson is one of 13 architects from the U.S. singled out and one of four from the industry from Chicago.

Since he joined 4240 Architecture three years ago, Benson has designed buildings and spaces for clients such as the Playboy Club in Shanghai, the Department of Homeland Security in Van Horn [Texas], Denver's Stapleton Institute, and Chicago's Poetry Foundation. [more]

Consultants to  
Professional Service  
Firms and Their  
Related Industries

386 Park Avenue South  
13th Floor  
New York, New York  
10016-8804

Fax  
212.779-4950  
Phone  
212.779-4949  
E-mail  
[capstone@capelin.com](mailto:capstone@capelin.com)

4240 Architecture: *Building Design + Construction* Award to Benson  
 January 29, 2007  
 Page 2 of 3



*Images of Petatlaná, Mexico from the 2005 solo photography show, TOJO Gallery, Chicago. Benson combined photographic images and translucent mesh.*

A graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies [1993] and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Master of Architecture [1996] and the American Institute of Architects [AIA] Gold Medal, Benson is senior associate at the Chicago Studio of 4240 Architecture, as well as architecture professor and mentor, photographer, and design-community leader.

### **Perspective on talent**

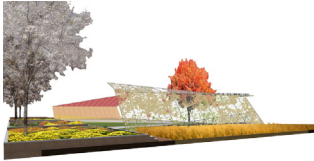
"These 40 individuals are the 'shooting stars' of the architecture, engineering, and construction industry in the United States," said Robert Cassidy, *BD+C*'s editor-in-chief. "They represent the next generation of leaders of those responsible for creating much of America's built environment."

Jay W. Schneider, *BD+C* senior editor in charge of the "40 Under 40" awards, said that "the editors were particularly impressed with Robert Benson's record of accomplishments as design leader for the firm's Chicago Studio and his work in designing collateral materials, signage, and even Web sites. We also took note of his community efforts, such as his role as co-president of the Chicago Architectural Club."

4240 Principal Tom Brauer states that Benson is "one of the most talented designers I have ever known." In his letter of support for Benson, David Chasco, director of the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pointed out that: "In a profession where designers often reach their prominence in their 50's, Robert is clearly establishing, under the age of 40, that he will be a noted force for design excellence in his field." The Pritzker Prize's executive director, Martha Thorne, cited Benson's "understanding of the wider issues of the built environment."

[more]

4240 Architecture: *Building Design + Construction* Award to Benson  
January 15, 2007  
Page 3 of 3



*Bethany Brethren Community  
Center: Urban Open  
Competition, Chicago, Illinois*

### **Other achievements**

His design talent has been recognized by awards from the AIA and honors in several international competitions, including Bethany Brethren Community Center's Urban Open Competition for a community gathering place in Chicago, and an innovative vision for the West End Bridge Competition that proposed a much-needed bridge for pedestrians – not cars – in downtown Pittsburgh.

Benson also has taught architectural design at the University of Illinois at both the Chicago and Champaign-Urbana campuses. As co-president and board member of the Chicago Architectural Club, he has advanced the architectural heritage of Chicago through exhibits and dialogue. And, Benson is also an accomplished photographer and graphic designer whose work was recently exhibited at Chicago's TOJO Gallery.

**Background:** *4240 Architecture, a talented team of architects, planners and interior designers, is a new iteration of a firm formed in the 1970s. 4240 designs buildings, community frameworks, and spaces ranging from entire neighborhoods, resorts, and commercial architecture to interiors and private homes. Established in 2003, the firm's offices in Chicago [located at 42° latitude] and Denver [located at 40° latitude] comprise "4240." In just under four years, the firm has grown into an 80-person team of professionals who are equally fluent in designing for urban settings and high-mountain properties – and for just about every context in between. For more information, please visit 4240 Architecture's Web site at [www.4240arch.com](http://www.4240arch.com).*

###