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The ELITE Awards Industry Awards



Landscape Construction



Photo courtesy Changing Landscapes, Inc.

Changing Landscapes, Inc. | Lee Garden

Changing Landscapes, Inc. received The ELITE Award for Landscape Construction for the Lee Garden, Boulder.

The project created an outdoor living and entertainment space built into the steep slope of the Boulder foothills. The environmentally conscious client wanted a xeric perennial garden and a water feature built into the rock streaming into five waterfalls. The steep slope and limited accessibility to the area created several challenges, which were overcome with methodical planning in the design process.

The inability to bring in machinery meant hand digging and jackhammering into the mountainside to create space for the water features and moss rock boulders. Two-ton boulders were hoisted over the house using a crane from 50 feet away. Boulders retained the slope, and created waterfalls and pockets for perennial plants. Xeric plants were installed and existing ponderosa pines were preserved and protected.

Recipients in this category are recognized for a landscape design and installation that exemplifies quality workmanship consistent with industry best management practices (BMPs), follows design and related specifications for the project and satisfies client expectations.

Maintenance



Photo courtesy Environmental Designs, Inc.

Environmental Designs, Inc. | Chapungu Sculpture Park

Environmental Designs Inc. received the ELITE Maintenance Award for Chapungu Sculpture Park. Chapungu Sculpture Park at Centerra in Loveland is an outdoor exhibit of Zimbabwean stone sculptures traversing 26 acres of natural and landscaped gardens. The park is one of Northern Colorado's most highly trafficked multi-use areas—a venue for concerts, farmers markets, weddings and more. It is meant to look as natural as possible while being a manicured landscape.

Maintaining the property has its challenges. The goal of the customer is keep the area clean, healthy, green and manicured despite not being allowed to irrigate for days in a row when events are booked. Due to restricted watering at times, all areas of the park must be constantly and proactively monitored to identify plants that may be stressed and need hand watering.

Maintenance operations in the park must be completed in the morning so not to conflict with most visitor traffic. Maintenance crews either start very early or work during evenings. Another challenge is extreme flexibility. Maintenance and irrigation schedules may have to change on a moment's notice.

Recipients in this category exemplify the highest standards of landscape maintenance practices and protect and preserve natural resources by following industry BMPs.

Design/Build

The ELITE Awards for Design/Build exemplify quality workmanship consistent with industry best management practices, follow design and related specifications and satisfy client expectations. Projects must be designed by an in-house landscape architect and constructed by the company submitting the project.

Project Budget \$200,000+

Environmental Designs, Inc. and Marpa Design Studio received The ELITE Award for Design/Build budget of \$200,000+ for the Black Bear project.

The client wanted a resort-like home at his Boulder foothills home to relax with family and friends outdoors while enjoying great views. The project also had to complement the contemporary architecture of the home and meet city Green Points requirements.

Steep grades were the biggest challenge as well as a strong asset for design. Creative placement of steps and boulders, winding intersecting paths and stairways to courtyards, and dense xeric planning, allowed most of the property to be accessed and enjoyed. Precise boulder settings, engineered concrete and steel walls on the slopes retain soil.

Green Points requirements were met by preserving existing mature trees, planting shade trees, adding soil amendments and xeric planting. Efficient water management systems with hydrozones reduce runoff on the steep slope.



Photo courtesy Environmental Designs, Inc.

Environmental Designs, Inc. and Marpa Design Studio
Black Bear

Project Budget Under \$200,000

Zak George Landscaping received The ELITE Award for Design/Build under \$200,000 for the Olsen Residence.

This Fort Collins project was a landscape redesign to create a functional space for entertaining that connected different outdoor rooms. The narrow and long property provided design challenges including how to tie in the old landscape—which included a custom made metal pergola—into a new updated design. The two existing patios—kitchen and pool patios—did not have a connecting path between them. The new landscape connects outdoor living spaces with a main pathway between existing patios, bringing the landscape together as a whole.

Zak George Landscaping
Olsen Residence



Photo courtesy Zak George Landscaping

Use of Color

Projects submitted for Use of Color should demonstrate effective use of annual and/or perennial plants for landscape color. This category is unique in that two awards are given. Judges score each entry and the top entries are finalists for the People's Choice Award.

The finalists are posted anonymously on ALCC's website and social media to be voted on by the public for the People's Choice Award.

People's Choice & Judges' Choice Awards

Environmental Designs, Inc.



Environment Designs, Inc. received both ELITE Awards for Use of Color—People's Choice and Judges' Choice—for Centerra - McWhinney Real Estate Services.

This master-planned community in Loveland is a high plains desert eco-region with low precipitation and high winds. The client wanted high impact curb appeal while staying committed to water conservation, preserving native plant diversity and enhancing wildlife habitat. Drought tolerant and wildlife supporting perennial pollinator plants such as Echinacea and Salvia were selected and the planting areas containing thirsty annuals were reduced. The plant palette created plenty of color and texture for the property.

Controllers were upgraded to ET Water and monitored by satellite to determine how much water each bed needed throughout the season. As budget allows, old heads are being changed out to high efficiency spray nozzles to improve distribution uniformity and reduce water loss.

Photo courtesy Environmental Designs, Inc.