

Best Hardscapes in Colorado

State Associations in Action

by Chanté McKowan, LC/DBM PHOTOS: ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS OF COLORADO (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED)

LC/DBM supports state landscape contractors associations and their efforts to serve, protect and educate their members in the landscape industry: providing legislation advocacy, educational resources and networking opportunities, and administering programs such as awards presentations that honor and promote their members. One such example is the ELITE Awards put on by the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado, whose notification to LC/DBM of their winners, including those in hardscape-based categories, coincided with the selection of material for this Hardscapes issue. So we are proud to present them here, and invite all other state associations to submit their award-winning projects to be considered for inclusion in future issues.



Above and Right

Award: Design/Build Over \$200k

Contractor: Environmental Designs, Inc. & Marpa Design Studio

Environmental Designs, Inc. and Marpa Design Studio worked on the Black Bear project in the city of Boulder. The client wanted their home to feel like a resort retreat, a place to experience the outdoors in privacy. The landscape was constructed to complement the home's contemporary architecture. The project also satisfied the green-point requirements of Boulder, such as planting shade trees and reserving existing trees, and installing organic soil amendments in permeable areas. The engineered concrete and steel walls, along with precise boulder placement, help to retain soil and display water-efficient plantings.





Above and Left

Award: Design/Build Under \$200k

Contractor: Zak George Landscaping

Zak George Landscaping created a place of entertainment on the Olsen Residence in Fort Collins. A walkway connects the home's two patios to provide one large outdoor space. Originally made of natural stone, the landscape was renovated with a new patio and pathway of manufactured pavers. Some features, like the pergola, remained but were revamped to establish an inviting space for the owner and guests.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDIT: DUSTIN ETHEREDGE OF CLEAR FORK COLLECTIVE



Below and Left

Award: Landscape Construction

Contractor: Changing Landscapes, Inc.

Changing Landscapes, Inc. is an award recipient for their Lee Garden project, also in Boulder. The development held challenges because the landscape was situated on a steep slope. With limited access, the patio and water feature areas had to be jackhammered or dug by hand. A specialty crane lifted two-ton boulders over the house. The boulders were installed to retain the slope, producing

five waterfalls. A concrete fire pit stands on a flagstone patio and surrounding it are benches made of moss rock walls and capped with flagstone.



Above and Right

Award: Sustainability

Contractor: Changing Landscapes, Inc.

At the completion of the project, the Contemporary Asian Tea Garden in Boulder became a landscape of sustainability. Wherever possible, existing rocks, trees and plants were repurposed to create a contemporary, sustainable landscape. For instance, 95% of the rocks that existed onsite were used to construct the retaining wall. The unwanted steel, cardboard and paper were recycled, trees and shrubs composted, and planting pots returned to the nursery. Colorado Buff Flagstone and Red Flagstone are laid on the ground. A stream flows underneath the teahouse to provide a cooling effect, thereby eliminating the need for air conditioning. **LC**

