

Project Title: Garden Legacy

Location: The American West

Award Submittal Category: 3 - Research & Communication

Project Summary: Garden Legacy propels the study of garden design and the profession of landscape architecture into a new realm: residential design in the American west. Through a series of exemplary gardens, the book highlights a firm's pursuit of a design vocabulary that, until now, had been largely unrealized in the Rocky Mountains. Illustrated through breathtaking photographs and clear, concise narratives, a design ethos for the inner-mountain west is masterfully interpreted through a contemporary lens.

Project Purpose and Special Factors: Garden Legacy is this firm's second monograph to explore Western gardens. New Gardens of the American West, released in 2003, considered the influence of the vast Western landscape on garden design. The book was highly successful in raising awareness of the unique factors inherent in specific regional garden planning and design. As with all publishing opportunities, however, valuable lessons emerged after the book entered the marketplace. These included the book's limited focus on the appearance and function of each garden in the summer season only, leaving readers curious about how outdoor living spaces and planting designs transition to other seasons. Readers also expressed a desire to understand the larger context and physical environmental influences (slope, aspect, desired/undesired views) that dictated the design of each garden. Most importantly, readers wanted to understand the design principles inherent in each garden.

Garden Legacy addresses all of these issues and more. Crisp photography captures the year-round presence of the gardens, honing in on seasonal design expressions such as the colorful leaf displays of autumn and the contrasting textures found in winter landscapes. The book encapsulates a way of thinking about and celebrating the region's history and environmental attributes in garden design. Contextual key maps describe the physical environmental influences of each garden. In "Design Principles" chapter, the rigorous and regionally sensitive design concepts - atmosphere, spatial definition, focus - that guide the firm's creation of legacy gardens are explored in detail.

Garden Legacy's finely crafted and colorful illustrative plans provide the reader with an impressive sense of the value of materials and plants as does a discussion of the firm's approach to planting design and unique regional plant palette. Charles Birnbaum, President and Founder of The Cultural Landscape Foundation writes in his Foreword to the book that although hundreds of books have been written on garden design, most of the literature has been written for established and more densely populated regions of the United States. Very little exists to describe the specific conditions found in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states and Garden Legacy help to propel the need for rigorous future garden surveys that no longer simply skip Zones 3 and 4, but rather encourage readers and gardeners alike to linger over the significant work that is, and has been, designed and built in the intermountain West.

Garden Legacy expresses a distinct connection to the region's magnificent natural environments. It is also a rare glimpse into the history, collaborative approach, and design process of a firm whose principles are firmly rooted in the American West. From Wyoming's Teton Range to Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley to Arizona's Sonoran Desert, the book profiles nine gardens, telling each story through vivid images and highly sensory textual descriptions. In addition to providing a showcase of beauty and design, the book delves into the firm's innovative design principles and how these are guiding an emerging philosophy for transforming creative and complex ideas into unforgettable landscapes.

Three of the gardens featured in the book, Catalina Foothills, Riverside Ranch and Woody Creek Garden, have garnered National Honor Awards in Residential Design by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Furthermore, as of March 2010, Capitol Valley Ranch received an Colorado ASLA Honor Award and Teton Overlook a Colorado ASLA Merit Award.

Role of Landscape Architect: Landscape architects can self-publish a record of their work in a sophisticated and professional manner, however, it is unusual for a private firm to also articulate its design philosophy and willingness to subject its work to critical review. Garden Legacy is the result of the steadfast partnerships the firm has established with clients, architects and other designers, in which every project pursues themes of discovery, communication, collaboration, and refinement. It is also the result of a collaborative effort of past and present employees of the firm. In this case, the team that produced the first book was retained to design, write, and photograph this book.

From start to finish, all employees of the firm were asked to comment and participate. In addition, the firm also dedicated a staff member to devote half her time to the coordinate the effort, secure credits and gain permission. In-house graphic designers provided input on the book's layout. Eleven landscape architectural staff members developed computer generated base maps with consistent line weights, styles and symbols. The base maps were then compared to built photographs of each garden to achieve accuracy in the final illustrative, accommodating for changes which may have been made in the field. The base maps were printed on heavyweight paper and rendered by the in-house illustrator. A landscape architect and previous employee of the firm wrote all of the text.

The landscape architect expressed its gratitude to the clients and individuals who made the book a reality by providing complimentary books to each garden's homeowner, architect and contractor. In addition, books were donated to the libraries of accredited landscape architect programs. The firm hopes that, in sharing this body of knowledge, it will have generated a sense of communal desire to explore unique regional design expressions for those that live in the West, ultimately elevating the practice of garden design and landscape architecture. Sold through Amazon and bookstores at \$36, the book is an affordable purchase for students, potential clients, fellow members of the design realm and other interested readers.

Project Significance: Expansive research of available garden design literature, current trends in the industry, water conservation techniques, and sustainable practices indicated an important aspect of garden design had been overlooked by previous publishing efforts: the evolutionary nature of gardens in the arid West. It became clear that the design principles the firm had come to embrace as standard would be a welcome and substantive addition to the industry's collective knowledge of garden design. Thus, this book strives to blend visually persuasive imagery of built work with research and project-based text that holds a wide range of appeal to landscape architects and the greater design field.

Construction Budget: Not applicable

After night the starry sky glimmers over the landscape, and the moonlight illuminates the mountainside. The landscape is a blend of natural beauty and human design. The architecture is a harmonious blend of modern and traditional styles, with a focus on natural materials and a connection to the surrounding environment. The landscape is a blend of natural beauty and human design. The architecture is a harmonious blend of modern and traditional styles, with a focus on natural materials and a connection to the surrounding environment.



STAR MESA RETREAT

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Blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living in home and garden

Blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living is a key design goal for many homeowners. This is achieved through the use of large windows, glass doors, and outdoor furniture that can be used both inside and outside. The landscape is a blend of natural beauty and human design. The architecture is a harmonious blend of modern and traditional styles, with a focus on natural materials and a connection to the surrounding environment.




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TETON OVERLOOK



CATALINA FOOTHILLS



ASPEN TERRACE GARDEN



SNAKE RIVER RESIDENCE



WOODY CREEK GARDEN



STAR MESA RETREAT



EVERETT RANCH



WINDY CREEK GARDEN



CATALINA FOOTHILLS



