2011 ASLA Design Awards

Evergreen Residence
Merit Award
Designscapes Colorado, Phil Steinhauer

Residential Design Over $100,000 Construction Budget
Evergreen Residence Project Fact Sheet (Category 4A):

Project Name:
Evergreen Residence

Project Location:
Evergreen, CO

Project Summary:
This project is a residential design along Bear Creek in Evergreen Colorado. The design seeks to capitalize on the natural beauty of the setting, provide access to the creek, create multiple distinct “outdoor rooms” for entertaining, and blend harmoniously with the property’s surroundings. Native plantings, local materials, and the re-engineering of Bear Creek were central in achieving these goals.

Purpose of Project:
To design and construct a unique outdoor setting in which distinct areas inspired by the mountain landscape of Colorado, work together to create a unique and lasting outdoor experience. Entertaining spaces, river access, and fireplaces were all part of the program. The challenge, and success of this project is the fulfillment of the client’s goals, while significantly enhancing the landscape through the use of local and reclaimed materials.

Construction Budget:
$830,000.00

Role of Landscape Architect:
The role of the landscape architect was to not only provide the client with design ideas, but also guide and educate the client as to why these design choices worked for this particular project. This includes the local material choices and the rehabilitation of Bear Creek. As this was a design / build project, the landscape architect had the unique ability to oversee and direct the actual construction of the design as well.

Special Factors:
Bear Creek runs through the back of the property, which posed both challenges and opportunities for the design. The house and the grade leading down to the creek had to be raised in order to be clear of the flood zone. Terraced planters using large river boulders and native plants were designed to deal with this grade change. The river itself was designed in a way that inspired the restoration of trout habitat. Soil stabilization was another challenge in designing and building around the rivers flood plain.

Significance:
This project’s effect on the public’s perception of landscape architecture can be described as a professional obligation, both to the client and to nature. This residential design is a fantastic example of meeting the client’s goals in terms of quality and program, while maintaining an obligation to uphold and accentuate the surrounding, natural landscape using local materials.