

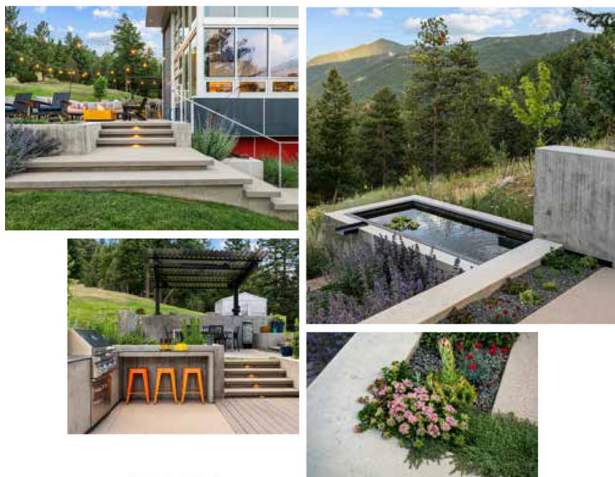


Evoke
ESTABLISHED: 2005
FIRM SIZE: 6

IN PRAISE OF PLACE

Ashley and Jonathan Stevens are the husband-and-wife duo at the helm of Evoke, a boutique garden design studio for urban and rural residences. Evoke's aim is to reconnect and rewind. "We believe landscapes should connect us back to nature emotionally, physically, and spiritually," Ashley explains, adding that this reconnection looks different for each project and client. "People are realizing the importance of a landscape that complements or is cohesive with the architecture of their homes and their lifestyles. The industry has gained a lot of value."

"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO US THAT OUR WORK FEELS TIMELESS, THAT IT TRANSCENDS STYLE, AND IS ULTIMATELY A BACKDROP FOR THE NATURAL WORLD." —Ashley Stevens



Photos: Muntz Studio

"It's really important to us that our work feels timeless, that it transcends style, and is ultimately a backdrop for the natural world," says Ashley. In this regard, some of Evoke's most forward-looking design comes from taking a step back, as with their Iron Mountain project in Boulder County, which was less about introducing plant material to the site and more about defining and structuring spaces to nestle the clients into the overwhelming beauty of what was already there.

Believing that time spent in the out-of-doors is deeply restorative, Evoke also insists practitioners should be doing the work of undoing—restoring the land and encouraging healthy, enduring, climate-resilient landscapes. "We have to embrace diverse ecologies and drought-tolerant plantings," says Ashley. "The idea of rewilding is emerging and evolving in our field and that's really exciting to me."

Evoke's Iron Mountain residence in Boulder features a series of terraced platforms and recesses constructed from sand exposed concrete and composite decking.

The home's outdoor kitchen, partially sunken hot tub, and various seating platforms allow the residents room for retreat on an otherwise exposed site.



Ivy Street Design
ESTABLISHED: 1992
FIRM SIZE: 6

"Landscape architecture is really unique because, not only are we working with space, as do architects, but we are also working with the element of time," says Wendy Booth, the founder and creative director of Ivy Street Design. "Our work evolves through the seasons, and also through the years." The studio itself, which will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary next year, has been witness to several evolutions in the industry and region.

"You must have the ability to envision the landscape in three dimensions and also understand when different things will be blooming, growing, fading," Booth describes this ability to telescope between space and time as the necessary skill of an impactful, on-the-ground landscape architect. Although the same could be said of what's required to be a longstanding presence in the region's design community.

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and planting native plants," she says. "The environmentally right things can be brought into modern landscapes, creating a unique Colorado interpretation."

In the last several years, Booth and her colleagues have intentionally developed their office culture and

become involved in advocacy to make the industry more equitable and inclusive. "I've been a female business owner in a male-dominated field for thirty years," she says. "It hasn't always been an easy path, and I'm dedicated to making it easier and more accessible for future generations."



Photos: David Winger

This residential garden (by project manager Ian Ferguson) in the historic and high-density Congress Park neighborhood illustrates Ivy Street's ability to fuse traditional materials with contemporary influences.

"Architecture often divines an object that is unto itself," Booth remarks. "But landscape architects are always in context, always bridging."