



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Outdoor Craftsmen wins prestigious ELITE award
Award-Winning project demonstrates environmental stewardship & beauty can coexist

BOULDER – Colorado’s landscape industry association, the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC), announced the recipients of its second annual ELITE - Elevating the Landscape Industry through Excellence awards that honor outstanding achievement within the profession. This year, Erie-based Outdoor Craftsmen won in the Installation/Construction category for their project “Niwot Hill” in Niwot, Colorado.

The Installation/Construction category recognizes landscape installation or renovation that exemplifies quality workmanship consistent with industry best management practices. This same project was also a finalist in the Sustainability category, which recognizes the use of sustainable landscape principles that conserve one or more valuable resources.

"I am proud that Outdoor Craftsmen is once recognized as an industry leader for our quality craftsmanship, creativity and sustainable practices. The culture of our company built around those same core values." said Scott Deemer President and Founder of Outdoor Craftsmen

Sophisticated, modern, and sustainable best describe this renovation. The natural pool and sculptural fire feature are striking elements, and the garden was designed for all seasons though the use of sculptural plantings and boulders. Xeric principals were applied to every aspect of installation. A subsurface drainage system combined with swales help redirect water away from the home and through the garden.

All of the soils were amended, and a smart irrigation system minimizes waste while accurately watering a variety of microclimates and special use areas.

The majority of this site was designed to be a native grass prairie, with less than 600 square feet of sod incorporated into the 1/2 acre lot. Permaculture areas of fruits, vegetables, and cutting flowers commingle with the native surroundings. An advanced water management practice ensures good plant health and ultimately saves money on the water bill.

Hand-selected moss rock anchor every grade transition, prevent erosion, and harmoniously coexist with the unique specimen trees, creating living art. A collection of drought-tolerant perennials, grasses, and groundcovers add color, texture, and ever changing blooms throughout all seasons. Large shade trees installed on the south and west side of the house help to keep this home cool in the heat of the summer.

ELITE awards honor quality workmanship and a company’s commitment to innovation, environmental stewardship and community service.

“These projects reflect the values of our industry in the 21st Century that focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship,” said Kristen Fefes, ALCC executive director. “The ELITEs

honor a landscape company's dedication to sound business practices, innovative problem solving, environmental stewardship, community service and having a culture wherein employees can excel."

To view photos of these stunning *Excellence in Landscape* projects or for more information about Outdoor Craftsmen, visit their website www.outdoorcraftsmen.com or www.facebook.com/outdoorcraftsmen.

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