

DESERT DESIGN

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Outdoor Spaces

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS



ARIZONA NORTH



OUTDOOR SPACES

An Extension of Your Home

BY

AMANDA
BILLINGS

– ALLIED ASID

Photography by

DAVID B. MOORE

OF ALL THE THINGS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN DESIGNING OUTDOOR living spaces, I believe one of the most important things is to make these spaces an extension of your home. Just like the interior, the space should be a reflection of the client. Everything from the custom furnishings to the material selections can be tailored to your client's wants and needs. In the foothills of East Mesa, many of my clients want to enjoy the beauty of their natural desert surroundings. Their landscape projects often consist of enhancing the natural scape, having to keep in mind natural washes and plant requirements.

Arizona, while beautiful, is also one of the harshest environments for plant life. Our stunning ocotillo, clustered barrel cactus, and looming saguaro are all majestic, but are also natural survivors. Holding excess water within their cells and having a built in defense system are just a couple examples of what it takes to survive the Arizona desert. However, not every one of our clients wants a cactus garden, so knowing sun exposure, growth rates, and plant combinations can be incredibly helpful. I enjoy using pots as an opportunity to plant seasonal flowers to soften the desert and add in some color!





Once you have an idea of what types of plants you will be working with, it is important to design your watering system and drainage accordingly. If you have the opportunity, I love to design my watering system to go under any pavers or tile flooring and up into my pots. This creates a seamless look, and keeps the water rings (formed by the pots draining) from damaging the flooring. Think of this as the much loved floor outlet in the middle of the seating arrangement! It is also important to have a great partner in landscape that can plan this with you and program the zones on your irrigation system to keep all elements of your landscape healthy. During this planning phase it is also a good time to think about lighting. Lighting creates ambiance when directed on plants or architectural features, or for task purposes such as lighting a walkway or entry. Either form makes for a stunning space during our desert nights!

Just like an interior you need to consider all of the surroundings. Landscape design is not just about plants. Part of the beauty is creating a livable space that your clients can enjoy. In Arizona, outdoor entertaining is popular most of the year, so meeting the clients' wants and needs is very important. How do they intend to use the space? Do they need a custom seating furniture arrangement or a built in kitchen? As with interiors, it is important when designing exteriors to consider the elements and principles of interior design. Are your selections the proper scale for the size of the home? When working with large homes, custom pieces are required

Amanda Billings
– Allied ASID
CoCo Milano's



Entries Wanted!

2017 ASID Design Excellence Competition

Looking at our Best in Show winning projects could be intimidating, but shouldn't be. Our design competition provides opportunities for projects of all sizes, types and budgets. Keep in mind, several recent winners won the first time they entered; you won't know until you enter! There are categories for commercial projects and product design, as well as for residential projects.

High-resolution professional photographs are a requirement in the process because our first-place winners are published in *Phoenix Home & Garden* and *Phoenix* magazines. If you are concerned about the cost of having your projects professionally photographed, think of it as an investment in your business. Good photos are also essential for effective marketing (website, social media, brochures, etc.).

Check the website on February 2, 2017, for our special session to help guide you through the application process, submission requirements and to answer any questions you may have. This year marks the first time that all award entries will be processed online with an easy to follow application process enabling you to make adjustments. The 2017 online awards entry link is posted on the Home Page at www.asidaznorth.org. The cutoff for all entries is Friday, March 31. Winners will be announced at the ASID Arizona North Design Excellence Gala in August.

How is the Competition Judged?

- Each year all entries submitted are distributed to ASID Chapters in other states that judge the competition. The entries are anonymous with no client, interior designer/firm or architect identification.
- Each entry is judged individually by category with a numerical rating. Occasionally, there are ties, Honorable Mentions or no winners in a category – it's all based on the scores submitted by the judges.

We look forward to seeing what new and exciting projects will be submitted.

to create the grandeur demanded by the space. Where is your focal point? In many cases it could be the view, but perhaps it is a fireplace, water feature, or doorway. Have fun with these areas, they can be the wow factor of the space.

When designing outdoor spaces I also like to think of how to make the space feel intimate. Pergolas are a great way to add an enclosed feeling to a space that would otherwise be in the open. A balance of negative space is also very important to me. Not all walls need to be blank. Growing a beautiful bougainvillea or jasmine up a trellis can create a natural art piece. At the end of the project you get to have fun with the accessories. Small pots with flowers, statues, and candelabras are just a few ways to personalize the space. Once the finishing touches are in place, the only thing left to do is to take a deep breath and enjoy.



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East Valley

3426 E Baseline Road
Suite 101 - 103
(480) 444-5000

Scottsdale

8340 E Raintree Drive
(480) 556-0103