

# Award SEASON

The architecture and design firms of the Roaring Fork Valley have recently raked in award after award, shining a spotlight on Aspen's design chops.

By Etta Meyer



A CCY residence that blends high design with a careful consideration of the surrounding context.

## CCY ARCHITECTS

The American Institute of Architects is essentially “the Academy” of the architecture world. In 2017, Basalt-based CCY Architects took home the prestigious AIA Western Mountain Region’s firm of the year award (second only to the national prize), a major accomplishment for the well-established firm. Known for its strong national and international contemporary designs of residential properties and its deep history in the resort hospitality world, CCY “grew up” with Aspen—under different iterations and evolutions of partners who built The Little Nell and the Sundeck. Founded in 1971, yet officially CCY in 1999, today it’s working on (to name a few) the Lost Forest at Elk Camp at Snowmass Ski Area, a mountainside hotel in Squaw Valley, a series of wellness clubs in northern and southern California, and several signature artful homes across the west. The firm of the year award was one of 11 accolades bestowed on the firm last year, but partner and principal John Cottle says awards are not the goal—doing good work is.

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It’s perhaps unsurprising that *Outside* magazine’s No. 1 place to work has been awarded two years in a row to a design firm run by a young gun such as founding partner Steev Wilson. The architecture, land planning and interior design firm was established 11 years ago when Wilson was just 25; he and his partners have been mindful to keep that youthful spirit alive. To do so, they make a point to recruit raw talent whom they put through their own rigorous training program. “Good company culture is not just about having a pingpong table in the back or mornings off on powder days,” explains Wilson. “Those are perks. Culture is about having a clear direction as a firm and making sure everybody knows that direction.” The firm also won a PSMJ Award, AIA’s young architect of the year and *Colorado Homes & Lifestyles*’ five under 40 architects of the year—applauding both the business and design sides of the growing company, respectively.



An example of Wilson's work, this home near Aspen Mountain was a complete structural redesign.



R+B recently completed this mixed-use building in the downtown core; its facade was inspired by local natural features.

## ROWLAND + BROUGHTON

The powerhouse architecture, urban design and interior design firm run by the eponymous married duo, John Rowland and Sarah Broughton, took home a rainbow of awards this year. Project manager Delvon Nemechek received the AIA 0 Historic Preservation Award for work on the Hotel Jerome. (The AIA10 category recognizes outstanding achievement by an architect licensed 10 years or less.) Two additional awards hit particularly close to home. The first was the American Planning Association Colorado Merit Award for work where R+B (in partnership with the City of Aspen and consultancy BendonAdams) literally wrote the book on commercial design standards for the city of Aspen. The second was a Crystal Award from the American Society of Interior Designers for Game On, a residential project that it is now the couple's West End home.

## DESIGN WORKSHOP

Design does not stop with the building. The elegant structures of the Roaring Fork Valley interact heavily with their natural surroundings and therefore require clever and contextual landscape architecture. Enter Design Workshop, the firm that has been leading in the landscape category, as well as urban planning, for decades in Aspen and around the country. The American Society of Landscape Architects bestowed its highest honor in the residential design award category, the National Award of Excellence, on a DW project in 2016, and in 2017, the Colorado Chapter of the ASLA honored only one residential garden for its design excellence. Castle Creek Meadow is a perfect example of how DW's architects create site-specific outdoor living spaces to co-exist with the native terroir while crafting strategies for water quality and wildlife migration. The firm is currently working on transforming critical public spaces with a rehabilitation of the Aspen Pedestrian Mall and the courtyard garden at the Hotel Jerome, and in January was honored as the 2017 Aspen Chamber Resort Association Business of Year.



Castle Creek Meadow, an award-winning garden

DOWNTOWN BUILDING PHOTO BY BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ROWLAND + BROUGHTON; CASTLE CREEK MEADOW PHOTO BY D.A. HORCHNER COURTESY OF DESIGN WORKSHOP