

# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

*The "elements" of design*

## THE MISSION

Designs by Sundown creates a balance of earth, air, water and fire for a Littleton, CO, residence.

The existing property consisted of 10 ponderosa pines, a few boulders, some dead cottonwood trees and grass — basically a clean slate. Designs by Sundown had a roughly \$500,000 budget to create an outdoor environment for the homeowners to enjoy all year long. The design, led by Greg Bobich, incorporates the four classic elements: earth, fire, water and air.

The earth element plays a dominant role in this landscape. The picturesque backdrop is the natural beauty of the Colorado mountains. Stone is used in abundance to blur the line between the foreground and the mountains off in the horizon. From the fieldstone outdoor hearth to the Siloam stone steps, to the use of boulders for fire pits and accents in perennial beds, Mother Nature's creations are showcased.

Fire and water are interspersed throughout the property. The pool area consists of a swimming pool, spa, a water feature, two unique fire elements and a pool house. The water's influence is essential to this experience from the gently flowing mountain stream to the bubbling hot tub and turquoise pool.

Two cozy fire elements are just a few steps from the pool. The upper terrace is home to a charming fieldstone wood-burning fireplace.

Open air is enjoyed in gathering spots throughout the property. Several sitting areas welcome guests to relax and enjoy the view.

The challenges that the Designs by Sundown team encountered were few, but massive. For example, the addition of more than 1,800 cu. yds. of soil, 125 tons of boulders, and the relocation of a leech field, which set the team back about a month.





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## THE WORK

**1 | A BLANK SLATE.** In the beginning, just about all the property was offering was potential. Landscapes by Sundown's Greg Bobich worked closely with the homeowners, avid lovers of the outdoors, to create both a front-and-back landscape design.

**2 | ELEGANT ELEMENTS.** Taken from a similar angle as the photo above, the lower terrace is home to the pool house, two one-of-a-kind fire elements, a custom spa and the 25x50-ft. in-ground swimming pool. Huge boulders anchor the landscape to the surroundings.

**3 | OUTDOOR LIVING.** On the upper level, Designs by Sundown's in-house masons used cinder blocks with a cultured stone veneer, creating this wood-burning fireplace area.

**4 | GUEST-READY.** Much-needed patio space and seating for family gatherings was created on the upper terrace. In fact, intimate sitting areas were created throughout the property to invite visitors to sit back and enjoy the view and wildlife. An outdoor kitchen rivals the finest kitchens in town, with wildflowers adorning the dining area.

**5 | FOUR-SEASON ENJOYMENT.** This landscape was designed to be enjoyed in all seasons — a request from the homeowners. With inspiration from streams found a short distance away, this water feature offers tranquil sounds that can be heard on both levels.

**6 | FIRE AND WATER CO-EXIST.** The turquoise blue of the pool shows off nicely with the warmth of this one-of-a-kind boulder fire pit burning in the background. The water feature flows adjacent to the Siloam stairs.

**7 | TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.** There was no scrimping on the use of stone in this outdoor creation. Siloam stone steps lined with accent boulders and pocket plantings lead guests to the upper terrace.



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*Founded by Michael Hommel in 1985, Designs by Sundown offers design, construction, waterscapes, masonry, lighting, irrigation, maintenance and seasonal color to the Greater Denver market. This property garnered a 2008 Environmental Improvement Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). For more information, visit [www.designsbysundown.com](http://www.designsbysundown.com).*