

Aspen
SOJOURNER

guide to home design + style

architectural design • kitchen and bath
home furnishings • interior design
residential & commercial construction • pool & spas

ARCHITECTURE

BREWSTER MCLEOD ARCHITECTS



Aaron J. Aeschliman, Jamie L. Brewster McLeod, and Teraissa A. McGovern

This boutique Aspen- and Telluride-based firm is known for their attention to detail when it comes to client relationships and creating original, showstopping designs. Jamie L. Brewster McLeod, who founded BMA 13 years ago, likes to tell her clients they can do absolutely anything they dream when it comes to special touches for their home, and her team will make it happen.

What is your approach to the design process?

We are very hands-on with our clients, taking them from concept to property selection, construction, interior design, and even landscape and exterior space design. This is a big process, and we want it to be as easy and entertaining as possible for them. For most of our clients, Aspen is not their full-time residence, and we ask them to consider what Aspen means to them, what is going to make this project unique? We don't design the same house over and over, instead we design a custom build for each client.

How do you help guide clients when making tough decisions?

Our process generally takes three to four years, which gives us the time to develop a relationship with our clients and truly understand their desires and needs. Through that, we ask them to think about how they live: do they like to entertain; how is the house going to function and make them feel; what are their interests; or is it going to be a rental? By getting to know our clients, potentially challenging decisions become intuitive.

You are keen on the concept of "architecture as a living art form."

What does that mean to you?

We design homes that invite their owners to experience their surroundings in a new way, enhancing views they may not have noticed before, incorporating a layout that brings the family together, or creating intimate spaces that allow a large home to function naturally with 20 people or when occupied by just two people. To me, architecture is art. This is how architecture becomes a living art form. The design process is influenced by how the owners live, and the architecture is brought to life by how they interact with the finished spaces, natural light, and the exterior environment.



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

G.F. WOODS CONSTRUCTION



Greg Woods, Sheila Breed, Eric Wynne, Chad Roach, Martha O'Keefe, and David Guthrie.

G.F. Woods is a general contracting firm that specializes in high-end residential, commercial, and multifamily construction as well as restaurant redevelopment in the mountains of Colorado. Owner Greg Woods has been in the building industry for 17 years, including nine at the helm of G.F. Woods. Honesty, integrity, and attention to details are the guiding lights of the company. G.F. Woods is committed to producing the highest quality projects in the construction industry.

What does a general contractor do?

We turn your dreams into the built reality by collaborating with our clients, the design team, our talented staff, and a pool of subcontractors and vendors. Our primary responsibility is listening and interpreting our clients' desires, prioritizing design elements with accurate budgets, and creating

beautiful structures within a predetermined schedule and monetary amount.

What differentiates you from other general contractors in the area?

We have a proven track record of delivering large-scale projects ahead of schedule and meeting or beating budgets. For each client, we generate a solid game plan to make sure we put the right people in the right spots to execute the work. That allows us to offer guaranteed completion dates and consistent follow-through as well as ensure we can meet deadlines, budgets, and expectations. We're a passionate company striving to achieve perfectly executed projects so that our clients get exactly what they desire the first time around on budget and schedule.

What is the most important aspect of the work you do?

Communication and documentation on what we've agreed to do and how we're going to implement it are critical. We drill into the schedule, budget, and new design-related business items weekly. In that meeting, we talk about what we did the previous week, provide a game plan for the current week, and provide a two-week look ahead. It's very consistent, and we do that throughout the entire project to ensure the process runs smoothly.

Are there challenges to construction in the mountains?

Winter is always a little challenging as it can slow production a bit. With the right winter protection and site preparations, we consistently build through bad weather with minimal inefficiencies. Living in the Rocky Mountains, winter is just another season that we have grown accustomed to working through.

What should people consider when they are looking to hire a general contractor?

Personality, integrity, trust, and long-standing proven relationships with clients, subcontractors, and vendors.



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KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN

THURSTON KITCHEN AND BATH



Scott Sylvester, Kelly Jenkins, Audrey Tom, John Rogan, and Mac Thurston.

Why do you advise people to begin with appliance selection?

Appliances have made incredible advancements, with most now having Bluetooth connectivity, self-monitoring, and more. They are a massive investment, meaning it's important to design your space around your appliances. We look at the process as though the appliances are toys and you need to choose those first to design a better toy box [kitchen] around them.

What are some of the most popular trends you're currently incorporating into your designs?

At any point in time, there are four to five mega trends in kitchen and bath design. Popular ones now include using the color white throughout a design, high-pressure laminate cabinetry that allows seamless integration of appliances into cabinetry, cabinet doors that open by touch instead of with a handle, and manufactured countertop surfaces that can have a similar look and feel to granite, with more consistent results. We look at ourselves as "kitchen tailors," who guide you to create a custom space.

Thurston Kitchen and Bath is a 42-year-old company headquartered in Aspen, Colorado, with showrooms in Aspen, Crested Butte, Telluride, Steamboat Springs, Vail, and the Denver metro area. What makes Thurston unique is their focus on customization and their Define Your Design process—which progresses through appliance selection and placement, cabinetry, countertops, accessory selection, and conceptualized design modeling—which incorporates Thurston's decades of experience to help customers navigate the multitude of decisions involved when creating their dream kitchen or bath.

It may come as a surprise to consumers that some appliances can be affected by altitude. How do you address that with customers?

High altitude does bring some challenges with fuel and air mixtures in appliances, most noticeably in ice makers, ovens, and gas stovetops. We go to great lengths to test all of the brands we use to ensure the appliances deliver the results they are supposed to deliver, especially at altitude. Based upon our experience, we have a select few brands we recommend, and we tell our clients why. The products we sell in Aspen are very proprietary for the Aspen market.

How do you guide customers through the many choices to be made?

Our showrooms let clients experience the latest styles in person. People come to us with great ideas, and through our showrooms and library of samples, we have the resources to show them the options for incorporating those ideas to create a truly unique design.



CONTACT US 970-925-8579 / thurstonkitchenandbath.com / 202 AABC, Aspen



TIMBERLINE POOL AND SPA



Ashlee and Steven Simons

Founded in 2004 by Steven, who is a third-generation pool builder, and Ashlee Simons, what makes Timberline Pool and Spa unique is that not only do they design pools and spas, their primary focus is handling all aspects of building them. The full service operation includes a maintenance division to keep pools and spas in top shape, from Aspen to Vail, Gunnison to Lake City, and beyond.

What should people know before they start designing their pool or spa?

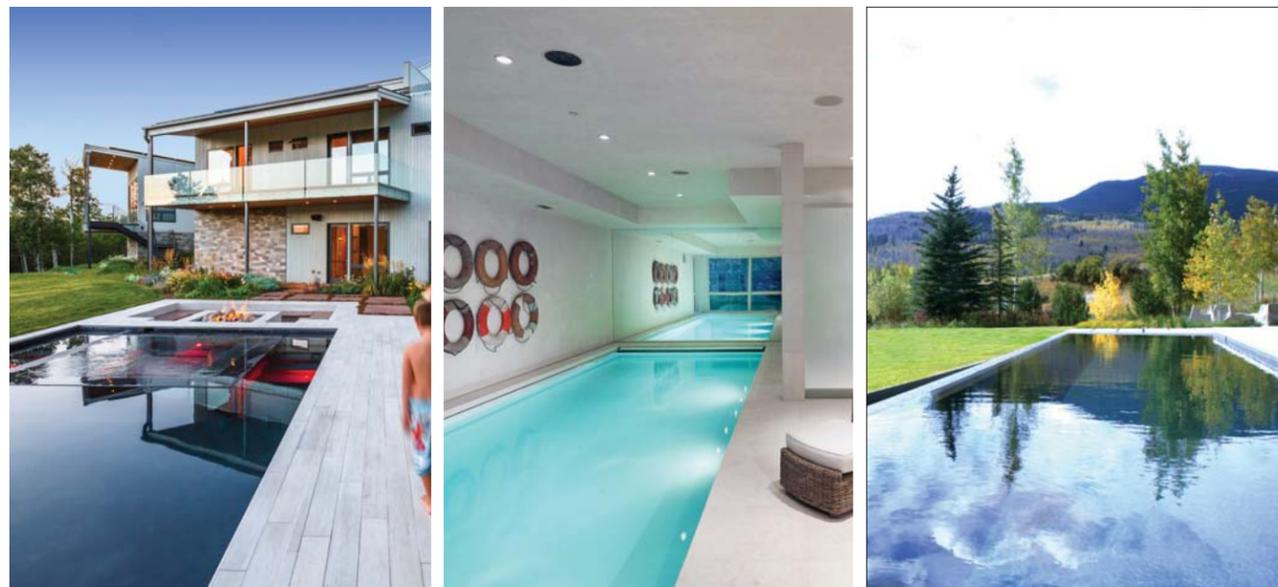
It's important for clients to consider the intent of their pool or spa. Is it going to be inside or outside? Is the intent to add aesthetics to landscaping, for working out, family recreation, or a spa and cold plunge in conjunction with a home gym? These factors will guide our design process and material recommendations.

Does our mountain weather present special challenges?

Our clients often want to re-create the design of the pool at their Florida home. We suggest modifications to ensure the final design is headache-free at altitude and in mountain weather. We recommend automatic pool covers (that can be disguised with stones) both for safety and maintenance. Standard heating systems aren't as effective at our altitude, so we use boilers and heat exchangers for consistent temperatures. Freeze/thaw is also an issue, especially when it comes to choosing tiles. We ensure the tiles are frost and chemical resistant and can handle 100-degree temperature variations over the course of a day. This really comes into play in houses on Red Mountain.

What trends are you seeing in pool and spa design?

Our clients gravitate toward a more natural, pond look, selecting darker colors in tiles and plaster. Another popular shift is for smooth finishes, as opposed to a rough plaster finish, to help bathing suits last longer.



CONTACT US 970-920-5251 / timberlinepools.com / 2206Mustang St, Silt

CATHERS HOME



Jack Haroutunian, Sales Associate; Sue Omang, Operations Manager; Diane Curtindale, Store Manager; Denise Taylor, Design Director; Paul Cathers, Owner; Amanda Furlong, Interior Designer; Cherie Isaman, Visual Merchandising and Sales; special appearance by Stanley

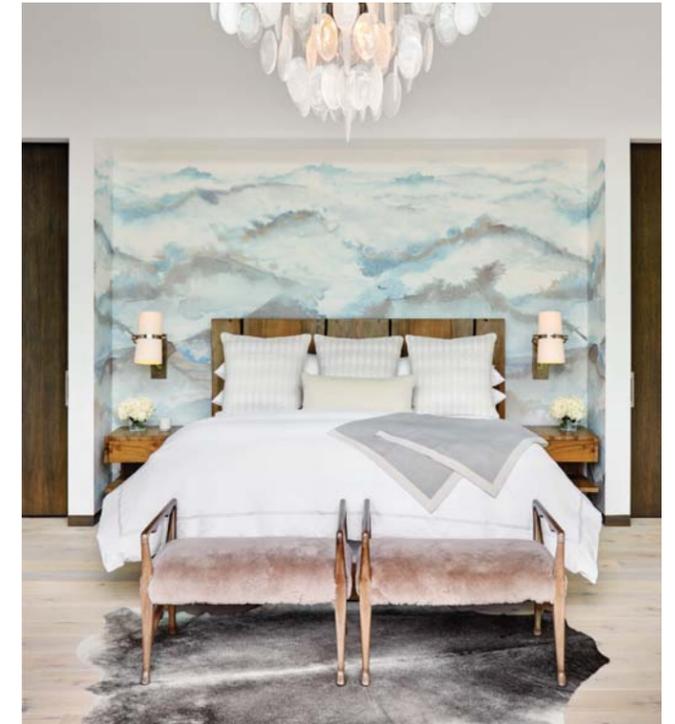
Cathers Home was founded 18 years ago by Paul Cathers as an import business to bring beautiful rugs, furniture and accessories into the Roaring Fork Valley. Over the years Cathers Home has evolved into a 3,000 square ft home furnishings store with a full-service interior design and architecture studio. Located in Basalt, this unique business serves as the valley's premier resource for all interior design needs. From the casual shopper to someone needing to design a complete home, Cathers Home helps clients from Aspen to Glenwood create inviting and comfortable living spaces.

What items make it into your showroom?

It's constantly evolving. Throughout the year, the staff attend different design markets to keep up on the latest trends. Right now, we are more mountain modern. We also work with great local artisans and photographers to reflect a local flare. Our retail stylist puts it all together and creates an amazing showroom that delights the senses.

What can a client expect from interior design and architectural services?

We have a full-service American Society of Interior Design (ASID) Studio and our designers are accredited with design degrees. We can manage design projects from concept to completion. That's everything from the walls in. From whole homes (new construction and remodels) to a single



room we work with the client to select the furnishings and finishes for their home and their needs.

What does successful design look like to you?

The home should have many elements and layers that speak to your family and life and how you want to inhabit the space. When you hire a designer, it's really to dive deeper into how you use your space and how it functions for you specifically. Each design is client-driven. We spend a lot of time talking with clients to find out about them and what they want. It's a conversation and a process. A successful design is a space that excites you and invites you in.

What differentiates Cathers Home from other interior design businesses?

We are most proud of the Cathers Home experience. We are customer service driven so whether you walk into the retail space or you've been working with the designers for a year, you understand that we are looking out for you and want to make this a great experience. Leave the work to us so that when you come to the valley you can enjoy all it has to offer and then relax in the sanctuary of your home.

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