

# LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

AND SPECIFIER NEWS

THE INDUSTRY TRADE MAGAZINE FOR COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE SPECIFIERS NATIONWIDE!

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L.A. Area Landscape Architecture  
Firm Profiles, p. 62

**2017 ASLA Class of Fellows, p. 18**

*ON THE COVER:*  
In and Around Los Angeles,  
p. 130

**PLUS**

**REPEAL OF TEXAS TREE  
ORDINANCE THWARTED, P. 162**

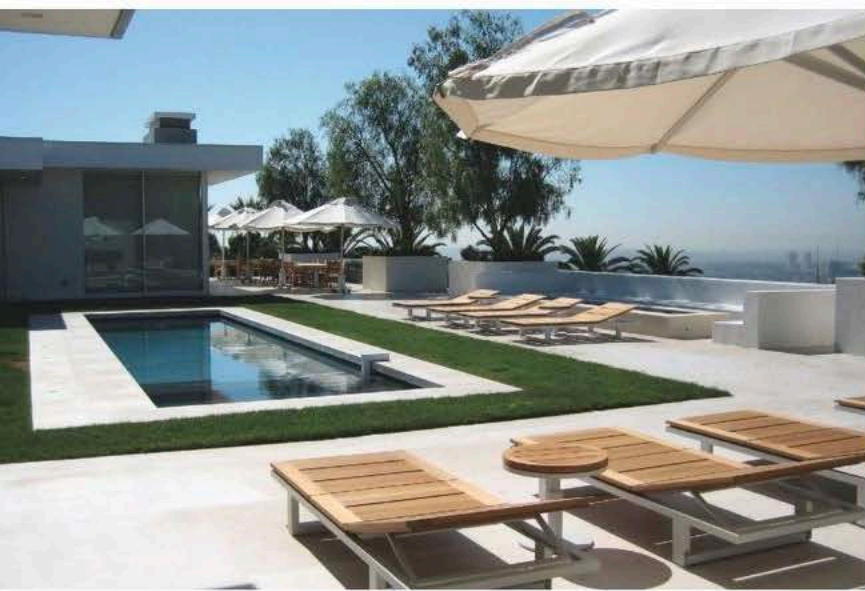
**HOW LITHUANIA DEALT WITH  
SOVIET MONUMENTS, P. 148**





## Beverly Hills Overlook, Beverly Hills, Calif.

This project was created while Stephen Billings was director of design at Pamela Burton and Co. (See p. 72.) The firm had the opportunity to connect two contemporary McClean Design homes through landscape. The homes are perched along a ridge with views of the entire Los Angeles basin. The clients wanted a pathway that would connect the two houses, but the slopes were too steep. The landscape architects worked with a consultant team to create an elevated walkway with planted areas, a small lawn for the children and an adult oriented lounge area. Native California shrubs and trees on the hillside help stabilize it. The new walkway meanders through mature oaks and sycamores trees. The feeling of walking through this landscape is exhilarating. Other landscape elements include a dramatic entrance with cantilevered limestone pavers crossing a koi pond, several custom designed water features, intimate courtyard spaces and a green roof to integrate the architecture with the landscape.



# Stephen Billings Landscape Architecture

*Santa Monica, Calif.*

A graduate of the Syracuse University School of Architecture, Stephen Billings' interest in the intersection of architecture and landscape architecture led him to receive an MLA from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and work with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates in New York. Stephen also worked for Pamela Burton & Co., collaborating for eight years to design and manage over 100 projects. In early 2015, he formed his own firm. The firm has two project managers, Hans Baumann, MLA, a Swiss-American landscape architect and artist, and Sarah Ferreter, MLA, plus two landscape designers, Jason Thompson, BLA, and Jessica Nguyen, BLA.







## CSUN Valley Performing Arts Center, Northridge, Calif.

This project, created while Stephen Billings was director of design at Pamela Burton and Co., is at the entrance to the California State University at Northridge campus. Classrooms, a café and public auditoriums overlook the courtyard, which was designed to accommodate daytime performance classes, lectures and comfortable social spaces for evening events. Emily Green of the *Los Angeles Times* described the courtyard as a “Dr. Seuss-worthy assembly of succulents that achieves a tenfold reduction in the site’s water use.” A bosque of nearly 200 native trees planted on two sides of the site in soil repurposed from the building excavations masks neighboring buildings and provides a dramatic entry into the Performing Arts Center. It also offers animal habitat, shade and makes the space more intimate. Students like to use the space for film projects and impromptu performances. This landscape reduced water usage by nearly 90%.







## Malibu Overlook, Malibu, Calif.

Above & Left: Located in the hills above Malibu, the outdoor amenity areas were maximized to take advantage of the ocean and mountain views. A path around the property goes through fruit trees, a meadow and outdoor living spaces. The garden has native plants of the Santa Monica Mountains, and drought tolerant flora from around the world.



## Civic Center Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Bottom Left and Right: This project was created while Stephen Billings was director of design at Pamela Burton and Co. The landscape architects collaborated with Tishman Speyer Properties and Shimoda Design to reimagine the 3 acres surrounding the former Hilton Headquarters. The elevated plaza/stage is a large gathering space with a catwalk to the building. The gently curving walls create room-like spaces. The stage sits atop a parking structure and required both reinforcement and waterproofing. The plants are predominately Mediterranean and California natives. PHOTO: UNDINE PROHL

