

PORTFOLIO

WALT DANLEY REALTY

Fall 2017

LANDSCAPE ART

A CONVERSATION WITH RUSS
GREEY ABOUT EXTERIOR DESIGN

COME SAIL AWAY

KEVIN GREANEY HELPS PLAN
YOUR NEXT SAILING GETAWAY



WALT DANLEY
REALTY

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



PICKING UP WHERE NATURE LEFT OFF



Arizonans tend to be acutely aware of our place in the environment, partly due to the fact that unawareness in the desert can sometimes hospitalize (or kill), and it seems even the gentlest looking plants like to hide razor sharp edges and pointy bits beneath their attractive facades. The worst even attack unprovoked just for getting too close. Looking at you, cholla.

Perhaps because of this awareness we are likely to notice when a landscape is done just right, and find it so off-putting when it's done wrong. Or worse, not done at all. Being immersed in a well-tuned outdoor environment is like enjoying a perfectly seasoned meal or a



symphony pulling just the right heart strings. A designed slab of nature thrown down in the middle of a city like Olmstead's Central Park in Manhattan can quickly infuse peace into the most harried New Yorker.

We're lucky in the Northeast Valley since so much attention is paid to our landscapes. From plant-lined streets to the great views of our mountains — thanks to the outlawing of billboards — we've got it pretty good.

And at home, great landscape architecture makes a home more livable and increases its value. So how do you turn an underwhelming yard into your own piece of paradise? Ask the pros.

"The nice part of designing for residential is the level of detail that residential projects allow for," says Mr. Greey, Co-founder and Principal with Greey|Pickett landscape architects. "It should speak the language of your home's architecture."

With diverse projects dating back to 1984, Mr. Greey's eye for design has earned his firm numerous awards, but more important is the acclaim of commercial and residential clients around the world. He stresses that the secret to his success comes from listening to each client.

"Never start with a prescribed solution. We're creating a solution based on the client's direction. Some say, 'do something beautiful,' and leave it up to me, while others want to be highly involved, choosing every plant."

Mr. Greey sums up the goal of a landscape architect as creating an environment that the client will enjoy, embrace, and not grow tired of over time. Sometimes, long periods of time. He sagely points out that even though the seasons and individual plants will change, good landscapes are designed to last for decades. Your landscape architect needs to think and plan generationally, while complementing the style of the property.

"A good designer can jump from style to style. Some people like to specialize, and their projects tend to look the same over and over. Our projects are reflective of the architecture, the client, and the site," Mr. Greey says.

But how to choose a landscape architect? The main considerations are to review their portfolio of like projects, just as you would a building architect. Your landscape architect should then develop a plant and design palette for the exterior of the property to maintain a consistent style and theme throughout the landscape. Water features will take cues from the design



of the home as well as the lifestyle of the homeowner. An active family might desire flat grassy areas for the kids to play, while the entertainer could prefer a terraced hillside with patio spaces overlooking the sparkling city lights.

It's a good idea to consult with a landscape architect before buying a piece of property, just as you might check with a builder on potential fixes and improvements to the home itself. Whether you're shopping for raw land or you've found the perfect home with a disappointing exterior, a landscape architect can help identify some options and determine a budget to get things back in order.

Budget, too, can change significantly depending on the site. For example, if an otherwise perfect home is lacking your must-have tennis court, estimates could range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 — for the same court — depending on what needs to happen to prepare the site.

"Orientation, topography, access - you might be looking at a great untouched hillside lot, but how will you get up there," Mr. Greey asks. "How do you want the home to fit into the land, and how do you want to live?"

In addition to numerous estate properties around town, Greey|Pickett has taken on commercial and public spaces like the Chicago Cubs Spring Training facility, Riverview Park, and the current round of renovations in DC Ranch. Other notable projects have included golf courses like the new par three at Desert Mountain, and Wickenburg Ranch, where everything (including how the roads meander through the neighborhoods) was left to the thoughtful eye of Greey|Pickett.

Next time you're enjoying the yard, don't forget to notice all that went into making it such a great place to relax, recreate, enjoy a bit of fresh air, and entertain family and friends. And if you can't do that, maybe it's time to update it with the love and attention you give the rest of your home.



Greey|Pickett focuses their landscape design based on the clients' desires and the architecture of their home. Landscape architecture should be a seamless extension of the home design aesthetic.



Russ Greey of Greey Pickett has been designing landscapes for more than 30 years, for clients around the world.

For more photos and ideas visit: GreeyPickett.com and check out their Houzz Profile to see other projects and get more ideas [Houzz.com/pro/greeypickett/greey-pickett](https://houzz.com/pro/greeypickett/greey-pickett)

Looking to liven up your landscape for the fall and winter? Mr. Greey's suggestions go right to ways of adding color. Annuals, perennials, new furniture (or even just new cushions), umbrellas, and unique pots and plants are all quick ways to bring life back to the yard.

If you're feeling more ambitious why not incorporate "fertigation"? It's a process that combines fertilizer and irrigation in one system, and it's like an IV for your plants, Mr. Greey says.

How does it work? A tank of granulated fertilizer is installed into your existing irrigation system. It'll improve blooms, your plants will develop a better root structure, and take on a richer, healthier shade of green. Such systems are not terribly expensive, and a great value when you consider the improvement in the health of your plants. Your current landscape maintenance firm can get you the right system for your needs.