



# 2023 Annual Awards

# Leadership Initiative Award



The Leadership Initiative Award is given to a **member** of the Colorado Green Building Guild who has shown exceptional and noteworthy commitment to advancing the craft of green building and has led or encouraged others to do the same.

# Ely Merheb

Leadership Initiative Award - **2023 WINNER**



Architect, Founder, and  
Principal, Verso LLC

Ely has been volunteering with CGBG since becoming a member in 2019. Her efforts leading the charge for the 2023 Green Home Tour booklet contributed to a very successful event. In addition to her contributions with CGBG, Ely, as a proud Puerto Rican woman, has been a dedicated member of AIA Colorado's Justice-Equity-Diversity-Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) Committee since its inception in 2018. As part of the committee, she has focused on making AIA Colorado's annual Award Program more equitable by advocating for the use of gender-neutral language in all application documents, inclusion of a J.E.D.I. disclaimer, institution of a community Impact Award, expansion of award categories, and collection and analysis of demographic data to track progress. She has also been committed to a J.E.D.I. presence at the annual Practice and Design Conference (P+DC), guiding important social justice discussions impacting the profession. In 2022 she co-chaired the J.E.D.I. committee and co-led the joint AIA CO and National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) CO One Question Series. For five months, five diverse local practitioners were asked how J.E.D.I. is incorporated into their personal and professional lives. The Series culminated with an impactful panel discussion at the P+DC. For this year's conference, she co-organizing the "Engaging J.E.D.I. Workshop". Additionally, she co-sponsored the Design Like a Girl Mentorship Program introducing girls to architecture, construction, & engineering, which started last fall and has two upcoming sessions in the spring.

# Tyler Whaley

Leadership Initiative Award Nominee



Architect and Founder of  
Geometry and Materials

Tyler Whaley is more than a licensed architect - he is a true visionary with an unwavering passion for building and design.

Tyler has proven to be an exceptional leader within the industry. His contributions to the Ice Box Challenge have been invaluable, showcasing his dedication to promoting sustainable building practices. Beyond this, Tyler's role as the driving force behind the Passive House Rocky Mountains Chapter meetings is nothing short of outstanding.

Perhaps what sets Tyler apart is his understated yet commanding presence. He possesses a quiet determination and unwavering work ethic that makes him the go-to person to get things done. It is no exaggeration to say that Tyler is the backbone of any project he undertakes. His commitment to excellence and his passion for his craft are evident in every endeavor he embarks upon.

# Matt DeSimone

Leadership Initiative Award Nominee



Realtor  
Coldwell Banker Realty

Matt is always a familiar face at CGBG events and has volunteered much of his time this year to supporting the organization in numerous ways. He has served on the Policy and Advocacy Committee as a valuable resource, highlighting the need for a way to assign value to sustainable features in homes on the resale market (which has become the Committee's focus this year), and contributing heavily to the research and policy drafting efforts of the Committee. His knowledge and network of the real estate and assessor professions provided necessary perspectives and insights. He also volunteered to help plan and host this year's very successful Green Home Tour.

As a Realtor working with Coldwell Banker, Matt strives to provide clients with an exceptional, full-service experience utilizing the latest technology and tools in real estate and drawing from his background in sustainable building, business, and marketing.

Matt also owns and operates Montane Woodworks, a small woodworking business that creates locally-sourced wooden products that reflect the beauty and essence of the outdoors.

# Brad Begin

Leadership Initiative Award Nominee



CEO, Alpen High  
Performance Products

Through his tireless efforts spanning nearly 20 years, Brad has worked to elevate high performance building both in Colorado and around the country.

He has grown Alpen, the first US window manufacturer to achieve Passive House certification, to be the largest supplier of high performance, passive house windows in the U.S. In addition to numerous speaking engagements throughout the U.S. each year, he is a featured speaker annually at both the PHIUS and PHN national conferences, serves on the Advisory Board for PAWS (Partnership for Advanced Window Solutions – a national collaborative which promotes cost-effective, high performance window solutions for the nations new and existing building stock), and has been highly active in influencing Energy Code changes in Colorado and around the country, resulting in mandated requirements for higher performance building standards.

Locally, his role in providing discounted pricing for high performance Alpen windows to survivors of the Marshall Fire has resulted in nearly \$200,000 worth of savings being given back to that community. He has resided in the Boulder Valley for 30 years, and continues to be active in the community.

# Matt Brill

Leadership Initiative Award Nominee



Founder  
Bauen Build

Over the past year, Bauen Build has opened up their certified Passive House Project, Forest Haus to hundreds of homeowners, architects, builders, and passive house consultants with the goal of demonstrating to the Boulder area the value of a Passive Home, openly sharing their best practices with the goal of upleveling the entire construction community. Bauen Build graciously hosted several CGBG tours of Forest Haus, including showcasing the home as part of the 2023 Green Home Tour.

As founder of Bauen Build, Matt spearheads the implementation and development of innovative strategies that minimize environmental impact and maximize resource efficiency throughout the construction process. Matt is an active advocate for sustainable policies and regulations within the industry, influencing positive change and promoting the adoption of green practices across the board. His passion for Passive Home construction extends beyond professional obligations. He is an active member of the CGBG Policy and Advocacy Committee with the goal of raising awareness about the importance of green building practices, and firmly believes sustainable construction is not just a trend, but a necessary course of action for the future of our planet.

# Green Champion Award



This award is given to a **non-member** who has made a difference to advance the craft of green building in the local and broader community.



# Emily Freeman

Green Champion Award - **2023 WINNER**



Emily Freeman is a Policy Advisor, Circular Economy for the City of Boulder. She oversees the success of Boulder's Deconstruction ordinance to keep carbon intensive building materials available for reuse and recycling. Since ordinance implementation Boulder has diverted 72% of building materials from the landfill. Emily is leading efforts to identify opportunities for improvement, engage with the deconstruction community, and drive progress towards the city's goals.

The work that Emily is doing to try to connect different communities together as far as starting their deconstruction ordinances is really powerful and important. It's so meaningful that she is engaging the contractors and stakeholders who are actually affected by this ordinance to solicit advice and critiques to make the program better. It's clear that Emily cares about the spirit of green building and deconstruction, and not just the statistics.

Emily was instrumental this year to the deconstruction of the former Boulder Community Health Hospital which *"allowed for reuse and recycling of almost 94% of the hospital's building materials by weight instead of entombing them in landfills."*

# Rachel Bray

Green Champion Award Nominee



Rachel's dedication to volunteer work has been truly commendable this year. She has invested countless hours to ensure the success of various events. From actively participating in constructing the code pod for the Ice Box Challenge, to lending a hand in painting signs for the Green Home Tour, Rachel epitomizes hard work and commitment.

Her main objective is to educate people about the importance of high-performance building. It's remarkable how she seemed to be present at every opportunity to volunteer and help disseminate the message of constructing superior buildings.

Rachel's tireless efforts and unwavering passion in spreading awareness about sustainable construction have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the community. Her selflessness and dedication are an inspiration to all those around her.

# Alexis Trick

Green Champion Award Nominee



Alexis Trick stands as an exemplary figure in the realm of sustainable architecture, epitomizing dedication, innovation, and excellence in design. Her remarkable contributions, specifically showcased through her creation of the Mississippi LiteHomes project, merit recognition and acknowledgment for the **Green Champion Award**.

An unwavering commitment to sustainability characterizes Alexis' visionary approach to architecture. Her design philosophy for the Mississippi LiteHomes project redefines eco-friendly living, harmonizing environmental consciousness with aesthetic brilliance. Through meticulous planning and innovative design choices, she transformed mere blueprints into a sustainable haven that epitomizes modern living.

Her ingenious space utilization, emphasis on energy efficiency, and integration of eco-friendly materials portray a profound understanding of sustainable architecture. Alexis has seamlessly blended functionality with elegance, ensuring that sustainability isn't just an aspect but the very essence of the Mississippi LiteHomes design.

Furthermore, Alexis' leadership and relentless pursuit of sustainable building practices have set a new benchmark and inspired and influenced the broader architectural community. Her collaborative spirit and ability to translate vision into reality have significantly contributed to shaping a greener and more sustainable future.

# Jason Green

Green Champion Award Nominee



As Director of the Northern Colorado Clean Cities coalition, Jason works cooperatively with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) to foster the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by acting locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices.

Jason went above and beyond during this year's CGBG Green Home Tour, and was the instigator and leader of the work to provide free EV rides to all who chose to do so. His volunteer work for the Home Tour was a demonstration of his ability to use his network for the greater good and show the importance of connecting transportation with high performance building. CGBG plans to continue working with NCCC in the coming years, a relationship fostered by Jason's dedication to his work.

# Student Project of the Year Award



This award is given to celebrate the best **student work** that champions green building practices created by a Colorado student enrolled in a related field in 2023.

# Nature and Nurture

Margaret Miller, University of Colorado, Boulder



Exterior Rendering

Nature and Nurture brings forms of the natural environment into the built environment. Learning from natural systems that have evolved throughout time allows the building to evolve into the future, while maintaining what is needed in current times.

Biophilic design connects occupants closer to nature, which is shown throughout Nature and Nurture. The roofs of Nature and Nurture replicate valleys controlling and adjusting to the water flow created by the natural environment. The high points of the roof open up to views facing the Flatirons to the west and Valmont Park to the north-east further emphasizing the connection to nature. Through the low points of the roof, water is brought into the building to feed the plants in the buildings and water the surrounding lawns in Valmont Park through a storage tank underneath the building.

The plants found throughout the buildings purify the air, resembling a human breathing in air from a dense forest. The dendriform columns are the trees of the forest supporting the structure of the building. The columns are the life of the building, as they are in nature. The trees hold together the river banks, purify the air, and shelter and protection. The beams within Nature and Nurture simulate the trees found within nature.

# Nature and Nurture Cont.

Margaret Miller, University of Colorado, Boulder



Within the west building is a space called the 'kidney bean'. The kidney bean rests on the second floor open to the first floor. The opening of the floors allows the tree beams to grow through the building. The east building features a space called the 'wishbone'. The wishbone is similar in structure to the kidney bean, however the form is different. The form of the wishbone shaped space creates a private space for employees but still allows for localized circulation to occur at the center of the space.

Lastly, the connection between the two buildings is the bridge. The bridge features an outdoor area on the second floor of the building. The space is similar to arches carved out by water, as the bridge is not directly connected to the ground level which connects back to the overarching theme of biomimicry. In the future the bridge connection will turn into a fully edible garden greenhouse for the cafe to use. Nature and Nurture brings natural elements into the built environment.

- Natural ventilation through the clerestory and the use of the solar chimney, which is attached to the dendriform column to circulate air throughout the building
- Daylighting into the building through clerestory windows on all sides of the building, with limited windows on the east and west sides of the buildings to reduce heat loss.
- Increased vegetation and organic shaped walls and floors to increase health and awareness throughout the buildings
- Vegetation growing up and around the dendriform column to purify the inside air
- Low E value windows to reduce heat gain and loss, with operable windows at human level
- Rainwater collection and filtration through the use of gutters that lead to the rain gardens on the second floor walkway, which then goes under ground for filtration
- The roof contains solar panels as another sustainable energy source

[Project Submission](#)

# The Student Project of the Year Award WINNER!



## Nature and Nurture

Margaret Miller, University of Colorado, Boulder





# Green Building of the Year Award



This award is given to celebrate the most innovative, well-designed and beautifully constructed **sustainable building** located in Colorado and was designed or built by a Colorado firm.

# Nederland Passive House

Shape Architecture Studio - **2023 WINNER**



Nestled into a rocky hillside, this 3,000 sf certified Passive House maximizes both comfort and views. Oriented to capture southern sun and southwest vistas, this home is designed to resist the brutal winds and intense climate of its mountain setting. At over 8,000' above sea level and Climate Zone 7, creating such a light filled, comfortable home, requiring minimal energy to heat is a true engineering and design feat.

Dark vertical metal siding with red cedar accents evoke the surrounding ponderosa forest and native understory. As one approaches the house, the form is low and set into the hill, integrating with the boulders and rock formations exposed in the steep slope. An angular wood entry vestibule with a butterfly roof welcomes visitors while the cedar-wrapped carport allows a snapshot view of the beautiful ponderosa hillside beyond. Large living room windows dramatically frame the Indian Peak Wilderness and Eldora Ski Area in the distance, while French oak floors and cabinetry millwork create a sense of warmth and refuge.

# Nederland Passive House cont...

Shape Architecture Studio



The residence is Passive House International (PHIUS) certified. Half of the home faces due south for optimal solar gain, while the other is angled to the southwest to optimize views and nestle into the steep topography. The windows and overhangs are calibrated to capture nearly 50% of the required heat energy from the solar energy; the remaining heat is provided through human occupancy and a super efficient electric heat pump radiant floor heating system.

A concrete slab on the lower level absorbs the direct solar gain and re-radiates the heat during the cold nights (even in summer). An energy recovery ventilator (ERV) system provides continuous fresh, filtered, outside air at all times, which captures the heat in outgoing warm air and transfers it to incoming fresh air.

[Description](#)

[Team Information](#)

# Eagles Crossing

Sopher Sparn Architects - nominee



Eclectic, Modern, and Sustainable.... These are words to describe Eagles Crossing, a single-family compound located just north of Boulder with captivating mountain views from every angle. The project's name is derived from the abundance of eagles that live in the local tall cottonwood trees and feed on the fish in a nearby lake. They make daily flight over the property on their search for sustenance.

The team designed Eagles Crossing for a family of four, with the goal of capturing magnificent views of Colorado's mountains and having seamless connections to the outdoors. The homeowners placed importance on integration with nature and sustainability throughout every stage of the design and build process.

# Eagles Crossing cont...

Sopher Sparn Architects - nominee



[Description](#)

[Team Info](#)

Aside from its beautiful limestone, metal, and stone exterior, what lies beneath is what is most intriguing. A sustainability plan designed to go below net zero and perform at an incredibly high rate. Working with the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), CSU Energy Institute, and The Rocky Mountain Institute, our team was able to derive a state-of-the-art sustainability system that ultimately resulted in a LEED Gold Certification. These green practices include ground source heat pumps, a grey water system, solar panels, onsite energy storage, and a perimeter green roof just to name a few. To maintain a healthy home for its occupants, the team added a whole house water filter system, indoor air quality system, and used environmentally friendly finishes and materials to reduce emissions.

The sustainability plan did not end with the home itself, it extends to the surrounding lands of Eagles Crossing with the goal of enhancing its ecological diversity, natural beauty, and wildlife habitat. The owners embarked on an ambitious land rehabilitation plan. The grey water system is implemented throughout the landscape to recycle water from inside the house to the plants outside. Native shrubs and salt-tolerant species were distributed in areas of low vegetation cover. Local trees, grasses, and wildflowers were planted along the property's hillside, and neighboring cows are welcomed onto the property to graze.

# Mississippi LiteHomes

redT Homes - nominee



The Mississippi LiteHomes project, developed by redT Homes, is an exemplary illustration of sustainable residential development in Colorado, earning the prestigious LEED Platinum certification. Notably, the project is poised to achieve LEED Zero certification within a year of ownership, marking its exceptional commitment to ongoing sustainable practices.

Designed with meticulous attention to detail, the project optimizes natural resources by intelligently incorporating lot orientation, floor plan flow, elevation, and strategically placed windows to maximize natural light utilization. The development integrates an array of sustainable elements, including energy-efficient systems, water conservation features, and the utilization of eco-friendly building materials.

# Mississippi LiteHomes cont...

redT Homes - nominee



Noteworthy features encompass solar panels, advanced insulation techniques, and highly efficient heating and cooling systems, significantly reducing the carbon footprint. Beyond its eco-friendly architecture, the Mississippi LiteHomes project promotes a sustainable, community-oriented lifestyle. Emphasizing pedestrian and cycling accessibility minimizes dependence on automobiles. Furthermore, these homes prioritize long-term durability and low maintenance, ensuring sustainability for future generations.

The Mississippi LiteHomes project exemplifies sustainable building practices in Colorado. Its innovative design, commitment to sustainability, and impressive certification make it a standout contender for the Colorado Green Building of the Year Award. We appreciate your consideration of this remarkable project.

[Project Description](#)  
[Team Information](#)

# Durango ADU

## Timber Age Systems



This backyard office ADU in Durango is the first structure completed using the Timber Age Modular Building System (TAMBS). TAMBS are prefabricated panels that feature a CLT interior made exclusively from wood cut by the U.S. Forest Service for wildfire mitigation. Built to Passive House performance requirements, the ADU is also unique in its use of screw pier and beam construction. After a short trip to Washington, DC for the Innovative Housing Showcase, Timber Age delivered the ADU in seven fully-insulated CLT-based panels for setting in only six hours.

Architect & Builder: [Mesa Architecture Studio LLC](#)  
Engineer: [Reynolds Ash + Associates Architecture](#)  
Panel Manufacture & Setting: [Timber Age Systems](#)



# Durango ADU cont...

## Timber Age Systems



With a mission focused on community and ecological health, Timber Age is intensely focused on learning from every project. Since the ADU was installed, TAMBS has been improved and applied to a charter school library in Durango and is currently being used to construct its first full residences. Both the panels and manufacturing system of Timber Age are modular and replicable. While Timber Age plans to grow significantly in scope and scale throughout 2024, this ADU will stand as the first of its kind in the state.

Architect & Builder: [Mesa Architecture Studio LLC](#)  
Engineer: [Reynolds Ash + Associates Architecture](#)  
Panel Manufacture & Setting: [Timber Age Systems](#)

# VOTE!!



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