



Jeffrey Gordon Smith Landscape Architecture, out of Los Osos, has recently put our little Central Coast slice of heaven on the map. Professional garden publications such as *Sunset Magazine* and *Garden Design Magazine* have showcased Smith's style and landscape design wizardry in local projects, demonstrating how he is truly pushing the envelope to new dimensions on the Central Coast.

Jeffrey Gordon Smith claims his designs are driven by a three-part equation: Client, Architecture, and Site. This harmonic convergence presents entirely new and different conditions in each and every project, resulting in a unique piece that is truly a custom expression. "We gravitate toward clients that

are open to celebrating the Central Coast, or wherever our projects may be," Smith states quite simply. "*Genus loci*, or sense of place, is of utmost importance for each and every project to fit appropriately in its surroundings."

Due to the dynamic beauty and diversity of each customer's site on the Central Coast, Smith has abundant inspiration to draw upon. He chooses color palettes that honor hues of our local chaparral and oak woodland landscapes, which Smith refers to as "nativesque": shimmering silvers, glaucous blues, deep olive greens, goldenrod yellows, and buff browns are a few embraced and celebrated locally in Smith's designs. "We take the color palette very seriously. Matching a particular

flower or foliage color to the house trim is a necessary fine detail I enhance while many overlook." Although some of Smith's clients relocate here from foreign landscapes with higher rainfall, he strongly suggests they take on a sustainable mindset and not roll these unrealistic expectations into our drier locales.

Smith bluntly adds that his designs are not for every consumer. "Using a food analogy, we create landscapes likened to a fine and thoughtful cuisine, containing many elegant and carefully-prepared servings ... quite a distinctive contrast to fast food: cheap, fast, and meagerly fulfilling. If architecture is the cake, landscape is the icing, and without it, an otherwise artful dessert would remain dull,

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*“If architecture is the cake, landscape is the icing, and without it, an otherwise artful dessert would remain dull, barren, and incomplete.”*

# Composite Landscaping:

*The Artistry of Jeffrey Gordon Smith*

barren, and incomplete.” Landscape is the only art form drawing upon all the senses: sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste. Excellent landscape design, according to Smith, should not only enhance one’s property value to the fullest, but also arouse all of the senses to an elated state.

Andy Goldsworthy, a sculptor who produces site-specific sculptures and land art, is Smith’s hero and favorite all-encompassing artist. According to Smith, Goldsworthy is God-like in the way he can arrive at the site of his commission and extract the marrow and essence out of a place. Goldsworthy creates striking natural tributes that honor a site with something as simple as arranging fall-colored

leaves in a stunning, breathtaking expression. “Like all art, landscape design is very subjective – there is no right or wrong because this is art: three-dimensional, dynamic, seasonal, highly complex, living art.” Smith says, “I don’t understand why many people will spend thousands of dollars on an eclectic piece of art, yet not view their landscape as a valuable multi-dimensional art form that can grow in value.”

In addition to marrying a design’s site to architecture and client, what sets Smith’s designs apart from other landscape architects and designers, is the notion that he embraces the concept of “ground plane.” Superior attention is given to linking the flat hardscape

surfaces of the interior of a home in a continuous thread to the outside landscape. “This should not be a disconnect,” Smith insists. “Repeating colors, patterns, and materials should connect the interior to exterior living space uninterrupted. My skilled staff and I work with structural architects, interior designers, and custom landscape contractors to marry all of the essential elements of a fine composition.”

To begin designing a unique artistic masterpiece in your landscape, contact Jeffrey Gordon Smith Landscape Architecture at (805) 528-2118 or [www.jgsdesigns.com](http://www.jgsdesigns.com)

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