



**What are you seeing right now that's "hot" in the world of waterscapes?**

There is something I came across in Europe that hasn't really landed here yet, called flow forms. What is interesting is not the object but what it facilitates—water flows naturally through these forms and begins to move in a rhythmic, meandering way. It is one of the best-kept secrets in the business.

**What's your most recent prized creation?**

We are currently working on a Moorish garden for a home owned by an art historian—it is a work of art. We are doing an entry courtyard in the back, and a garden that highlights many principles of the Moorish culture. They prize water above anything else.

**What should homeowners splurge on when it comes to water features?**

Good design and the people you decide to work with are both important. Connect with the person you have chosen to design your garden, and splurge on cultivating your own inner life so that you know what you want and can articulate it.

**Favorite design icon?**

Lawrence Halprin. He did a tremendous amount of groundbreaking work in the field of water, and he always brought this sort of garden-esque understanding of how to work with materials.

**Favorite material?**

It's always the resonance between materials—the ethereal against the hard, the masculine against the feminine. The context is equally as important as what the material is.

**Which item in your own home would you never part with?**

A sculptural ceramic piece that was given to me by a mentor—it's just a profound memory of a man who saw me for who I was when I was struggling, and gave me courage.



**THOMAS ALTGELT**  
**ALTGELT & ASSOCIATES**

For Altgelt & Associates' Thomas Altgelt, co-creating with nature remains as important as understanding the soul and spirit of nature itself and the manifestation of that spirit in water. "We generally think of water as chaotic, but it is actually tremendously sensitive," he says. Although Altgelt has realized his special brand of design in many European projects, it's the mutually collective creative process at his small, Boulder-based firm that produces his most harmonious work. Altgelt and his team breathe passion into the natural integrity of the landscape in accordance with the archetype of each garden, while incorporating the clients' needs and ideals. Says Altgelt, "It's not only sensitizing our clients to their own wishes and desires, but bringing those needs into harmony with the piece of land that has attracted them." It's through this unique collaboration that Altgelt succeeds in truly rethinking water as the element of life.



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