

MID SUMMER 2005

# Mountain homestyle

ASPEN | SNOWMASS VAIL | BEAVER CREEK TELLURIDE

## Hot Designers

A Log Home Haven  
Hidden Solar Systems  
New Leather For Fall





LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



# SHERI SANZONE

**N**othing screams “growing business” louder than new offices under construction. The front foyer of the Bluegreen offices in downtown Aspen are still in the drywall stage when I visit Sheri Sanzone, but the gist of the space is already complete: plastic corrugated wall dividers separate a sizeable conference room, a cool spiral staircase leads up to lofted offices on the upper floor, and big glass doors provide a slick, impressive entryway—a pretty big deal for a company that’s only four years old.

Sanzone, 40, looks relatively tiny in this big, new space. She’s petite—barely five-feet-tall—with thick wavy brown locks worn in two loose braids on each side of her head, and punctuates casual conversation with a loose girlish giggle. But when it comes to her work—which includes landscape architecture, project management, land-use planning, urban design and site



planning—it's no laughing matter.

With a Master's Degree in design from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School in Fine Arts, Sanzone is a registered landscape architect, a nationally certified planner and principal and founder of Bluegreen. After 16 years of practice, she manages all phases of the design process and handles all scales of projects, meeting clients' needs while creating a design that is also sustainable and environmentally friendly.

"We approach each project with a bold stroke—the big ideas that serve as the touchstone throughout the design process," explains Sanzone. "Our goal is to do beautiful landscaping that doesn't cost a lot long term, conserves resources and uses materials that are recycled, recyclable or indigenous to the area."

Her projects range from elaborate residential landscapes and site planning to public projects, like her current work on the Snowmass community pool. "It's been really fun because so many people in Snowmass have gotten involved. So there's a bigger purpose there."

She's also working on the West Village Revitalization Project and still finds time to sit as a chairperson of the Aspen-Pitkin County Housing Authority Board, a role she considers a necessity for herself and other young professionals who can't afford the high cost of living in Aspen.

In terms of competing with the larger, more established firms in town, Sanzone relies on past projects to fuel future opportunities. "I think our success depends on focusing on each project as if it's our only one, providing a really high level of service and just doing really great work. As a younger firm, we can bring a ton of energy to every project."

Don't look at the house, but at Sanzone's tastefully situated flora and impeccably groomed landscape—equally essential to the home's overall feel.