



DID YOU GROW UP IN THE SOUTHWESTERN LANDSCAPE?



Pretty much yes. We started out in Texas ... but also lived in Calgary, Alberta, and Seattle. When I was 25, I went on a raft trip down the Colorado River and decided that I had to move to Arizona

after being immersed in that wild landscape for that week and a half. It's shaped my outlook on water — saving every drop and not wasting it — and being real conscious about how it moves through the landscape.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE E-GADGET?

Oh gosh, I'm so low tech ... I guess one thing I do like is this infrared thermometer that measures pavement temperature. It's kind of cool. You can point it at anything and it sends this infrared beam of light and will tell you its temperature. I think we measured the street in front of our office and then we measured our parking lot and it was like 10 degrees cooler because we used a permeable paver.



DO YOU HAVE A DREAM PROJECT?



We did a project at University of Arizona ... the new building for the architecture and landscape architecture school. Of course, we had the perfect clients because they were totally into making this outdoor living/learning

laboratory for the students. We were really excited because the parking lot drained into our site. We designed it to be this sponge to soak up that water and we integrated social spaces right in the middle of this habitat.

ARE THERE ANY FAVORITE PRODUCTS OR MATERIALS THAT YOU RELY ON?

We love this soil stabilizer from Stabilizer Solutions. We use that a lot with decomposed granite. It makes a solid sort of walking surface but it isn't concrete and it's permeable. It has a more textural feel; it's kind of like a crushed granite surface. It just has a wonderful sensual quality about it.



One thing we have been experimenting with here are **living walls**. We had proposed a 120' wall at our convention center [in Phoenix]. We used **McNichols mesh**, a certain soil fabric, and sort of a lightweight soil mix that you would use up on a roof. We built a living wall at our office to test it out before we did it at the convention center, where it's actually watered part of the year by the condensate from the air-conditioning system.

Another thing we have been using is this retaining wall system from **Hilfker**. We started using their gabions a long time ago and then discovered they also do these **woven mesh retaining walls**. So for a house in Austin, it's this real severe house and it's on this sloping site, we had to figure out a way to grade that site with some methodology to handle all these grades. We used their **Spiralnail system** and the woven mesh retaining wall.



CHRISTINE E. TEN EYCK, FASLA, is the principal of *Ten Eyck Landscape Architects Inc.*, with offices in Phoenix and Austin. *Ten Eyck* is the recipient of more than 40 architectural awards. She is a frequent invited speaker at industry events and will be a keynote speaker at the 2011 conference of the *Australian Institute of Landscape Architects* in August.



PROJECTS
BREAKDOWN OF FIRM WORK

CORPORATE	10
INSTITUTIONAL	40
PUBLIC	40
RESIDENTIAL	10

Ten Eyck is shown next to a water feature at her Austin home. "I'm in the city of Austin, but we do live on a half-acre lot. We just redid it. We had this circular driveway in the front yard and it has a big lawn and we tore all that out. I still think I'm an urban dweller because I can be in downtown in five minutes. It depends on your definition of urban."

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE BRANNARD (PORTRAIT); CANYONLIGHTS.COM; FLICKR (COLORADO RIVER); SENK SOMMAZZOY; FLICKR (INFRARED THERMOMETER); TEN EYCK ARCHITECTS (UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER, AUSTIN RESIDENCE); STABILIZER SOLUTIONS (SOIL STABILIZER)