

silveraward

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN UNDER \$25,000

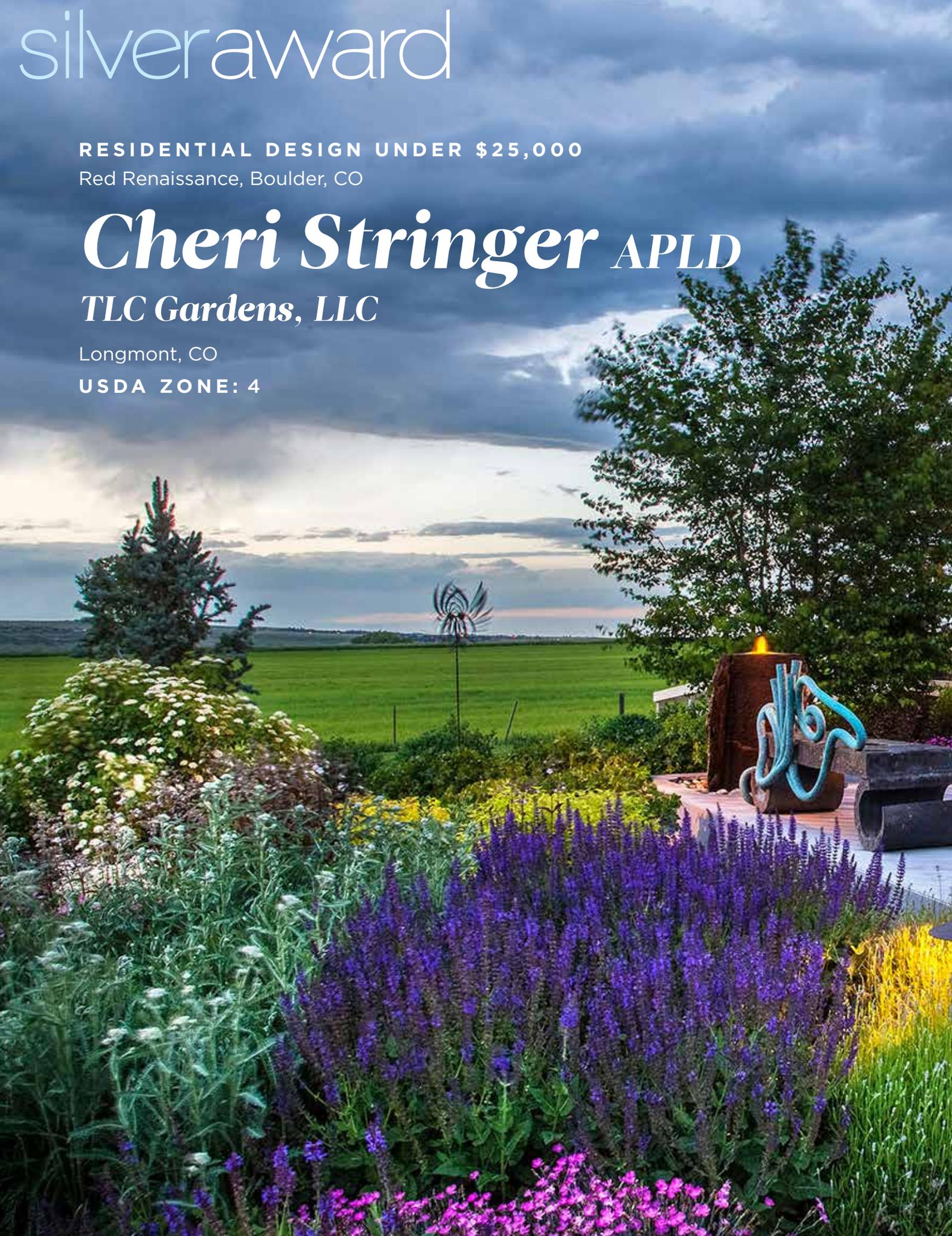
Red Renaissance, Boulder, CO

*Cheri Stringer* APLD

*TLC Gardens, LLC*

Longmont, CO

USDA ZONE: 4





PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID WINGER AND DAVE NADEAU





**JUDGES' PERSPECTIVE:** “Lively entry garden transformation. Nicely thought-through, bird-friendly plantings and focal points. A handsome project with beautiful plantings and a very intriguing water feature for the birds ... a deft hand behind the planting design and the driveway ideas.”

**C**heri Stringer’s thoughtful and ingenious design for this low-budget project transformed a haphazard landscape with disjointed elements into an integrated whole guided by the theme of establishing a bird-friendly garden. The property, with its staggeringly beautiful views of distant mountains, is located at the edge of a dedicated open space that is home to many species of native and migrating birds.

Ingenious design ideas incorporating a simple saw cut allowed the designer to convert the existing driveway, which ended at the front door, into a formal entry while limiting the effects to vehicular traffic and parking areas. A fence that bisected the front and back yards was removed, and the entrance landing was connected to an existing backyard deck with a boardwalk. Forty-five degree angles on the boardwalk now echo the architecture of the house. Family members were given easy access to the yard and grassy areas beyond by the addition of wrap-around steps to the backyard deck. A new fence extends around the front of the site, with a gate for access; this feature also allows access to the property by the owners’ dogs while preserving the separate front entrance.

Planting beds in the front and back of the house overflow with low-maintenance shrubs, trees, and perennials specifically selected to provide food, shelter, and habitat for local and migrating birds. The intriguing water feature on the front entry deck was engineered from fabricated stone to provide constant access to water for the birds. The front fountain and a second one on the property include heaters so that birds have access to water year-round.

