

Sunset

WESTERN HOME & DESIGN

A W A R D S

These are the best architects, designers, and makers defining the ultimate in Western living.

Story by **SUNSET STAFF**

For generations, *Sunset* has chronicled the way homes and landscapes across the West reflect the spirit of this region—its openness, creativity, and deep connection to place. From airy coastal retreats to desert modern masterpieces and mountain hideaways, the built environment of the West continues to evolve alongside the people who shape it. These spaces are more than structures; they're expressions of lifestyle, craft, and thoughtful design, rooted in local culture and geography. Following the thrilling inaugural year of this awards program, we return for the second year to spotlight the wide range of talent that brings these environments to life. This year saw an increase in exceptional entries, which made judging all the more difficult. This year's honorees span architecture, interiors, landscape design, kitchens, craftsmanship, and the enduring firms whose influence has helped define Western design for decades. Together, they represent the innovation, artistry, and vision that continue to raise the bar for living well in the West.



Charles Cunniffe
Architects





MMW Architects: Best Lake House

Generations of a single family have gathered on the shores of Flathead Lake at this floating home near the base of a rocky slope. MMW Architects updated the structure with glass connectors that link private and shared wings, creating sleeping quarters for a crowd. The roofline follows the hillside, helping the home blend seamlessly into its environment. mmwarchitects.com

Lewis/Schoeplein Architects: Best Flintstones-Inspired Home

At the urging of its L.A. client, a guitarist with a clear sense of humor, the firm designed this single-story modern house with a rock wall and a monolithic asymmetrical roofline—which conceals attic storage and a small workspace—that would make Fred and Wilma feel right at home. lewisschoeplein.com



JLF Architects: Best "Regionalist" Mountain House

Rustic materials meet contemporary design at this 8,500-square-foot Park City mountain house, designed with multiple connected buildings to resemble early homestead communities in Utah. Two-foot-thick fieldstone "remnant walls" were deconstructed to look like they've aged over time, and a water feature mimics the construction of a mining sluice box. While the Bozeman, Montana-based JLF is focused on building rural and mountain homes that feel deeply connected to place, it spares no luxuries in the process. jlfarchitects.com



FROM TOP: GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY; ERIC STAUDENMEIER; LUCY CALL