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San Diego landscape architecture firm opens Denver office



Photo courtesy of Schmidt Design Group

Civita Park in Mission Valley was designed by Schmidt Design Group. The San Diego-based landscape architecture firm is opening an office in Denver.

Daily Transcript Staff Report

Schmidt Design Group, one of San Diego's largest independent landscape architecture firms, has expanded into Colorado with the opening of a Denver office, the company announced April 20.

The new location, based in the Denver's RiNo District, marks the firm's first foothold in the Mountain West after more than 40 years of work across the Western United States.

Schmidt Design Group principal Todd Schechinger, who has been with the firm for 13 years and has two decades of industry experience, will lead the Denver office.

Founded in 1983, Schmidt Design Group is known for a design philosophy that blends aesthetics with environmental stewardship. Its portfolio includes parks, civic spaces, commercial campuses, housing developments, retail environments and educational facilities throughout the West.

Company leaders said Denver's mix of urban growth, outdoor culture and regional ties made it a natural choice for expansion. Schechinger began his career in Denver after earning a master's degree in landscape architecture from North Carolina State University.

"Our work is shaped through team-based collaboration, thoughtfully integrating community and client priorities with the site's inherent attributes," said JT Barr, Schmidt Design Group president and managing partner. "As we expand into Colorado and the Mountain West, we're bringing a design philosophy grounded in storytelling, focusing on creating vibrant environments that strengthen communities and reflect the unique character of the region."

Schechinger said the region's rapid growth underscores the need for thoughtful design that preserves natural character while supporting active, outdoor-oriented communities.

"Colorado residents love to be active and outdoors, no matter the weather — and the spaces we create must embrace this ethos," he said.

Schmidt Design Group's Denver office will draw on the firm's national team of 40 employees, including 11 licensed landscape architects and specialists in sustainability, arboriculture, stormwater planning and playground safety.

The firm said it plans to continue its community engagement efforts in Colorado, building on past partnerships with organizations such as City Parks Alliance and Groundwork Denver.