

Schmidt Design Group Expands to Colorado

ARCHITECTURE: San Diego Firm Follows Clientele's 'National Setting'

■ By RAY HUARD

SAN DIEGO – Schmidt Design Group, landscape architects based in downtown San Diego, is opening a Denver office.

Schmidt Design Group Principal **Todd Schechinger**, who started his career in Colorado, will return to Denver to head the new office.

“Our clientele has started to expand out into a more national setting. Denver allows us to be closer to that clientele. Denver is a really exciting opportunity and landing spot, given my history here,” Schechinger said. “When I was here, I fell in love with the city and I fell in love with the people and the culture.”

A graduate of **North Carolina State University** with a master’s degree in landscape architecture, Schechinger started his career as a landscape architect with the now-defunct firm of **EDAW** in Denver in 2006, joining Schmidt Design Group as a senior project manager in 2012.

Schmidt’s Denver office is starting small, with the staff comprised of Schechinger and one other person.

“We are fully supported by the broader firm back in San Diego,” Schechinger said. “We are super excited about really contributing to the community and thoughtfully growing in a

responsible way.”

Although far different in topography, Denver and San Diego have a love of the outdoors as a common theme, according to Schechinger.

“We’re two very lifestyle-based communities, San Diego and Colorado,” Schechinger said. “Colorado residents love to be active and outdoors, no matter the weather, and the spaces we create must embrace this ethos.”

Natural Step

Schmidt Design Group’s notable San Diego projects include working with **Hines** in developing the master plan for Riverwalk, a \$4 billion project that covers 200 acres, including what is now the **Riverwalk Golf Club** on Fashion Valley Road. Hines resumed construction of Riverwalk in October after putting the project on hold in 2024 pending an improvement in financial markets.

Schmidt Design Group President **JT Barr** said that his favorite project is **Civita**, a 230-acre Mission Valley Development by **Sudberry Properties** that has multiple parks large swaths of open space.

“Scale is not a driver of our work, it’s impact. There are projects that may have half an acre in size that have as much meaning as those large projects,” Barr said. “We have 150 to 200 projects active in our office at any one time.”

Ongoing San Diego projects include **Harmony Park**, a 24,000-square-foot urban park scheduled to start construction in the summer at 1112 Ninth Ave. along C Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues.

Barr said that Schmidt Design Group has clients in San Diego with connections to Denver, so opening a Colorado office was a good fit.

“Out of our San Diego office, we’re able to have a strong reach throughout the Western U.S., and Denver is geographically close enough for us to be easily accessible to both markets,” Barr said. “Colorado and the Denver office represents a very natural step for us.” ■

Schmidt Design Group



FOUNDED: 1983

PRESIDENT: JT Barr

HEADQUARTERS: Point Loma

BUSINESS: landscape architect

EMPLOYEES: 40

WEBSITE: www.schmidtsg.com

CONTACT: 619-236-1462

NOTABLE: Schmidt Design Group has received more than 200 national, state and local awards for design and technical excellence.