

Ellen Anderman
4999 South Birch Street
Littleton, CO 80121

Rodney L. Swink, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

March 12, 2004

Dear Mr. Swink, and other members of FASLA,

I am honored to endorse the nomination of Jane Silverstein Ries for the ASLA Medal both because I believe she merits the acknowledgement of her leadership and vision in designing the residential landscape fabric of our Denver metropolitan area and because I appreciate her work every day as I look out my windows.

You might ask why I feel qualified to comment besides the purely personal relationship I have to her work. To that I can only answer that I am considered by others in my city to have a solid aesthetic appreciation and to understand the vital role of arts and culture in a city. I am a member of the Denver Art Museum's Collection Committee; a board member of the Friends Foundation of The Denver Public Library and the Mesa Verde Foundation. I have served on the boards and helped fund raise for The Douglas Society (for Native Arts at the Denver Art Museum), DU Art!, the support group of the University of Denver's School of Art and Architecture and been a judge for the Louisa May Arps and Colorado Center for the Book's Library of Congress contests for high school essayists. I graduated with honors in art history from Harvard/Radcliff College.

Before detailing the marvelous impact her creativity has had on me personally, let me say that that same imaginative and site and client sensitive landscaping is exhibited in every one of the many gardens she designed with which I am familiar. Additionally, these individual gardens have had a far reaching impact on all subsequent generations of landscape architects – as has been attested to me by several young designers. She truly pioneered the field and made Denverites aware of the importance and impact of good garden design.

Built in 1961-62, our house is a unique reflection of four strong design drives: of my parents, Joan and George Anderman; of the architect, Steele Watkins and of Jane Silverstein Ries. All were passionately involved and each contributed to the whole, from the very beginning. Jane Ries and my mother literally "sat" every possible part of the land to best site the house and the views from the interiors over the planned lawns and beds to the cottonwoods beyond. Jane laid out a magnificent iris bed for my father's pleasure, and designated beds, patio gardens and a pool area for enjoyment over the course of the year and for different

times of the day and numbers of people. She created an unobtrusive circular drive and subtly marked out the turn-off to and from the street, situated the barn and guest house-pool areas in a lovely whole, essentially creating a more formal street-side and another private lawn and garden side that enjoys wonderful vistas and a sense of rural remove that holds to this day, despite mighty encroachments of suburbia. In all, her talents are wonderfully exemplified in the "bones" of our landscape.

Yet it is for her openness to my parents desire to create a native landscape of buffalo grass, blue and side-oats gramma and western wheat, cottonwoods, pinon and New Mexican "cedar" (juniper) trees with thickets of chokecherry, wild plum and sumac that I most honor Jane's vision and flexibility as a landscape designer. She achieved an inspired "natural" feel, which we enjoy in every season.

For all of these reasons, I hope that your Society bestows this much-deserved honor on Jane Silverstein Ries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen Anderman", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Ellen Anderman