

SITE Design Group, Inc.:

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After witnessing, firsthand, literally dozens of poorly designed and built skateparks, Mike McIntyre figured it was time to make a difference in the skate-architecture boom we're currently enjoying. Using the power of his architecture and environmental-design degree, as well as two decades of skateboarding experience, he took the first steps in removing the influence of non-skaters on the planning and building of concrete parks. In 1999 Mike formed SITE Design Group,

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Inc., a business that specializes in public-skatepark design and planning.

"Knowing skaters travel, we make sure we get a lot of feedback from skaters outside the region [where we're building a park], as well as from top pro skaters," Mike relates. "The anatomy of the park should accommodate all skill levels and allow for progression. Also, we try to create timeless features that will keep skaters coming back for years to come."

Employing a skate-centered design staff that includes Brian Harper, Colby Carter, Mark Leone, and others seems to be the method that SITE has chosen to approach providing communities with exemplary skate structures. They still have to give some charge of their designs to the lowest public bidder, but McIntyre assures clients a controlled environment: "Brian Harper will be heading up construction services on-site to make sure every step of the project goes as per plan. In the past, some contractors have refused to submit a pour schedule, rushed the shotcrete work without enough finishers, or kicked us off the site when we tried to stop the pour. They also underestimated the power of rejection [clauses in the contract] and are now having to take out all the [bad] work."

It's this attention to detail coupled with a proactive design philosophy that has given cities like Phoenix, Flagstaff, Albuquerque, Boulder, and San Diego the timeless benefits of SITE's skater-planned concrete parks.



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