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ARTFUL LANDSCAPE

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A PIECE OF HISTORY | SIMPLY SALVIAS
FOOD & FIDDLE | CURTAIN CALL

a sense of place

Ferris Land Design

by Simonette Berry | photography by Chad Chenier

FEATURED ADVERTISER



Thinking of creating an outdoor oasis? Whether you are dreaming of a tropical paradise with a waterfall, a private New Orleans style courtyard, a luxurious pool area, or an outdoor kitchen extraordinaire, Richard J. Hymel, ASLA and principal landscape architect of Ferris Land Design, and his team can make your dreams come true. Ferris Land Design specializes in custom outdoor environments of all sorts, working closely with clients from the planning phase to completion to create a distinctive style.

Ron Ferris founded Ferris Land Design as an offshoot of Ferris Engineering during the planning and development of Pelican Point subdivision in Gonzales in 1996. They needed a golf course design, and to Ferris it seemed like the perfect opportunity to create a new company. The demand for design services grew steadily, and in the summer of 1998, Hymel took over as principal landscape architect. "I was hired to take over, and we began to try to build the company through land development projects that Ferris Engineering was doing and through a few contacts that I had. By 2004, Ferris Land Design was able to become a full-time professional design company."



Ferris Land Design strives to create a unique, innovative space for each client. They offer services for commercial and residential customers alike across south Louisiana and Mississippi, boasting a wide array of design specialties. Their services include project planning, cost analysis, preparation of construction documents, and project management. "We make a conscious effort to know what a client really needs for a project and fit them with the right level of service. Sometimes all it takes is a simple set of schematic drawings to get the job done. Others require a detailed set of working drawings," Hymel says.

"Our design process starts with preliminary design sketches to work out the concept. Then we aid clients in developing details and creating the construction budget estimates before they move on to the building phase. The final landscape planting plan is best developed during construction and not during the planning phase. You have to see and feel a site to understand the best plant choices and placement." Ferris Land Design also helps clients choose the best contractor for their job, assisting in the bidding process and following through later by supervising the project every step of the way. "A full package that includes preliminary designs, construction drawings, and landscaping plans can range in the neighborhood of 7-9% of your construction costs. We think that is a good value for custom, tailored design work."

"One day we'll be working on something like an urban streetscape for a town center, and the next day we'll be creating a swimming pool and outdoor kitchen area for a private residence. We try to focus our attention on our clients and provide them with good, creative design solutions, no matter what size the job," explains Hymel. "Right now we're working on Country Club Place, a private townhome community next to the Baton Rouge Country Club. These 5,000 sq. ft. plus homes have interior atrium courtyards with fountains or cocktail pools. They share a wonderful park with arbor shaded seating.

Hymel has a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from LSU and almost 19 years of professional experience. At Ferris Land Design, he feels he has found his niche. "Since joining Ferris, I have been able to work on a wide variety of different types of projects. I must admit that I enjoy the residential work the best. I get a great deal of satisfaction from having clients trust in what I am doing, which allows me to design a wonderful outdoor environment for them. I like to create spaces with a sense of place." ♦

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