

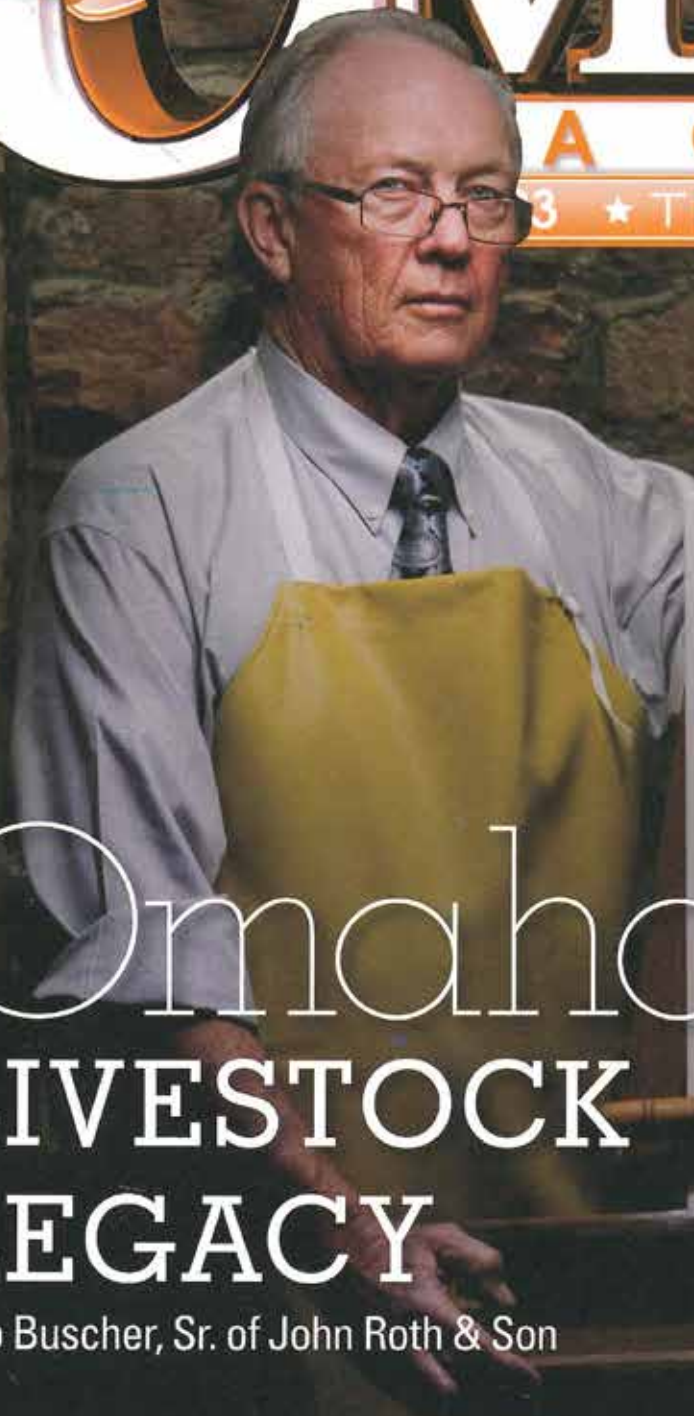
JULY/AUGUST • 2013

30th

OMAHA

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3 ★ THE 30 YEARS ★ 2013 ★



Omaha's LIVESTOCK LEGACY

Bob Buscher, Sr. of John Roth & Son

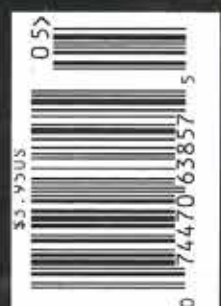
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Story by Linda Persigehl • Photos by Bill Sitzmann and provided by Elite Landscaping



Q&A: Jason Decker

Elite Landscaping

A S A KID, OMAHAN Jason Decker was known as the neighborhood yard boy. Today, as owner of Elite Landscaping, he still spends most of his days working outdoors, creating and installing beautiful landscapes and outdoor entertaining spaces for homeowners. "I can't picture myself doing anything other than this."

Q: WHEN DID YOU FIRST DISCOVER YOUR LOVE FOR WORKING IN THE OUTDOORS? HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START IN LANDSCAPING?

A: Growing up in Armbrust Acres, I mowed 15 yards a week all through grade school and made good money for a young kid. At 15, I started working for a local lawn and landscape contractor. While I worked for my old boss, I read many books on landscaping and learned trial by fire. My parents were always my guinea pigs. They were my first pond, patio, landscape design, fire pit, lighting job, etc. School was never my thing. I just loved being outside, the hard work, seeing the fruits of my labor, and interacting with people.

Q: WHAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING DO YOU HAVE IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN? WHO WERE YOUR MENTORS?

A: I graduated from Millard North High School in 2001 and then attended Metro Community College for one-and-a-half years, taking classes in advanced landscape design and plant knowledge. For the most part, I am self-taught. My mentors were definitely my father, Bob, and mother, Rose, who instilled in me great ethics and morals and taught me at a young age that hard work pays off. My mom continues to support me in my business as the company's office manager.

Q: WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES ELITE LANDSCAPING TAKE ON? WHO >>



West Shores, Omaha



Springfield, NE



Linden Estates, Omaha



West Shores, Omaha

<< ARE YOUR CUSTOMERS?

A: Our main area of work is in outdoor patio and pool projects. We are the main installer for Lumberman's high-end clients, and Bell Pools and New Wave Pools are great companies we work well with, referring business to each other. I do all my own landscape project work—meeting with each client, designing and bidding each job, then watching over the job site through completion. We only do around 15-20 projects a summer, and we continually keep in touch with clients, keeping their properties in peak shape with maintenance annuals, potting, and service work, etc.

My customers are generally very hard-working professionals—small business owners, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors, executives for local businesses. They love their homes and yards and want them to be

one-of-a-kind retreats where they can spend time relaxing and getting away from the rigors of work and enjoying family time. Ninety percent of my work is referral-based, while a few jobs are generated by my website and my exhibit at the Omaha Home Show.

Q: WHAT PART OF LANDSCAPING DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST? WHAT INSPIRES YOUR DESIGNS?

A: The most creative and enjoyable part is the design process—I've come up with some very unique and challenging designs, and I have a great team of guys who are very skilled and able to execute our designs well. Traveling is what inspires me! I travel about every six weeks, and at least once a year out of the country—Rio de Janeiro, Thailand, Mexico, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Miami, Las Vegas... It

gives me something to look forward to, and it refreshes the mind and body.

Q: HOW DO YOU ENJOY YOUR SPARE TIME?

Spending it with my girlfriend, Christie. She is the first woman who's ever been able to get me away from work in the summer, our busiest time of year. We enjoy going to movies, sitting on the outdoor patio with friends for drinks, and dining out at Pitch Pizzeria, J's on Jackson, M's Pub, Roja, among others. We also like going downtown, and the Benson area is always fun. I also like to golf or just hang out with my bulldog, Diesel, and watch sporting events. [@vlnHome](#)

For a photo gallery of past projects or more info on Elite Landscaping, visit elitelandscapingomaha.com