



This welded metal sculpture ornaments an exterior wall of a home.



A found piece of cottonwood is integrated with metal.

Maintenance solutions

- Choose weather-resistant works, like bronze or marble, which only require occasional cleaning or polishing.
- If the art is made of wood, it will require a hardy paint or finish, winterization and on-going treatment.
- Design the irrigation system to avoid watering the art, unless the water will actually enhance it. Steel, typically, is left to rust.

Nancy Eastman's landscape art reflects natural processes

For Nancy Eastman, art in the landscape creates a teachable moment. More than a year ago, she read about scientists crafting artificial cholla as nesting sites for cactus wrens—but the scientists' habitats, she says, were ugly. So she wove together jute, barrel staves, silk thread and sagebrush to make four physical and symbolic habitats for a client's property on the West Slope.

"People think sagebrush is endless and

lasts forever, but nothing is beyond extinction," says the owner of the award-winning design/build firm Art of the Land, On the Prairie, Lakewood. "This landscape art reminds us of our transience." Her sculptures weather and fade—and eventually collapse back into nature.

Eastman earned a BFA degree from Colorado State University and did graduate study in art at the University of Iowa before beginning a long career in interior design. She went into landscape design 10 years ago to integrate her love of art and design with her love of the land.

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Environmental art uses nature as a medium to create balance and sensitivity to natural processes.

For her artwork, she employs "humble, simple" materials found on the landscapes where they will be displayed—whether it's prunings from a dogwood, driftwood or dried sagebrush, for example, blended with rebar or silk thread or barrel staves. "Environmental art uses nature as a medium," she explains. "It's a direct abstract expression of the landscape, but also part of the landscape." Like plants in a landscape, this natural art is created—and then decays. Her works are exposed to wind, hail, rain, snow, and they reflect the natural process of creation and destruction. 🌿