First lady presents landscape honors

In a formal ceremony and reception at the White House today Mrs. Jimmy Carter met with 135 individuals receiving special recognition for their significant environmental contributions. Occasion was the 25th Landscape Awards Program of the American Association of Nurserymen.

The White House guests represented the sponsors, landscape architects and landscape installation firms responsible for 45 different environmental landscaping projects selected from around the nation for exceptional values they add to the quality of life in their communities. This was the ninth time in the program's history a First Lady has presented the awards, and the fifth time the event has taken place at the White House.

Objective of the program, according to Robert F. Lederer, executive vice president of the AAN, is to stimulate active participation in community improvement by industrial and commercial firms, private and public institutions, and municipalities.

"The national attention which is focussed on a number of outstanding examples through Mrs. Carter's personal interest encourages many others to make the same sorts of investment in their own community's well-being," Lederer said.

Two categories of awards were presented today. The first is the Landscape Award, the highest recognition given to the select few who attain the high standards set by the panel of independent judges. Nineteen projects received that award this year.

The second category is the Certificate of Merit which is given to those projects which are highly commendable, but do not quite represent the quality of achievement attained by the first group. Twenty-six of these were given.

The citations are presented to the sponsoring business, institution or municipality, with duplicate awards going to the landscape architect and landscape installation firm. More than a thousand environmental landscape improvements have received this honor over the past 25 years the nursery association's program has been conducted.

VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA. The site originated from an 85-acre
orange grove which surrounded a three acre lake. The central location of Lake Pamela provided a unique setting for the campus. The building growth was planned in a circular movement around the lake with a buffer of plantings screening the parking areas from the campus.

McDONNELL DOUGLAS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. The building is a three wing structure with curved sides between each of the wings. The planting emphasizes large masses of trees to place the building into a green setting, in scale with the building, and to serve as a buffer screening of Brown Road.

SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK, CALIFORNIA. The park is an 1800 acre wildlife preserve and botanical garden in the San Pasqual Valley, 30 miles northeast of San Diego. The park is dedicated to both the preservation of animal and plant life. Landscaping throughout the preserve perpetuates the conservation theme by duplicating, where possible, the animals' natural environments.

BEVERLY HOSPITAL MEMORIAL GARDEN, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. Unlike most gardens, this was designed to be viewed from above from patient rooms as well as to be enjoyed by convalescing patients. A “frozen beach stone” path winds throughout the garden, separating a gently rolling lawn from a shrub border in which almost every variety of broad-leaved evergreen hardy to the area provides an always changing display.

PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE SCHOOLYARD, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK. The school's 150' x 150’ yard serves as the school’s only outdoor area for recreation to accommodate 100 children, ages 3 to 17. A small garden plot provides an opportunity for digging and planting projects.

FILERIE'S SHOPPERS' PARK, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. The basic design of the park is simple. Standardized planters for trees and flowers are arranged in an interlocking pattern which breaks the area into small spaces in order to give a sense of seclusion to individual park users.

Continues on page 40
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Awards from page 37

BALTIMORE CITY'S INNER HARBOR, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. This renewal project was designed to create a large recreational and gathering area for the surrounding community and public. Landscaping of the South and West Shores creates an inviting and park-like atmosphere along the city’s waterfront.

LBJ MEMORIAL GROVE ON THE POTOMAC, WASHINGTON, D.C. The Grove covers twelve acres of the Lady Bird Johnson Park – an island in the Potomac River opposite the Pentagon in the nation’s capital. The basic element of the design was the shaping of the land to create visual interest and the building of berms to screen sight and sound from the adjoining parkway traffic. The planting consist of almost nine hundred white pines varying in height from ten feet to twenty-five feet, arranged in a random pattern averaging sixteen feet on center. The shrubs consist of rhododendron, azaleas, schipka cherry-laurel, doblefile viburnum, summersweet, dogwood, Baltic ivy, plubgago and many varieties of daffodils.

CENTER CITY, WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA. The construction of a pedestrian mall on the main business street and the conversion of two other streets in the area to semi-malls vividly demonstrates what can be done when a community is conscientiously interested in improving itself and the quality of life for its residents. Full advantage was taken of the scale of the buildings and the spaces between. Important contrast was made between the existing masonry environment of the city and the bold plantings massed in visible areas of the renovated areas.