244 Westchester Avenue is a focal point along the Platinum Mile.

A company spokesperson said DeLaurentis has a knack for solving troublesome problems that his working associates utilize frequently. Joe, besides blasting, has become a knowledgeable horticulturist and specifically hand-picks plant material for each project.

The company prides itself on having the right equipment to do the job. Equipment includes a hydro-seeder, rake tractor, paving equipment, tractors, loaders, backhoes, rollers, mulchers and hydraulic excavators.

Because of the tenacity and foresight of two brothers, DeLaurentis Construction Co., Inc. has realized many of its goals. The challenges, however, still exist; one in particular to Ed DeLaurentis.

"I think one of the greatest challenges is the social commitment we have made to enhance and beautify any project we're involved in."

WTT
Companies located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina have chosen uniquely different styles of landscaping.

One building sits stark and barren in a desert-like setting; another is landscaped formally. Union Carbide has taken yet another approach in designing the new headquarters for its agricultural division. The division is involved in research, development, engineering and marketing of agricultural products, including insecticides, herbicides and plant growth regulators.

Research Triangle Park contains research development and scientifically-oriented production facilities for 40 companies located on 5,200 acres in the triangle formed by Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

Union Carbide's agricultural division's management, its landscaping committee and architect Bruce Brodt were unanimously in favor of leaving the 51-acre site as untouched as possible.

"We wanted the building to look natural in the landscaping," said Brodt. The building sits in a woodland of loblolly pines, dogwoods, redbuds and other foliage native to North Carolina.

General project manager Les Paulsen, the Carbide who supervised the construction of the new building, insisted that the destruction of trees be kept to a minimum. The building's contractor was liable up to $250 for any trees injured or destroyed in the roped off woodland area Paulsen had designated. Paulsen did, however, have to destroy the majority of a colony of redbuds in order to construct the new driveway directly opposite IBM's entrance on T.W. Alexander Drive.

The architects conceded only one markedly formal piece at the

The Union Carbide building sits nestled in a natural setting in Research Triangle Park, NC.
site -- the entrance driveway. Brodt felt strongly that the drive-
way should be a straight dual carriageway with a line of native
willow oaks up the center dividing strip. The slopes on each side
of the roadway are turf-covered. The design then returns to the
informal, natural woodland set-
ing with irregular drifts of sweet
gum, dogwood, redbud, fringe
tree, magnolia, sourwood and
other native trees.

In designing the driveway entrance and the rest of the
grounds, the landscaping commit-
tee began with an initial plan from
the architect's office. That plan
evolved and changed.

Bowing to budgetary pressures,
the committee reduced the size
specifications of all plantings. Union Carbide declined com-
menting on the cost of the entire
landscaping project. A.B. Rose Co.
of Rocky Mount, NC, was chosen
as the landscape contractor.

Barbara Emerson, a senior prod-
uct specialist for Carbide and a
member of that landscaping com-
mittee, put her Cornell degree in
landscape design to good use as
she coordinated and expedited
the landscaping efforts at the new
site.

"Using small trees and shrubs is a
blessing in disguise," she said.
"Younger plant material adapts
more quickly."

The North Carolina Botanical
Garden, which specializes in
native plants and the North
Carolina State University Hor-
ticultural Science faculty were
consulted before Emerson
selected the plant varieties.

A sharp cut between the
entrance parking lot and the
greenhouse wing presented the
greatest challenge to the land-
skapng team. Native trees and
shrubs were literally left "high
and dry" atop the 12 by 200-foot
peninsula.

The steep bank facing the build-
ing is now planted with Pinus vir-
iginiana, Juniperus Wiltoni 'Blue
Rug', J. Sargentii and J. chinesis,
'Vea Foam' to provide varying tex-
tures and color while retaining
the slope. Some pyracanthas and
wax myrtles have been added for
height and color.

Boulders left by the excavation
have been judiciously grouped
into the slope to look as though
they had merely been uncovered.
"They add an informal archi-
tectural element and a sense of
reason," says Emerson, "They
help connect the cultivated plants
with the native woodland."

The Carbide site is located in
the Piedmont section of North
Carolina where the soil is a heavy
red clay with low fertility and
containing almost no organic mat-
ter.

To modify this soil in the lawn
areas, A.B. Rose rototilled lime
and fertilizer into the top six
inches of the clay. Two inches of
topsoil was then added before
more irrigation were two correc-
tions Ed Levy, Carbide's mainte-
nance supervisor provided after
working at the new location for a
year.

"Today, areas of too much or too
little water have been elimi-
nated," Levy said.

Levy maintains he is very satis-
fied with the maintenance of the
grounds, which is still handled by
A.B. Rose Co. Mowing is done on a
weekly basis at a three-inch
height during the growing season,
using hand mowers and a Toro
Groundsmaster 72 diesel. Weed
control around mulched trees and
shrubs is handled by spot applica-
tions of contact herbicides.

Levy and Emerson continue to
cooperate on additions to the
landscaping. While they have
planted hundreds of bulbs and
annuals for color near the build-
ing's entrance, the emphasis this
year remains on the insect-resis-
tant, drought-resistant, adaptable
native North Carolina trees and
shrubs.
Sprucing up a roost for the Goose

How do you landscape the world’s largest nest? Landscape Architect Ron Sidell was faced with that question when he was hired as a consultant to the $200,000 landscape renovation project for the Queen Mary/Spruce Goose display in Long Beach, CA.

Howard Hughes’ plywood plane was given a new home last spring when the Wrather Corp. erected a dome to display the mammoth aircraft. As part of a 10-year development improvement plan, the landscaping surrounding the dome, the Queen Mary dock and the English village setting was renovated.

The 20,000 square feet of turf at the site was bluegrass, but “We wanted to make it (the turf) public so people could picnic and relax under shade trees,” Sidell says. “With the anticipated increase in traffic, we needed a hardier turfgrass than bluegrass.”

Another consideration along the Pacific waterfront site was high winds coming inland. “These daily winds are so severe that we had to devise a special layout for our irrigation system” to offset the drying out, Sidell recalls. To meet those requirements he chose Southland Sod Farms’ Marathon Sod for the new turf. Marathon has an extensive deep root system, Sidell notes, which complimented the irrigation system installed to offset those drying winds.

Sidell also incorporated a year-round color program for the foliage installed at the site.

Although the Spruce Goose flew only once, with the eccentric millionaire at the controls, its presence in Long Beach has brought 5-6,000 tourists in on an average weekday. Before the new ‘nest’ was built, the Queen Mary received that number of visitors on weekends.

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Annual Arizona Landscape Awards Program, Rio Rico Resort, Tucson, AZ. Nov. 5. Contact Dick Lambert, PO Box 27312, Tempe, AZ 85282.

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH. Dec. 5-8. Contact Dr. John Street, OTF, 500 Coffee Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '83, Resorts International Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Dec. 5-8. Contact Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Soils and Crops Department, Cook College, PO Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

North Central Weed Control Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, OH. Dec. 6-9. Contact Clause Cruse, NCWCC Business Manager, 309 W. Clark St., Champaign, IL 61820.


Fourteenth Annual Turfgrass Conference, Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Dec. 14-15. Contact Gilbert Landry Jr., University of Georgia College of Agriculture, Athens, GA.

22nd Annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference, Pinehurst Hotel, Pinehurst, NC. Jan. 3-5. Contact W.B. Gilbert, 1119 Williams Hall, N.C. State University, Raleigh, NC 27650.

Maryland Turfgrass '84, Baltimore Convention Center, Jan. 9-11. Contact Cherly Gaultney, Box 223, White Marsh, MD 21162.


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