



If you use your imagination you will be able to offer your clients "outdoor living" designs and projects that will delight them.

These are easily incorporated at the same time and will add tremendous value to the outdoor kitchen. Always include these into your initial plan. They can be easily taken out of the plan if your customer chooses to do so.

This outdoor kitchen helps people extend their season outdoors. Even when the air gets cool in the fall, many people are still outdoors enjoying a beautiful fall evening and entertaining friends and family. This is especially true now with the

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tures, is the foundation. Soil conditions, drainage and the size of structure will dictate how the foundation should be built. Floating slabs on a granular base may be okay for some locations, but in others a frost-free foundation may be warranted. Remember also that new housing developments tend to have areas of loose soil around the house. In these cases, a foundation that goes down to a solid soil is important. The last thing you want is to have a customer calling you back to raise their sinking barbecue.

The outdoor kitchen does not stop at the barbecue. If you're building a built-in grill, then installing a cooking top, a bar fridge and a sink is a natural progression.

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ever-increasing number of outdoor fireplaces being built using the same landscape products that were used to construct the kitchen area. Work that into your plan, too. Outdoor fireplaces are very popular in today's backyard. Always check local build-

ing codes and ordinances prior to designing or constructing a fireplace or fire pit.

Seating is another great opportunity not to be overlooked. Whenever you are designing an outdoor room of any kind, consider "seat-walls" as part of the plan.

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6 product selection factors

1. Texture. No sharp edges.
2. Colors available. Do they match the pavers you intend to use for the patio?
3. Dimensional compatibility. You need this to facilitate quick and efficient construction.
4. Consistency of unit size.
5. Design choices.
6. Can the product be combined with other textured wall units or pavers to provide a one-of-a-kind creation?

— RR

By incorporating a seat-wall into the plan, you can easily add 15 to 20 seats at less than the cost of expensive patio chairs. The seat-walls also add a couple of other important things to the mix. Seat-walls, with some design creativity can become an attractive feature or focal point to the patio. They also add a sense of privacy or coziness to the room.

All these opportunities are not only available in the backyard, but in the front yard too. Mailboxes with engraved names and numbers bring a stately appearance to any home. They can be designed elaborately with accent pavers, gates, ledges and lampposts or simply and modestly. Either way they will add curb appeal to any home. Built-in mailboxes also have the advantage of being vandal resistant.

With advancements being made in modular concrete wall systems and concrete adhesives, projects that were traditionally left up to stone masons and bricklayers, are now opportunities for the landscape professional.

What opportunities can you see? Perhaps a tool shed constructed all or in part with a modular wall system? A garage? Or even maybe even a swimming pool. Rise and design to the challenge. This summer leave no business opportunities on the table. **LM**

— The author is director of marketing for Unilock. Contact him at Ray.Rodenburgh@unilock.com.

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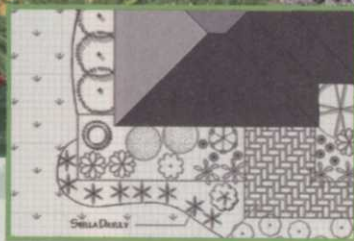


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Project Portfolio

DESIGN/BUILD

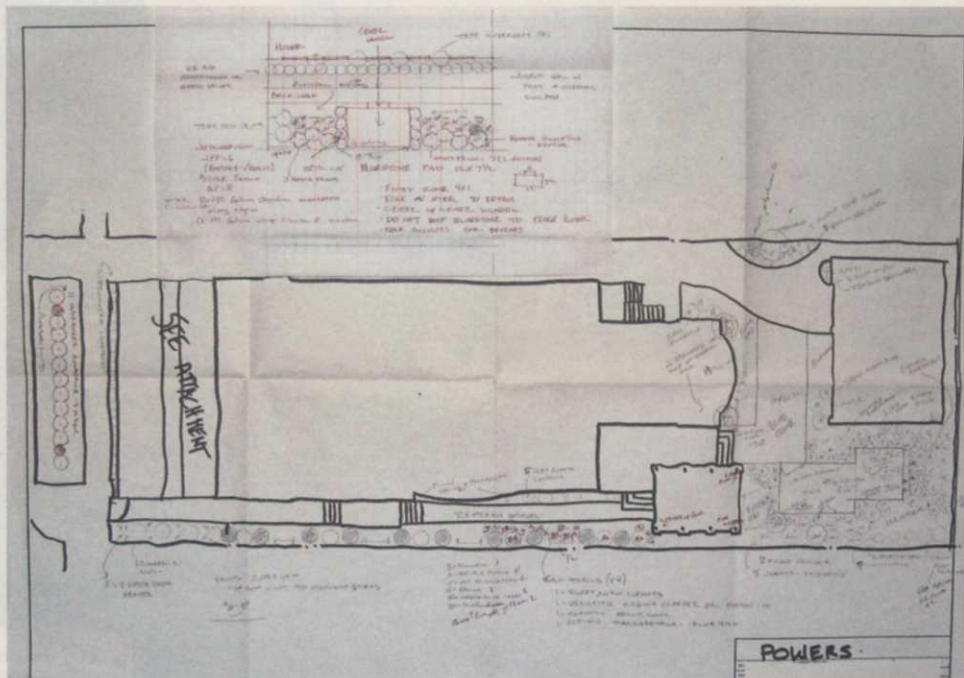
RESIDENCE / COMPLETE RENOVATION / MIXED PLANTINGS / PERGOLA

The design

A French chateau style home built in 1927 gets a landscape renovation in time for a large celebration

The site before construction

The existing front plantings were a mass of yews and other mixed plants. The pergola at the visual destination of the path was barren.



Project Requirements

- Just one week to schedule and order and two weeks to complete in time for the client's large event.
- Overcome the severe light and shadow issues caused by the neighboring high-rise buildings on both sides of the home.

Project Specifics

The designer was originally sub-contracted as design-only, but three weeks before deadline the contracting firm realized it could not complete the project on time and turned it over to the designer. The two firms agreed that the designer would focus on the softscape while the original firm would do the bluestone work.



ABOVE Today, hydrangeas, boxwoods and shade-loving perennials frame the entry. The trellises have vines and light is able to reflect off the other building. Also note that the pergola hosts wisteria and pots.

RIGHT In warmer weather, this is what pedestrians and motorists see while passing the home.





ABOVE The neighboring building's wall shows off the new trellises. In the foreground, plantings of mixed shade-loving annuals and perennials surround the patio area (unseen).

LEFT The pergola and back yard were practically begging for attention. All the turf was removed and bluestone was added. The custom-made iron hoops were installed to keep the client's dogs out of the beds.



Project Principals

- Spiegelberg Landscape Design, Chicago, www.landscapetchicago.com
- Founded by President Will Spiegelberg, CLP, who still works on-site on company projects

This project was a Grand Award winner in PLANET's Environmental Improvement Awards program. For more information on this program, or other services of the Professional Landcare Network, please call 800/395-2522 or visit www.landcarenetwork.org.



Giardini del Palazzo

Period statuary and garden elements bring an authentic taste of Italy to this Dallas landscape

BY MICHAEL SEUFFERT / Associate Editor

Sitting on one acre in one of the more elegant areas of Dallas, you'll find a taste of Italy, courtesy of Lambert Landscape Co. That taste is the Giardini del Palazzo, a residential design/build project more than two and a half years in the making, and recently the winner of the Professional Landscape Network's (PLANET's) Judges' Award at the 2006 Green Industry Conference in Columbus, OH.

The project began when the existing home on the site was razed. From there, as the project moved along, the crews from Lambert Landscape worked closely with the home's architect and construction companies, capturing every small detail to truly transform the property into a classic Italian landscape.



Reminiscent of an Italian estate, Giardini del Palazzo is an award-winning landscape, which incorporates traditional decorations and trees, like the Italian cypress, to create an authentic feel.



Lambert Landscape sited the home and set a finish floor to take advantage of 9-foot topography and existing trees on the 1-acre site. The team implemented a planting schedule on its larger trophy trees – live oaks, magnolias, Italian cypress and others – to have them in place and flourishing when the project would be complete. The building plans were scheduled so Lambert's crews could get the back walls in for an Italian-styled grotto, with two trophy live oaks placed symmetrically on either side.

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Fountains, museum quality statuary and 17th to 19th century garden ornaments, many brought in by crane, provide the grounds a sense of maturity.

"To walk the project, you know it's a special place," says Bill LaSalle, project manager at Lambert Landscape.

Lead landscape architect Paul Fields designed the front garden around 30 geothermal wells that were built, and created a side entry of dichondra-interplanted limestone lined with Impruneta terracotta of clipped box globes.

Lead landscape architect Paul Fields designed the front garden around 30 geothermal wells that were built, and created a side entry of dichondra-interplanted limestone lined with Impruneta terracotta of clipped box globes.

Additionally, stucco and carved stone piers with a wrought-iron gate begin the 250-foot axis, terminating into a 17th-century Italian statuary. Other touches of Italy include a linear fountain lined with Italian glass tile, 30-foot Italian cypress, and marble urn, bracket, and cartouche, all carved in Italy.

"The project took quite a while; it was months in design," LaSalle says. "The house is extraordinarily detailed, interior and exterior. We did all of the paving work – the diamond shaped stones in the front entry, the squares and pickets in the rear garden. All of that is kind of a geometric nightmare, getting it cut into the sizes and shapes we wanted and then actually getting it on the ground. It takes a lot of dry work, meaning you lay it out dry, make sure that your diamond points meet edges. A lot of detail went into the stonework."

In keeping with the classic Italian style of the home, LaSalle described Fields' design for the project as axial, symmetric, highly ornate and detailed.

"Those are the things that drive everything, from the smallest detail to the grand view," LaSalle says. "It's important in a landscape like this that extraordinary detail be paid to whole and half stones – that the project be designed around the geometry of the space. You don't just order X number of square feet of diamond cut stones and try to make it fit."

One of the most striking features is the entrance sequence. You walk through a large iron gate and a rough-hewn cobblestone path.

"The cobblestone slows you down, but once you get to the oval front entry where the diamond pattern is, you move to a more comfortable surface to walk on and elegance starts to emerge," LaSalle says. "There, we installed a piece of museum-quality statuary, a 16th or 17th century relic that was imported."

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Challenge:

Providing flatwork materials that would blend with existing buildings spanning from 1865 to 1965," tells Jean Aidy, ASLA with Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart, Stewart and Associates Atlanta of unifying the campus of the American Tobacco Historic District in downtown Durham, NC. This was one of the largest historic restoration projects on record in the US.

A major hurdle for the designers was to create a new brick matrix that would blend with the many tobacco warehouses that had been built over a 100 year span and tie the campus' unique spaces together.

Solution:

Finding a material that could be used throughout was essential to the success of the design. Clay pavers were a logical choice to create continuity in the vertical and horizontal surfaces. New tumbled pavers provided the antique appearance that preserved the project's historic integrity, with more durability and at less cost than reclaimed pavers. The cohesive elements were completed by using a flashed color range to tie all elements of the campus together.

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Every detail was considered including the use of a wrought-iron gate while carefully designed lighting highlights the architectural forms and makes the garden glow at night.

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There's a transition from the exterior to the interior, and gives you a feeling of being contained within this property."

Another striking feature of the property is the lighting put into the landscape.

"The landscape lighting magically transforms the space, playing up the beauty of classical architectural forms," says Lara Moffet, Lambert Landscape garden designer. Lights illuminate banks of white azaleas set up in the front, making the

garden glow in the night.

"What we really wanted to convey was that 'Aha' factor that takes people's breath away," says LaSalle. "When you step into the back garden with the linear fountain to your left, the grotto fountain axial in front of you and a mass of magnolias to contain the space, that is probably my favorite space. It is so textured, there's just so much going on there.

"It's a kind of a visual candy. As you move through it, it becomes sensory and you almost have to sit down to take it all in."

The amount of work in all phases for the project was monumental. Lambert Landscape crews did construction, landscape installation, fountains and pool building. Fields helped the homeowners acquire the extensive collection of 17th-19th century garden ornaments, strategically placed to give the garden a sense of maturity. Some of the mature trees had to be craned in to be placed correctly. Other landscaping pieces were so large, it took 10 to 15 members of Lambert's crews to roll them in. "Like the Egyptians," LaSalle jokes.

"It was quite a process," he adds. "It seems at times it goes fast, but everything is so deliberate, so planned, it just plods along for us and worked out perfect. It's a project we're all really proud of." **LJM**

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