

# LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES ARE PART OF A COMPLETE MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Ruth E. Messinger, Contributing Editor

The domain of today's landscape manager extends beyond the planting and care of living material. A landscape includes structures designed to blend with the plant material and serve a practical or recreational function.

It consequently becomes advantageous for the landscape manager to gain skill in selection and care of certain landscape structures. This skill need not be limited to landscape architects. In fact, since the landscape manager must maintain the structures, his practical experience is a valuable contribution to their selection.

Split-log picnic tables, self-weathering bridges, stone aggregate planters, and rustic park shelters are popular architectural structures designed to blend with the natural environment. In contrast are structures which have a purely contemporary look—benches and planters of heavy-duty fiberglass and clean-lined site lights with tapered steel shafts. There is an abundance of products for every taste and landscape need. Write numbers from 301 to 331 on reader card for more information.

## Benches

All-heart California redwood is the material used in Rosenwach's (301) Sitecraft benches and matching planters and litter receptacles. The backless Parker bench is set on wood pedestals and made of border members dressed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and inner members nominal 2" x 4". A sculptured contour bench is set on a steel pedestal and comes in lengths to 84 inches. Planter benches are available also, in rectangular, square, and circular shapes. Standard rectangular and square benches are 18 inches wide and fastened by thru-bolted steel brackets.



Rosenwach's redwood round planter and circular planter-bench are available in custom sizes. The planter has two-inch-thick staves and galvanized steel hoops.

Algoma Net (302) has fashioned a line of benches for garden, terrace, paddock, or mall in southern yellow pine. The 42-inch garden bench is finished with an emerald-green, weather-resistant enamel paint and has a steel frame coated with satin-black enamel. The 60-inch mall bench, also suitable for playgrounds and patios, is equipped with well-spaced metal legs and finished in polyurethane.

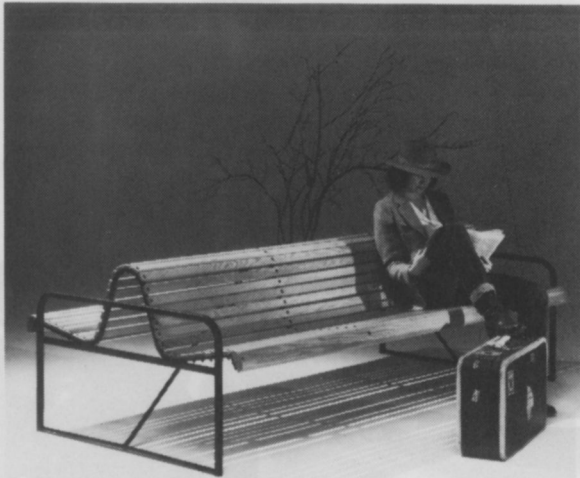
Landscape Forms (303) offers the Trestle Group of benches and tables of red oak, redwood, and purple-heart with fiberglass and steel components. Inspired by European intricate wrought-iron benches, they have been translated into simple curves and rectangles

## Survey Reveals Trends Among Landscape Architects

A survey of 100 randomly selected landscape architectural firms in the United States in February 1981 by Infometrics, a division of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publications, revealed the following trends:

- One out of three projects involve public facilities, schools, and parks. This makes public agencies the largest user of landscape architectural services. Consultation and commercial construction projects each represented an average of 20 percent of landscape architectural business. Single residential and multiple residence (condominiums, apartments, etc.) each represent 15 percent of business performed.
- The highest dollar value of specified materials was for site details and construction, such as retaining walls, steps, roads, ramps, bridges, signs, etc. Sport and recreational materials represented the second largest dollar amount of specified material. Plant materials were only the third in value specified. Two-and-one-half times more money is directed toward site details than plant materials.

- Landscape architects generally recommend only four out of ten area landscape contracting firms to perform their plans. They exclude the other six for reasons of quality and reliability. They say two out of three jobs inspected are done correctly.
- 90 percent make maintenance recommendations to go with their plan to protect their work as the material matures.
- Architects have noticed increased competitive bidding among contractors in the last six months.
- Supplier product brochures with specifications and industry publications are the primary sources used by landscape architects for updating.
- Two thirds of the jobs performed by landscape architects are billed, including materials and fees, at more than \$20,000.
- Applicants for landscape architect positions are in adequate supply and reasonably skilled for the job. Nearly two thirds of the architects polled said they had no difficulty in finding good applicants.



**A curved double bench trestle** with back by Landscape Forms is constructed of 1 x 2 oak and welded steel.

for contemporary or traditional settings. A double bench with back measures 52"D x 96"W x 31"H and is constructed of 1 x 2 oak finished for outdoor use. This style also comes with a single back or without one. Matching trash receptacles and kiosks are available.

Also by Landscape Forms is the Shadowline 3.1, adaptable to any setting with a choice of bases and proportions. Made of solid 2 x 3 boards and matching spacers and framed by 2 x 6 face boards, it has steel splines and concealed rods for durability.

Victor Stanley (304) produces the Homestead Series of outdoor benches in backed and flat designs. A traditional park bench has seat and back members of 2 x 4 fir, redwood, or purpleheart slats stained in walnut.

This company also offers a line of highly styled Unislat benches with slats that fit individually to the frames on special brackets. And a geometric bench, designed to encircle a tree, flower bed, fountain, or sculpture, is crafted of redwood, fir, purpleheart, or cypress in hexagonal or octagonal shapes.

For a really rustic flavor, there is BigToys's (305) People Bench, which seats up to five adults—or Vandy-Craft's (306) high-backed split-cedar-log swing seat (#33-C) with an overall width of 120 inches.

**Planters**

Fiberglass, the newest material for planters and planter benches, withstands heavy outdoor use. Landscape Forms's Mansard style planter bench (2.4A) measures 84" square x 34" high; wood seats are also available in red oak or redwood. The company's free-standing planters come in a variety of shapes, textures, and colors.

Apollo fiberglass planters by Valley View (332) are easily repaired, and their bottoms won't crack, freeze, or drop off. Their glazed exteriors give them a hearty appearance.

Two planters by Fesco (307) are made of Gem-Rock, a break-resistant material that helps soil retain its moisture and protects roots from sun. A round contemporary model is available in 12-, 14-, and 20-inch sizes. An ornamental 17-inch urn comes in a classic marble design. Both planters have a swirl-tone pattern to give them a natural appearance.

**Park Shelters**

Poligon Division of W. H. Porter (308) offers prefabricated park shelters in six basic structures—three hexagon buildings from 36 feet in diameter to 60 feet,

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Project Area	Total Sample Dollar Volume	Average Sample Dollar Volume	Volume Share	Rank Position
Site details and landscape construction — like retaining walls, steps, roads, ramps, bridges, signs, etc. BASE = 76	\$72,788,000	\$957,737	43%	1
Sport and recreational facilities — like parks, playgrounds, fencing, indoor/outdoor furniture, etc. BASE = 73	44,930,000	615,479	27%	2
Plant design and composition BASE = 78	21,758,000	341,697	13%	3
Utility design — like water systems, fountains, irrigation ponds, pools, etc. BASE = 63	16,316,000	258,984	10%	4
Outdoor electrical systems — like walkways, tennis courts, recreational areas, shopping centers, etc. BASE = 64	11,855,000	185,234	7%	5
<b>TOTAL VOLUME =</b>	<b>\$167,647,000</b>		<b>100%</b>	

Average value of plant materials specified in 1980 = \$341,697  
 Average value of landscape structures specified in 1980 = \$830,991