



This deck and flagstone patio with gazebo in Fairfax Station, VA, was designed to accommodate several hundred people (in conjunction with the pool area). Parsons and Wewerka Landscape Contractors, Woodbridge, VA, eliminated steps in the patio area and designed the flagstone walks to carry the overflow of people.

This Oakmont, PA-landscape brought a much-needed formality to the residence's entranceway. GWSM, Pittsburgh, PA, designed the stone entrance court to direct the guest's eye towards the front door and away from the kitchen entrance. The screening effect of hemlocks worked very well towards this end.



Green Brothers Landscaping Co., Smyrna, GA, show how judicious use of dwarf and cascading plants can expand a small area. The novel use of plantings and addition of a brick patio created a number of conversation areas in the backyard of the Atlanta, GA-home.



Schlick Landscaping, Huntington, NY, had a scant 10 weeks to complete this elegant pool and cabana in Oyster Bay Cove, NY. Schlick performed all carpentry, masonry and landscaping (planting, grading, irrigation, and sodding), while, as the general contractors, coordinated the duties of numerous subcontractors.



Effective night lighting is one feature of this Theodore Brickman Co., Long Grove, IL, landscape that enabled it to pick up an NLA award. The entertainment area was designed to accommodate 60 to 80 people yet stress privacy and low maintenance.

AWARD WINNERS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE RENOVATION

The challenge is to make better use of outdoor space by converting decorative landscapes into useful ones.

Updating or renovating existing residential landscapes is helping landscape architects make up for lost new construction business. This condition was reflected in the 1982 residential landscape awards.

Housing starts remain stalled below the one million per year mark. The number of new residential landscape jobs has decreased slightly from 1981. Landscape contractors have compensated for lost new construction with creative renovations.

The following winners, selected from Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) and National Landscape Association (NLA) contests, are renovations.

"Renovations are a more vigorous part of the landscape business," says Denny Church, D.R. Church Landscape Co., Addison, IL. Church was the chairman of the NLA competition. "Competition was very stiff. Entries that used to win awards are now being thrown out."

Dr. William Gould, another NLA judge and professor of horticulture at the University of Maryland, reflects on the competition, "There is more updating of established landscapes where owners want to be outdoors and don't have a patio or pool. The challenge is to make better use of outdoor space by changing decorative landscapes into useful space."

A recent NLA survey revealed its members have successfully increased residential landscape renovations as they have lost new construction. More than half of NLA members increased residential renovation, says NLA Director Ray Brush, compared to a third increasing commercial renovation work.

Emphasizing maintenance has also replaced some new construction business.

Church and Gould offer these tips to future award winners. "Conical evergreens are overused," says Gould. "However, more contractors are including plant material that stays within bounds without excessive pruning. The use of lower maintenance plants is a great step forward."

"The economy has forced an emphasis on low maintenance plants," Church said. "Continuity was the big factor in the competition where an existing landscape was updated." You can't throw out the old plan. You have to work with it when you make improvements. "Borrowing ideas from other landscapers is common," says Church. There is no need to reinvent the wheel every time if you have an effective solution to a common landscape problem.

The potential for renovation far exceeds new construction. The vast majority of residential landscapes lack imagination. Homeowners may not realize the potential their property has for natural impact. The award winners presented here may lend effective solutions to landscape renovation problems in your area.

Site: Evanston, IL
Landscape: Theodore Brickman Co., Long Grove, IL

In renovating the landscape at Evanston, Theodore Brickman Co. was charged with designing an entertainment area to accommodate 60 to 80 people with low maintenance and privacy as top priorities. The client had recently added a garden room extension for entertaining, which was surrounded on three

sides by adjacent houses. "One of our first jobs was to screen out the houses by planting 12- to 15-foot white pines and river birch trees," said Landscape Architect Craig Anderson. "That gave us a framework of privacy."

The lawn in the small backyard was removed. In its place ground covers, perennials and rhododendrons were planted. "Once they're installed they come up every year with very little maintenance," noted Anderson. He added that while ground covers are very useful in small, intimate areas such as backyards and courtyards they can be misleading in terms of maintenance. A lot of maintenance is required until they fill in and then the maintenance needs decrease.

To extend the usefulness of the garden, night lighting was installed. "In our climate, five months out of the year you are not using the garden, it's strictly visual," said Anderson. "Lighting lets you enjoy the night, particularly after a snowfall and it was great for entertaining." The lighting was done in three different ways. About 30 ft. above ground the canopies of the trees were uplit. Little pockets of light were achieved with mushroom lighting and uplights on the ground that featured the river birch trees were also used.

Anderson noted that with high interest rates, renovation landscaping is becoming a bigger trend. He pointed out that in landscapes that were designed a long time ago, the little trees have become major elements in the garden, the lawn is established but all the detail plants that are now 20-30 years old no longer serve their purpose. The de-

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tail plantings is the area that is most often ripe for renovation. Additionally, one good way to gain entry to renovation jobs, according to Anderson, is to make contacts with custom builders and architects who specialize in those types of jobs.

Site: Oakmont, PA

**Landscaper: GWSM, Inc.
Pittsburgh, PA**

The five-acre Oakmont, PA residence had been developed with the use of master plan since 1975. The owner had very strong feelings about how each piece of landscaping would affect his vistas. "The front of the home needed formality to draw the guests into the entrance," said GWSM's Dan DiMucci. "Even working with the master plan, it took a while to come up with that idea and suggest it to the owner."

Previously the entrance was a rectilinear patio of quarry tile in front of the facade and the plantings lacked continuity. GWSM decided to inject the plantings with added seasonal change. Rhododendrons, azaleas, dogwood and some later blooming deciduous plants were specified. Originally, a guest's eye was directed to a portico off to the side and not the main entrance. "We used hemlocks in various sizes to totally screen out that portico and redirect the visitor to the entrance circle," said DiMucci.

The contracting was begun in October and lasted for six months. To eliminate possible bad weather delays the client (himself a general contractor) built tents and stocked them with portable heaters to continue the paving in poor weather. The paving was done by five men (plus a foreman) while the planting required four men.

Site: Atlanta, GA

**Landscaper: Green Brothers
Landscaping Co. Smyrna, GA**

The owners of this Atlanta residence are amateur horticulturists who didn't want their plantings to be hidden below the steep grade that cuts through the yard. Allen Struletz of Green Brothers, had the task of opening up and unifying the long and narrow space. His solution achieved this, while leaving the plantings accessible to the owners and creating a site that would

include a greenhouse that was to be built later.

Cross-tie planters were used to raise the plantings on the lower portions of the site to a level where they were visible from the house. The raised planters opened up the space so that the land area that had previously disappeared from view down the steep hill behind the house was now visible. A stepping stone pathway winds through the property in a serpentine fashion, tying together aspects of the design from the private conversation area near the house to the children's play area and to the back of the landscaped area.

The combination of dwarf plantings and cascading plants softens the retaining walls, and the flow of circulation adds an illusion of space to a small area. The choices of plant materials were in keeping with the owners' love for flowers. In the planters and the open area, combinations were used of dwarf nandina, carissa holly, daylily, azalea, variegated liriope cotoneaster and forsythia. For the shady spots, Struletz chose variegated holly fern, aspidistra and cleyera.

Site: Oyster Bay Cove, NY

**Landscaper: Schlick Landscaping
Inc., Huntington, NY**

Ron Schlick of Schlick Landscaping was contracted to create a pool and cabana for the oriental-style yard that his firm had been developing for the past six years. Schlick took the natural oriental theme of the rest of the property and extended it with a pagoda-style cabana and a naturalized pool in black marble surrounded by brick. The fully equipped cabana was insulated and climate-controlled so it could double as a guest cottage. The frame of the building was extended with beams to blend with the setting and give the impression of greater size.

The plantings were simple and natural, in keeping with the delicate theme of the yard. Evergreens such as dwarf garden juniper, a low spreading pine and weeping spruce highlighted the pool. Near the spa, they planted golden bamboo in large plastic containers to prevent it from spreading, along with pachysandra, ferns, maidenhair, daylily and columbine. Cer-

tain areas around the pool were accented with tulsans weeper and dwarf eastern white pine.

Schlick and his crew had to do the construction while directing 19 subcontractors around the site to prevent damage to the earlier plantings. Schlick hired one man whose only job was to direct traffic in and out of the work site and limited parking areas. As the job neared completion, the crews had less room to maneuver. Schlick explained, "our firm literally had to back out of the area as though we were painting ourselves out of a room."

Site: Fairfax Station, VA

**Landscape: Parsons and Wewerka
Landscape Contractors
Woodbridge, VA**

The owner of this property had a simple request of contractor Richard Wewerka and designer Philip Cohen: to be able to sit at his kitchen table and have a view across the pool through a gazebo to his horses in the pastures beyond, all within four weeks of the starting date. In accepting the contract, the firm of Parsons and Wewerka had to construct between 800 and 900 sq. ft. of flagstone patio and walkway and 700 sq. ft. of redwood decking, the gazebo and a retainer wall near the barn. Additionally, 250 ft. of underground culvert to drain the pasture and parking areas, the adjacent plantings and the renovation of the plantings in the front of the house had to be installed.

All of the phases of the project had to be done simultaneously to finish the job within the time limit.

The gazebo was done without sheathing or tarpaper under the roof, so the cedar shingles are visible from both sides, tying the structure in with the wood decking and providing an interesting contrast on the inside against the white wood of the frame. The foundation of the gazebo eventually had to be raised to accommodate the desired view.

The areas around the gazebo, tennis courts, pool and the front of the house were planted in beds combining annuals with perennials such as black-eyed susan, hosta lily, viburnum, variegated hosta, impatiens, crepe myrtle and boxwoods.

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