

THE PATH TO PAVING

by Heide Aungst, managing editor



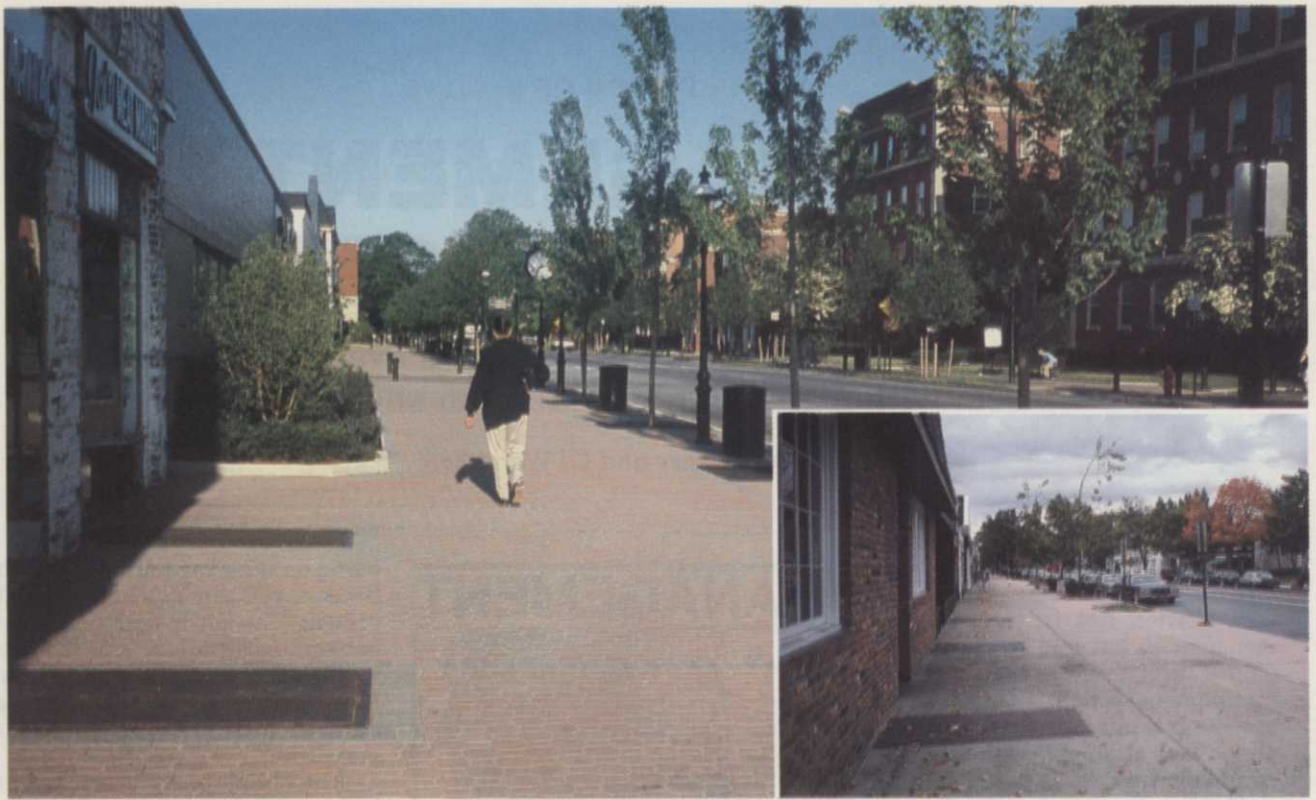
Visitors to the Mercado Festival Center's stores and restaurants may feel like they're in a Mediterranean Village. Landscape architects Wallis Baker & Verlander of Winter Park, Fla. worked with architect McRee, Inc. of Orlando, Fla. to create that Mediterranean flavor with more than 73,000 square feet of courtyards, walkways, plaza and the entrance drive.

"We tried to get as much color as possible with the introduction of material the tourists would like to see" says landscape architect, Tom Wallis. Wallis developed that tropical look with lady fan palms, European fan palms and Drake elms. As a ground cover he chose large mondograss. Red ruffle azeleas and wax-leave begonias add color to the green area.

The paving systems add more than color to the area. "They create interest with texture and shape," Wallis says. Plant materials and irrigation for the project cost about \$300,000. It won a 1986 honor award from the National Concrete Masonry Association.

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The Village of Garden City, N.Y. had a problem. Its main street of business, Seventh Street, was a conglomeration of concrete and irregularly placed plant material. Some described Seventh Avenue as "uninviting" (before photo above inset). Enter: landscape architect William Kuhl of New York, N.Y. Kuhl created a new visual identity and sense of design continuity to the region.

His primary source in doing this was the use of Grinnell Concrete Pavingstones. The pavers establish a rhythm for pedestrians, in both

pattern and color (above; below). The interlocking pavers require low maintenance and have a non-slip surface.

In order to offer a vertical element to the design, Kuhl chose three types of trees to line Seventh Street: Armstrong red maples, little leaf lindens and zelkovas.

The maples have an upward growth habit which makes them ideal for a busy street. A broad spreading tree would interfere with vehicles' sight lines. The architect put the lindens in front of stores which have aesthetically poor

facades because of the trees' dense canopies. The zelkovas will frame the end of the street which has residential and multi-story buildings (below). Flowering trees, including stewartia and laburnum, will provide color and fragrance in early spring. The landscape contractor for the project was Hecksher Nurseries of Bohemia, N.Y.

The Seventh Street Project began in August 1986 and was completed in December 1986. Cost for the project was \$800,000.

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