

## Reader disputes architect's rule

To the editor:

In the July 1989 issue under your column "As I See It," you seem to draw the conclusion that the landscape architect is the project leader as it relates to landscaping and irrigation.

It is my experience in doing major landscape contracting that the landscape architect's roles are limited.

In theory, his work is completed (early on), unless he has a per diem contract with the builder.

I consider the contractor to be the key in completing a job in a fast, efficient and practical way to insure the builder's advertisement specials and certificates of occupancy.

We never install materials that are not specified by the builder. But to get hold

of a landscape architect (since they consider us to be beneath them) is like getting hold of the president. Some architects set themselves up on a pedestal. Because they wear a suit and tie and sit in an air-conditioned office, they have no concept of the 32°F in the freezing rain or 95°F without the wind blowing.

I would suggest that architects do not take an active part in projects, and force contractors to make their decisions on the spot in order to satisfy their customers who are paying them. We are being paid by the customer and not by the architect; therein lies the key! If the landscape architect wanted to stop a project, the contractor would be blamed.

**James H. Taylor**

*Taylor Made Landscaping  
Farmingdale  
New Jersey*

## Wildflowers work in shade

To the editor:

In the July "Problem Management," Dr. Rao was not correct when he agreed that wildflower seedlings or sod cannot survive in the filtered sunlight of a forest. He accepted the Montana reader's comment that "wildflowers won't work" without questioning the statement.

Wildflower germination in filtered sunlight will occur, assuring reasonable soil conditions and some level of moisture.

Columbine, ox-eye, coropsis and corn poppy are among those which can survive in less-than-ideal (but not impossible) low level sunlight.

We can offer Dr. Rao a few jobs, some recent, where success on a scale of 1 to 10 has been a 6 or 7. This

is not out of the range of acceptability, since turf (or ground cover), in many cases, does not reach this level under more ideal conditions than those described.

We, however, have always appreciated the good doctor's sensible and knowledgeable comments in the past and always look forward to his management page.

**Norm Krisburg**

*Agro Dynamics  
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New Jersey*

## Correcting desert plant references

To the editor:

Thank you for the beautiful two-page spread on the landscape project at Sun Valley, Ariz. in the June issue. The photo on page 34 really shows off the Sonoran Desert in all its beauty, and one can envision the highway (shown on page 35) transformed into a setting of equal splendor.

Our desert plants are indeed exotic. So exotic, in fact, that your copy editor, in condensing a few paragraphs from my original story, combined my descriptions of the yucca and ocotillo. Many of your readers who know the desert will catch the error.

The plant you have described as a yucca is the ocotillo pictured on page 34 to the right of the photo; it's the spiny upright plant in the foreground with orange plumes. A yucca, on the other hand, is the type of plant you may recognize as "Spanish bayonet," which is one of its commonly-distributed varieties.

Thank you for the opportunity to write for your magazine.

**Joan C. Risley**

*Risley & Assoc.  
Phoenix,  
Arizona*



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## PREST from page 17

country club image. "We were a flat, wide open, boring golf course," he remembers. "A lot of young public golf courses in this area are like that." Prest has installed wall-to-wall cart paths, connecting all but two holes. A great advantage in wet weather, the paths enable Springvale to run carts on wet days when other courses dare not tear up the fairways with tire tracks. And carts are mandatory on weekends.

"That has allowed us to get more players on the course at one time and get more players through."

In parts of the course, Prest has gone to low maintenance flower beds, longer grass reminiscent of the Scottish courses, and mulch. Low maintenance areas also serve to divide the course into playable and out-of-play areas.

He's even started a small tree farm in a low maintenance, out-of-play area.

How's that for initiative?

—Terry McIver □