

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

Grounds control

THE MISSION

Update a country club's grounds to complement its refreshed facilities.

For more than a century, the Wisconsin Club has been revered as one of the finest private social and business clubs in the country. The architecture of the former Alexander Mitchell residence and its surroundings is a magnificent setting for indoor and outdoor weddings and parties, and yet it is quietly located on Wisconsin Avenue, the busiest street in downtown Milwaukee.

A 10-year project for the club was to renovate and redecorate the main building and the circa-1873 gazebo known as The Belvedere, their interiors, and then finally, the surrounding grounds to reflect the "new face" of this historical property.

Perhaps the biggest challenge that Milwaukee-based Stano Landscaping faced was time: The team had less than 120 days to complete the project — and all the while, the facility was open daily for lunch, dinner and weekend events.

"During the day, the installation of the large circular driveway had to be sequenced to allow access to the building for other trades and construction traffic," notes Randy Hill, landscape construction project manager for Stano. "Each night, the construction site had to be cleaned and presentable for the public, with the jobsite hazards removed or minimized."

The hardscaping used Brussels block pavers for the driveway, a new bluestone entry to the front of the clubhouse, and thermal finish patterned flagstone and paver walkways to and around the gazebo.

The landscaping, notes Hill, was continuously modified to work within existing grades, requiring the installation of small retaining walls as well as other, on-site adjustments. Special care was taken to preserve the root systems of the established trees remaining on-site.

"The effect was to keep the property feeling secluded and private," Hill says.



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THE WORK

- 1 | Curb appeal.** The view of the Wisconsin Club from the south side shows the new paver drive and natural stone entryway.
- 2 | Round of applause.** The new drive provides an elegant focal point to the club's main entrance.
- 3 | Access with style.** The finished entryway incorporates a wheelchair-accessible ramp, softened with the use of plant material on both sides.
- 4 | Color in bloom.** A bright array of plantings welcomes guests to the Wisconsin Club.
- 5 | Focal point.** The restored Belvedere gazebo, which now boasts a walkway that integrates it with the rest of the grounds, is also surrounded by garden delights.

Founded in 1963, Stano Landscaping specializes in residential and commercial landscape design, construction and management. It's also a snow and ice control contractor, servicing more than 200 commercial accounts in the greater Milwaukee area. This particular project garnered a 41st Annual Environmental Improvement Grand Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). For more information, visit StanoLandscaping.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY: STANO LANDSCAPING