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PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

Hilltop haven

THE MISSION

Create the epitome of Tuscan ambiance with Old World charm.

The landscape of this 65,000-sq.-ft. clubhouse, situated on a Central Florida hilltop and overlooking the residential community it serves, features 300 trees, 3,500 shrubs, 8,700 groundcovers, 2,800 annuals and 71,000 sq. ft. of turf. Austin Outdoor, based in Bunnell, FL, dedicated more than 10,000 hours to the project.

To create the feel of a property that has been here for generations, the team, led by Brian Wester, installed mature plant material. This was a challenge, because the landscape went beyond the perimeter of the building — with courtyards and niches at every turn. The tight working environment was overcome by precise placement, using a 100-ton crane.

There was one other major obstacle, notes Wester, who was district manager at the time of installation but has since been promoted to the Southeast regional vice president for Yellowstone Landscape Group, Austin Outdoor's parent company: the strict water restrictions the team faced in light of the site's sandy soil conditions. To compensate, they used drought-tolerant, native plants and drip irrigation.

Austin Outdoor did all the installation work on the \$1.12 million project, except for lighting, water features, hardscapes and parking.



PHOTOS COURTESY: (1-3, 6) MSI DESIGN; (4) ALEX SHELVER; (5) AUSTIN OUTDOOR; (7) JOSHUA METZGER

THE WORK

4



5



6



7



1 | A thing of beauty. The clubhouse is the heart of this community, overlooking two lakes. The owner made sure that much of the natural beauty of the surrounding environment was highlighted, while creating an atmosphere reminiscent of Tuscany.

2 | Perfect placement. An 100-ton crane was used to install the field-grown oaks, including an 18-in. caliper with a 15-ft. spread and 25 ft. tall — no small feat when working in the tight spaces as the courtyards offered.

3 | Italian renaissance. The Tuscan ambiance was achieved through the use of Italian-style plant material, including tall Italian Cypress, drifty Mexican Sage, stately Black Olive trees and flowering Rosemary.

4 | Smart irrigation. Austin Outdoor installed more than 7 miles of dripline, using the nearby lake as the water source. In total, more than 3,000 hours were devoted to the irrigation installation.

5 | Water conservation. Native, drought-tolerant plants include blue Plumbago, trailing Lantana and wispy Fakahatchee grass.

6 | Lots of pots. Potted plants were an important theme element. But moving and arranging more than 100 pots was sometimes a challenge during the process.

7 | Turf choices. The 4-acre site features Bahia grass and Zoysia grass. A full-time crew of eight, plus Wester, worked for nearly 18 months to complete the landscape installation.

Austin Outdoor is a horticultural organization dedicated to creating, building and maintaining sustainable landscapes. This particular installation garnered a 2010 Environmental Improvement Grand Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). For more information, visit AustinOutdoor.net.

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MAINTENANCE: HANDHELD EQUIPMENT

Corona

Corona's complete line of trenching shovels feature the best blade/handle angle for the job: 28° for efficient digging of new trenches, and 35° for more effective clean-out of existing trenches. Choose from 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-in.-wide blades. Corona is the only company offering a 2-in.-wide-blade, 35° clean-out shovel. In addition, Corona's unique Trench Clean Out Shovel series features a patented sidewall design that removes more debris than standard trenching shovels. They are the industry's only true Trench Clean Out shovels. Shared features include drain holes in the bottom of the head to reduce corrosion and avoid rotting out the wood handles. Industry-standard head sizes and colors simplify tool selection. Three distinct handle designs fit individual needs: ash wood, hollow-core fiberglass and solid-core fiberglass. CoronaToolsUSA.com



Stihl

The engine technology on the new Stihl MS 261 and MS 261 C-Q chainsaws reduce emissions up to 50% and provide up to a 20% increase in fuel efficiency as compared to previous models, resulting in longer periods of use between refueling. They come equipped with a decompression valve for easier starts and an advanced anti-vibration system that helps reduce user fatigue. The compact, space-saving design of the split-barrel carburetor and the stainless steel muffler reduce overall weight. Other features include a side-access chain tensioner, tool-less fuel and oil caps with retainers, and a translucent fuel tank. Captive bar nuts are retained in the sprocket cover to prevent their loss and are designed for self-guided mounting. Pre-separation air filtration provides greater air cleaning efficiency and longer run times between filter maintenance. StihlUSA.com/chainsaws

Shindaiwa

New Hybrid 4 engine technology combines the best elements of two-stroke engines (light weight, high power-to-weight ratios, minimal maintenance and all-position operation) with the best elements of four-stroke engines (precise ignition/exhaust timing and reduced emissions). It's available in 24.5-, 34- and 79.7-cc engine sizes on 18 Shindaiwa product families, including the trimmer, brushcutter, hedge trimmer, blower, multi-tool, edger and PowerBroom lines. Hybrid 4 products have lower emissions, better fuel economy, more torque than traditional two-stroke models, and a low tone sound. They also feature reduced starting effort with built-in decompression and offer longer engine life, thanks to dual-stage air filtration.

Hybrid4Engine.com



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Echo Inc.

The new PB-770 backpack blower delivers an average air volume of 765 cfm at the pipe and 204 mph maximum air speed. It's equipped with a 63.3cc Power Boost Tornado engine with Pro-Fire ignition for quick and easy starts. Available in both hip- and tube-mounted throttle versions with cruise control, the unit features dual-stage, side-mounted, heavy-duty air filtration and the Posi-Loc pipe system for a secure connection. The padded backrest features a special lightweight straight back "L" frame with dual adjusting shoulder straps to accommodate longer usage needs. In addition, it features an exclusive vented back pad that allows air to circulate around the user. A vent cover is included to block this function during cold-weather use. Echo-USA.com



Husqvarna

The 327LS trimmer's ergonomic features, such as LowVib and an adjustable handle, keeps the operator comfortable for hours of extended use. Featuring a steel drive shaft, the trimmer's E-Tech II engine provides higher torque, lower noise pressure and lower emissions — reduced to levels below existing (and future) EPA requirements, without compromising power. Additional features include: snap lock air filter cover and pleated paper filter with rubber seal; standalone starter for faster and easier maintenance; dual starter pawls and large-diameter starter rope for increased durability; fuel tank protection plate for safe transport; and large diameter bevel gear for longer life and reduced grass winding. Husqvarna.com



LAWN CARE: INSECT CONTROL

FMC

Talstar EZ Granular insecticide featuring Verge granule technology is now available. The clay-based granule breaks down quickly to release the active ingredient and disappear into the landscape, providing long-lasting control of surface-feeding pests such as ants, billbugs, chinch bugs, fleas and ticks. Virtually dust- and odor-free, the new formulation reduces applicator exposure while providing improved ballistics for a more uniform distribution of product. It is labeled for broadcast and perimeter pest control around residential and commercial buildings, and on lawns and athletic fields. FMCproolutions.com



Gowan

Azahar is a broad-spectrum botanical insecticide that controls a wide variety of insect pests on ornamentals, including whiteflies, fungus gnats, cutworm, loopers, mealybugs, scale and thrips. Registered for use in organic production, Azahar can replace or enhance traditional chemical treatments. GowanCo.com

LebanonTurf

ProScape with Merit is a cost-effective combination product that protects against grubs and a wide variety of other harmful insects. Fortified with MESA slow-release nitrogen for extended feeding, ProScape with Merit provides brilliant color and quick response. Late spring or early summer applications produce season-long results. LebanonTurf.com



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PBI/Gordon Corp.

Available this spring, new Zylam 20SG Systemic Turf Insecticide contains dinotefuran, a soluble granule labeled for key turf insect pests such as chinch bugs, annual bluegrass weevils, crane flies and mole crickets. It is highly soluble, which allows for rapid plant uptake and quick translocation throughout the vascular tissue, protecting

the entire plant from hard-to-control turf insects. A liquid formulation labeled for tree and shrub insect pests will be available later this year to control a wide range of pests, including armored and soft scale and lacebug, whiteflies, thrips, emerald ash borer and caterpillars. PBIgordon.com



Syngenta

Meridian insecticide (thiamethoxam) is designed to provide turf managers with a high degree of control and application flexibility in managing a broad spectrum of grubs and insects. It also is effective and suitable for use on trees and shrubs. Meridian 0.33 G granular formulation contains .05 oz. of active ingredient per pound of formulated product, and is packaged in 40-lb. resealable bags. Water-dispersible Meridian 25 WG (pictured) contains 4 oz. of active ingredient per pound of formulated product, and is packaged in 4- and 17-oz. bottles. GreencastOnline.com

Dow AgroSciences

Derived from the fermentation of a naturally occurring organism, Conserve SC specialty insecticide combines the effectiveness of synthetic insecticides with the benefits of natural insect control products. Conserve SC provides fast kill and control of a wide variety of turfgrass and ornamental insect pests, including sod webworms, fall armyworms, black cutworms, gypsy moth larvae and leafminers. It is labeled for use on all turfgrass species, as well as many ornamental plants, and has a very low impact on the environment. Conserve SC is highly active at low use rates, and it requires no special handling or use restrictions. DowProvesIt.com



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Arysta Lifescience Corp.

Aloft combines two modes of activity for maximum performance: Bifenthrin provides immediate knockdown (within hours) of early-season adults, including black turfgrass atanius, annual bluegrass weevil, cutworms and billbugs, as well as surface-feeding pests like chinch bugs, armyworms and sod webworms. Then, the outstanding systemic and residual activity of clothianidin provides preventive, season-long control of all white grubs, plus "reach-back" control of any escaped larvae from early-season adult and surface feeder eggs laid prior to Aloft application. ArystaLifeScience.us

Arborjet

AzaSol is a water-soluble, powdered azadirachtin product developed for biologically based insect control. The 6% solution offers the highest concentration available on the market. It can be applied via soil drench, chemigation, injection or spray. Studies show azadirachtin, derived from neem plants, to be an effective broad spectrum biological insect control, proven natural anti-feedant, growth regulator and anti-ovipository and insect repellent, providing protection from insects ranging from annual bluegrass weevils to whiteflies. Azasol.com



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BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals

Amdro Pro Fire Ant Bait insecticide delivers proven, cost-effective control of imported and native fire ants. Amdro Pro gives landscape professionals flexible dose and application options for single mounds or large areas. When used as directed, Amdro Pro eliminates the queen and her colony within seven days of a mound treatment, and rids an entire infested area of fire ants within two weeks of a broadcast application. *BetterTurf.BASF.us*



Mauget Inc.

TreeAzin is a systemic bioinsecticide product produced by BioForest Technologies Inc. and distributed by Mauget. The

anti-feedant and growth disruptor is labeled for use against defoliating insects, including emerald ash borer. It's formulated with azadirachtin, a natural extract of the neem tree seed, and is the only tree-injected neem seed product with an Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) listing. *Mauget.com*

Bayer Environmental Science

TopChoice insecticide is based on the powerful active ingredient fipronil. Just one broadcast application of the ultra-low-dose granule provides 95% control of fire ants for up to one year. TopChoice also controls mole crickets, fleas, ticks and nuisance ants when treating for fire ants. *BackedByBayer.com*



DuPont Professional Products

More than 550 independent university trials prove it: One application of DuPont Acelepryn insecticide controls the 10 toughest grubs at the lowest application rate ever utilized for white grub control. One early application also provides control of key surface-feeding pests, including cutworms, webworms and billbugs. In addition, research and field usage show that Acelepryn is an effective option for use in an annual bluegrass weevil control program. The reduced-risk product is available in a liquid formulation, a granular formulation and on fertilizer. *ProProducts.DuPont.com*

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