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The Connecticut Landscape Architect hasn’t kept pace with our own intended publishing schedule, and as a result, we have a lot of news with which to bring our readers up to date. In fact, this is a first-ever double Design Awards issue, featuring both our 2005 and 2006 winners.

It has been interesting to peruse two years’ worth of winners at once. In 2005 the Alaska chapter judged the competition and, although they didn’t provide comments, they evidently found much to praise because they granted nine awards. However, none of these was in the residential design category. Three of the six design winners were corporate or institutional, and three were municipal or other public projects. Two winners were communications entries, and one was in the planning/analysis category. In 2006 the Potomac chapter judged the entries and selected five for awards: two institutional designs, two residential designs, and one in the planning/analysis category. From their comments it seems that restraint or discipline was a major criterion, along with the designers’ perceived sensitivity to the site.

You can of course draw your own conclusions from this summary of awards decided by two different juries, but to me one of the main points for all of us is to submit work often to these competitions; and if a project doesn’t win an award don’t hesitate to enter it again the next year.

Over the years that I have been editing The Connecticut Landscape Architect I have enjoyed the design awards issues very much. They reveal the variety of ways our members practice this profession and the range of design styles and priorities appropriate to different kinds of projects. I hope you enjoy reading about this bumper crop of winners as much as I have. And be sure to find out about chapter members who have earned service awards, as well as those who have won design awards from other organizations. Congratulations to all of you winners, and keep up the great work.

On a final note, we at The Connecticut Landscape Architect are determined to publish more regularly and frequently. One strategy for this goal is to engage an editorial committee more actively than in the past. So if you like the publication — or if there are things you’d like to change — please consider joining the committee. We welcome new faces as well as old friends as we anticipate a marvelous new year.
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This issue is rich with design awards, including those from 2005 as well as the current winners. From residential to public and historic, these projects convey the variety and excellence of work offered by Connecticut landscape architects — which is no wonder, since Frederick Law Olmsted was a native of the state.

As we acknowledge and celebrate our design award recipients, we should take a moment to remember a few key concepts and issues that will shape the future of the chapter and the profession. The role of landscape architects, to protect and serve the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Connecticut and beyond, is vitally important. CTASLA is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, education and skills in the art and science of landscape architecture.

Acting as stewards of the land, landscape architects educate the public about the value of our environment, communicate our role in guiding society toward a sustainable future, contribute to our community, supporting chapter and local initiatives for advancement of the profession, lead in our communities through our actions, and volunteer at any level to help the chapter and our communities flourish.

Please join me in celebrating and congratulating our award winners. Their projects will be displayed in the lobby of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford during the first two weeks of April, promoting the work, talent and depth of the landscape architectural community.

Aris W. Stalis
The Connecticut Chapter of ASLA has named Hillary Cohen, of Ridgefield, the recipient of the 2006 CTASLA Student Scholarship. This $2,500 scholarship, funded in part from proceeds from the chapter’s annual Golf Outing, is awarded to encourage awareness and education in the field of landscape architecture.

A senior in the landscape architecture program at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) at Syracuse University, Ms. Cohen says that her education in landscape architecture is important because it is a dynamic discipline that ties together built structures and the natural environment.

“As a designer, it is crucial to consider the environment, trying to preserve and heal it, while creating visually interesting and meaningful designs that provide for the public’s health, safety and welfare. Becoming a landscape architect will afford me the opportunity to positively affect the social, economic and physical face of various places and spaces throughout my career.”

Ms. Cohen has served as vice president of the Green Campus Initiative at SUNY ESF and is a member of Alpha Xi Sigma, the SUNY ESF Honor Society. She has also been a design mentor and tutor to underclassmen. During summer and winter breaks Ms. Cohen has interned with Wesley Stout Associates in New Canaan.

“What is most impressive about Hillary is her passion for design, her determination to complete assignments, her keen wit and, of course, her affable disposition,” said Jan Goldfluss, a project manager at Wesley Stout Associates.

After graduating from SUNY ESF in Spring 2007, Ms. Cohen plans to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in city planning or urban design.

More information about the CTASLA scholarship program can be found at www.ctasla.org/scholarship.htm. Submissions for the Student Scholarship must be postmarked between January 1 and March 15.
"Green Solutions for a Blue Planet" was an appropriate theme for last year’s annual meeting in Minneapolis, the most heavily attended in ASLA history. The education tracks and keynote address reflected the significant role that landscape architects are playing in sustainable design initiatives throughout the country.

Following are only few examples of how ASLA’s public relation efforts are paying off, raising the awareness of our profession:

ASLA commissioned a survey this year to measure the public’s level of familiarity with the term “landscape architect,” as well as to identify types of work likely to be performed by, and the level of education required to become, a landscape architect. I’m happy to report that 87% of those surveyed indicated that they have at least heard of the term “landscape architect,” and 65% were at least somewhat familiar with this term.

The green roof on ASLA headquarters continues to draw national attention to the profession, with coverage in national news media like USA Today and CNN. I feel that public relations may be the single most important task that ASLA has taken on, and I am proud to be part of it.

ASLA is also identifying public policy issues that will benefit our members. Landscape architects’ technical expertise will allow ASLA to influence public policy, and we need to highlight specific examples where these unique skills have been successfully applied. This is where your engagement is essential — you understand the unique skills and contributions made by the profession. Practitioners can help fashion policy proposals by explaining the types of information, requirements, standards or processes that you believe work best or would ideally like to see applied in the projects you do. ASLA’s federal public policy agenda for 2007-2008 will focus on the following:

- Small Community Visioning Initiative (envisioned as possible amendment to 2007 Farm Bill)
- Security Design
- Hazard Mitigation/Disaster Response
- National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)
- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Call to Action
- Historic American Landscape Surveys (HALS)
- Sustainability/Active/Healthy Living

Please go to ASLA.org and see “Government Affairs” to learn more about these issues, and then let me know how your work relates to them and how you feel that policies should be written to benefit our members the most.

Last, please sign up on the ASLA Advocacy Network, a new member benefit to help you shape the political landscape. It provides information and tools needed to communicate effectively with policymakers about issues important to the profession. By working together, landscape architects can impact public policy from Washington, D.C. to state capitals and town halls nationwide. As always, I look forward to hearing from you so that I can be your advocate in Washington.
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The Connecticut Chapter of ASLA annually conducts the Connecticut Design Awards to recognize excellence in Landscape Architectural Design, Landscape Planning and Analysis, Landscape Architectural Communication, and Landscape Architectural Research. Entrants must be a licensed Landscape Architect in the State of Connecticut, and the subject property and/or entrant must be based in Connecticut.

In this issue of The Connecticut Landscape Architect we present the winners of our 2005 and 2006 awards. We are grateful to the Alaska Chapter of ASLA (2005) and the Potomac Chapter of ASLA (2006) for judging these competitions.

### The 2005 Winners

#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL COMMUNICATION

- **Honor Award — LADA, P.C., Land Planners**, Manchester Lead Abatement Project Neighborhood Handbook
- **Merit Award, Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners**, Sunnyside Landscape Master Plan

#### DESIGN/BUILT WORK — CORPORATE/INSTITUTIONAL

- Honor Award — **The S/L/A/M Collaborative**, Louisville Collegiate School
- Merit Award — **TO Design, LLC**, Outdoor Learning Environment – Child Development Center at Naugatuck Valley Community College

#### DESIGN/BUILT WORK — MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC SPACES

- Jury’s Award of Excellence — **Vollmer Associates LLP**, Bronx River Floodplain
- Honor Award — **Bothwell Site Design, LLC**, The Lot at Chapel Street
- Merit Award — **Didona Associates, LLC**, Danbury Public Library Plaza

#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

- Honor Award — **Robert Carl Schechinger, Jr., ASLA**, Sweetheart Mountain/Tapaka Subdivision

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### The 2006 Winners

#### DESIGN/BUILT WORK — RESIDENTIAL

- **Merit Award — Devore Associates, LLC**, Juniper Crest
- **Honor Award — Wesley Stout Associates, LLC**, Westport Country House

#### DESIGN/BUILT WORK — CORPORATE/INSTITUTIONAL

- **Honor Award — Towers|Golde LLC**, Pierson & Davenport Colleges Courtyard Renovation, Yale University
- **Merit Award — Silvia F. Erskine Associates, LLC**, Greens Farms Academy, Lower School

#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

- **Merit Award — Elmore Design Collaborative, Inc.**, Col. Ephraim Williams, Jr., Monument and Gravesite
The Ornamental Conifer Collection of the New York Botanical Garden consists of 14 acres of rocky, rolling terrain that showcase hundreds of rare, cultivated conifers from around the world. The centerpiece of this informal but dramatic landscape is a unique oval of mature specimens planted in 1947 according to the designs of Marian Coffin, the original landscape architect.

The conifer collection had long fallen into neglect when, during the late 1990s, with the financial support of a major donor, the Garden began the process of upgrading it into a major visitor destination. Towers | Golde was selected to design the renovations, restoration and expansion of this historic garden.

Two years of historic research, plant collection evaluation and design ensued. Towers | Golde created a new entry sequence and expanded the grounds for the collection, including the development of two dwarf conifer gardens connected by a crosswalk.

The historical appropriateness of the landscape intervention was especially important to the designers. Architectural details, pavings and amenities were carefully selected to represent the historic era of the collection and traditional NYBG park details. Native stone outcrops and the stonework of nearby landmarks were models for the detailed design.

A year of painstaking site installation work followed the design phase, with two additional years allowed to acquire new plant material and give it the opportunity to acclimate and develop. After five years of thorough planning and immense effort, the Ornamental Conifer Collection reopened, a sparkling botanical and landscape jewel ready to receive thousands of visitors.

Benefactor: Mr. & Mrs. James Benenson, Jr.
Lead designer: Shavaun Towers, FASLA
Project landscape architect: Anne Hartjen, ASLA
Project manager: Joe Payne, ASLA
Historical landscape master planner: Patrick Chasse, ASLA
Civil engineer: Wohlf & O'Mara, LLP, Staten Island, NY
Structural engineer: Michael Horton & Associates, Hamden
Soils engineer: Langan Engineering, New York, NY
Site development contractor: Metrotech Contracting Corporation, Jamaica, NY
Irrigation: R&R Irrigation Company, Greenbrook, NJ
Vollmer Associates provided landscape architectural, civil engineering, structural engineering and surveying services for the reconstruction of the floodplain and channel of the Bronx River and other enhancements that impacted approximately 34 acres in Bronx Park, just north of the New York Botanical Garden.

The design team worked with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to incorporate accessibility, sustainable design and best management practices throughout the project. All boardwalks, the river overlook, asphalt paths, greenway extension and Burke Avenue Bridge were designed and constructed for universal accessibility. Sustainable design and best management practices were accomplished by using bio-engineering techniques for the restoration and improvements of the riverbank and channel. Floodplain areas along the river were excavated and regraded to allow flood waters from five-year-plus storms to flow into the adjacent floodplain. The intent was to restore some portion of the river’s floodplain to mitigate down-river flooding and to flood those areas often enough to create an uninhabitable environment for invasives such as Japanese knotweed, thereby allowing plant species native to the floodplain wetland zone to reestablish.

Vehicular boardwalks and the pedestrian overlook were also designed to accommodate periodic flooding. Screw pile foundations were used to minimize excavation and disturbance of floodplain soils. Galvanized steel and IPE decking and railings were selected for their long-term durability and for their resistance to flood water damage, vandalism and fire. The removal of earthen dikes and the elevation of boardwalks will also allow use of the park during periods of flooding.

The $2.3 million restoration project was completed in 2005.

Lead designer: Thomas Hammerberg, ASLA
Project manager: Gary Sorge, ASLA
Engineer: Vollmer Associates LLP (in-house)
General contractor: Galvin Bros. Inc.
Great Neck, NY
Owner project manager: New York City Parks Department of Parks and Recreation – Natural Resources Group
The Town of Manchester, CT some years ago recognized that many of their historic neighborhoods were of such an age that lead paint was a problem. The town received a significant grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide no-interest loans and grants to homeowners of historic homes. Officials realized, however, that without consistent guidelines, it was likely that steps taken to remove lead would cause the historic features of the buildings and overall community landscape to disappear.

The Town decided that a Neighborhood Handbook was required to identify important features to preserve and to encourage homeowners and contractors to look beyond the immediate problem to be solved — removal of lead paint — at other historical, architectural and landscape issues.

The Neighborhood Handbook is a comprehensive look, with graphic examples, at those aspects of buildings and grounds which affect the overall aesthetics of an individual home and overall neighborhood. Topics include placement of the garage, definition of the front yard, lighting, accent planting, as well as historic preservation elements for the house (shutters, paint color, siding, windows, etc.).

Wherever possible, the authors (which included landscape architects and architects) tried to anticipate problems likely to be encountered during home repairs and to provide recommendations that would maintain the historic integrity of the building and community landscape.

Landscape architect: LADA, P.C. Land Planners, Simsbury
Architect: Tai Soo Kim Partners Architects, Hartford
Historic preservation architect: Roger Clarke, AIA, Hartford

Low Soil Lead Levels - Soil to Remain and Area to be Covered by Vegetation

Typical Residential Landscape Improvement Plan

Manchester Lead Abatement Project Neighborhood Handbook
The Yale University residential colleges Pierson and Davenport underwent extensive remodeling, which resulted in the near destruction of the 1930s landscape designed by Beatrix Farrand (a founder of ASLA).

Thus, Towers | Golde was guided by Ms. Farrand’s principles and spirit in their work, in some cases replicating what early photographs showed, and utilized her planting palette to replace several hundred trees and shrubs.

The client opted for a Georgian Revival landscape, hinted at by Farrand, but not fully developed. The perimeter walkways of the colleges’ main courtyards were thus modified to an oval and ellipse. These forms served the pedestrian “desire lines,” driven by new programmatic uses.

Designing for accessibility was a challenge. Stairs and stoops were removed, and regrading eliminated over 25 former barriers to accessibility throughout the two complexes. The gardens for each master’s house were renovated, with increased accessibility to each.

At Pierson College several walls and fences were removed from abandoned ‘back alleys’ to provide a continuous walkway through mews-like spaces, now punctuated with seating and plantings. Exposed aggregate concrete imparts a sense of age, alternating with bluestone bands in the pavement.

In response to a new residential building’s structural grid, traditional bluestone was employed in new ways, cut and dressed in unique shapes as benches, lamp bases, paving bands and scuppers. A granite block band frames the lawn with its grove of columnar cherry trees.

The restored upper terrace at Davenport College now has added benches and dogwoods. White-blooming roses, not seen for generations, are sympathetic with the white shutters and trim.

Special details included the recreation of the Yale wood-rail fence, with lead-coated copper caps. Historic paving pattern details were recreated, such as the Maltese Cross in bluestone at the now ADA-compliant drain inlets. At both colleges, special plaques and modern sculpture were recognized and in some cases restored and reinstalled.

The jurors complemented the design’s thoughtful consideration of history and precedent, combined with appropriate uses of contemporary style. They found the grove of cherry trees particularly appealing, predicting that it will age “gracefully.”

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**Lead designer:** Takaya Kurimoto  
**Project manager:** Channing Harris, ASLA  
**Architect:** KieranTimberlake Associates, Philadelphia, PA  
**Paving and planting:** PJ’s Construction, Bridgeport  
**Civil engineering:** BVH Integrated Services, Bloomfield  
**Owner project managers:** David Yager, Architect, University Planning, Yale University Office of Facilities; Larry Regan, Architect, Construction Management, Yale University Office of Facilities
The Lot at Chapel Street was developed from an abandoned lot centrally located in New Haven, one block from Town Green. The space was derelict with an existing bus shelter teeming with transit riders.

The goal of the project was to provide a public place where commuters, citizens and artists could coexist on a small site and to create a park design that a thriving downtown location merits while allowing the experimental nature of the artists to flourish.

Bothwell Site Design’s plan called for a grove of oak trees that crosses the space at 35 degrees from the street axis, dividing the lot into a transit plaza and a crushed bluestone park/art gallery.

Commuters benefit from a generous colored concrete plaza with modernist benches, under the shade of the oaks and within eyesight of seasonal plantings and artwork. The planting beds provide a rich yet durable palette with multi-season interest. An area to the east is designated for community gardening. Opportunities to display physical art are provided in lawn areas, a bluestone screenings plaza, and from seven 24-foot-tall wood poles around the perimeter of the site.

The unusual combination of programming within the small site required the spatial design to be overlapping and not strictly defined. As the park matures, the ever changing installations will rejuvenate and provide interest and spontaneity to the community.

Lead designers/project managers: Dorothy Bothwell and Nicholas Overall, ASLA
Construction management: The City of New Haven
Programming agency: Artspace
Funding agency: Greater New Haven Transit District
Located directly across the Farmington River from the historic village of Collinsville, Sweetheart Mountain dominates the Town’s panoramic western viewshed. The client first considered an open space development with clustered pods of housing for the forested 90-acre parcel straddling the ridge line, but the site was constrained by its AR-1 Zone District designation, leading the development team to proceed with a conventional subdivision plan. Though the parcel’s inherent zoning allowed for a maximum density of 133 units, proposals for 97 lots, then 85 lots, were denied by the wetlands and planning & zoning commissions, based on the neighbors’ general concerns about environmental degradation and visual impact.

The client then brainstormed with Schechinger on the initial idea for an intimate, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood development, responding to the considerable amount of site analysis and community concerns now generated. Schechinger drew up a conceptual development plan, which the developer then presented to the town and neighborhood groups. The resulting pedestrian community concept, centered along greens, connected by vegetated boulevards and enclosed with preserved land protected by a variety of open space and conservation easement restrictions, was driven by a few core considerations. To gain approval, the proposal had to maintain the natural forest along the visually prominent eastern flank, avoid wetlands encroachment, minimize grading and subsequent clearing of internal vegetation within the development envelope and utilize existing septic fields.

With these criteria in mind, Schechinger created a 36-lot development layout supported by the viewshed studies and a detailed boulevard preservation and planting plan which were presented in a series of meetings. This proposal ultimately received unanimous acceptance as the appropriate development plan for preserving this community valued asset.

Lead designer: Robert C. Schechinger, Jr. ASLA, with considerable input from Paul Meehan, Meehan Group, LLC, Collinsville
Project Manager: Robert Rosetti, Meehan Group
Architect: Garth Meehan, Meehan Group
Site analysis and project planning: Robert C. Schechinger, Jr. ASLA and Dymar Engineering, Southbury
Design engineering: Dymar Engineering
Site engineering: DiCesare-Bentley Engineers, Inc., Groton
Conceived as a blend between traditional and modern design, this “Shaker Modern” home and property are steeped in the Connecticut vernacular yet celebrate contemporary spareness and simplicity.

Between the house and garage is an outdoor room with reflecting pool, which opens onto the dining terrace — the figurative heart of the property. This space is defined on two sides by the house and a retaining wall that supports the swimming pool above, and a second retaining wall that anchors a granite staircase ascending to the pool area and play lawn above. The pool wall is adorned with a long waterfall.

Granite was used for both paving and wall material throughout the property. The difference between weathered and new granite finishes reinforces the presence of traditional and contemporary styles in the project. Likewise, the wooden pool fence has sawn top and bottom edges and natural sides, with the curvature and bark of the tree intact. The fence had to comply with pool code, so each board had to be selected and arranged so that when finally secured, the natural edges had no gaps greater than two inches.

A stainless steel cable railing with a teak handrail was designed to separate the nine-foot drop between the pool and dining terrace below. As a counterpoint to this highly refined structure, a row of espaliered orchard trees was planted on the opposite side of the swimming pool. From certain vantage points the two “railings” overlap visually to create a sublime relationship between the natural and man-made.

Privacy was an important consideration for the clients, accomplished on all four sides with Norway spruce, fastigiate white pine, hemlock and holly. Copper beech trees were used as focal points and color accents.

As in European outdoor cafés recalled by the clients, the lindens at the dining terrace will be pruned into a continuous canopy over the dining area. Flowering plants were kept to a minimum: blue and white hydrangea, rose of sharon ‘Diana’ and rhododendron ‘Cunningham’s White.’

Jurors praised the designers’ “restraint” as well as the “balance between formality and historical elements” in the design. They also liked the “layout” and remarked on the “level of craft.”

Lead designer and project manager: Bruce Eckerson, ASLA
Architect: Beinfelder Wagner Architects, South Norwalk
Builder: Schmiedeck Construction, Weston
Planting: Young’s Nurseries, Wilton
Fencing: Westchester Fence and Iron Works
Lighting: Bruce Eckerson, ASLA
The S/L/A/M Collaborative created a master plan and implemented site redevelopment improvements for Louisville Collegiate School, a private co-educational K-12 day school in a semi-urban neighborhood of Louisville, KY. At the onset of the master plan process, the campus was literally a tale of two halves. The historic part was identified by a lower school and middle school with rich architectural character and mature landscape vegetation. The other half featured the 1970s-era Upper School, and the associated barren landscape typical of 1970s modern design. Within the confined nature of the site, the two halves were disparate and incoherent.

The goal of the project was to reinforce the historic campus with new site and building construction that harmonized with the original campus and maximized the use of outdoor resources. The landscape design reinforces the sense of campus through the use of uniform architecture and unified landscape standards for signage, furnishings, fencing, paving, site lighting and landscaping.

The semi-urban setting of the residential neighborhood put the school under the microscope and at the onset, neighbors were nervous about the campus expansion. The success of the final plan was as much about good design as it was about community relations. Regular reviews with neighbors and community leaders were held to engage the community. The process did have its skeptics but in the end the neighbors were very pleased with the results and the Cherokee Triangle Preservation District awarded the project its “Future Landmark Award” in 2005.

Lead designer: Kyle C. Slocum, ASLA
Project landscape architect/project manager: Thomas R. Swale, ASLA
General contractor: Sullivan & Cozart, Inc., Louisville, KY
Masonry: Masonomics, Inc., Louisville, KY
Sitework contractor: RAM Engineering and Construction, Inc., Louisville, KY
Planting: Spruce Hill Nursery, Louisville, KY
Silvia F. Erskine Associates drew inspiration for this project from the scale and materials of the main building of Greens Farms Academy, a 1934 stone house designed by H.T. Lindeberg, and its entry court, with its bluestone and brick paving. The designers also studied the richly planted formal gardens designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman when the property was a private estate.

The project site encompasses a long, linear outdoor space enclosed by the proposed and existing lower school buildings. The design solution was to divide this space into a series of carefully proportioned and detailed courtyards that support a variety of activities.

While functioning as outdoor classrooms and assembly areas, the network of paths and larger paved areas also support the ebb and flow of staff, pupils and parents. In good weather teachers can hold their classes in these spaces, while enjoying a secure, controlled setting. The larger areas can also accommodate small assemblies and school functions. Accessibility was accomplished by subtle changes in grade, eliminating the need for ramps.

The materials, including bluestone and molded brick paving, as well as steps and piers composed of bluestone and veneer stone matching the original building’s masonry, respond to the historic context and hold up to intensive use.

The varied plantings, chosen for their ornamental characteristics throughout the school year — spring and fall bloom, fall foliage and winter berries — are intended to stimulate students’ imagination. The protected microclimate of the courtyards sustains species like crepe myrtle and southern magnolia that are not often found in Connecticut.

The completed design addresses the needs of both teachers and students for a functional, attractive outdoor learning environment, while responding to and complementing the original historic setting.

Jurors remarked that the flow between the various spaces was good and commended the relationship between the outdoor spaces and the architecture. The size of the courtyards seemed “a bit large, although appropriate to the program requirements.” They questioned the use of brick, saying that the color didn’t seem to fit well with the site.

**Project designers:** Silvia Erskine, ASLA Geoffrey Middeleer, ASLA

**Project manager:** Geoffrey Middeleer, ASLA

**Architect:** Butler Rogers Basket, Norwalk and New York, NY

**General contractor:** A.P. Construction Company, Stamford

**Masonry:** McCormack Masonry & Construction, Westport

**Planting:** Braga Landscaping, Hartford
The Danbury Library Plaza had gone the way of many downtown plaza areas designed in the 1970s. Characterized by overgrown plant material, walls in various states of disrepair, numerous types of pavement disrepair and excessive shade, the space was no longer inviting to the public. The plaza needed to be reconnected with the neighborhood.

Didona Associates reconceived the plaza as a stroll garden, inviting people to come in, relax and enjoy the space. Overgrown trees within the plaza were selectively removed to open the space up and bring in more light. Curving paver walks and granite steps connect the various plaza levels, providing a variety of routes through the space and its gardens, while curving granite walls reinforce the walk layout and allowed for the creation of terraced levels to account for grade changes.

The historic City Hall wall was transformed into a cascading fountain while maintaining the original building facade on the rear face. Sybil Ludington’s statue was given a place of honor next to the main steps and handicap ramp into the building and adjacent to the new fountain wall.

A variety of plant material was used to bring color into the plaza and provide an ever changing canvas with the seasons. New benches and lighting allow users to sit and enjoy the space and its surroundings at various times throughout the day. A new granite wall and sign on the corner of Main and West Streets further increases the library’s street presence and lets everyone know where they have arrived.

A building once hidden and an unused plaza have been transformed into a destination in the heart of downtown Danbury.

**Landscape Architectural Design/Built Work — Municipal/Public Spaces**

**MERIT AWARD 2005**
Didona Associates, LLC Danbury

**Danbury Public Library Plaza**

Lead designer: Jane Didona, ASLA
Project manager: Keith Beaver, ASLA
General contractor: NYCONN Landscaping, Danbury
This residence has expansive views of a tidal cove and Long Island Sound. The site is narrow and slopes significantly from the road in front of the property toward the shoreline in back. The main house sits at the base of the entry drive, where it forms two sides of the courtyard. The constraints of property line setbacks and topography presented challenges that were mitigated with walls and steps; these elements merge with the changing grades to improve accessibility to the site and connect with the larger landscape. Significant factors influencing the landscape design were the architecture and a request from the client for gardens to inspire her textile designs.

The roof lines and detailing of the house are typical of a grand seaside cottage, with exaggerated proportions in the geometry of the façades. The landscape walls echo this geometry; together with the plant beds at the courtyard they frame the space with varied textures. The client requested primarily white-flowering plants, in keeping with the restrained color palette inside the house. In response to the warmth and whimsy of the architecture, window boxes were planted with simple combinations of green and white; Dutchman’s pipe vine and climbing roses were used to visually weave the verdant ground plane with the building façades.

The eastern façade of the house contains many windows and, in its playfulness and strong forms, hints at a contemporary aesthetic. The curved terrace and broad steps here are open and expansive, responding to the architectural forms and light-filled aquatic views. A lavender border runs along the upper terrace level, and sod joints create a bold graphic effect in the random bluestone pattern of the lower terrace. The grade at the bottom of the terrace retaining wall falls from both ends toward the center, reflecting in the vertical plane the horizontal curve of the wall seen from above. This fluid line is highlighted by a row of butterfly bush planted along the wall’s base.

The property is maintained in accordance with the organic principles of the Northeast Organic Farming Association. In addition, a restoration program has been implemented to remove the invasive reed Phragmites, and the reclaimed slope below the terrace has been seeded with marsh grasses.

The jury liked the use of mitigation in this project and commented that the design was very different on each side of the house, which was “appropriate for the site characteristics.” They appreciated the photos, saying that the plan “does not convey the elegant landscape appropriately.”

**Lead designer:** Diane Devore, ASLA
**Architect:** Beinfield Wagner Architects, South Norwalk
**Masonry:** JCI Construction, Ossining, NY
**Planting:** Environmental Site Developers, Ridgefield
**Irrigation:** RK Irrigation, Stamford
Sunnyside is an important historic property that has been preserved by Historic Hudson Valley and the former Sleepy Hollow Restorations since securing the property in the 1940s. Washington Irving, the highly popular 19th-century author, developed the house and grounds as an expression of refined taste and aesthetic sensibilities. The Irving-era landscape remains only partially intact today.

Heritage Landscapes was commissioned by Historic Hudson Valley to create a Landscape Master Plan focusing on the restoration of the 16-acre Sunnyside parcel and the design and rehabilitation of an adjacent property to absorb more intensive and diverse uses. The overall project objective was to develop a multi-level strategy to recapture the historic landscape while addressing the full range of current and future needs.

Restoration plans and estimates for grant funding were developed for detailed areas of the property including Irving’s gardens and intricate water system of pools, runnels and ponds. A stormwater management study explored solutions for the recurrent flooding of Sunnyside Brook. Relocation of education activities, visitor parking and maintenance activities to the property’s perimeter was proposed to aid in the recapture of the scenic landscape. A plan for replacement of historic trees was drawn to recapture the planting, growth and maturation of the landscape as Irving experienced it.

The combined effects of these master plan recommendations, studies and funding efforts will be to restore to a significant degree the historic landscape character, spaces, sequence, and visual qualities of Irving’s time, provide needed facilities and features, and link this historic and cultural resource with other historic properties along the historic Hudson River. Phased implementation of the Sunnyside Master Plan is proceeding.

Designers and authors: Patricia O’Donnell FASLA, AICP; Peter Viteretto ASLA

Project staff: Laurie Matthews, Kimball Erdman, Anne Powers
The Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) Child Development Center is a laboratory school comprised of 100 preschool and toddler students. The facility is used as an educational classroom as well, with college students observing and working directly with the children.

One of the innovations adopted by the school was the incorporation of the art-based Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. The goal of this project was to extend the learning environment to the outdoors, maintaining and supporting the Reggio Emilia fundamentals of learning.

The challenges were daunting, as the site was a steep slope (20% top to bottom), situated on the northeast side of a four-story building. Adding to the complexity was the requirement by the funder (the State of Connecticut) that all elements be fully accessible from the street and building.

It was immediately apparent to TO Design that a series of ramps would be needed to traverse the slope. Instead of fighting the ramps, they would be embraced as an integral part of the play/learning environment. The landings would provide for access to play features and the sloped walks themselves would be used for wheeled toys and discovery moments. All elements would be accessible via sloped walks and steps.

Safety and welfare issues were key to design decisions throughout. Plants were carefully chosen to be child safe when (not if) eaten by toddlers. Boulders were scrutinized for any sharp edges that might endanger a child. To mitigate the presence of so many railings on site, a whimsical “wave” design was selected, with a light powdercoat finish and a creative spiral flourish at the rail terminus.

Lead designer: Phil Barlow, ASLA
Project manager: Mark Fisher
Planting and masonry: Conn-Strux Inc., Farmington
This two-year project was conducted by Elmore Design Collaborative in close cooperation with staff at Williams College. The purpose is to research, document, restore and improve the landscape surrounding the monument and gravesite of Col. Ephraim Williams, Jr., the founder of Williams College, for the 250th anniversary of his death.

In September 1755, Col. Williams was leading a force of British troops and Mohawk Indians south from Lake George to Fort Edward, when they were ambushed by a larger force of French and Indian troops. Col. Williams was killed during this skirmish and was buried the next day a short distance from where he fell.

En route to Lake George with his regiment a few months earlier, Col. Williams had written his will. He bequeathed most of his estate to found a “free school in the township west of Fort Massachusetts, provided the township fell within Massachusetts and that the Governor rename the township Williamstown.” In 1793 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts named the school Williams College, which became the second institution of higher education in Massachusetts and the sixth in New England.

In 1854 the college erected a white marble obelisk in memory of Col. Williams atop the boulder where he was killed. Since then various changes were made to the site, including part of it being taken by the state in 1961 to build the Northway (Interstate 87).

In the fall of 2003 the college spearheaded a restoration of their founder’s monument and gravesite with the help of an alumni gift.

The report records the history and changes of the landscape, documents and assesses existing conditions and establishes appropriate treatment for its landscape features. The inventory, analysis and evaluation of each natural and manmade feature are relative to the landscape’s historic integrity. Treatment recommendations and budget projections were developed to guide the restoration and incorporate necessary modern features such as parking and signage. All the research and documentation, assessment of existing conditions and the development of treatment recommendations follow the guidelines established by The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Treatments of Historic Properties prepared by the National Park Service, 1996.

The report recommends specific improvement strategies for the property’s integrity, appearance, and relationship to the broader landscape. The landscape surrounding both properties has changed since 1755; no longer rural, it is part of a summer resort and... (continued on page 31)
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We asked chapter members to let us know about non-ASLA awards their firms have received. Regarding design awards, we heard from three firms: Dickson DeMarche Landscape Architects/The LaurelRock Company, Hoffman Landscapes and TO Design. In addition, Rod Cameron informed us of a commendation he received from the Litchfield Garden Club. For those who didn’t send us notice of an award, this is an open invitation. We are interested in hearing about the accomplishments of all of our members at any time of year.

- **Dickson DeMarche Landscape Architects** and **The LaurelRock Company**, Wilton, received four awards for three projects in 2005 from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) — two in maintenance and one in residential design/build. All three projects were Grand Award winners. But in an announcement at the end of the evening, the design/build project was given the Judge’s Award as the “most outstanding submission in any of the sixteen categories, from a field of nearly 150 worthy award winners from across the country.”

  This residence is in Garrison, N.Y. and overlooks the Hudson River. Challenges to the design team included lots of rock ledge and steep slopes. Architect Peter Smith designed a new guest house/garage and a large porch addition, and Dickson DeMarche Landscape Architects designed a swimming pool and spa to take advantage of the stunning views.

  This project was recently highlighted in the January 2007 issue of *Landscape Architect & Specifier News.*

- **Rod Cameron**, of CCA, LLC, Brookfield (and past president of CTASLA), was honored in July at the annual meeting of the Litchfield Garden Club. The award was from the Garden Club of America, in recognition of his counsel to the Litchfield Garden Club and his significant contribution to civic improvement in the community.

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This year PLANET honored another Wilton firm, **Hoffman Landscapes**, with a Grand Award. The winning project was a residence on a wooded site constrained by wetlands and steep topography, for which a series of multilevel terraces was conceived. Arborists on the Hoffman team helped to preserve mature trees on site, and their masons utilized moss-covered stones carefully saved from older walls on the property. The discovery of a huge, flat rock during excavation of the pool inspired Hoffman Landscapes to use the stone near the infinity edge in a dramatic way.

**Lead designer:** Neil Brunetti  
**Pool, masonry and planting:** Hoffman Landscapes, Wilton

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**Phil Barlow, ASLA,** principal of **TO Design, LLC,** in New Britain, told us about three projects that won recent awards: The Arch Walk Way, New Britain, won a Merit Award from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation; the Eastern Connecticut State University Child and Family Development Center, Willimantic, won a First-Place Award – Small Projects from the Connecticut Building Congress; and the Art Alley, New Britain, won an Award of Excellence from the National Concrete Masonry Association, Virginia.

**The Arch Walk Way**  
**Lead designer:** Phil Barlow, ASLA  
**Project manager:** Mark Fisher  
**Masonry:** Colossale Concrete, New Britain  
**Planting:** J.H. Lynch & Sons Construction, Cumberland, RI  
**Lighting:** Legnos and Cramer Engineers, Hartford

**ECSU Child and Family Development Center**  
**Lead designer:** Phil Barlow, ASLA  
**Project manager:** Mark Fisher  
**Masonry:** Konover Associates, Farmington  
**Planting:** Country Gardens of Bristol  
**Play equipment:** Landscape Structures

**Art Alley**  
**Lead designer:** Phil Barlow, ASLA  
**Project manager:** Mark Fisher  
**Masonry:** Mark Services, Andover  
**Planting:** Evergreen Nursery, Inc., Southington  
**Lighting:** Legnos and Cramer Engineers, Hartford
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book review

Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns — Managing Public Trees and Community Forests

Edited by Robert M. Ricard and Glenn D. Dreyer, 2005, University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Storrs

Reviewed by Sarah W. Middleeer

Robert M. Ricard teaches urban and community forestry in the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. Glenn D. Dreyer is director of the Connecticut College Arboretum and adjunct associate professor of botany at the college. He is also author of Connecticut’s Notable Trees, published by the Connecticut Botanical Society, and heads up the Notable Trees Project, which documents trees known to be the biggest of their species in Connecticut. Both men have utilized their many years’ experience in community forestry to produce a manual for laypeople and professionals interested in the value of trees and in how to foster a healthy, bountiful presence of trees in their communities.

The handsome hardbound volume, with numerous color photos and attractive line drawings, is divided into six sections, each consisting of several brief chapters. The sections include “What is Community Forestry?” “Understanding Trees and the Urban Environment,” Caring for Public Trees,” “Managing Community Forests,” “Social Dimensions of Community Forestry,” and “Moving Forward.” Dreyer and/or Ricard wrote more than half of the 28 chapters, but they invited several colleagues, including John Alexopoulos, associate professor of landscape architecture at UConn, to contribute the remaining chapters. A helpful component is the list of “Suggested Readings” at the end of each chapter, with comments by the chapter’s author (e.g., “Purchase a used [copy] printed within the last five years and save money.”). Three appendices end the book: “An Introduction to the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard,” “Sample Community Forestry Ordinance for Connecticut Cities and Towns,” and “Where to Go for Help” (a thorough list of private and governmental agencies affiliated with community forestry).

The content of Greening vacillates between the general and the particular in such a way that more experienced readers will want to skip certain chapters. Yet the book seems designed for this kind of reading, and the combination of succinct, easy-to-read texts on each subject, with lists of sources for more in-depth information, is efficient, as well as respectful of the range of knowledge and skills that read-

(continued on next page)
Book Review, cont’d

ers of this book are bound to have. I found the chapters on tree structure (Dreyer) and pruning (H. Dennis P. Ryan) particularly useful.

I was glad to read that the authors have granted permission to “photocopy items for educational or personal use” — although they request that acknowledgment of the source be provided on copies. I will copy some of the information and diagrams on proper tree planting and mulching to keep on hand for the occasional contractor who tends to plant trees too deeply or mound mulch up around the trunks.

There are a couple of things that I feel detract from the book. The “transitional dialog box” at the beginning of each chapter (in which the authors are photographed in an apparent conversation that pertains to subject at hand) sets a tone of chatty informality that seems unnecessary. These photographs do help to personalize the material, but I couldn’t find one photo that identified which man is Dreyer and which is Ricard. And I was a little impatient with the volume’s somewhat sloppy proofreading.

But these are small matters compared to the value that this book should hold to many readers. *Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns* was clearly a labor of love, and I hope that it helps to motivate many individuals and communities to care well for — and take great pride in — their trees.

Col. Williams Monument, cont’d

Every person planting, protecting, and cultivating elm trees not more than sixty feet apart, or maple, tulip, ash, basswood, oak, black walnut or hickory, not more than thirty feet apart, for three years, for the space of one-quarter of a mile or more along any public highway, shall be entitled to receive an annual bounty thereafter of one dollar for each quarter mile so planted and cultivated, to be paid out of the state treasury.

— Chapter 102, Section 1

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Connecticut Public Acts, 1881

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Researchers, authors and designers: Thomas Elmore, ASLA, Anne Wellington
Afer a three-year hiatus, the CTASLA Golf Outing was once again held at the Lyman Orchards Golf Course in Middlefield. Thanks to the hard work of the Golf Committee, headed by Steve Geckeler of Aqua-Lawn, attendance was at an all-time high — more than 140 golfers participated in this year’s Outing, with two foursomes at practically every hole. It was a great day for all involved. My Dream Team (dreaming of winning was the best we could hope for) was the same as last year: CTASLA past president Rod Cameron, Rod’s brother-in-law Howard Hastie, CTASLA Executive Director Jeff Mills and me.

Friday, October 13th dawned with blue skies, cool temperatures, a slight breeze and brilliant fall foliage. Mom, who was from Maine, would have called this a “bluebird” day, with the rainstorms of Thursday just a memory. Unfortunately, this ideal weather is the bane of fishermen, as the fish lock down and won’t bite. Our scramble started on the 15th tee. With my Gary Yamamoto three-inch pumpkin with black flake worm (the same color that landed a two-pound-plus largemouth bass last year), I worked the water hazards through the 18th hole…but got not one nibble.

(continued next page)
When we got to the first hole tee I concentrated on my game — which has, over the years, unfortunately gone downhill. Not only could I not contribute on my tee shots (the 13th was the ONLY one where I made it past the women’s tee) but, my approach shots and putting were an embarrassment. But my Friday-the-13th bad luck ended around 3:30, when we headed back to the main tent for a buffet of ziti, roast beef, sliced chicken breast, spare ribs, roast potatoes, vegetables, rolls and salad. Complementary beer and wine were also available. After the meal the staff brought out mini Lyman Orchards apple pies, baked fresh that morning, for each participant.

During the day, raffle tickets were available for the door prizes, and there was a silent auction for some “high-end” items. Returning to the raffle this year was the ever popular “Pie-and-a-Pound” (a Lyman Orchards pie and a pound of Starbucks coffee). In addition there was an Apple iPod, with numerous accessories, a digital movie camera, food gift baskets and a golf bag, among others. I still have my six tickets: 0978711-0978716 if you want to buy them, cheap. Until next year, practice your…casting.
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