

Fall 2010

The Designer

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2010 International Landscape Design Award Winners

Interview with our Landscape Designer
of the Year: James Doyle Associates

Student Spotlight: Jing Zhang

Allied Member Listings



Association of
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We Define Landscape Design

Residential Merit Award

Schuler Estate Gardens - Mendham Township, New Jersey

J. Scott Mortensen, APLD - Cedarwood Landscaping, Inc., Mendham, New Jersey

This newly constructed house was nestled within an undeveloped area on the side of a rolling hill covered by woodland forest. This secluded site was a combination of cool shaded areas and sunny dry locations. Our goal was to bring this newly constructed residence into balance with its spectacular surroundings. The client requested self sustaining, low maintenance plant material which was to include no turf areas in any location. They also expressed concerns about increased privacy to help create a more peaceful oasis centered around the entrance to the home and the pool area.

It was our design intent to meet the client's expectations by creating a relatively self-supporting landscape to compliment the sophisticated feel of the home without detracting from its grand architectural elements. Additionally, we expanded the living space by providing outdoor areas interconnected by a series of meandering pathways. Great consideration was given to low impact plant material which would provide multi-season interest and address items such as erosion control and a wide variety of nectar sources for beneficial garden insects.

The overall scope of this project allowed us to utilize a wide palette of complimentary colors and textures. Low maintenance materials were combined, creating an outstanding marriage of form and function throughout all seasons and the ever-changing flow of progressive blossoms resulted in a stunning natural landscape which adds beauty and value to the property. Some specific features within this project include highlighting the stone turret located to the left of the front door, careful delineation of the main entrance door versus the secondary entrance door, complimenting the large windows overlooking the pool, thoughtful layout of the interconnecting pathways, and the creation of a restful hammock area.

Environmentally, the vast majority of selected plant material is self-sustaining, including the utilization of a large number of naturalizing perennials. The dry laid paths and the bluestone patios allow water to permeate back into the local soil. Retaining walls and stairs were constructed from native boulders, some of which existed on the property. Plant material was selected for its ability to readily adapt to the existing site conditions and to aid in establishment, and drip irrigation was installed where appropriate. A highly efficient low voltage outdoor lighting system was implemented to provide a sense of security and expanded living space.

Judges' Comments: The overall design does fit the site context and allows the house to settle into the setting. Much of the planting is relaxed and effective, alternating between masses and specimens. Good low maintenance/input plant selection.

