

# Art and Nature

## Invite Yourself Out.

What's the difference between a pretty garden and a landscape that draws you in and encourages you to stay? A great landscape is a feast for all the senses, incorporating a color and texture, as well as fresh scents and perhaps even the soothing sounds of water. It provides distinct areas of visual interest, offering a variety of things to discover and enjoy—but not so many that it feels chaotic or overwhelming. A welcoming landscape includes places for individuals or groups to feel at ease. And, perhaps most challenging, it's beautiful throughout the seasons, whether at the height of summer or when completely covered with snow.

Creating a striking, year-round landscape that incorporates all of these elements into one cohesive design requires a great deal of artistry combined with technical expertise. After all, a truly great landscape is like a tapestry—weaving together many layers and uniquely suiting the family who will enjoy it. In addition to trees, plants and flowers well suited to the site, Van Zelst landscapes almost always incorporate hardscape elements such as stone-work and garden structures, water features, and lighting that complements the environment without drawing attention to itself. In addition, many of our clients have worked with us to add complete outdoor kitchens to rival the ones they have indoors.

Whether you envision a formal garden or a casual place for entertaining close friends, working with the Van Zelst team can help you create a spectacular environment that transcends the traditional.



A casual outdoor dining room, conveniently located near the kitchen door, is outlined by grass and walls of planting beds.



**Van Zelst inc.**  
Landscape Development & Management

**Van Zelst, Inc.**  
39400 N. Highway 41  
Wadsworth, IL 60083

**847-623-3580**  
**www.vanzelst.com**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oak Brook, IL  
Permit No. 100

◀ Brightly colored perennials, hardscape patios and walkways complement one another and draw everyone outdoors.

**Van Zelst** inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**SIGN UP FOR OUR  
E-NEWSLETTERS,  
WITH FREE  
LANDSCAPE TIPS**

Visit  
[www.vanzelst.com](http://www.vanzelst.com)

## Architectural Garden Elements

From sculptures and beautiful planters to arbors, bridges and walls, architectural elements not only add interest, but provide an opportunity to let your personality shine through. Complement your modern home with a piece of bold outdoor art. Prefer a cottage feel? Try white fencing. These visual cues complete the environment and set your landscape apart.



**Above:** The family's bronze statue is right at home atop a recirculating waterfall made of natural stone and surrounded by perennial color.

**Right:** Black-eyed Susans, red begonias, and red, pink and yellow lilies add up to a striking red-and-gold palette.

**Far Right:** A rustic walkway, lined with a variety of shade-friendly hostas, groundcover and perennials, leads visitors through ever-changing views.

**Opposite Top:** An informal arrangement of Lanonstone and creeping thyme, encircled by flowers and foliage, sets the stage for friendly get-togethers.

**Opposite Bottom:** Carefully chosen for varying colors, heights and textures, mature perennials thrive when summer is in full swing.

# Updating this Lakefront Landscape Creates a Dazzling, All-New Effect.



One of the more established properties in Lake Geneva, this home has great history and a beautiful site, situated between Geneva Lake and natural woodlands. The existing landscape featured acres of lawn and overgrown woodland areas filled with invasive buckthorn—clearly it was time to take a look at everything with fresh eyes.

While some landscape designers might relish the opportunity to tear out the existing landscape and look at this site as a blank slate, the Van Zelst team shared the owners' interest in building on the gardens that had already been established. In fact, preserving as much of the native and existing plant growth as possible, including large swaths of periwinkle, was a priority.

In early meetings, many other issues and goals were discussed. Structural elements needed to be brought up to date. A high-volume drainage way cut through the edge of the woodland garden, making access throughout the property difficult. The family wanted to showcase a special bronze statue they'd commissioned.

The Van Zelst team was able to integrate all these details into a cohesive design that radiates season-long color. We planted trees, shrubs, and thousands of perennials. Stone "bridges" in the

creekbed connect distinct areas of the garden in an organic way. A stone waterfall, surrounded by drifts of brilliant perennials and creeping foliage, adds to the sounds and textures of the landscape while drawing attention to the cast bronze boy quietly pouring water from his bucket.

Van Zelst's landscape architects, stone specialists, and landscape installers were able to significantly upgrade the existing landscape. After allowing two years for the landscape to mature, the owners decided to make it a stop on the Lake Geneva Garden Club House and Garden Cruise last year. More than 700 visitors had a chance to enjoy these gardens giving it rave reviews.

## *Building on Beauty*





## Containers— Hard Work In a Pretty Package.

From a casual collection of pottery overflowing with bright annuals to a pair of formal urns marking a grand entrance, containers can serve a variety of purposes in the landscape. At Van Zelst, we place great emphasis on perennial beds that bloom with season-long color. But containers offer an opportunity to introduce colorful annuals and foliage that can be changed throughout the year. From early-spring pansies through holiday evergreen boughs, containers can keep your landscape in tune with the season.

In addition, containers add structure and architectural interest to the garden. We use them to define spaces, add height, guide visitors toward walkways or gathering points, or ease the transition between hardscape and plantings.

Because of their smaller size, containers allow for greater experimentation with interesting colors and textures. What works in a container might be too much for a larger planting bed, but can add a dramatic emphasis at the edge of a patio or pathway.



## A Pristine Environment Year-Round.

With hundreds of individual plant species contributing to a stunning whole, this long-term Van Zelst designed, constructed, and maintained property on Chicago's North Shore is a testament to professional skills. While it may be tempting to bring in a company that provides basic "mow and blow" service, an investment in trees, perennials and hardscape deserves more skilled attention. Not only is the integrity of the design ensured, but the plants and structures remain healthy and viable for a much longer period of time.

For this property, the expert Van Zelst maintenance team provides a wide variety of services, including:

- Weeding, cultivation, pruning, dead-heading, fertilization and cleanup of perennial beds and shrubs
- Edging and weeding of stone paths and hardscape features
- Weekly monitoring to anticipate and control disease and garden pests
- Extensive spring and autumn cleanup, including power washing the bluestone patios
- An irrigation system and watering program that is customized to provide lawn, trees and plantings the right amount of moisture at the right time, without waste
- And while this property doesn't include extensive water features, the Van Zelst team cares for ponds, waterfalls and fountains as needed for our other clients, to ensure that the water and plantings remain healthy, mechanical systems are in good working order and debris is promptly removed

Thanks to this careful, ongoing attention to detail, the home's owners are assured that they can enjoy their garden and entertain any time of year and their property will always look its best.



**Van Zelst** inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**ENHANCE THE VALUE  
OF YOUR HOME**

Call us at  
847-623-3580.

[www.vanzelst.com](http://www.vanzelst.com)

**Van Zelst** inc.

Landscape Development & Management

**ADD AN  
OUTDOOR KITCHEN  
TO YOUR LANDSCAPE**

Visit  
[www.vanzelst.com](http://www.vanzelst.com)



## Recent Honors

*Awards for Landscape Design, Construction and Management presented by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA)*

- 2010 Gold Lake Geneva Residence
- 2010 Silver Milburn Residence
- 2009 Gold Lincoln Park Residence
- 2009 Gold Lake Geneva Residence
- 2009 Silver Northbrook Residence
- 2008 Gold Lake Bluff Residence
- 2007 Silver Glenview Residence
- 2006 Gold Lake Geneva Residence
- 2006 Gold Glenview Residence
- 2006 Silver Wilmette Residence
- 2005 Gold Wilmette Residence
- 2005 Silver Glencoe Residence
- 2005 Merit Kenilworth Residence
- 2004 Gold Glenview Residence
- 2004 Silver Lake Forest Residence
- 2004 Merit Lake Geneva Residence
- 2003 Gold Kenilworth Residence
- 2003 Silver Wilmette Residence
- 2003 Merit Lake Forest Residence

For a complete list, visit [www.vanzelst.com](http://www.vanzelst.com).

*Art & Nature* is published by Van Zelst, Inc.  
39400 N. Hwy. #41, Box 250,  
Wadsworth, IL 60083-0250.

© 2010. All rights reserved.

Designer: Allegro Design Inc.  
Copywriter: Amy Derksen  
Photographer: Linda Oyama Bryan

All of the design services and installations described in this issue of *Art & Nature* are available from Van Zelst, Inc.

# Your Landscape Begins on the Approach.

One of the first things you—and your guests—see upon coming to your home is your driveway. That's why Van Zelst is often asked to include drive and walkway solutions in our plans for new and renovated landscapes.

After all, crafting a driveway out of stone or pavers that match or complement the materials used on a home's exterior and other hardscape elements can make a significant contribution to the overall effect. In some cases, we replace the paving entirely. In others, we find ways to supplement existing asphalt or concrete areas with natural stone, tumbled concrete or brick pavers.

Fortunately, the Van Zelst team excels at creating paving solutions that are integrated, functional and better enhance the home. What's more, our professional landscape architects and experienced stone masons ensure that paving is properly planned and installed to weather years of climate changes beautifully.



A mix of bricks and tumbled pavers, as well as brick pillars, create a welcoming, grand entrance that suits the home.



A wide, curving drive, hand-set with grey and tan tumbled concrete pavers, and stone gateposts reflect the formal, dignified tone evident throughout the landscape.



Mounds of colorful perennials, including Lavender, Coreopsis, and Chrysanthemums provide continuous color from spring through fall. Flowers and herbs are enhanced by natural stone steps and gravel, as well as arts and crafts-style path lighting.

## The Calm Before Spring.



As I write this, there is snow outside my window. It's a beautiful still life, but I'm eager for those first green shoots to emerge, promising warm weather, trees full of leaves, stepping outside without a coat and—best of all—getting reacquainted with long-term clients and meeting new families.

Of course, it isn't particularly quiet here.

Even though everything looks like an empty, white canvas, we've been designing and planning what we'll bring to life in the coming months. We've selected the new plants we'll introduce this season, all chosen for their hardiness in our Northern Illinois climate and soil, as well as how they'll complement other plants that grow well here. Our greenhouses are jumping, bringing along 90 percent of the perennials and groundcover we use.

We hope as your thoughts turn to the warm days ahead and enjoying time outside with your family, you'll think of the Van Zelst team. After all, we're here to bring everything you imagine for your landscape to life.

Regards,

*Dave*