

Van Zelst inc.

Landscape Development & Management

Special Edition

DRIVEWAYS • PATIOS • PATHWAYS • AND MORE!

Art *and* Nature

Hardscapes Endure.

Hardscape is aptly named. For many homeowners, it's the hardest part of the landscape to envision. Yet without stonework to help define and anchor a landscape, a garden can feel shapeless and flat. Hardscape takes a landscape from good to great, and retains its interest throughout the seasons. The Van Zelst team excels at designing hardscape features and our own masons install them to last a lifetime.

Above: A bluestone patio extends the home's modern architecture into the garden for a cohesive feel indoors and out. Groundcover, trees, shrubs and perennials soften the edges and create a welcoming outdoor room.

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Van Zelst, Inc.

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Hardscape Changes with the Season

Stonework imparts stability, structure, variety and color to a finished landscape year-round. In the summer, stone pathways guide visitors through the garden to clusters of lush blooms. In the spring and fall, stone waterfalls and rock gardens complement emerging greens and changing reds and yellows. And in the winter, steps and walls add texture and interest to the snowy landscape.



Top: Tumbled concrete pavers in shades of red and brown are perfectly suited to the plantings' complementary color scheme of reds and greens. A herringbone pattern suggests a bit of formality, balanced by the flowing curves of the overall landscape.

Above: Different types of stone can be blended for an individual effect. As visitors approach on the tumbled concrete paver drive, flagstone posts suggest a grand entrance.

Right: A stone waterfall, surrounded by colorful perennials and foliage, leads the eye to the family's beloved bronze statue. The Van Zelst maintenance team ensures that the recirculated water remains healthy throughout the year.

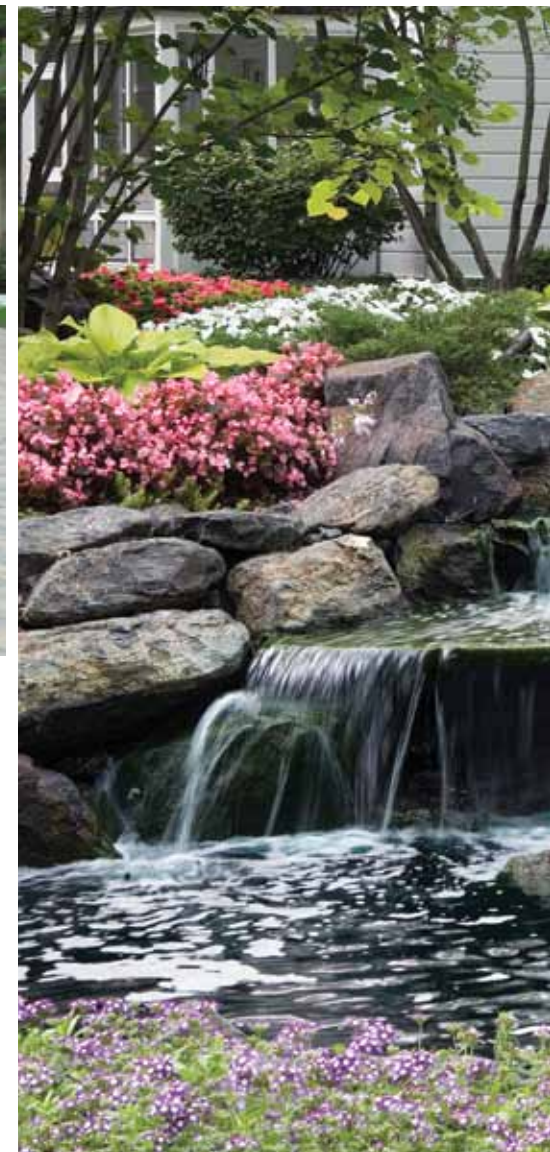
Opposite Top Left: A Lannon stone outcropping creates a natural-looking waterfall.

Opposite Top Right: A granite millstone fountain brings something for all the senses to a shady area.

Opposite Middle Left: Flowers and herbs, including lavender and coreopsis, are enhanced by natural stone steps and gravel path.

Opposite Middle Right: Three types of stone come together beautifully—tumbled concrete pavers are surrounded by a fieldstone wall with a bluestone cap.

Opposite Bottom: A study in textures and a gentle color scheme. The jewel tones of compact Japanese Maples, gun metal boulders and brilliant green foliage are beautifully reflected in the water.





Quality Stonework Shows

How can you identify high-quality stonework? Details such as consistent color throughout a pathway or patio are the mark of real craftsmanship, as are strict, even joints between pavers. Steps are also a giveaway—well built steps will be sturdy and you will see stone on the treads and the faces.

Poorly installed stonework becomes more and more evident over time, most likely because a low-end installer will try to save on the important layers you can't see—the foundation on which the stone is set.

High-quality stonework will have:

- Tightly installed stones and steps, for greater safety
- Level surfaces, thanks to well prepared foundation layers
- No low spots, where water can pool and erode joints
- Well matched stones, without unappealing variation in color
- Stones that stay in place over time

Not all landscape firms specialize in stonework. The Van Zelst team prides ourselves on quality stonework. We install everything ourselves to ensure that it is easy to maintain and continues to impress for decades to come.



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ENHANCE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME

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New Possibilities in Stone and Brick.

Where backyard wooden decks once ruled, stone has emerged as a superior product—and a superior investment. In addition to setting a lasting stage for outdoor enjoyment, stone is unique in the way it significantly adds to your home's value. Stone retains its beauty throughout the seasons, enhancing your landscape in summer and winter alike.

Economic advantages aside, nothing has the rich, substantial feel of real stone beneath your feet. Today's stone choices can integrate with virtually any home style. Consider fine-grained bluestone, rugged Lannon stone or man-made products such as brick pavers. Stone hardscape defines a space and adds a heightened level of finish, creating continuity between a home's interior and the outdoors.

At Van Zelst, our landscape architects are continually exploring new artistic ways to work with different varieties of stone, creating patios, outdoor fireplaces, meandering walls and stone planting structures. Sometimes two or more types of stonework are combined for a breathtaking effect. As a result, each hardscape design is one of a kind.

Naturally, our expertise doesn't stop at the design. Our experienced masons professionally install stonework using a combination of old-world and new techniques. They understand the nature of the stone itself, as well as how to use it to enhance your setting.

As you consider installing or renewing a landscape, think about how stone might enhance the space. A winding path can invite greater interaction with the flowers. A trickling water feature beckons to cardinals, goldfinches, and sunbathers alike. Hardscape ornaments or structures can add vertical interest. When it comes to integrating walkways, patios and plantings, if an idea can be imagined, we can make it real.

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,
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Top: Permeable pavers provide a solid, attractive, environmentally friendly parking lot or driveway surface. Water drains through to the soil beneath, so there's no pooling or runoff.

Middle Left: Clean, straight lines, tightly laid bluestone and symmetric plantings create a formal air.

Middle Right: Brick pavers add to this English-garden theme and enhance the style of the red-brick home.

Bottom: Irregular fieldstone slabs set among creeping thyme make this casual patio feel as if it had been here for hundreds of years.

Partner Spotlight ROSEBROOK POOLS

Van Zelst often partners with pool and spa specialists to ensure that these elements are properly constructed while contributing to the overall aesthetic. Here, the stone spa surround and cap echo materials used throughout the landscape.

