



# Art and Nature

## A Healthy Landscape Is a Beautiful Landscape.

Once you've invested in a stunning landscape design and plantings, chances are you'll want to have someone maintain them. But who should you choose? At Van Zelst, we believe it's important to think beyond just aesthetics—maintenance is about much more than mowing the lawn and blowing leaves. A smart landscape maintenance plan should promote the health of your trees, shrubs and flowers, use water efficiently, and ensure that hardscape elements remain in top condition.

The professional Van Zelst maintenance team provides a complete range of skilled services:

- Weeding, cultivation, pruning, dead-heading, fertilization and cleanup keep perennial beds and shrubs healthy and magnificent
- Containers and annual beds are planted and replanted as the seasons progress
- Weekly monitoring allows us to anticipate and control disease and pests
- Extensive spring and autumn cleanups
- Custom irrigation systems and watering programs provide lawn, trees and plantings the right amount of moisture at the right time, without waste
- Monitoring and care of ponds, waterfalls and fountains ensures that the water and plantings remain healthy, mechanical systems are in good working order and debris is promptly removed



A comprehensive maintenance and management program does more than groom what you can see above ground. It ensures the health and longevity of your environment at every level.

◀ "Constant color" is a Van Zelst trademark. Brilliant daylilies, astilbe, phlox and more bloom through spring and summer.

**Van Zelst** inc.

Landscape Development & Management

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

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

## For a More Inviting Garden, Just Add Water.

A fountain, waterfall or even a simple birdbath can impart a feeling of serenity, even as it brings more life to your backyard. Tempt birds to visit and watch them enjoy your environment as much as you do. This pedestal birdbath, tucked in the shade among giant hostas, gives birds an open place to perch, drink and bathe where they can also seek insects and nest-building supplies and watch for felines on patrol.



**Top Left:** A bluestone-capped flagstone wall augments guest seating.

**Top Right:** The lower terrace offers casual, shaded seating among lush plantings.

**Middle:** Stone steps make the spa more accessible and integrate it into the overall design.

**Bottom:** Containers overflow with annuals, extending the garden onto the patio.

# Stonework Makes the Most of a Compact Backyard.

Space to entertain—that was the homeowners' objective in a nutshell. In the past, they socialized on a wooden deck behind the home, but that had reached the end of its life and it was time for a more elegant solution. The Van Zelst team combined several types of stone to create a striking, intimate environment for hosting friends and family.

## Thoughtful ways to magnify a space.

To make the relatively small, shady garden feel more expansive, Van Zelst created two distinct seating areas in a terraced design. The upper patio, nearest the home, is surrounded by a bluestone-capped flagstone seatwall, adding to guest seating and delineating the space.

Instead of grass, a lower bluestone patio leads directly into the garden, alive with shade-friendly perennials, shrubs and mature evergreens cascading overhead. An existing spa was given a stone surround, visually connecting it to the overall environment, and paver pathways extend the experience around to the front of the home.

The new, cohesive design maximizes every inch of the available footprint, allowing the homeowners to entertain as often—and as elaborately—as they like.





# A Waterfront Landscape Feels New Again.

It was a pleasure to work on such an established Lake Geneva property—a home with great history and a beautiful site. But it was time to look at things with fresh eyes.

The Van Zelst team developed a design that radiates season-long color by complementing native plants with scores of shrubs and perennials. Stonework was added to construct a waterfall, connect banks of a creekbed and more. And the existing hardscape elements were returned to like-new condition. The before-and-after photos tell the story.



## The Many Shades of Green

At Van Zelst, we love color. Pinks, yellows, blues—the more the better. But sometimes the most powerful impact can come from using just one color, such as green, and exploring all it has to offer. Of course, green isn't just "one color." Even in a box of 64 crayons, nine are devoted to variations on the green theme.

This hidden garden getaway, designed to give the homeowners a place to pause and reflect, incorporates foliage that ranges from yellow-green to blue-green, with every green in between, for a fresh, lively effect.



**Before**



### Too Much of a Good Thing

Before renovation, the beds near the creek were overrun by ground-cover and featured only hostas and naturalized ferns. These plants were preserved in the redesign, but were augmented with more variety and color.

**After**



### Texture, Color and Variety

As the path meanders past established trees, the plantings come alive with shade-loving perennials, annuals and ground cover. Special attention was paid to choosing interesting shapes, sizes, textures and colors in the flowers and foliage to make every area visually stimulating.

**Before**



### Straight, Uninspired Lines

Uninteresting plantings follow the flow of the drive too closely. The Van Zelst used curved planting beds, adding turf where needed, to create a more pleasing effect.

**After**



### Visual Interest and Pleasing Curves

Generous plantings with a variety of colors, textures and heights are complemented by natural stone, adding visual interest beneath the trees. The winding entry drive is now a beautiful welcome for the homeowners and arriving guests.

**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)

# Gardens of Every Shape, Size and Style.

**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).



If you've read past issues of *Art & Nature*, you've seen some pretty spectacular landscapes in these pages. But while we love to publish photos and the stories behind those showstopper properties, in reality, many of our projects are on a much smaller scale.

The grand projects, however, really show the impact we can make using our broad toolbox. The landscape on this page, for example, incorporates a wide variety of our design, build and maintenance skills. As you read through each point on the list below, you can imagine how we could apply these techniques to your home this spring.

Regards,

*Dave*



## Design.

Here, the site was renovated to ensure breathtaking sight lines from the house and throughout the property, drawing attention to the family's African art collection and outdoor sculpture.

## Site grading.

It's hard to believe this grassy area was once a swimming pool. The home already has an indoor pool, so the homeowners wanted the outdoor pool removed to make room for more green space.

## Hardscape.

This home is a brilliant example of how formal and informal elements complement one another. Sleek bluestone pavers transition to a casual seating area. Flagstone surrounded by hardy sedum and Lannon stone steps seem to have been here forever. Proper installation assures that the stonework will be safe and attractive for years to come.

## Turf management.

When grass is such an important component of the landscape, keeping it healthy and well-tended is vital. In addition to mowing and edging, Van Zelst manages watering and fertilization and monitors for weeds, disease and pests.

## Maintenance.

Even though this setting may feel informal, weeding, edging, deadheading and other maintenance tasks ensure that it remains picture-perfect year-round.

## Seasonal color.

Choosing perennials that bloom throughout the growing season, supplemented by new annuals in the spring, summer and early fall months, guarantees constant color in the garden.

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

© 2011. 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.