

Lighting And Perennials Key To Landscape Award

The design, reconstruction and illumination of a Glenview residential property won a Gold Award for Van Zelst, Inc., a Wadsworth landscape firm, at the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association annual banquet last month.

In the renovation of the existing but aging garden, seven specimen spruce trees, each 37 to 45 feet tall, were located and transplanted on the site to complete a planned forest extension and border the garden area.

Thousands of perennial plants representing 30 varieties were planted in previously unused sunny and shaded areas. Perennials were carefully selected to complement existing older varieties in the garden.

New garden features included pine trees, shrubs, paths, seating areas and an illumination system for the entire property.

Landscape architects at Van Zelst used illumination to produce diverse visual effects at the Glenview residence.

“In recent years, carefully designed landscape illumination has become increasingly important to many of our clients,” said David Van Zelst, founder of the firm.

“The soft moonlight illumination has tremendous value, extending the hours of enjoyment of a garden and its spaces into the darkened hours of the evening. The artistic illumination enhances the living environment and creates outdoor rooms for family enjoyment and evening entertainment.”

Another Glenview residence earned Van Zelst a Silver Award for outstanding landscape management and a Wilmette residence won a Merit Award.

Gardens designed by Van Zelst, Inc. often use many varieties of perennials to present a constantly changing appearance through the seasons.

“Perennial garden areas can be enjoyed year-round. Well designed perennial beds can achieve the concept of constant color without removing plants and changing beds of annuals throughout the seasons,” said Van Zelst.

“As the concept of the throw-away society diminishes, so will the use of temporary plantings in the landscape.”

Van Zelst, Inc. has its main office and nursery on a 30-acre site at 39400 N. Highway 41, Wadsworth.