

## PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

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### Landscape Architects and Landscape Designers

People have practiced the art of landscape design almost since the beginning of time. Frederick Law Olmstead, 'the father of landscape architecture'; however, did not coin the term landscape architect until the end of the 19th century.

Landscape design is practiced by a broad cross section of people that include homeowners, nurserymen, landscape contractors, garden center personnel, garden designers, and landscape architects. This greatly adds to the difficulty in distinguishing the responsibilities and capabilities of landscape architects and landscape designers.

The primary difference between landscape architects and landscape designers occurs in the education and registration process. The majority of states in the U.S. have practice or title laws that govern persons practicing landscape architecture; meaning a person must meet certain requirements to practice or be referred to as a landscape architect. Candidates wishing to become a landscape architect must meet specific criteria set forth by the Council of Landscape Architects Registration Board (CLARB).

Typically, they must receive a degree in landscape architecture from a college or university program accredited by the Board of Landscape Architecture Accreditation, which is an agency of the National Commission of Accrediting. They must then complete a specified number of years of practical experience. The Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (LARE) is the next step in the process. Once the LARE is successfully completed, each state's State Board of Licensing and Regulation licenses the applicants.

Landscape designers may have a degree in landscape architecture, but more commonly receive a two or four year degree in landscape design or horticulture with training in design. They may also have built their knowledge through years of practical experience.

The responsibilities of LAs and LDs may overlap, especially in the residential areas. Both are expected to adhere to minimum standards of professional practice and ethics.

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**Danny and Patty Biafore** would like to thank all of our friends and clients for their thoughts and wishes during the past 2 months. Their operations were a great success and both should be up and about in no time.

#### Employee Profile

Most of our clients will recognize **Cecil Ledsome** as one of our key employees. He has been with our firm since November 1997. Cecil was formally trained by a nationally known landscape firm in the Metro Washington D.C. area. He now participates in many roles at Biafore's Landscaping and heads up our irrigation installation projects.

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Landscape architects are trained more extensively in construction, site and environmental planning, and urban design. They are more apt to design and oversee large-scale site development projects. Some county and state agencies require a registered landscape architect to prepare and seal planting plans, conservation plans and forest stand delineations before permits can be obtained. In larger firms that employ both landscape architects and landscape designers, landscape architects act as more of a generalist, overseeing the planning, while landscape designers may develop more detailed aspects of a master plan.

Both landscape designers and landscape architects develop residential and small scale commercial master plans and designs that address functional aspects such as parking, grading and drainage, planting, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, terracing, screening, lighting and irrigation. Both professionals may also be retained to provide cost estimates or manage the construction and installation of a landscape project.

Landscape architects and designers must be able to thoroughly communicate their design intentions both graphically and verbally to the client and contractor. They must also promote ethical practices, serve to maintain the integrity of their profession and promote the health, safety and welfare of the client.

*Excerpted from 'Landscape Architects and Landscape Designers' by Michael Biafore and Steve McHale for 'Ground Work', a publication of the Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia Landscape Contractor's Association.*

## Project Profile

### Malone Residence

Morgantown, WV

The residence of Chip and Beverly Malone has proven to be the ideal example of the benefits of a planned landscape design implemented in phases. Landscape design work began while their home was still under construction. At this point Biafore's Landscaping had the opportunity to work with the site excavator to establish final grades. We also were able to place into key areas boulders that were unearthed during the excavation of the basement. The first phase of installation was the front foundation and hillside planting. Since the home was located along a woodland edge, native trees and shrubs such as *Betula nigra* 'Heritage' (Heritage River Birch), *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire), *Ilex verticillata* 'Sparkleberry' (Winterberry) and a mix of perennials and ornamental grasses that included *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' (Blackeyed Susan), *Pennisetum alpecuroides* (Dwarf Fountain Grass), and *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' Purple Coneflower were utilized. A cut bluestone walkway with *Mazus reptans* (Creeping Mazus) planted in the joints leads to the front entry.

The second phase of landscape installation was the construction of a two tiered 6x6 timber wall and steps leading from the driveway area to the backyard. Stone left over from the house veneer was inserted between the timbers to provide a visual link between the house and the wall. The wall was planted with a mix of plant materials to compliment the front planting.

Phase number three was completed last winter and included a natural waterfall with cut stone steps leading up the hill to it. A semi-circular patio was constructed at the base of the deck using a rumbled concrete paver called Dublin Cobble. This section of the landscape plan was finished off with the installation of a low-voltage landscape lighting scheme.

Even though a landscape plan is painstakingly prepared at the beginning of a project, often a client's needs change as time passes. Currently, design drawings are in the works to incorporate a vegetative buffer along property lines that will address the visual impact of construction of a new home to the south of the Malone's Residence. Through the years and revisions, the Malone's landscape maintains a unified, cohesive feel.



# A Brief History of Fresh Seasonal Decorations

By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center

**T**he most recognized Christmas decoration in the United States is the cut Christmas tree. Its legacy is generally credited to the Bohemian Germans. This tradition predates Christianity and is generally attributed to the winter solstice celebration of Nord, the head of Pantheon who ruled from 200 BCE (before Christian Era) to around 1000CE (Christian Era). Like many American traditions, the Christmas tree was folded into modern Christmas traditions and then imported with immigrants to the US in the early 1800's. A point of interest: in the 1850's Germany outlawed the cutting of Christmas trees and boughs because the country's few remaining southern forests were being destroyed. The Germans then began manufacturing them from dyed goose feathers, thus creating the first artificial Christmas trees.



Cut Christmas trees, regardless of species, are easy to keep in good condition with basic maintenance. When bringing them home consider spraying the tree with an anti-transparent such as Wilt-Proof® to reduce water loss through the needles. Make sure it is dry before bringing it inside. Anti-transparent are wax based, so they will make a mess on the floor if not dry.

Second, always recut the trunk of the tree. The freshly exposed vascular tissue will take up much more water than the old calloused base. Finally, never let the tree run out of water. The best tree preservative is one can of 7-UP to one gallon of water. 7-UP contains sugar, citric acid, and preservative, everything a Christmas tree could want.

Balled Christmas trees are treated much the same way as cut ones. The thing to remember is that the more time a tree spends inside, the less likely it is to survive after being planted outdoors. A tree that spends 10 days in the house has a 50% greater chance of living outside than a tree that spends 20 days inside.

Christmas greens come in a variety of forms; generally they are chosen for their fragrance and durability. Inside, balsam, fir and cedar hold up well and smell the best. Historically, evergreen boughs were brought into the house to decorate the crèche, or nativity scene in Ukrainian and Polish homes. In fact, greens were probably brought into the winter home to cover the fragrance of an agriculturist's winter roommates. Whatever the reason, evergreens are great for holiday decorating. For greens that cannot be put in to water (garlands, wreaths, etc.) soak in water over night and then spray with an anti transparent. Greens that are arranged in water or foam should have fresh water and 7-UP every other day.

**Have a wonderful holiday season!!!!**

*Hauge's has a variety of Christmas decorations and plant material for the winter season. Hauge's is located on old Rt. 73 in White Hall, just outside of Fairmont.*

*'At Christmas I no more desire a rose than wish a snow in May's new fangled mirth'*  
William Shakespeare

# Plant for the Season

**W**inter brings the feeling of dormancy to the garden. Lack of life and activity are what most people think of when they think of the outdoors from December thru February. Though it is a time of little activity for gardeners, there are many species of plant materials that offer striking winter character during these otherwise barren months. *Ilex verticillata*, common name **Winterberry**, is just such a plant. Winterberry is a deciduous species of holly, meaning it drops its leaves in the winter after forming its fruit. The effect is a dazzling display of bright red berries covering the bare twigs from top to bottom. This can be especially striking against a blanket of snow or with the tan fall colors of an ornamental grass in the background. Most winterberries eventually become large shrubs or small trees, reaching 8 to 15 feet in height and at least as wide. There are many dwarf varieties also available. The winterberry cultivars 'Cacapon', 'Fairfax', and 'Shaver' were developed by the late WVU professor O.M. Neal. These particular varieties along with 'Sparkleberry' and 'Red Sprite' are heavy fruiters with excellent winter hardiness. Plant winterberries in moist, acid soil (pH 4.5-5.5) in full sun or partial shade. Winterberry are very adaptable to wet conditions and will produce larger, showier fruits under these conditions. As with most varieties of holly, make sure to plant a male variety also if one does not exist in close proximity.



*'Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle' – Barbara Winkler*

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