

Awards Program

Gold Award 2005

Residential Landscape
Construction



Chicago hotelier Harvey Thompson built this landmark property in 1861. He was Lake Forest's first mayor and was widely known as a sophisticated gardener. The current owner felt the responsibility to honor his legacy both in the home and garden renovation. The role of the landscape architect/contractor was not only to design and build garden spaces, but to consider exterior changes in the architecture that would enhance the relationship of house to garden.

Research revealed that many of the Victorian details of the house and garden had been removed. Period photographs helped guide many of the design concepts, along with the client's desire to create a Victorian garden with south-

ern style. Thompson's legacy lasts today in some of the largest specimen trees in the area, including mature Japanese tree lilacs, ginko, oak, spruce

The Brickman Group, Ltd. Mundelein

and pine. Their prominence in the landscape, along with remnants of old parterre terraces, helped to guide the design of view sheds and circulation throughout the property.

Designing period gardens with present day lifestyle requirements presented many challenges. The young family wanted room for a swimming pool and spa, along with separate garden spaces for entertaining. The attached garage

functioned better than a period coach house, but looked "tacked on" and inappropriate to the Italianate home. The federal style front porch functioned

well, but again did not fit the style of the house and certainly did not link well with the garden. Unfortunately, the first and most prominent elements viewed upon entering the property were the garage and porch.

Organizing the view, honoring the history of property and style of the house, making strong connections with interior spaces to the garden, and accommodating modern uses were the guiding elements in creating 21st Century gardens. ❀