

Healing Landscapes - Accessible to All

Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Gathering Spaces

Together with Susan Maxman & Partners, Architects, Viridian Landscape Studio worked to create an ecologically sound development plan that would sustain the religious order, promote spirituality, and maintain the ecological health of the 280-acre campus. The Sisters envisioned a master plan and site improvements that made tangible their philosophy of living sustainably. The ambitious program for the campus separated vehicular and pedestrian circulation, converted lawns to sustainable meadows, integrated stormwater management with wet meadows and swales, demonstrated natural graywater treatment with a constructed wetland, preserved rare oak savannah habitat, cultivated organic gardens and created contemplative spaces and Alzheimer's Court. In 2006 the project was LEED certified and was selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE) as one of its Top 10 Green Projects.

Felician Sisters Convent and School



Installation of Labyrinth

The 73-acre site is home to a convent and school, constructed in the 1930s. The building renovation, designed by Perkins Eastman, Architects, requires new handicapped-accessible entrances and clarification of the site's vehicular circulation and parking. The building and site demonstrate sustainable design and received LEED Gold certification.

In developing the Master Plan, the Sisters wanted to explore the contemplative and spiritual aspects of their future site. On the journey to the cemetery, extensive areas of lawn are converted to meadow, with Stations of the Cross sited along a new allee of trees. Landscape courtyards will also provide the School with a performance court and the Convent with a prayer labyrinth and Alzheimer's Court.

Nursing Education Building - University of Pennsylvania



The transformed courtyard where the accessible path is just as enjoyable and beautiful to traverse as the stairway.



Viridian Landscape Studio transformed a forbidding and unfriendly, walled and paved 1970s plaza into an urban garden entry court. Working closely with SMP Architects, architects for the total building renovation, we carefully designed the building entry sequence. We consulted with Penn State soil scientist Tim Craul to develop a special soil mix in which to grow a new garden. This mix was placed atop the existing underground parking structure. It supports the long-term growth of a lush matrix of trees, shrubs and groundcovers.