

NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL



Award Winner: A Whole Lot Of Tuscany In This Medina Residence • Page 8

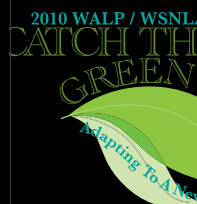
Cover: Project By Pacific Earth Works • 2008 WALP Environmental Landscape Award Of Distinction

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A Whole Lot Of Tuscany In This Medina Residence

Pacific Earth Works Pulls Together A Collaborative Team and Pulls Off An Impressive Project



The entry fountain is highlighted with pink stripe flax in the background and annuals in the foreground.

That is not the Mediterranean you see off in the distance - it's Lake Washington - even though this Tuscan residence situated in Medina makes you feel you are in Italy. The task of installing the landscape to complete the mood fell on Pacific Earth Works of Monroe, which received a well-deserved 2008 WALP Environmental Landscape Award of Distinction.

The challenge was to renovate an existing garden to complement the Mediterranean theme of the house. Work consisted of pretty much every aspect of landscaping: Earthwork, turf, concrete curbs/mow strips, paver patio expansion, stamped concrete, sandstone steps, accent boulders, cedar sound barrier fencing, rusted metal screen panels, drainage, irrigation, planting, transplanting, low-voltage lighting, and a new outdoor dual barbecue island with granite counter tops and arbor.

"To me, the most unique part of this project was the collaboration amongst all the parties involved," said Aaron Ascher who served as both Estimator and Project Manager for Pacific Earth Works. "While there was a complete design for the exterior improvements at the start, many field changes needed to be quickly implemented. The relationship and effective communication between the owner, the landscape architect, and our foreman were the keys to this project's success. With so many elements in such a tight space, it is a credit to the design to pull this off seamlessly."

Landscape Architect Dar Webb, of Darwin Webb Landscape Architects, and Pacific Earth Works' foreman Rick DeFrancesco had worked together on several other projects and had built a collaborative relationship.

Creating a family-friendly outdoor living space (the project includes a kids "dig and

play" area), while establishing the kind of dramatic overall Tuscan emphasis, was an intended outcome of the effort.

"In my opinion," Ascher pointed out, "the element that really set this project off was staining the cedar fence a dark brown color. This allowed all of the elements in the foreground to stand out as opposed to being 'washed out' with the traditional lighter cedar tone."

The result? Spectacular! The owner was pleased with the finished project, which made all parties happy.

Pacific Earth Works specializes in commercial and high-end residential landscaping, irrigation and drainage, wetland mitigation and stream work, park and recreational site construction, and athletic field development. It has been in business and winning awards for more than 30 years.

Visit Pacific Earth Works' website at www.pacificearthworks.com.



1

Photo 1

“Before” photo with an unhealthy lawn and lots of moss.



2

Photo 2

The finished backyard is a great place to enjoy a warm summer evening. Note the dark stained wood fence.

One of the dramatic features is this Montana ledgestone drystack wall with Wilkeson sandstone stairs.

Photo 3

Basalt columns and granite steps surround the “dig and play” area for the kids.



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