

# J GURNEE / WADSWORTH JOURNAL

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>> Wadsworth

## Colorful landscape wins gold for Van Zelst

Local design company honored with award from state association

### LAKE COUNTY JOURNALS

WADSWORTH - Van Zelst, Inc., a Wadsworth landscaping design firm, will receive a gold award for its design and installation of a unique garden at a home in Lake Bluff.

The award will be presented by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association at a ceremony Feb. 22 in Elk Grove Village. The association conducts an annual juried review of the work of many of its 800 members.

The gardens in the front and rear of the home have an abundance of annuals and perennials framed by a new blue-stone patio and walkways. Plantings of annuals include pink and white impatiens, blue ageratum, pink begonias, cleome, rose geraniums and yellow rudbeckia. Clumps of hosta add an accent of blue-green.

Witch hazel is espaliered on the brick chimney with accents of pink impatiens and "green velvet" boxwood. Large wood window boxes on both the house and garage and large planters in the entertainment areas feature red geraniums, yellow lantana and a trailing vinca vine above a bed of pink astilbe with viburnum at the edges.

"The hundreds of seasonal annuals and perennials highlight the property in color during the seasons and accommodate the needs and desires of the homeowner," said David Van Zelst, landscape architect and company president.

A granite millstone fountain adds interest in sight and sound. Polished black stones blend the foundation with the surrounding garden. Illumination of the front garden and entry is installed for extended garden viewing, safety and security.

To provide privacy in the rear garden, additional shrubs and trees were installed.

A large diseased oak tree between the house and garage had to be removed. The homeowners wanted a tree with mature appearance as a replace-

ment. There were also major drainage problems. They looked to Van Zelst, Inc., to solve the problems and provide a new look to their garden.

Van Zelst, Inc., had the unusual assignment of moving a 28-foot elm tree over the newly renovated garage.

David Van Zelst said the move involved the efforts of his company with the nursery that grew the tree, the trucking firm that hauled the tree with a root ball estimated to weigh 7 tons; and crane-rigging crews that maneuvered the high lift crane boom.

"With advance planning, excellent weather and closely coordinated teamwork, the tree took off and landed on schedule," Van Zelst said.

Although unseen, the project also included a major renovation underground with hundreds of feet of drain tile to improve the storm water management and allow the floral beauty to thrive above ground.

The headquarters of Van Zelst, Inc., is at 39400 N. Route 41, Wadsworth. The firm operates an onsite nursery. For information call 847-623-3580 or go online at [www.vanzelst.com](http://www.vanzelst.com).