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MARIANI LANDSCAPE
DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE

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HINSDALE HOME TAKES CUES FROM A BRITISH ESTATE

Add vibrant color to your
winter-to-spring landscape design

From grand to simple: Ideas for
a multi-purpose outdoor space

Beautifully Designed.
Uniquely You. Value That Lasts.

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Growing Our Roots

Mariani Designs Garden for Infant Welfare Society's Lake Forest Showhouse April 30 to May 22

Each year, the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago selects a showcase house, engages top designers to create new and exciting spaces, and raises money by opening the home to the community for tours. Mariani Landscape has once again been asked to support the organization, which is dedicated to offering vulnerable families the medical support needed to help children live healthy and productive lives. Mariani will design and install a rear terrace landscape to the 2011 Lake Forest Showhouse & Gardens. This year's home will be open to the public from April 30 to May 22. For more information, visit www.lakeforestshowhouse.com.

Frank Mariani Honored For Green Industry Leadership

Frank Mariani was honored by the Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA) at the organization's annual dinner on January 19. According to IGIA, "The principles and values instilled in Frank by his father Vito were the very seeds that have grown Mariani Landscape into one of the country's most successful green industry businesses." The dinner not only honored Frank Mariani, but proceeds ensured that the Illinois Green Industry Association continues to have a voice both in Washington and Springfield on green industry business matters.

Chicago Botanic Garden Features Themed-garden Designed by Mariani Landscape April 15 to 17

Mariani Landscape is designing and installing a display garden for the 11th Annual Chicago Botanic Garden Arts and Antique Fair. Visit the Chicago Botanic Garden from April 15 to 17 to see Mariani's garden with the theme "Landscapes Transformed: Gardens of a New Era."

In Mariani's Blog: Learn How to Increase the Beauty and Value of Your Outdoor Space



Mariani's created a blog offering tips on how to have a beautifully designed environment that is uniquely you. Visit Mariani's "In the Garden" blog to learn about gardening trends, container ideas and ways to add value to your outdoor spaces. www.blogspot.marianilandscape.com.



Dear Friends,

I could hardly wait to say it: spring is here! Each season brings something special to enjoy. But being in the landscape business my entire life makes spring by far my favorite. It's a time of renewal and possibility.

That's something most of us could use a little of right now.

The last few years have been tough for our country, for most in the business community, and for Mariani, too. Our landscape design and construction business was affected as the new housing market shrank, and some people waited to spruce up their homes and gardens because they weren't sure how long the recession would continue. On the other hand, we're grateful that our maintenance business grew—because people see the care our crews take to protect their landscape investment. This helped us to not only maintain but add to our fine team.

While your property has been hibernating, we've been working—searching for ways to reward your patronage. We're not content to grow just because the economy is on the upswing. Mariani's goal is to prosper by adding value to the quality services we already offer. Simply put, this winter we charged our team anew with three initiatives: 1) to train-train-train, so we can do a better job; 2) to offer new, worthwhile services, and 3) to find ways to lower our costs to you!

Strangely enough, the computer industry became our model. Computers once consumed building-sized spaces, took years to learn to operate, and cost millions. Today, they fit in the palm of your hand, are used by children, and have a smaller price tag than a TV!

So our approach evolved, too. You'll experience this as you work with your Mariani representative and crews this year. Look for improvements in the services you have enjoyed—and some new ones you'll appreciate. And find the best pricing we have ever had—from enhancement planting for our maintenance clients, to installation for our design and construction work.

We'll also continue to acknowledge your relationship with us. Two of the most popular ways we do this are 1) hosting several complimentary garden walks and 2) our Referral Rewards Program, which earns you a credit on your next enhancement project when your family or friends join the Mariani client family.

Please reach out to me with any questions and comments on our programs and services—all of us value your opinions.

Here's to a spring of possibilities that blooms into a great year for all of us!

Frank Mariani, CEO

P.S. Become a fan of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/marianilandscape and follow our "In the Garden" blog at www.blog.marianilandscape.com to hear about us in the news and learn tips to apply to your own garden.



“While your property has been hibernating, we’ve been working — searching for ways to reward your patronage.”

- Frank Mariani, CEO



English Design with a Hinsdale Twist

A traditional English-style home's landscape in Hinsdale takes its cues from the gardens of a sprawling British country estate. Framed by a symmetrical design, crisp boxwoods and formal gardens, the home features elegant courtyards and outdoor rooms for entertaining. Here's the twist – a bentgrass lawn fit for a fairway adds a unique element to the charming design and accommodates an avid golfer.

“While the home is relatively new construction, the homeowner wanted us to create a landscape that would complement its architecture and give the sense the home was older,” says Landscape Architect Tony Lobello. To accomplish this, Mariani used traditional hardscape elements, classic plant palettes, and symmetric and geometric design to frame the home.

In keeping with the home's expertly manicured foliage, a luxurious bentgrass lawn was installed to add a unique touch to the landscape.

Strolling up to the front entrance, visitors will notice a classic herringbone walkway flanked by crisp green gem boxwoods, which are filled with a rotating plant palette depending on the season. A front courtyard-like space with limestone and brick decorative pillars is complemented by Tina crabapples. These

Mariani used formal design of the home's elegant gardens and careful attention to detail to create an outdoor sanctuary that could be seen in the rolling hills of England.

are planted on either side of the walkway and chosen for their beautiful foliage, attractive fruit and resistance to disease. “In the spring, the blossoms on these trees almost completely hide their branches,” says Lobello.

In keeping with the home's expertly manicured foliage, a luxurious bentgrass lawn was installed to add a unique touch to the landscape. “Bentgrass is one of the most beautiful grasses available and is usually only seen on golf courses,” Lobello explains. “To ensure the health of the grass, intense maintenance is required.” Each week Mariani sprays the grass with a specially formulated fungicide. Mariani uses a special walking green mower to maintain a healthy height of the grass.

Moving to the rear of the home, hardscapes are more eclectic and feature a mixture of brick, limestone and bluestone.



“Combining these elements creates visual interest and ties the landscape to the home's architectural elements,” says Lobello. A sundial purchased in England is the centerpiece of the rear courtyard. This is surrounded by four boxwood garden parterres in criss-cross and interlocking diamond patterns to create a picturesque view from inside the home. “The homeowner wanted to have outstanding views of the landscape from the interior,” explains Lobello.

Because the homeowner enjoys cooking, Mariani designed an organic vegetable garden near the rear cottage. This features lemon and pear trees, herbs, heirloom tomatoes, peppers and flowers such as zinnia and roses for cutting. “To keep bunnies out of the garden, we had a traditional waddle fence flown in from England,” says Lobello. Fresh vegetables can be enjoyed in the outdoor dining area, featuring a wisteria-covered pergola. And just steps away is an outdoor fireplace and flat screen television. “It was important to the homeowners to enhance their already established outdoor spaces,” Lobello adds.

Mariani used formal design of the home's elegant gardens and careful attention to detail to create an outdoor sanctuary that could be seen in the rolling hills of England. And with the addition of a bentgrass lawn, this space uniquely reflects the homeowners.

Planter's Palette

Colorful Spring Containers



Just as a garden can be a work of art, a well-planned container garden can too. Create a beautiful spring container garden with “Ice Follies Narcissus” dafodils, “Apricot” tulips, mixed colors of “Antique Shades” Pansies and Purple Nemesia. Incorporating variegated ivy can also add texture and interest to the container.

For a more simple look, combine brightly colored tulips with soft lavender to add color contrast to a container. The fragrant tulips and lavender will also add another element to stimulate the senses.

From White to Bright: Spring Bulbs That Add Color To Your Landscape

Planting a beautiful and vibrant landscape for the spring starts well before the first official day of the season. In late fall and early winter, Mariani begins planting bulbs of all varieties. These become the first to pop out of the snow-covered landscape and then flourish until late spring and early summer. From the bell-shaped flower of the snowdrop and the stunning grape hyacinth, to the classic tulip and the resilient daffodil, Mariani adorns your landscape with bulb varieties that last throughout the winter-to-spring season.

While bulb planting begins in the fall, it does not take long for the snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) to poke through the freezing tundra. Because of its hardy nature, this bell-shaped flower begins blooming in the late winter and is the first of the bulbs to present itself. Blossoms may match the snow-covered landscape, but the accompanying green foliage adds much needed color.

As spring approaches, the grape hyacinth (*Muscari*) adds a burst of color to your garden from March through April. Typically planted in masses, these elegant grape-shaped flowers feature bluish or purple petals with white tips. Grape hyacinths add color to a landscape that is typically colorless during the winter-to-spring months and, according to Mariani Landscape's Shari Precht, they are also resistant to deer.

Multi-colored tulips are always a favorite of clients. Although classified as a perennial, they are planted each year. From bright reds and deep purples, to soft yellow, white and pink, tulips have come to signify the entrance of spring and bloom from mid-to-late April. For example, Mariani planted a tulip garden inspired by the color palette of Monet at a home on Lake Michigan's shore.

"Daffodils could be considered the most successful of spring bulbs," says Precht. Daffodils are resistant to deer and are available in more colors than the common yellow. "They can be white, orange, pink and cream," says Precht. Unlike tulips, daffodils do not have to be planted each year. Bloom times begin in April and continue through May. If you missed the Fall planting season, don't worry, Mariani can help you force bulbs for your outdoor containers.

For more information on adding color to your winter-to-spring landscape, contact your Mariani Landscape representative at 847.234.2172.



Creating a Multi-purpose Landscape That is Uniquely You

Extend your indoor living to the outdoors by creating a beautifully designed space for entertaining, relaxation and rejuvenation. According to landscape architect Sara Furlan, "A multi-purpose outdoor living space can be as simple or grand as desired." From cutting and vegetable gardens to outdoor dining rooms, kitchens and pools and spas, Mariani Landscape brings value to your outdoor living space.

Charity Spotlight

Creating a Healing Garden for Victims of Abuse at Allendale Association



A garden can have a healing effect on a person's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Next summer, Mariani Landscape will bring the healing environment to those who truly need this. It is donating the design and installation of vegetable, butterfly and cutting gardens, and a healing garden at the Lake Villa facility of the Allendale Association. This private, not-for-profit organization has been dedicated to excellence and innovation in the care, education, treatment and advocacy for families since 1897.

Serving more than 700 children, youth, and families annually, Allendale Association helps them heal and prepare for a brighter future through sophisticated therapeutic programs and services. Often victims of abuse, neglect or severe mental illness, youth come to Allendale with the devastating experiences of failure in the classroom, misunderstanding in the home and isolation in the community.

"We are excited to work with Allendale this summer to create an outdoor healing space for youth and families to work together, relax and restore," says Landscape Designer Terra Gurgone. The vegetable,

butterfly and cutting gardens will enliven the senses, and a healing garden with water features and a pergola offer a place of relaxation, to help youth and families during the healing process. "It's important to move the healing process outdoors," states Gurgone. "Families will be able to pick gourds for art projects, bring the garden indoors with fresh flowers from the cutting garden, and listen to the soothing sounds of nature in the healing garden."

For more information on the Allendale Association or to donate or volunteer, visit www.allendale4kids.org.

Vegetable Gardens

Next summer, watch produce mature and ripen in your own organic vegetable garden. Yours may feature vegetables of the season that are ready to move straight from the garden to the table. In the spring, Mariani will begin adding organic compost to the soil to prepare it for cold and hardy lettuces, arugula, parsley, onions and broccoli. Once the temperature warms, enjoy tomatoes, peppers, beets, kale, swiss chard and zucchini, just to name a few.

Cutting Gardens

A cutting garden not only provides a beautiful outdoor space that features flowers such as tulips, daffodils, grape hyacinths, dahlias, peonies, lavender and other flowering plants. It also allows you to bring your garden indoors for fresh flower arrangements. Cutting gardens can be planted with vegetable gardens to add visual interest and can even attract beneficial insects to pollinate vegetables.

Outdoor Kitchens

From a simple grilling space to a full outdoor kitchen, Mariani creates an outdoor culinary oasis. Full outdoor kitchens can feature working sinks, sophisticated cabinetry, wine storage and weather-resistant granite and bluestone counter tops. Appliances such as fully integrated grills, refrigerators, icemakers and warming drawers may also be installed.

Outdoor Dining Rooms

Move outdoors to enjoy a meal harvested from your vegetable garden and prepared in your outdoor kitchen. By using plant material such as boxwoods or evergreens, the walls of an outdoor dining room take shape. In some cases, flowering shrubs such as Spirea or even Cornelian Cherry trees can also act as walls to an outdoor dining room. A pergola can create the illusion of a ceiling, and flagstone, bluestone and slate offer a finishing touch to a dining room's patio surface. Outdoor furnishings can complement the home's interior accents to blend seamlessly. An outdoor fireplace can also add a charming touch to the dining experience.

Pools and Spas

Mariani offers endless possibilities for a unique pool and spa design, creating additional spaces to enjoy the beauty of a home. Spas enable you to be outdoors well into the fall. Shooting water effects can transform a pool into a water feature when not used for recreational purposes. "It's better to start construction of these spaces as soon as possible, because it usually take two to three months to install," says Mariani's Tony Lobello.

Learn how to extend your living space outdoors by contacting a Mariani representative today at 847.234.2172.