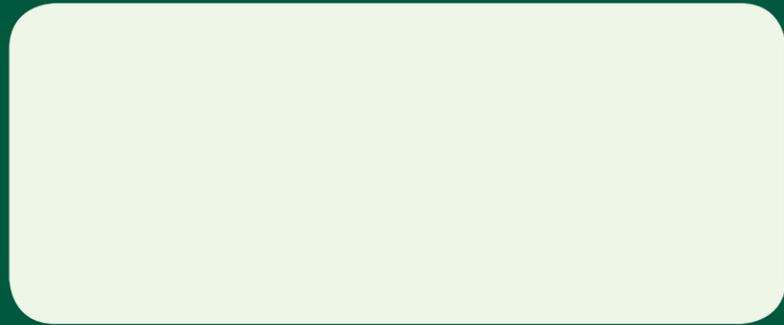


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MARIANI LANDSCAPE
DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE

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WINTER 2010

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MARIANI LANDSCAPE
DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE

ELEGANT LANDSCAPING FOR FOUR SEASONS

Mariani design transforms
Willow Festival shopping center

Mariani gives back to
Lake Forest community
after beetles destroy trees

Our mission is to create and maintain unique,
quality environments for the benefit of our
clients and community.

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MARIANI
LANDSCAPE/DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE

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Dear Friends,

As our company has developed steadily over the past 50 years, the growth has always been organic, synergistic and typically in response to a customer request.

Originally started as a small mom and pop residential maintenance company, Mariani Landscape now offers residential and commercial maintenance services;

award-winning “green” LEED certified design and installation; organic environmentally sensitive design, build and maintenance options; perennial & annual flower and vegetable garden design and care; holiday lighting; decorating and Christmas tree sales and installation—all driven by customer demand.

Because our maintenance clients were requesting landscape design, we added garden design and construction to our maintenance routine years ago. Frankly, our maintenance roots made us better at design: It is easy to choose a pretty combination of plants and hardscapes for the short term, but without a good understanding of how Mother Nature will affect the plants and construction materials, many times failure is right around the corner.

The maintenance business has also taught me to stay away from the latest trends and instead focus on classic design and build techniques. I like to equate it to Persian rugs. Thousands of years ago, Persian rugs were beautifully made to withstand the harsh conditions. Today they still look beautiful, whether placed in a rustic Tudor along Lake Michigan or on the top floor of a contemporary penthouse apartment in Chicago. That is classic design and construction stands the test of time, which is what we have strived to do by performing all the services we offer to the best of industry standards at a great value.

Our clients wanted more selection of locally grown nursery stock, so we started our own nursery. We hired the best propagators, nurserymen and women available, which allows us to choose what we grow rather than using only what is made available to us. We also have the ability to experiment with the cycles and arrangements of plants and shrubs so that we can extend the planting season for our customers. After a mild 2009, we’re already anticipating the use of more annual and perennial palettes so that we can stretch the season of enjoyment.

Our services also include snow plowing as a result of a client request. Just like all our other services, in the winter we offer reliability, care of the client’s property in all seasons, and total accountability while delivering tremendous value that lasts.

We would like to encourage you—our loyal clients—to recommend any of our services to your neighbors. Imagine if we performed our services for all of your neighbors and committed to providing those services for every single home on the same day! Such a set-up would allow us to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing our commute, resulting in savings that we would happily pass on to you! A decrease in noise pollution (although our equipment is already the most efficient and quietest that money can buy!) from our array of blowers and trimmers would also serve as a benefit of a one-day service stop to your neighborhood. Believe it or not, many of you responded to this request in 2009 and we are already improving the environment through better planned routing and neighbor-to-neighbor savings from Mariani Landscape.

As always, please share your questions and suggestions, as we love hearing from you.

Frank Mariani, CEO

P.S. Over the past 50 years, your requests to add landscape design, holiday decorating and sustainability services have become cornerstones of our business today. We look forward to working with you in the future.

In the News

Mariani Wins Honor Award From the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ILASLA)

Mariani Landscape has been recognized with an Honor Award in Communications by the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for its design exhibit “Hope for the Healing Planet” at the 2009 Chicago Flower and Garden Show. Produced in conjunction with the Chicago Botanic Garden, the exhibit featured a 4,400-square-foot garden with unique pebble flooring, circular rooftop gardens, native plant materials and decking constructed from farm-harvested hardwood. Visitors were educated on methods of rainwater recycling management and the importance of green gardening plans.

Mariani Designs Garden for Antique & Garden Fair

Mariani Landscape is designing a 16’ x 16’ garden for the Chicago Botanic Garden’s 10th Annual Antique & Garden Fair. Mariani’s garden, which is in keeping with the fair’s “Great American Gardens” theme, will be featured at the Regenstein Center’s Esplanade from April 16-18. Fair hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Advance tickets are available starting March 1 online at www.chicagobotanic.org.

Hinsdale Garden Walk visitors learn that gardens can be beautiful year-round



Timeless beauty. Tranquil outdoor space. Classic landscape design. These are hallmarks of Mariani Landscape. In October, Mariani invited west suburban residents to take a stroll through five different Hinsdale landscapes designed, installed and maintained by Mariani. Teaching participants how they can enjoy their gardens well into December, the tour featured fall plantings such as orange and red mums, witch hazel and burning bush. The final garden on the tour featured a vegetable garden with Swiss chard, kale and other fall vegetables. “It’s Mariani’s philosophy to create outdoor spaces for year-round enjoyment,” says client representative Don Oesch.



“Mariani Landscape offers reliability, care of our client’s property through all seasons and total accountability while delivering tremendous value that lasts.”

Frank Mariani



Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter

Landscapes for All Seasons

The impressionistic style of Monet has been translated into a landscape with a plant palette changing with every season. From colorful foliage in the fall and hearty greenery in the winter to pastel tulips in the spring and bright pink and purple impatiens in the summer, each season offers a different approach to elegant landscape design.



A pergola draped in wisteria forms an outdoor room offering a shaded respite during summer months.

“For many of our clients, we rotate annuals in the spring, summer and fall,” says Mariani client representative Shari Precht. “In the winter, we create a dramatic display with evergreens and outdoor lighting.” Adjusting the landscape to accommodate each season is an intensive process and can take up to three to four days to install, yet the resulting landscape showcases the beauty of each season. Designing a four-season landscape also goes beyond seasonal plant rotations by incorporating evergreens and deciduous plants which provide year-round interest in the landscape design.

In the fall, the Lake Michigan home features sky blue and purple pansies surrounding bulb beds that will eventually emerge as tulips in the spring. “During the initial design phase, we plan for these beds and create open bedding areas to plant annuals which flower and provide more impact,” says landscape architect Sara Furlan. “Planting burning bush, witch hazel and crab apples also brings beautiful fall foliage to the property.” Burgundy Mums are planted roadside as well as in 18 containers featuring kale and ivy.

During the winter, Mariani covers the Lake Michigan home’s annual beds with evergreen boughs to act as a groundcover

to add seasonal elegance. Containers are filled with Noble firs, winterberry, boxwood and dogwoods and feature classic white lighting. A fountain on the property is shut down during the winter but is adorned with evergreen accents and curly willow. All evergreens along the entrance are accented by subtle blue lighting and crabapple trees produce winter fruit dusted by snow. “We also bring in and light a Fraser fir tree for the interior of the residence,” says Precht.

“Planting burning bush, witch hazel and crab apples also brings beautiful fall foliage to the property.” - Sara Furlan

For a home in Winnetka, spring is the most grandiose season. The French-style home features Versailles boxes filled with French tulips, daffodils and Algerian ivy. “The client is a French purist, so it was important to keep that aesthetic throughout the landscape,” says Head Horticulturalist Jim Osborne. Lenten Roses, an herbaceous perennial, bloom in early spring and may even push through a blanket of snow in late winter. Sweeps of color are provided by extensive plantings of tulips throughout the property.

Summer brings shade gardens to the Winnetka property with large locust trees creating a canopy for perennials such as hostas, goat’s beard and astilbes, which are long-blooming, plume-like flowers in shades of white and pink. Pots and containers overflow with white- and salmon-colored impatiens and during the first rotation on the summer feature hydrangeas. “Versailles boxes are a permanent outdoor feature for the property, so for each season it’s essential that we keep them filled with seasonally appropriate foliage,” says Osborne. After being stored at Mariani’s greenhouse during the winter, large six-to- seven-foot gardenia trees are brought in and placed in the property’s Versailles boxes.

In order for us to continue to serve you and receive updates from Mariani Landscape, please take a minute to update your information.

- I am interested in Mariani's design and build services. Please send me more information.
- I am interested in Mariani's landscape maintenance services. Please send me more information.
- I want to be added to Mariani's email list so I can receive an electronic version of Folio and other exciting announcements.
- Please update my mailing information.

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Bergenia 'Eroica'



Dicentra 'Gold Heart'



Brunnera 'Jack Frost'

Featured Foliage

Bergenia 'Eroica' along with Brunnera 'Jack Frost' and Dicentra 'Gold Heart'

A great combination in a part sun/part shade or all shade woodland type garden. Bergenia 'Eroica' which is more cold tolerant than other forms and can be grown in zones 4 and 5 with great success. Brunnera 'Jack Frost' is a superb introduction, forming a clump of heart-shaped silver leaves, delicately veined with mint green. Dicentra 'Gold Heart' gives a magnificent glow to the garden corner where leaves will be a brighter lime green. The typical rose-pink, heart-shaped flowers are highlighted beautifully against the foliage all spring. These three plants are good, easy to grow woodland plants or for part sun/part shade gardens all blooming in the spring.

Willow Festival Commercial Project Blossoms with Mariani's Involvement

What makes a large-scale retail development more than a collection of stores? At Willow Festival in Northbrook, developer Hamilton Partners enlisted the help of Mariani Landscape to create an outdoor experience that engages visitors with a creative mix of hardscapes and softscapes that lend a festive feel to the property.

Located at the bustling northwest corner of Willow and Waukegan roads, the 400,000 square foot Willow Festival is home to numerous large-scale stores including Best Buy, Lowe's, and DSW as well as smaller retail stores, banks and restaurants. With the location drawing an average of 67,000 cars per day, the commercial space needed an easily maintained, cohesive landscape design that would complement the surrounding community.

The sheer size of such a space forced the design team to continuously think of the theme for the entire site when working on the smaller elements, according to Mariani landscape architect Shannon Mitchell. "This was one of the largest retail projects I've ever designed," says Mitchell. "One of the biggest challenges was to stay focused on the design as a whole because there were so many little specific details we could have gotten caught up with. We really had to continuously think about how the language of the design had to connect the entire site."

The finished project uses massive ornate beds of hardy perennials such as cottage pink dianthus, double gold daylilies and purple dome New England asters. The beautiful array of color is coupled

with low-maintenance materials in outlying areas such as reed and heavy metal switch grasses as well as shrubs and trees. A massive fountain surrounded by tall grasses and colorful flowers serves as Willow Festival's focal point at the corner of Willow and Waukegan roads, quickly catching the eye and inviting passing motorists into the shopping center.

Another favorite element of the shopping center is a fish pond near the entrance to Potbelly Sandwich Works. A stopping point for many onlookers, the pond is made with a naturalized rock with outcropping stones that holds aquatic plants and, of course, fish. "It has really been fun to see people interacting with the space. It's not just about the plants but it's the people interacting with the design," says Mitchell.

Hamilton Partners partner Todd Berlinghof worked closely with Mariani to offer ideas for the landscape concept. "The comments on the landscaping have been exceptional," says Berlinghof. "They created the style by using hard and soft features in a unique way. Mariani's design definitely served its purpose. Everyone has said the space looks outstanding."

Mariani recently designed additional landscaping to continue incorporating the overall design for new Willow Festival tenant, Zapatista Mexican Grill. "There is a lot of transition space from the parking lot to the front door of the retailer," says Mitchell. The Willow Festival development has been very supportive about trying to infuse creativity."

In the Community

June Terrace in Lake Forest Gets New Trees to Replace Those Devastated by Emerald Ash Borer

Mariani Landscape donated and installed more than 20 trees along June Terrace in the City of Lake Forest in October. The donated trees replaced those that were cut down after being infected by the Emerald Ash Borer epidemic.

While adult Emerald Ash Borer beetles nibble on ash tree foliage and cause little damage, the larvae feed on the inner bark of the tree and disrupt the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. In March 2009, the Illinois Department of Agriculture confirmed that parkway ash trees along one block of June Terrace had been infected by the Emerald Ash Borer. More than 20 fully mature ash trees had to be removed to reduce further infestation of other trees in the community. Ten percent of the trees in Lake Forest are Emerald Ash.

"We witnessed first-hand the devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer and wanted to do our part to help."

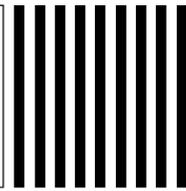
- Frank Mariani

"We've donated more than 20 trees including skyline honey locust, green spire linden and pioneer elm," says Mariani. "Lake Forest is a beautiful place to live and work. It's important that we keep our community beautiful for future generations." Without Mariani Landscape's help, the City of Lake Forest would have waited nearly two years for trees to be replanted along the parkway.



Photos by Robin Carlson

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