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A R C H I T E C T S

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What's Inside:

- **Featured Section on Landscape Architecture**
- **National Design Awards Program**
- **Design Build: Too Many Ironies in the Fire**

**Watertower Place
Michigan Avenue,
Chicago**

Milieu Design, Inc.



Peter Wodarz

Peter Wodarz is the owner of Milieu Design Inc., a Wheeling, Illinois, Landscape Architectural firm. The firm is dedicated to providing their clients with creative design and maintenance of landscapes that embrace and celebrate nature's continual process of change. For more than ten years, Milieu Design has focused upon furnishing naturalistic landscape planning to artistically blend the Architect's building design and yet add both beauty and privacy to the area around the home. The firm assists with the development of brand new homes as well as with the landscape design challenges associated with remodeling or renovation projects. Concentrating their efforts on Chicago's North Shore and Northwest Suburbs, the firm is extremely well known throughout the area for their fine work. In addition to receiving several industry awards, they have been featured in *Chicago Home and Garden* and *Garden Deck and Landscape* magazines.

The Milieu Design Team works closely with Architects, providing them with plans and ideas that will benefit their clients. They assist with suggested "footprints" for the most appropriate siting of the home. They also layout and design the placement of driveways, entrances and walks in relation to the surrounding area for proper traffic flow. Shading and lighting considerations are carefully considered, planning for the growth of trees and shrubbery. In addition, Milieu Design creates landscaping ideas using perennial plants to emphasize seasonal changes. Whether it's highlighting the white spring blossoms of a crabapple or the fiery

orange autumn glow of a sugar maple, Milieu Design makes sure the landscaping blends everything together to add to the appeal, comfort and value of the client's home.

Peter earned his Landscape of Architecture Degree from the University of Illinois in 1984 and is a member of the of the American Society



◀ Barrington Hills Residence

Interesting design challenges faced Milieu Design in transforming a plain and open pool area into one with shading, warmth and beauty.

An arbor system was designed and built to provide shade. This also created a buffer between the home and the pool area. Cutouts in the deck were made and replaced with Bluestone to provide contrast, texturing and to lessen the rectangular shape of the pool area. This achieved a substantial cost reduction as it was not necessary to remove and rebuild the entire deck. The extensive use of plant materials furnished natural greenery, shading and privacy that added to the beauty of the home.

Perennials & ground cover: Midwest Ground Cover



▲ Inverness Residence

This quiet, tranquil, "outdoor room" was designed to create privacy from nearby neighbors. The establishment of berms allowed plants, shrubs and flowers to be viewed at eye level while also screening out nearby street noise. The use of a small fountain, trickling water into a goldfish pond, added additional serenity and provided a beautiful focal point within the garden. Truly a "Walden Pond," just a few feet from the client's backdoor.

Ornamental Trees & Shrubs: C.J. Fiore Co., Inc.

Fontana, Wisconsin Residence ▼

"No weekly mowing" is exactly what this client told us they desired.

Through the use of terracing, we were able to maximize the three dimensional view from above while still providing a natural walkway for evening strolls through the yard. Large masses of planted materials along with boulders and garden timbers furnished a naturalistic tapestry of color and shaping.

The landscape design now accentuates the treetop view, adds value and aesthetics to the home and alleviates the need to keep a lawnmower in the garage!

