

Unique Project #2: The College of Pathology

By: Ed Beaulieu, Aquascape, Inc.



BEFORE



AFTER

This project was given to us by a local design build firm; they brought us in to assist with this challenging project located on a steep slope within a sunken courtyard. The issue they had been dealing with was the fact that the steep slope was an erosion nightmare and despite being covered in foliage soil was stripped away from the surface during rain events. The soil was clogging the drains in the patio and creating a muddy mess for the maintenance team to clean-up on a routine basis. The designer wanted to provide a sustainable erosion control system and at the same time an aesthetically pleasing waterfall.

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Before we were able to start our water feature the site needed to be cleared of vegetation including a small tree which was dug and burlapped to be replanted at another location.

Starting at the base of the feature we excavated by hand a large basin designed to capture excess runoff while providing a surplus of water to feed the waterfall.

All the soil was hauled off of the job to another location at the facility; this was done by filling a bobcat bucket by hand which was then carefully lifted out of the courtyard with a large 100 ton crane positioned in the parking lot. This process was repeated many times throughout the first day until the required 5' depth was achieved insuring the proper volume for the systems operation. A large snorkel/centipede was installed and then covered in aquablox, the entire basin was then finished with decorative river rock providing a suitable base for our first layer of stones.

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The moss rocks were delivered and staged in the parking lot adjacent to the crane eliminating multiple handling of the materials. Each rock was carefully selected, strapped and lifted into position, the crane operator had steady hands as he maneuvered the large stones between the granite and glass of the building, over the railings and around the trees before the final location of the boulders was reached. It took an average of 20 minutes to set one large stone; smaller stones were set between the large rocks by hand. The smaller stones were delivered using the bobcat bucket which was then dumped along the outside edge of the waterfall within easy reach of our artists.

While we moved up the slope we would not only build the waterfalls but we'd place accent stones designed to terrace the slope and slow down the water during storm events. These accent stones are an important component of any well designed water feature as they help to blend the feature into the adjacent landscape.

The waterfall is highly visible from the abundance of windows surrounding the courtyard providing employees with spectacular views.

This project took longer than anticipated due to the length of time necessary to properly secure and set the large stones but it was well worth the effort in the end as employee safety and customer satisfaction are the cornerstones of our business.

PROJECT SPECS:

- 30 tons of stone set into the 15' slope
- 5 tons of decorative gravel
- 15' x 20' liner for the basin
- 10' x 50' liner for the stream and upper pools
- 125' of 2" piping was used for the pumps
- Large Snorkel and Centipede
- Aquascape 7500 and 4500 pumps
- 20 large AquaBlox
- Machinery: 100 ton crane to set the large stones

PROJECT TIMELINE -

