

2015 CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

New York Upstate Chapter | American Society of Landscape Architects



Honor Award of Excellence

Residential Design

Fostoria

Town of Canandaigua, New York

Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC

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Project Description

This project was undertaken to rediscover, reimagine, and recreate the character of both the buildings and grounds of this 2 acre property located in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. The lakeside property and circa 1900 main residence were originally part of the much larger Foster Fruit Farm that operated in the area for many years. "Fostoria" was the name given to the property by the Foster family. As proprietors, the Fosters took full advantage of the lakefront location to efficiently distribute fresh fruit to the City of Canandaigua and points beyond, loading ferry boats from the man-made peninsula that projects some 200 feet out into the lake. When farm operations ceased, the property was subdivided and sold off. The lakeside frontage of the farm and the original farmhouse were "remodeled" and expanded by subsequent owners for use as a summer home. During this period a poorly conceived entry porch and a large, 2-story garage/ recreation room structure appeared on the north side of the main house, and a visually incompatible hot tub and deck were added to the south side. Shortly after the remodeling of the main house was completed, a standalone carriage house was dropped into the property. These disjointed building projects were also accompanied by some unfortunate site work including a new drive that bisected the property. The new drive was built with the goal of providing quicker, more direct vehicular access to the house. The original drive that slowly meanders into the site, and respects the topography along its route, was relegated to the role of service access. These changes were all completed with little thought given to the spatial or aesthetic impacts to the site. Our client purchased the property in 2011 with the goal of reversing the many ill-conceived changes that were made by previous owners. Their vision was to rejuvenate the property so that it simultaneously acknowledged and respected the best features from the past while providing an aesthetically pleasing and comfortable environment for its contemporary use as a summer home for their family.

