

NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL



Award Winner:
US Digital Outreach Center
Wins Three Big Awards • Page 14

Cover Photo: G2 Outdoor Living

Grit Your
Teeth And
Pay Him • 6



WALP
Building
Moves On • 7



New Test Site
Inaugurated
• 8



US Digital Outreach Center Wins Three Big Awards For G2 Outdoor Living

Both The Contractor And Client Are On A Mission



US Digital's Outreach Center in Vancouver earns three big awards for G2 Outdoor Living.

The WALP 2009 Environmental Landscape Design Awards resulted in Garret Hergert, CLT packing home a whole truckload of awards, but it was a major commercial job for Vancouver-based US Digital that garnered the Judges Award for scope and quality of work and Grand Awards in the Design/Build and Landscape Design categories. That made it the “most decorated” project in the competition.

Both G2 and US Digital have been on missions. Founded in 1980 in Las Alamitos, CA by David Madore, US Digital makes optical encoders (motion control components used in manufacturing). In 1990, the firm relocated to Vancouver, continued to grow, and, in 2006, acquired and began renovating the facility once owned by Nautilus. Madore, a devout Christian, found himself with an asset (extra space) that he wanted to put to use for a higher purpose. Thus was created the US Digital Outreach Center, a facility that provides 17,000 square feet of space for use by a variety of faith-based ministries.

The project itself presented some challenges for Hergert and his crew. In the design stage, the client was looking for a project with biblical meaning - an interpretive walk through the Christian path of life.

“The challenge was to connect modern day construction practices and material to the historical meaning of life,” Hergert explained. “The results included a desert, a bumpy road, a narrow canyon, and a dry riverbed - all symbolic of Christian concepts of life’s journey.”

The “pathway” also includes a bridge representing transformation and

palm trees representing the resilience of men to the ravages of the world.

In the construction phase, attention to detail became G2’s number one goal. Parking spaces were removed to accommodate the necessary space, semi loads of basalt columns were brought in and installed with crane trucks, huge boulders were placed, and colored stamped concrete was created to represent natural cut slate finished to create an “oasis” in the project. Exposed aggregate and large river rock created the “bumpy path” in the journey.

The basalt columns were used to form palisades through the landscape and provide the main backdrop and support of the water feature. G2 selected palm trees for the oasis that were hardy enough to withstand the Pacific Northwest winters and also blended well with native and ornamental plant material.

Hand hewn timbers were selected for the public benches and walking bridge. The woodwork design is as authentic as possible to that present in the Middle East at the time of Christ.

“The concept designs were created with the interpretive and symbolic explanations and presented to the owners who accepted the proposal,” Hergert said. “With the materials utilized and the fact that we only used three subcontractors, our concept to completion was a huge success.”

In consulting G2 Outdoor Living’s website (www.g2outdoorliving.com), it is clearly stated that the company’s mission and goal is to help their customers build their dreams. Their work with US Digital gives testimony to their commitment and to helping the company fulfill its stated goal of providing a common location for multiple ministries that provides synergy, cooperation, and networking to multiply their opportunities and effectiveness.

That’s a pretty good combination, and the results show.

Cover : *The oasis itself is encountered after crossing the bridge. The entry into the Outreach Center is shown at the center - representing the destination of the journey.*



1



2



3



4

Photo 1

The entire landscape symbolizes the Christian's life journey, and this area with palm trees represents the oasis.

Photo 2

This spectacular water feature has basalt columns that palisade upward and outward as the water gracefully fills their tops and then flows under the bridge.

Photo 3

The timber-framed bridge over the water feature represents the "bridge of life" as one is transformed into a redirected life on the Christian's journey.

Photo 4

With its spectacular lighting, the US Digital Outreach Center provides a dramatic visual statement about the commitment of the company to service and faith.