

I-PlantsTM

Magazine

Urban Horticulture

May 2017

The On-line Magazine
for Interior Plantscapers,
Urban Horticulturists,
Architects, Designers,
Landscapers, Green Walls,
Green Roofs and Allied
Associates

 PENTAIR

2017 International Design Contest Winners

First Place Free Standing
Containers
\$10,000-\$20,000

The Standard Club

On the Ledge Landscaping
Chicago, IL

Plants: Emerald Green Arborvitae, Patriot Soft Pink Geranium, Patriot Rose Pink Geranium, Patriot Tickled Pink Geranium, Algerian Ivy.

Sources: Farmers Market Garden Center, Clesen's Wholesale, Tournesol Siteworks Florence Collection Rectangle, GFRC Lightweight Concrete Planter, 72”L x 24”W x 24”H, Color Chaparral in a Natural Sand Finish.



The Standard Club is a private club in the historic South Loop neighborhood of Chicago. It was established in 1869 and its mission is to create a membership of leaders who share a common bond of charitable, social and civic responsibility. On the Ledge approached management about adding additional seasonal containers at the main entrance to enhance the outdoor landscape of the club in keeping with the luxuriant detailing on the inside. The two existing containers did not provide enough of an impact to showcase this iconic building with its stately limestone façade.

An additional 5 containers were specified to activate the entry and make it more attractive to members and potential newcomers. The repeating bays of the façade lent themselves to a symmetrical design where the long rectangular planters sit in the middle of each bay. The tall arborvitae shrubs help to give some scale to the massive bays and the annual flowers bring in a pop of color and cascade over the side. It is a very classic design to match the historic nature of the building.

Given the classical design of the building, the planters needed to fit in without clashing. We were able to match the color and texture of the façade with the natural sand finish and chaparral brown color. The other unique piece to this design is that the building spans almost the whole block so we had a very generous amount of space to work with. We were able to specify 6’ long planters that could support 3 arborvitae shrubs in each planter for a balanced, symmetrical design.

This design provides 4 season interest with the arborvitae staying green all winter and the change out of the annuals during spring, summer and fall. This summer planting shown showcases three subtle hues of pink geraniums against the dark green arborvitae and the cascading ivy vines. It is an eye-catching design that provides curbside appeal.



This site is challenging in that there are tall buildings on either side of the street so it is a fairly shady corridor. It is also very windy between the buildings and with being so close to Lake Michigan. The plant selection is very carefully thought out each season to withstand the elements. The planters are watered by the Club but maintained by On the Ledge once per week to keep the flowers looking their best.

The design has been so successful that adjacent buildings have followed suit.