Sumter County

COURTHOUSE LANDSCAPE TREATMENT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Name:</strong></th>
<th>Sumter County Courthouse, Landscape Design</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Sumter County, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
<td>The newly constructed courthouse in Sumter County is in need of appropriate scale landscaping to the front of the building as well as in the adjacent parking lot. The design should include plant palette suggestions as well as a plaza design that will match the existing plans for the memorial plaza.</td>
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| **Archway Contact:** | Barbara Grogan  
Archway Professional, Sumter Archway Partnership, Americus, GA |
| **Community Contacts:** | Lynn Taylor  
Chief Administrative Officer, Sumter County Board of Commissioners |
| **Date of Initial Site Visit:** | 11.11.2009 |
| **Students Assigned:** | Hazel Lewis  
Total Hours: 60 Estimated Cost: $8,280 |
| **Final Products:** | This report contains landscaping suggestions and treatments for the front of the courthouse as well as the adjacent parking lot. A small plaza design as well as seating recommendations are also included. |
| **Date Delivered:** | 04.17.2010 |
Project Background

The newly constructed courthouse in Sumter County, is in need of appropriate scale landscaping to the front of the building as well as in the adjacent parking lot.

Project Background

During the summer of 2009, Chris and Amanda Thornton were employed as interns in Sumter County where they were given the task of designing a memorial plaza to be built next to the courthouse. The completed design, shown to the right, is intended to create a park that displays existing and future monuments at the new courthouse. The formal shape layout was modeled after a historic park that was once a part of the downtown.
SCALE
The courthouse building is monumental in size and scale; dwarfing the surrounding buildings. In order to help the structure better ‘fit’ into the landscape taller plants are needed to match the scale of the building.

MATERIAL PALETTE
Due to the sheer size of the building’s exterior walls, the red brick palette chosen for the façade seems overwhelming. Greater color and textural interest is necessary to improve the visual appeal of the building. This can be achieved through careful selection of appropriate scale plants and foliage.

Large staircases can appear daunting to visitors because of the number of steps as well as their large-scale dimensions.
ENTRY COURTYARD

The platform area located atop the staircases provides an excellent opportunity to incorporate some much needed outdoor seating. This space should connect seamlessly to the proposed Memorial Plaza in order to create a more cohesive appearance between the building and the plaza. Site furnishings and vegetation selections should also be similar in both spaces.
Trees located immediately next to the building should be tall enough to match the scale of the structure; dark colored, evergreen foliage is also recommended for year-round visual contrast to the vast brick exterior. Selections for parking lot trees can be deciduous but should also display interesting foliage texture and/or color. Parking lot trees should also be limbed up to allow for adequate visibility and vehicle height clearance.

Juniperus sabina 'Buffalo'
Cupressus arizonica
Cupressus sempervirens ‘Glaucosa’

Ginko Biloba (Male Specimens)
Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'
Acer Griseum
Ulmus parvifolia
SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

Due to space limitations and grade changes in the planters surrounding the courthouse, shrubs and groundcovers must be able to withstand tough conditions.

- Juniperus sabina ‘Buffalo’
- Nandina domestica
- Euonymus japonicus ‘Chollipo’
- Stachys byzantina
- Rapheolepis indica
- Juniperus scopulorum
- Teucrium fruticans ‘Compactum’
- Abelia x grandiflora ‘Kaleidoscope’
- Stachys byzantina
- Euonymus japonicus ‘Chollipo’
COURTYARD DESIGN
The redesigned entryway features a mix of seating opportunities and elements that add visual interest. A central focal point, surrounded by a change in paving material, helps to anchor the space and adds a sense of movement to a heavily structured space. Picnic-style seating and low seat walls provide outdoor seating opportunities for users.
PLANTERS

Due to the fact that construction on the courthouse was already completed at the time of this report, we recommend the addition of large-scale concrete planters to supplement the areas available for planting. These planters provide opportunities for vegetation atop the large concrete posts that line the entry staircases leading up to the courthouse. As shown in the examples to the right, planters should have rounded edges and a slate gray color palette to compliment the existing structure and project a less imposing appearance. Vegetation combinations within the planters create opportunities for further introduction of color in the landscape.

One consideration of adding such large planters is the issue of irrigation; as previous construction may not allow for installation of an underground system. Thus a manual irrigation schedule will have to be initiated to maintain the health of the vegetation in these containers.
Landscaping improvements help to soften the hard edges of the courthouse and add visual interest against the monotone brick façade.