



University of Pennsylvania: Nursing Education Building

Viridian Landscape Studio transformed a forbidding and unfriendly, walled and paved 1970s plaza into a universally accessible urban garden entry court.

Working closely with the building renovation architects, Viridian carefully designed an inclusive building entry sequence. Both the entry stairs and ADA access path weave through the garden and deliver users to the front door and the outdoor café.

To ensure long-term success, Viridian brought soil scientist Tim Craul to the project to develop a soil mix specifically for the garden. Gardens soil weights were coordinated with the structural engineer as the mix was placed atop the existing underground parking structure. The soil supports a lush matrix of trees, shrubs and groundcovers modeled on Pennsylvania's dry northern slopes, creating a woodland escape in the city.

The project serves as the first intervention in transforming the north service drive into a pedestrian friendly campus amenity.

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Client: University of Pennsylvania
Size: 15,000sf
Cost: \$400,000
Status: Completed 2005