



## University of Pennsylvania: Law School

**When the University of Pennsylvania's Carey School of Law wanted to establish a main entrance on Walnut Street they called on Viridian to rethink the space.**

The entry was a leftover service space complete with failing pavement and dumpsters. Working with the client team, Viridian relocated the dumpsters to an appropriate space and designed a lush landscape to call attention to the modest entry space. Together with SMP Architects the design team found a way to respect the existing historic colonnade while introducing the new faculty offices building and sunken courtyard.

Two varieties of flowering magnolia arranged in groves bring springtime to the space. The densely planted, multi-stemmed trees play with our spatial perception giving depth the small urban garden and making it feel expansive. This planting technique

forces the trees to grow tall and lanky which makes their trunks appear ever more sculptural. Periodically through the years since installation, Viridian has recommended selective pruning to heighten their artful appearance.

Through careful attention to detail and a rich plant palette, Viridian Landscape Studio transformed a forgotten, unfriendly space into a wonderful entrance. The Law School's intimate courtyard now evokes a feeling of privacy and respite from the day-to-day challenges of city living, for both those looking out and those going in.

**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**Client:** University of Pennsylvania  
**Size:** 4,200sf  
**Cost:** \$50,000  
**Status:** Completed 2003