

# Georgia Chapter of ASLA Awards

We are pleased to announce that the American Society of Landscape Architects, Georgia Chapter, has awarded our firm two Merit Awards. The awarded projects are the Downtown LaGrange Promenades and the Unified Streetscape to Secure the Perimeter. Below is an overview of the project summaries.

## Downtown LaGrange Promenades:

The Promenade project has developed through four phases, over a three year span of time. It developed from a sidewalk improvement project that replaced many of the worn concrete sidewalks and standard striped crosswalks with concrete pavers. The goal was to increase patron's awareness of the options for shopping, dining, business and other amenities that the downtown has to offer. Throughout the different phases of the project, our firm worked in tandem with two architecture firms, a civil engineer, City officials, and the foundation representative. The project presented itself with some interesting challenges due to the age at which the downtown was built. Floor elevations varied from building to building, numerous utilities existed, and building foundation walls required special attention. Additionally, our project involvement started after demolition and construction had already begun. Our role allowed us to offer solutions to these challenges in ways that were cohesive with the overall design and aesthetics. The design work included the following:

- Forecasting pedestrian traffic patterns
- Study of grade relationships
- Design of Hardscape, complimentary to the existing character of downtown and the ongoing streetscape improvements
- Provided raised planters for additional seating and landscaping
- Creation of focal points
- Addition of site furnishings



## Unified Streetscape to Secure the Perimeter:

The design intent required innovative solutions to meet security protocols while maintaining a transparent perimeter. Appropriate scale of hardscape elements was essential. Low stone site walls with decorative fencing identified the campus boundary and provided perimeter security. Warm natural stone materials were used to enhance the visual quality of the streetscape and security measures were integrated into the design to disguise their appearance. Custom signage panels with elongated columns were designed to reinforce campus identity. Other signage elements were incorporated into the hardscape to improve wayfinding along the length of the streetscape. Emergency vehicle ingress and egress access points were included with remote controlled hydraulic bollards and over-sized rolling gates to improve safety. Wider sidewalks with concrete paver ribbons were located with landscape buffers to improve pedestrian safety and continue the adjacent university's existing sidewalk pattern. The landscape design was closely coordinated with campus security to minimize potential conflicts with security measures. In addition, careful selection of plant materials which would tolerate the urban environment and not require extensive maintenance was considered.

It was the nature of the project which made it truly unique. This project was solely the result of 9-11. Our firm was honored to provide our services to help prevent another disaster and protect our country's vital research facilities. Due to the sensitive nature of the project and the site constraints of its urban setting, challenges and opportunities continued to present themselves throughout the project. In particular, the constant discoveries of unknown utilities and rapidly evolving infrastructure requirements of the expanding campus often resulted in modifications or new design solutions.

