

**MERIT AWARD**

**Towers | Golde LLC** New Haven

*The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Community Garden at Greenwich Hospital* Greenwich

This 2½-acre community park and therapy garden culminated the construction of the Watson Pavilion, the final phase of a ten-year expansion and replacement effort by the Greenwich Hospital. During the building of the new addition, a former wing of the hospital was demolished to make a place for the garden, and the site was completely reshaped. As the project description states, “the hospital initially proposed the development of a park as a gift to the surrounding neighborhood, a reward for enduring ten years of construction equally with the hospital’s medical staff. It would be not only a public green space welcoming neighbors, visitors and patients but also an outdoor escape from the stress and demands of hospital life, a place for relaxation, contemplation and private conversation. Once accepted, the hospital committed itself to managing and maintaining the Garden for the full benefit of the public.”

One of the main challenges facing the designers was the 25-foot change in elevation across the site. Consequently, Towers | Golde proposed raising the lower grades with retaining walls. The central portion was reconceived as a gently sloping lawn

with “a leisurely, extended pedestrian system which would give ready access to disabled persons and encourage strolling and exploration.” Prominent stone gateways were constructed at the street entrances, inviting the public to approach the park; yet visitors are protected from the views and noises of the busy street by an ample planting of trees along the streets’ edges.

“The park is organized around a central, open green defined by an arcing walkway that loops around the space, merging along the way with smaller spaces featuring water,



**Fountain in donor plaza.**

sculpture and seating.” A donor plaza and walkway, with engraved stones acknowledging contributors, also contains a fountain made of salvaged materials from an earlier terrace. In a



**Paver detail.**



**Drainage detail.**

far corner of the garden is a lawn oval set in a grove of magnolias and pines, with a sculpture dedicated to 9/11 victims from Greenwich.

"From the hospital one emerges onto a large bluestone terrace which overlooks the park expanse below. The terrace has a pergola and outdoor dining and offers a paved space for hospital events. From the terrace one can travel through the Garden, cross-campus to other hospital facilities, a convenience that had not existed before."

Plantings vary from large trees to grasses and perennials and emphasize four-season interest: "From spring to fall there is some portion of the Garden in bloom."

Jury comments include: "very clean and elegant design. The style reminded one juror of Halprin...design detailing was well executed...the lack of tree cover was a concern to the jury; however, it could be attributed to the young 'age' of the project." ■



- Principal in charge:** Robert Golde, ASLA
- Project manager:** Joe Payne, Sr. Associate
- Client/owner:** Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich
- Project manager:** Turner Construction, Milford
- Landscape contractor:** Scenic Design, Greenwich
- Site contractor:** Eastern Excavation, Elmsford, NY
- 9/11 sculpture:** Silas Seandel Studio, Inc., New York, NY
- Stone supplier:** Connecticut Stone Supplies, Milford
- Unit pavers:** Unilock, Westchester, NY
- Railings:** Post Road Iron Works, Greenwich



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