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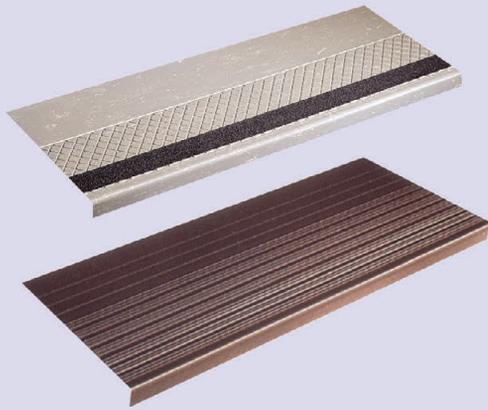


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Curve Appeal

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“We used brick creatively to meet budget, with single-color stacked-bond details, and patterning on one long wall of the dining hall to provide visual relief. We are happy with the results on this first gateway building for Worth Hills, with additional housing planned.”

*– Lindsay Reeds, LEED AP, Associate,
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CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTER MATERIAL FOR CAMPUS PROJECTS

by Amy Gustafson

Many campus beautification projects require planters that are sourced, delivered, and planted. If planters are a part of your final design, decisions such as color, planned location of the planter, and, most importantly, the material for the planter will need to be made.



DIFFERENT MOWER OPTIONS IMPROVE LOOKS WHILE INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

by Scott Sweeney

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BRICK PAVERS: ENHANCING THE TRADITIONAL LOOK OF THE CAMPUS

by Art Young

The sights and sounds of a university campus make for heart-warming memories. Whether it was the distant sound of the band practicing for the big game or the iconic buildings and landscape found on the property itself, every university has a unique look and feel that is a powerful part of the traditions of the school.



SELECTING THE BEST COMMERCIAL BIKE RACK

by Sam Simon

There are a lot of commercial bike racks to choose from, but not all bike racks are created equal. For a private college or private university setting, there are key features that make certain types of bike racks better options for securing and properly supporting bicycles than others.



Photo courtesy PureModern



CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTER MATERIAL FOR CAMPUS PROJECTS

by Amy Gustafson

A successful project has three main characteristics. First, the sourced product arrives as specified and on time. Second, the individuals involved complete the requested services on time. Finally, the completed project meets the need that was originally specified.

Many of these projects require planters that are sourced, delivered, and planted. If planters are a part of your final design, decisions such as color, planned location of the planter, and, most importantly, the material for the planter will need to be made.

What the Material Dictates

The material you choose will dictate lead-time, durability, personalization (as well as customization) and budget. It is important to consider material along with color, shape, and location, as it will have a direct effect on the success of the proposed project.

It is for those aforementioned reasons that I have examined four different materials that are most commonly requested for planters and explained the composition, cost, lead time, and optimal use of the material to help make the decision-making process easier for you.

Aluminum Planters

Composition

Aluminum is a chemical element found in the earth's crust. Although aluminum is one of the earth's most abundant elements, it is never found alone in nature. Therefore, aluminum is extracted from the substances with which it is found.

There are several different types of aluminum that can be sourced for a planter, but I feel one of the best materials and the one to ask for is 5052 marine grade aluminum alloy.

This type of aluminum alloy is also commonly used in shipbuilding and aircraft fabrication. Using this type of marine grade corrosive resistant aluminum ensures that your planters can withstand the elements and will need little to no maintenance.

Production of Aluminum Planters

When aluminum sheets are used to make planters, a shear and brake machine is utilized to form the desired pieces that create the shape of the planter. Once the shaping is complete, the planter can be spot welded, which is not watertight, or fuse welded on the outside, which is watertight.

Most fabricators will then sand the welds so that all the edges are smooth, and the welding beads are invisible. Finally, the aluminum is powder-coated. A powder-coated finish is done by first using a dry powder, then that powder is cured under heat. The curing process creates a hard, long-lasting finish.

For planters that are large enough to accommodate small ornamental trees or large shrubs, make sure to ask the supplier if reinforcements will be added, as reinforcements ensure that the planter is structurally adequate.

Benefit of Aluminum Planters

The benefit of using aluminum for a planter is that it does not rust and is powder-coated for durability. Powder-coating the planter ensures durability because commercial powder-coating formulations have characteristics that enable the planter to withstand UV rays, temperature changes, and other severe weather conditions.

In addition to its durability, aluminum planters can be modified to add elements such as castors, lights, speakers, or even toe kicks, which create the illusion that the planter is floating. It is worth noting that aluminum is easily customizable and can be created into most geometric shapes with 90-degree corners.

A powder-coated aluminum planter is perfect for all interior or exterior applications, can be powder-coated with almost any color, and fabricated to a size that is big enough to hold an ornamental tree.

Withstanding Extreme Weather and High-Traffic Areas

Commercial grade powder-coated aluminum planters are perfect for a project that requires a low-maintenance, lightweight metal planter and that can withstand extreme weather conditions as well as high-traffic areas.



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Aluminum planters are available in a variety of sizes, shapes, and configurations. Although powder-coated aluminum planters are typically more expensive than fiberglass, they will last longer than a fiberglass planter.

This planter material works well in all applications but especially works well on rooftops or places where the overall weight of the planter, plant, and filler is a consideration.

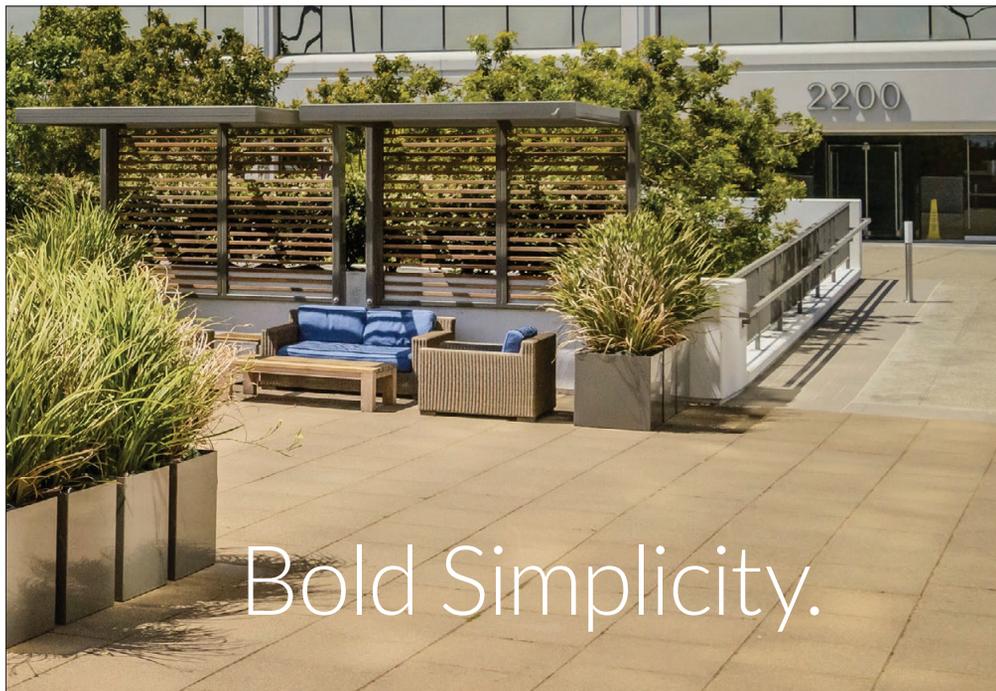
Fiberglass Planters

Composition

Appropriately referred to as glass fiber, fiberglass is a composite material made of molten glass that has been forced through small holes and then woven into fibers. Fiberglass has several applications such as insulation in your ceiling or, in our case, it is layered with resin to make a planter.

Production of Fiberglass Planters

A mold (also known as a plug) of the desired shape and size of the planter is created using wood or plastic. Then, the fiberglass material is hand layered; once the planter is dry, it is removed from the mold or plug and then continually sanded until all the imperfections are gone.



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If planters are a part of your final design, decisions such as color, planned location of the planter, and, most importantly, the material for the planter will need to be made.

The planter is painted with a primer and then with your choice of color. It is best to have a paint that is considered commercial grade.

For larger planters, internal reinforcing is added as part of the integral structure and layered with the fiberglass during manufacturing to ensure the planters are structurally adequate for a small ornamental tree or larger plant.

Benefit of Fiberglass

The benefit of using fiberglass planters is that they are lightweight and—depending on paint grades—resistant to corrosion, frost, and UV rays.

Most fiberglass planters also require very little maintenance and do not need to be taken indoors during the winter months. Like powder-coated aluminum, fiberglass is

a great material for planters, especially when total weight is a factor for rooftop projects or high-rise balconies.

Lightweight, Low-Maintenance, and Budget Friendly

Fiberglass will fit your material need for your planters if you are requiring a planter to be lightweight, low-maintenance, and budget-friendly. Fiberglass can be painted in almost any color. It is important to note that it is challenging to customize the shape of a fiberglass planter.

To customize a fiberglass planter, the manufacturer needs to first make a new mold before creating the final product. This makes the wait time for the planter much longer (up to 14 to 16 weeks) than for that of a customized, powder-coated aluminum planter.

With that said, if there is no time constraint and the desired shape cannot be done in metal, fiberglass is the material of choice.

Brushed Stainless Steel Planters

Composition

Stainless steel is a type of alloy of iron that has a minimum of 10.5% chromium. Chromium creates a thin layer of oxide on the surface of the steel that makes this steel tarnish and rust resistant.

Production of Brushed Stainless Steel

First, a shear and brake machine shapes sheets of stainless steel. The resulting piece is then, in most circumstances, fuse welded to be watertight and then the welds are ground and dressed to look like brushed stainless steel.

The dressing is done by hand and with abrasives, which is time-consuming, but very appealing if an ultra-modern design is desired.

Benefit of Stainless Steel

The benefit of using stainless steel planters is that this material is naturally resistant to corrosion, chemical damage, heat damage, and can withstand a variety of weather conditions.

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Modern Finish for Indoor and Outdoor

Stainless steel will fit your material need if you are looking for a modern finish for both indoor and outdoor. Stainless steel planters are heavier than both fiberglass and powder-coated aluminum planters and can be up to two to three times more expensive than aluminum.

If the high shine of stainless steel is desired, but the cost of using stainless is out of your budget, then certain colors of powder-coated aluminum can be used to emulate the desired look.

COR-TEN Weathering Steel Planters

Composition

COR-TEN is the United States Steel trademark name for weathering steel. COR-TEN is a group of steel alloys. The name COR-TEN comes from a combination of two of its essential properties: corrosion resistance (COR) and tensile strength (TEN).

Production of COR-TEN

A shear and break machine cuts sheets of COR-TEN weathering steel into the desired

shape. If the planter does not need to be watertight, the cut sheets are then spot welded. If the planter needs to be watertight, it can be fuse welded instead.

Once the planter is shaped and welded, the planter is complete, as there is no required finishing step for weathering steel. When you first receive the planter, it will look like raw metal and will need to be installed in an outdoor location to patina to an orange-brown color (patina is a key final process for COR-TEN steel).

If requested, the planter can be pre-treated with a chemical before shipment to speed up the patina process.

Benefit of Weathering Steel

One important characteristic of COR-TEN weathering steel is that it patinas beautifully after exposure to the climate. Because the outdoor elements are essential to the patina process, COR-TEN planters are only recommended for outdoor use.

This patina is key because it protects the planter from further corrosion, therefore making weathering steel planters a long-lasting option.

Before purchasing planters made from COR-TEN weathering steel, one should understand that as the planter patinas, it will most likely bleed onto the supporting surface. COR-TEN planters fit well in an industrial design that requires elements with an organic feel.

A Modern Industrial Design

COR-TEN weathering steel will fit your planter material need if you are looking for a modern industrial design, don't mind waiting for the material to patina, and the area the planter is sitting on can tolerate the metal bleeding.

Due to the cost of weathering steel, these planters are also more expensive than powder-coated aluminum planters, are substantially heavier than aluminum and fiberglass planters, and can take up to six to eight weeks for fabrication.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Amy Gustafson is the Marketing Manager at PureModern.

If you have any questions contact her at amy@puremodern.com or call 1-800-563-0593.

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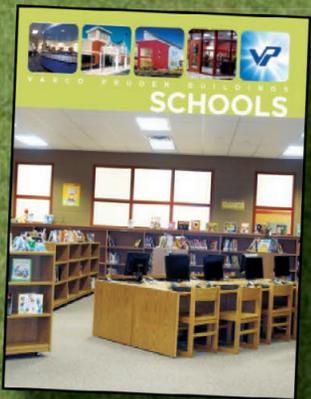
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Different Mower Options

IMPROVE LOOKS WHILE INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

by Scott Sweeney

Rolling hills, grand buildings, lush grass and stately trees are what everyone thinks about when the vision of a college campus comes to mind: students studying in a small group on a blanket laid out on the quad or gathered on a hill to watch a baseball game.

The grass is always green and cut smoothly. Everyone thinks about those images, but only a few people think about the work involved in creating these pristine grounds, aside from the team who work to make the grounds look beautiful and keep them that way. When it comes to taking care of turf that is hard to mow or an area that really needs a makeover, there are a couple of interesting pieces of equipment that address those needs.

Hillsides and Pond Banks

Hillsides are traditionally hard areas to mow if they are too steep for riding or traditional walk-behind mowers. Sacrificing safety to try and mow slopes with a ride-on can lead to damaged machines and injured workers. The traditional remedy is sending out a group of workers with a fleet of string trimmers and living with the patchwork look that is generally the result. However, there is a solution that is over 40 years old but still largely unknown in the United States—Hover Mowers. As the name implies, this is a mower that hovers over the ground so the operator can swing the

machine side to side on slopes and cover large areas of ground leaving a smooth, mower-finish behind.

How They Work

Hover mowers of all makes and sizes work in the same basic manner: a one-sided impeller under a solid deck spins, which sucks air in from the space between the engine and the deck, and then a large portion of the air is pushed out underneath from the outer edge. This lifts the mower off the ground and allows for free movement. The air that is not in the flow going out from under the deck is trapped under the swinging blades; as it tries to reach the faster moving air above, it lifts the grass for a smooth mower like cut.

Shapes and Sizes

There are only a few manufacturers of hover mowers world-wide—Air Force Hover Mowers, Eastman Hover Mowers and Toro—and these builders offer sizes from 16” wide to 21” wide. The 19” machines are the most popular and generally offer the best power to

weight ratios available. The power to weight ratio is important because if the hover mower is using all of the engine power just to get the machine to float, then that leaves very little power left over for cutting. The best formula for finding which machine floats the best and offers the most power is to find the largest engine on the lightest deck with the tallest impeller. The taller the impeller, the more air flow and the better the machine will operate. It is also important to look for strong handles, reinforced handles and engine mounts.

Safety and Operation

Operating any piece of equipment on a hillside increases the need for proper safety awareness, and hover mowers are no different. The first step is to insure that all workers have the right protective footwear as well as eye and ear protection. All modern hover mowers are equipped with Operator Presence Control handles, and the larger machines have blade breaks. Also, some machines use a flail-style swing blade that gives a bar-blade-like cut while keeping operator safety at the forefront.



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Engines

Current EPA and CARB requirements have made it so Honda is the only supplier of engines that work in this application. These engines are actually mounted in reverse so that when the hover mower is sent down a hill, the oil flows into the main sump to provide ongoing lubrication. The fuel tank is below the carburetor, but a mechanical fuel pump solves that problem.

Uses

Perhaps the best thing about hover mowers is that they can do most anything a traditional walk-behind mower can do (except bag grass) and many things that a traditional mower can't do. Hover mowers are excellent for hillsides of any type and also lake and/or pond banks, drainage areas, getting under structures or between buildings/shrubs/fence lines as well as mowing areas that are too wet for traditional wheeled mowers. Since the hover mower floats across the top of the turf, it leaves no wheelmarks behind. Hover mowers were first introduced to the market back in the early 1970's



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and have gone through only a few changes since their inception. Materials, components, and handles have all changed, but the physics of how they work have always stayed the same. So, take a step back and a step forward all at the same time, and look to the hover mower to save time, increase efficiency and make a hard job easier.

Lipstick on an Infield?

Switching gears from tackling a tough job to dressing up the drab. How can you differentiate your field from the others in your league in the limited time and resources that all sports field managers fight? How can you

dress up a particular area for an important event, like graduation, an important alumni event or perhaps Homecoming? Most of the time there is just enough energy and budget to make sure the field and facilities are playable and certain areas are just presentable.

Looking Good

Luckily, there is a machine that allows for dressing up the infield and any other areas that need a little extra attention in a fast and easy manner. It also combines the dramatic striped look usually reserved for reel mower (expensive and hard to maintain) with the lower cost and ease of use and maintenance from a rotary.

The mower with these capabilities is called a Rear Roller Rotary mower. Remember how the mullet hair cut was all business up front and a party in the back? The Rear Roller Rotary looks like a regular wheeled mower up front but hides a stripe-inducing roller under the deck in the back.

How They Work

By designing a rotary mower around the rear roller, designers made this feature an integral part of the machine instead of an after-market accessory. The principle is an integrated rear roller designed to fit inside the footprint of the deck allowing the cutting blade to get closer to the ground, and angling the blade slightly keeps the blade from making swirling marks when cutting at that lower height. Striping is traditionally caused by the large roller underneath a reel mower—a machine that gives a great cut and stripe but is expensive to purchase and requires a lot of maintenance. However, the Rear Roller Rotary requires no more maintenance than a traditional wheeled rotary mower and generally a lot less than entry-level reel mowers.

Who Makes Them?

There are two manufacturers now producing a walk-behind rotary mower with a built-in rear roller for striping and height of cut as low as 1/2". While there are some differences between the two manufacturers (Masport and Toro), both operate on the same principle. Both machines offer height of cut between 1/2" and 2 1/2" with single handle height of cut adjustment, and both are powered by a 190cc Briggs and Stratton engine. There are cost and feature differences, so just find out if the Masport Rotarola or the Toro Pro Stripe is right for the job on your campus.

Differentiate Your Field

Striped turf is incredibly eye catching and the fastest way to differentiate your field from others. It doesn't take much longer to mow with these machines than any other walk behind, and yet it really changes the look.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Scott Sweeney has an MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Sweeney owns Seago, an international distribution organization dealing in specialized turf equipment. Sweeney oversees all aspects of the business from sales and marketing to new product development.



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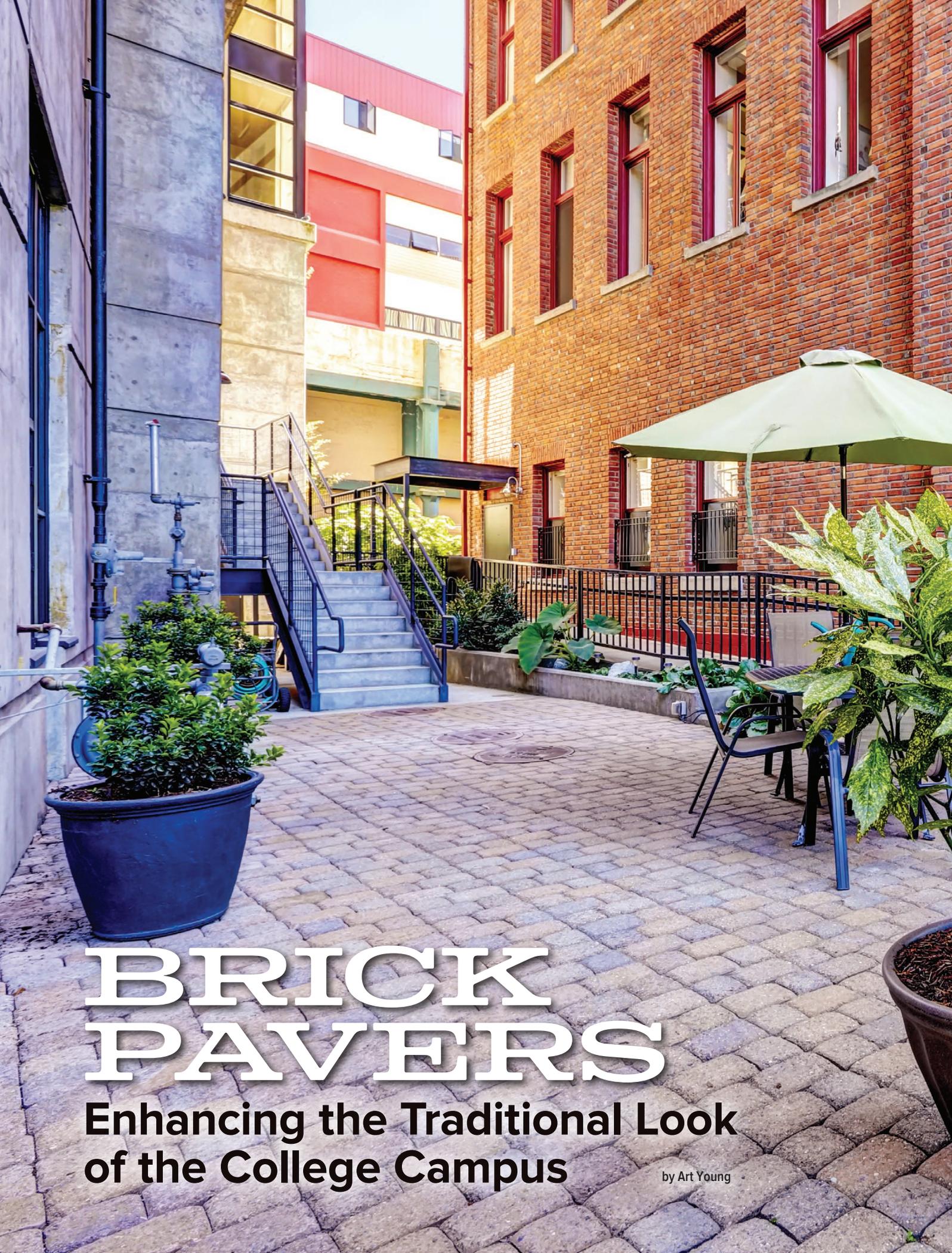
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**Enhancing the Traditional Look
of the College Campus**

by Art Young



Decades after graduation, many former students can still visualize the campus where they attended college. The sights and sounds of a university campus make for heart-warming memories. Whether it was the distant sound of the band practicing for the big game or the iconic buildings and landscape found on the property itself, every university has a unique look and feel that is a powerful part of the traditions of the school.

Due to the constant traffic from thousands of students, the landscaping and outdoor amenities of modern campuses require regular maintenance and are constantly changing. However, the traditional look and feel of these campuses are consistent.

Time-Honored Traditions and Change

In many cases, time-honored, traditional construction materials such as brick are used for the new construction of walkways, patios, flower beds, fountains and other outdoor amenities. The history of using brick for landscape enhancement such as walking paths and other spaces goes back to ancient Rome.

While there are many brick structures, roads, garden beds and paths that have survived centuries, the process of making this organic building material has changed over the years and different types of brick have been introduced.

Not All Brick is Alike

According to a recent article on Hunker.com, “Despite outward appearances, not all bricks are alike, nor are they all used for the same purpose. For instance, did you know that bricks used for building vertical structures contain holes? These bricks—face bricks or structural bricks—come in a variety of types, all designed to ensure a structure’s sturdiness. Generally, they’re used for the construction of homes or walls.

The article states, “Bricks are designed to be laid flat or stacked vertically. When building a garden, house or wall, bricks with holes—often referred to as face bricks or structural bricks—are used. When bricks are laid in a bed of mortar, the mortar seeps into the holes and dries, securing the brick into place. This process ensures that the structure is strong and sturdy. Holed bricks are also lighter, easier to transport and faster to lay.”

Landscape architects know that not all face bricks contain holes. Brick pavers, which are both heavier and stronger, are designed to lay flat on the ground.

Clay Pavers Can Withstand the Traffic

The constant use and resulting wear and tear on walkways and other outside amenities of a typical college campus require sturdy construction materials. Many planners have opted to use clay pavers. Solid clay paving brick are hard-fired in computer-controlled kilns at high temperatures to fuse the clay particles for maximum strength. This hard-firing creates rich, natural colors that are impervious to ultra-

violet radiation, which often causes artificially colored concrete pavers to fade. Additionally, the clay paver surface is stain-resistant.

When clay pavers are installed in a flexible paving system, their individual strength is further enhanced by a phenomenon known as interlock. In a successful flexible paving installation, loads are distributed evenly through the interaction of pavers, jointing sand, and paving bed. Interlock can be achieved using simple tools, inexpensive bedding materials, readily available equipment, and normal high standards of workmanship.

Pavers Vs. Concrete for Walkways

Concrete has been used for sidewalks and other high-use areas such as factory floors for generations for many reasons, the most important being its cost. Concrete is cheaper than brick pavers but, as is often the case, this lower price tag lacks the charm and sophistication of brick. What follows is a brief comparison from several online sources:

Pavers are durable and beautiful.

Unlike concrete, pavers add a touch of elegance and tradition to the campus.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Art Young is the author of four books, a magazine writer/editor, blogger, podcaster, broadcaster and frequent speaker on subjects ranging from technology to healthcare to building and construction trends to outdoor sports. For more information on brick pavers for outside campus amenities, contact Acme Brick (<https://brick.com/contact-us>).

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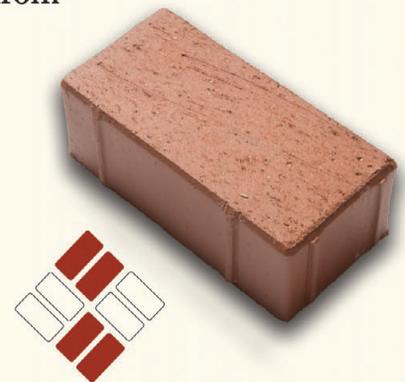
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SELECTING THE BEST COMMERCIAL **Bike Rack**

by Sam Simon

There are a lot of commercial bike racks to choose from, but not all bike racks are created equal. There are key features that make certain types of bike racks better options for securing and properly supporting bicycles than others.

Features to Look For

Bike racks come in many shapes and sizes, but there are a few common features that a bike rack should have to make bike parking the most secure and accessible.

Make sure the bike rack you select meets these criteria:

It's important that a bike rack support the frame at least two different spots horizontally. This helps keep the bicycle from falling over. Some racks create two points of contact but are directly above each other. Other racks only allow for one point of contact. This makes it more common for the front wheel to turn and cause the bicycle to fall. This can damage the bicycle and create a hazard when the bicycle is lying on the ground.

The rack should also be able to support bicycles without a diamond-shaped frame or a horizontal top tube. Some women's specific design or step-through frames would be examples. You should be able to lock the frame and wheel to the Bike Rack. It is quick and very easy to remove the wheels of most bicycles. This is why both the frame and at

least one wheel need to be secured to a bike rack. If only the wheel can be locked up, many thieves will remove the frame from the wheel and take the rest of the bike.

Mounting Bike Racks Securely to the Ground

How a bike rack is mounted to the ground is critical. If a bike rack can be dislodged from the surface it becomes useless. In-ground mounts are the most secure. With this installation method, the bike rack is set in place and concrete is poured, encasing the legs of the rack in concrete.

Surface mounts are a good option for racks being installed on existing concrete surfaces. Racks with this mounting option have flange plates with mounting holes. Anchors are inserted in the holes and adhere the rack to an existing concrete pad. This is not a viable option for installing a bike rack on asphalt or pavers.

Rail mounts are more suitable solutions for existing surfaces of concrete, asphalt or pavers. These can then be anchored to the surface or

left freestanding. Freestanding racks offer less security. These would be best used where there is additional security—like fenced-in or actively monitored areas.

The Bike Rack Should Resist Cutting, Bending, or Deformation

The bike rack itself can be attacked by thieves to access locked bikes. A good bike rack should resist cutting, bending or deformation by common hand tools such as bolt or pipe cutters, wrenches and pry bars.

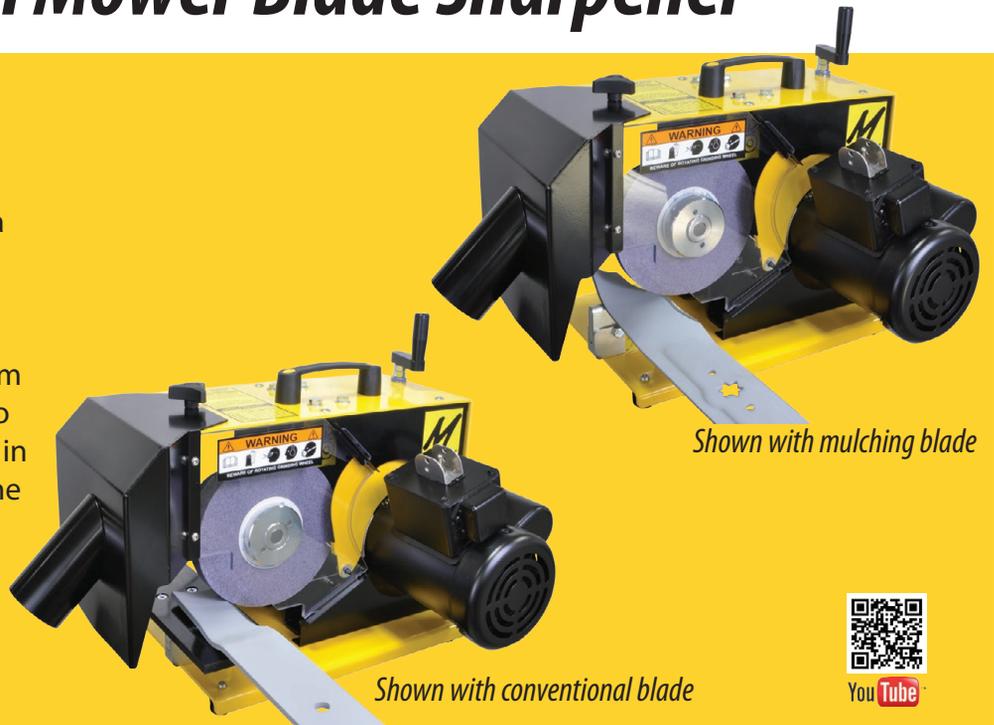
These items are commonly used by thieves as they can easily be carried and concealed under clothes and in bags.

To make the rack the most secure, diameter and shape of the tube are the primary factors to consider. The greater the diameter of tube, the harder it will be to bend or cut. A tube diameter of 2 3/8" is recommended. Minimally, the tube should be 1 7/8" in diameter. A square tube shape will more easily defeat common cutting tools carried by thieves as compared to round tubing.

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Aesthetics

When it comes down to it, a bike rack that properly supports and secures a bike may only be a thing of beauty to users of bike racks. However, there are options to enhance the aesthetics of a bike rack.

A common choice for bike parking is galvanized steel bike racks. It has a dull, silver/grey color and slight texture. It is also the most durable and maintenance-free option.

Stainless steel has a silver/chrome look. It also has a higher resistance to cutting than galvanized. Stainless will require more upkeep and is the most expensive finish.

When looking to add a pop of color to a bike rack, you can select from a standard set of powder coat finishes. Custom colors are an option, but typically come at an additional cost. Powder coating will also provide your bike rack with an additional level of protection from the environment. If none of this allows your campus to express its creativity, there are several customization options for bike racks.



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Grid bike racks are often found in campus courtyards and in front of businesses because of their familiarity and perceived capacity for parking many bikes. Like wheel well only, grid-style bike racks share the same problems. When used as designed, it is not possible to secure the frame and wheel to the rack.

Accessibility and Usability

When the elements of a bike rack don't meet the primary criteria, riders will typically secure their bike in unintended ways to achieve optimal security and stability. This can significantly reduce the number of bikes that can be parked as space on the rack and access to lockable elements is blocked.

Additionally, if racks are not spaced properly, bikes are forced to be parked too close together. This causes conflicts where handlebars overlap and can result in damage to bikes or injury to users as bikes are loaded into and removed from the rack.

Recognizable and Intuitive

If it's not apparent the bike rack is for parking bikes, it will go unused. It should also be intuitive for the rider to know how to properly secure their frame and wheel to the rack.

Additional Stability

While bike racks that offer two points of contact do a good job of keeping the bicycle upright, wheels can still turn. Bike racks that provide a well to hold the wheel AND two points of contact provide much greater stability for the bicycle.

With bike racks that have a wheel well, the two points of contact is a must. When "bike racks" have only a wheel well, it becomes very easy for the wheel to be bent.

Bike Racks to Avoid

Wheel-well only

The appeal of these bike racks is in the simplicity and relatively low cost. This is where their benefit ends. The main problem with these racks is that only the wheel can be secured, leaving bikes susceptible to theft.

The other main concern is the damage they can cause. Bikes in these racks are easily pushed over—inadvertently or not. This leads to bent wheels. Also, the openings are often not wide enough to receive wheels with larger widths, like mountain bikes, and can bend spokes.

Grid Bike Rack

This common style of bike rack is found in campus courtyards and in front of businesses because of their familiarity and perceived capacity for parking many bikes. Like wheel well only, grid-style bike racks share the same



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problems. When used as designed, it is not possible to secure the frame and wheel to the rack.

Bicycles are supported only by the bars of the rack at the wheel. Making it likely that bikes fall over and increasing the possibility of damage to the bike. There's a reason these racks are often referred to as wheel-benders.

The lack of desirable features from grid bike racks typically leads to an additional problem—unintended parking. To better support and secure bicycles at these racks, bikes are often parked in unintended ways. The result is fewer bikes can be parked at the rack than what is advertised.



 **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Sam Simon is the Digital Content Coordinator for Madrax Bicycle Security. He spends his days creating insightful and actionable content to help university executives, administrators and facility directors/planners tackle their bike parking and bike storage. Reach out to ssimon@madrax.com to let him know what you want to learn about next.

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