LANDSCAPES
LANDSCAPE
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PAYSAGES
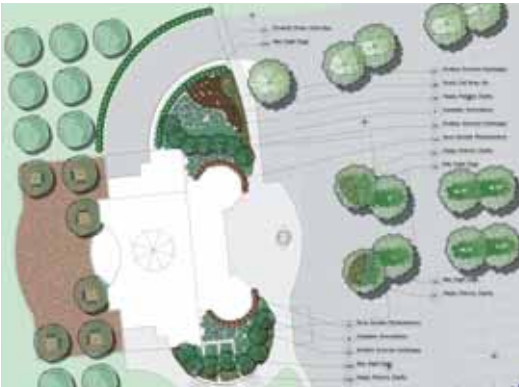L'ARCHITECTURE
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VECTORWORKS 2009: A LANDMARK SOLUTION

JOY VIBERG

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Vectorworks Landmark:
From $1940 CDN
Users wanting enhanced
(photorealistic and artistic)
rendering will also want to purchase
Renderworks with Landmark:
$2370 CDN

In mid-September I went to Baltimore for the unveiling of Nemetschek North America's Vectorworks 2009 product line. Vectorworks started as MiniCAD in 1985 and has evolved into a cross–platform CAD application aimed at different groups of designers. The software family includes Vectorworks Fundamentals, a general design package, several vertical applications aimed at architects, designers, entertainment and lighting designers and landscape architects and Renderworks, a photorealistic rendering package.

New additions for 2009 include a new core engine powered by Parasolid® from Siemens PLM Software, speeding up all operations and especially 3D rendering by 4 to 5 times.It also incorporates over 70 new commands and operations.

The Vectorworks Landmark package is designed for landscape architects. The main intent of Landmark is to have one vehicle that can carry a project through its entire lifespan, from concept to design to presentation to construction drawings.

IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION QUALITY

I was impressed by the presentation quality the software produced. Designers currently using Vectorworks will know what I am talking about. People like me who use AutoCAD and have not yet seen the quality end product will have to see it to believe it. You can easily produce drawings with a hand drawn quality in Vectorworks. You can make your drawings look very precise and computer-drawn, or sketchy, or anywhere in between depending on your preference. The software supports both Imperial and Metric units.

The program has digital terrain modeling capabilities to produce triangulated irregular networks (TINs) and contours. It calculates cut/fill and analyzes existing and proposed site drainage. The extensive plant database and symbol library of 2D (plan and elevation) and 3D plants includes the choice of seasonal look and growth. Vectorworks has partnered with Monrovia, a US-based nursery, to update and enhance its plant database for 2009. The user has complete control over the database and symbols and can change these to suit on a regional or project basis. When creating planting plans, the software will keep track of project inventory (numbers, varieties, sizes, areas, volumes) and

can produce itemized tables with a few clicks of the mouse. When you modify the design, the tables automatically update. One of the nicest features was the automatic placement of plant material within a defined boundary. The user specifies the boundary, then enters the size of plants, spacing distance and desired layout pattern (grid or random), and the software does the rest.

FROM 2D TO 3D

There are many tools to help with the transition from 2D to 3D. Plants drawn in 2D can automatically be sent to the proper ground elevation on a terrain model. 2D blocks have 3D aliases, so creating a 3D perspective view from a 2D plan can be as quick as flipping a switch. The library of 2D and 3D plant components (blocks for AutoCAD users) that ships with Vectorworks Landmark is extensive and generally well-drawn. The user can also modify existing components or create them from scratch.

Vectorworks will import many of the common raster and vector drawing formats, including AutoCAD DWG and DXF, Adobe PDF, TIFFs and JPEGs.

Training and technical support are available. The website includes an on-line users forum for collective problem solving and casual educational surfing.

For more information, visit; www.nemetschek.net/landmark/index.php and http://download2.nemetschek.net/ProductTour/LANDMARK_Overview/Land-2008_Overview

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1 ENLARGED AREA PLANTING PLAN DISPLAYING TYPICAL 2D RENDERING **2** PHOTOREALISTIC 3D RENDERING MERGING THE SITE FILE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE FILE **3** LIGHT TOOLS MIMIC THE PROJECTION OF SUNLIGHT THROUGH THE PERGOLA | **1** AGRANDISSEMENT D'UN PLAN DE PLANTATION RENDU DE MANIÈRE TRADITIONNELLE, EN 2D **2** RENDU EN 3D PHOTORÉALISTE COMBINANT LE FICHIER SITE ET LE FICHIER ARCHITECTURE **3** LES OUTILS LUMINEUX SIMULENT LA LUMIÈRE DU SOLEIL TRAVERSANT LA PERGOLA