



O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DANIEL WEINBACH & PARTNERS, LTD.

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- CLIENT: CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
- ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT: McCLIER
- LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS: MONAHAN'S LANDSCAPE CO / ZEPEDA CONSTRUCTION / DEL TORO, INC

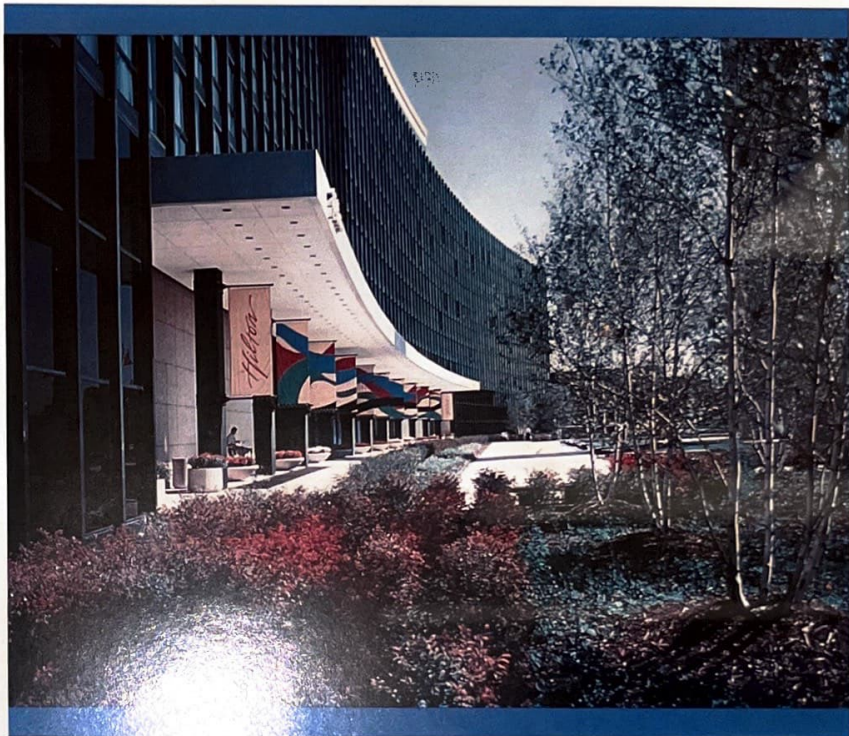


Five years ago, Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was devoid of any significant landscaping. The approach roads were flanked by poorly maintained grass and a few scattered trees. There was no sense of entry to the grounds, and the visual welcome for travelers was a bleak one.

In the early stage of the program, the airlines and the FAA were concerned that significant landscaping might attract birds that can be hazardous to some types of aircraft. Working with airport officials, the landscape architect developed a comprehensive set of guidelines for airport landscape design that will govern all future landscape development at both of Chicago's airports. These extremely restrictive guidelines allow no ponds, dense thickets, densely foliated trees, evergreen trees, or trees or shrubs that produce significant fruit.

The existing layout of O'Hare is very dynamic in the sense that the major roadways are laid out in broad, sweeping curves. Utilizing these curves as a strong, positive design influence representing fluid movement, the roadway landscape design adds a vertical dimension in the form of trees. The trees follow the roads with continuous, uniformly spaced rows, occasionally spinning off into multiple, overlapping rows.

In contrast to the highly structured rows of trees are vast, strategically placed



that flow around the building. These beds provide bright color and texture that change dramatically throughout the growing season.

New large, raised precast concrete planters at the main terminal's lower level replaced individual trees in paving cutouts. This new planting environment provides better soil conditions and lessens salt damage. The planter walls provide much-needed seating, along with warmth and color from new evergreen shrubs and perennial flower beds. Canopies of honeylocust trees installed in planters rise to the upper level, contrasting with the rigid architecture of the terminal buildings.

To date, no wildlife problems have developed, and the public

the improved environment has been strong. With the support of the City of Chicago and the Department of Aviation, each year the landscape is being cautiously augmented. Despite the hostile environment of strong winds, salt spray and jet fuel pollution, the outlook for a successful landscape at O'Hare is a bright one.

"This has to be a challenging site. Nicely done, with minimal maintenance for large open areas," remarked the ASLA jury.

