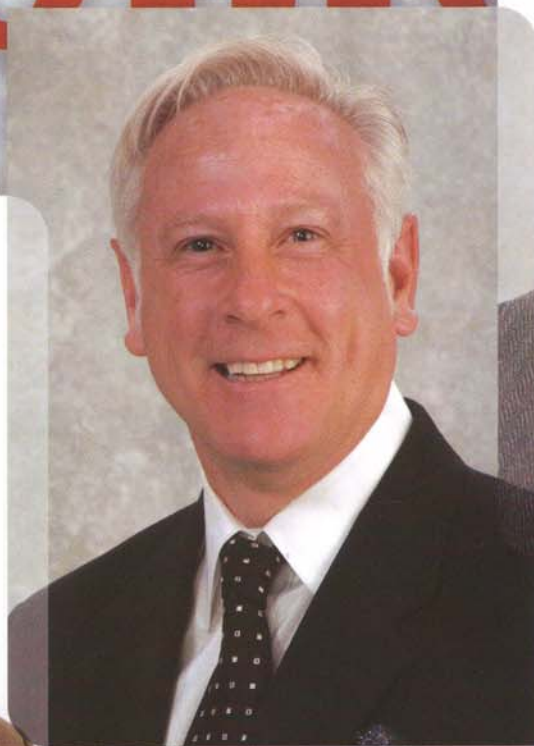


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People Profile

(L to R) Robert Howey, R.J. Howey Architects, Inc.;
Doug Henry, Foliage Concepts, Inc.; and Gregory Holbrook,
Holbrook Roofing Co. have each left their mark on Downriver.

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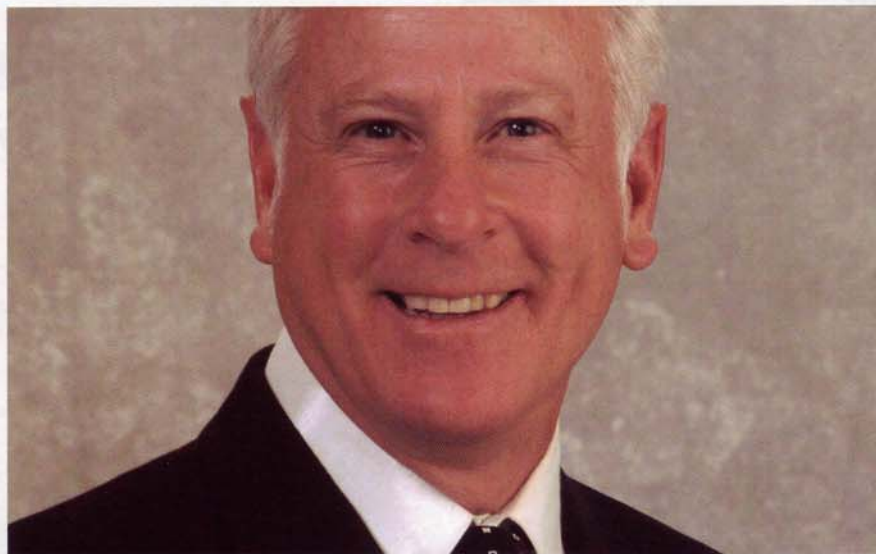
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Landscaping

Third Generation of Design and Installation Innovation



NOT YOUR AVERAGE landscaping company, Foliage Concepts, Inc. brings a little exotic flair to its projects.

Traditional customers can opt for a concrete fountain or birdbath to highlight their home or business, while those who'd like a more adventurous vista can turn their piece of Earth into an Asian utopia.

"We do everything across the board – English gardens, Japanese gardening, sensory and meditation gardens," owner Doug Henry said.

Recreating nature, he added, is very powerful from a spiritual standpoint.

"You almost feel like an alchemist,

and the bulldozers are your paintbrushes," he said. "My whole life I've made a living by being creative."

Said Henry, 53, who's also a singer/songwriter and musician: "You have to be driven by your passion."

Not only does Henry have nearly three decades of experience with the business, but he's also the third generation of the family to work in landscaping.

In the 1920s, his grandfather, the late Edwin Henry, began the business as the Garden Shop in Lincoln Park.

According to his grandson, landscaping became a sideline for him while building homes on Grosse Ile.

"Grandfather did a lot of churches in the city of Detroit and it's interesting to see how the style of landscaping, like clothes or any fashion oriented thing, changes," he said.

The business eventually was passed on to Dewey Henry, Doug's father and a former Grosse Ile Township supervisor.

When the youngest Henry took over, he began incorporating some of his own style into the work, including Asian-influenced designs.

"I've lived in Asia in the winter months for the last 12 years," he said.

About a year ago, he began importing decorative pottery from Asia.

"They're handmade, sun-dried concrete...and they're good in cold climates so they won't break," he added.

The unique pottery – available in various colors and sizes – is quite a conversation piece among his customers.

"I stopped at a Thai rest in Dearborn and had one in the back of my truck, and a lady bought three on the spot, he said.

Henry and his 15-member staff beautify homes and businesses with an array of landscaping ornamentation, including trees and plants, wood and water features and retaining walls.

"It doesn't matter the size of the job, we try to service (people) the best we can."

And that philosophy has boded well for both Henry and the business on a financial and personal level.

"You establish a good connection with people," he said. "It makes you feel good to know you're making other people happy."

And, Henry has found building a good rapport with clients can lead to more extensive jobs.

"Some of these homes aren't that big, but they sort of give you carte blanche if they know your work." ➤

