

This project was done in coordination with EPA, GSA the Low Impact Development Center (who was the engineer of record) and John Shorb Landscaping who did the design, and implementation.

1) The Ariel Rios South Courtyard is actually the rear of the EPA Headquarters in Downtown DC. It was a small patch of dirt and weedy lawn just beyond the loading docks and Contractor's Parking area.

2) When we were done, the site was transformed into a beautiful garden that is used by the building's occupants. This Garden is a "classroom" for LID. It shows to the public, how LID practices can be properly integrated into the landscape. This garden has a bit of everything (except for a green roof that was omitted thanks to "Fine Arts Commission")

- o Here we have;
- o Porous Concrete walkways
- o Permeable paver patio
- o Bio retention Cells
- o A large patio that drains into cobblestone runnels which in turn spill into a cistern.
- o Cistern is capped with a glass art dome that invites people to peer into the captured water inside the cistern.
- o This captured water is then re-used in the irrigation system for the landscape

3) The soil conditions were terrible. The white debris to the right of this trench are oyster shells. Apparently, this building sits on the same site where the brothels (which catered to the politicians) were located in the late 1800s. Oysters were served to the customers as an attempt to increase business! On this job, any time we excavated 4' or deeper, we had to coordinate with an archeologist to observe. Only oyster shells and some broken bottles were unearthed.

4) Being a historic site, we had to keep everything, including this section of granite curb. It was in the way of the handicap ramp.

5) Here we are setting the cistern. Note the oversized throat. This allows for people to peer into the tank.

6) Cistern being set perfectly level.

7) Concrete forms around the cistern to support the dome.

8) Fiber optic illumination behind the trapezoid glass panels.

9) Finished art glass octagonal dome set on top of cistern. The fiber optic lighting inside the dome creates a blue-green glow. This is part of the attraction that calls people over to look inside. That's when they say "hey, there's water inside that tank!"

10) This shows the new life for the curb. It is now a bench. Also, people can compare side -by-side permeable pavers, and porous concrete. (The round patio is the pavers, the walkway is the porous concrete.)

11) Lots of soil preparation helps are coreopsis thrive.

12) The re-habilitated fountain and lush plantings brings new life to this courtyard.