

IN THIS ISSUE

Planting In Drifts

Visiting Millenium Park



The Greenwich Time recently featured my landscape designs and abstract paintings in an article describing the creative process involved with both. You can read the full article [here](#)

Jay Petrow



Jay's creative vision, coupled with his horticultural knowledge, produces extraordinary landscapes for his clients.

To reach Jay with your landscaping questions, please call 203-803-0533 or [email](#)



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The Garden in August

Greetings!

During the late heat of summer many perennials and grasses are in full bloom. Large, colorful blocks of plants give the garden it's structure and composition. Here are some thoughts on how to design your next garden plan.

Also, read on to discover Chicago's amazing Millenium Park...

Blocking Out Colors and Planting in Drifts

Being an abstract painter and landscape designer I tend to compose my paintings and landscape designs in blocks of color and contrasting textures. When dealing with a large property where the plants are viewed from a distance, it's especially important to plant many plants of one kind to develop a stronger design.

Alternatively, a scattershot design approach of one plant here and one plant there leads the eye to constantly be jumping around resulting in a feeling of discombobulation and exhaustion. Fewer, but larger drifts of plants, create a calming experience. And isn't that what a garden is all about?

[Piet Oudolf](#), one of the lead garden designers of the Dutch Wave, a naturalistic planting style using mostly herbaceous perennials, designed the planting plan for the [Lurie Garden](#) in Chicago as well as New York City's High Line. Using large sweeps of plants, Oudolf has created masterly conceived gardens throughout the world. "My biggest inspiration is nature," Oudolf has said. "I do not want to copy it but to recreate the emotion."

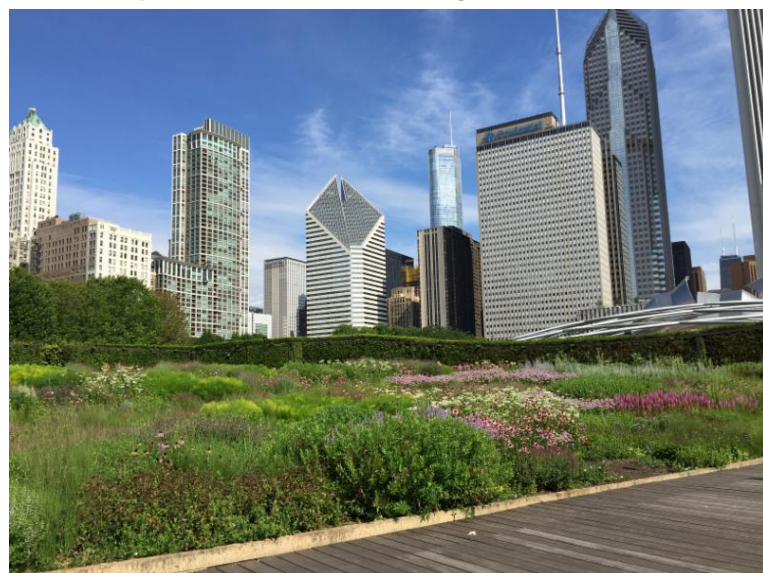
My planting design style has been inspired by the Dutch Wave style, using more and more native plants in large blocks. Here are a few photos of [PetrowGardens](#) designs along with recent photos taken at the Lurie Garden.



PetrowGardens Design with drifts of cone flower and feather reed grass, top, and sneezeweed, hyssop, blue oat grass and maiden grass, below



Allium planted en masse in Chicago Lurie Garden, above





Blocks of plants create a tapestry of color in the foreground of downtown Chicago. Astilbe and cone flower above

Visiting Chicago's Millenium Park



Overview of the park in the middle of Chicago

I traveled to Chicago last month to finally check out the Lurie Garden located in the middle of the city in [Millenium Park](#). Having never been to Chicago before, I didn't realize what a gem of a park Millenium is.

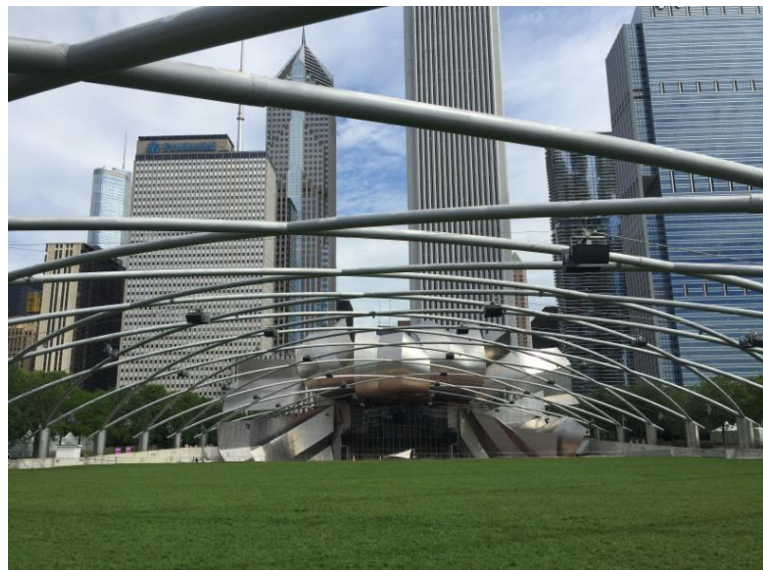
"You might never guess that Millenium Park , recipient of the 2009 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence, was once an industrial wasteland transformed into a world-class public park. What is now Millennium Park was first conceived in late 1997 with Mayor Richard M. Daley's vision of turning the area into a new public space for residents of Chicago. The original plan called for a 16-acre park and outdoor music venue in the traditional Beaux Arts style of Grant Park. Over time, with the commitment of the private sector and the involvement of world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, the project evolved into an ambitious undertaking featuring a collection of world-renowned artists, architects, planners, landscape architects and designers."



Designed by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, the Crown Fountain in Millennium Park is a major addition to the city's world-renowned public art collection



Cloud Gate is British artist Anish Kapoor's 110-ton elliptical sculpture forged of a seamless series of highly polished stainless steel plates. Inspired by liquid mercury, the sculpture is among the largest of its kind in the world, measuring 66-feet long by 33-feet high





Frank Gehry, the designer of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and BP Bridge (above), applied his signature style to Millennium Park's revolutionary outdoor concert venue.

If you ever get a chance to visit Chicago during the summer months, do yourself a favor and spend a day walking through Millennium Park and the Lurie Garden. And if you want to replicate a small part of that magical place in your back yard, give me a call. I'd love to start a new wave of gardening right here in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

PetrowGardens Landscape Design
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[Email Jay](#)

Please forward this newsletter to others who would appreciate it - thanks!

 Forward to a Friend

PetrowGardens Landscape Design creates unique landscape solutions by integrating classic design principles of repetition of shapes, harmonization of colors, and use of contrasting textures and forms with artistic expression. The resulting gardens promise to be inviting to explore and stimulating to your senses. Native and non-native plants that provide seasonal interest for both you and the wildlife in our region are used in our designs.