

CASE STUDY

Enhancing the Landscape at Dell Computer's Manufacturing Plant

Anchor® offers a concrete advantage

With the boom in the personal computer industry, computer equipment manufacturers such as Dell Computer Corporation of Austin, Texas are challenged to keep up with market demand. So when Dell management needed a retaining wall erected at their new parts assembly facility to make the plant operational, they were in a hurry to see it completed. While all of the interested parties wanted the 35,000 square foot wall to go up quickly, the building's owners, The Gottesman Company, also required that the wall complement the building and ultimately enhance their property.



An attractive planting bed enhances the two-tiered Anchor Vertica® wall surrounding the Dell Computer building.

Pavestone identifies a cost-effective solution: The Anchor System

The site development engineer, Consort, Inc. (Houston, Texas) requested a bid from Pavestone Company, a Grapevine, Texas licensed producer of Anchor Wall Systems, for an alternative to cast-in-place concrete. Pavestone recommended Anchor Wall Systems Vertica® units. Basing their design on the capabilities of the Anchor system, Consort was able to create a more aesthetically pleasing solution than dull gray, cast-in-place

concrete. The Anchor system also offered the opportunity to save time—and thereby save dollars—during the construction phase. Pavestone's Beau Felix estimates that the project yielded a cost savings of around 30 percent. The savings were realized through a significant reduction in time. While the complexities of the project ultimately extended the construction schedule, the project was still completed approximately 30 days earlier than estimated for a cast-in-place option.

Anchor units are the perfect choice for attractive, innovative design

Consort's unique design divided what could have been one huge, overbearing wall into two smaller, tiered walls with an eye-pleasing planting bed all the way around. Nearly 30 feet high, the two-tiered wall extends between the facility's upper and lower parking lots.



Two 50-step stairways built with Anchor Diamond® straight and beveled face units descend from the Dell Computer building facility to the parking lots.

Experienced installers make the wall a reality

Boothe Paving Company of Shiner, Texas installed the wall, which presented several unique installation challenges. First, the wall included two 50-step stairways. The design specified Anchor Diamond

straight and beveled face units for the stairways. The project also called for a 48" parapet wall to serve as a railing and traffic barrier. Tan Anchor Vertica® beveled face units were selected for all of the walls.

Russell Boothe, the owner of Boothe Paving Company and installer on the Dell wall, was pleased with his handiwork. According to Boothe, "While the Dell installation was challenging due to the split wall and stair construction, it's a very nice application of Anchor products. The wall really looks good." Having completed more than 400 retaining wall projects, Boothe has a large body of experience on which to base his comments. 