



Tiers transform previously unusable space into park-like environment

Schenley Gardens—like most buildings in Pittsburgh—is built on a hill. In fact, the assisted living center has a 200-foot elevation change on its property. So when developer, architect and property owner Kossman Development Company started looking for ways to integrate the building into the adjacent hillside, it needed a solution that would measure up to stringent engineering standards while at the same time satisfy the architect's watchful eye.

Kossman Development Company uncovered an ideal solution. Using VERSA-LOK® Standard Retaining Wall Systems, the architect-of-record, Paul Kossman, created a series of four tiers spattered with bushes, trees, benches and a gazebo. In all, the project used more than 13,000 square feet of Standard VERSA-LOK units that allowed Kossman to create walls with unique curves, corners and steps that joined the four tiers.

"The curved walls helped create a park-like environment," said Kossman. "In addition, the geogrid reinforcement allowed us to plant trees on the tiers, which really added to the site."

LOCATION:*Pittsburgh, Pa.***OWNER:***Kossman Development Co.
Pittsburgh, Pa.***DESIGNER:***Paul Kossman, R.A.***CONTRACTOR:***Kossman Development Co.
Pittsburgh, Pa.***MANUFACTURER:***R.I. Lampus
Springdale, Pa.***SOLUTION:***Standard—straight-face***SQUARE FEET:***13,000*


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