

DFC&A

Duane F. Christopher & Associates
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Landscape Architecture – Site Design – Planning – Residential House Design –
Environmental Planning

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Firm Qualifications



**TO
Business, Commercial, and
Industrial Clients**

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by

It is truly my pleasure and honor to present our qualifications showing our experience that includes over fifty years in design of projects from my early years of practice starting in 1981 to the present. What our practical experience relates to each project is that everyone is different, but the design methods have been the same whether it is a small six hundred square foot court yard or a six hundred acre master planned community.

It has been the personal communication and relationships that have made it all the more enjoyable. We have been in the field to identify wetlands and endangered species. We have designed streets, subdivisions, parking lots, greenways, pedestrian walkway systems, pools, water features, bio retention ponds, water gardens, sculpture monuments, signage and single family houses. It is a journey we enjoy, absorb and use those experiences for new places and systems.

We are very enthused, especially now when sustainable design is much more in the lime light after many years of preaching.

We now would be much honored to be of service to your company.

Duane F. Christopher, ASLA, RLA, LEED GA

- **EDUCATION**

- Bachelor of Science, Landscape Architecture program, Cornell University, 1977

- **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, years in business 30.**

- Duane F. Christopher, ASLA, Landscape Architect, 1981-1987
- Duane F. Christopher & Associates, Principal, 1987 – Present
- Registered Landscape Architect in North Carolina, #372, 1981
- Registered Landscape Architect in South Carolina, #324, 1982
- Licensed Landscape Architect in Virginia, #1122, 2002
- Member American Society of Landscape Architects since 1982
- Member of USGBC 2009, LEED Green Associate, 2011

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS IN THE COMMUNITY AND DESIGN PROFESSION

A participant at the University of Massachusetts first symposium on Computers in Landscape Architecture, 1984

A member of the South Carolina State Board of Landscape Architects, 1989-1993, Chairman, 1992, 1993.

Elected Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner of York County SC, 1992-to Present, Chairman, 1995-1999 Appointed Commissioner 2000 - present

York County Committee to formulate Storm-water Management and Soil Erosion ordinances for the county, 1988, 1989

City of Rock Hill, South Carolina, Tree Commissioner, a founding Commissioner, 1988-1993, Chairman, 1992, 1993

City of Rock Hill Empowering the Vision committee Member, Garden City sub-committee, 1987-1988, Designed Master Plan for Greenways. Made major contribution to remove mall covering Main Street and return to a motor vehicle street.

City of Rock Hill, sub-committee, Commission on future development and facilities for PRT, 1995-present

Catawba Regional Waste Water Treatment environmental sub-committee Member, 1995-2000.

Member and Chairman of Committee for York County for the purpose to preserve land to create a county commission to develop easements and purchase of development rights. 1997

Member of York County Forever Commission, a land preservation commission for York County formed from the above Committee, 1998-2005, Chairman, 1998-1999

Member of the Catawba River Study Commission, Implementation Task Force 1999-2003

City of Rock Hill Trails and Greenways Task Force charter Member, Chairman, 2000-2003, Chairman of advisory committee to PRT, 2003 – February 2009.

City of Rock Hill Planning Commission February 2009 – present.

Cit of Rock Hill Manchester Meadows Task Force charter Member, A City of Rock Hill Soccer Sport Complex and Park, 2001
York Conservation District Special Recognition Award, for Diligence and Dedication for Waste Water Treatment Project, received October 23, 2001

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAND PLANNING AREA

Christopher spent time and resources on behalf the City of Rock Hill to promote ideas for revitalization of the downtown main street area, including public presentations. The Empowering The Vision city planning process, which was a two year long range process to develop strategic incentives for the City, Christopher spent time and resources to promote a greenway master plan and make major changes in the physical structure of the



old downtown main street development.

Was a member of the committee that started one of the first county ordinances for Storm-water Management and Erosion Control in the State of South Carolina.

As a City of Rock Hill Tree Commissioner we formulated a city street tree master plan and a parking lot landscaping ordinance for the City of Rock Hill. I also made recommendations for a historical tree grove park, which came to fruition with the design of Ken Simmons and Associates of Columbia, SC.

As a futures development committee member, Christopher has been involved with promoting River Park on the Catawba River and other recreational and pedestrian oriented development activities to improve the quality of life in the City of Rock Hill.

As a member of the Regional Waste Water environmental sub-committee, Christopher was a steering force in looking at alternative methods to a regional approach to wastewater treatment, instead of one large regional plant that would be an insensitive engineering approach to the regions wastewater treatment needs. He brought in experts in decentralization and constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment.

Water Quality Forum panelist on wastewater treatment comprehensive planning for the Catawba Wateree watershed, promoting Conservation Districts in a planning leadership role.

As a member of the newly formed York County Forever Commission, Christopher has spent much time and resources to help promote and advocate open land preservation.

Christopher has helped county and city planners in many instances to review new ordinances for Tree Preservation, Sub-division design, and Development Standards.

Most recently Christopher was involved in the rewriting of the Catawba River, Lake Wylie Bufferyard ordinance for York County Council, July 2007 – August 2009.

Christopher assisted the York County Zoning Administrator in preparing a Street Tree List for the revised Development Ordinance. August 2011.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

York County Ballet Company Board Member and President, 2001-present

Rock Hill Rotary Club member, 1986 – present

St. John's United Methodist Church member

He strikes a balance

Advocate of open space also leads development team

By MARK HORVIT
Staff Writer

ROCK HILL — At first glance, Duane Christopher's career seems to be something of a contradiction.

As chairman of York County Forever, he's taken a lead role in the county's battle to preserve itself in the face of voracious growth.

At the same time, he's poised to become the master planner for Rock Hill Renaissance, a proposed 55-acre "urban village" that would be the latest addition to the booming intersection of Dave Lyle Boulevard and I-77.

But far from finding any conflict in those roles, Christopher has found a way to balance his priorities. He can help ensure that open space is protected while creating what he believes is a blueprint for responsible development.

Ken Driggers, an environmental consultant with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation who works with York County Forever, said Christopher is a perfect choice to lead York County Forever. The group is charged with protecting 10,000 acres of land from development over the next 12 years.

"You need to understand the development process, the buying and selling of land," Driggers said.

Christopher, a landscape architect and 20-year resident of Rock Hill, understands both the goals of developers and "the innards" they can make on the environment

NEWSMAKERS

and on the place that we live."

Christopher enjoys landscape architecture because it incorporates environmental and aesthetic concerns as well as traditional design. As part of his business, Christopher is sometimes hired to mark off wetlands on pieces of property being eyed for development.

"It's a nice, scientific side of the job," Christopher said, "because it allows me to go out and enjoy nature for awhile, walk around in the woods and the swamps."

Christopher grew up near Ithaca, N.Y., and is a Cornell University graduate. He and his wife, Karen, were married in 1985 in Asheville; their reception took place on the grounds of the Blimore House. Their 7-year-old daughter, Michelle, is a student at Westminster-Catawba Christian School. Among the local projects he's helped design are the Westgate subdivision at Hockley Boulevard and Herlong Avenue, the Hunter's Chase development off Celanese and the landscaping for Piedmont Medical Center.

His most ambitious project is his latest, Rock Hill Renaissance, which he is planning along with an N.C. developer, is part of a nationwide trend toward developments that mix homes and businesses with public buildings and healthy swaths of green space. The development will have everything from a chapel to a hotel. Christopher hopes it will act as a model for other local developers.

"If I can show how development can be done in a positive fashion that will benefit the community and the people, their quality of life, that's what my goal would be," he said.

The project, which could get under way next year if city officials sign off, is part of a nationwide rebirth in the concept of mixed-use developments.

For many years, homes and businesses co-existed in cities, he said, noting that his parents once lived in an apartment above the gift shop they ran.

Communities imposed zoning as a defense against strip malls and endless parking lots, Christopher said. But as land becomes more scarce and the realization sets in that sprawling development is more expensive than dense growth, the pendulum is swinging back toward compact, self-sufficient neighborhoods.

For Rock Hill Renaissance, Christopher is drawing on some of his earliest influences.

When he was a boy, his parents took him on a long vacation to Europe. What he saw during those five months — pastoral English countryside, massive stone castles rising above the Rhine — planted the seeds for his career. In Bath, England, Christopher saw a stately row of townhouses built in a perfect half-circle and opening onto a lush garden. Even as an 11-year-old, he was taken by the simple elegance of the design, and the image stayed with him.

Now, some 32 years later, he's designed a similar crescent-shaped collection of townhouses as part of Rock Hill Renaissance.

In many such ways, the project gives Christopher a way to put his design concepts and land-use beliefs into practice. Similarly, the career he's carved out, with its blend of landscape design and stewardship of the land, is everything he hoped it could be.

"I'm sort of living my dream here," he said.

Reach Mark Horvit at 327-8506 or mhorvit@charlotte.com



Duane Christopher plans to build the biggest project to date — Rock Hill Renaissance, a 55-acre "urban village" — near a stretch of land on the Springdale Road.



This is a SketchUp model of a single family home and landscape that Duane worked on, Lake Wylie, SC. 2006.



Matthew G. Velkovich, P.E.

Experience

For the past 16 years I have been involved with all aspects of site plan and subdivision design from proposal preparation to project closeout. Job responsibilities included all aspects of site design; responsibilities included dealing with township, county, regional, and state agencies; plan design including grading, drainage, sanitary and water systems, stream encroachment, in addition to overseeing the project in all phases (drafting, survey, environmental, etc.), becoming the “point man” for any questions that may come up, having to oversee that the project was within the budget, preparation of plans and applications for submittal, and following up with the various agencies to expedite review. Client interaction is a must and often done to insure the product they receive is what they had envisioned. Representation in front of various planning commissions and governing bodies providing them technical information was performed on an as-needed basis to insure the success of the project. Responsibilities and duties have been expanded at appropriate times throughout my career.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Technology
Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA – 1993

Master's in Civil Engineering
NJ Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ - 1995

Professional Registration

Professional Engineer in North Carolina – No. 26657
Professional Engineer in South Carolina – No. 23741
Professional Engineer in Georgia – No. 29694
Professional Engineer in Alabama – No. 27101

Fields of Specialization

Site Development Studies
Land Development Planning
Due Diligence Reports
Urban Storm Water Management
Flood Studies
Water/Waste Water System Development
Recreational Facility Construction
Environmental Permitting
Roadway Design

Our Professional Team

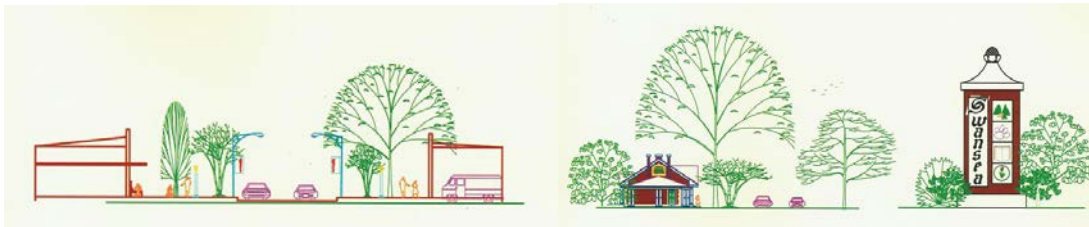
The professionals that will be working on the project are Duane Christopher, Matthew Velkovich, and our other Associates; Natural Forms, LLC, Palmetto Design and Interiors, and Visual Concepts an Interior Design firm.

1. We have first hand master planning experience in all facets of land planning. Our experience especially comes into play using our skills in designing with the land using natural and cultural features, maximizing the client's use of the land.
2. Our site engineering experience will use the best infrastructure design technical experience available.
3. Using the experience of designing sites for private institutional and industrial clients for over thirty years we know what details have to be included to provide the needs to your individual project.
4. Our experience in the private sector and most recent construction cost in the few projects that are in the region bring us to a qualified position for your project. As designers, land planners, civil engineers, and interior designers we see that each project is different but with the back ground in our perspective professional fields the end result of the process of planning is the same quality project. It is

- time, knowledge, experience, personal quality service attentiveness that we provide to you as the client.
5. We are fully available at this time and will spend our time on your project to the fullest extent.

BELOW ARE SOME REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS.

Swansea, SC, Streetscape



We provided the town of Swansea with a manual to develop their entrances and streetscapes. 2004





AME Properties, Rock Hill, SC Medical and business office park.
 We just completed an early schematic plan. This plan shows one, two and three story office buildings and related parking and pedestrian circulation. The SketchUp model is by Tripp Barrineau. October 2009.



Carolinas II, a 600 acre site just south of the North Carolina border, Master Planned community.

This integrated mixed use community was designed for retail, entertainment, residential sustainable community in 1994. The plan shows vehicular circulation system, an

independent pedestrian circulation as well as a raised monorail that was to connect to Carowinds Theme Park. Included in the plan is a six live theater complex, farmers market, Museum of York County, hotels, movie studios, and a major regional retail outlet mall complex of two million square feet. This community had a development cost of four hundred fifty million dollars in 1994.

Harlinsdale subdivision, Rock Hill, SC, Warren Norman Co.
Fairlawn Villas, Rock Hill, SC, Flint Development
Steeple Chase, Rock Hill, SC, Flint Development
Westgate PUD, Rock Hill, SC

Sculptures, Monuments and Entrances

RiverPointe, Charlotte, NC, RiverPointe Association
Olde York Farms, York, SC, Nations Land Co.

“Equimonts”

“New markers brand Olde York Farms community.

Marking the boundaries of Olde York Farms is a series of huge monuments designed by [Duane F. Christopher & Associates](#) of Rock Hill, South Carolina.



1.

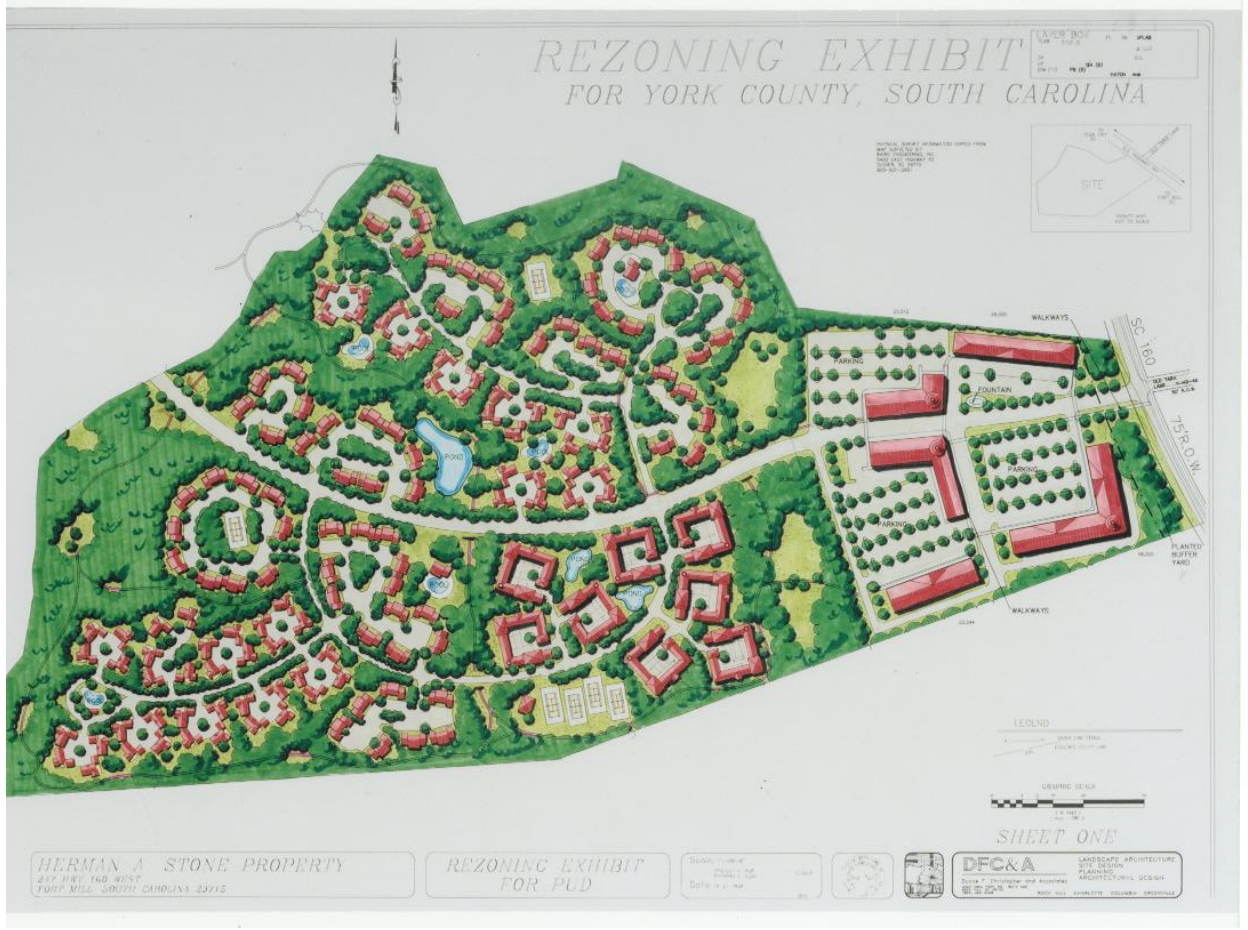
“Equimonts”

These works of stone, wood and iron represent the design philosophy established by Nation Land Company to create a sense of place and permanence that will mark the historically significant land for years to come.

Each element of the monuments holds meaning—the shape is classical a style, the base is reminiscent of an old fortress foundation used in medieval times, the top is a classical monument and pyramid shape dating back to Egyptian architecture, the wood beam represents the farm and the iron rings symbolize the equestrian tie for the horse.



This is a planting and circulation project for Cope Construction in Rock Hill. Rendering by Tripp Barrineau. Installed November 2008.



A 100 acre Master Plan in Fort Mill, SC was later annexed in to Tega Cay.

This project was designed for a multi-use commercial and residential site near Tega Cay, SC. The main road in became the alternative road into the City of Tega Cay. The property was annexed into Tega Cay and a Walmart was constructed on the site.



This entrance structure was used for a 220 acre subdivision that we designed in 2000.

Urban Design and Master Planning

Swansea, SC, Streetscape
 Kershaw, SC, Streetscape
 Rock Hill, SC, Greenways
 Fort Mill, SC, Greenways

Land Planning and Zoning

AME Properties, Rock Hill, SC
 R.B. Ryne properties, York Co., SC
 Mill Creek Falls, Clover, SC
 Harlinsdale, Rock Hill, SC, Warren Norman Co.
 Meadow Lakes II, Rock Hill, SC
 Wedgewood, Rock Hill, SC

Commercial Site Design

Rainy Days Commercial Development, Rock Hill, SC
 Love & Cherish Day Care Center, Rock Hill, SC
 J.M. Cope Construction office, Rock Hill, SC
 Garcia Outfit Convenient Store, Rock Hill, SC
 Best Buy, Rock Hill, SC
 The Courtyard at Winthrop, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC
 BP Gas Station, Herlong Avenue, Rock Hill, SC
 Whisper Creek Apartments, Rock Hill, SC
 Circle at South End Apartments, Charlotte, NC
 Woodfield Elizabeth I & II, Charlotte, NC
 Spectrum Apartments, Charlotte, NC
 East Lincoln VFD, Lincoln Co., NC, with Garner & Brown Architects

Peach Tree Executive Apartments, Fort Mill, SC, The Springs Company, with Garner & Brown Architects
Dr. Dickey Dental Office, Rock Hill, SC
Northwood Square, Rock Hill, SC, Warren Norman Co.
Nourse Auto Dealership, Richburg, SC, with Joel E. Wood & Associates
Richburg I-77 exit 65 interchange, Richburg, SC
B&B Distributors, Rock Hill, SC
Rock Hill Woman's Club House, Rock Hill, SC
Highway 21 Car Wash, Fort Mill, SC, Pintail Partners, Charlotte
BP Little Giant Convenience stores, Rock Hill, SC
Hella Lighting, York, SC
University Place Apartments, Rock Hill, SC
The White Horse Restaurant, Rock Hill, SC
Wachovia Bank, Greenville, SC
NCNB, Greenville, SC

Constructed Wetlands and Wastewater Management

Blackmon Road Community area Constructed Wetlands Assessment and Wastewater Management Report For A Place for Hope, Rock Hill, South Carolina

Institutions

The Emanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Hill, SC
Oakland Baptist Church, Rock Hill, SC
Trinity United Methodist Church, York, SC
York County Government, SC
Woodhaven Methodist Church, Rock Hill, SC
St. Anne's Catholic Church, Rock Hill, SC
Rock Hill School District, Northwestern High School
Museum of York County, York Co., SC
First Presbyterian Church, York, SC

Architectural Review for Subdivision ARC

Olde York Farms, York, SC
River Lakes, Gaston Co., NC
Misty Waters, Gaston Co., NC
Windswept Cove, York Co., SC
Glades, York Co., SC
Rock Hill Country Club, Rock Hill, SC
Laurel Creek, Rock Hill, SC

Wetlands & Environmental Consulting

Lancaster Airport, Richard Odom & Associates, Rock Hill, SC
Eagle Engineering, Indian Trail, NC
Harbor Cove, Rock Hill, SC, Parkline Development
Mill Creek, Lake Wylie, SC

Rock Hill School District
Erskine College
Mitferd Water District of Fairfield Co. SC, with Joel E. Wood & Associates
Bostic Brothers, of NC

Other

Grandview Memorial Park Twin Lakes, Rock Hill, SC, Cemetery site design

Residential Landscape Architecture

Over 500 single family residential design projects.
Several Apartment Developments.

References:

1. **Tim Heline, Nations Land, 803-242-8953 Developer client**
2. **John Rinehart, Rinehart Realty, 803-329-3333 Realtor**
3. **Dick Bridges, B&B Distributors, 803-366-8387 Industrial client**
4. **Chris Corn, Little Giant Food stores, 803-230-2911, Developer client**
5. Tim Dison, Crescent Resources, 704-258-5621, Matthew G. Velkovich's project
6. Carter Bechtol, The Morgan Group 713-361-7200, Matthew G. Velkovich's project
7. Brett Blackwell, Chairman, York County Council, 803-329-0495
8. Doug Echols, Mayor, City of Rock Hill, 803-329-7000
9. Sarah Nuckles, SCDOT Commissioner Legislative District Five, 803-327-8911, 803-207-9757