

Week-End

Real Estate

A GUIDE FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1964 • C-1

Landscaping at Watergate Will Create Many Effects

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Landscaping is an important part of any building. But nowhere is it more important than at the new Watergate apartments now rising next to the site of the Cultural Center in Foggy Bottom.

The prominence of the 10-acre site itself, on the Potomac River at the Rock Creek Parkway, required careful consideration—especially since only one-third of the land will be covered with buildings.

When noted landscape architect Boris Timchenko tackled the job, however, he was faced with two immediate problems: The landscaping must look just as appealing from the many balconies high above as it does from the ground level. And although much of the land is open, most of it has underground parking below.

Timchenko solved the first problem by planning for clusters of trees with open spaces, flower beds and hedges between them. It will be a colorful view from the balconies, too, because the flowering trees, changing leaves and profusion of flowers will provide differing scenes throughout the year.

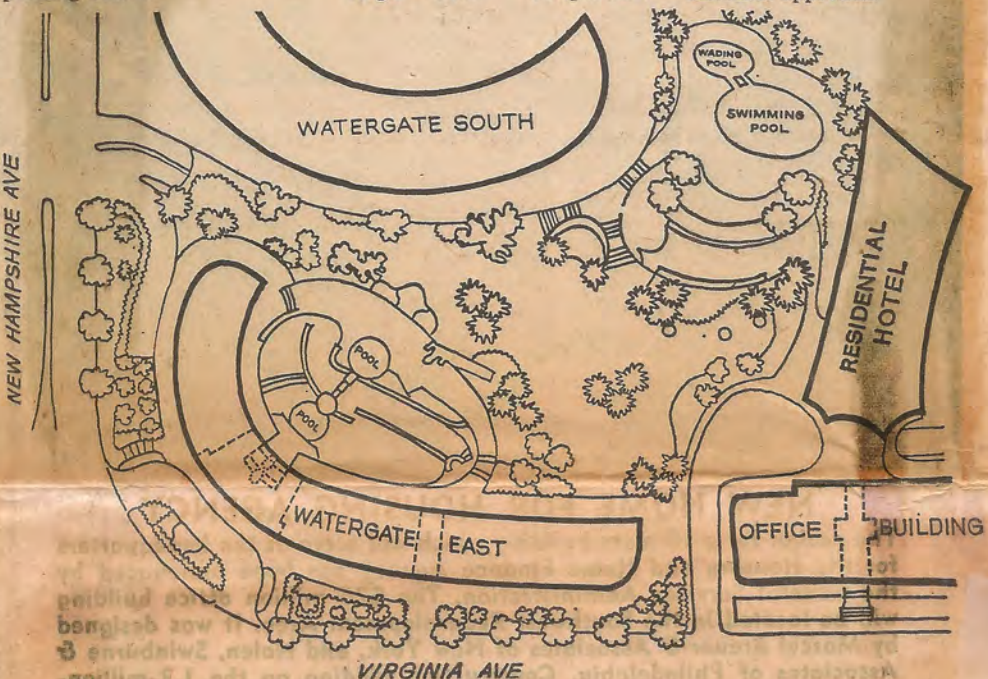
To support the trees over the underground parking facilities, Timchenko has designed 150 concrete planters which will be placed above columns extending down through the parking area to solid ground. The entire parking area roof will be covered with a 2-foot layer of soil, providing sufficient depth for grass, flowers and shrubs.

The \$66 million Watergate project will have five buildings—three co-operative

apartments, an office building and a residential hotel—located primarily on the outer portions of the site, opening the center portion and river side for landscaping.

The first building, Watergate East, is scheduled for completion next summer. Its main entrance will be an arcade leading to a two-story colonnade which features several fountains at various levels creating a waterfall effect. Landscaping in that area will give the atmosphere of a formal Renaissance-style garden.

But from the river side, Timchenko has insisted that there be no drastic break between the natural landscaping of the Rock Creek Parkway and that of Watergate. This will require a more informal approach.



Careful attention is being given to the landscaping at Watergate.