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Keystone Country Manor Adds Old World Charm to Hotel Project

For the new sidewalk patio and entrance of a \$10 million hotel renovation project in Syracuse, New York, the choice of material was vital to the project's success.

"We had mentioned two or three wall systems of this type available and sent him to a landscape products supplier," said Ed Keplinger of Keplinger & Freeman Architects, the project landscape architect. "He chose Keystone Country Manor because he liked the look, the cost and the product's flexibility."

Located in the heart of Syracuse's historic University Hill neighborhood, the old-world look of Keystone Country Manor was important in helping the new construction at the Genesee Grand Hotel fit into the surrounding architecture. According to Keplinger, the owner had originally planned to include column accents in the railing that surrounded the new sidewalk patio. Keystone Country Manor's ability to provide free-standing walls, columns and other structures made it the obvious choice for the job. Even though the columns were not constructed, the versatility of Keystone Country Manor was demonstrated with the construction of a fountain basin that surrounds an iron fountain with rustic old-European appeal.

A segmental retaining wall system was not the first choice for the hotel project. "I think the owner really wanted to use natural stone," said Greg Piper of Keystone licensed manufacturer, Domine Builders Supply. "Ultimately, he was able to get a natural stone look at a fraction of the cost with Keystone Country Manor."

The 2,000 square foot project packs a lot of details into an area no more than approximately 300 feet in length. Keystone Country Manor, in combination with concrete pavers were used to construct the classic-feeling stairway and front entrance to the new hotel addition. That structure continues on, wrapping around the length of the building and providing a wide sidewalk dining area. On the other side of the main driveway, Keystone Country Manor walls provide a stately backdrop to new landscaping including the fountain at the entrance to the hotel.

The site provided some construction challenges including a ten percent grade change from one side of the driveway to the other. But, according to Keplinger, the ease of the Keystone Country Manor system helped the job go smoothly. "The wall installer on this project had never used Keystone Country Manor," said Keplinger. "But, the installation went really well regardless."

For more information on Keystone Country Manor or any other innovative Keystone Retaining Wall Systems product, please visit www.keystonewalls.com or call (952) 897-1040.

