Columns add design element to open-air courtyard

Tri-Star Health System wanted to provide its 35-year-old Skyline Medical Center with a facelift. Part of the overhaul included adding a sunken, open-air courtyard that would act as a combination dining-waiting area for visitors and patients.

Gresham Smith and Partners designed an area full of plantings, trees, fountains and segmental retaining walls. However, they wanted to add an extra dimension to the courtyard by using vertical columns. The only problem was they needed a SRW system that could not only build curves, corners and steps, but also columns—without spending a fortune on custom or specialty units. The firm thought of VERSA-LOK® Retaining Wall Systems immediately.

“We chose VERSA-LOK systems because of their relative low cost, good local engineering support and seasoned installation personnel,” said Tom Martin, landscape architect at Gresham Smith and Partners.

The columns were constructed by splitting solid, Standard VERSA-LOK units in half and stacking them with VERSA-LOK® Concrete Adhesive. Concrete was poured in the center, along with rebar, for additional reinforcement.