

Hicks Nurseries is Planting the Seeds for Generational Retail Success

The new Hicks Nurseries embodies the essence of hospitality, brand experience, and community in a one of a kind retail space.

WESTBURY, NY, UNITED STATES, May 22, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ --Founded in 1853, <u>Hicks Nurseries</u> has a rich heritage of serving gardening enthusiasts on Long Island and surrounding areas for six generations. Their mission is to be the favorite destination for quality home, garden and outdoor living inspiration and solutions. They are dedicated to helping gardeners, homeowners, and professionals achieve their goals with expert advice, service, and an outstanding selection of unique products.

With an eye on the future, Hicks Nurseries looked to improve their customer experience through insights and design, making Hicks even more engaging and relevant for shoppers while maintaining operational efficiency. They hired the teams at



Hicks Nurseries Glass Façade Storefront



Hicks Nurseries Signature Collection Area in the Main Greenhouse

<u>Envirosell</u> and <u>Chute Gerdeman</u>, and in a two year collaboration learned shopper insights that drove the enhanced design of the retail space.

A MEMORABLE WELCOME

The first greenhouse upon entering the store is 15,000 sq. ft. and greets guests with a view of

abundance and beauty of the gifting focal. The entrance is designed to be a wow moment for guests with natural light beaming on the engaging table displays and luscious plant varieties.

To support Hicks Nurseries high traffic at peak seasons and cart congestion, aisle widths were increased, and intuitive wayfinding signage allows guests to easily find their way around the space.



Hicks Nurseries Main Greenhouse with View of the LED Lit Pottery Wall

Also included in this spatial re-think was developing a plan that unified all the buildings and maximized display space while highlighting key areas along the customer journey. Special attention was paid to the interactive moments with guest and staff engagement; these include the cash wrap, gifting station, and garden care concierge. This new layout also accounted for operational efficiency, allowing Hicks staff to support the store and guests effectively.

CUSTOM CREATIVITY

Merchandising systems were upgraded throughout the store, bringing the best of aesthetics and functionality together. Custom designed display tables and fixtures were implemented to bring customers inspiring and informational product displays while being mindful of the operational necessities of a high-volume nursery. Necessities like daily watering and plant care, seasonal shifts in plant types and capacity, as well as the flexibility to support rapid restocking of Hicks merchandise.

COMMUNITY FIRST

170 years and six generations later, the Hicks brand has become engrained in the Westbury and Long Island community. Guest feedback was critical in the store planning that led to larger aisles, better sightlines, and key areas designed to make the guest feel connected to Hicks Nurseries brand. Whether it is the rotation of seasonal vegetables, holiday, or the annual Flower & Garden Show, Hicks Nurseries' commitment to offering a community experience full of quality product, service and expertise was emphasized throughout the space.

Eleni Roselli, Director of Marketing at Hicks Nurseries said, "Our customers are multigenerational. Grandparents, parents, and now their kids come here. It's a beautiful thing. They have grown up with our business and have seen the investments we've made to keep Hicks Nurseries at the forefront of a better shopping experience."

She continued, "When this all began, customer navigation was a primary focus. This renovation

transformed our space and made it much easier to navigate for our staff and shoppers. We've received great responses from our customers – they love the new experience, and it puts the Hicks brand in a new light."

SIGNATURE SIGNAGE

The new sophisticated signage system highlights iconography and easy to read type with flexible components to meet Hicks' flexibility throughout the season. The signage helps aid guest navigation, information on each plant, all infused with warmth and hospitality. Other highlights include a living wall installation at checkout highlighting the Hicks commitment to the beauty of plants and a photo wall where guests can snap a photo for social media or record a family memory.

SIGHTS TO SEE

Hicks is home to 72,000 sq. ft. of retail experience, but research revealed that guests could not see into other rooms, preventing ventures into additional areas of the nursery. This suggested opportunities to create a clearer path through the facility including flipping the entry and exist to be more intuitive and improve direct sightlines deeper into the space. By removing walls and opening sightlines throughout the space, guests can now see more beautiful areas to explore. This also infused more natural light into areas to create an inviting feeling throughout the space, encouraging shopper exploration.

To express the brands core values fully, enhancements were made to service moments with a new Customer Service counter and enhanced cash wrap experience.

FUTURE GROWTH

These new designs support Hicks Nurseries continued desire to be the go-to resource for next generation gardening enthusiasts with new brand elements, an enhanced shopping experience, maximized spaces and engaging displays, all supported with new lighting and flooring.

The impact has been an inspiring and positive guest experience; delivering on deepening the customer journey, building brand loyalty and further enhancing the differentiation of the Hicks Nurseries brand.

About Chute Gerdeman

Chute Gerdeman is an experience design agency fueled by the possibilities of creating worldclass physical designs. With more than 30 years of designing iconic brand experiences, this award-winning team has worked with a number of notable brands including Hicks Nurseries[®], Krispy Kreme[®], M&M's[®], Target[®], FAO Schwarz[®], Starbucks[®], and more. By developing, honing, and activating brands within the store environment, Chute Gerdeman creates experiences that tell the brand's story, compel aesthetically, and connect authentically.

About Envirosell

Envirosell is the leading research consultancy for retail environments and the path to purchase. Since 1989, they have studied stores, products, brands, websites, apps, airports, banks, hotels, and museums across the world. Over three decades later, they are still ahead of the curve in innovating methodologies and insights. They are active in the evolution of retail and services and guide strategy for Fortune 500 companies.

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