

SDV SELECTED FOR DESIGN MARATHON

The **Charlottesville Community Design Center** accepted applications from 10 area non-profits to bring the expertise of landscapers, architects, and designers together to work on a design project. Projects ranged from logo design to buildings. Service Dogs of Virginia was accepted and our project was to improve the current housing of our advanced dogs in training while our organization is in a growth phase. Dogs in advanced training live in our Executive Director's home and while we eventually will outgrow this arrangement, it does have to last and be practical for the next few years.

As we grow, we are stretching the boundaries of comfort, safety, and practicality without some new solutions.

Our team was incredibly creative and came up with a solution that is efficient, attractive, and highly functional. The designers were **Nathan Brown from McKee Carson and Field Sport Concepts, Ltd** who primarily build equestrian facilities. Nathan brought an equine indoor -outdoor perspective to the problems we addressed. Ever mindful that this is a residence, **Tyler Schwartz a landscape architect from EcoUrbana Landscape Design** sought plantings solutions to lessen the impact of fences and enclosures. **Elizabeth Roettger of UVA's School of Architecture and her husband, Bob Pineo**, a local designer/builder, pulled the ideas into a cohesive whole..

Part of the challenge (and fun) was to pool all the resources and come up with a design in 10 hours on the 10th day of the 10th month. Area food vendors pitched in with coffee and sandwiches. The room was buzzing with people drawing, collaborating, eating, and laughing. Then when the evening drew to a close, all designers gave a presentation on their projects which ranged from a new logo for the Music Resource Center to a site plan for a new wildlife rehabilitation center.

Our design created 3 overlapping outdoor zones that can separate dogs, and indoor zones for housing, cleaning, and feeding that utilizes an existing garage and mudroom. We are seeking funding for their design and hope to be able to report on our success soon. What an amazing privilege to work with these talented people.