

EAST COAST

# HOME

+ DESIGN



2012 AMAZING  
TRANSFORMATIONS ISSUE



A M A Z I N G  
T R A N S F O R M A T I O N S

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# Luxuriant Landscape

# Hoffman Landscapes

**Fit for a King** *(previous page)*

A large Adirondack-style home in Westport demanded a front entry to match the splendor of the house's architecture. From the huge front door to its enormous portico spanning three window widths, everything about this rambling home is grandiose. Adding to the challenge was the incongruous addition installed at the side of the entrance sometime after the original house was built.

Incorporating both structural and design elements from the house's existing architecture, Brian Cossari, landscape architect at Hoffman Landscapes, created a front entrance worthy of a king. To begin, Cossari extended the low stonewall around the

front of the house to incorporate the addition. It mimics the native stonework on the bottom of the original house.

Then he chose Chinese granite for a magnificent patio to replace the grass and stone path. Strategically placed plantings: boxwood, carpet phlox, lirioppe, ferns, coral bells, climbing hydrangea, Japanese Andromeda and perennials such as daffodils add color and formality from spring right into summer. The light shade and smooth texture of the granite compliment the home's rustic look while the stonewall and plantings cohesively tie everything together.

When family and guests arrive, they are greeted by the piece de resistance – a large



square cut out of the center of the granite patio. There Cossari placed an oversized urn filled with, and surrounded by, plantings – some of which also lie along the stone wall – all set in river stone.

**Green Path to the Sea** *(below)*

When the owners of a beachside cottage wanted to "green up" the area around their house, they asked Hoffman Landscapes to create a landscape that complimented the new home and beachfront atmosphere within a very limited space.

Utilizing plant materials with plenty of color and texture that could handle seaside salt spray, Matthew Biron, landscape de-



signer for Hoffman Landscapes, installed a back patio and side yard to the property with a lush green path leading to the water. Bluestone squares used for the path are the same material as the back patio and provided a starting point for the plantings on either side. The new walkway includes privet, inkberry and bayberry as well as plenty of sun loving perennials along the way: roses, nepeta and ornamental grasses. Heading to the beach is now a hop, skip and a jump.

**Less is More** *(above)*

While landscape trends sometimes demand packing in as many outdoor elements as possible, this project's challenge was the opposite – to create a simplistic pool environment that blended seamlessly into the natural surroundings.

Taking inspiration from a low stonewall nearby, Brian Cossari, landscape architect at Hoffman Landscapes, continued to slightly lower the grade of the land to create a pool that is recessed into the ground. Extensive excavating for the project uncovered a surplus of stone, which Cossari used to create a natural, pond-like stone coping to juxtapose the rectilinear oversized swimming pool. A fresh change from the typical concrete or bluestone most often used around pool perimeters.

Dark green lattice panels provide the State Building Code requirements while visually fading into the surrounding woodland backdrop.

To add interest to the setting, Cossari worked around the existing perennial garden and expanded upon it with additions such as Russian sage, coreopsis, hydrangea, ornamental grasses and large scale dogwood trees. The result is a lovely, tranquil setting that is a perfect compliment to the owner's entire property. ■



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