

The elements of serenity. Wood, stone and water combine to evoke a deep sense of peace. The colorful flowering plants were intentionally chosen for their billowing shapes – much more restful to the eye than plantings with straight or graphic lines.



Rustic Luxury in a Westport Barn Yard.

*The pergola is what made this landscape stand out.
The antique posts are stunning in the setting.*

- Jamie Drake, A-List judge

When this 19th century barn was converted to a family residence, it lost none of its earthy charm. Rusticity was married to luxury, a union in which each complements the other. The challenge: Carry the look through to the landscaping for the surrounding yard. In this design, the pergola unerringly sets the tone. The faintly Asian feel of many pergolas has been replaced with antique chestnut posts and beams that reprise the “Y”-bracing of the posts on the residence. Playing off the natural beauty of the wood, dry-stone walls set off interesting vignettes and create transitions. Plantings range from the headstrong to the sternly disciplined – fast-growing Japanese wisteria at the pergola posts will provide deep shade within two years and perfume the air with its heavy racemes; just beyond it, a row of espaliered fruit trees eventually will interlace and create a living fretwork against its supporting fence. The serenely rectangular pool sinks into the design instead of shouting its presence. And for pure, unadulterated rustic luxury – a wood-planked, fresh-air shower stall is just steps away.



One-of-a-kind pergola. The chestnut posts and beams were salvaged from the original barn. Its design is utterly true to the barn's architecture. Wisteria eventually will blanket the pergola's roof. The integrated open-air shower at right makes rinsing off even more refreshing.



Room for change. By simply rearranging the furniture, the dining pergola becomes a lounging pergola. An umbrella on standby provides shade when dining is on this side of the pool. The rounded shapes of the boxwood and hydrangea relax the eye instead of challenging it.