

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

JULY / AUGUST 2015

2015 Amazing Transformations Issue

Blow Your Mind
Before And Afters
From Our Areas
Top Talents



HOFFMAN LANDSCAPES





When these Darien homeowners called Hoffman Landscapes, they were looking to do a complete overhaul of their backyard area. It was old, outdated and overgrown. The many sloping areas throughout made it difficult for children to play and adults to relax and enjoy.

When viewing the back of the house, it is apparent that several additions were built, giving the charming home a flowing, built-over-time feeling. What was awkward from a landscaping point-of-view were the many doors, decks and patios all leading to the outdoors. There was no clear focus to the space. To minimize the “clutter” of entryways and create flow, one set of steps was widened, one set was closed off and an existing deck off the back of the house was morphed into a lovely balcony. Outdoor LED lighting was added throughout to assure usability into the evening, and an outdoor audio system was installed for lively entertainment.

Consideration was given to the materials used, and how to best make the overall space functional yet modern, without compromising the integrity of the home. The designer liked the gently curved cobblestone steps he found in the yard at the beginning of the project and resurrected them to add softness to all the home’s geometry. Combining old and new, the contrast of a more formal layout with the bucolic transitional materials connects the two terrace spaces, giving structure and symmetry to the property. The convenient outdoor kitchen is close to the house while modular furniture allows multi-positioning opportunities and contrasts nicely with the age of the home.

When speaking about the architectural design elements, Matthew Biron, Landscape Architect on the project says, “It’s the juxtaposition of apparent opposites that makes it all work well. A combination of a more formal layout was achieved using the cobblestone embedded steps as a rustic secondary transition to the lawn area. In addition, we added retaining walls using native stone to provide a foundation for the





bluestone patios and walkway. The retaining walls provide a nice backdrop for two colorful perennial gardens below that include knockout roses, salvia, rudbeckia and hydrangea.

A shed dormer addition to the back of the garage afforded the perfect place for a wandering garden that leads to the terraces. Upon entering, a Miss Kim lilac welcomes you. Flowering shrubs such as Endless Summer Hydrangea and inkberry, mix with other colorful perennials. An espalier is flanked by fountain grasses.

The family loves their new outdoor space, especially the kids. With proper planning, an outdoor eyesore can become an oasis for your family and guests to enjoy for many years to come. And when spaces are designed and built with care and thought, the end result will surely be a wow!

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