

2013 GO-TO GUIDE

great

Backyards

EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL LANDSCAPES

Winners!

95 NEW
DESIGNS
YOU'LL
LOVE

SAVE BIG
\$\$\$

Top 10 Ways
to Add Value
(cutting costs)

GAIN MORE
USABLE SPACE

patios • decks • pools
kitchens • fire pits
play areas • structures

COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES #77

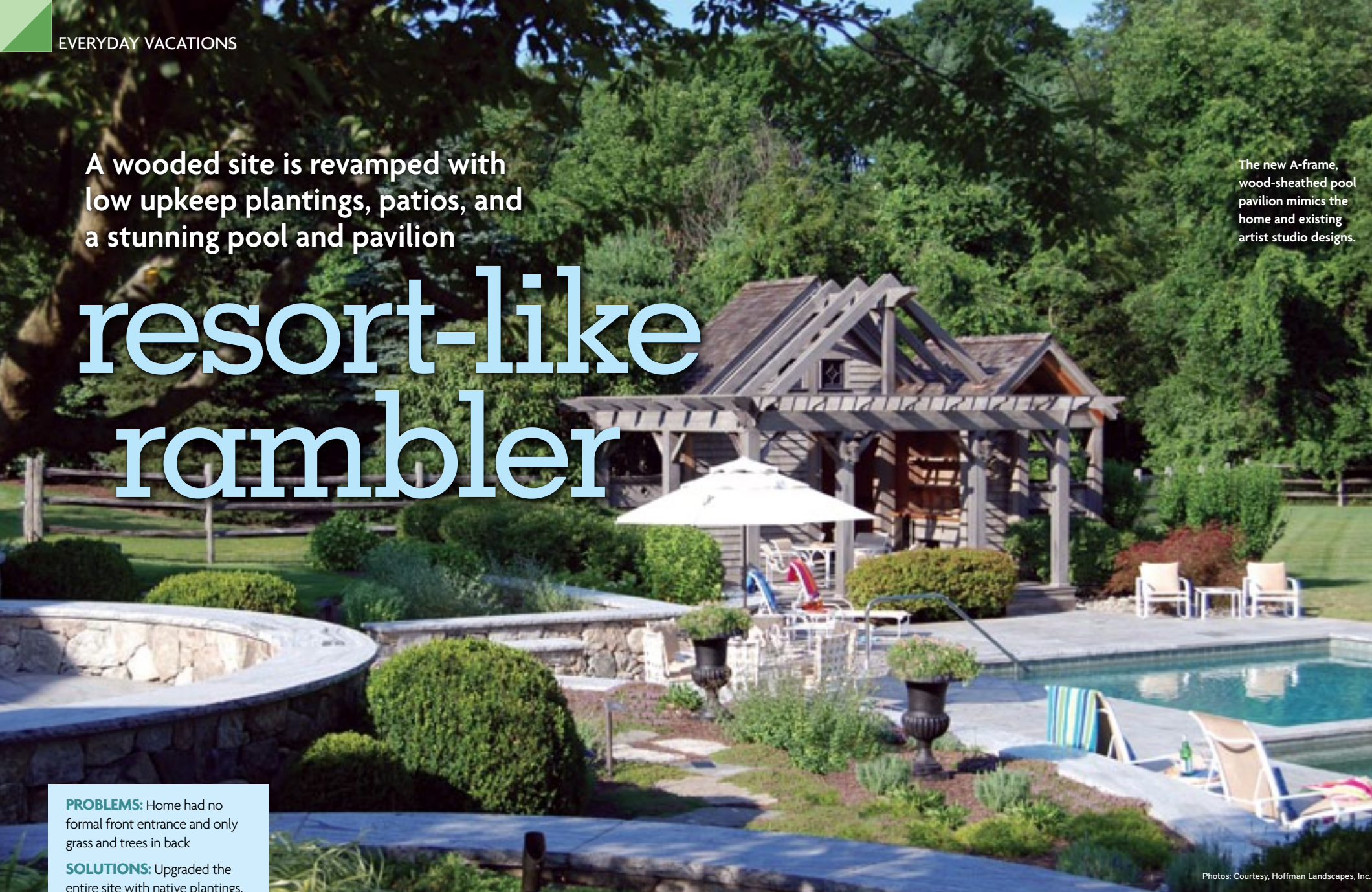
\$9.95



DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 29, 2013

A wooded site is revamped with low upkeep plantings, patios, and a stunning pool and pavilion

resort-like rambler



The new A-frame, wood-sheathed pool pavilion mimics the home and existing artist studio designs.



Low stone walls provide definition and places to sit amid new plantings, including nepeta, lady's mantle, sedum.



Big rocks were found during excavation, salvaged and placed by paths, including near the meditation garden.

The pool and spa nestle into the site, rimmed by a wide stone coping and with a mermaid to watch over bathers.

PROBLEMS: Home had no formal front entrance and only grass and trees in back

SOLUTIONS: Upgraded the entire site with native plantings, granite patio pockets, low stone walls, timber railings, pool and pavilion, meditation garden and screened porch

KEY PLANTINGS: *Hydrangea spp.* (Hydrangea); *Sedum spp.* (Stonecrop); *Rosa rugosa* 'The Fairy' (The Fairy Rose); *Lavendula angustifolia* (Lavender); *Alchimella mollis* (Lady's Mantle); *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple); *Allium schoenoprasum* (Common Chives)

ZONE: 6

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Brian Cossari, Hoffman Landscapes, Inc., Wilton, CT, hoffmanlandscapes.com

This rambling Adirondack-style home in Westport, Connecticut, had no proper entrance and only grass and trees in the back and sides. To become a more elegant "cabin in the woods" with places to relax and entertain, landscape architect Brian Cossari redesigned the entire site with a pièce de résistance—a striking pool and A-frame-style pavilion in back. At the front, he constructed a low stone wall that mimics the home's original stonework. Using durable Chinese granite, he laid a front patio

and placed at its center a big urn filled with seasonal plantings. At the rear, where the homeowners spend most of their time, he constructed granite patio pockets that step down over a slope, plus more low stone walls for definition and seating and timber railings. Plantings like boxwoods and hydrangeas, plus fragrant additions such as thyme, chives and lilacs, reflect the owners' wish for low maintenance. The sides were also relandscaped, and an area by an existing artist studio for the wife gained a charming meditation garden. —Susan W. Capparelle



Photos: Courtesy, Hoffman Landscapes, Inc.

naturally low maintenance

So there would be as little garden work as possible, Cossari went with easy-care materials in a monochromatic palette, which blends with the home's stone architecture. They include:

- **ORNAMENTAL GRASSES** for texture along paths, as well as in the mostly shaded meditation garden;
- **CHUNKY, IRREGULAR SHAPED ROCKS** found during excavation that were placed about the site to add interest;
- **GRANITE PATIO POCKETS** and low stone walls that offer extra seating, add more texture and require no care;
- **TIMBER RAILINGS** to fit with the cabin in the woods theme;
- **EXPANSES OF LAWN** and mulched beds around bordering trees to provide relief from the buildings and hardscaping.