

2011 BIG DOUBLE ISSUE!

COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES PRESENTS #62

GREAT BACKYARDS

EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL LANDSCAPES™

50 garden getaways

- * Small Spaces
- * Outdoor Rooms
- * Water Features
- * Tough Sites

UPDATE: What's Selling Homebuyers

LOW WATER WONDERS for Birds & Butterflies

Expert Designs!

PATHS • PATIOS • PONDS
POOLS • KITCHENS
PERGOLAS • FIREPITS





new colonial character

A new terrace, low stone walls and a rustic pergola fit a site's authentic period flavor

Finishing touches can make an enormous difference. A 1700s house in Westport, Connecticut, had previously been restored, and in more recent years a barn/garage, constructed to look old, was built to store cars and house overnight guests. A swimming pool was built adjacent to the barn and near the house. All seemed to provide the perfect backyard setting, except the owners never were completely satisfied with the environment surrounding the pool, so they hired Jeff Kuffel, ASLA, landscape architect with Hoffman Landscapes, Inc. to make it more attractive for relaxing in the sun or dining underneath a new pergola.

"They wanted a cleaner, neater design that would reflect the character of the Colonial-style house and its rustic barn, while keeping the simplicity of the site," Kuffel says. For the terrace, which wraps around the pool on all sides, he opted for big natural bluestone rectangles, which allow the pool, pergola and trees to take center stage. It's also a material indigenous to the area. "They didn't want anything that would look too exotic, like a granite or limestone," he says. The pergola acts as a more rustic foil, in keeping with the barn, though it was inspired in large measure by reclaimed posts used on an existing breezeway. Kuffel repeated the post idea



The terrace, made from bluestone rectangles, wraps around the pool and features a seating area with a rustic pergola above and low walls made from native fieldstones.

both as vertical and horizontal members. He also constructed low walls from native Connecticut fieldstone in a range of grays to brown colors to establish the feeling of outdoor rooms—a dining pavilion, lounge area and cooking station. Classic plantings such as hydrangea, boxwood, daylilies and wisteria were selected to add some color and texture, but again the overall approach was more minimal than lush. A paperbark maple with reddish bark was picked as one more noticeable ornamental accent.

behind the scenes

Landscape architect: Jeff Kuffel, ASLA, Hoffman Landscapes Inc., 647 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897, 203-834-9656, www.hoffmanlandscapes.com

Main plants used: *Hemerocallis* spp. (Daylily); *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple); *Buxus sempervirens* (European Boxwood); *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Bigleaf Hydrangea); *Wisteria floribunda* (Japanese Wisteria)

Zones: 5-6

Challenge: Having a large enough space for a dining table

Solution: Re-evaluate fence line and push it back to fit all onto site

Favorite outcome: Pergola, which complements age and character of the house and new barn

Designing a pergola that fits

- **Be sure it's stable.** Because the pergola may be used to support and grow plant materials, be sure you've installed strong footings, and use a material that's sturdy and will weather well outdoors, such as a cedar or reclaimed wood.
- **Choose complementary materials.** Make it fit both the home's exterior materials and style, the planting style, your lifestyle, and the amount of sun or shade desired.
- **Make it large enough.** You probably will want to accommodate a table and chairs or lounge chairs underneath, which means you need some extra room to pull back any chairs and room to walk around.
- **Locate it close enough to the house.** This should depend in part on sun patterns and use. Generally, it's best to orient it in full sun and then use vines atop the roof or sides for some shade; it's also nice to have it near the house if it's used as an open-air dining pavilion.