

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

*THE
OUTDOOR
ISSUE*

HOFFMAN LANDSCAPES

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When Tropical Storm Irene hit out of nowhere in the late summer of 2011, the homeowners were in the midst of making plans to revamp their garage to accommodate building racecars. But, as they say, the best laid plans...Irene toppled a colossal tree right into the outdoor shed and pool, destroying the vinyl liner and many surrounding trees. This event changed their renovation plans drastically. Thus began this dramatic transformation.

Brian Cossari, Landscape Architect for Hoffman Landscapes, states "the goal was to add to the pool space, incorporating both a spa and a water feature, having the ability to operate independently for year-round use, and to connect better to the outdoor dining room. The concept was to expand the feeling of the yard, stretching it out into the previously wooded areas and to make the water features feel in unity as one entity." For aesthetic reasons, the completely recessed spa was constructed out of stainless steel, acting as a museum quality work of art. The slope of the backyard needed to be brought to the new gunite pool's edge, so stone steps were added on the hill for access. The wandering garden allows you to circulate and provides a formal introduction to the waterfall via the

footbridge. Made of Brazilian Ipe hardwood, it creates an immediate focal point. Feel the inner peace when walking across the bridge, and listen to the calming sound of the waterfall while you switch into relaxation mode.

Many challenges needed to be overcome. Working in tandem with local health officials was critical to ensure spa placement was appropriate in relation to the septic system. The sloping property required re-grading. New retaining walls created levels for a destination terrace on the centerline with the kitchen door.

Care and thought were given to the materials. Original stones were salvaged and re-used, with matching resources brought in for continuity. They were deliberately placed on site with all the natural features of lichen and moss kept intact. Native plantings were used to assure acclimatization in the environment. Some plants were transplanted and re-used, thereby ensuring a link to the "before."

When an unforeseen catastrophe occurs in your backyard, it can lead to a total transformation that can make your landscape even better than imagined. Go from imperfect to a perfectly magical oasis right outside your door.