

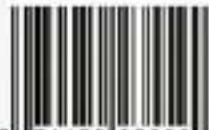
EAST COAST HOME + DESIGN

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HOFFMAN LANDSCAPES



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hen Fairfield homeowners approached Hoffman Landscapes of Wilton, CT with a lengthy To-Do list, at the very top was a request from the husband for an outdoor space where he could unwind after a long day at the office and an equally tiring commute. But this being a typical busy suburban family, there were also social gatherings to consider, whether hosting the Little League for an impromptu cookout or a cocktail party for friends. The homeowners wanted to use the space for as much of the year as possible so an outdoor fireplace was also on the wish list... along with an outdoor kitchen, expandable dining area, a seating area near the fireplace (with some sun protection) and of course, a TV.

Hoffman Landscape Architect Brian Cossari had issues to accommodate beyond this wish list. With so many windows and doors lining the back of the house, the outdoor living areas had to adapt to these openings seamlessly. Next, was the challenge of regrading the property to support the new structures while installing drainage, electrical and gas lines underneath. Finally to screen out neighbors, ornamental trees were planted creating a soft, natural fence amidst the hardscape elements.

One by one every design challenge was surmounted with clients checking the must-haves on their wish list. An inviting seating area with comfy sofas, a television built into the (no-mess) gas fireplace and a pergola overhead with retractable screen created the perfect spot for the busy husband to relax after a long day. Multiple areas for dining were designed to seat varying groups of guests and the outdoor kitchen housed an enormous 60 inch gas grill, large enough to feed a crowd.

"We even made the dog happy," said Cossari. "The homeowners' large chocolate lab loves to run from the rear kitchen door to the outside. Cossari's design solution was to place the outdoor kitchen 'off access' using a retaining wall in the outdoor kitchen to support the change in grade. Granite stairs were built next to this wall to provide convenient guest entry from the driveway."



To soften the bluestone on the patio, as well as the fieldstone in the retaining walls and fireplace, soft shades of perennials—Nepeta, fountain grass, lavender, moonbeam, coreopsis, liriope and coral bells are planted throughout. Spring flowering crabapple trees flank the fireplace, providing privacy and the ambience of a “room” out of doors.

Even with the addition of these multiple and infinitely accommodating entertainment areas, the beautiful open space of the backyard was preserved for active recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

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