

# EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

CONNECTICUT | NEW JERSEY | NEW YORK



## THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATIONS ISSUE

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**S**ome would say there's nothing more important than making a great first impression. These New Canton homeowners took that advice to heart when formulating their wish list for this home. Both entrances to the structure—the approach to the property from the street and the access to their front entry—lacked the appropriate scale and interest.

One of the first items on their list for Hoffman Landscapes, Inc. was to "fix" the awkward driveway. It had an unremarkable entrance from the street, with low stone pillars not befitting the scale and grandeur of the home, and a steep, serpentine drive.

"The entrance to the home was lacking drama and not commensurate with the scale of the home itself," said Brian Cassari, Hoffman's landscape architect for the project. "The front of the home already had the makings of a courtyard with the house having a cozy L-shape around the entrance. It seemed only logical to encapsulate the entire space. Also, the homeowners had already embarked on a project to enlarge the front door and portico, which meant that the courtyard had to be scaled to enhance the home's entrance."

The solution was to reposition the entrance from the road. At the street level entrance, a generous cobblestone apron welcomes guests from the roadway and matching cobblestone gutters provide an attractive ridge around the perimeter. A retaining wall has been introduced at the entrance to provide visual stability before the descent of the driveway begins. The driveway was then regraded and lengthened to reduce the pitch and make it easier to navigate in snowy weather.





Before

Grand anatomy pieces support the custom iron gate and are dressed with oversized cast limestone planters. The large iron urns help bring the overall scale of the entrance into the proper proportion with the home. At night, the planters are up lit with lights that have been sunk into the asphalt and into the pillars, replacing the need for traditional coach lamps. Throughout the year seasonal plantings beckon visitors to enter and when illuminated at night they make a vivid first impression.

The secondary arrival area is demarcated with lower pieces and urns as well as masonry walls that frame the guest parking area. These key elements relate the landscape to the home's architecture.

For the front entrance, a dramatic flagstone courtyard utilizing biaxial symmetry creates a gorgeous entrance garden. The centerpiece of the space is another oversized urn that acts as a focal point in the courtyard and when elevated on a pedestal, reduces the grand scale of the home from the pedestrian's eye level.

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