



EAST COAST HOME DESIGN

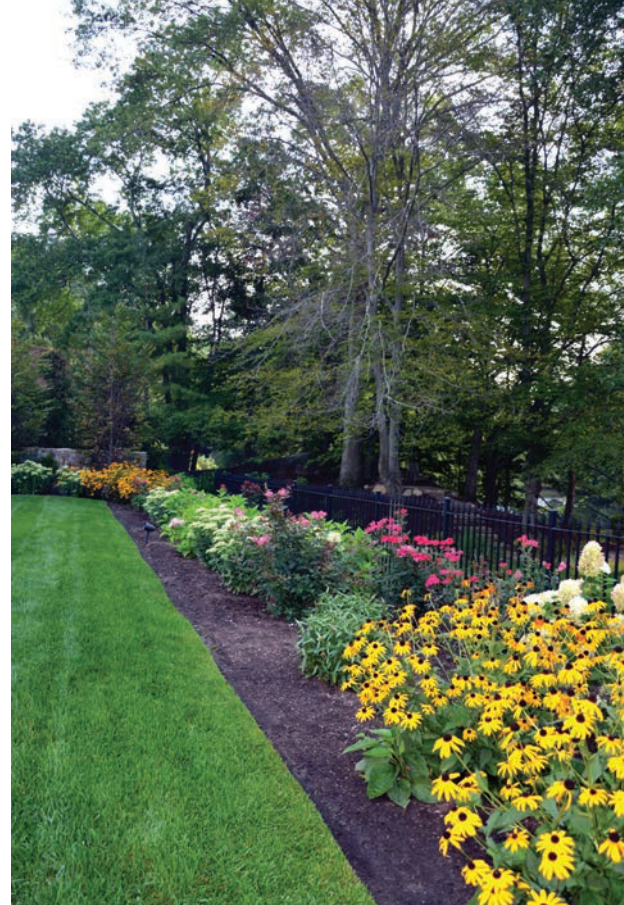
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Hoffman Landscapes

When a couple with a growing New Canaan family came to Hoffman Landscapes, Inc. of Wilton, CT seeking to create ‘a resort at home’, the challenges were considerable. Safety for the children was of course, paramount for the homeowners and at the same time they wanted a space that was practical as well as beautiful.

In designing the space, Brian Cossari, a licensed landscape architect with Hoffman, had several issues to contend with, not the least was the scale of the house itself. The same Connecticut fieldstone façade of the home was used in the masonry walls surrounding the pool, creating a courtyard effect. The seating walls and step treads were capped with imported Chinese green granite which compliments the pool and spa coping. Finally, stone arches were introduced underneath the deck to create portal doorways. Planting beds between the pool and the home soften the hardscapes.

The homeowners were keen to select patio stone that wouldn’t be hot under bare feet. To achieve this goal, aquastone quartzite was used for the pool terrace and paths. Workers laid out stone samples in the sun and then shot them with an infrared thermometer to determine which stones had the greatest heat gain; those were then eliminated from consideration. Once selected, stones were laid out in a diamond pattern for maximum dramatic effect.

For the pool, a tan pebble finish was applied which provides a beachy look and imparts a soothing green hue to the water.

Privacy is always a concern when creating an entertainment/recreational space of this magnitude and the abutting neighbor property was quite close to the pool environment. To establish a natural privacy ‘wall’, beech trees were selected to create a privacy hedge. Because its leaves are dormant, staying on the trees in winter, this hedge will provide privacy year- round. To create additional drama, the hedge is up lit at night.

For ornamental plantings, native plants were chosen for environmentally sensitive sections (the property also has a nearby pond and watercourse). A mix of flowering perennials –including phlox, catmint, knock out roses and sedum--and shrubs such as hydrangea and rose of sharon were planted to enhance the pool area. The heights of the plants were carefully considered to preserve the view of the adjacent pond in the rear yard.

While the summer months are the most active in this home, the beauty of the overall space provides year- round enjoyment and privacy for this large and energetic family.

Hoffman Landscapes, Inc.
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