



Fire elements—fire pits, fireplaces and fire accents—extend the season and allow for more time to be spent outdoors.

BEYOND LANDSCAPING

Hoffman Landscapes, a full-service firm serving Fairfield and Westchester counties, creates—and maintains—gorgeous outdoor spaces for its customers.

Hoffman Landscapes’ award-winning team has been recognized many times over for its outstanding design and swimming pool construction. The company also specializes in complete property management for lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs. Hoffman Landscapes serves Fairfield and Litchfield counties in Connecticut as well as Westchester county in New York. We talked to Matthew Biron, one of the licensed landscape architects from Hoffman’s Landscape Architecture/Outdoor Construction department, who creates innovative design solutions for their clients.

What’s the first thing you do when you see a home you’ll be working on for the first time?

I ask the client for their objectives, a wish list and timeline for the project. I also like to learn the history of the property – what they or prior owners may have done with it. It’s often useful to research that property at town hall, too. Perhaps

it was part of an earlier subdivision or you’ll discover an old swimming pool or septic system. These things are critical to know.

What do you wish all prospective clients knew about working with a designer?

Most clients have an idea of what they want but the best outcome usually comes about when a designer is given some freedom. Nine out of 10 times when we present our first design to a client, their response is “Wow. I never would have thought of that!” A designer can meet a client’s needs in unanticipated ways.

What one element do you think no design can do without?

Fire or water! Fire extends the season to enjoy more time outdoors – something more clients want today. And water (a pool, spa, fountain, or even a stream) can promote calmness with sound and a cooling factor in the heat of summer.

What three pieces should every home have?

Designing an outdoor space is very similar to creating indoor spaces. They’re designed for function. We like to define spaces for living, dining and kitchens.

What is the most common design mistake you’ve seen and how do you correct it?

Sometimes a client will call us because they don’t understand why their plants or shrubs are dying. Frequently this is because of poor drainage from improper grading. Design should be holistic. When we create hardscapes like walkways, patios or retaining walls, we consider all the aspects of construction, including foundation, drainage and electrical, so that future problems can be avoided.

Hoffman Landscapes, Inc.
647 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT
203-637-1131, hoffmanlandscapes.com



More clients want to enjoy time outdoors and water (whether a pool, spa or stream), promotes calmness in the summer heat.