



EAST COAST HOME DESIGN

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Lisa Davenport Designs



Nestled in the historic South End of Boston is a mid-19th-century brick row house that is spilling with character and charm, both inside and out. The outdoor space is a beautiful courtyard, serene and private. “When you’re in this courtyard, you’d never know you’re just two miles from the heart of the city. It’s an oasis,” says designer Lisa Davenport of Lisa Davenport Designs. She created this peaceful refuge for her semiretired clients as a getaway from the busy city life of Boston.

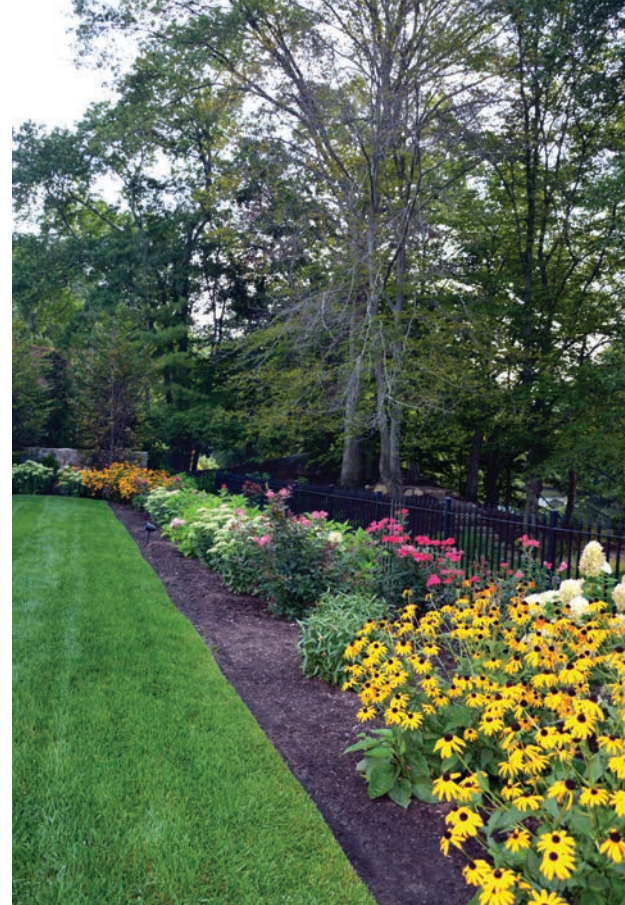
Davenport says the clients wanted a gathering space with outdoor dining for get-togethers with family and friends, as well as additional storage for their gardening tools. They also sought to incorporate elements from an English-style garden and disguise a large brick wall from their neighbor’s addition. To accomplish this, Davenport created a three-tiered courtyard of tranquility for her clients. On the second tier, she designed a classic New England entry door, complete with a brass door knocker and antique reproduction light. But this entrance isn’t all it appears to be. “Callers can knock until the sun goes down, but they will never receive a response!” says Davenport. “Why? This door, along with the windows and separate entry, are all false, creating a façade to finish the large brick wall of the adjacent property’s 1970s addition.”

The real purpose of the entry is a potting shed. To make it look like it was part

of the original design, the contractor painstakingly searched for and found reclaimed bricks to match the existing wall and slate for the roof shed. The lowest tier of the stunning space is a slate and brick patio area used for gathering, grilling and dining. The third tier is the actual entrance to the courtyard area. It has a spectacular arched wooden gate and circular stone pattern laid out with brick and slate, like the first tier.

Davenport says this project gave her a chance to share one of her passions, “my love for breathing new life into old materials. Many elements of this project were reclaimed materials.” She loves design because she gets to bring joy to other people, and she loves the emotion experienced when a project turns out perfectly. “Getting to know my clients firsthand, teaching and showing them new products and ideas, and the emotional satisfaction I get when a client is elated with how their project has come to life...it’s like Christmas whenever I complete a project!”

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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.
hoffmanlandscapes.com