

When Design Comes Naturally

Sweenor Builders and Landscape Creations bring the outside in at this coastal Narragansett property.

BY KAITLYN MURRAY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SETH JACOBSON



FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM BUILD ON A picturesque two-acre parcel along the coast, a Narragansett family had achieved the home of their dreams. Yet, something was missing. For an active group of outdoor enthusiasts, the home wouldn't be complete without a grand backyard space primed for endless summer fun.

Ready to take the plunge and create their outdoor sanctuary, the homeowners invited back Landscape Creations and Sweenor Builders, the landscape contractor and design/build firms responsible for creating the main home and grounds on the property. The two naturally joined forces a second time to work their magic and make the homeowners' vision a reality.

But the project was not without its challenges. For one, the site was located in an historic district, which required design and material approvals from the town's historical society. Additionally, the site was home to a number of longstanding Beech trees that were part of a renowned landscape architect's original design for the area — and were not to be disturbed. Preservation constraints meant careful planning and execution would be required to blend key elements and create an oasis that the family seldom wanted to leave.

To start, Landscape Creations constructed retaining walls — camouflaged by creative plantings like Kousa Dogwoods and climbing vines — around the Beech trees for preservation purposes. Then, every inch of the space was considered. New construction needed to feel harmonious in form, material, siting and scale with the main home and surrounding neighborhood, while also offering functionality for family activities, entertaining, relaxing and soaking in the scenery. Collaboration resulted in a final design that clusters outdoor spaces, almost like rooms for different uses, with a gorgeous pool and pool house at the center. Focus on landscaping and florals keeps new additions from overwhelming the natural setting.

Noteworthy landscaping features are numerous: two superb Fieldstone firepits with Bluestone caps and natural gas piping; a lush three-hole, synthetic turf putting green that can be used year-round; an irregular Bluestone walkway meanders through a vegetable garden, across the lawn and down to the lower level terrace; and, of course, a freeform pool complete with a sun shelf and integrated swim jets for exercising. A spacious Bluestone pool deck and patios ideal for sunning and outdoor dining surround the pool.

And what's a striking pool area without an equally spectacular pool house?



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: The landscaped grounds boast a lush synthetic turf putting green, sprawling gardens and a scenic meandering Bluestone walkway; The pool house complements the classic shingle-style architecture of the main home; The line between inside and out is decidedly blurred thanks to floor-to-ceiling accordion doors in the pool house; A hot tub, outdoor shower, fire pit and al fresco dining spots surround the curved pool and pool house. Hanging bistro lights set the mood for endless summer nights.

Sweenor Builders' classic shingle-style design complements that of the property's main home and carriage house and uses a cohesive coastal color scheme to create seamless transitions to new spaces.

The pool house intentionally brings the outside in through the selection of organic, durable materials. High ash wood ceilings are finished with a clear stain and paired with retractable floor-to-ceiling accordion doors, creating an open flow between the pool and kitchen. And speaking of the fully equipped kitchen, it features stainless steel cabinetry, exclusively made to hold up against the elements. The island is wrapped in a panna white jambstock (typically used for waterproofing showers) to withstand children's wet and sandy feet. Add in the shower complete with beach stone tile, the cozy media nook bathed in sunlight, plus the warmth of the wood-burning fireplace, and this active family never again has to miss the joy of the great outdoors while 'stuck' inside.



SWEENOR BUILDERS, 401-789-4341, sweenorbuilders.com, @Sweenor_Builders

LANDSCAPE CREATIONS, 401-789-7101, landscapecreationsri.com, @LandscapeCreationsRI