

## Planning Your Outdoor Oasis

Investing in your home's landscape provides dividends well beyond the financial. This has never been more evident. We live in an age where time, and the places where we enjoy it, are more precious than ever.

Whether you seek a private sanctuary from our modern world or want to create a special place for making memories with your family, we encourage homeowners to think about the outdoor project scope holistically. Engaging a team of experienced landscape professionals early, is key to realizing your vision and return on investment.

People often make the avoidable mistake of viewing the landscape scope as secondary, and - a later phase to other home improvements. This disjointed approach, where landscape experts do not have an opportunity to weigh in on site design, materials sourcing, construction phasing and methodologies, and connectivity to drainage, irrigation, outdoor lighting, or other smart outdoor home systems, undermines our ability to solve problems while they are still called opportunities.

Also, make sure to check the contractor's portfolio carefully. Beyond incorporating the features that are important to you - whether that is a pool, firepit, outdoor kitchen, vegetable garden, sports court, or something more - topnotch landscape professionals will have a track record installing these hard and softscape features to seamlessly blend new and old construction, indoor spaces and out. Getting these nuanced craftsmanship details right is crucial to creating a landscape that will boost your property's value.

Finally, keep in mind that the best landscape professionals will have a long history of collaborating with the leading residential architects and custom home builders. They have the experience to guide the team on options that are mindful of the environment and maintenance requirements, and to suggest ways to increase your home's connectivity to nature and seasonal landscape vistas throughout the year. Having an experienced landscape professional on board will help you create a luxurious high-end landscape that boosts the value of your property while you are in it, and when you're ready to sell.

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## PLANNING AHEAD AND FINDING THE RIGHT BUILDER

Before the day comes that you break ground on your new home, you need to take the right steps to plan out the project. Planning ahead will ensure that the project goes smoothly and that your expectations are met. The following list can help guide you through the early stages of planning your custom home build in Rhode Island.

- Find the right property. First and foremost, you need to locate the land on which you'll build your custom home. Consider all your options from remote locations to gated communities.
- Seek a quality builder. Once you know where you plan to build, do research to find quality builders in the area. Find a team with a trusted reputation and a portfolio of work to back it.
- Spend time on design. Don't rush into finalizing designs. Spend as much time as you need to work with your custom home builder to create the perfect dream home. You can make changes far more easily during the planning stage than you can halfway through construction.
- Figure out your moving logistics. Decide on your timeline for moving to the area. Do you plan to rent a place nearby during the build, or do you want to wait to move until the project is done? Figuring this out in advance makes it easier to organize the move.

## AN OCEAN OF POSSIBILITY

Rhode Island is a beautiful place with countless eateries to enjoy, waterfronts to explore and the chance to settle into the home of your dreams. Whether you opt to renovate an existing home, or you choose to build from the ground up, Rhode Island promises to provide an ocean of possibility for your life ahead.



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