

New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

Summer Color!

Light, bright, and livable
does the trick





Paradise Transformed

An already-special property becomes a seaside Eden with a landscape plan that celebrates and protects the spectacular surroundings.

ABOVE: The hefty framing of the pool house fits the rugged New England shore while providing a gracious and efficient shelter. Pool equipment is cleverly stored in a space beneath the building. **RIGHT:** The stunning retaining wall running alongside the pool is capped with bluestone and includes rockface edge pillars. Gas tiki torches ratchet up the nighttime ambience.

☞ **When the deep blue Atlantic Ocean is your neighbor,** you want to maximize your property's potential in every way possible. At the same time, however, the fragile coast requires protection. For the new owners of this Duxbury, Massachusetts, home, balancing the two was particularly challenging. Their just-over-an-acre parcel was tight, the coastal restraints were stringent, and the existing lackluster 1970s house didn't meet their needs or live up to its dazzling location.

The couple, who entertain frequently, envisioned a welcoming nest in tune with their modern aesthetic where friends and family could gather indoors and out. To achieve that sort of livability and functionality, there was no option but to raze the dated house and reimagine the grounds. Every available inch of the lot was required to gain space for soak-up-the-view activities. "We needed to shoehorn as much stone terrace and other elements into the property as we could, but still make it feel like it was blended into the coastal landscape," explains landscape architect Sean Papich. All this, remember, while adhering to the Conservation Commission's restrictions.

Still, the team was undaunted. Campbell Smith Architects designed a light-filled house that pulls in stunning vistas at every turn. And Papich, along with the project's senior landscape architect, Scott

Garvin, zoomed ahead with introducing a range of life-enhancing elements from terraces to stepping-stone lawn areas.

Drifts of hardy grasses and perennials elevate the waterfront property in a manner that reflects the



| TEXT BY MEGAN FULWEILER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY CRISAFULLI |



owners' fresh approach and befits the surroundings. Blue hydrangea, billowing catmint, and sedum—the classic favorites—are here. But there's also a wealth of new native plants. Papich installed varieties like bayberry, beach plum, and switchgrass to revegetate the coastal buffer and help stabilize the shore.

The new pool lies where the garage once sat. No ordinary straight-edge pool, this one incorporates a bluestone retaining wall from which fountains (or as Papich labels them, "scuppers") pour a constant musical stream of water. Above, a line of privacy-enhancing junipers creates a ribbon of green. And on the pool's opposite side, where the terrace widens, a

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A sea of bluestone laid in an eye-catching irregular pattern unifies the outdoor area. To aid runoff, some stepping stones between the main house and pool house are coupled with lawn joints. From the outdoor dining table to the spa, every spot celebrates the promontory's unending views.

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN COUNTRY POOL HOUSE AND CONTEMPORARY HOME SERVES TO HEIGHTEN THE WATERFRONT SETTING'S AMBIENCE.

pervious grid of bluestone and grass mitigates storm water runoff and acts as a decorative surround for the spa—the ultimate ocean-viewing spot.

If the sun is too fierce or the evening demands a cozy fire, the architects also designed a pool house that features a protected outdoor sitting area, a wet bar, and a changing room. Unlike the sleek home, this timber-frame structure with its stone fireplace has an appealing rustic quality that, according to architect and project manager Christopher DeOrsay, "recalls an assembly of New England farm buildings." The contrast between country pool house and

Outside Interest

RIGHT: The home's walk-out basement level leads to a green lawn. Tiered walls with integrated planting beds safeguard the pool and, along with the bleached cedar fence, help with pet control.

FACING PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: The owners were very involved with the design of their home and landscape; while the wife spearheaded the house plans, the husband took the lead on the fully equipped outdoor kitchen. A sleek fire pit adds drama to the neighboring spa.



contemporary home serves to heighten the waterfront setting's ambience.

With an outdoor kitchen that includes everything from a ceramic smoker to a wine-and-beer chiller, the owners can, if they choose, make all their summer meals alfresco. The dining area provides plenty of room for guests, and Papich even thought to integrate

a stone peninsula where the chef lays out the finished dishes and people linger about with their drinks.

The terraced stone walls guarding the pool area did away with the need for a standard enclosure. But where a fence is required, the ones built by New England Woodworkers becomes what Papich calls another "highlight of the project." Picking up on the



home's twenty-first-century vibe, spaced horizontal board (at the property's perimeter) and long-lasting black metal mesh with a cedar frame (abutting the stone walls) come together to give the whole composition a slightly edgy feel, he says. In the same vein, the rounded stone used for the walls is a mixed granite that, unlike traditional fieldstone, conveys an of-the-moment character.

On the sloping lawn across from the pool area, an angled pit with a base of crushed stone (another pervious surface) houses a host of solar panels sup-

plying electricity for the house, pool house, and pool area. The ecological feature underscores the owner's environmental awareness and goes a long way in making the property's beautiful and innovative transformation a smart design feat in every sense. [www](#)

RESOURCES : For more information about the professionals involved in this project, see page 188.

PROJECT TEAM

Landscape design: Sean Papich
Landscape Architecture

Landscape contractor: Paragon
Landscape Construction

Poolhouse architecture:
Campbell Smith Architects

Builder: JB Robbie Builders

