

GREAT BACKYARDS

2010 BIG DOUBLE ISSUE!

COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES PRES. #55

EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL LANDSCAPES

50 garden GETAWAYS

- * Small Spaces
- * Outdoor Rooms
- * Tough Sites
- * Water Features

DROUGHT-PROOF
Gardens That
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UPDATE: What's
Selling Homebuyers

**Expert
Designs!**

**PATHS • PATIOS • FENCES
PONDS • KITCHENS
FIREPLACES • POOLS**



garden rooms

Enjoy all the indoor comforts under open skies



It's really no wonder that the garden room has taken root. It's a fresh, lighthearted instant addition that boosts your entertaining capacity and living/lounging options, all while offering front-row views to the surrounding landscape. It's the perfect at-home escape!

94 | sheltered under a sturdy roof, this kitchen-side dining area plays it cool in sun and rain

78 | open-air "windows" plus all-weather furnishings make this a true indoor-outdoor family room

82 | an over-the-garage space becomes a complete living, dining and entertaining center

90 | tucked away at the end of a path, this terrace can be used for meals great and small



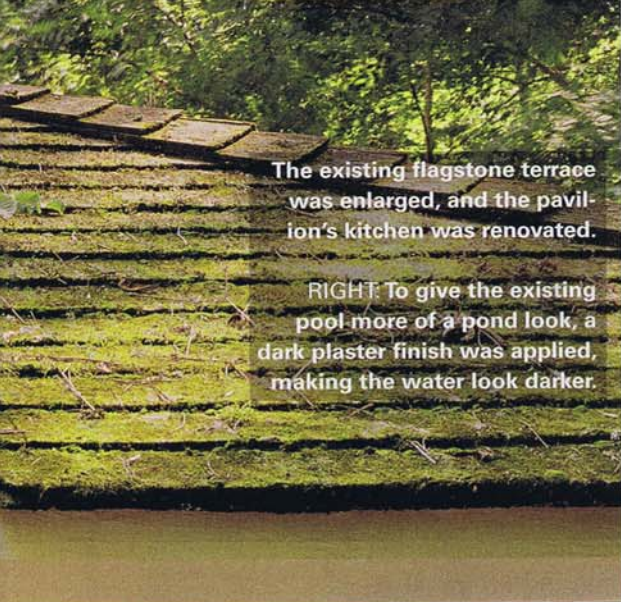
gentle tweaking

Stately estate is cleaned up
and gains a more pond-like pool

For more than 15 years, landscape architect Charles “Chuck” Hess has cared for a bucolic 7-acre landscape that surrounds a 1920s Philadelphia home. Rather than start almost from scratch and make his own personal mark, he has shown restraint in respect for the wooded, steep acres, which include a 30’ drop-off at the back, along with two streams that meander through the property, replete with waterfalls, large boulders, curved stone retaining

walls and a footbridge. Much of his attention has been focused on clearing away excess growth that had matured through the years and transplanting it to open areas that afford more sunlight to allow the plants to thrive.

The homeowners recently asked Hess and interior designer Marguerite Rodgers to make some more significant changes to improve their property’s existing architectural features as well as add a new one. The 1960s pool needed work because



The existing flagstone terrace was enlarged, and the pavilion's kitchen was renovated.

RIGHT: To give the existing pool more of a pond look, a dark plaster finish was applied, making the water look darker.



Photography: Barry Halkin-Architectural Photography Inc.



behind the scenes

Landscape architect: Charles E. Hess Jr., Hess Landscape Architect Inc., Lansdale, PA, hessla.com, 215-855-5530

Interior designer: Marguerite Rodgers, Marguerite Rodgers Ltd., Philadelphia, PA, mroddersltd.com, 215-634-7888

Challenges: Steeply rolling site with pool needed some work; wanted a new terrace and a hot tub that's wrapped in a curved wall

Best outcome: The remodeled pool and hot tub are nestled into a beautiful landscape

Main plants used: Focus was on pruning existing trees and shrubs, but added a sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) and some hibiscus trees (*Hibiscus*) in pots around the pool for color and fragrance; they can be housed off site in winter and then returned

Zones: 6-7

Gently remodeling an old, stately site

Sometimes, a landscape needs tweaking rather than a major overhaul, which is what landscape architect Charles Hess and designer Marguerite Rodgers did here:

Incorporated a hot tub into an existing wall and lawn area.

The tub was placed at one end of a widened patio as an accent piece that didn't distract from the pool's natural, open shape. With the interior lined in iridescent black glass tiles, it seems to disappear.

Constructed a larger patio from the same natural materials.

To expand the pool's surrounding terrace and keep it looking appropriate, Hess used the same light-colored Pennsylvania flagstone, dryset so grass would grow between the spaces.

Added eclectic furnishings. To create a personalized look, Rodgers selected teak furnishings for their bulk and sturdiness; more modern, lighter-looking pieces with mesh fabric and brown leather trim; and some Moroccan-made tables with mosaics. She also picked a new metal chandelier for above the dining table in the pavilion.

of its age; Hess also integrated a hot tub into a nearby wall, rimming the tub in fieldstone to blend with the wall so it is barely visible until close up. He made the existing flagstone terrace larger with Pennsylvania flagstone laid in a random pattern. Rodgers renovated the existing pavilion's kitchen, dressing room and bath, but kept the dining area small for intimate meals.