

*IN HARMONY*



A tranquil, eco-friendly landscape balances the forces of man and nature on a Chesapeake Bay tributary near Annapolis

BY SHARON JAFFE DAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BURROUGHS



**P**oised on the banks of Harness Creek near Annapolis, a once-depleted property now harbors drifts of native grasses and perennials and a dazzling pool and pool house, surrounding a new custom home clad in stone. The three-acre landscape is living proof that man and nature can coexist in harmony. Runoff is filtered through rain gardens that protect the waterway, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. In turn, a planted dune protects the house against flooding when waters rise.

As landscape architect Kevin Campion explains, “It is a great collaboration of two separate ecologies for the mutual benefit of man and nature.”

The project also marked a successful collaboration of the human kind. Following the completion of their client’s new home in 2014 (search “Raw & Refined” on [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com)), Campion, architect Cathy Purple Cherry, Pyramid Builders and the homeowners turned their atten-

tion to the landscape and its exterior structures. The site encompasses four distinct zones: a rain garden and a meadow on the street side, a shoreline garden near the creek and a play garden housing the pool. During the design phase, the owners decided to locate the pool and pool house on the side of the residence. “This way,” explains Purple Cherry, “they’re not front and center in the view during the winter months.”

Her design of the pool house pairs a stone volume housing a bath and changing room with a glass-enclosed “cube” designed for meditative reflection. “We wanted to

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 ARCHITECTURE: CATHY PURPLE CHERRY, AIA, Purple Cherry Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. BUILDER: BRET ANDERSON, Pyramid Builders, Annapolis, Maryland. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: KEVIN CAMPION, ASLA, principal; KEVIN GAUGHAN, ASLA, project manager, Campion Hruby Landscape Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. MASONRY: MICHAEL PROKOPCHAK, Walnut Hill Landscape Company, Annapolis, Maryland. INTERIOR DESIGN: ARLENE CRITZOS and CATHY BELKOV, Interior Concepts Inc., Annapolis, Maryland.





Previous spread: Sited to the side of the main residence, the pool house, pool and spa offer the homeowners and their guests a serene, resort-like escape. A fountain near the husband's office in the main house (opposite, top) and a spillway beside the stone diving platforms (left) carry sound and movement throughout the landscape. Iris and nassella (top, right) line a pathway while a nature-inspired spiral (above) is cut into an open meadow.



A patchwork of lawn and planting beds brimming with allium and native grasses surrounds the pool house. The structure's stone volume contains a changing room while the glass "cube" encloses a seating area. Outside, a covered terrace features seating and dining areas.

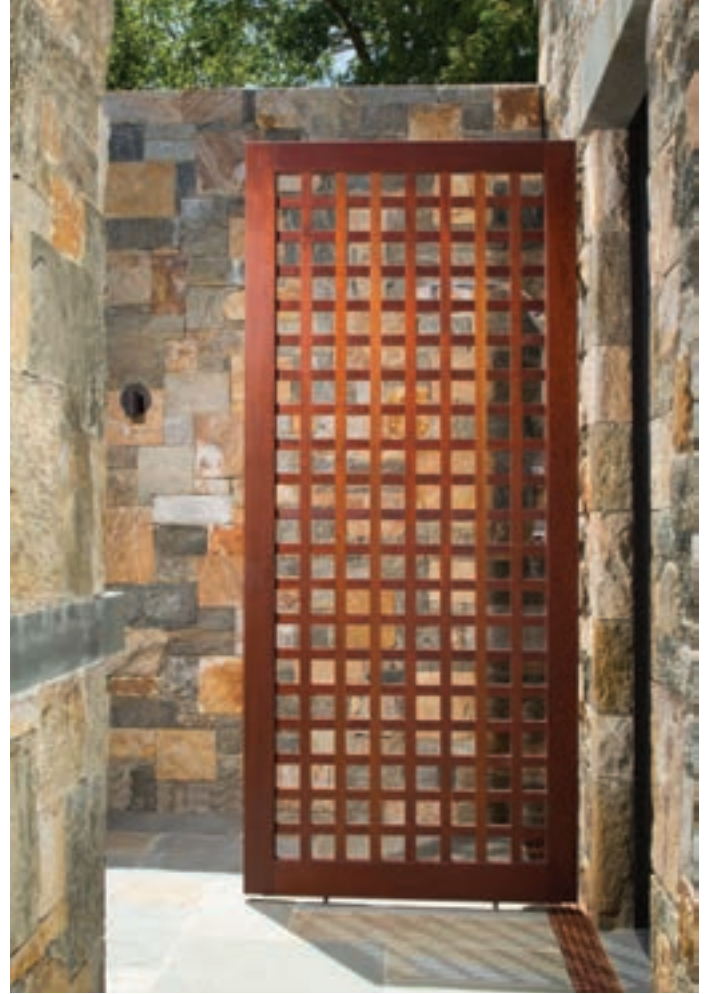




bring together the emotions of the water, land, sky and vegetation—connecting those things and creating an opportunity for tranquility,” says the architect. Stone walls extending along the far side of the pool enclose a private outdoor shower, conceal pool equipment and screen the property from neighbors.

The pool house connects the upper meadow with the shoreline garden and also relates to the main house with its stone, glass and wood composition. Combining four types of stone, the masonry on the pool complex evokes a rustic, Southwestern sensibility. The random, rugged look was not easy to achieve, says Michael Prokopchak, whose firm, Walnut Hill Landscape Company, installed the stonework. “All four sides of every stone had to be cut and the sharp edges chiseled to give them a more natural look,” he says. “It was a challenge, but the end product is phenomenal.”





Designers Arlene Critzos and Cathy Belkov of Interior Concepts created a custom pull-out sofa for the pool house, which features a wet bar (opposite, bottom). Outdoor seating by Woodard (opposite, top) blends with the organic hardscape. The luxurious pool house bath (below, left and right) features custom Douglas fir vanities and a blue-glass sink illuminated with LED lights. Walnut Hill cut and chiseled every stone (above, left) to achieve a rustic, hand-stacked look. A trellis door (above, right) leads to an outdoor shower.







In addition, every piece of bluestone in the project—from the pool coping to the diving platforms—had to be carefully sized and custom-cut as no two pieces are the same.

Even greater detail was lavished on a stone focal wall that buttresses the terrace outside the owner's office in the main residence. A motif on the wall combines Mexican beach-pebble accents around a slab of black granite that Champion and the client hand-picked at a quarry in Upstate New York. A spillway filters water over the walls in two tiers. "Our client is inspired by nature," says Purple Cherry. "He wanted to open the windows and hear the sound of the water."

Indeed, water is a thread that runs throughout this project on many levels, says Champion. "We brought water close to the house and created these sensory elements so that while you can see water in the distance, you can hear it in the foreground."

From the pool, steps lead down the dune, awash in a sea of shrubs, perennials and grasses, to Harness Creek, where the owners dock their yacht. Champion and his team designed "pools of lawn" connected by large beds of native plants, creating a tidewater habitat that reduces water consumption. "There are interesting aesthetics that are low-maintenance and more beautiful than lawn," he explains. "And we wanted there to be an inextricable connection, so that when you come around the house, the garden just pulls you down to the water." ❖

*Photographer David Burroughs is based in Annapolis.* SEE RESOURCES ON PAGE 214.



The pool house is located on the left side of the main residence. Covered in a rich tapestry of shrubs, perennials and grasses, the dune (pictured here) leads down to the water where thousands of native plants in the shoreline garden (left) shelter crabs, turtles and other denizens of the delicate ecosystem.

