



The new home (opposite) enjoys a broad view of Aberdeen Creek near Annapolis. The main terrace (pictured here) features a pool, shade structure and plenty of outdoor seating.



# Waterfront OASIS

A sprawling Annapolis landscape celebrates its natural surroundings



BY SHARON JAFFE DAN

Sometimes unraveling challenges reaps unexpected rewards. Such was the case when homeowners planning a new residence on Aberdeen Creek decided they wanted to live on the property during construction. They moved into the existing house on the lot while their new home was being built nearby; the original was then torn down and a new guesthouse built in its place. It was at this point that architect Scarlett Breeding's plan cleverly connected the two structures with a bridge housing a home office with panoramic water views. Not only does the bridge lend a unique signature to the Shingle-style home, it also

beckons residents and guests to explore what lies beyond: 4.4 acres of sweeping gardens that encompass both large spaces for entertaining and secret niches enveloped in greenery. "We designed a garden under the bridge to pull you in and draw you into this water view," says landscape architect Kevin Campion. "It's pretty dramatic."

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ARCHITECT: SCARLETT BREEDING, AIA, Alt Breeding Schwarz Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: KEVIN CAMPION and BOB HRUBY, principals; MEREDITH BEACH, project manager, Campion Hruby Landscape Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR: MIKE PROKOPCHAK, Walnut Hill Landscape Company, Annapolis, Maryland. BUILDER: BRET ANDERSON, Pyramid Builders, Annapolis, Maryland.

LEFT © JAY STEARNS, RIGHT © MIKE PROKOPCHAK



Throughout the property, the team created an outdoor aesthetic that reflects the architecture of the house. “The owners wanted a welcoming house,” says Breeding. “The gardens follow that—they’re much more informal.”

Campion agrees, “There’s a strong armature that runs along the back of the house. But then it’s adorned with naturalistic plantings.” The garden includes a pool, kitchen and dining area on the main terrace, rambling “rivers” of lawn that meander down to the creek and a sport court for the couple’s two kids.

From the house, a path of boulders leads to a secluded hot tub. Walnut Hill Landscape Company, which installed and maintains the landscape, “did a great job creating stairs that look like an outcrop—very informal and organic,” says Campion.

But nothing feels more organic than the sweeping Lord Baltimore hibiscus, switchgrass and Black-Eyed Susans that sway in the breeze along the banks of Aberdeen Creek. ❖

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*Photographer Jay Stearns is based in Annapolis.*



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The sweeping waterfront (opposite, top) is lined with ornamental grasses and perennials. From the house (opposite, bottom), stone steps lead to a secluded hot tub, while Pennsylvania fieldstone steppers (this page) meander from the terrace toward a sport court and boat dock.