

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

Extreme yard makeover

THE MISSION

The long-neglected landscape of an Atlanta Arts & Crafts property gets spruced up with a new pool and some special extras.

“What an opportunity to work with such a dynamic piece of property, wonderful clients, and beautiful pieces of architecture,” enthuses Adam Huber, who designed and led this installation project. He is a landscape architect with Roswell, GA-based Ed Castro Landscape, and worked on the project with colleague Melda Sertkaya.

The home’s new owners had decided that their overgrown landscape was in “desperate need” of a new strategy, Huber says. To that end, the project focused on simple, clean lines and contrasting areas.

A pool, several outdoor terraces and a new overflow parking area were installed, as were a front meadow with a grass paver system and a play lawn. Lighting was also added.

Stepping stone paths with gravel in between link the pedestrian circulation throughout the property. A side yard terrace provides a transition area and blends well with the natural woodland feel throughout, while masses of plantings add a colorful foreground to the distant pool setting.

Although the challenges on this project were relatively few, proper drainage was an issue along the frontage of the property. This was handled by installing a dry creek bed. As an extra measure, the adjacent overflow parking area has a gravel base with special soils, creating an eco-friendly grass paver area.

The clients were pleased with the transformation. “This outdoor environment will be enjoyed for many years to come,” Huber adds.



THE WORK



1 | STONE PATIO. The front of the home now features a large Norway spruce and an inviting stone terrace, comprised of a large piece of bluestone set on mortar pads with low ground cover between.

2 | FROM DEAD SPACE TO COOL POOL. An overgrown and unusable area next to the existing "Little House" (see inset) lent itself to a potential pool location. The contrasting colors in the pool area now have a dramatic effect. Note the low-to-ground seating boulders brought into the terrace.

3 | MAKING THE GRADE. Granite walls that match existing materials on site were constructed to level the pool terrace area. Before, there was a distinct difference in grade.

4 | KEEPING DRY. A dry creek bed was created to handle a wet area on the property, while the grass paver system serves as overflow guest parking. Drainage was the main challenge with this project.

5 | OVERFLOW PARKING. An area next to the garage was reclaimed to serve as an additional pervious parking area, with a granite wall added. Now the homeowners can do more entertaining without having to worry about guest parking.



Ed Castro Landscape offers design, construction, maintenance and horticultural services for the Greater Atlanta market. Founded in 1992, the company has more than 85 employees and focuses on high-end residential — although its team works with a wide variety of clients and budgets. This project was a Merit Winner in the Professional Landcare Network's (PLANET's) 39th annual Environmental Improvement Awards program and Grand Award winner for the 2008 MALTA (Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association) Professional Landscape Awards. For more information, visit www.landcarenetwork.com.