

# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

*Urban Eden*

## THE MISSION

Kinsella Landscape creates a homeowner's respite by combining natural stone and lush greenery.

When Kinsella Landscape's John Algozzini and Baltazar Madrigal, the project designer and superintendent, respectively, first took on the neglected back yard in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, they knew there was nowhere to go but up. The homeowners wanted a patio for entertaining and to function as an open space for children to play simply by moving furniture.

With a budget of less than \$150,000 Algozzini, Madrigal and their design team of Kim Conerty, Renee Mercer, David M. Singler and Erin Canterbury went to work on the 1,200-sq. ft. space.

"The design focuses on a strong sense of geometry, with curvilinear raised beds and some repetition of plant material," notes Algozzini, adding that the plantings included Japanese forest grass, Astilbe, lady's mantle and Hostas. Several trees had to be dropped in by crane, including Parrotia, a weeping nootka false cypress and a weeping Japanese maple.

Working in a tight 40- x 60-ft. space required efficient planning and staging, he says, so a lot of focus was given to the large central space — raised planter beds with trees and subordinate plantings that added texture and warmth.

Another big challenge was drainage. "The patio surface was 11 inches below street level, which required a sophisticated and comprehensive drainage system," Algozzini says. The clients required natural stone be use throughout the space, so the Kinsella team turned to Bright Ideas, New Lenox, IL, for lighting design. Rotund planters and other pottery accents were supplied by Laura Johnson of Chicago.





## THE WORK

**1 | STARTING FROM SCRATCH.** This overhead view from an upper balcony shows the degraded condition of the back yard before the initial demolition.

**2 | BLUESTONE TILING.** The "after" overhead view shows a dramatic improvement. The warmth of the garden provides contrast for the clean lines of the precision-installed bluestone patio.

**3 | NO SIMPLE TASK.** An 80-ton crane drops a 14-ft. weeping nootka false cypress into the back yard.

**4 | PATIO BUFFERS.** This is one of five raised planter beds that break up the space around the patio.

**5 | FEELING CURVY.** Curved walkways lead into the back gardens from both the alley and the street. Note the soft lighting added along the wall for evening enjoyment of the space.



*Based in Blue Island, IL, Kinsella Landscape operates on the principle of "providing exceptional service using the best practices in the Green Industry." The \$12 million firm was founded in 1994 and currently employs 120 people. Services include design, construction, maintenance, seasonal flower rotation, holiday decoration and snow removal. For more information, visit [www.kinsellalandscape.com](http://www.kinsellalandscape.com).*

