

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

Fondue Fountain

THE MISSION

Enhance the client's brand identity with a clever, yet elegant hardscape installation.

When The Melting Pot opened a new location in Farmingdale, NY, Green Island Design helped create a new identity for the restaurant's owners. "The Preserve" is an 8x5-ft. fountain made of South Bay quartzite stone. It resembles an actual "melting pot," as bubbling water appears to simmer up at the top before cascading down the tapered sides.

The fountain recycles water that enters an underground, gravel-filled basin and migrates through a hidden pump before it's forced up through the center. Thermostatically controlled, water remains warm in the winter to prevent freezing. This allows for gas exchange on the surface, creating a steamy effect.

The backbone is a 4x4-ft. drywell, which was lowered into place with a backhoe on a highly trafficked roadway.

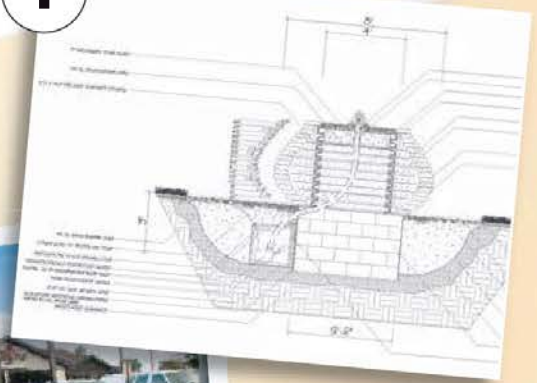
Each piece of stone was milled and mortared into place. To centralize the weight/load-bearing capacity of the outer stones, rebar was threaded in a star-shaped pattern. Landscape lighting was snaked between the drywell and stacked stone and through the drainage basin at the base, allowing the bubbling water to be illuminated directly through its center.

Construction of the piece was a challenge, notes President Jonathan Pappalardi, whose brother, Mark, is the senior landscape architect and designer.

"Because this was an original concept, we had to design and engineer the project ourselves," he says.

GID General Manager Debra Lurie notes, because of its striking look and proximity to the road, the piece is often used as a landmark by the locals — "Turn left at the big pot."

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PHOTOS COURTESY GREEN ISLAND DESIGN

THE WORK

1 | THE MASTER PLAN. A cross-sectional view of the water feature.

2 | A STARTING POINT. The location had changed hands about three times in the last decade, notes Lurie, and the new owners wanted something to give the newly opening franchise its own identity.

3 | AN INVITING ATMOSPHERE. A classic view of "The Preserve," surrounded by the beautiful landscaping — also done by Green Island Design.

4 | DIGGING IN. The site is excavated and the liner is draped over the entire basin. One liner was used for the entire bottom basin.

5 | SHAPING UP. After the drywell was lowered into place, the team began stacking South Bay quartzite around the base. Four pallets of stone were used on the project, each piece meticulously milled and mortared into place.

6 | ROCKS FROM THE RIVER. The team decided to use river stone instead of gravel in the basin, to complement the South Bay quartzite.

7 | LET THERE BE LIGHT. Landscape lighting is added to the sides, as well as to the top of the structure — all the while highlighting the intricate stonework. This created the curb appeal the restaurant was looking for during the evening dining hours.

Green Island Design is a nationally recognized, award-winning landscape design and construction company serving Long Island as well as the Greater New York metro area. It specializes in all facets of the outdoor decorative environment, from initial conceptual design through the installation of plantings, masonry, lighting and more. This particular installation garnered a recent Environmental Improvement Grand Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). For more information, visit GreenIslandDesign.com.