

# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

*Functional elegance*

## THE MISSION

Create a landscape deserving of this beautiful 1920s Georgia residence.

The clients' Atlanta home had wonderful lines, architecture and charm; their landscape did not. That's where Roswell, GA-based Ed Castro Landscape came in.

Led by landscape architect Chris Hopper, the majority of the existing, outdated landscape was removed — and new gardens were created that were both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

The biggest challenge on the project, according to the team, was “creating a landscape that would complement the style of the home, tying historical elements to the present without compromising the home's Old World charm.”

To accomplish the twin goals of practicality and beauty, portions of the driveway were removed to allow for decorative cobblestone banding and inlays. A combination of brick and granite cobblestone inlay was constructed in the center of the rear motor court. These updates using such authentic period materials properly accentuated the home, Hopper notes.

No part of the perimeter escaped the touch of the Ed Castro team. The side entry to the home was just as bland and empty as the front entrance, with meager plantings and harsh hardscapes in need of some soft decoration. New plantings at the side entrance updated the space, while new containers and topiary plantings were added to decorate the large stoop.

Other elements included a new back patio, a fireplace, a pool with connected spa, and other formal garden spaces. The outdoor entertainment area is just a few steps away from the pool, making it both a convenient and functional outdoor space.



PHOTOS COURTESY: EMILY DRYDEN PHOTOGRAPHY





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## THE WORK

**1 | Best foot forward.** Granite cobbles were installed to decorate the edges of the driveway. The entire front and side entrances were replanted with colors and forms to better accent the architecture of the home.

**2 | Form meets function.** After removing all existing portions of the backyard patio, a new and more modern patio was installed. It includes a seat wall, an enlarged terrace and an outdoor kitchen — to create a more functional entertaining space.

**3 | Serene space.** Herringbone brick paving, a stacked bluestone fireplace and a decorative pergola unite to create a cozy entertainment space — just steps away from the pool.

**4 | The view from above.** From up in the guesthouse, there is a delightful view of the pool and all its features, including three sheer descents, an in-ground spa and a terrace for lounging.

**5 | Cutting edge.** The crisp lines and formal spaces of this landscape design are evident in the pool terrace area, stepping-stone pathways, rear lawn and cherry tree alley.

**6 | Rear alignment.** A bare and unattractive lawn area in the rear yard was unused, empty and just waiting for a more functional design. It turned out to be the perfect space for a pool to be aligned on axis with the rear doors of the home, and accompany a gathering space with an outdoor fireplace.

*Ed Castro Landscape's services include sustainable design, installation and maintenance for both commercial and residential accounts. In addition, its horticulture capabilities include smart planning/seasonal color, garden design and installation, technical pruning, water management, lawn reduction/renovation and organic disease and pest control. This particular project garnered a 41st Annual Environmental Improvement Grand Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). For more information, visit [EdCastro.com](http://EdCastro.com).*