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KITCHEN & BATH / EXTERIOR STONWORK / RENZO PIANO / SPAIN'S CHILLIDA-LEKU



Stone recently captured the essence of leisure and purpose for the backyard of a private residence in Mahwah, NJ. "The overall goal was to utilize as much space for entertaining and function for both the adults and children within the municipal standards," said Chris Cipriano, President of Cipriano Landscape Design of Ramsey, NJ, which served as the landscape architect for this project. **Landscape Architect/Designer/Contractor:** Cipriano Landscape Design, Ramsey, NJ; **Stone Quarrier:** Buechel Stone Corp., Fond du Lac, WI (Buechel stone); **Stone Suppliers:** Braen Supply, Wanaque, NJ; Pasvalco Stone Supply, Closter, NJ (Buechel stone)

Outdoor Living

Stone also was a key component in capturing the essence of leisure and purpose for the backyard of a private residence in Mahwah, NJ. "The overall goal was to utilize as much space for entertaining and function for both the adults and children within the municipal standards," said Chris Cipriano, President of Cipriano Landscape Design in Ramsey, NJ, which served as the landscape designer and contractor for the project.

Cipriano further explained that the backyard, which prior to the new construction was just a flat area with a playground and deck, would now become a formal dining patio showcasing an outdoor kitchen, outdoor living room

with a custom fireplace, a cabana with a surrounding patio and a swimming pool patio with coping and waterfalls.

From the beginning, it was decided that natural stone would be utilized throughout the design. Buechel Stone's Chilton Heritage Blend combined with a Chilton Cambrian with Sedona thin stone veneer was chosen for the outdoor kitchen, fireplace and the cabana, which occupied a space of 1,200 square feet. "The stone was selected for its versatility, color and characteristics," said Cipriano. He also added that, "all the walls, water tables and the fireplace were capped with 2-inch thermal topped Bluestone."

Pennsylvania Bluestone, chosen for its traditional characteristics, is also employed for the 2,100-square-foot space designated for the dining and cabana patios. Additionally, the same material was further applied as a thermal faced border in the 600-square-foot outdoor living room area, which also features 12- x 12-inch Bronte flagging.

Since the area being worked on would also be enjoyed by children, special consideration was put into the design of the 1,200-square-foot swimming pool. "There's a lot of children in the neighborhood, so the homeowners wanted the place to be fun for them with a diving stone, a slide and swim shelf," said Cipriano.



Pennsylvania Bluestone, which was chosen for its traditional characteristics, is employed throughout the 2,100-square-foot space designated for the dining and cabana patios.



A mosaic slate is featured on the waterline banding all of the steps, spa seating area and the sun shelf, which the landscape architect explained added to the custom design of the swimming pool because of the stone's exclusive qualities.

For the patio surrounding the swimming pool, Irregular Grey Tennessee Crab Orchard stone was selected for its ability to remain cooler on hot days, according to Cipriano. He added the stone also complemented the natural waterfall surrounding, which consists of 120 tons of weathered fieldstone boulders -- weighing 2 to 16 tons each. "Each waterfall is done uniquely to the property and type of stone," said Cipriano.

In addition, the same fieldstone boulders are utilized throughout the landscape for slope retention and a handcrafted boulder campfire-style fire pit.

And finally, for the pool tile, a mosaic slate is featured on the waterline and the banding of all the steps, spa seating area and the sun shelf, which Cipriano explained added to the custom detailing of the swimming pool because of the stone's exclusive qualities.

Cipriano, who was on site daily for this project, managing the stonework himself, explained that the site presented many obstacles. "We had to remove 150 yards of organics which was buried where the main dining patio was going and then reinstall compactable fill in lifts to support the new patio slab," he said. "We also had to put 15 8-foot-deep pilings beneath the waterfall, spa and spa patio for

support due to the soil instability caused by the high water table."

Despite the time spent in additional preparation, Cipriano feels it was all worth the effort to ensure the long-term enjoyment. "The family says they never leave the backyard," he said. "With these projects, the owners are already paying such high property taxes, so they want to not only extend the interior detail to the outside, but to also extend the use of the property from the early spring to well into the fall. They now have a truly balanced and functional backyard."

The project began construction in November 2006 and was completed in July 2007.