

reasons to stay



transforming a back yard into a garden oasis

To move or not to move—that is often the question as family size and requirements change. Several years ago, Paul and Carol found themselves asking that question. For them, it was their corner lot that prompted them to consider a move. In addition to being very exposed, their home also lacked some of the amenities that they had always wanted, such as a hospitable all-weather porch. However, their comfortable home suited their needs for location and community. So when Paul and Carol finally decided to stay where they were, they were determined to create a private outdoor oasis that they could enjoy with their older children and guests.

One early concern was that the lot seemed too small and sloped considerably. Paul and Carol wanted to include a pool and wondered if it was even possible in the space available. For guidance, they turned to the design team at Hanselman Landscape. Jim Hanselman developed a three dimensional plan that allowed for all the level space needed and made possible the creation of a garden oasis that exceeded expectations and gave the homeowners more reasons to stay.

"I truly love my home more now than I expected, which confirms that the decision to stay here and remodel was our best choice."

"When Paul and Carol first came to me to discuss their envisioned garden oasis, their back yard was devoid of interest—a sloping stretch of grass with a few token shrubs around the edges. There was nothing to shield them from the view of passers-by and nothing to invite them into their own back yard," remembers Hanselman.



by **Betty Hanselman**
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After several meetings to discuss possibilities and options, Paul and Carol were confident they could stay where they were and change their environment by creating a family space that offered privacy, interest, and comfortable hospitality.

"When we first started conceptualizing what the back yard would become, we didn't know how we would manage to fit everything we wanted—a porch, a pool, space for entertaining, and privacy screening—into the space allowed," Carol notes. "Imagine



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our surprise when Jim came back with a design that not only incorporated everything we wanted, but seemed to create more space than we thought possible!"

Paul and Carol gave the go-ahead to a project that would bring inspiration, tranquility, and joy to their back yard and

to their lives. Then Paul added a special request: a jumping rock for his children and their friends to use as a diving board. Paul even rode in the landscape truck to the quarry to personally select the large, flat-topped rock that suited their imagination and his children's energy and continues to inspire many a poolside conversation. "We placed the diving



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stone at a height that allows for seating. That is where all our children and their friends gather, even with comfortable seating available nearby on the patio,” Paul comments.

“Another key element to creating our outdoor room was insuring privacy,” Carol remembers. “You can understand that we just would not feel



comfortable using our pool without the surrounding plantings. However, I was surprised at the difference the whole project made. The porch, patio, pool and garden together created a new feeling in the same backyard. I truly love my home more now than I expected, which confirms that the decision to stay here and remodel was our best choice.”

Now that the project is finished, Paul notes, “One dramatic change has been the lighting, which creates an entirely new environment. It seems like we have gone to a completely new, private resort; it changes so much from the daytime feel.”

Several months after installation, as Paul and Carol watch their loved ones enjoying each element of their new oasis, from children splashing in the pool, to adults chatting on the deep porch, they comment that everything they hoped for has come together in a way that seems so natural.

“We spend more time out here than we ever did before,” smiles Paul. “You can see why!”

R&A