

OUTDOOR LIVING

MULTILEVEL MAJESTY



BY SUSAN I. SHIBER

Peggy Jones is in an enviable position at the back of her West Chester home. She has a view that surpasses all expectation. A masterpiece of brilliant artistry. Painters would exult in the colors of its palette, the intricacy of its layers, the depth of its landscape. Poets could pen countless odes extolling its beauty. And mere mortals ... well, we just sit gazing in awe and appreciation of this coup of architectural design and dexterity.

The artistry began when Jones wanted a hydrotherapy pool. It sounds like a simple request, but the lay of the land didn't appear to allow such an addition. Contractors she approached with the idea looked at the yard and stared in disbelief. There was a major grade change, two upper decks set above the house, and tons of dirt to be moved before any changes could be made. "Are you crazy?" one cried.



A pondless waterfall cascades over two levels of rock walls. The glistening flow circulates and disappears into a bed of stone and gravel. Adjustable flow pumps provide further drama.



The fireplace, too, is a source of praise. Not only is it the centerpiece of a spacious outdoor kitchen, but it serves as a versatile cooking component while adding warmth, extending outdoor enjoyment, and increasing property value.



The expansive outdoor culinary center contains a sink island, barbecue, refrigerator, and cooking burners. "It's so well-planned and efficient," notes homeowner Peggy Jones.

Not to be deterred, Jones continued her search and found the proverbial gold at the end of the rainbow — Turpin Landscaping. Instead of chastising her for envisioning an inconceivable feat, Jason Turpin responded, “No problem. What do you want us to do?” From that point forward, it was a magical transformation of superlative design and building inventiveness.

“I don’t know how much dirt was taken from the back,” says Jones, “but,

there were seven trucks here every day for three weeks doing the job. Turpin graded the yard and started from scratch. They transferred the soil to the side of the house and created a rain garden. It was an amazing process to watch.”

Jones happily witnessed much more as the project progressed. The intricate landscape design features a pavilion with retaining walls formed from Chester County boulders to house the hydrother-

apy pool, which is 9 by 19 feet and four feet deep. “Retaining walls restrain soil and at the same time beautify the property,” explains Turpin. “The Jones’ retaining walls resolved elevation issues and added visual interest and seating.”

The patio, a Turpin specialty, is a wondrous spot for entertaining. Among myriad enhancements are a 60-inch outdoor TV and custom fireplace. Jason’s brother Chad is the genius behind the ir-



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regular flagstone patio installation. His paving and surface expertise ensure lasting appeal, which is attested by Jones. “We entertained 50 people in the backyard last year, and everyone loved it.”

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added a gorgeous mantel,” exclaims Jones.

In addition to the fireplace, the expansive outdoor culinary center, which is built to code, contains a sink island, barbecue, refrigerator, and cooking burners. “It’s so well-planned and efficient,” notes Jones. “Turpin took care of every aspect. They erected a handsome steel building on one side of the property, which serves a multitude of purposes. There is also a clever little rock cave where I store charcoal, and they even brought us propane for the barbecue.”

The Jones’ kitchen, patio, and pavilion present an exceptional canvas for a work of art composed of water features and plantings. A pondless waterfall cas-

ades over two levels of rock walls. The glistening flow circulates and disappears into a bed of stone and gravel. Adjustable flow pumps provide further drama. Benefits include little or no work for homeowners, and the sight and sound of a soothing waterfall sans pond installation. It’s meditation without maintenance. “The waterfall comes close to our door,” remarks Jones.

Embracing this door and land above and beyond are flowers, shrubs, and trees. The stunning scene is a creation of Becky Turpin, Jason and Chad’s mother, whose love of plants spans a lifetime. Her inherent knowledge of species coupled with an innate eye for color and composition are top-



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ics of conversations among hundreds of home gardeners. From small container planting to acres of lavish landscape, Becky Turpin conceives originality and radiance.

“Our garden has a lovely color theme tinged with the exotic,” states Jones. “Becky ripped everything out and gave us an incredible site. There are flowering trees, a weeping dogwood, and a round tree on a stick,” she chuckles. “I love the water garden, and she installed a potting station for me. A bird built a nest in our yellow spruce, and we watched the mom sitting on her eggs.”

In addition to these trees, the Jones’ landscape features a full-moon maple and dwarf ginkgo. Coneflowers blooming in various colors are accompanied by pin-

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cushion flowers, catchflies, bearberry windflowers, tickseeds, yarrows, montauk daisies, and lady’s mantle.

“It’s a joy to be at the back of the house every season of the year,” declares Jones. “Others saw an impossible situation, yet Turpin came in and made it happen. They are a really nice family. I like the fact they grew up in Chester County and launched their business here.”

Her emotion resounds throughout the region. When residents want hometown reliability and matchless innovation, they contact Turpin Landscaping. **CCL**

Turpin Landscaping
287 Martins Corner Rd.
Coatesville, PA 19320
610.380.1119
TurpinLandscaping.com