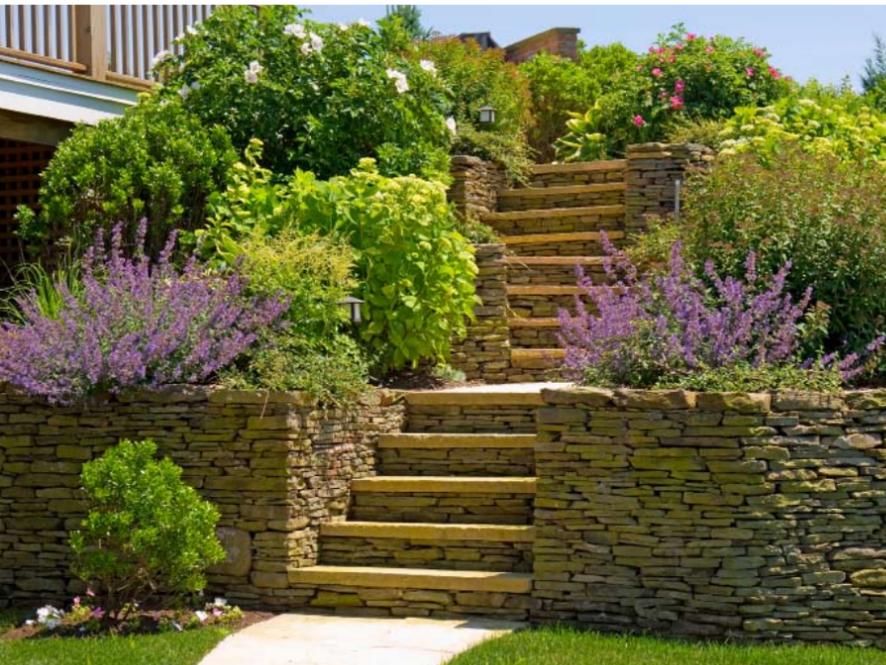


# views from every angle

New pool maintains Long Island Sound views, and plantings deter deer



Some assignments don't get much better. Case in point: a master plan for a 1½-acre Montauk, New York, site, which includes a new house designed by Eric Woodward Architects of Southampton, New York. Landscape requests were for everything from a street-facing design with a driveway, vehicular circle, lawn and landscaping, to the rear with a patio, stone retaining wall, lawn, pool and spa. To top it off, the back of the property faces Long Island Sound and has a protected bluff and conservation area. Of course, there were a few challenges, such as selecting deer-resistant plantings and locating a deer fence to protect all from the ever-hungry animals. Taking into consideration the rolling slope and views of the bluffs and the water beyond, landscape architect John Cowen took his inspiration from the site. To cope with the sloping hillside and to link the back and front yards, Cowen graded the backyard with a series of stone walls. They mirror those in the front and step down 15'. The terraces were densely planted with hardy and colorful shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses that are low enough to maintain the views from multiple vantage points. By elevating the pool, Cowen made water views possible for those sitting and lounging. While the pool's overall shape is formal, it includes the casual touch of a big John Brown stone for a diving rock, plus some native boulders. Plants in the rear were selected to create a visual link to the upper terrace materials and to survive the area's high winds and saltwater. A white powder-coated fence was added for safety, and the entire yard was enclosed to keep out deer.



## Mix garden styles with flair

When the owners wanted a big diving rock at one end of their pool and adjacent spa, landscape architect John Cowen was in his element. "I like to mix formal and informal elements," he says.

- **Add additional rocks.** Odd-numbered groupings work best.
- **Soften the look.** Try ornamental grasses.
- **Pick the hardscape material carefully.** Misty Rose stone paving stays cool, and works with both informal and formal elements.

## behind the scenes

**Landscape architect:** John Cowen, ASLA, John Cowen Landscape Associates Ltd., 44 Tyndall Road, Sag Harbor, NY 11963, 631-725-3410, [www.jcowenlandscape.com](http://www.jcowenlandscape.com)

**Architect:** Eric Woodward

**Builder:** Ionian Development Corporation

**Masonry:** Stone Quest Corporation

**Main plants used:** *Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat' (Aristocrat Pear); *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry Holly); *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus' (Gracillimus Maiden Grass); *Buxus microphylla koreana* 'Winter Gem' (Winter Gem Korean Boxwood); *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue' (Nikko Blue Hydrangea)

**Zones:** 5–7

**Challenges:** Bluffs, salt air, browsing deer

**Solutions:** A series of stone walls; deer-resistant plantings

**Favorite outcome:** The site, which was a wreck, was transformed into a place of beauty, where you can be in the water and look back and see land and trees rather than houses

Stone walls and trim, opposite page, lead down to the pool on a rolling site. Misty Rose stone, above, forms a path and surrounds the pool, which overlooks Long Island Sound from its elevated perch. A big stone serves as a diving rock.

Photography: Ron Papageorge