

water features

# contoured ensemble



## >> Behind the Scenes

- >> **CHALLENGE:** Achieve privacy from neighboring houses
- >> **SOLUTION:** Brought in large trees to screen home
- >> **SPECIAL FEATURES:** Free-form swimming pool that fits into the corner of the property; great views across entire backyard in two directions, including from the raised deck
- >> **MAIN PLANTS:** Eastern White Pine, Leyland Cypress, Purple-Leaved Barberry, Compact Inkberry Holly, Bridal Veil Astilbe, Variegated Hosta, Russian Sage
- >> **ZONE:** 6

## Curving edges on pool and deck add soft, natural appeal

**W**ITH HOUSES VISIBLE ON THREE SIDES, THE LANDSCAPE presented challenges to designer John Cowen: screen the property from neighbors, plant a front area, find the right site for a pool and spa, and leave enough lawn for games. “The pool design requested was a free-form style that would look natural in the wooded site but be long enough to swim laps,” Cowen says. He made it 47 feet long and close to the back deck. Its free-form shape repeats the deck’s curves. The spa was placed at the back of the pool and raised above the pool so water could spill into the larger body. Inside the pool, blue and gray mosaic tiles match the color of the water. The rear deck was accented with boxwoods, for winter color, and free-form ‘Tardiva’ hydrangeas. All around the property, a high mesh fence was installed to protect against deer. At the front of the house, deciduous shrubs and ornamental grasses were planted in curved beds to fit the theme.

**DESIGNER** John D. Cowen, John Cowen Landscape Associates Ltd, ASLA,  
Sag Harbor, NY, johncowenlandscape.com, 631-725-3410  
**PHOTOGRAPHY BY** HENRY DOLL

## ideas we love

- 1 **LAWN FOR PLAY** In keeping with the homeowners’ requests, a large lawn area was left open for recreation
- 2 **SANCTUARY EFFECT** Tall trees left around perimeter offer feeling of seclusion, despite new construction
- 3 **IPE WOOD DECK** Durable ipe wood was used for the back deck, as it naturally resists wet conditions
- 4 **CURVED THEME** The free-form shape of the pool repeats the deck’s curves; in addition, some beds also were curved to fit the theme



Raise lawn slightly by beds for easy mowing