

peace of paradise

>> Behind the Scenes

- >> **CHALLENGE:** Place a swimming pool near a house while preserving most of the lawn
- >> **SOLUTION:** Positioned pool on axis with center line running from a new porch at one end to a Bloodgood Japanese maple at the opposite end
- >> **SPECIAL FEATURE:** The sequential flowering of plants for when this second home is mainly used, which is from late spring through early fall
- >> **MAIN PLANTS:** White Pine, Crape Myrtle, Tree Form Hydrangea, Viburnum, Variegated Carex
- >> **ZONE:** 6

A new porch inspires a rectangular pool on the same axis

SOME SETTINGS SHOULDN'T BE TAMPERED WITH TOO much. That was the thinking when it came to building a swimming pool on a striking property in New York's Hamptons. The homeowners wanted to retain most of their lawn for their children to play. They also wanted to be able to swim laps and have room within the pool to relax. Once an open-air porch with classic columns was built off the rear, landscape designer John Cowen had all the inspiration he needed. Using the center axis of the porch, he laid out a 16' by 50' pool that aligned perfectly and was roomy enough to meet all the needs. To preserve most of the lawn, he used very

little bluestone coping. For privacy, he planted privet hedges with a row of catmint in front, plus white pines, hemlock, cherry laurels and Annabelle hydrangeas. "Plant groupings were designed so that they are replicated in some areas to provide visual unity, yet enough variety to offer interest," Cowen says.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER John D. Cowen, **John Cowen Landscape Associates LTD, ASLA**, Sag Harbor, NY, johncowenlandscape.com, 631-725-3410 **MASONRY** Stone Quest Corp. and **Anthony Napolitano** **FURNITURE** Janus et Cie **PHOTOGRAPHY BY:** HENRY DOLL

ideas we love

- 1 **PRESERVED A LARGE LAWN** area to allow enough room for the children to play
- 2 **WHITE PINES** were used to screen the house at the eastern end, while privet hedges were used at the northern end
- 3 **DESIGNED TO PLEASE** A whimsical bluestone-and-grass checkerboard pattern borders the pool on the side closer to the house
- 4 **SEQUENCE OF FLOWERS** blooming from late spring to early fall ensures color during the time the house is normally occupied

