

YOUR GUIDE TO DESIGN IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY!

athome

IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

a-list issue!

plus
ATHOME WITH
ERIC COHLER

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WINTER 2013
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winner landscape (less than 1 acre)

LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN firm
Doyle Herman Design Associates
203-489-3900
info@dhda.com

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTOR
Arlene Garden & Landscape Services
203-242-6021
info@arlgarden.com

IRRIGATION CONTRACTOR
Tommy's Green
203-629-6062
tommy@tommysgreen.com

MASONRY CONTRACTOR
Santoni's Landscaping and Masonry, Inc.
203-969-7997

FENCE CONTRACTOR
J & J Fence Co.
203-979-8864

serenity, simplified

Small plots pose particular challenges, so designer Matthew Willinger had to capture space on less than a half-acre for a formal entry court as well as a second driveway leading to a detached garage at the rear of the property. The client also wanted a defined space for entertaining, some open lawn for a quiet stroll or active play, and a privacy screen at the entry side, which faces a busy road.

Willinger's proposal, created in concert with his firm's principals, James Doyle and Kathryn Herman, met these requirements using a disciplined palette of materials.

"Our client has a design background, and definite preferences for form, texture, and structure," notes Willinger. The plan emerged as an interplay of color values: at the light end of the spectrum, the white

house and garden gate, and pale-colored gravel on the courtyard, neutral values in hardscape materials and furnishings; and dark values in the greens of the plant materials.

Matthew sought out trees and shrubs that would provide shape and create transitions from one outdoor room to the next. Above the perimeter fieldstone walls of the outdoor living room stands a corresponding line of linden trees, pruned to form an aerial hedge, so that family and guests can pass beneath their shade or sit on the walls. This provides a feeling of enclosure without the constraint of an insipid hedge. Completing the space are furnishings custom-designed by the firm to complement the tranquil setting.

"The family loves it, and uses the space constantly," says Willinger. JO



Matthew Willinger of Doyle Herman Design Associates was able to make less than half an acre feel like an expansive landscape for his clients.





Home magazine A-List Awards 2012

winner **landscape**
(greater than 1 acre)

perfect harmony

The practice of assembling a complete team at a project's inception can prove remarkably valuable. For one young family's new residence, synchronicity among the property's key elements—house, interiors and landscape—was the result of having all its designers at the drawing board together, from the start.

Lead landscape designer Rosalia Sanni of Doyle Hermus Design Associates, along with C/S Architecture of Redding, and interior designer Violette Wolf, had the opportunity to fully collaborate and integrate their ideas, resulting in a satisfying continuity, from a grand entry court through the house and outdoors again into a classically modern, luxurious and highly functional recreation and entertaining space.

"With a client who encouraged our dialogue, we were able to

make the interiors and exterior work together and flow," says Sanni. "Because we had a shared vision, we spent a lot of time studying each others' designs."

Sanni used the home's front entry as the focal point of the grand courtyard, directing the eye with a classic and elegant allée of carefully pruned hornbeams. The stone used at the front and throughout the house, and for the pool and outdoor living spaces at the back, is the same Portuguese limestone on which the entire design team agreed. The open core of the interiors draws the eye back to the outdoor rooms and entertaining space, also flanked by a hornbeam allée.

"Everything fits together so well. We achieved something together that would have been impossible working separately," notes Sanni. "It was a wonderful experience." JO



The team created this modern version of a postmodern pergola.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN FIRM
Doyle Hermus Design Associates
203 649-2900
dha.com

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Murphy Brothers Construction
916 772-5777
murphybrothers.com

MAJORITY CONTRACTOR
Borwick Custom Structures, LLC
203 767-0948

POOL CONTRACTOR
Roth's Pools
203 373-9710

FENCE CONTRACTOR
J & J Fence Co. 203 975-8848

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Violette Wolf Associates, Inc.
212 465-9590
violettewolf.com

ARCHITECT
C/S Architecture, LLC
203 858-2521
csarchitect.com

