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Volume 23, Issue 11

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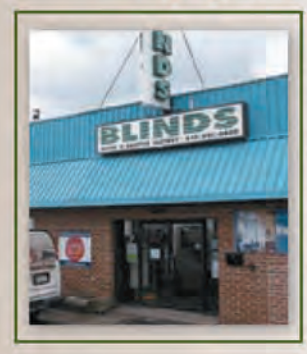
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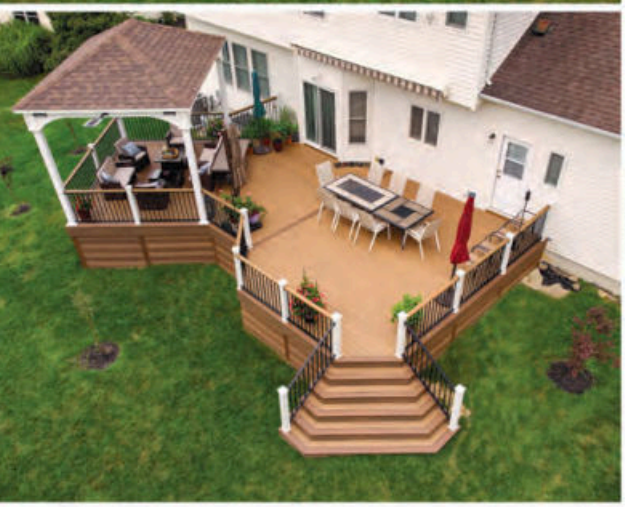
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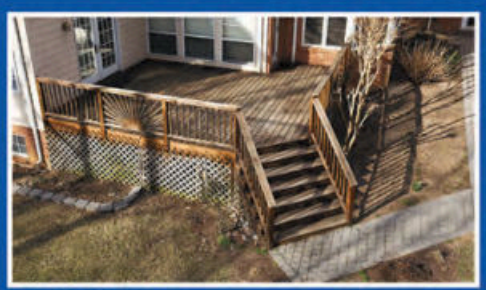


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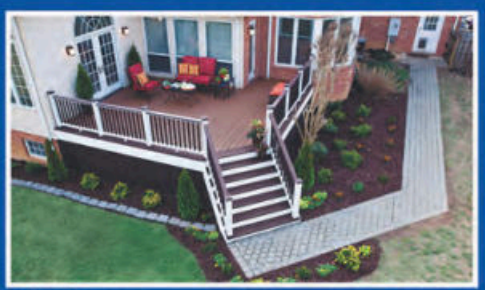
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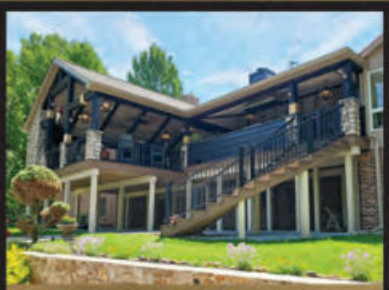
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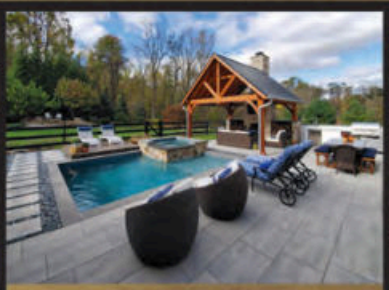
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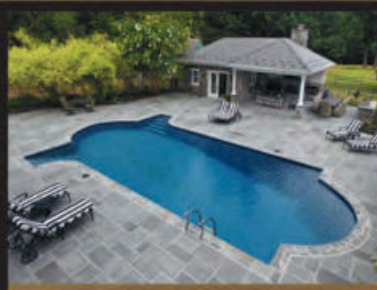
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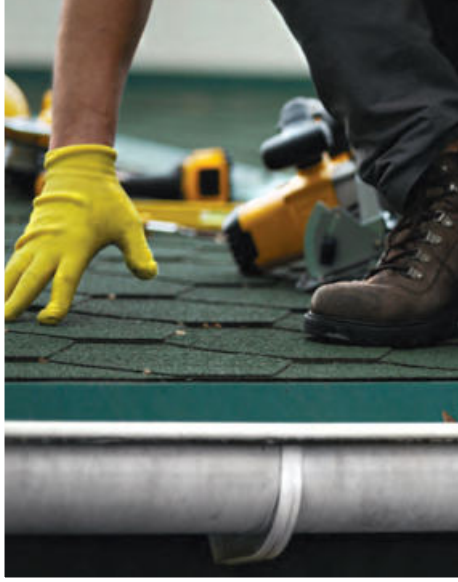
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'TIS THE SEASON



Preparing for the colder months in the Northeast shouldn't be left to the last minute—or to chance. Trusted local professionals provide their advice for getting your home ready for the winter season. **BY CARLY MURRAY**

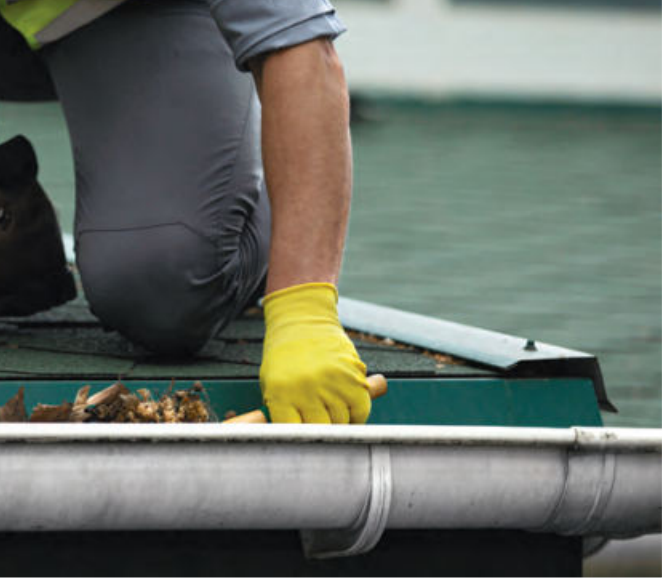
When disaster strikes, it's difficult to handle damage to a home's exterior in the midst of an emergency. That is why anticipating inclement and extreme cold weather should begin in early autumn—and forming a relationship with a contractor ahead of time can provide insurance that a household will stay warm and protected. *House & Home* spoke to local professionals who specialize in multiple categories from maintenance to replacement, and offered valuable advice for a fall checklist. Across all niches of home installations and repairs, all agree that now is the best time to get started in order to finish by the end of November.

Roofing

Roofs are subject to damage with inclement weather pummeling down directly on a home, yielding opportunity for the outdoors to invade a home's interior.

"Typically, every few years they should probably get their roof in-







spected, but if they know there was a big storm in the area, they should definitely get a check right after a storm to make sure. Because, even a half-an-inch of hail; they may not be able to see it from the ground, but it could really cause a lot of damage to your shingles within the next couple years after a hail storm. … It starts taking the asphalt off shingles, it'll leave impressions on the shingles. Wind will tear the stripping off the edge of the shingles," says Anthony Bate, the owner of Paramount Home Solutions.

Winters in the tri-state area are characteristically more intense than other states, and having local expertise with contractors who are familiar with local weather extremes on a firsthand basis can ensure that the right materials and installation process are utilized. Ultimately, it's a more intensive process.

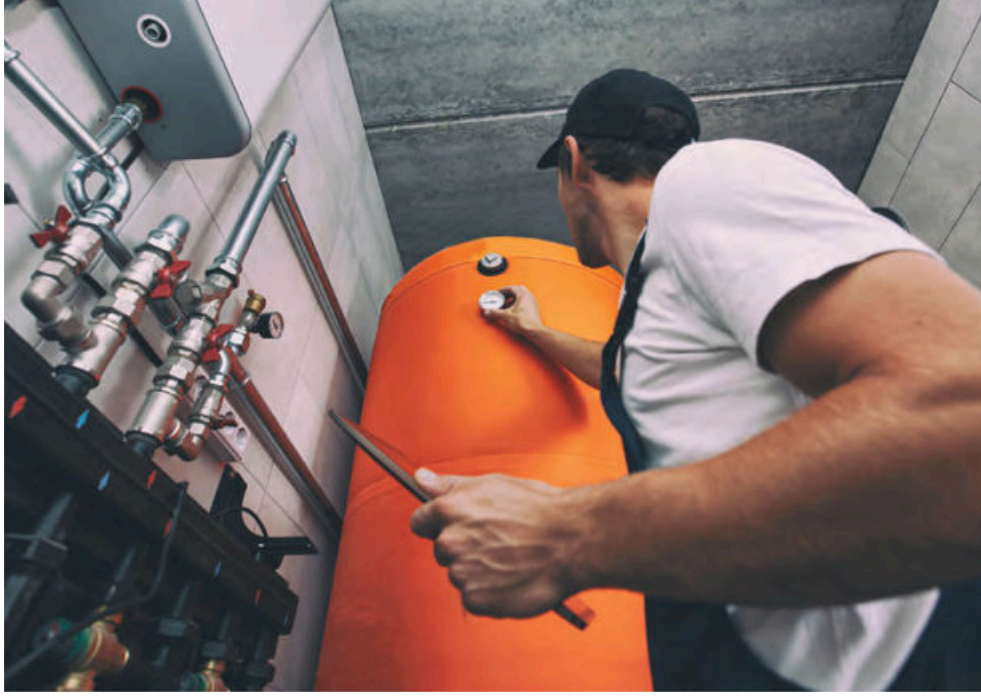
"The Northeast has different roofing underlayment and shingle types, and there are siding products that we use in the Northeast that maybe wouldn't be used in other parts of the country and vice-versa," says Vic Fiore, the owner of Magnolia Home Remodeling Group.

Furthermore, damage can be caused from the sudden rises and drops in temperature experienced in the region.

"The real hot summer that we had can do a lot of damage and melt things. … Being in this cold climate, you go from 90 degrees to 20 degrees. And what happens is that between the hot and the cold, the expansion and contraction from the hot and cold starts to crack things. It'll crack the shingles, it'll crack the flashing. The good thing is, we didn't have a horrible winter last winter, but this year they are calling for a pretty bad winter, so that's when the damage would occur. And that's why they need to get their roof inspected and checked out before the bad weather comes. When it's 20 degrees and we have a wind chill factor, it's very difficult to put a roof on at that point. So this is obviously the best time to get it inspected," says Gary Selleck, the owner of C&C Family Roofing.



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Windows

Winter air—or worse, winter storms—can impact the inside of a home if windows are not properly secured. Any gaps or cracks can lead to a chilly draft indoors, and snow, hail or freezing rain can easily get through and create water damage. Fierce winds can also contribute to further breakage if windows are already damaged.

"A big thing in the winter is windows. We do a lot of window replacements. That's kind of something that you can see and noticeably feel the effect of when you change your windows in the wintertime, as far as keeping the warm air in," says Bate.

It's always safest to get a consultation to make sure a home's windows are sturdy and safe, so that a professional can determine if vital replacements are necessary. Once its standard functionality is taken care of, insulation can be added for extra warmth and protection.

And not only is locking one's windows wise for safety reasons, but billowing wind can throw open windows (and doors, for that matter) and create violent back-and-forth slamming that weakens the hinges. Locking them provides that extra protection from the freezing outdoors and longevity for the product itself. When spring finally comes along, the windows will be ready to protect from intrusive insects, too.

Gutters

In the repeated circumstance of preparing for penetrating weather with the potential for major damage, commonly-neglected gutters play a key role in draining water. If a gutter is clogged, the water can build up and freeze. This can result in cracks, bursts and leaks of dirty water.

"You have to make sure that your gutters are 100% cleaned out. No leaves, no debris, no nothing in the gutters. … Gutters are like the arteries of the roof. So if the gutters are clogged, everything stops and all the water backs up. And that's what, in the wintertime, causes ice damming when all the water goes into the gutter," says Selleck. "And if it doesn't go down the downspout and out, what happens at night when it gets real cold, below 30 degrees then it freezes? All the water freezes in the gutter and then that's what causes ice damming. Then you have a frozen gutter and it takes days for it to unfreeze. And then if you have another rain on top of that, then it's even worse. So having clean gutters is very, very important."

Similar to extreme temperature changes affecting roof material, metal is easily contorted and can result in not only damage, but loud noises as pipes rupture.

Siding & Insulation

With a category as expansive as siding, it's pertinent to know what type of product will work best with a home and what kind of protection it will provide. Larger projects inevitably take more consideration than others, requiring a bit more urgency to complete now or soon.

"It can be risky. You can do roofing or siding or windows in the middle of winter, but you have more challenges and a greater possibility for delays. Your house is exposed to extreme cold in some cases, so it's just a more challenging, less desirable time of year … if you're stuck in that situation," says Fiore.

Foam and vinyl insulation as a part of the home's siding will provide extra protection and warmth, and save energy that is otherwise wasted by running a heater 24/7. Ultimately, it is a shield for the home



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Siding can also protect from condensation that forms when indoor warm air meets the outdoor cold air and causes decay to the material. This can occur without being directly visible, so it is essential to keep in mind.

Heating Systems

While the other elements in a fall to-do list are exterior projects to keep the cold from getting inside, a heating system is integral to circulate warmth inside. Much like any technology, check-ups and maintenance prevent any potential risks and make sure it works when needed. After many months of not being in use, it's never guaranteed that a heating system will operate when it is finally turned back on.

"People [need to be] proactive about their systems and to make sure their filters are changed. A lot of people don't keep regular maintenance plans; so, making sure that they're keeping regular maintenance just like you would do for your car is important," explains Jeff Olewine, the general manager of C&C Heating and Air Conditioning. "Like anything else that's a mechanical piece of equipment, just make sure that you're keeping it up to date with the tune-ups and things like that."

Critical thinking and adequate planning have the bonus benefit of saving money, too. When working with heat, it's always best to think safely to prevent malfunctioning fires or carbon monoxide leaks. Portable mini heaters hardly provide enough heat for an entire household in the Northeast, and are typically considered more dangerous without constant supervision and extra precautions.

"When systems start to run less efficiently and not work as well, it also becomes less efficient to run, so you're spending more money on your energy bills, and things like that. But most importantly is to make sure that you have heat in your home when you need it," continues Olewine.

Investing in your home as a priority is analogous to investing in all of its occupants and their quality of life. With reliable maintenance and service providers, who often specialize in multiple areas, there will be nothing to worry about throughout the entirety of winter except the holidays. H&H

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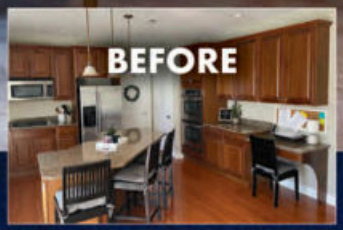
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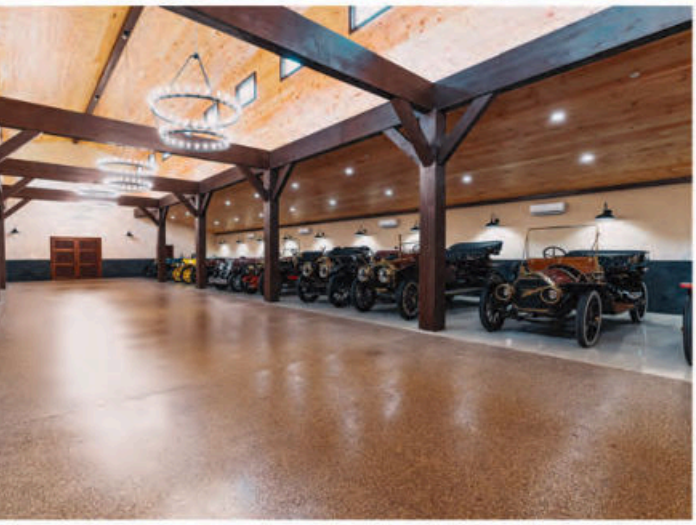
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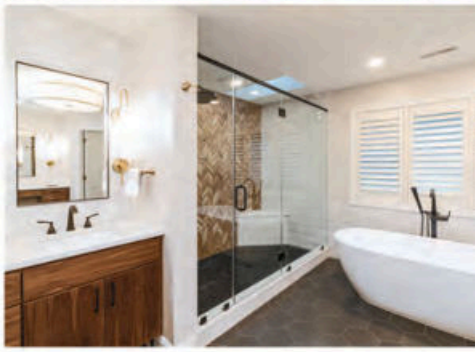
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ask the expert
by Chelsea Valcourt

LBK Design Build

LET'S FACE IT: HOME REMODELING PROJECTS ARE DAUNTING. It can be hard to know where to begin, and once the wheels start turning it's nearly impossible to keep up with different price estimates, timelines and companies. Luckily, LBK Design Build condenses the process into one streamlined, client-centered project—eliminating the need for overlapping work and reducing the chance of running into costly and lengthy delays.

Recently, LBK Design Build's president Nick Kornea spoke with *House & Home* about the benefits of using a design-build company and how it can open up lines of communication to ensure a more realistic budget, timeline and vision for a remodeling project.





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BOTH DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS WORKING TOGETHER ON ONE TEAM, AS OPPOSED TO USING A DESIGNER FROM ONE COMPANY AND A BUILDER FROM ANOTHER?

Your efficiency is much greater. When you have designers and builders all on one team, you typically get the job done about 34% faster. Having in-house design allows us to have a series of hand-off and team meetings prior to a hammer ever being swung on site. It's a much more thorough process and everyone's on the same page.



Nick Kornea, president, LBK Design Build

HOW DO BOTH SIDES WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A MORE COHESIVE AND EFFICIENT TEAM?

The designers start the process by going on-site to interview clients about not just their overall wants and needs, but also the general work scope. After that, they'll create an as-built plan and drawing for the project. Our trades also go out there to confirm some of our discoveries and investigate any issues or inquiries about things like structure, mechanics, electric, plumbing, and heating and air conditioning. This way both sides are working together early in the process and both are relaying information within their disciplines. It creates realistic conversation as far as what the overall real design concepts are going to be and what it's going to take to make that happen.

HOW CAN USING A COMBO-TEAM HELP HOMEOWNERS SAVE MONEY?

It allows us to realize early on what it's going to take and cost to actually make the project happen. It's a matter of saving money and time by catching it early, instead of running into problems midway through the project and having to stop things then order materials that may have delays. It's about being proactive in planning the project.

WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES OR TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS STARTING A RENOVATION PROJECT?

Homeowners should consider more than just the overall estimate when deciding which company to work with. I believe there are five "P's" homeowners should equally consider: portfolio, process, people, price and past clients.

PORTFOLIO: Take a look at companies' past work and see if the designs match what you're looking for.

PROCESS: Look at companies to see if they specialize in the type of work that you're looking to have done and how they've done in the recent past.

PEOPLE: Talk to the companies you're looking to work with. Are they listening to you or do you feel like you're being rushed into a sale?

PRICE: Review your estimate. While price shouldn't be the only deciding factor, it certainly is an important part of the project for many homeowners.

PAST CLIENTS: Anyone that's worth their name in the industry should be able to provide you with at least a few references of past positive and related projects. H&H



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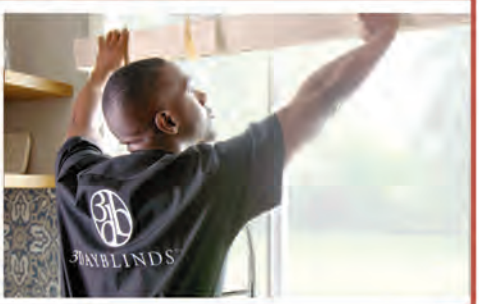
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A Little Extra Love

Autumn's arrival provides the perfect opportunity to keep your landscaping looking its very best.

by **Kristen Jorgensen**

AS THE LEAVES CHANGE COLORS AND THE TEMPERATURE BEGINS TO DROP, IT'S TIME TO SHIFT YOUR FOCUS TO FALL LANDSCAPING. Autumn offers a unique opportunity to enhance the beauty of your outdoor space, whether you have a sprawling garden or a cozy backyard. In this article, we'll explore some fall landscaping ideas and offer tips to help you make the most of this vibrant season.



EMBRACE THE FALL COLORS

One of the most enchanting aspects of autumn is the kaleidoscope of colors that nature provides. To make the most of this, consider planting trees and shrubs that are known for their vibrant fall foliage.

Chris DeMato of Rock Bottom Landscaping & Fencing shares, "Maple trees, for instance, display stunning red, orange and yellow leaves, while burning bushes and dogwoods also offer beautiful autumn hues. Bradford pears and most deciduous trees will turn either yellow or orange before they shed their leaves while adding interest to your property. Also, planting ornamental grasses like switchgrass or maiden grass can add a touch of elegance to your fall landscape."

"Incorporating seasonal flowers is also a great way to bring color to your yard. Although summer is typically associated with vibrant blooms, fall has its array of gorgeous flowers," explains David Flack, owner of Bountiful Acres. "Chrysanthemums, asters and pansies are perfect for autumn, and they come in a variety of colors to suit your aesthetic preferences. Plant them in pots, containers or directly in





the ground to create colorful focal points in your landscape."

MAINTAIN YOUR LAWN

A well-maintained lawn can also enhance the overall appeal of your fall landscape. "Keep up with regular mowing, but raise the blade slightly to allow the grass to grow a bit longer as the weather cools," offers Flack.

Autumn is also an excellent time for lawn aeration and overseeding to ensure a lush, green lawn come spring. "Grass is the hardiest perennial in your entire yard, and the fall is the best time to invest more time into it. All the work you put into your grass during fall will only lead to greener and lushier results in the spring," Flack adds.

PREPARING YOUR POND FOR WINTER

It's important to know how to winterize a pond and prepare fish to withstand the harsh winter. Over a year, your pond will accumulate debris and organics such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings and fish waste. Left unchecked, decaying debris can release toxic gas and reduce oxygen levels. Removing this debris and replacing filtration systems with aeration kits and deicers will help ensure oxygen levels stay as high as possible and provide aeration, ventilation and circulation throughout the winter months.

"When fall officially arrives, and the trees start losing their leaves, we often recommend netting your pond," says George Mihalchick of Ponds by George.

Fall netting is intended for collecting debris, and is often a choice to use for predator protection, which is why some pond owners even choose to leave the net stay in place until spring, but it is important to note that these nets are not designed to carry a heavy snow load, and should be removed in the winter before any snowfall.

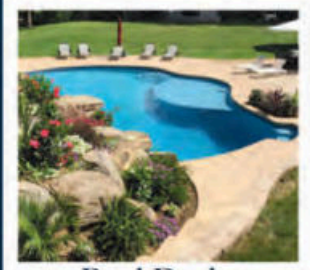
"Once all the leaves have fallen, begin your fall pond care by removing any netting. Pond netting should be stored indoors to keep it safe from wear and tear due to heavy snowfall and ice," says Mihalchick.

As fall ends and winter approaches, plants will naturally fall into a dormant state. To winterize hardy plants, use your pruning tools to trim off dead foliage just above the soil. Removing debris that may have made it into the pond, should also be removed.

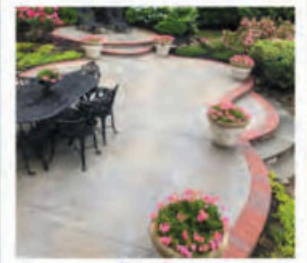


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"Rotting leaves, twigs or dead aquatic plants will put stress on your pond's oxygen levels throughout the winter, which puts your fish at risk. I recommend removing leaves and debris from ponds and streams with the help of a hand net if possible," Mihalchick details.

Another way to keep fish safe when temperatures drop is with the help of aeration and de-icers help to keep a hole open in the ice during winter months. "This prevents harmful gases from being trapped under the ice and allows oxygen levels to stay saturated in the pond. Or if your pond has a waterfall, leave it running, the movement will cause a natural opening," Mihalchick explains.

ADD HARDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Incorporating hardscape elements like stone pathways, patios and fire pits can extend the usability of your outdoor space well into the fall months.

"The fall is a great time to invest in new hardscaping projects. Landscaping companies typically aren't as busy in the fall, as they are in the spring months, so it's a great time to schedule larger projects. Something like a cozy fire pit not only provides warmth but also creates a welcoming ambiance for gatherings with friends and family," says DeMato.

Stone pathways lined with autumn-themed decorations can add a touch of rustic charm to your landscaping. Flack agrees and also encourages decorating with seasonal accents to infuse your landscape with the spirit of fall.

"Consider adding seasonal accents like pumpkins, gourds, and hay bales. Arrange these items strategically around your garden or front porch for a festive and



inviting look. Cornstalks, scarecrows and wreaths made from fall foliage and flowers can also be wonderful additions to your outdoor décor," he says.

FOCUS ON LIGHTING

As the days grow shorter, outdoor lighting becomes increasingly important for both safety and ambiance. Adding path lights, uplighting trees and string lights to create a warm and inviting atmosphere in your outdoor space. The soft glow of well-placed lighting can make your landscape feel magical during the fall evenings.

PLANTING FOR SPRING

Most homeowners typically get hit with spring fever and refocus their home improvement projects to the outside, but Karen Frederick from ELA Landscaping advises that this is a common landscaping misconception.

"Fall is an excellent time to get your hands dirty and plant new additions to your garden. The scorching heat of summer has passed, but it's not yet freezing cold. Fall moderate temperatures create ideal conditions for plants to establish their roots without the stress of extreme weather," she says. "As the weather cools down, your garden will require less water. This means less maintenance and lower water bills while your new plants become established."

While fall is certainly known for its vibrant foliage, it's essential to maintain visual interest in your landscape throughout the year. "Planting evergreen shrubs and trees can provide the necessary structure and color contrast during the colder months when deciduous plants lose their leaves," adds Frederick.

Popular evergreen choices include junipers, arborvitae and various types of holly.

PREPARE FOR WINTER

Lastly, don't forget to prepare your landscape for the winter ahead. This may involve cleaning up fallen leaves, mulching garden beds and protecting delicate plants from frost. Be sure to also take care of any necessary maintenance tasks, such as pruning, before the harsh winter weather sets in.

"The fall is the ideal time to survey your property for any issues. Make a list of things that need to be cleaned, any hardscaping repairs, fence repairs, dead plant material, or even dead growth on trees that can be hazardous," advises DeMato. "Addressing these matters before winter can prevent greater expense if let to linger."

Fall is a wonderful time to enhance your outdoor space and create a captivating landscape that celebrates the beauty of the season. By embracing the colors, incorporating seasonal elements and paying attention to maintenance, you can transform your yard or garden into a stunning autumn retreat. So, roll up your sleeves, put on your gardening gloves and let your creativity flow as you embark on your fall landscaping project. Your outdoor space will become a welcoming haven for you and your loved ones to enjoy throughout this enchanting season. H&H

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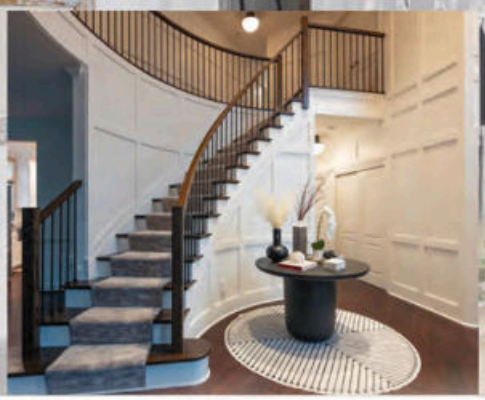
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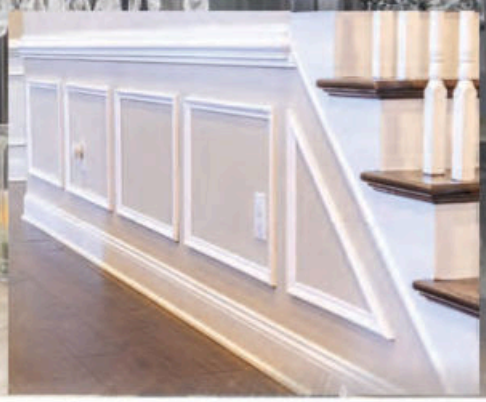


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All in the Family

Driven by four generations' knowledge, Blinds, Shade and Shutter Factory is the window-covering expert homeowners have trusted for decades. *by* **Madeleine Maccar**

For four generations, Jordan Silver's family has provided window-treatment expertise to the Philadelphia region.

"The business started with my great-grandfather and his giant linen store. His main focus was linens but he also worked with draperies and other window treatments, like Venetian and vertical blinds. As the business was passed down, we added more offerings and grew in size. My father really took the business to the next level, doubling our product line and boosting our name in the community through quality work and high levels of customer service," Silver begins.

"I gained respect for the business at a very young age—my childhood revolved around blinds," he continues with a laugh, recalling how getting out of school early almost always meant he'd have to tag along with his father Bob Silver, bouncing between store locations and projects.

Today, the younger Silver manages and controls more of the business, working with his father to continue the growth and success of Blinds, Shade and Shutter Factory. He draws upon his lifetime of knowledge to proudly carry on the tradition, ensuring that everyone looking for window treatments is given the individualized, expert advice and guidance his family has built a reputation on for decades.

"Our customers let us into their homes and we never take that for granted," says Silver. "We pledge a personalized experience from start to finish. Whether you are looking for something specific, or you just want to browse product lines, our team of expert consultants is here to help."

An in-home consultation with a dedicated expert can certainly help the undecided come to a clearer idea of what upgrade they're specifically looking for, from sizes and styles to purpose and privacy. From timeless pieces to today's top trends, you'll always be helped by a team of professionals who are masterfully adept at "finding the latest and the greatest for our customers."

"Certain products, like Plantation shutters or Roman shades, will always be a staple in window fashion design," Silver says. "With endless design options, these products tend to stay in style longer and carry a higher demand. Banded shades are one of our newer options growing in popularity, due to their ability to manipulate light and offer privacy."

One visit to Blinds, Shade and Shutter Factory's sprawling, thoughtfully arranged showroom is enough to illustrate that the possibilities are practically limitless, without being overwhelming in its options.

"Our showroom is a major advantage when selecting window treatments," Silver affirms. "Our working display models give customers a firsthand experience when it comes to selecting colors, patterns, designs and the different ways you can motorize and automate your shades—or even go cord-free. It's great to be able to see the product so they know exactly what they are getting in full-form."

He continues: "We have a very knowledgeable team who stays up to date with product knowledge and pricing. They can help narrow down the possibilities for what fits your space. After that, me or my father will come directly to the customer, bringing those samples so we can make sure the details are correct."

It all underscores the Silver family tradition of prioritizing customer relationships, many of which go back to previous generations.

"I've been working with a customer who purchased blinds from my father about 12 years ago," Silver says. "Years later, they're still coming back to work with me and always ask about my dad. It's the little things that always mean the most. We want to have a name and service our community can depend on." **H&H**



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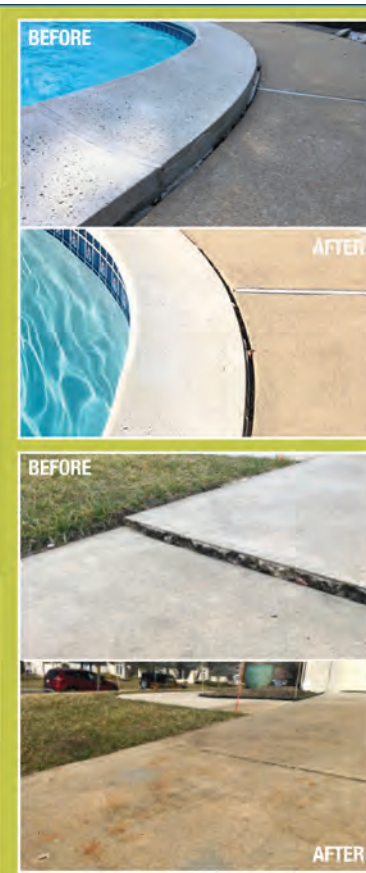
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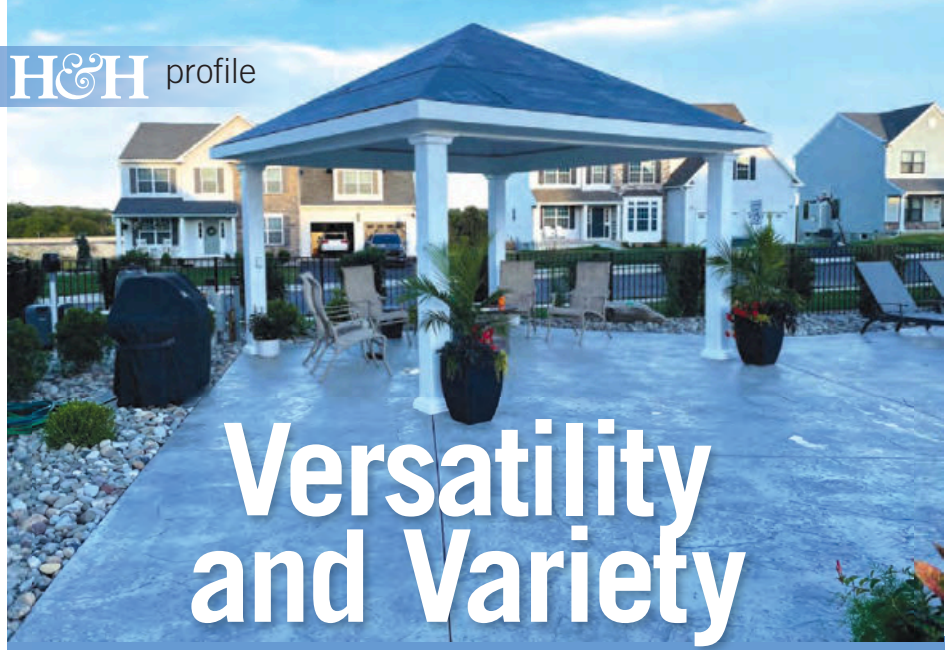
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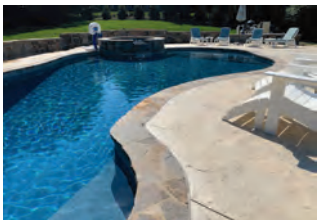


Versatility and Variety

At **Architectural Concrete Design**, clients can expect a skilled team that treats each project as a partnership and understands how to enhance a home's curb appeal.

by **Madeleine Maccar**

In his five years with Architectural Concrete Design (ACD), Adam Myers has learned that clients are often surprised by their options.



"A lot of people are still unaware of what they can do with concrete," says the company's director of residential sales. "They'll pull pictures from Pinterest or Google and say, 'I love how this looks but I don't know how to get there.' … That's where we can come in and make them aware of any material limitations and how decorative concrete can give them a similar look in their backyard."

That commitment to educating customers separates ACD from the competition. Whether the team is working on a customized pool deck, driveway, patio or walkway, one thing remains the same: Every job is rooted in respect.

"It should feel like a partnership from the beginning," says Myers. "We want the homeowner to understand we're listening to them. Their first form of contact comes from the office, they'll be contacted quickly by our design team. From that point, it's setting up an appointment, getting some face time, and having a design professional walk around your yard with you and really listen to what your vision is. Very few hardscape contractors open up a conversation like we do at the design phase."

Transparency supersedes netting a sale, he adds. "The designer doesn't leave until they understand exactly what the homeowner wants. Every decision we make throughout the process can easily be justified or explained because we're doing everything in the homeowner's best interest."

Getting to know each client and their expectations, lifestyle, property, budget and vision allows ACD to deliver completely customized results every time. And with concrete options that go beyond pavers to offer a seemingly infinite multitude of finishes and color combinations, the team knows exactly how to deliver an elegant, impressive final project guaranteed to last.

"With stamped concrete, we have versatility of color, texture and pattern selection—I'm confident you can find a fit for any home," Myers says. "We've done projects on new-construction homes that are incredibly modern-looking, all white and black; we've done 5,000-, even 10,000-square-foot driveways; we've done 300-square-foot patios with a designated space the client wants to look decorative, but the space is so limited that you have to be really intentional about what you pick. … It's incredibly adaptable, and you can't get that look with any other paving material, only concrete.

"That's one of the coolest parts of being in this space: There really are no limitations on the product," he continues. "The designers can be creative, the guys in the field can be creative, it's something new every day."

Designers' creativity and homeowners' visions must work hand in hand, though, for a smooth installation phase. Collaboration and communication are critical, ensuring clients know their voices are heard and that the ACD team can get the job done in a timely fashion while also meeting their high standards.

"We want that mutual respect where the homeowners know the feedback and perspective we're offering all work toward the same goal: making sure they're getting something they're going to love for 20, 30 years," Myers explains. "It should feel like we're working with you.

"Homeowners are encouraged to be onsite during the first building phase: They can see what we're doing, and we can inform them immediately of unforeseen changes our installers may need to make. After breaking ground, there's always a chance something unexpected happens—you want someone experienced in your corner to best handle that. We know how to navigate those circumstances, come up with effective solutions and illustrate that to the homeowner."

ACD's expertise and a variety of options mean the team always knows how to arrive at the design that perfectly complements a home and is in harmony with the project's surroundings. Working with the existing colors, patterns, textures and materials already present onsite is a win for the homeowner, since they won't need to redo their whole yard's aesthetic to still have the space "flow," even with a brand-new concrete project.

With ACD's 30th anniversary coming, it's a milestone the entire organization is proud of. But it's not just the company that can boast longtime success in delivering dazzling results, as much of its team has called ACD home for over two decades.

"What really sets us apart is the installers and their experience," Myers notes. "We have multiple guys who have been here for over 20 years—I don't know too many places that can say that. With concrete, our guys are physically crafting the product in the field so it's a new product every time—that's why it comes down to the guys forming and making that material. This is an industry where there's a direct correlation between the installers' experience and the product's quality." **H&H**



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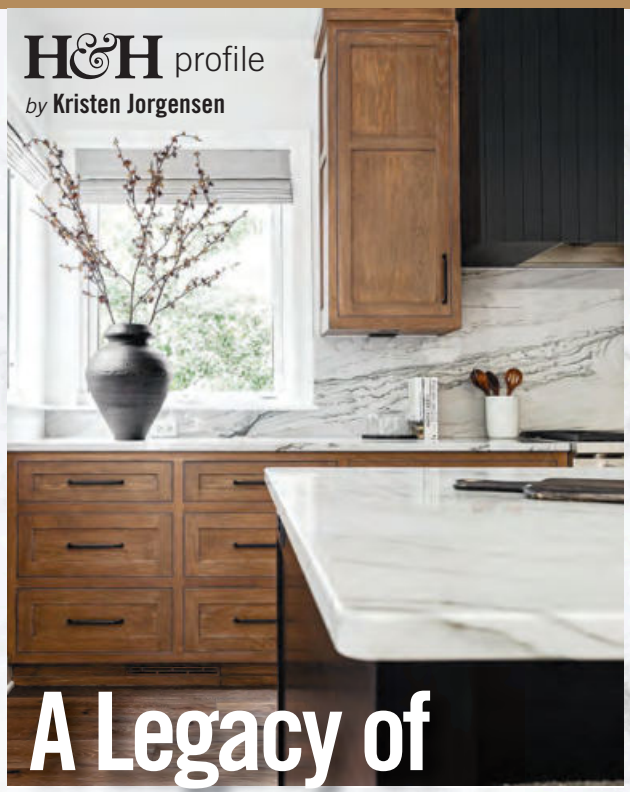
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A Legacy of Excellence

Colonial Marble & Granite continues to raise the bar.

IN THE WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION AND INTERIOR DESIGN, THE CHOICE OF MATERIALS PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN DEFINING THE AESTHETICS, DURABILITY AND OVERALL QUALITY OF A PROJECT. AND FOR THOSE SEEKING TIMELESS ELEGANCE, NATURAL STONE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOP CHOICE. FOR MANY, THAT MEANS TURNING TO ONE OF THE MOST TRUSTED NAMES IN THE INDUSTRY—COLONIAL MARBLE & GRANITE.

The family-owned business is undoubtedly the fastest-growing provider of fabrication and installation of stone materials in the Northeastern United States and among the array of stone providers, they stand as a reputable and enduring name in the business.

The company was founded in 2006 by the Papadopoulos family, with the sole mission to offer customers the greatest selection of materials at the lowest prices available, not to mention the highest quality installation. These days, in addition to their stunning showroom, the company has risen to become the largest stone supplier in the Northeast. That growth has only reinforced its commitment to client satisfaction.

In addition to its exceptional product quality and selection, Colonial Marble & Granite who collaborate closely with clients, offering guidance and support throughout the selection and installation processes.

"When you come to Colonial Marble & Granite, every customer is treated equally and goes through the same design process, no matter the budget," explains Sandra Phillips, executive vice president of sales, marketing and design. "One of the things we love most when working with clients is taking them back to the slab yard and showcasing all of the options and variety of stones we carry. The real excitement comes from watching our clients become inspired through our selections."

A DIVERSE RANGE OF NATURAL STONE

It is within the design process that the key strengths of Colonial Marble and Granite shine and lie in its vast selection of natural stone materials. "We offer an impressive array of options, including marble, granite, quartzite, onyx, quartz, soapstone and much more. Whether you're seeking the classic elegance of Carrara marble, the durability of granite or the versatility of quartzite, Colonial Marble & Granite has the perfect stone to meet your needs," explains Phillips.

This diverse range of materials ensures that designers, architects and homeowners can find the ideal stone for any project, from kitchen countertops and bathroom vanities to flooring and wall cladding.

"Our entire staff is professionally trained to help take every client through the design process. If a client comes in with a complete vision at their fingertips, we can help bring it to life for you; if they visit our showroom unsure of exactly where to begin, we offer design assistance, and can help narrow down selections and options, to get them to a vision they'll love," shares Phillips.

No matter what the client ultimately selects, Colonial Marble & Granite's commitment to sourcing the finest natural stones from around the world ensures that they will have access to the best materials available.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Quality is the cornerstone of Colonial Marble & Granite's success. The company takes rigorous measures to ensure that every piece of stone meets the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship. From the selection of raw materials to the cutting, polishing and finishing processes, each step is meticulously executed to produce flawless products.

"A lot of our marble is unique. Owner Nikos Papadopoulos personally travels to other countries to hand-select the best products and stone options. Some of our stone comes from Brazil, others from Italy, and even different parts of the U.S.," says Phillips.

The commitment to excellence and client satisfaction is so well received that customers often return to Colonial Marble requesting kitchen and bath cabinetry.

"We had repeat customers coming in to inquire about their cabinetry needs because they had such a wonderful experience with selecting stone from us. As a result, we decided to rise to the occasion and started carrying cabinetry to further support our client's renovation projects and make it one seamless shopping experience," Phillips says.

TRENDS FOR 2024

With Colonial Marble &d Granite being leaders in the industry, it's also crucial for them to stay informed about new products, techniques and, of course, trending designs. According to Phillips, the days of all-white kitchens are being abandoned in exchange for more warm woods, drama and even pops of color.

"We started to see a shift in designs during 2023 that will continue into next year," she says. "The richer colors and moodier vibes are absolutely going to continue into next year. Another design we're seeing return to kitchens is the use of lighting. The addition of under cabinet and toe kick lighting is showing up in a lot of designs in the new year."

Colonial Marble & Granite combines years of experience and the finest materials with first-class customer service to create an unmatched experience for all their customers and partners. Their core values of integrity, quality and customer focus remain deeply ingrained in the way they conduct business and a reflection of the unwavering dedication to delivering top-notch products and services. Whether you're embarking on a renovation project or designing a new space, Colonial Marble & Granite stands ready to provide you with the finest natural stone solutions available. ■

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