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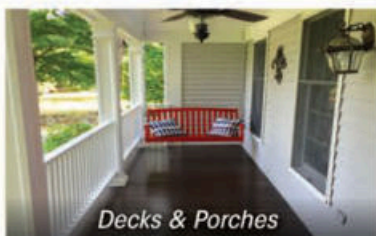
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As spring approaches, homeowners are gearing up to spend time outside. This month, we're presenting an issue dedicated to warm-weather projects, including pool installation and landscape design ideas. Read on to find out the key pieces of advice from local professionals.

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NEW TO KNOW.

By Daniel Sean Kaye

A

swimming pool can add so much to any home. From exercise to fun to relaxation, your pool is transformative, bringing facets of joy to your life you may not have known you were missing. There is much to know about the process, and you want to have the most positive experience possible, so here are thoughts of which you should be aware.



Image courtesy of CLC Landscape Design

PLANNING YOUR NEW POOL

Replacing a pool

“Replacing an existing pool is pretty common,” says Sam Waddell, president/owner of SLS Landscaping. “There are many old pools that don’t meet today’s pool code and are just outdated in design and function for today’s lifestyles.” He says it’s important for companies to offer creative and functional designs that meet modern vision and lifestyles.

“Just like a new homeowner who is looking for a pool, you would need to pick a shape and size. It’s really up to personal preference on style,” says Chuck Ordini, owner of Joe Ordini’s Best Fiberglass Pools. “Just make sure you understand what is needed to pay for a full removal of the old pool because you will have to excavate the old hole to accommodate the new pool installation.”

If you want to replace a concrete pool, you’d need to renovate it to make it new again, unless there are major structural issues, says Dominic DiCesare, general manager of Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti. “For liner or fiberglass, you’re removing it and starting over. And any replacement would require a design consultation to look at the pool and yard.” He adds that knowing township requirements, understanding the

property and presenting a design plan are important.

“You need to fully renovate what’s already there. You need a clean slate,” says Bryan Hull, one of the partners of Del Val Pools & Spas. “But you also have to know that the code is the code. Fences have to be 48-inches high. They need setbacks. They’ll have to rip out and replace the existing pool. There’s a lot to know.”

Installing a new pool

Start this process with a licensed landscape architect and designer (LLAD), says Rich Cording Sr., owner of CLC Landscape Design. “An LLAD can really see your whole property and can tell you what works, what doesn’t, what can cause problems, etc. When I get calls to come help with a situation, it’s often too late to make major changes without a real big cost. Maybe it’s after the pool was put in and it was set too low and now there’s a drainage problem. If you contact a landscape architect first, before having the pool put in, they can show multiple elevations, ordinances, rules of the township, and can add in extra things you need to know like regulations and conditions. They can help create an area that works pragmatically and aesthetically,” he says.

“What ends up being there depends a lot on the size of the property,” says Hull. “What would fit? What’s better—gunite or vinyl? Gunite is more custom, allowing for sun decks and benches. You can have a premier pool. You can put steps anywhere, add hard-



“There are a lot of features that can be designed and built with the pool such as spas, waterfalls, sun decks and luminaries, to name a few.”

— SAM WADDELL, SLS Landscaping

scape/landscape backyards. The options are endless. Vinyl pools are not as fancy and are less expensive. It offers fun in the sun, and a pool on a budget,” he says.

Waddell agrees that good landscape architects and designers will meet with a client to discuss how the pool/landscape will be used—if it’ll be mainly used for children or for adults. “The pool is just one element of the total outdoor space and commonly incorporates a pavilion with a kitchen and fireplace with seating and entertaining space,” he says. Other design elements include pool terraces, pavilions and landscaping.

DiCesare adds that homeowners must be focused on what is going to meet their needs and work best in their yard.

The right company

Knowing which company will get you what works right for you is important. “I always suggest word of mouth and referrals from friends and family,” says Ordini. “Checking the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for ratings and comments is always a good idea when purchasing a large dollar item.”

“You want to make sure you’re dealing with a professional company, and if it’s a right fit for you because it is major construction and you have to live with the outcome of the job,” says DiCesare. “You have a lot of small builders and landscapers that start pool projects that go upside-down

real quick.”

“For choosing a company, consider referrals and length of business,” says Hull. “For example, we’re a family business, so we focus on making sure that what you’re promised, you’re given. We don’t believe in high-pressure salesmen. We’re selling fun.”

Hull believes the pool you get has to be based on your life, interests and plans. “What are you trying to do? Most people have basic ideas—shape, size and usage.”

“Pool styles are typically decided by the intended use of the environment,” says Waddell. “Do the children want a water resort or is this a formal landscape where the pool be enjoyed more visually? All of these aspects [should] be discussed with the client at a design meeting.”

“It’s important that a client can ask the company everything and have a good relationship with them. The client needs to understand what’s involved in the cost,” adds Cording. “Since we are a design/build company, we oversee everything, every company that does the work. We are able to know what will be needed at every step.” He says to create a “wish list” for the company, including how many people you’re going to be entertaining. This assists the LLAD in coming up with creative ways to make the property work, to utilize lawn areas and better integrate the pool into the backyard. “You don’t want just the easiest place to drop in a pool.





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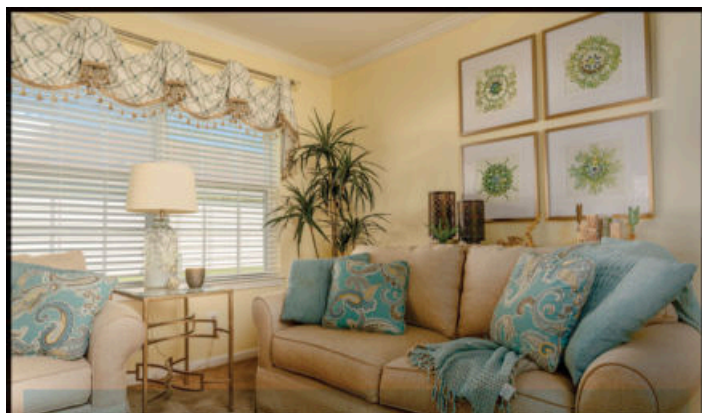
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Special features
“Today’s trend is for salt pools. They reduce the need for the added chemicals during the season and leave the skin feeling softer and smoother than that itchy dry feeling with a traditional chlorine pool,” says Waddell. “There are a lot of features that can be designed and built with the pool such as spas, waterfalls, sun decks and luminaries, to name a few.”

And if money is an issue, “salt systems and most special features can all be added at a later date, for an extra cost of course,” says Ordini.

There are many options, says DiCesare. “You have salt, UV/Ozone systems, water-fire features, waterfalls/grottos. If they can think of it and have the budget, a good builder can build it.”

“Saltwater is incredible,” says Hull. “It takes maintenance down to zero. It stops the pool from turning green and offers benefits across the board. There are also auto vacuums now that do everything. They work great. There’s also lighting that offers mood changing, adds style and elegance, and spillover spas which are very popular.”

Cording agrees that saltwater and various amenities are important aspects of today’s pools. “All we do is saltwater, and most pools have sunshelves since

they allow people to sit in the pool or lay in it,” he says. “Today’s pools have less to do with diving, so there are larger shallow areas. All have LED lighting and are controlled by their phones. There are plenty of square or irregular shaped pools, many with bars, grottos, even caves. The ideas seem endless and they help create a leisure location that adds to so much to people’s lives.” **H&H**



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Legends Home Improvements has been giving customers the backyard of their dreams for more than 40 years.

by Matt Cosentino

It may be hard to imagine during the dog days of winter—when the temperatures are low, it becomes dark at dinnertime and the threat of snow is always hanging over us—but soon enough the warm weather will arrive, encouraging us to spend as much time outside as possible.

With a well-designed outdoor living space, homeowners can get the most of their backyard, whether they are dining al fresco with the family, enjoying a cocktail after a long day at the office or having friends over for a barbecue.

While there are many so-called experts vying for business in the outdoor living arena, it is crucial for homeowners to find an established company that values honesty and integrity in its work, and Legends Home Improvements has fit that description since its founding in 1975. A full-scale home improvement company that does kitchen renovations, basements, additions and more, Legends specializes in building decks, porches, screen rooms and gazebos.

“We basically build outdoor rooms,” says Bill Lecorchick Sr., who owns and operates Legends with his son Bill Jr. “It’s no longer just a simple square or rectangle off the back of the house. They include fireplaces, fire pits, roofs, stonework and kitchens. We create beautiful outdoor spaces for people to enjoy.”

Customers know they are working with a unique company right from the initial consultation meeting with Legends, which is free of charge. It usually lasts about an hour and a half and homeowners are urged to share their desires and to take an active role in the process.

Legends’ experienced designers will listen intently to their hopes for the space, explain cost and present a conceptual design for the project.



Creators of Elegant Outdoor Living Areas

“Our first goal is to figure out what our customers want to accomplish and get the husband and wife on the same page, because they are often thinking different things,” Lecorchick says. “The customers will usually bring out pictures of things they would like to incorporate and we work with their ideas. We can also give them an idea about the values, because some of the items on their wish list are much more expensive than they realize.”

During the design stage Lecorchick has two important recommendations, if they can be accomplished in the homeowner’s budget: a roof structure and an outdoor kitchen. In his experience, these add another dimension to the space and drastically improve the look and functionality.

“I really believe that every deck and patio should have a roof area,” he says. “It allows for more usage of the deck, when it gets hot in the summertime or it’s raining. A lot of people put a fireplace on the deck as well, so it extends their season well into the winter.”

“The other thing that is great, if you can do it, is an outdoor kitchen. If you entertain frequently, outdoor kitchens keep you involved and make you part of your party, and they incorporate very nicely into the outdoor living area.”

Unlike some companies that work exclusively with one manufacturer, Legends is proud to offer the finest materials from seven of the leading manufacturers, including Trex, Azek and TimberTech. Over 65 boards and railings from those companies are on

display in Legends’ impressive showroom, allowing customers to get an idea of what their deck will look like before committing.

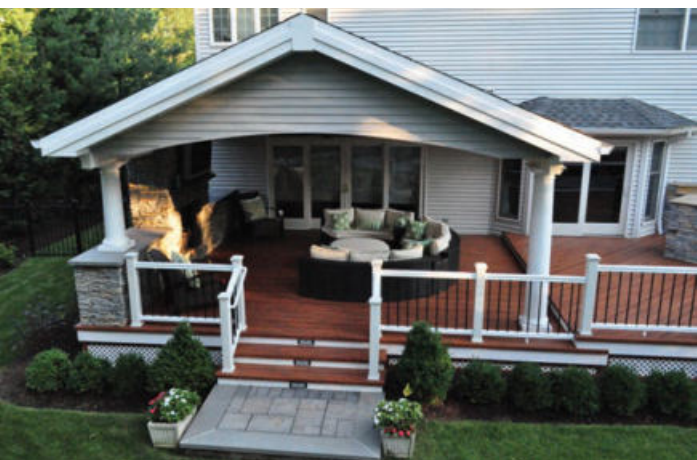
“We don’t specialize in one manufacturer; we’re here for our customers,” Lecorchick says. “If a customer prefers one manufacturer over another, that’s what we’re going to build with. It allows for flexibility and a better design. Our goal is to give our customers the outdoor living area they want; not what we want to build with.”

Once a customer decides to move forward and the contract is signed, Legends will handle all of the planning, such as building permits from the township, completion of necessary inspections and arrangement for licensed trades, including gas and electric. “All the customer has to do is watch us build their dream deck,” Lecorchick says.

Legends only has two crews, consisting of employees who have been with the company for years, are well-versed in deck building and are committed to delivering the project the customer was promised. When the job is finished and those goals are accomplished, there is no better feeling for Lecorchick, even after four decades in business.

“It’s a terrific feeling when we find out the customer loves the outdoor living area we built for them,” he says. “They often bring us back to their house for another job because the crew was a pleasure to work with and was respectful of their property. It’s wonderful to get that feedback.” **H&H**

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Glass Castle

by Julie Shannon

When Scott Kingsland responded to an ad in the newspaper for a position at Glass Castle in 1994, he knew very little about glass, but needed a job while he was going to school at night. He had no idea years later he'd end up taking over the company and have much success.

"It's one of those start at the bottom, end up in the top stories," says Kingsland, who's been running Glass Castle for eight years.

Glass Castle is the go-to place for all things glass, where they specialize in creating the shower door that works best for your space. Glass Castle has two showrooms in Lawrenceville and Neshanic Station, both over 1,000 square feet with 25 different shower rooms on display at each location. From thin and thick glass to semi-frameless and completely frameless door options just to name a few, Glass Castle consultants are there to help you choose what works best for your shower and other parts of your home.

House & Home spoke with Kingsland, who explained how particular this field is, how technology plays a big factor in their product and why every homeowner should have some type of glass furnishing.

Just how specialized is this field?

Glass is definitely a specialized field in the sense that it's one of the traits most people don't even think about, specifically on the residential side where shower doors have gotten to the point where it's extremely specialized, you need to be exact and understand the square measurement to a sixteenth of an inch. It's kind of a field all by itself. Glass is a product that's difficult to work with—you can't fix it. If it chips, it's done. If it's the wrong size and tempered, it's done. If you scratched it, it's done. It can be a difficult product to work with, that's why you have to be so precise.



EXPERTISE: GLASS DESIGN



Scott Kingsland, owner

Can you describe your design and installation process?

The typical design process of shower enclosures is typically customers come to our showroom with their approximate dimensions and photographs of shower areas, and we take them through all the options they have. We see if sliding doors can work, whether or not hinge doors will work, and we go over the different hardware available—handles, glass options and usually the shower enclosure gets designed at that meeting. We have a general idea on how big it is, but the onsite meeting at the client's home is where everything is fine tuned and we see exactly how tall the door is going to be.

We measure with laser, and technology is moving in such a way that probably by the end of this year, my technicians will be completely paperless. When a picture of the space is taken, it will get uploaded right to the software.

In what other parts of the home do you install glass furnishings?

One of the popular areas we've been installing more and more glass doors and glass partitions is in wine rooms. It allows for a nice clean, open look. We usually install glass partitions in conjunction with the door to be able to show off the wine collection. We also install glass in gym areas

for mirrors and tabletop glass for dining room tables, as well as window repair work.

Why should people consider getting glass installed to these other areas you mention besides shower glass doors?

It looks really nice and it's easy to keep clean; protection is the primary reason. Glass tends to be a harder surface than wood, so you are not going to end up with any marks on the table itself—glass protects it.

What sets you apart from other companies?

We use the most technologically advanced coating that can be applied to glass to help protect it over time. The investment you make in a shower door, it's going to look nice and new for a long time. We have a 10-year warranty, so rest assured, 10 years down the road your shower door is going to look as nice as when we put it in.

What's the best part about your job?

I think it's rewarding to take that process and start out in the beginning, then to design something you know is going to work well for your customer and then to see it installed. When we go into the house, we're the last component to go in. We're the finishing touch on this project they've been involved with. It's nice to see that project come to fruition. **H&H**

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A Blissful Slumber

The Switlik mattress gives homeowners the ability to adjust their comfort level and get the peaceful night's sleep they deserve.

INDIVIDUALS WHO GET A PEACEFUL, UNINTERRUPTED NIGHT OF SLEEP are usually easy to spot. They seem refreshed and alert, are not constantly yawning or slouching and are ready to seize the day in front of them.

Those who spend the wee hours tossing and turning, however, tend to get cranky. Their relationships or work suffer, and if the problem persists, orthopedic issues often arise and general health may decline.

Finding the right mattress to create a comfortable sleeping environment can be difficult, especially for couples with different needs and preferences. Fortunately, a global company with local roots and a rich history of making innovative products has developed a no-compromise mattress that is the answer sleep-deprived partners are looking for.

Switlik, a family-owned company since 1920, is headquartered in Trenton but has a reputation worldwide for manufacturing high-quality products for the military, aviation and marine markets. Its latest offering, out of its Comfort Tech division, is a mattress comprised of dual sealed foam chambers that are easily adjustable, allowing each person sleeping on it to alter the comfort level to his or her liking.

"People who appreciate the

ability to adjust the firmness of their mattress are really loving it," says Sarah Switlik, vice president of sales and marketing. "We have had a lot of success with couples who have two separate sleeping preferences. We're able to solve a particular issue for one member of the couple—the person with back pain, for example—and we're also able to satisfy their partner, who didn't have to change what they like just to accommodate their partner."

Sealed foam was originally invented by Switlik for ejection seating in fighter jets before being applied to mattresses. It creates a cushion that is designed to cradle and roll with its users as they shift, unlike other mattresses that push against the sleeper. The mattress includes a patented valve system to adjust the firmness with a simple touch of a button, and no hoses, pumps or wires are required.

"Usually when a couple goes out to buy a mattress, one of them is happy and the other has either settled or is distinctly unhappy," Switlik says. "This eliminates that issue. You're able to adjust your side to a specific firmness level, and that can be different from the other side. You can also make an adjustment day in and day out depending on what your body needs, if you're going through an

injury or aging or pregnancy."

The Switlik mattress is made of natural materials and is allergy-free and hypoallergenic. It is waterproof and fireproof, and comes with a fully removable cover that can be laundered at home.

Another benefit is Switlik's 14-night free trial, which allows customers to sleep on the mattress in their homes for two weeks without owning it or being obligated to buy it. Many consumers who shop in person for a mattress will lie down and give it a "test drive" to see if it's a comfortable fit, but Switlik believes that more than a few minutes are necessary to make that decision.

"We say the showroom is your bedroom," Switlik says. "We'll come in and set our mattress up and wrap your mattress up and protect it and store it, either in a different room in your house or back in our warehouse. It's a good way to see how it fits into your lifestyle, and when you make the decision to purchase we come back with a brand-new mattress."

Unlike other online companies that allow mattresses to be tried and returned within a certain time period, Switlik's process is environmentally friendly because its mattress is the most deeply cleanable on the market.

"When other mattresses get

returned, they go to the landfill," Switlik says. "It's incredibly wasteful and incredibly costly to the company and the environment. We felt there had to be a happy medium. We didn't want to be a part of the landfill crisis that has come about from mattresses being tried and returned."

Being an industry leader is nothing new for Switlik, which was originally founded by Stanley Switlik, a Polish immigrant, when he purchased a canvas and leather goods specialty company. It eventually transitioned into manufacturing parachutes and survival products and continues to serve all four branches of the military and the commercial aviation sector.

"This is our centennial year and we're very excited about it," says Switlik the great-granddaughter of the original owner and the daughter of current CEO Stanley Switlik II. "Companies don't always make it to 100 years, which is a feat unto itself, but remaining privately held and family owned and operated for those 100 years is something we're very proud of."

"Not only is the company headquartered here in New Jersey, but all of the manufacturing is done here as well. The old saying is that 'Trenton makes and the world takes,' and we're one of the few companies left in Trenton that is still doing that. We're happy to be here and we're actually doing some construction on the property to further enhance our position and grow. So it's an exciting time for us." **H&H**

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Outdoor Lighting Perspectives

Improve your home's beauty and security with outdoor lighting.

Does your house fade into the night after the sun goes down? Professional outdoor lighting can not only improve your home's curb appeal at night, but it can also add safety and security for your family and guests.

Here are some recommended lighting design elements to consider for your home:

Pathway Lighting

Pathlights direct light downward to showcase pathways and highlight landscaping in low flower beds. Properly illuminating pathways in your front and back yard provides peace of mind that the areas will be safe and beautiful.

Expert tip: Avoid placing the fixtures in a straight line or in grass.



Uplighting

Create that welcoming feeling in the evening hours by uplighting the façade of your home. With uplighting you can highlight those special architectural details that set your home apart from the rest. A lighting expert will ensure that your home's lighting is distributed consistently by selecting the right fixtures, bulbs, location and angles. This attention to detail is the hallmark of a professional lighting design, and often the difference between basic and spectacular lighting.

Lighting for Outdoor Living Spaces

A well-designed lighting plan will help extend your outdoor living all year long. To enjoy your outdoor spaces you need the right lighting that allows you to entertain without creating a harsh glare for your guests, thereby increasing both the usability and functionality of the areas. Additionally, you can choose to highlight certain backyard features, such as perimeter trees to create some depth. With professionally designed landscape lighting the evening hours will soon be your most cherished.

Festive Lighting

What a great way to dress up your patio or pergola to create the perfect entertaining space! String lighting is one way you can

provide warm light for your guests during outdoor events and extend the party long into the evening. With a quality dimmer installed by a lighting professional, your string lights can be at full power for a party atmosphere, or soft and casual for a quiet night with the family. Our durable, commercial grade products subtly integrated into your home are designed to stand up to the elements throughout all four seasons.

Specialty Lighting

There are some great options for customizing your outdoor space. Adding our distinctive copper fixtures or custom bollards can lend a unique touch to your lighting design that no one else will have. Under mount deck or hardscape lights blend inconspicuously by day, but give off a soft glow in the evening hours. Step or strip lighting can be used to both increase safety and add architectural highlights. Moonlighting an area can provide downlight through trees to create a beautiful dappled design with a warm, natural effect. These are just a few of the fixtures and techniques we can use to customize your outdoor space.

Choosing a Professional Lighting Expert

Expertly designed outdoor lighting can truly transform your home into a work of art and allow you to enjoy the outdoors long after the sun goes down. In addition to the initial installation you will need a reliable partner to support continued maintenance services. When looking for professional outdoor lighting, there are several items to consider:

- Reputable company
- Extensive design knowledge and expertise
- A custom lighting plan
- High quality products
- Impeccable installation standards
- All-inclusive warranties
- Ongoing service and maintenance support **H&H**



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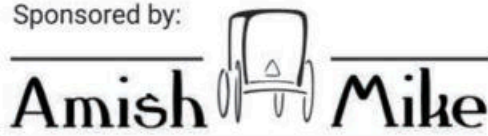


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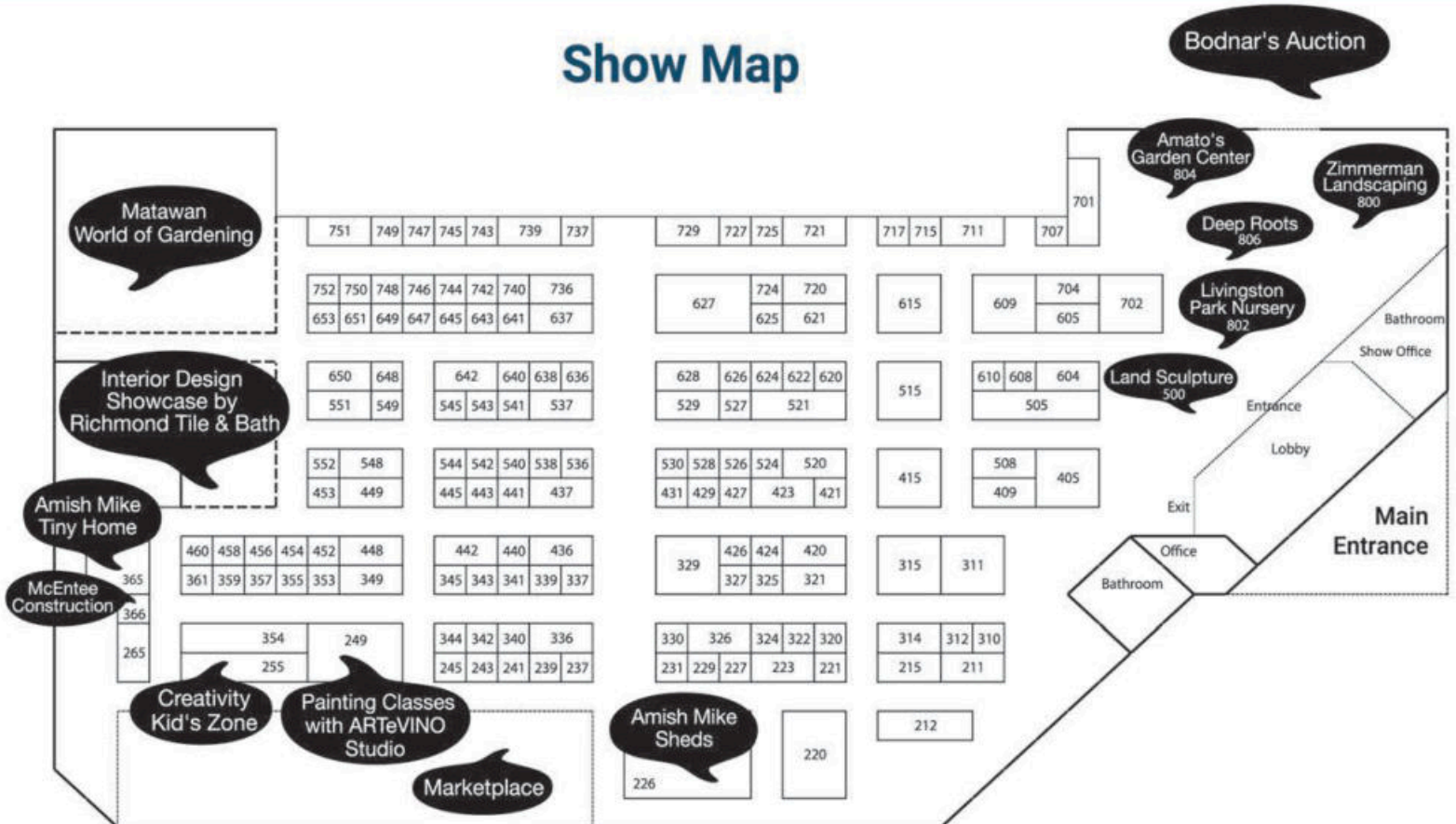


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HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Show Map



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BODNARS AUCTION

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Sat, Feb 22nd at 5:00pm

For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com

Exhibitor List



HOME & GARDEN SHOWTM

Company	Booth #				
1 Day Bath	736	Gourmet Creations	245	Pella Windows & Doors	442
2 Chicks with Chocolate	Market	Gr8 Kitchens	651	Pipe Works Home Services	212
95.5 K-Love	Lobby	Guaranteed Service	552	Pleasant Valley Kids	255
ACRE Windows & Doors	752	Gutter Helmet by Harry Helmet	536	PNC Bank	443
ADT Security	640	Hello Fresh	645	Pods	TBA
All City Electrical Energy Solutions		Heritage Publishing	426	Pool Designs Inc	701
Lighting & Design	215	Home & Garden NJ	624	Popcorn for the People	Market
Allstate Eagleson Financial Services	312	Home Genius Exteriors	441	Power Home Remodeling	211
Amato's Garden Center	804	Homestar Remodeling	704	Precision Tech Home Services	343
American Kitchen Refacing Inc	427	House & Home Magazine	325	Princeton Van Service Moving & Storage	326
American Quality Remodeling	537	I See Spain	Market	Quality 1st Basement Systems	625
Amish Mike	226	Infinity Massage Chairs	321	Renewal by Andersen	311
Art e'Vino	249	Innate Living	528	RetroBath	529
A's Pavers	437	Interior Design Presentations	457	Richmond Tile & Bath	405
Audio Cafe	717	J.W. Shuster & Son, Inc.	653	Robert J Darden, R.A.	622
Awning Design	743	Joe Percario General Contractors	721	Roof Maxx	742
Balic Winery	637	Joseph Gormley CPA	344	Roof Wizards	327
Bamboo Life	330	Junkluggers of Central Jersey	220	RoyalZ	336
Bang Cookies	Market	Keystone Contracting LLC	544	RTI Builders LLC	505
Basement Waterproofing	739	Kitchen Craft	530	Rutgers Master Gardener Program	Market
Bath Fitter	751	Kitchen Design Centers	436	Sam's Air Control	650
Bathroom Pros NJ	707	Kitchen Magic	621	Scentsy	Market
Best Tile	520	Land Sculpture	500	Shelf Genie	456
Binsky Home	239	Latin Flavor	Market	Solar Energy World	221
Bodnar's Auction Sales	900	LeafFilter North, Inc.	345	Solid Wood Cabinet Company	337
Brothers Exterior	636	Liberty Safes of New Jersey	729	State Farm	605
Budget Blinds	454	Livingston Park Nursery	802	Sunpower by Seabright Solar	538
Butch's Hot Stuff Hot Sauce	Market	Longford Landscape	415	Superior Sleep	609
Capital Benefits LLC	440	Luxury Bath of NJPA	515	Switlik Comfort	508
Carbonic Heat	526	M&E Sales	711	Techni Art	551
Carol Gingrich Designs	Market	Magnus Appliance	521	Terranut	Market
Carpets & More	420	Matawan World of Gardening	657	The Men with Tools	241
Castle Windows	740	Mattress Firm	329	The Perfect Pickle	Market
Celestial Gardens Inc	Market	McEntee Construction	366	The Rug Mall	452
Click Heat	750	Metro Public Adjustment, Inc.	724	Tiny Home by Amish Mike	365
Corbin Electrical Services, Inc	421	Metropolitan Window Fashions	610	Tori's Company	448
Creative Marketing Ventures	231	Micro-Air, Inc. The EasyStart People	423	TriState LeafGuard	424
Cruise Planners - Lets Globetrot	540	Mid-Atlantic Waterproofing NJ	320	Tristate Window & Siding	524
CUTCO Cutlery	453	Midtown Chimney Sweep	543	True Honey Teas	Market
David Lerner & Associates	429	Momentum Home	340	Tuff Shed	548
Deep Roots LLC	806	Momentum Solar	324	Turmeric Boss	Market
Designblendz	445	Mosquito Hunters	745	U.S Census 2020	TBD
Designs by Diane	Market	Move or Improve NJ	349	Ultra Pure	237
Ebb & Flow NYC	Market	Mt Salem Electric	549	Valor NJ	641
Edison/Hillsborough Garage Doors	620	National Fence Systems, Inc.	720	Victory Home Remodeling	322
F & C Professional Aluminum Railing	604	New Jersey Deer Control	638	Vitamix	737
Forever Iron Doors	628	New Jersey One Call	527	W. Danley Electrical Contracting	727
Four Seasons Sunrooms	643	New York Life	541	Window Nation	648
Gallas Beauty	223	N-Hance Wood Refinishing	545	Window World of Jersey Coast	615
Garage Kings	449	Nicholas Gakos, ASLA	725	Wolff Family Agency	626
Garage Living	314	NJ Clean Energy Program	342	Wood-N-Dreams	265
GenRenew	715	NJ Nursery & Landscape Assoc.	Market	Zimmerman Landscaping	800
Global Home Improvement	627	NJHMF	542	Zuzu Confections	431
Gloria Nilson & Co. Real Estate	328	NYC Daylighting Inc.	310	Zwilling J. A. Henckels	642
Go Green Contracting	315	Paradise Grilling	601		
Got-Stuff.net	409	Passante Foods	608		

*Exhibitor List subject to change without notice

For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com



HOME & GARDEN SHOWTM



The Interior Design Showcase presented by **Richmond Tile and Bath** will feature five life size mood boards, giving homeowners the opportunity to see how their designs come together with a mix of materials and finishes. Each design will have different components, colors and textures to suit every design aesthetic with a goal of achieving big impact in small room settings. Presentations will focus on different styles of design from the traditional to over the top modern looks.

Presentation Schedule

Designer Doug Wilson of TLC's Trading Spaces

- Friday, Feb 21st : 4:30pm and 6:30pm
- Saturday, Feb 22nd: 12:30pm and 3:30pm
- Sunday, Feb 23rd: 11:00am

Expert Designers from Richmond Tile and Bath

- Saturday, Feb 22nd: 11:00am and 2:00pm
- Sunday, Feb 23rd: 12:30pm and 2:00pm

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For more show information, visit www.NewJerseyHomeShow.com



THINKING Outside THE HOUSE

**Experts offer
their top
landscaping and
hardscaping
ideas for spring
2020.** BY LINDSEY GETZ

Though it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is just around the corner. And now is actually the ideal time to start planning your seasonal projects. Whether you're looking to add some new plantings or you have bigger plans in mind, by starting to think about these projects now and finding the right professional to partner with, you can maximize your enjoyment of these spaces by getting them completed early.

We spoke to some of the area's top landscape professionals and asked them for a few of their best spring planning tips. Here's what they had to say—as well as some photos for inspiration.



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THINK YEAR-ROUND with Landscaping

“Always add something that will have some interest during the winter months. It doesn’t have to be an evergreen either. I love using colorful varieties like cornus ‘red twig’ dogwood, which provides a splash of red once it loses its foliage. Lavender and other herbaceous perennials or hearty liriopse are great too and can be great additions to beds along walkways or areas that require low-growing layering. For medium to taller layering and to provide structure, consider yews or schip laurels as a backdrop.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy,**
designer, GROUNDTEC, INC.



“A common mistake that people make in the spring is to overload the property with lots of brilliant, beautiful colors that are currently in bloom. The trouble is, when July and August roll around, it gets boring because nothing is in bloom. It’s easy to get ‘wowed’ by what’s out there but if you lean on a landscape professional, they can help create a plan so that there is always something in bloom or providing interest. That even includes winter interest. It all comes down to planning.”

➔ **Steve Compton,**
general manager,
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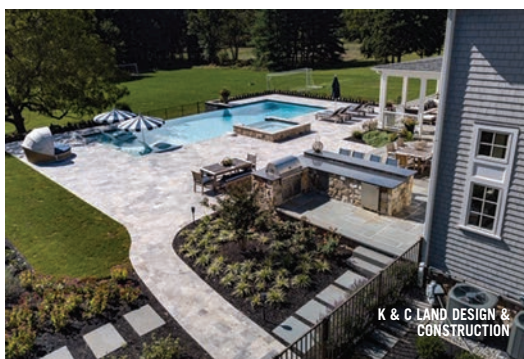




PLAN NOW for Hardscape Designs

“My best piece of advice is to make decisions as quickly as you can. This is important for a few reasons. For one, even though

we are in the off-season, we can apply for and obtain any permits or special permission that may be required in order to construct the project so that we are not wasting the good working months on this. Second would be to take advantage of the mild winters we may have and actually get a jumpstart on building during the off-season. You should start planning as soon as the idea has interest. This will also ensure



that the project is more likely to start on time and is executed in the most efficient way.”

◆ Christopher Bianciella,
principal, K&C LAND DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC



“The best time to start planning your spring hardscaping project is late fall or winter. This way your designer can have plenty of time to ensure the space fits your needs and incorporates all the necessary elements into your project. You should collect inspirational photos and send them to

your landscape designer, this way when we provide building material options, we have a good starting place. Write down the things you could envision you and your family doing in the backyard, and we can design around the activities and needs of your family.”

◆ Cameron Kennedy,
GROUNDTEC, INC.

Outdoor Living Rooms REIGN

“Deck/patio combos with clean lines and privacy walls or landscape screening seem to be a feature that we are seeing more and more of. We design the outdoor living space as just another room in the house, with use of space being the primary factor. We want to ensure the client will be able to utilize the space as much as possible and that entertaining or relaxing outdoors is a breeze.

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In terms of color, warmer/softer tones are coming back as grays and monochrome colors are losing their popularity.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy, GROUNDTEC, INC.**



“There’s no question that outdoor living spaces continue to be the biggest trend. I tell people to take the heart of their home and move it outside. Whether that’s the kitchen, the family room or the dining room—people want to recreate these gathering spaces outside and have them designed and installed in a way that makes them fully functional. Now, people also want to add roofs to these spaces. It allows them to use the space even if it’s raining. They can be outside enjoying their fire feature and their outdoor television in the rain or snow if the space is covered—and people love that.”

➔ **Steve Compton, CKC LANDSCAPING**

LIGHT IT UP!

“Lighting will always be a big trend that will never go out of style. As mammals we are instinctually drawn to light! But from a functionality standpoint, it makes the space useable in the evening hours, which is important to people. When you invest in an outdoor living space, you want to get as much use out of it as possible. It’s important that landscape lighting is done well. Hire someone who knows how to provide safety and security through lighting while also

making it aesthetically pleasing. That means highlighting certain features of the landscape with soft lighting or uplighting certain trees. There’s an art to it.”

➔ **Steve Compton, CKC LANDSCAPING**

Don't Forget THE FRONT!

“People are paying more attention to the front of their homes as well, and installing welcoming front entrances, outdoor lighting and motor courts rather than



boring sidewalks and asphalt or concrete driveways.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy, GROUNDTEC, INC. H&H**



RESOURCES

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James Russo

How many years have you been in business or in this industry?

I have been in the industry for 16 years, but the business was founded by my grandfather in 1952.

How does it feel to be recognized among House & Home's Best of Winners?

This recognition is both overwhelming and humbling. We so appreciate all of the readers who took the time to vote for us and we are committed to living up to the honor.

What keeps you motivated every day to do the work you do?

The customers keep us motivated. We are part of this community and we realize the importance of the services that we are providing. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing a customer fall in love with their home again after the completion of a project.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

It is so rewarding to have a career in which you work to make things better. I know that when we replace a homeowner's windows, doors, and/or siding, the result of our work will be a more attractive exterior, an increased value, and most importantly, improved energy efficiency.

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Both Cambridge pavingstones shown above were installed in residential driveways in 2006 (Photos taken in January 2010).

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