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Emmons Remodeling

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page 23

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Why a landscape architect will make your life easier *page 29*

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Deck Guardian

Building a Strong Reputation *page 32*

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Siar Construction

Crafting Quality Overhead

page 11

Better Backyards

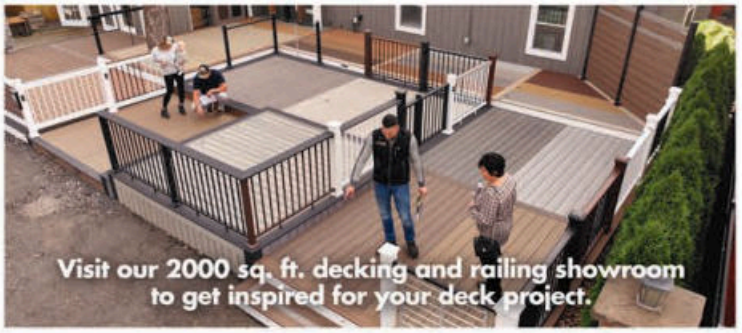
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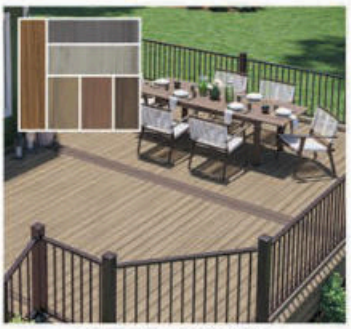
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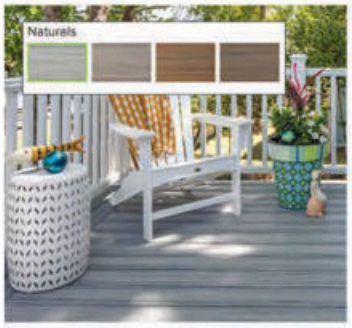


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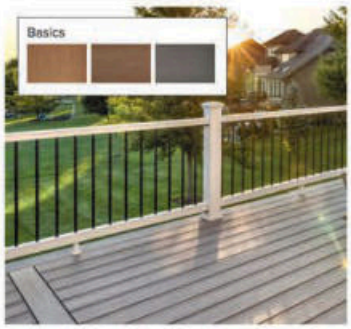

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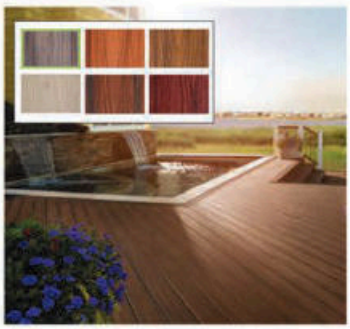

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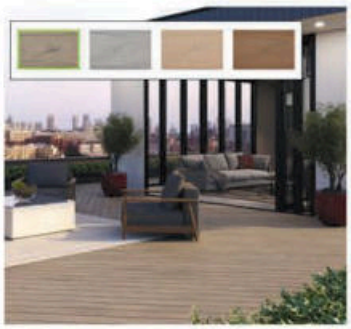


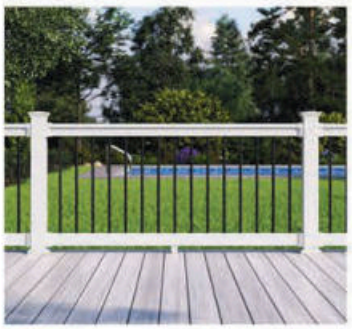
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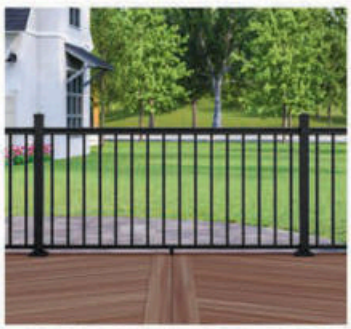


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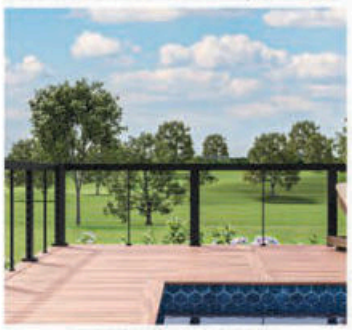

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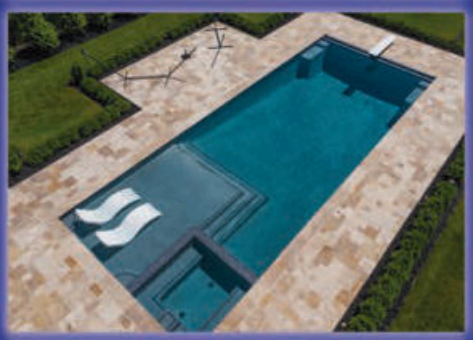
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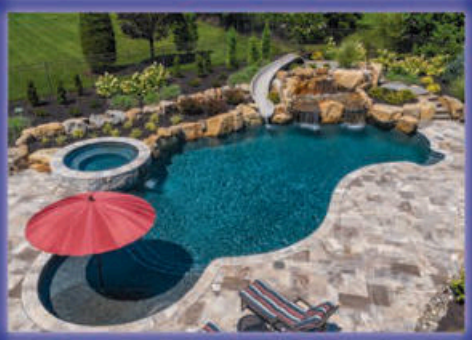
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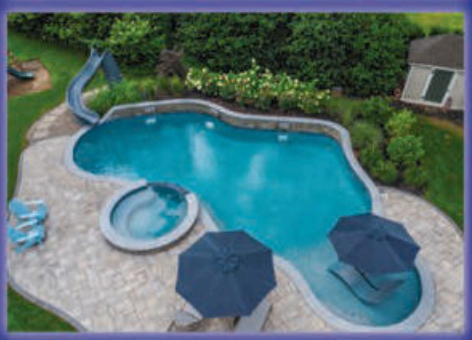


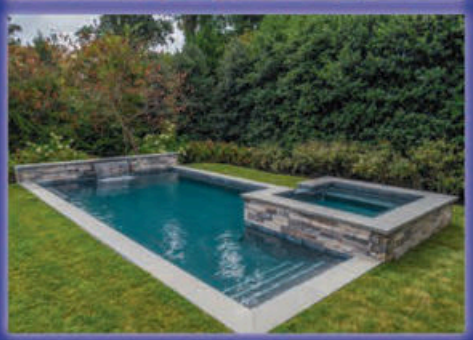


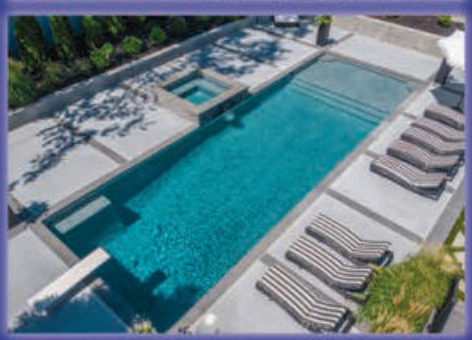


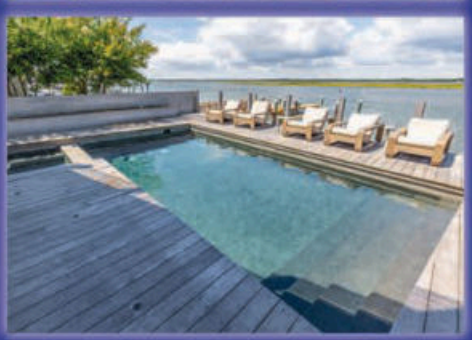












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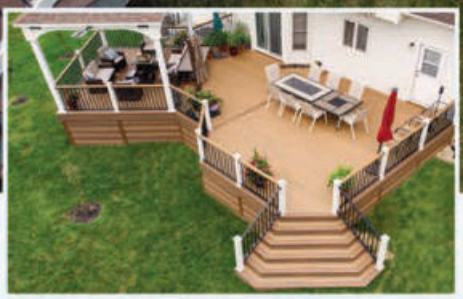
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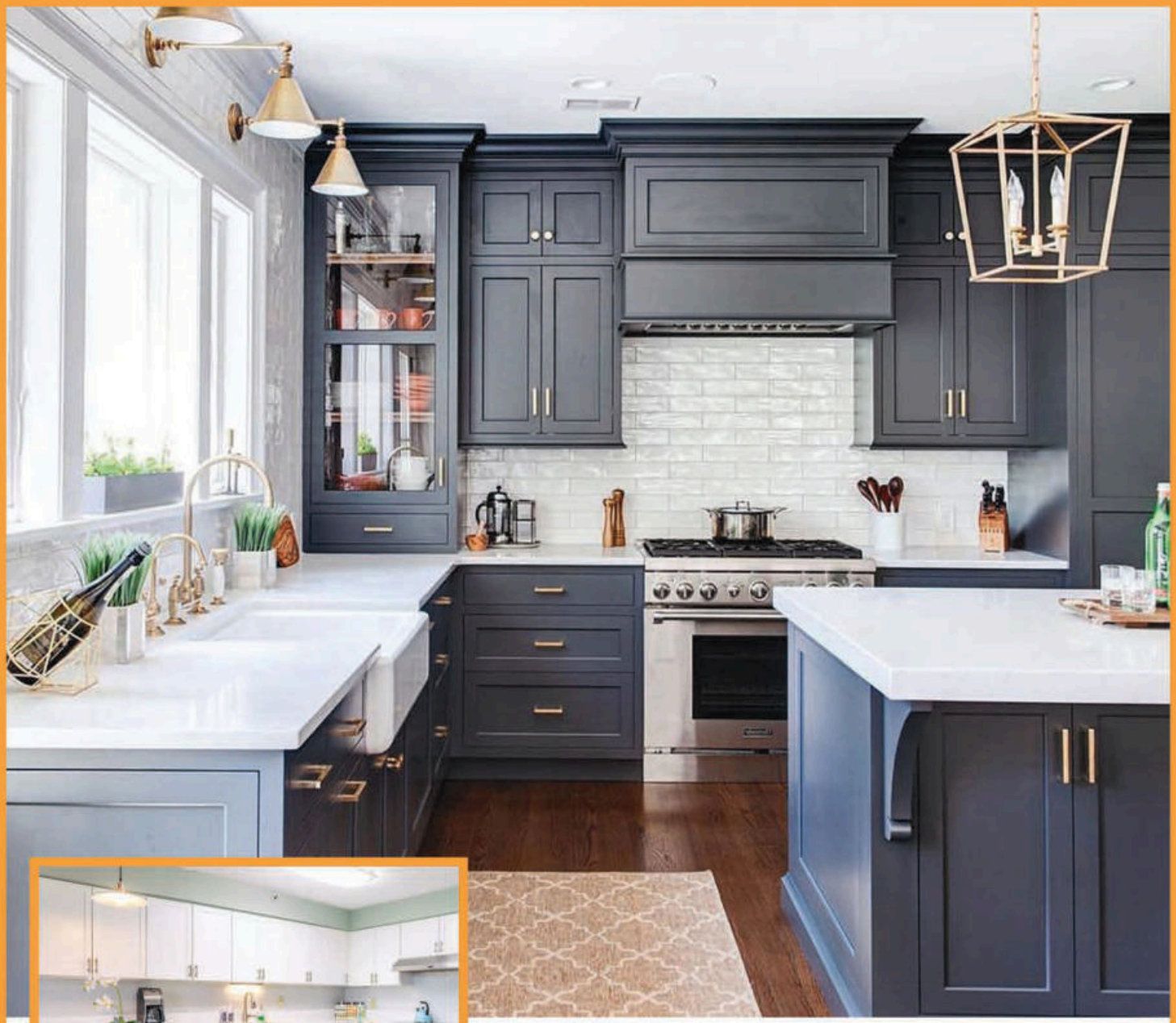
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contents

11 Building an Expert Foundation
Siar Construction offers personalized customer service and years of experience in roofing, chimney work and more

12 Annual Resource Directory
House & Home's annual listing of the top home improvement companies in the region

23 A Trusted Team
Emmons Remodeling is well-equipped to handle any number of renovation projects

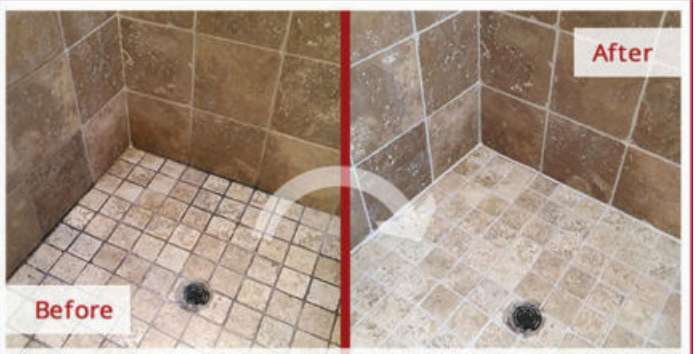
24 The Allure of Backyard Resorts
There are many ways to transform your outdoor space to make it your own personal oasis

29 Designed Beauty
CLC Landscape Design continues to raise the bar with stunning projects

30 Summer Showcase Special Advertising Section

32 A Strong Reputation
Since 2008, Deck Guardian has blended style with stability to exceed client expectations

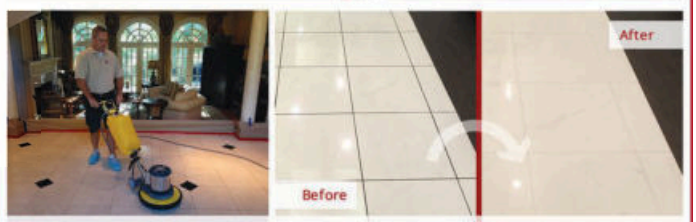
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Whether it's installing a new roof, relining a chimney or simply giving an estimate on a home improvement job, customers can rest assured that the professionals at Siar Construction are experts in their field.

They can also expect to be treated like family, because every job the Garfield-based business takes on is handled as if it is the team's own personal home.

"That goes for everything," Danny Cenaj says. "We make sure everything is done in a professional way, and we build to last."

Cenaj owns the company alongside his uncle, Bes Cenaj, and many family members fill roles throughout the organization. Established in 2000, Siar Construction is going on a quarter-century of success in North and Central Jersey—success in jobs completed and in building a solid reputation as the go-to for roofs, chimneys, siding and masonry work.

The key is keeping customers informed throughout the process—from the job estimate to completion—and keeping a clean worksite during construction. Cenaj personally stops by each job site every day to ensure things are going well.

"That's all very important to us," he says.

It also helps things stay organized for both employee and homeowner when dealing with a potentially large-scale job.

Roofing needs

One big focus of Siar Construction is roofing, something that is critical to the safety and well-being of a home.

"The roof is basically the guardian angel of your house," Cenaj says. "It's very important in terms of the structural safety of the house and also to have peace of mind. If you have a bad roof you know bad things are going to be happening."

A leaky roof can lead to destroyed ceilings, mold issues and even fires if that water reaches an electric box, so staying on top of a roof's lifespan and condition is important. For those who don't know when a roof was last replaced, there are visual clues that can help.

"Decoloration of shingles will be there. Small pieces of the shingle may come off. Granules will start coming off—that will look like black dust in the driveway. Shingles may not look straight or lay flat," Cenaj says. "And the neighbor's roof may look brand new in comparison."

A potential roof job starts with a free inspection from Siar Construction. A professional will come out, climb onto the roof and examine everything, taking photos along the way. They then will present those photos and their assessment to the homeowner.

If a new roof is needed, the expert team will walk customers through the whole process. It starts with choosing shingles from provided books featuring materials from GAF Roofing, Owens Corning or Atlas. They get a timeline, typically one to two weeks from booking if nothing needs to be special ordered. And the entire job is outlined.

"By the end you're going to be almost as much of an expert as us," Cenaj says.

Chimney repairs and rebuilding

Cenaj recommends chimney inspections every four to five years and Siar Construction offers two types of inspections. Level 1 is no charge and includes examining the fireplace or boiler connections inside the home and looking at the structure of the chimney on the roof. Level 2 starts at $700 and involves removing the chimney cap, and checking flues and liners and more with a camera.

"The chimney can be extremely important to the house. In a lot of houses, the chimney is connected to the furnace and boiler. A leak or damage from water can cause it to stop working. The furnace will need to use more gas and energy to produce the same heat as if it was in good condition," Cenaj explains.

Chimney jobs can include repairs—sealing issues, installing new liners—or completely rebuilding the structure. The same goes for fireplace chimneys. Although they may not be vital to functioning of the home, ensuring they are in top working order is still essential for safety and pleasure.

Chimney job costs can vary depending on the work that needs to be done, but typically the timeline is "fairly fast," Cenaj says, assuming no special materials need to be ordered.

A job well done

It's important for all Siar Construction jobs to not only go smoothly, but go as quickly as possible while maintaining high quality work. To help this along, Cenaj says they handle any necessary permitting with towns. They also offer some special pricing.

"We have a pretty huge discount for senior citizens and all first responders—police, firefighters, nurses, doctors, dentists—and veterans," Cenaj says. "It's 10% off any type of job, no matter how big or small."

With a stellar reputation thanks to its dedication to the craft and its customers, it's no wonder why Siar Construction is so highly regarded by homeowners across the region.

"At the end of a job, basically with most of our customers, we become friends because of their great experience with us," Cenaj says. H&H

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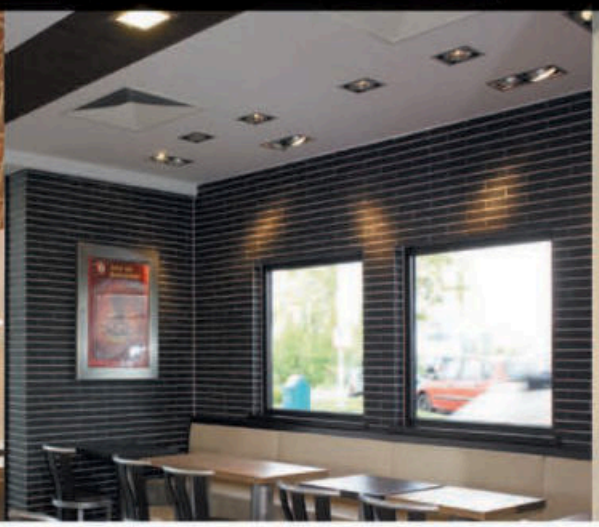
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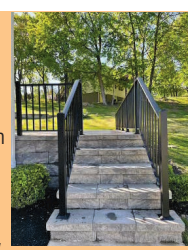
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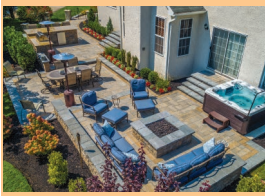


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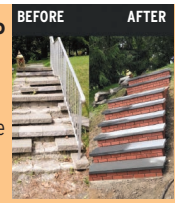
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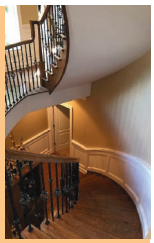
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A Matter of Trust

When it comes to finding the right contractor for the job, **Emmons Remodeling** offers clients both expertise and peace of mind.

When you need work done on your home—expected or not—you want to know that you can trust the contractor you've hired to get the job done well. After all, you're not an expert on what's involved in services like roofing, siding or windows, and you don't want to get taken advantage of as a result. Because of that, it's important to choose a company that you can feel confident is reputable.

But how exactly do you know a company can be trusted?

One important factor in choosing the best contractor is longevity. Only a company that performs great work is going to be able to stick around for the long haul. That's exactly the case with Emmons Remodeling, a company that has been offering expert care for South Jersey and the Jersey Shore area since 1996. They are a wellknown name in the region—and for good reason. Their success was built upon a reputation of honesty, integrity and good work.

In fact, the company is an Owens Corning Platinum Preferred Contractor. That's not a designation that any old company can have. Platinum Preferred Contractors are in the top tier of a premier-network of roofing professionals. In order to achieve this title, they must have passed a workmanship inspection, been professionally screened for financial stability and customer service, and continue to adhere to stringent guidelines set forth by Owens Corning. Fewer than 1% of roofing contractors in the United States are Owens Corning Platinum Preferred.

"It's a title that backs up our already strong reputation," says Stephanee Kelly, co-owner of the company along with her husband Matthew. "Only the most reputable companies are able to earn that designation."

Besides being able to feel confident that you've hired a contractor you can trust, this designation benefits homeowners in a more tangible way as well. That's because Platinum Preferred Contractors are able to offer 50-year warranties on their work—much longer than other companies can offer. According to Owens Corning's website, "because we stand behind these warranties, we need to make sure that we are backing up the best roofers in the business."

Emmons Remodeling has been providing interior remodeling service throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania for more than 30 years. The company has built its solid reputation on craftsmanship and exceptional customer service.

As the family-owned company grows, it has expanded the team that is available to help design and build your projects. Several talented remodeling industry professionals have recently joined Emmons to serve its over 6,000 existing customers and help expand the growing number of satisfied customers throughout South Jersey.

And the expertise is not limited kitchens and bathrooms. Emmons provides full-service remodeling and construction services for additions, interior renovations, porches, decks, windows, doors and basement finishing. The design team acts as your trusted advisor to help you make the right decisions on products, materials, colors and selections. They make it easy using a proprietary curated design concept, which is an industry first. It's an easy, affordable way to quickly get a custom designed project without the heavy cost of a design-build process.

You can always trust Emmons to provide exceptional value and design with quality project outcomes. Now with Krista (lead designer/project planning manager), Rebecca (project design consultant), Frank (construction project manager) and Pete (director of operations) teaming up with seasoned vice president of construction Chris Kelly, key project manager Eric Gilham and 20 trade professionals, you can rest assured that your project is designed and built right. A five-year warranty and a lifetime service guarantee back up the claim of quality and craftsmanship, while providing you with peace of mind that you made the right decision.

The experts at Emmons are always ready to help you with kitchen, bathroom, additions and deck solutions. They make remodeling your home easy and affordable with exceptional financing programs and realistic pricing. Trust Emmons with your next project.

After all, the Emmons' mission statement is: "Our customer's experience builds our business and defines our reputation, which is one of trust, reliability, integrity and value for every customer we serve."

Choosing Wisely

At the end of the day, your choice in roofing, siding and window contractors can be the difference between good, quality work—and a big headache. Stephanee says that the last thing Emmons wants to see is people in their local community get taken advantage of by unscrupulous roofing, siding and window contractors.

"You should be able to feel confident that you've chosen a contractor that you can trust— not one that is going to leave you with problems to fix after they've gone," she says. "At Emmons, you are not only investing in a new roof, new siding or new windows—you're investing in peace of mind." H&H

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The Allure of Backyard Resorts

TRANSFORMING YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE CAN HAVE A RIPPLE EFFECT

by Kristen Jorgensen



IN RECENT YEARS, THE CONCEPT OF A BACKYARD RESORT HAS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF HOMEOWNERS LOOKING TO CREATE A PERSONAL OASIS WITHOUT THE NEED TO TRAVEL. This growing trend offers a luxurious escape within the comfort of one's home, blending elements of nature, relaxation and entertainment. Whether it's a lavish poolside retreat, a cozy garden nook or a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, backyard resorts provide a unique way to enhance your lifestyle and increase property value.

"Backyard resorts are what people want to envision as their small personal paradise. Some homeowners like soft and calm spaces while others opt for a more lively space with pops of color," shares Tammy Panetta from D. Panetta Contracting.

Outdoor Kitchens and Dining Areas

An outdoor kitchen extends your living space and makes entertaining guests a breeze. High-end appliances, such as built-in grills, refrigerators and pizza ovens, can turn your backyard into a culinary haven. Pair this with a stylish dining area complete with comfortable seating and ambient lighting for unforgettable al fresco meals.

Outdoor cabinetry is another way to showcase your design style and add a luxe touch. "Natural stone or stainless steel, and sometimes Trex options, are what we typically see used for outdoor cabinetry," says Panetta.

Designed to withstand the elements, these cabinets are typically made from durable materials like stainless steel, marine-grade polymer or treated wood, ensuring longevity and resistance to weather conditions. They provide ample storage for cooking utensils, dishes and ingredients, keeping everything you need within easy reach while maintaining an organized and tidy appearance.

"Cabinetry choices for outdoor kitchens comes down to personal style but due to function, [we] typically install stainless steel cabinets that are specifically for outdoors. Stainless steel cabinets are durable, they resist rust and are very easy to clean which is why they are a great choice. These pieces sit in a frame surrounded by stacked stone which gives it all the look and style of an outdoor kitchen," explains Karen Frederick of the Louvered Roof Company.

But some clients prefer to bring the look and feel of their interior kitchen to the backyard for a cohesive approach.

"Sometimes people ask for outdoor cabinets that have a more traditional or rustic style because they want the space to flow from their interior kitchen. In these instances, the cabinets would be treated wood, marine-grade polymer or HDPE," Frederick says.

With a variety of styles and finishes available, outdoor kitchen cabinets can complement any design aesthetic, from sleek and modern to rustic and

The Allure *of* Backyard Resorts



traditional. Additionally, custom options allow homeowners to tailor their outdoor kitchen to their specific needs and preferences, enhancing both the functionality and visual appeal of their backyard resort.

Landscaping and Greenery

Thoughtful landscaping is crucial in creating a resort-like atmosphere. Incorporating a mix of lush greenery, flowering plants and trees provides not only shade but also some much-desired privacy. Hardscaping elements like stone pathways, retaining walls and decorative water features can add structure and elegance to the space as well.

Another durable option is synthetic foliage according to Frederick. "Synthetic turf between pavers is a good low-maintenance option for clients who want a more natural look but don't want to spend time trimming grass or weeding. It's a nice look for a courtyard-style patio or pathway to another destination area on the property," she says.

Light Up the Night

Backyard lighting is a transformative element that enhances both the functionality and ambiance of your outdoor space. Thoughtfully designed lighting can extend the usability of your backyard well into the evening, making it perfect for entertaining, dining or simply relaxing under the stars.

"Lighting plays a big part in creating your resort backyard. Options such as string lights, lanterns and LED fixtures can create a warm, inviting atmosphere, while strategically placed path lights and spotlights can highlight landscape features and improve safety. Incorporating dimmable lights or smart lighting systems allows for customizable lighting scenarios to suit different moods and occasions," says Joe Oakes, president, First State Building & Design. "And now with advanced technology, it's even more convenient that lighting can be controlled right from your phone or iPad."

By blending aesthetics with practicality, backyard lighting not only elevates the overall look of your outdoor area but also ensures it remains a welcoming and enjoyable space after dark.

Comfortable Lounge Areas and Entertainment Zones

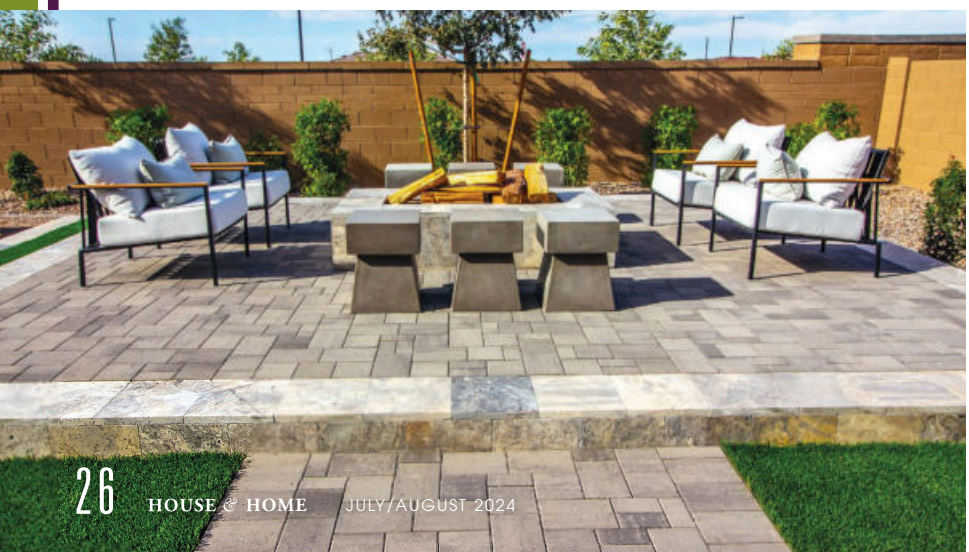
Comfortable seating is essential for relaxation. Consider investing in high-quality outdoor furniture such as lounge chairs, hammocks and daybeds, or adding shade structures like pergolas, gazebos, or retractable awnings that can protect from the sun and make the space usable throughout the day.

"To get the feeling of a resort-style backyard, consider adding products that connote that sense of luxury you get when you are staying at a beautiful hotel," says Frederick. "Canopy-style coverings over an outside area allow you to use your deck or patio when the temperatures get too hot outside. People sometimes have to retreat back inside because it can get unbearable, but by investing in a cover you can stay outside and stay cool."

There are a variety of ways to achieve this, from retractable blackout fabric to aluminum structures with motorized louvers which allow homeowners to adjust the amount of shade during the day. What's more, motorized screens on these structures provide even more shade and protection from insects throughout the course of the evening.

Pergolas have also quickly climbed the ladder of popularity with homeowners because they can be ideal for an outdoor space that is used frequently. Whether over a porch, yard or garden, pergolas make the outdoors feel more hospitable for long days outside.

"The kitchen is typically the heart of the home, so extending that to the outdoors with a pergola allows the homeowner to have more usable entertaining space," says Bill Wilson of Amazing Decks. "A pergola or a retractable awning




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can provide shade, allowing homeowners to enjoy a meal outdoors, and help to create a warm and inviting space from early spring through Thanksgiving."

One thing to note: pergolas aren't meant to keep the elements away completely, but to visually designate and decorate pools, seating areas or yard features. The overhead beams offer places to hang plants, lighting or even swings. Pergolas are also perfect for anyone who enjoys being outside but wants to avoid strong overhead sunlight. Some homeowners use outdoor curtains to add a bit more privacy, and because they are stylish and affordable, pergolas are a no-brainer for anyone looking to create a serene space.

One other option that is offered to homeowners to add a nice finishing touch are porcelain pavers imported from Italy. "The pavers won't fade over time and they are resistant to temperature change, mildew and moss, among several other benefits," says Nick Erman, co-owner of Evergreen Pros.

Erman adds that another popular choice for homeowners these days are swim spas. Evergreen offers options from industry leader PDC Spas. Designed to help with hydrotherapy needs, the collection features both a 15-foot model as well as a dual zone, 19-foot version. And with seating for up to 10, you'll find therapy bench seats, sculpted bucket seats and a "captain's chair, assuring your next soak will provide unmatched comfort," he says.

Lastly, to truly capture the essence of a resort, you'll want to include areas designed for entertainment. This could be a firepit or fireplace for cozy evenings, an outdoor cinema setup for movie nights, or even a game area with options like bocce ball, table tennis or a putting green.

"It's important to keep aesthetics in mind when making your decisions, even little details like speakers that look like natural rocks to blend into the landscaping go a long way," says Frederick.

Creating a backyard resort is an investment in both your property and your quality of life. With careful planning and thoughtful design, you can turn your outdoor space into a personal paradise that offers relaxation, entertainment and beauty year-round. Whether you're dreaming of a tropical escape or a sophisticated retreat, the possibilities for your backyard resort are limited only by your imagination. H&H

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FIVE TIPS THE LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AT CLC LANDSCAPE DESIGN USE TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL PROPERTIES FOR THEIR CLIENTS.

Designed Beauty

by Matt Cosentino

For the past four decades, Richard Cording Sr. has taken great pride in helping homeowners all over North Jersey get more connected to nature. Whether it's an array of colorful flowers, or an outdoor living space with modern amenities, his goal as the founder and owner of CLC Landscape Design is to merge creativity with practical knowledge and give people a reason to be outside, spending quality time with loved ones.

Cording shares his five essential tips for creating a backyard paradise.



1. Determine the landscape design styles that resonate with the homeowner. "We try to establish the best style for the client such as traditional, Hamptons, etc.," Cording says. "Then we develop a theme that flows throughout the whole design."

2. Determine how the property will be used by the family. Getting to know their lifestyle enables CLC to design a space that is uniquely customized to their needs.

3. Consider views from inside the house. It is a must to take into account how the yard will be seen from certain key areas inside the home, and to draw the eye to focal points like an outdoor fireplace or pool.

4. Integrating a pool into the backyard. Pool companies may construct a pool anywhere on the property, without taking into account traffic flow, location of the sun and the pool's relationship to surrounding plantings.

5. Plant in masses and repeat masses of color. "When you plant 25 of the same plant in one area and then you repeat that same plant somewhere else on the property, it creates a sense of harmony with splashes of color," Cording says.

Cording and his sons, Richard Jr. and Eric, welcome the chance to beautify your home.

"For human beings to feel really alive, they need to be part of nature," he says. "Whether your yard is wide open or limited, it's our job to get creative and design your ideal outdoor living space." H&H

CLC Landscape Design
Ringwood, N.J. | (973) 839-6026
CLCDesign.com



(Left to right)
Richard Cording Jr., Master of Landscape Design, Columbia University;
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Building a Strong Reputation

Since 2008, the **Deck Guardian** team has been blending style and stability to deliver the kind of results that keep customers coming back.

by **Madeleine Maccar**

The benefits are many when you work with a deck professional that combines an artist's vision, a technician's exacting standards, a builder's proven reputation and above-and-beyond customer service—as anyone who's trusted their property with Deck Guardian can attest to.

The Deck Guardian team has been delighting clients all over New Jersey for years with the versatile, customizable and long-lasting decks and patios it builds year-round that seamlessly blend form and function.

Unsurprisingly, prioritizing customer satisfaction and actively working with clients to turn their dreams into a breathtaking reality are key to how Deck Guardian has built a reputation as strong as its decks, porches and patios.

"Many of our customers are looking for custom lighting, built-in features and creative storage options. Whatever our customers want, we are always willing to find innovative ways to make their dreams a reality. That's really what sets us apart from our competition: our attention to detail and commitment to custom solutions," says the Deck Guardian team.

And while the company always builds for longevity—it even offers warranties ranging from 25 to 50 years—staying on top of today's trends means that projects can benefit from a modern flourish and in-demand amenities without the risk of looking dated in the years to come. This is especially true of the prevailing taste for turning one's backyard into a bespoke living area that welcomes family and friends for most of the year.

"Right now, many homeowners are excited about creating outdoor living spaces that flow from their indoor spaces: think pergolas, sunshades and even screened-in porches," Deck Guardian observes. "Incorporating outdoor kitchens is also quite popular, as they offer all the conveniences of entertaining in your home but outdoors. Multi-level decks are also trending, as they allow for distinct zones for different activities, like a space for the kids to play while their parents entertain friends on another level."

Knowing how to mix longevity and aesthetic appeal by incorporating the latest and greatest materials available today into its designs has also been a hallmark of how Deck Guardian constructs every deck it proudly puts its name on. "The decking material we most often recommend is composite because of its durability, low maintenance and eco-friendly properties. It gives customers the look of natural wood without the upkeep, which is really appealing to many of our clients."

Combining its strengths as a deck builder with a desire to help clients realize their visions and the talent to make it happen is how Deck Guardian has earned itself loyal customers all over the region.

"One of our clients had quite a small backyard and wanted to maximize their space. We designed and built a multilevel deck, creating two distinct zones: one with a fire table and chairs for relaxation, and another with a dining area and BBQ for entertaining. The client was shocked at how much this multi-level deck added to the usability of their backyard space. Our deck contractors aim to provide each client with an experience so good that they wouldn't hesitate to recommend us to their friends."

After all, the Deck Guardian team has seen how inexperienced builders can affect how people regard the construction industry, and endeavors to not only elevate its field but also illustrate how crucial it is to trust your home and property to qualified experts.

"Anyone can claim to be a deck builder. Because of that, many inexperienced builders are flooding the market," says Deck Guardian. "Clients should always ask about the builder's experience, check for licensing and insurance, and request references. It's also a good idea to look at a portfolio of past projects so you can see the quality of work they provide. A reliable deck builder will also provide some type of warranty for their work, so if they don't offer that, continue your search for a different deck builder."

Maintaining high standards, a future-focused vision and, of course, a client-first mindset are all at the heart of Deck Guardian's plan for its future.

"We plan to expand our service area and continue to incorporate the latest and greatest in smart deck technology. We're always on the lookout for new technology in materials and staying on the cusp of best practices in construction. We are also always looking to develop new partnerships with suppliers to offer our clients even more customization and cost-saving options."

And turning first-time clients into long-time ones is just one of the many ways Deck Guardian aims to keep standing out from the crowd.

"Many of our clients are repeat customers or referrals: We commonly hear, 'We want a deck exactly like our neighbors,' or 'Can you make our deck look like this one on your website?'" the builder says. "When we take on a project, we always give it 150%. So, no matter the scope of the project or the challenges we face along the way, our customers get an excellent product every time. And we take great pride in providing the very best customer service along the way. That's why so many of our clients become Deck Guardian customers for life." **H&H**

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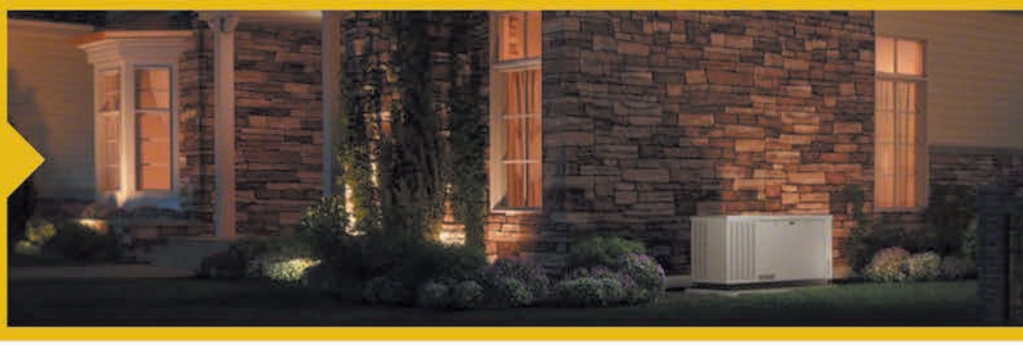
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