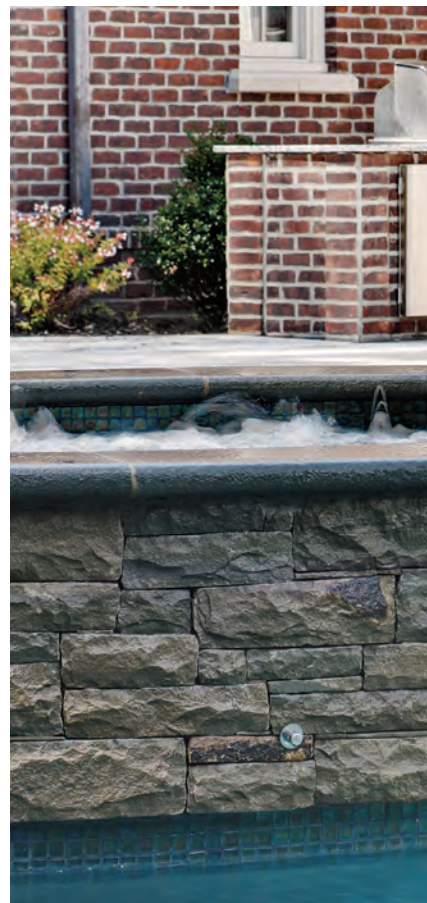




PHOTOS BY WING WONG





Hillside Haven

Drama was the request when a Bergen County couple met with the team that would create a backyard suitable for their new hillside home in Demarest. The result is what landscape architect Brad Meumann of Land Concepts calls a jewel. A pergola, the brainchild of Meumann and building architect James Paragano, is the backbone of a design that includes a cabana, fireplace pavilion, and outdoor kitchen/patio stationed around a swimming pool and spa. The pool ends in a negative edge, with water trickling over a curved wall of hand-tooled Karney stone into a recirculating pond. That wall, along with curved brick retaining walls on both sides and around the lower-level pond and planting beds, soften the angularity of the other structures. A lower patio provides a spot to enjoy the sound and site of the falling water. “The idea was to create a beautiful connection to the house,” Meumann says. “A lot of site lines converge so you get interesting views from inside and outside.” Craig Bagin of B&B Pool and Spa Center added the details to the pool and spa designs, and his firm installed both. The inside perimeter of the pool is glass tile (at the homeowners’ request). The tiles on the negative edge had to be set to within $\frac{1}{32}$ inch tolerance to make certain the water trickles rather than rushes down the wall, Bagin explains, even with surges when someone jumps in the pool. Another example of the exacting detail in the project: the stones in the spa coping are exactly matched so the joints line up, Bagin says. The coping is bluestone. The spa, covered in the same stone as the negative-edge wall, features six Tishways, which are spillways that create an even flow and leave the water surface smooth below.

SOURCES: pool and spa, B&B Pool and Spa Center in Spring Valley, New York; landscape design, Land Concepts of Franklin Lakes; home and outbuilding design, James Paragano Architect in Madison; landscape and patio installation, Lupardi’s Nursery Inc. in Closter; builder, S&B Construction in Closter; retaining walls, JDI Concrete in Dumont (concrete) and M&M Masons Inc. in Mahwah (brick veneers).

