

**BUILDER** | M & S Architectural Ltd.  
Bradford, Ont.  
www.msarchitectural.com  
Tel: 866-723-3325

# A backyard MAKEOVER

New features help maximize much needed space

In renovating this seven-year-old pool and backyard landscape in Toronto, it was important to this young family that more space be created for outdoor entertaining while the various new and old features remained consistent to generate a cohesive look.

In working in this small Toronto backyard, which includes a gunite pool with an integrated, 1.8- x 2.1-m (6- x 7-ft) spillover-tiled spa (built in 2005) and later a stonewall with an integrated waterfall on the backside of the pool (added in 2012), M&S Architectural of Bradford, Ont., built an upper deck off the house using Ipe wood to provide the family a means of access to the pool area from the kitchen and extended the pool patio using Wiar-ton Ebel flagstone to pull the house and landscape together.

Privacy was also important to this family; therefore, as part of the renovation, a number of landscaping features were installed such as pyramidal trees and lush boxwood hedges that enveloped the property to create a quiet, private area amongst the hustle and bustle of the busy neighbourhood. To further co-ordinate the project features, large colourful planters were also strategically placed at one end of the pool, which brings in colour to the pool deck. The back fence was also reconstructed to provide additional privacy and incorporated stone pillars that reflect the masonry finish on the fascia of the home, while giving the fence a more substantial appearance.

The upper deck includes a custom privacy screen constructed of Ipe wood and cultured stone, heightening the privacy of the space. The installation of custom wrought-iron railings gives the deck a more spacious feel, while also providing a full view of the backyard from the kitchen. The deck also provided the ability to create a waterproof area, beneath the deck, to house the pool equipment. This allowed for the pool equipment to remain out of sight, keeping the yard looking clean and sleek, whereby maximizing space for softscaping and lighting features, and muting the mechanical sounds.



**SPECIAL DESIGN ELEMENTS**

- Gunite pool with integrated spillover spa
- Ipe wood deck and privacy screen
- Stone waterfall
- Stone-pillar fence

