

# STYLISH *Spaces*<sup>®</sup> WITH MASONRY

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## A PROPERTY SOLUTION SET IN STONE



Photos courtesy of Hoffman Landscapes, Inc.

Over the years a series of additions were added to this rambling colonial, presenting the new homeowners with a unique dilemma. Hoffman Landscapes, Inc. in Wilton was selected to blend the antique charm of the home with modern functionality along with creating an outdoor entertainment area for the family. Matthew Biron, the landscape architect who designed the master plan, notes, “With proper planning and vision, masonry elements can provide both a visual oasis and connectivity in an outdoor space.”

### Creating the Visual Oasis

For this property, the masonry elements became the crucial link between the home’s architecture and the backyard.” A feasibility study set the basis for a truly holistic approach. The initiative faced multiple challenges including; minimizing the clutter of entryways from the house and repurposing existing stonework as well as utilizing other natural materials in the landscaping plan. An outdoor kitchen/dining area with barbecue and granite countertops anchors one end of the terrace. On the opposite side is a large sitting area. Both spaces are connected with a bluestone walkway. Curved Belgian block steps flow gracefully down to the yard softening the property’s visual geometry. A transitional walkway to the front of the home uses irregularly shaped flagstone in a free-form pattern for visual interest and continuity.

The integration of a more formal layout with the transitional pastoral materials links to the outdoor areas to afford symmetry. Cobblestone embedded steps became a rustic secondary transition to the lawn area. A series of retaining walls built with native fieldstone composed a scenic backdrop for colorful perennial gardens, with a wandering garden that leads to the terrace. Regarding the project’s pallet of design elements, Biron offered a provoking statement about its unusual challenges, “It’s the juxtaposition of apparent opposites that makes it all work well.” More often than not, a beautiful landscaping solution can indeed be set in stone. 🌿

Matthew Biron is a Landscape Architect with Hoffman Landscapes, Inc.



*Above: A series of old, gently curved cobblestone steps were resurrected to create a rustic secondary transition to the lawn area.*

*Right: Traditional bluestone was a good choice for the new terraces. A close up of the outdoor kitchen and dining area show off the functionality. Connecticut fieldstone was dry stacked for the new retaining walls.*

