

THE VOICE OF THE HEARTH, BARBECUE AND PATIO INDUSTRIES

AUGUST 2019

HEARTH & HOME



THE
**OUTDOOR
ROOM**

SPECIAL ISSUE

Century-Old Splendor

According to landscape architect Susanne Fyffe, this original 1919 property in Alexandria, VA, was “topographically challenged” when she was tasked with reinventing it as an indoor-outdoor living, entertaining, and recreation space for her client’s active family. To remedy the steeply-sloped backyard, she regraded it into three level terraces, and incorporated a new drainage system with a dry stream swale to catch runoff and solve erosion issues.

On the uppermost terrace, a wood-burning fireplace is built into a stone retaining wall with limestone caps for surplus seating. Down a handful of steps is the main entertaining terrace, situated between the house and the existing pool. Here, a raised pond, dotted with aquatic plants, is home to the children’s pet koi fish.

It is surrounded by an outdoor kitchen and bar, a living room seating area, and a dining room shaded by an arched, wrought-iron pergola with antique beams. Subtle changes in flooring help to define individual rooms within the outdoor space. The stone patio is laid in a diamond pattern in the outdoor dining and living rooms, while grass-lined pavers distinguish the poolside lounge area.

Grass steps with cobble risers descend to a vast field for playing bocce, badminton, soccer, and lacrosse, or tenting for an outdoor party. A hidden pathway in the woodland along the property line makes a great bike trail for the kids.



Landscape Architect: Susanne Fyffe

Company: Fyffe Landscape Architecture, Arlington, VA

Website: www.fyffela.com

Project Size: 22,000+ sq. ft.

Materials: Floor – Stone, limestone steps, cobblestone risers; Fireplace and Seat Walls –

Stone, limestone caps; Pergola – Wrought iron, antique wood beams, sandstone columns with stone piers; Island Base – Stone

Brands: Grill, Power Burner, Storage Drawers and Doors – Lynx

Budget: \$270,000

