



Welcome to paradise

“We wanted to create a tropical paradise,” says Mitch Knapp (president of Scenic Landscaping and a partner at Tapestry Landscape Architecture, both in Haskell) of this stunning patio and pool area in Franklin Lakes.

In keeping with the theme, wild, natural-looking elements are incorporated throughout the space. Exotic plants—including coral-bark maple, gold mop cypresses, natural grasses and tropical annuals—evoke

a remote natural wonderland. A large patio made of Idaho quartzite from Stonetown Construction Corporation in Oakland provides an ideal spot to soak up the sun, while an irregular-shaped pool, moss rock waterfall, Jacuzzi and curved waterslide—all from B&B Pool & Spa Center in Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.—create an extra splash of fun.

“The homeowner told me he wanted to feel like he was on vacation all the time, and that’s what we achieved,” says Knapp.



Walk this way

Don't be fooled by this stone walkway's charming weathered look; it's actually a recent addition to a once-neglected Fair Lawn backyard. "When we started, there was just a steep slope going into a lawn that was overgrown with brush and ivy," says Mike Kukol of Horizon Landscape & Irrigation Company in Wyckoff. And with no clear path through the overgrowth, the only usable land was a 5-foot-wide swath at the top of the hill.

After sprucing up the yard with lush green grass, Kukol added the steps, made of natural quarried stone from Pennsylvania, to make it easy to walk down the hill. An adjacent garden area featuring two natural rock walls spanning more than 50 feet serves to further beautify the area.

The garden also contains rhododendron, astilbe, heuchera, columbines and itea—plants that thrive in the shade. "When planting around a walkway, it's important to consider sun exposure," says Kukol. Working with a sunnier spot? Kukol recommends planting ajuga, juniper, dianthus and black-eyed Susans.

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