



Outdoor Makeover, Mattia Style

Worthy of any Home & Garden Television episode, Mattia Landscaping extended the Farina home, creating functional outdoor splendor. The before picture consisted of a deck bordered by wide expanses of grass. Today, a sweeping patio and comfortable galley kitchen overlook a gorgeous garden. "It all started with John's plan," notes Steve Mattia. "He designed the project and presented a 3D computer-generated design for approval."

BY SUSAN I. SHIBER

It's no secret that people are staying home more. Even as economists announce rosy financial reports, the allure of travel pales compared to being with friends and family in a place that reflects individual design dreams. Comfortable outdoor living is gaining in prominence due to increased awareness of just what is possible.



Mattia Landscaping is distinguished for superior settings that breathe with beauty. The Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association member, certified by EP Henry, Techo-Bloc, and ICPI (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute), is a master of makeovers. Just ask Pam and Lou Farina.

The Downingtown residents were impressed with a neighbor's landscape installation and called John Mattia to give the hill in front of their home a new look. The *old look* was one inundated with weeds and unsightly trees. Despite the challenge of working on a steep slope, the crew, led by John and project manager Steve Mattia (John's nephew), sculpted a freeform green panorama lush with floral color. "We excavated the entire hill, brought in 40 yards of topsoil, and then planted flowers, small trees, and shrubs," explains John. "Knockout® and Drift® roses bloom throughout the summer, while crape myrtle, Autumnalis cherry trees, hypericum, and dwarf butterfly bushes extend sea-



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When Pam, Lou, and their three children enjoy meals prepared on the patio, they have the pleasure of a garden view. Blooming with a well-schemed mix of hues, texture, and shape, it provides harmonious flora year-round.

sons. Plumed fountain grasses and Norway spruces pull it all together.”

The Farinas were so pleased they called on Mattia to take their backyard from overgrown to WOW. “After we built our home, we planted 20 coniferous trees, a few plants, and a ground cover,” sums up Pam. “We don’t know why, but the trees died, and the whole area was overgrown and ugly. Now our family has a cozy place to congregate. We cook out here at least three times a week.”

The before picture consisted of a deck bordered by wide expanses of grass. Today, a sweeping patio and comfortable galley kitchen overlook a gorgeous garden. “It all started with John’s plan,” notes Steve. “He designed the project and presented a 3D computer-generated design for approval.”

Worthy of any Home & Garden Television episode, Mattia extended the Farina home, creating functional outdoor splendor. The raised patio floor, constructed of natural-looking Techo-Bloc pavers, is en-



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LANDSCAPING

Mattia Landscaping is distinguished for superior settings that breathe with beauty. Pictured are John Mattia and nephew Steve Mattia.



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VEST POCKET CHECKLIST

When seeking a landscaper, never assume. Pose questions. Ask to see previous work. This list can help your decision making process.

- Make sure there are specifications for all work contracted.
- Be positive every detail is precise so you know exactly what you will get.
- Carefully review quotes and compare task specifics. Don't merely accept a laundry list.
- Check references. Visit other homes and talk to the owners about their landscaping projects and satisfaction.
- Ask about the company's history in business, training, certifications, industry experience, and professional memberships.

hanced by six stone low-lit pillars finished with York caps, border walls, and two sitting walls, one complete with backrest. A stainless steel built-in grill with side burners includes storage cabinets and a trash receptacle. "We wanted a fire pit, and Lou requested a barbecue," recalls Pam. "Now we have it all, thanks to Mattia."

When Pam, Lou, and their three children enjoy meals prepared on the patio, they have the pleasure of a garden view. Blooming with a well-schemed mix of hues, texture, and shape, it provides harmonious flora year-round. Cherry laurel, Winterberry, Nellie Stevens hollies, and five dogwood trees gracefully embrace the pattern of this picturesque backyard gathering spot. Flowering shrubs include viburnum, hypericum, and itea. Winter King hawthorn, a true four season tree bursts with white spring flowers, dons rich green summer foliage, and concludes fall and winter with a show of orange fruit and the intrigue of exfoliating bark. A medley of caryopteris, Drift roses, coreopsis, and coral bells add tints of blue, yellow, and red to the lavish landscape.

Mattia Landscaping brings more than 25 years of talent and experience to every

project. Services include landscape and hardscape design, installation, and maintenance; masonry work; outdoor fireplaces and kitchens; patios; walkways; and pool decks.

"John has a vision," finalizes Pam. "If you don't know what you want, he helps you. He gave us several options, and we relied on his stellar advice. We have a lot of confidence in Mattia Landscaping and

just love what the firm did for us. In fact, next year we may extend the garden to the end of our property."

Do you have a vision? Call Mattia Landscaping. CCL

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