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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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*Into the*  
Garden

RESTRUCTURED TERRACES  
AND UNIQUE WATER FEATURES  
REDEFINE THE SPACE AROUND  
THIS GREENWICH HOME

BY SUSAN TAMULEVICH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEIL LANDINO JR.

# UNCOMMON GROUNDS

Water Sounds from the Fall of water features designed by James Doyle Design Associates, were built by Masha & Roshan Pools. See Resources.



## IF THE PAST FEW MONTHS

have taught us anything, it's that we need to pause and spend more time relaxing with one's family," notes interior designer Victoria Hagan. "And there's nothing better for that than garden magic." Hagan was part of a team that recently brought new life to a Greenwich house and "his old soul" of a garden. Jobb Moore & Partners Architects redesigned the Tudor-style home. Windows were enlarged, and a terrace was added in the back. Greenwich-based James Doyle Design Associates (JDDA) directed the landscaping, with studio director Justin Quinn taking the lead. Hagan designed the interiors and collaborated with JDDA on furnishing the new garden terraces. "Now every room is about how you experience the garden," notes Hagan.

When James Doyle created the original garden plan, there were children living at home. Twenty years on, the owner opted for a change. Doyle was asked to create more intimate, lovable spaces along a narrow flat plane at the back of the house, where the ground gives way to a sharp sloping lawn. At the bottom of the lawn, toward the back of the property, there is a swimming pool that can be seen from the terraces.

At the entrance to the house, large gumdrops of taxus flank the door. A scheme of clipped box hedges and structural plantings establishes the northern European sensibility that is JDDA's trademark. "The house now feels more

like a villa in a garden," says Hagan. "From the first glimpse of the plantings, you know you've arrived somewhere special."

The flat area at the back of the house is terraced with bluestone in a running bond pattern that mimics the brick walls of the house and "feels like Holland," explains Doyle. Near the house, two custom zinc boxes by Planterweers contain a low carpet of gray sedum and a Japanese maple.

"These planters were deceptively tricky to design," says Quinn. "The terrace sits directly over a lower-level laundry room; water from the boxes drains invisibly through a pipe down to a lower terrace."

While the final effect appears simple, the space was challenging from an engineering standpoint. Notes Doyle, "We redesigned the garden in 2013, and for three-and-a-half years it was under construction. In a project like this, we're the first in and the last out."

"Early on, our focal points were going to be art pieces," says Quinn. "But our client opted for water features." One of these—a dramatic, long, low black fountain—acts as a liquid mirror to the full-length dining room window. "It's very subtle, but this feature transforms the evening, when surface ripples reflect the lights inside. And when you open the windows, you also hear the quiet, bubbling sound of the water."

**Grand Entrance** (top) Sculpted taxus flank the front door of this Ivy-covered Tudor-style home redesigned by Jobb Moore & Partners Architects. Hydrangeas purrtozize the center of the drive. **Contemporary Classic** (bottom) An extensive bluestone terrace, edged by an aisle of Linden trees, runs along the back of the house. See [flourishes](#).



Complementary Angles: Terra Cotta  
Wainscotting, a 200-year-old Lantana  
Plantation, Iron Palisade, and a  
Landscape in a Garden



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**Sophisticated Solutions** Tarnased bluestone steps [see page] feature elegant built-in illumination. A low, long black fountain (previous page) acts as a liquid mirror to the dining room window. See Resources.





A completely different sound emanates from a fountain at the far end of the terrace. From the center panel of three niches, water cascades off a rock ledge to splash into a narrow channel canal that ends in a still, central rectangular pool. Like the rest of the hardscape, the pool is bordered with bluestone, gravel and planting beds filled with structured and colorful plantings.

The clean lines and blue-gray of the stone and gravel are echoed in comfortable modular Henry Hall sofas. In the center of one seating area, a monolithic bluestone block, 18 inches high by 12 inches wide, and four-foot long, serves as a table. The block incorporates a custom-designed gas-fueled fire feature hidden much of the time beneath a removable metal plate.

Three flights of steps navigate the slope and terraces, each differently lit and constructed, and a railing was replaced by tempered glass panels. While the front of the house is traditional, the rear, notes Doyle, is 'totally different. The intervention to the house opened things up, and we created a real contemporary landscape.' ●

**Contemporary Classic** (LOOKING ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE END) James et Co dining chairs provide seating at a dining table from West | NYC Home. Well-crafted hardscapes complement the Tudor's brick exterior. A fire feature was custom designed by JDA and built by mason Anthony Manca. Soothing sounds emanate from the water feature next to the dining room. See Resources.

