

New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

Spring Forth
LET IN THE LIGHT



Layered plantings soften the stonework, with astilbe and lady's mantle in the foreground, dogwoods providing scale, boxwoods offering year-round structure, and hydrangeas bringing long-season blooms.

Built to Flow

What was once a fractured backyard in Wellesley, Massachusetts, now unfolds as a sequence of outdoor rooms unified by material, movement, and purpose. "The space was very divided," says Scott Cornish, co-owner and chief sales officer of a Blade of Grass, the company that reimagined the steep site

by defining zones for gathering, swimming, and relaxing, then knitting them together so the journey feels natural. Stone terraces step down toward a compact plunge pool, sized to preserve a generous lawn.

Plantings play a quiet but essential role. Dogwoods anchor key views, while hydrangeas, spirea, roses,

and drifts of astilbe and lady's mantle soften walls and stairs. Boxwood hedges provide structure through the colder months. "You get year-round color from the boxwood," Cornish says, "and seasonal interest from the perennials and flowering shrubs."

A roofed screened porch by New England Design & Construction extends the home's Greek Revival bones. "We went off what existed and let the architecture lead," says company CEO David Supple, pointing to the continued colonnade and beadboard ceiling. Radiant heat beneath the flooring and snow-melt systems at steps and pool coping stretch the season well beyond summer.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: An eleven-by-sixteen-foot plunge pool suits the family's needs while preserving lawn space; radiant-heated coping and steps extend the soaking season. Designed to feel original to the house, the screened porch continues the Greek Revival-inspired colonnade and features beadboard ceilings, skylights, and radiant floor heat for year-round comfort. What began as a disjointed backyard is now a series of outdoor rooms, unified by stone terraces and carefully managed grade changes that guide movement from house to pool and lawn.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN:
a Blade of Grass

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDER:
New England Design & Construction

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Michael J. Lee