



# An Eye for Detail

LANDSCAPE DETAILS' OLD ORCHARD  
OUTDOORScape IS A TESTAMENT TO  
NATURE'S TRANSFORMATIVE POWERS  
THAT WILL LEAVE YOU GREEN WITH ENVY.

BY ALLISON BERG



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Clockwise: The serene view from the spa frames a redesigned pool area on Old Orchard Lane in East Hampton; a linden allée along the entrance drive; custom monolithic stairs by Barrasso & Sons top a gravel pathway leading to the lawn area.



When Michael Derrig of Landscape Details embarked upon creating an outdoor oasis on East Hampton's Old Orchard Lane, his focus was on location and lifestyle. Totally immersed in the magical green surroundings of an American beech forest, the almost-2-acre plot was a diamond in the rough. "These trees are spectacular, but they cast enormous shadows, creating

a microclimate that severely limits plant material palettes," explains Derrig. The property also had an unusual shape and contained concrete wall obstructions throughout, adding to an incohesive energy. Derrig and his team were determined to leverage these constraints into opportunities, however. Grade changes, meticulously selected greenery and sophisticated hardscape led to a rectilinear design that opens

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up the land and exquisitely complements the clients' 10,000-square-foot modern home.

"Everyone with a modern house in the Hamptons starts with the same request," laughs Derrig. "I want the outdoors to flow into the interiors." But this directive isn't always as simple as it sounds. In Old Orchard's case, the first matter to be resolved was the approach to the house. Friendly dwarf fountain grass and Russian sage groupings now greet

visitors as they emerge from the forest before a narrow, rambling driveway (lined with verdant linden trees and Pennsylvania sage), which leads to a motor court embraced by honey locust and bayberry. A landing terrace directs visitors up a Barrasso concrete paver path to an unassuming front door flanked by elegant, modern 600-pound Lunaform urns. A conservative green-and-white palette and abundant texture unify the entrance areas. What was once a

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From top: Chaises rest between water and trees; the path leading from the meditation garden to the pool area.

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Clockwise from top: Gentle steps approach the front entryway; raised wooden planters for a cutting garden; a custom white-brass handle for a custom ipe-wood gate.



...CONTINUED clumsy labyrinth is now a sensual, unraveling series of lush visual discoveries.

The pool redesign was the other most impactful Old Orchard transformation. “The owner articulated that he wanted a pool, an outdoor shower and a grill. Other than that, he trusted me with the details. Often, clients unintentionally ruin their own projects—he let us do what we do,” Derrig explains. Now sunbathers can overlook a sprawling lawn with

the beechwood forest’s textured foliage in the distance. A couple of large honey locust trees for shade, inlaid ipe-wood decking, custom-colored Barrasso concrete coping, and vegetable and flower beds complete this picturesque sanctuary. Whether one lounges by the pool or perches fireside in the outdoor pavilion, the scents, sounds and beauty of nature’s rapture permeate the scene.

When the owners want to escape deeper into their refuge,

they merely sneak into a wooded, sunken courtyard garden in the master wing. “I know when I get out of bed in the morning, I want to look out at something inspiring,” proclaims Derrig, who utilized grading techniques to produce a meditative alcove. The master bedroom is upstairs and now overlooks a private retreat filled primarily with existing American beech and oak canopy trees. Serviceberry, hay-scented sweet woodruff

and ostrich fern complete the understory, while a combination of native and introduced roughage covers the floor in this calming corner of the world.

Landscape Details elevated Old Orchard into an airy, logically flowing gem while preserving the existing vegetation that initially captivated the clients. Derrig proudly says, “We carved out a beautiful little enclave with very simple landscaping. I think we hit the mark.” ■