

THE PRAIRIE RETREAT
Residential Design
Barrington Hills, Illinois

Client: Private Residence

PLAN



Merit Award

Mariani Landscape

The Prairie Retreat

Influenced by prairie landscape, the landscape architect embraced the homestead by understanding the family members and their lifestyle to create a living environment that uses natural materials and native plants in a dramatic way.

An existing terrain featuring a babbling brook running through an oak savanna transitioning into open, rolling fields is complemented by plantings kept in very low, simple and broad sweeps. Vertical accents are used sparingly to break up the strong horizontality of the home. Flowering meadows are shaped to create a sense of visual rhythm and flow from the house in to the woodland border. A plant palette has its roots in the northern Illinois oak savanna with woody plant species such as Hawthorn, Sumac and Oak and herbaceous plants chosen for their texture, color and distastefulness to the neighborhood deer population. Nine feet of hillside was carved away to nestle a pool, hot tub, outdoor kitchen and fire pit into the surrounding topography. Terraced limestone outcroppings and plantings allowed to grow over and in between the outcrops provide a transition from hardscape to the landscape and bring the meadow

up to the edge of the pool deck. Special garden rooms including a cutting garden, children's vegetable garden and a secret garden as well as a stone bridge developed along the entry road also add to the dramatic landscape.

Plan: The instinctive quadrants created by the home's architectural plan were subdivided into meadows and rooms.

Figure A: A pool terrace made of natural stone creates a destination resort feel and capitalizes on the site's topography.

Figure B: A detail sketch shows the waterfall flowing from an upper terrace into the pool below.

Figure C: The stone terrace is complemented by native plantings.

Figure D: The backyard lawn transitions into the surrounding prairie.

Figure E: Colorful perennials complement the prairie landscape.



FIG. A

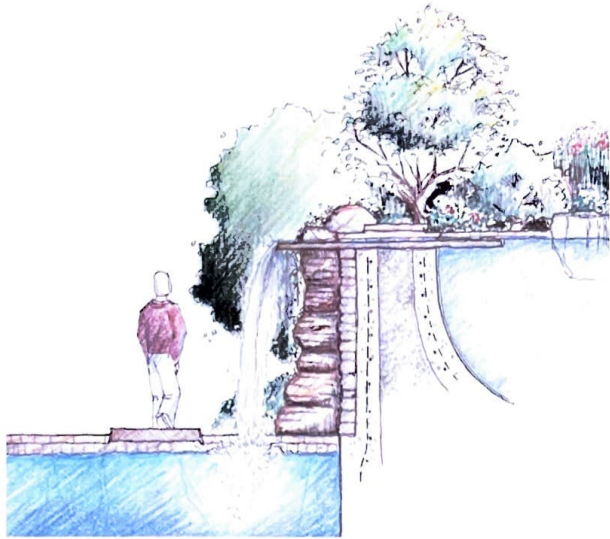


FIG. B



FIG. C



FIG. D

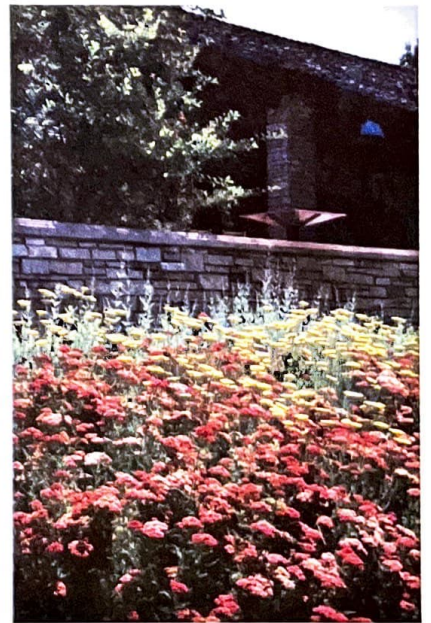


FIG. E