

Gold 2010

Residential Landscape
Construction



Our client's dream home finally came on the market and they purchased it. Located on a private road, the property is perched on a bluff above Lake Michigan. It has a ravine on the south side, and spectacular views of both the lake and the ravine. During rehab and additional construction, it was clear the owners had a passionate commitment to maintaining the integrity of the house.

The large circular driveway and sloping front lawn resulted in the house serving as a catch basin for water. To enhance the European flavor of the home, a gravel motor court concept was introduced, and the area was regraded to reroute water drainage to the ravine. Standard crabapples flank and reclaim the property entrance, while standard lilacs were planted to demarcate the front door. Boxwood completes the look and gives structure, but other plantings remain loose.

The success of the motor court was followed by the design and installation of a new outdoor living space engineered and conceived to maximize use of minimal table land. Soil borings were taken and used by the structural engineer to determine concrete foundation and retaining wall specifications. Multiple terrace levels include a new pool designed with an infinity edge to

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blend into Lake Michigan, a fire pit, and cabana.

The cabana, with a flat-screen TV, iPod, stereo system and ceiling fans, provides a shady sitting area for socializing, and family gatherings. It adds to the resort-like feel the owners wanted for this spot. Wind shear calculations were accounted for in the design and engineering of the cabana.

A surprise mural, spa and golf tee await the visitor who chooses to stroll down the catwalk and overlook the vistas of Lake Michigan. With less than a 10-foot access, the pool was dug with a backhoe perched precariously above the bluff. Concrete was pumped over the house. The narrow path used to access the bluff during construction was planted with perennials, ground covers

and shrubs to provide layers of texture and transform it into an inviting bluestone pathway leading to the new outdoor living area.

Bluestone, brick pavers and Lannon Stone used on different terrace levels evoke a harmonious blend, yet define separate living spaces. Built-in planters filled with perennials and annuals soften the edges and create a colorful, whimsical feel to the space. ☼