

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

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ARTFUL SPACE

Combine classic with contemporary, mix materials for tactile interest, and before you know it, you have a masterpiece worthy of an artist. When artist Richard Pasquarelli, wife Valerie Pels, and their two children moved from Manhattan to Hoboken in 2003, they focused first on the interior of their brownstone (see "Hoboken Haven," April/May 2005, page 36). But they knew they'd eventually have to address the small backyard, especially when they completed a two-story addition lined with windows with views of the back. The owners contacted Adam Hoppe of Green Room Landscape Design, who designed a checkerboard yard created with synthetic grass (too much shade for natural grass) and slate-look ceramic tile over a concrete slab. "Knowing Richard is a painter, I figured they could handle a strong geometry and a contemporary garden style," Hoppe says. Richard Pasquarelli adds, "We also wanted something low-maintenance, green in winter, and low budget." The backyard, measuring 16½ by 30 feet, features a sitting area next to the house with a paver floor and a steel staircase leading to the second floor. Pasquarelli designed the furniture and engaged a friend, Stephen Crawford, to build it. Up three steps from the seating area, the checkerboard features a fiberglass pond with bluestone coping that Pasquarelli designed. At the end of the yard is an eating area. Plants, mostly shade tolerant, include hostas, skip laurels, rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas, aucuba, microbiota, and ferns. Hoppe's secrets to designing small gardens? Choose plants that fit the scale of the site, don't waste a square inch, and choose plants appropriate to the conditions.

SOURCES: design Adam Hoppe of Green Room Landscape Design in Hoboken; furniture in seating area, designed by Richard Pasquarelli and made by artisan Stephen Crawford in Massapequa, New York; pond, Springdale Water Gardens in Greenville, Virginia; synthetic lawn squares, SYNawn.com; ceramic tiles and bluestone coping, Structural Stone in Fairfield; coffee table, www.craigstl.com; lanterns, Target; umbrella and pillows, Pottery Barn Outlet in Riverhead, New York; Sunbrella fabric cushions, www.customcushions.net.





PHOTOS BY MARTHA PELLEGRINI

