


THE KANSAS CITY

LAWN & GARDEN

GUIDE

Beautiful Backyards!

Hardscaping at home ...
naturally functional



Backyard designed & built by
Bledsoe Construction & Landscaping
— creators of living art

What's new outdoors this spring



BACKYARD ENCHANTMENT IN LOCH LLOYD

A closer look at the Cascio residence of Loch Lloyd

BY TAMARA HORVATH • PHOTOS BY AL PITZNER

As the urban sprawl grows in south Kansas City, there is a place which remains special to many people. Residents at Loch Lloyd are comfortable living in their young, growing community with the beautiful surroundings of this residential and golf course lake community.

Ben and Alysa Cascio, together with their children, can now appreciate their outdoor living area at their Loch Lloyd home. Robert Bledsoe, owner of Bledsoe Construction, states that the Cascio residence project creates a "resort atmosphere in a park-like setting."

Overlooking the valley on the southern shore of Loch Lloyd, the view from the outdoor living area is one of the sun setting over the rolling hills across the lake. Robert Bledsoe showcases a modern outdoor hardscape living area. Constructed out of various combinations and textures of hardscaping materials, this job epitomizes what Bledsoe Construction can do.



The project evolved from the homeowner's desire to utilize more space within their back yard. The native wooded terrain came together with masonry tools, saws, cutters, borers, bulldozers and trackhoes. 17,000 work hours were needed and 300 tons of rock were removed to complete this incredible patio. The foundation for the pool deck and patio was secured to existing rock. Ten tons of steel rebar were used to secure the concrete foundation. Sump pits were installed and an underground spring had to be rechannelled away from the project.

Built for relaxing and entertaining, Ben says that he could easily accommodate 200 people with the multiple deck system. Each level contains its own amenities. The upper patio features a lion's head wall fountain from California. It also contains a custom-built, 924 inch stainless steel grill encased in stone from Dynamic Cooking Systems. Flooring is 65 tons of Mankato saw-cut flagstone providing an attractive surface for the deck which sprawls throughout the project.

The next level is an interim landing made of 800 square feet of flagstone. Covered with Rocky Mountain Buff, this original patio adjacent to the koi pond. The back patio and pond lies within a one acre lot set within the woods, complete with light poles and park benches overlooking the bluff. The family's underground changing facility, located in this section, provides a place for family and guests to shower without entering the home.

To the west of the interim landing, the pool decking begins by encompassing the 59,000 gallon swimming pool. The pool was uniquely designed with curved lines and a rock platform for diving to give it a natural look.

The pool contains underwater swimouts

for sitting or getting in and out of the pool at the deepest end. The homeowners wanted no conventional ladders or railings in the design to help the pool blend into the natural surroundings.

The pool area contains a 30-foot long waterfall. Surrounded by 36 tons of moss rock outcroppings, the fountain hillside is embellished with a variety of ornamental plants.

The hot tub was custom-built with a loveseat expressly for Ben and Alysa. Reminding the homeowners of a favorite vacation destination, the atmosphere surrounding the hot tub gives the impression of relaxing in a Colorado resort.

The pool decking is wrapped by a spiral staircase leading to the lowest entertaining level. This lower deck has a custom-designed fire pit built into rock outcroppings of the existing bluff. In preparation for the built-in fire pit, the native rock outcroppings



were removed of native brush, power-washed and resoiled to provide an adequate growing media for a wide variety of native plants and wildflowers.

From this lower entertaining, natural stone steps lead to the door of the underground, vaulted pump room. Contained within are two heaters, filtering systems, and mechanics for the pool and spa located below the pool deck to maximize space,

the pump room is contained within the foundation of the swimming pool. This also eliminates noise of the mechanical system during operation.

Although this Missouri home experiences Kansas City's cold winters, the Cascio family will be able to swim in their pool year-round. Bledsoe Construction and Landscaping installed a custom-built covering over the heated pool. Each year during late Autumn, the dome is reinstalled over the pool. This allows a comfortable swimming atmosphere during the entire winter season. It not only prevents leaves from entering the pool and eliminates annual winterization, but also takes away the wear and tear associated with the freeze and thaw which we experience in the Midwest. Within the heated dome, the Cascios now can enjoy their favorite outdoor amenity all year long.

The elevated spa, fountains and fire pit all show how the demand for the unique

design is what Kansas City homeowners living in the Midwest desire in their backyard. Mr. Cascio says the main things they asked for in the design were the waterfall, hot tub, fire pit and bottomless look to the swimming pool. This project, with its unique design and adaptation to the elements, turns unusable space into very usable space.

Harry Lloyd's creation of an upscale residential and

golf course lake community lives on as many people — like the Cascios — continue to call Loch Lloyd their home. Outdoor living areas such as the one featured on our cover will carry the sense of quality and demand for the unique design begun by Mr. Lloyd. Bledsoe Construction and Landscaping Company has the creativity and skill to create outdoor amenities such as the incredible hardscape featured on our cover.