

HAMPTONS REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

MEMORIAL DAY 2017



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Summer poolside TV viewing by Crescendo Designs

OUTDOOR LIVING IN THE HAMPTONS

MAKE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE A 'DESTINATION' BY RUTH THOMAS

Outdoor living is in vogue. Whether a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, hidden speaker system, graceful pergola, or gorgeous garden, your outdoor space adds another dimension to your Hamptons lifestyle. The trend now is towards more natural design with aesthetics in mind. Choose neutral colored sofas or wooden garden sculptures, or a repurposed bench from natural cedar branching. Use minimal soft lighting. Combine traditional with contemporary styles and exotic plants with natives. Here are some landscape designers and builders to help you create your outdoor space into a 'destination.'

Brian McAuliff, founder and President of Bri-Tech, says, "The trend in home design is to integrate electronic systems discreetly." As a leading designer and integrator of high-end home systems, Bri-Tech customizes and installs systems with aesthetics in mind, especially for outdoor living. Near the pool and cabana, TVs can be hidden in waterproof underground wells and can pop up and turn 180 degrees while you're relaxing in the pool. By placing speakers in different zones for volume control, sound can be intelligible without overpowering conversations. Speakers can be hidden in planting beds or other outdoor structures or designed like little lights, known as bullet speakers, placed throughout the landscape. Security monitors for alarms, lighting, and temperature can be remotely controlled and ideally integrated with

entertainment systems. Brian notes, "We design our electronic systems for long-lasting value and enjoyment."

Frederico Azevedo, award-winning Brazilian landscape designer, who founded Unlimited Earth Care in 1993, says, "Clients are looking to have more interaction and be closer to nature within their homes." Vegetable gardens are popular placed in elevated beds or in planters. Cutting gardens are great for fresh flowers in the home. Neutral colored outdoor sectional sofas around a fire pit or cast iron vintage furniture near the garden are stylish. Large and small planters with colorful flowers beautifully frame an outdoor room. Lighting using iron lanterns around patio furniture, or hanging light fixtures from tree branches illuminates outdoor spaces. Compliment the garden with garden sculptures made from fiberglass, iron, or wood. Blend exotic plants with natives for unusual landscapes. Create long borders by planting the same species of flowers, shrubs or trees for repetition of color, texture, and shape. Frederico believes, "The garden is a space of harmony, balance, and emotion."

Creative Director Roxine Brown, who founded Harmonia Inc in 2003, states, "We have a profound passion for creating landscapes and gardens that coexist, in perfect harmony, with the natural surroundings that grace each property." The day extends into the evening with fully equipped

outdoor kitchens, complimented by lounge spaces accented with a fire pit. As sustainable living is much more in focus now, vegetable and herb gardens have become more popular. Outdoor furniture such as a hammock, natural cedar branching repurposed into a bench, or even simple logs cut and finished as sitting stools utilize nature's elements. Rather than bold accent lighting, minimal and soft lighting allows you to see the stars of the night skies. Soft up lighting of structural trees can often be enough to show off the evening landscape. Roxine emphasizes, "Our work is always a reflection of how you will enjoy your property for years to come."

Julian Munoz, owner and founder of Terra Construction says, "Outdoor living is an integral part of the Hamptons lifestyle." Stone patios, decks, fire pits, built-in BBQs, pizza ovens, wood-burning ovens, and bar areas are very fashionable and make outdoor areas more comfortable. Shaded and protected outdoor spaces with retractable screen areas, awnings, and pergolas are also popular. As for outdoor furniture, we find that wood and weave textures in light beige colors, medium grays or dark metals are trending with color accents provided by ottomans or cushions. Down lights demarcate outdoor spaces with accent lights highlighting a nice tree or backyard area. Outdoor sconces add character. Custom planters in wood or concrete can create separate spaces or paths. Sound systems are controlled wirelessly from your phone. Julian