

PERMANENT VACATION



By Catherine Warmerdam
Photography by Kerrie Hertel



WHEN TIM AND CORINNE CERECERES hired landscape designer Bliss Gonsalves to make over the yard of their South Land Park home, their list of wants was long: designated areas, including a sport court, where their four kids could play; a patio where guests could linger around a long farmhouse table; an outdoor kitchen where Tim could command the grill; a fire pit for evening gatherings; and seating areas where Corinne could relax with a glass of wine. All of these amenities needed to be situated around the existing pool and not detract from the home's traditional architecture.

"They wanted to be able to use every part of the yard," says Gonsalves, who created zones for the various ways the family would use the space, tying them all together with a variety of natural materials that complement the aged brick on an oversized chimney facing one side of the yard. "That brick was really the starting point for everything."

Maximizing usable space typically means lots of hardscape, but Gonsalves cleverly avoided a monolithic look by installing different surfaces throughout the yard: decorative gravel for the seating area, brick and concrete on the patio, no-fuss artificial turf in one of the play areas.

Plant selection was limited to easy-care shrubs, blooming perennials and new trees that will eventually provide much-needed shade, explains Gonsalves. "And everything is low maintenance. The last thing any client wants to do is worry about their landscape when they are trying to relax in it."

"Being back here is like being on vacation to us," says Corinne. "We use every single space, moving around the yard as we follow the shade. The kids do well having all these designated spaces. And Tim and I can sit at the outdoor kitchen in the evening and feel like we're going out. We couldn't be any happier." 🍷

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Landscape Design: Bliss Gonsalves, Oliver John Partners
Construction: Sergio Valencia, MAS Concrete