

COLORADO

Landscapes

MAGAZINE



Installing Quality...
ONE YARD AT A TIME!

Sometimes, the challenges of a job can become an artistic catalyst.

When obstacles become minor triumphs, they can add up to a showpiece.

Alan Horne, owner of Yard Elves, Inc., recently enjoyed a particularly challenging landscape remodel in south-east Fort Collins.

The job was extensive. "Everything was removed but the driveway!" Horne says. The yard had a tough grade to work with. The backyard design had to accommodate a walkout basement.

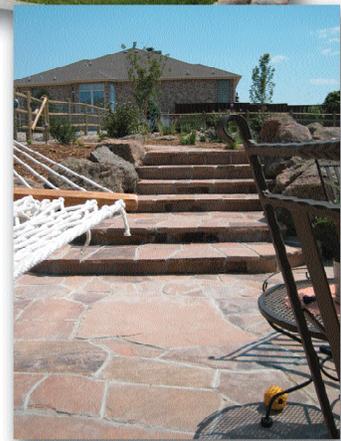
Accepting the challenge Yard Elves and the homeowner worked out a plan! In the front yard Horne added berms--dirt mounds cut with boulder accents to give the landscape a sense of depth. Yard Elves also integrated a new irrigation system, lawn, beds, plantings, and outdoor lighting throughout the yard. In the backyard, Horne custom built a moss rock retaining wall with a waterfall and custom flagstone patio to create a courtyard feel!

The waterfall was engineered very carefully. "We didn't want water going down behind the retaining wall and causing a problem," Horne states. "We made the waterfall out of two separate systems." Water cycles out of two individual fountains, which flow into their own cobble pits. From the patio, the two independent systems appear as one cascading waterfall. "When running, the sound of the water adds a certain level of privacy and tranquility," Horne says. "You can sit and have a great conversation while the water washes away outside noise."

The wandering lines of the custom flagstone pathways and stairs mimic the flow of the waterfall. The fire pit acts as an off-center focal point for the courtyard. The total effect is stunningly natural. "We created the landscape to make it seem as if the house was dropped right into it," Horne says.

The renovation was started in September and took several months. "That's actually a good time to look at big jobs," Horne explains. "At that time of year, I can negotiate pretty favorable rates."

Yard Elves can custom design build just about anything you can imagine. What I love," most, Horne says, "is working with customers who allow us to be creative. I interview the client, and find out what type of functionality, taste, lifestyle and themes they most enjoy and then find a way of custom-building that in the field."



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