

# HOME AND FAMILY

## Covering water stains

Does your home still have traces of water marks from January's storm? If you are planning to cover them with a new coat of paint, be aware that they will bleed through unless they are sealed. Before applying a fresh finish, use a coat of white pigmented lacquer and let dry. Touch up the sealed areas with a coat of water-based (latex) or solvent-based (alkyd) finishing paint. When dry, apply one or two finishing coats over the entire surface. Suggested product is Sico's Polyprep 2 (145-022), a fast-drying, alcohol-based primer and sealer that hides water stains, mildew and rust.

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TEDD CHURCH, GAZETTE

With a pool, the back yard becomes an oasis for swimming, dining, sunning and quiet contemplation. *Page F3*

## SPRING RENOVATING

# Backyard oasis

## Natural-looking pool amid greenery transforms space

**ANNABELLE KING**

*Gazette Home Editor*

In the hands of two imaginative landscape architects, Katée Monette and André Breault, an ordinary yard and a so-so porch were changed into a spectacular warm-weather setting.

The homeowners wanted to stay put during the summer and longed for an oasis they could get to through their back door. Their 60-by-50-foot grassed lot was plain but had a rim of tall maple trees and evergreens, plus a dense growth of lilac bushes, all of which form the basis of the area's new look.

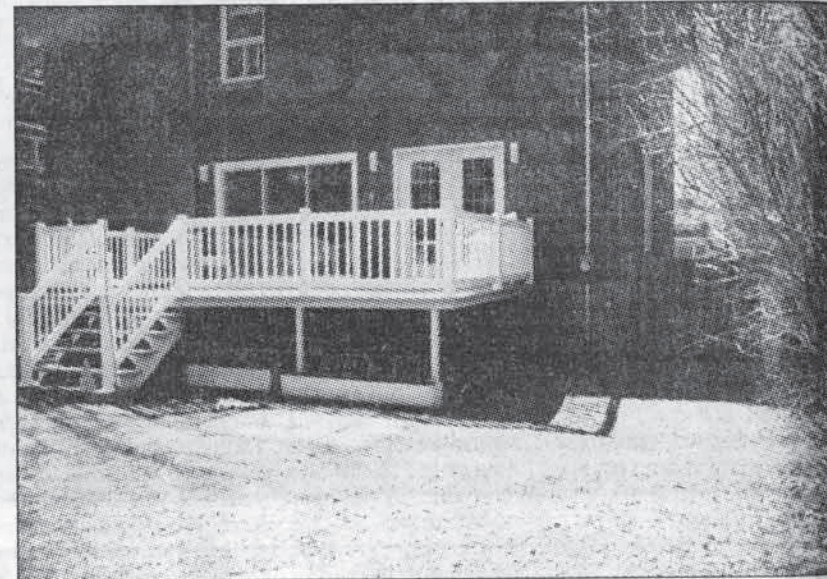
"The clients' only priority was to have a swimming pool that didn't look like one and the natural growth suggested a pond rather than a standard rectangular style," Monette said.

To simulate a free-form swimming hole nestled among the greenery and boulder formations, the designers relied on materials that looked as if they had been gathered in the forest.

Using a commercial paving stone resembling chunks cut from natural rock, they covered the ground to create areas for dining outdoors, sunbathing and a quiet sitting corner for reading or private contemplation.

The sound of splashing water was important to the setting; it was accomplished by installing a waterfall over a huge rock into the pond.

The original roofless porch was in sound condition and was freshened with a sparkling-white paint job. "Our



**Before the transformation, porch led into a very different scene. The main change to porch itself was to add a cheerful striped awning.**

client insisted on having something yellow in the yard so we suggested covering the porch with a white and yellow striped awning," Monette said.

To enhance the forest atmosphere, there are patches of low-maintenance garden scattered about the yard that give the appearance of wild growth.

While Breault and Monette are happy with the results, they feel this was one of their rush jobs. It was started in late May and finished at the end of July.

"The majority of people start to think about their outdoor spaces when

the weather is warm but that doesn't give them much time to enjoy it, Breault said. He said it is best to organize plans in the fall, which allow time to make design changes on paper rather than when the project is underway. In early spring, or as soon as the frost has disappeared, work can begin and a remodeled back yard will be there to enjoy for the whole summer.

❖ *Breault et Monette Landscape Architects, 733-5180.*



TEDD CHURCH, GAZETTE

**Swimming pool, stone pathways, an awning, bushes and flowers now invite homeowners into what was a boring grassy back yard.**