



Gold
2006

Residential Landscape
Construction

A residence of differing architectural cultures is coming together in Chicago's north suburbs. This residence of traditional forms and materials enjoys a wooded site. Close by lies a classic swimming pool dominated by two English Tudor-style changing rooms originating from the neighboring estate home. In contrast, is a recently-introduced Japanese tea room pavilion for outdoor entertaining. The client is deeply passionate about Asian themes, already expressed in two courtyards.

The intent was to celebrate traditional elements of fire, water, wind, light, color, texture, and sense of openness. Clearly, harmony would come only from simplification with use of easy forms and stretched horizontal lines. This was to be a garden of restraint and

inner strength, of dignity and composure. Solid, flat shapes emerged as a theme – noncompeting, low, and subtle.

Paving was chosen to repeat materials and patterns, beginning at the pool. Brought across the new garden, the

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bluestone with brick features knits the elements together. A seven-foot by nine-foot tiled spa fulfilled the water element. The active family enjoys the seasonal availability of warmed water and an automatic pool cover. Heated paving offers access without lifting a shovel in the wintertime.

Nearby is the element designed to

celebrate fire. A sculpture block, topped with a pyramid of terra cotta balls fed from a gas source, is magic – on or off. Soft in color and with stainless steel highlights, block benches surround the fireplace.

A gravel garden for meditation at the tea house also serves as the gateway entrance. Forms, materials, and spirit were researched to replicate authenticity. Thus, a garden grew from difference into unity, transcending elements and harmonizing use in a memorable manner. ❀