

CUTTING EDGE

Creative fire features bring drama—and warmth—to any landscape



1. FOCAL POINT A gas fire feature designed by Zen Associates, Inc., for a Brookline, Massachusetts, residence occupies a prominent location—further enhanced by LED strips that highlight the structure and steps leading up to it. The fire pit, made of Ashlar slate and ledgestone capped with bluestone, features multiple seating options and surfaces, including a powder-coated, stainless-steel floating bench. PHOTO: NAT REA

2. SPA TIME Clients in Bethesda requested a cozy spot where they could gather after time spent in the pool and spa. Fine Earth Landscape designed a fire pit to match the walls and caps of the pool area and suit the home's exterior. Its natural-stone walls are capped with specially cut limestone. The interior of the wood-burning fire pit is lined with firebrick. PHOTO: HILARY SCHWAB

3. LOCAL STONE Live Green Landscape Associates created an outdoor fireplace in Baltimore County that fits the style and scale of the home. Constructed of Butler stone—quarried just a few miles north in Butler, Maryland—the structure sits low to the ground with a wide footprint, and complements the quartzite-flagstone patio. The fireplace is operated via a remote-control gas burner. PHOTO: ROGER FOLEY