

# New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

*Spring Forth*

LET IN THE LIGHT



## Higher Ground

Perched high above the Concord River, this Carlisle, Massachusetts, property was always about the view. The challenge for landscape architect Peter White of ZEN Associates was introducing a pool and gathering spaces without letting them compete with that long, serene sweep of water below.

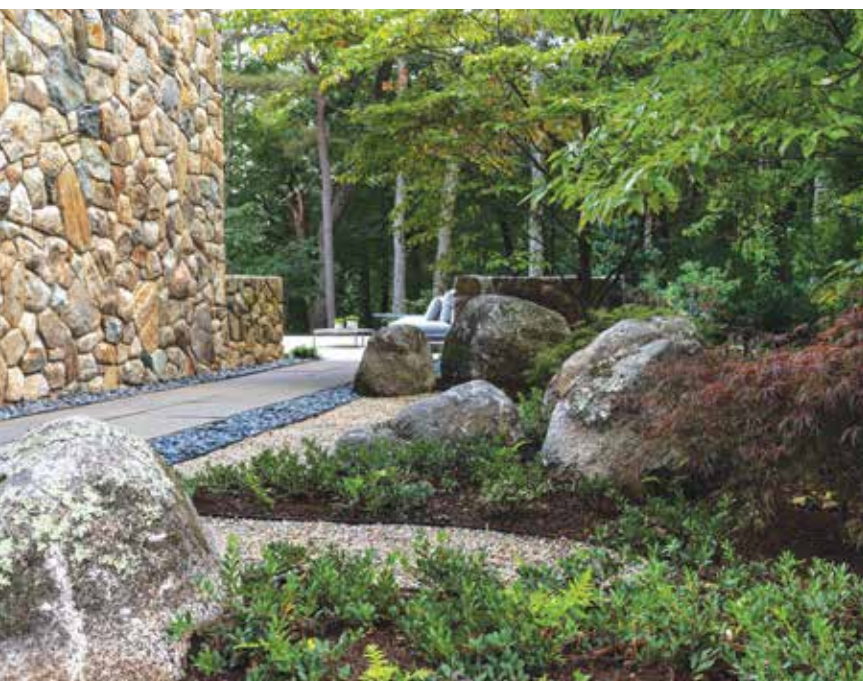
Working within a conservation buffer zone, White placed the pool off to the side of the home's primary sightlines, allowing the river to remain the star. Pushed to the edge of a natural slope, the pool becomes a negative-edge feature, its water quietly spilling away while preserving generous space between house and pool for lounging, socializing, and sun.



**TOP TO BOTTOM:** Positioned just off the home's primary sight lines, the negative-edge pool delivers drama without competing with views of the Concord River. Generous lounge seating between the house and pool creates a relaxed gathering zone where adults can socialize comfortably while keeping an easy eye on kids in the water.



**ABOVE:** A poolside kitchen and fire table mirror the home's distinctive modern lines, creating a relaxed seating zone oriented toward views of the river beyond. **BELOW:** Boulder groupings and layered plantings introduce a Japanese-viewing-garden sensibility on the way to the backyard, establishing structure and rhythm.



An outdoor kitchen and fire table help define active zones, while layered plantings—both native and ornamental—soften transitions and ensure year-round interest. Low-growing junipers, blueberries, and barberry maintain views near the pool, and ferns, mountain laurel, viburnums, and red maples add depth beyond.

Material choices echo the home's architecture: full-depth New England fieldstone walls and pale French limestone paving visually extend the interior outdoors, creating a cohesive, multigenerational landscape designed to draw family back again and again.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For details, see Resources.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
ZEN Associates

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
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