

New England HOME



Landscape Design: Jonathan Keep, Jonathan Keep Landscape Designers

Architect: David Stern, Stern McCafferty

Landscape Contractor: Fred Fournier, Landscape Landscape Construction

Pool Contractor: Tekomah Goggins, Atlantic Pool

A Little Piece of Paradise

The house is sleek, contemporary, and hip. The one-third acre lot sits in the heart of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The modern house and urban location suit the homeowners, but when it came to the yard, they wanted a more rural vibe, one that reminded them of their summer home in Maine. In front, landscape architect Matthew Cunningham created a welcoming walkway of stepping stones and mosses in a pattern that echoes the horizontal geometry of the house. Trees, ferns, and low-growing flowering perennials add to the woodland feel. In back, Cunningham dealt with a fairly steep grade change by adding a stepped stone terrace that leads to a wide, shallow stairway of stone and grass. In the interests of sustainability, Cunningham used reclaimed stone for all the paving granite. Because the homeowners head north for the summer, Cunningham employed plantings that are at their showiest in spring and fall. Massive drifts of white astilbe cascade down the terrace, and at the property's edge stand trees that glow golden and orange come autumn.