



a welcoming entryway

**a collaborative effort
among the homeowner,
landscape designer,
installer and hardscape
manufacturer results in
a breathtaking project**

By Lindsey Getz
Finished photos by Bill Cartledge

At one time or another, many homeowners consider improving their home with new landscaping to raise the property value, create a more comfortable setting and improve curb appeal.

Reaching these goals takes much more than daydreaming, flipping through a catalog and initiating an Internet search. It takes teamwork and education.

The homeowner, landscape

designer, installer and hardscape manufacturer must work together to design the project, identify unique challenges, select the best materials and establish clearly defined timelines. When done properly, the end justifies the means.

For one Montgomery County homeowner, the dream design was a circular driveway with a bold front entrance that announced “wel-

come.”

“I always wanted a circular driveway,” says the homeowner. “I thought it would create a more comfortable flow and be more welcoming to guests than a standard driveway. Many people use a side door or garage door as the main entrance. We wanted to avoid that and use our front door.”

FULFILLING A VISION

An entryway creates a mood or vibe about a property and the people who live there. But it does not stand alone. Proper design demands that it be in harmony with the rest of the property.

The homeowner contacted Green Ridge Landscaping to help create the perfect outdoor space.

After an initial project consultation with the homeowner, Gary Weiss, lead designer, Green Ridge, used the latest technology, including multimedia design tools. He knew immediately that the property required something more than a typical horseshoe-shaped driveway.

“This property called for a courtyard-like entranceway to complement the landscape and create a strong focal point for the home,” says Weiss. “The home is in a beautiful area of Montgomery County and we wanted to make sure we captured that beauty in the design.”

A final discussion with the homeowners nailed down the design. “Green Ridge took my initial goals and had an idea for something even more spectacular,” the homeowner says. “They suggested a parking port for multiple cars, which is very convenient. We even had enough room to put a small sitting bench. From the port, you can walk right up the steps to the front door. It was a perfect use of the space.”

Success also sprung from choosing the right materials for the job. For that, Weiss turned to Rinox Pavers, a manufacturer of hardscaping materials.

“We had multiple options for the project, but we needed to consider all the variables for those materials, including durability, ease of installation, aesthetics, etc.,” Weiss says. “In the end, interlocking pavers gave us

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the ability to introduce color, texture and pattern into our design.”

Weiss says Rinox Pavers provided a versatile color palette and product system that inspires creative applications. Local availability, cost effectiveness and technical support during the installation process were also key considerations, he says.

“Green Ridge liked the flexibility and the way Rinox packaged its hardscaping design elements,” says the homeowner. “This made things easier for Green Ridge to achieve the design we both had in mind.”

The landscaper incorporated

a different pallet to create a unique color blend. They also added textural interest to the space. Built-in circle patterns create an extraordinary mosaic design that captures any visitor’s eye.

“Green Ridge and Rinox were very helpful in the color selection,” says the homeowner. “They suggested a color that matched the stucco of our home to continue the flow we originally envisioned. It was the right choice.”

To complement the home as well as the retaining wall, Rinox’s Palazzo series was selected for the

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Rinox’s Rio Belleza system, a double-sided stone offering visual and technical flexibility, for retaining walls that frame the driveway and parking port. The walls are woven into the piers in alternating rows, an accomplishment only achieved with Rio Belleza.

“Rio Belleza can be installed as a free-standing wall, giving both the structure needed and an exceptional appearance from all perspectives,” says Ira Vosper, director of operations, Rinox. “The Rio Belleza system provides various-sized tumbled wall units and caps creating a more random, natural appearance overall. This system was important in providing structural support as well as aesthetic appeal.”

Once the pier and wall sections were completed, the center of the courtyard was raised to the correct grade in preparation for the pavers. The courtyard’s design incorporated several circles with interconnecting arcs, creating an elegant pattern. The design was a random pattern using a combination of four different-sized pavers, a feature of Rinox’s Palazzo series. Installers selected pavers from

courtyard paver because of its antiqued-appearance and unique texture.

“Texture is an often overlooked feature in hardscape projects,” says Vosper. “Texture can make colors and tones look different as the lighting changes throughout the day. Our Palazzo style offers random sizes, which mirror that of natural stone. In this project, this feature accented the existing stone walkway, giving a welcoming feel to the home’s exterior.”

FINISHING TOUCHES

The final project component was the captivating lighting on the new entranceway. Illuminating any home accentuates a vibrant landscape and displays the investment 24 hours a day.

“We wanted lighting that matched the existing light on the front door and the ability to use dimmers,” says the homeowner. “They did a wonderful job selecting and installing the lighting. We are now able to set the atmosphere depending on the season.”

The completed entranceway,

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with parking port, walk-up steps, retaining walls and unique lighting, sets the tone for the entire home. The finished project enhanced the home’s curb appeal while adding value and creating distinction.

“Like many projects, this one was complex, but by establishing relationships early and gaining trust, we created a solid working foundation. Some of the features we were able to achieve would not have happened unless we were involved early in the process. That’s where the homeowner earns additional value,” says Vosper. “The variety of Rinox styles, colors and textures are essential in optimizing

design opportunities. Maximizing those features requires foresight, compromise and trust. This project had all of those.”

Green Ridge Landscaping, Inc., is located in East Norriton, PA. Visit www.green-ridge-landscaping.com or call 610-222-4733 for more information.

Rinox is located in Douglassville, PA. Visit www.rinoxpavers.com or call 866-99-RINOX for more information.

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