

Home-Field Advantage

Homeowners have a ball at Franklin Lakes lakefront property with a soccer pitch

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OVERALL LANDSCAPE, HARDSCAPE, POOL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION: **TERRACARE LANDSCAPING, OAKLAND**
THROW PILLOWS, TABLETOP ACCESSORIES, LANTERNS AND TOWELS: **EURICA, WYCKOFF**



For an active family, what's better than time outdoors? All of the elements of nature are on display at this 3-acre, lakefront property in Franklin Lakes. Designer Gary Kayal of Terracare Landscaping in Oakland worked hand-in-hand with the homeowners for more than two years to create an unparalleled outdoor experience for this new-construction estate.

From the home's beautiful brick and stone façade, two tiers of stone patios set the stage for panoramic views of the expansive green lawn and lakefront. Kayal, who started Terracare in 1988, specializes in comprehensive landscape design, construction and maintenance. He artfully planned this resort-like retreat, where water constantly flows downwards from the infinity spa, four waterfalls and infinity pool before seeming to disappear into the lake below.

Fire leaps warmly from the outdoor fireplace and fire pit, coaxed gently by breezes off the lake. And the majestic outdoor loggia is the perfect place for just about anything, but especially for sipping a cool drink while watching the children compete in a casual evening match on the home's soccer field.

Patios

From the home, walk out onto the resort-style upper patio that Terracare fashioned in a beautiful pattern of Norwegian Buff and reclaimed brick inlays. This special spot, perfect for family meals and intimate entertaining, features curved, blue-stone sitting walls throughout. The more expansive lower patio, housing the spa and pool, was done entirely in Norwegian Buff stone.



Loggia

Beauty abounds under the impressive, windowed dome of the outdoor loggia. Designed by the home's architect, John Liggero, it extends seamlessly from the house with a weathered copper roof and open pillars with billowing, draped fabrics. Outdoor wicker furniture heightened with cool blue fabrics offset the ornate, deep bronze hand-painted Azek trim work.



Snack Bar

The glass pass-through from the pool house easily slides back to create an open kitchen. Snacks and beverages are always within easy reach to keep the energy flowing for athletes and sun-worshippers alike.



Fireplace

Evenings are spent fireside. Sink into any one of the six outdoor wicker couches in soft khakis with pillows in tones of rust, brown and black. The grand fireplace rises up 15 feet with two separate areas for log storage. The warm, familiar smell of wood-smoke wafts through the air and the stonework, offset by reclaimed brick, seems to glow in the fire-light. Kayal constructed the fireplace mantle from a solid 6-foot piece of bluestone.

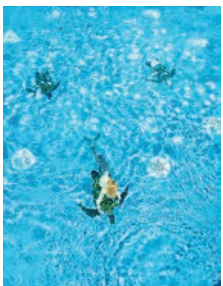


Pool

Terracare designed the 20-foot by 60-foot infinity pool to be the perfect vantage point to enjoy views of the lake and the home's incredible brick and stone façade. Cloaked in a smooth, Caribbean blue Diamond Brite finish interspersed with playful, handmade sea-life mosaics, the pool's surface is an array of color and texture that glitters in the light. Water cascades over the wall of the infinity pool, constantly circulating. Kayal designed the waterfall to be a showstopper. It features four cascading spillways that feed into a wading pool and a 22-foot-long winding water slide. "We wanted to create some drama, fun and an element of surprise," Kayal says. "It really is a work of art." He brought in more than 90 tons of boulders from Pennsylvania and interspersed them with Japanese maple, weeping pine and a bouquet of perennials to create a range of color and texture that make this bold piece a favorite of the entire family.

Fire Pit

Whether it's from the house, the pool deck or out on the soccer field, the deluxe gas fire pit was designed as a central focal point in the foreground of every beautiful view this property offers. What's more, it is controlled with any Apple device.



Spa

From the pool deck, step into the oversized, 18-foot stone infinity spa with seating for 20. This is a special place for the family to come together and relax at the end of the day – even as the weather gets colder. Whimsical inlaid ceramic mosaics of sea turtles (shown, left) and mermaids playfully glint in the bubbling waters.



Child's Play Area

The children's play area was carefully considered in the project's design. Kayal worked with the homeowner to create the ultimate outdoor play space designed for easy access and supervision. Steps from the house, this area features a large play set, cottage and small merry-go-round, all set atop soft, rubberized mulch.



Soccer Field

The soccer field is a place for a whole lot of family fun and competition – day or night. The family loves to run drills and master their goal-kicking skills. "On any given day, there's a pick-up soccer game in our backyard," the homeowner says, "We play hard, and then we all come up and cool down at the pool and have dinner outside. It's really the best family time we could imagine." The soccer field lining is by Ed Ritchie and the gear is provided by The Soccer Post, Franklin Lakes. ■

