



This space—located on Fifth Avenue and 27th Street—is ideal for entertaining.

Urban Retreat

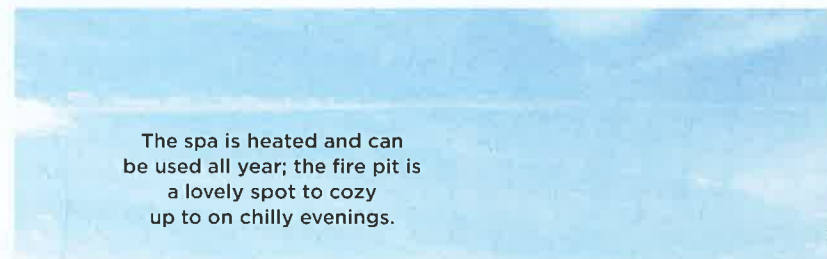
Construction company executive—often so it was important in warmer months to be able to entertain,” says Michael Wood, a contractor. “The kitchen is fully outfitted with a refrigerator. The two zones—dining and lounge—can be used independently.” The space has a fully outfitted kitchen for dining and a large HDTV. There is comfortable outdoor seating all as a proper dining area with built-in seating. When the client’s children were 1, 6, 7 and 8, it’s so easy to design for kids as all of

the materials are so durable: We used ipé wood, which has a 30-year life expectancy, plus outdoor fabrics and solid surface materials,” says Wood. “The key, of course, was to integrate storage in the kitchen and bench seating in the dining area for toys and garden tools, along with blankets, cushions and pillows.” The space is sophisticated enough to entertain clients, yet comfortable enough for a child’s summer birthday party. “The goal was to add personality and dimension to a very warm but structured space given the uniformity of the ipé finish,” says Wood. “When properly balanced, a mix of old and new not only creates a unique mix but a timeless space that is a good investment as it won’t feel dated after a few years.”

ALLYSON LIPKOW

Poolside Luxury

This Larchmont, NY, house, located on the Long Island Sound, feels like an elegant vacation home. “Even with the various sections, the goal was to create an open entertaining area that isn’t segmented,” says Cleo Abrams-Horsburgh of Conte & Conte landscape architects. Construction involved demolishing an existing pool and series of stepped terraces, followed by substantial regrading of the terrain to allow for the expansive lawn area. The new, level yard provides ample space for the clients’ twin girls to play, complete with swing set and a much-loved tree swing near the firepit that gets regular use. Large shallow steps into the pool are ideal for lounge chairs or young children just testing the water. The laminar jets add extra splashing fun for pool playtime, but also look exotic and elegant when lit up at night (with options for light shows). The seating areas are combined with large umbrellas which are inserted directly into the terrace surface—avoiding tripping hazards while providing ample shade. Substantial excavating of the property created a large, level lawn for the swing set and countless activities. “Spaces are designed to provide for flexible use,” says Abrams-Horsburgh.



The spa is heated and can be used all year; the fire pit is a lovely spot to cozy up to on chilly evenings.



The openness of the space and multitude of seating also allows for entertaining larger groups. The replete options for seating, shade, sun, and social or solitary relaxation provide a welcoming space for everyone. “Your landscape is an extension of your home,” says Abrams-Horsburgh. “This property has some of the best of views of the Long Island Sound, which are made better when shared with friends and family.”



JULIANA LOUISE