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By-the-Sea Show House

swimtime

Eagerly anticipating summer sun and fun? Get a preview with this showcase of swimming pools from throughout the state

BY REN MILLER



PHOTOS BY MARISA PELLEGRINI



At Play All Day

Donato and Jennifer Cuttone's goal for their Mahwah backyard was to provide enough options for all-day entertainment, from a morning soak in the spa and lunch on the terrace, to swimming and lawn volleyball in the afternoon, to dinner in the cabana and roasting marshmallows at the fireplace or fire pit after dark. That's what Bill Moore, a landscape architect with Cipriano Landscape Design, learned when he first met with the Cuttones. To maintain openness for large groups, Moore eliminated railings and handrails by terracing grade changes with planting beds. Then he divided the open space into separate "rooms" so, for example, the fireplace seating area feels intimate for smaller gatherings. Challenges included poor soil, improper grading that left the yard too wet to enjoy, and municipal codes that limited development. Today, the centerpiece is a 900-square-foot pool with a spa, weathered Pennsylvania fieldstone boulder waterfalls, a sun shelf where chairs sit partially in water, and a waterslide. The pool coping and patio are Tennessee crab orchard stone; tile bands at the waterline and on the steps are mosaic gray slate. The fireplace is covered in Chilton Rustic and Chilton Heritage Blend stone veneer and is fronted by a stone "rug" with an Indian sandstone field and river pebble and bluestone borders and inlays. Moore planted masses of flowering perennials and ornamental grasses to tie the landscape together with repetition of form and texture. He transplanted some mature trees from the overgrown front foundation to accentuate the new pool area and added a new 35-foot-tall Zelkova tree near the patio to create shade and enhance the established feel.

SOURCES: pool and landscape design and installation by

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