

A LANDSCAPE TO LOVE FROM MATTIA

TIM AND DIANE SHARPE CHOSE MATTIA LANDSCAPING. "WE LIKED STEVE. HIS QUALIFICATIONS ARE HIGH LEVEL, HIS CREATIVITY IS SUPERB, AND THE IDEAS HE PRESENTED FOR OUR PROPERTY WERE EXCEPTIONAL. WE MOVED FORWARD WITH ALL OF HIS SUGGESTIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EXCHANGING A HOLLY FOR A LILAC BUSH. WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE HARDSCAPING AND LANDSCAPING."



By April O'Day

The lure of landscaping captured Steve Mattia at the young age of 14. He was ecstatic each time his uncle John asked him to help out on a project. John founded Mattia Landscaping in 1986, and the company has flourished ever since.

Both Steve and John hold degrees in therapeutic recreation and were initially teachers. And – the men agree that seeing the beauty of nature from the windows of a classroom did not fulfill their mutual passion for making the land and homeowners' yards more stunning. "Although I went to college and graduated with a degree in therapeutic recreation, I always had a love for working with my hands and creating landscapes," remarked Steve. "I worked summers for my uncle learning the trade. After spending a couple of years in my educational field, I went back to join John full time for 20 years. The goal was for me to buy the company when he thought it was time to retire."

That time came in 2020, and Steve purchased Mattia Landscaping. The past two years have been exhilarating. Creativity, coupled with making peoples' dreams come

true, drives him. Taking property from bare ground to glorious greens, magical gardens, and luxuriant shrubbery is a consummate pleasure for the landscape artist.

Tim and Diane Sharpe witnessed such a transformation earlier this summer. The couple illustrates the satisfaction experienced by homeowners throughout the Delaware Valley.

A New Look

Tim and Diane had a plan when they got married three years ago. At the time, they both lived in Paoli. They sold their houses and moved to Old City in Philadelphia. After deciding to live in a walkable suburban community, a home search began. "We intended to buy a house that didn't require any work or remodeling," said Tim. (Diane can be heard laughing in the background.)

A charming red split-level in Wayne met part of the couple's goal. It was within walking distance of downtown Wayne, which *Philadelphia* magazine placed on its 2022 list of Most Walkable Philadelphia Suburbs and Neighborhoods. But, then there's part two of the plan. "It's difficult to find walkable towns," pointed out Diane. "We had no



ALL PATIO WALLS AND STEPS ARE CAPPED WITH NATURAL THERMAL FLAGSTONE.

intention of purchasing a house in need of renovation. Yet, we did just that.”

Built in 1960, the house had never been modernized. The Sharpes gutted the dwelling to its studs and rebuilt it from bottom to top. It took more than two years to complete all the architectural specifications needed for their perfect home, now a single-level contemporary in grey and white. They moved in 18 months ago and almost immediately began imagining part three of the plan.

A Dream Come True

The lovely home on the quiet street near the walkable town was obstructed by trees that overshadowed the sun and neighborhood view. “If we really wanted to design our ideal home, the trees had to go,” insisted Tim. “And, landscaping was mandatory. We removed seven trees, keeping one maple, then began our search for a respected landscape company.”

Diane culled a roster of possibilities. After reviewing references and meeting with several candidates, the Sharpes chose Mattia Landscaping. “We liked Steve,” agreed Tim and Diane. “His qualifications are high level, his creativity is superb, and the ideas he presented for our property were exceptional. We moved forward with all of his suggestions with the exception of exchanging a holly for a lilac bush. We absolutely love the hardscaping and landscaping.”

On a picture-perfect day in June, Diane’s son Jacob and his girlfriend Meagan were among the first to enjoy the new patio. “It is everything my mom ever wanted, especially the fire pit,” exclaimed Jacob. “It’s her dream come true.”

The cherished fire pit perches on a patio inlaid with EP Henry Cast Stone block, which is Adirondack grey to complement the home’s exterior. Sitting and retaining walls match the color theme. All patio walls and steps are capped with natural thermal flagstone. Walkways, patio floor, and landings are inlaid with EP Henry Bristol Stone in pewter and bordered in charcoal. Certified to complete numerous EP Henry hardscaping projects, Mattia Landscaping is also a member of the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute and the National Concrete Masonry Association.

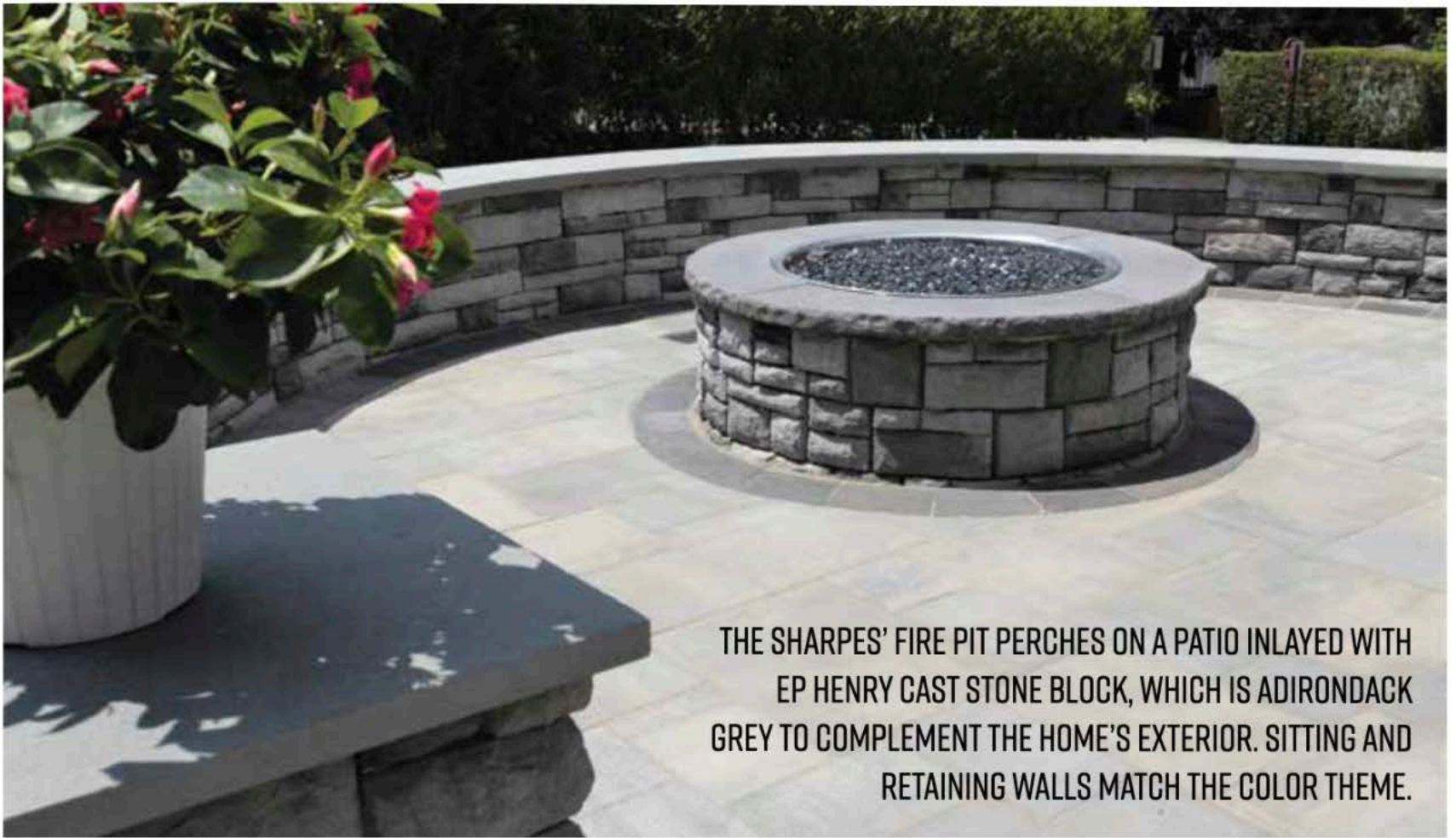
Tim and Diane never tire of sitting on the spacious patio to share the radiant rainbow of color before them. Providing shade as they linger during the day are white-flow-



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WALKWAYS, PATIO FLOOR, AND
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AND BORDERED IN CHARCOAL.



THE SHARPES' FIRE PIT PERCHES ON A PATIO INLAYED WITH EP HENRY CAST STONE BLOCK, WHICH IS ADIRONDACK GREY TO COMPLEMENT THE HOME'S EXTERIOR. SITTING AND RETAINING WALLS MATCH THE COLOR THEME.



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ered kousa dogwood and sweetbay magnolia. Their front yard landscape's yarrow and coreopsis dazzle in yellow all summer, while salvia flowers contrast in soothing lavender.

Candy Corn spirea shrubs are chameleon in personality featuring red foliage that changes to yellow and later melts into orange. Variegated Liriope, an evergreen perennial with long, slender green leaves, is striped with creamy white. Drift roses feature a pink/coral fusion with many blooms throughout the season. Lilac's heady scent and purple flowers bring butterflies and hummingbirds to the Sharpe home. A backdrop of evergreens, including Dee Runk, Green Velvet, and Green Mountain boxwoods, embrace the array of many-splendored shades of nature.

A variety of shrubs include Little Missy boxwood, an evergreen, and Schip laurels that provide privacy along the back property line. Bobo hydrangea commands attention with large white blooms in mid to late summer. A perennial parade is spectacular in color. Japanese painted ferns are shaded in blue-green with silver edges. Visions in Red Astilbe lives up to its name with pinkish-red flowers, and small white Tiarella flowers nestle on green leaves.

Diane and Tim look forward to hosting many special occasions on their patio. Upcoming is an engagement party for Tim's daughter. "We will hold an open house for the neighbors," noted Diane. "They were curious throughout the project, which was



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concealed by landscapers' fencing. I'm sure everyone will be impressed with Mattia's work and creativity.

"It's super important," continued Diane, "that a good line of communication is established with whomever you employ, whether it is a contractor or a landscaper. We had this type of relationship with Steve and his team. He was always available to

talk with us and answer any questions. It was very easy to work with Steve, and Mattia's quality is excellent," she summed up. **CCL**

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