



SPECIAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Large, architectural concrete patio
- Outdoor kitchen and fireplace
- Rectangular-shaped swimming pool
- Custom-designed cabanas and pergola

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This once large open space evolved into a rich, luxurious backyard retreat thanks to a number of unique features and an expansive patio area created and installed by M & S Architectural Ltd., in Bradford, Ont., which allows this homeowner to entertain on a grand scale.

A RUSTIC

retreat

Combining water and stone to create an urban backyard masterpiece

One of the main elements of this backyard in Woodstock, Ont., is a 5- x 9-m (16- x 30-ft) light-coloured vinyl swimming pool, which is surrounded by a rustic, architectural concrete patio. A fibreglass hot tub installed into a flagstone feature wall of the pool furthers the integral use of water and stone as key design components. The hot tub is also surrounded by a raised, natural-stone patio, which is two steps up from the main pool deck. The hot tub's exposed walls are finished in Ebel ledge rock, while two vertical garden pockets containing low-profile shrubs further co-ordinate the installation with the other stone-finished features in the backyard.

The lines of the large concrete deck were kept straight and sleek to highlight the rectangular shape of the pool, while its clean centre line provides an unobstructed view of the custom cabanas built on the far side of the property, opposite the hot tub. The cabanas are joined by a 3- x 4.3-m (10- x 14-ft) rough-cut cedar pergola and include an outdoor rinse station as well as an indoor shower.

The deck also serves to effectively tie together various other elements in the backyard, including a natural-stone, wood-burning fireplace and an outdoor cooking station complete with granite-finished counter tops. In the evening, these features, in combination with strategically placed accent lighting, help make the backyard a great place for social gatherings, even after sundown.

M & S Architectural specializes in designing and building backyard landscapes, and works closely with clients to incorporate all of their outdoor living requirements and needs.