

8 STARS SHINE: MID-CAPE HOME CENTER KITCHEN DESIGNERS SHARE THEIR INSIGHT

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# The Edge of the World

Landscape designer Greg Bilowz makes every last inch count when creating a singularly unique space that drinks in the view.

By Julie Craven Wagner

Photos by Mike Crane

When an intrepid Sippewisset homeowner has a million-dollar view, a laundry list of design requests in a tight location that precariously falls off to nowhere, it requires some creative expertise. He first approached the construction crew working on the adjacent property to replace some windows and make a few minor repairs to his home. When the conversation turned to the exterior, its challenging topography and stunning views, Ralph Cataldo from Cataldo Custom Builders recommended he speak to landscape designer Greg Bilowz, of Bilowz Associates, Inc. With a “view you can’t take your eyes off of,” Bilowz gave thoughtful consideration to the homeowner’s long wish list along with a careful review of the site’s challenges required for design and permitting. Bilowz states, “The challenge was to create landscape elements that accentuated the vista within the footprint of the property, inside and out.”



Bilowz presented his plan to the homeowner, which included an infinity edge pool and spa with an impressive cascading waterfall, formal terracing around the pool, and two strategically positioned fire pits. Each element captured the view of the ocean. The stonework needed to respect the Falmouth vernacular, the bronze railing details needed to be delicate, tasteful, and not obscure the view with a design that was compliant with Falmouth Conservation Commission's requirements.

To construct the design, Cataldo and Bilowz introduced the talented stone masons at Francisco Tavares, Inc. into the fold for the masonry, landscape, and site development. The Falmouth Pink granite, synonymous with the West Falmouth moraine was featured in an existing small stone building set into the grade below the home. The stone was a natural choice for Bilowz to incorporate into the design for the pool and the surrounding terrace. Bilowz brought in Ray Ciemny from Artisan Iron in Groton to fabricate the extensive and elaborate bronze railing that ties the entire space together.

Understanding the attributes of the outdoor spaces influenced Bilowz's design. There is a seamless connection between the interior and exterior spaces. The vista, cascading waterfall, stonework, and native plantings are captured even from the lower level of the house. "It has come together in a way it never had a chance to before," he explains. Throughout the entire process—design, permitting, and installation—Bilowz was mindful of the need to utilize every last inch while complementing the natural features of the property. "It was a very small design footprint,"

he recalls. Presentation to the Falmouth Conservation Commission with a few minor tweaks passed without a hitch. "Every square inch of the mitigation planting was required to permit the project."

In recapping the project, Bilowz stated, "Starting with a great view is always a great design opportunity but it's not everything. To build a project like this right is not for the faint of heart. You need to have a cohesive and talented team to execute it," Bilowz affirms. 🏠

*Julie Craven Wagner is the editor of Cape Cod HOME.*

