

New in Homes



Simple, classic gardens help home fit in



Elaine Carey
Lessons in Landscaping

The owners of this new home in the peaceful, established neighbourhood of Lorne Park in Mississauga wanted a garden that would allow it to blend seamlessly into the character of the area.

They also wanted "a simple and classic look for their front yard, one that was attractive in all seasons," says designer Adam Gracey. He used Brussels Block unit pavers to form an uninterrupted driveway and walkway to the front and utility doors, accenting it with saw-cut Owen Sound flagstone veneer on the steps.

A water feature, with three bubbling rocks that can be seen from the road and from the house, created a focal point at the junction of the driveway and the walkway.

"During the winter, the black rocks continue to be a focal point as their colour and shape is accented by snow and ice," Gracey says.

The plantings were designed to emphasize the gentle curves

of the driveway and walkway, giving privacy from the neighbours on either side. The use of holly, euonymus, weeping cypress and ornamental grasses also add winter interest. Annuals and flowering perennials add colour and vibrancy.

The planting beds incorporate the existing mature oak trees, which were carefully preserved during construction.

Decorative urns accent the doorways and add more colour and detail.

A custom-built wooden fence with wrought iron gates gives privacy to the backyard area but also ties into its hidden features, including a cedar pergola.

"Just enough of a view is visible to add a sense of mystery to the area and tranquility to make the viewer want to take a walk to the backyard," Gracey says.

Owen Sound flagstone is used to emphasize the transition from the public front yard to the private and intimate backyard.

As a finishing touch, he added a camouflaged bench complete with guardian angel, which "gives the invitation to sit and rest and contemplate (in) this peaceful and tranquil yard," says Gracey.

► **Source:** D.A. Gracey & Associates, 905-761-9490, www.dagracey.com

If you have an interesting landscape project, email news@thestar.com



PHOTOS COURTESY OF A. GRACEY & ASSOCIATES

The custom-built wooden fence with wrought iron gates beckons visitors to the backyard of this new home built in the Lorne Park area of Mississauga, top left. The home's gardens, driveway and walkway were designed to blend seamlessly with the established neighbourhood. The water feature, below right, with three large black rocks, is a focal point in both summer and winter, says designer Adam Gracey.

