

# CASUAL LIVING®

NOVEMBER 2015

THE INSIDERS' RESOURCE FOR OUTDOOR STYLE

CASUALLIVING.COM



*Fall Market Wrap-up:  
Scene at High Point*

**Exclusive Research:  
Outdoor Numbers  
on the Rise**



by Laurie Rudd



# BEYOND THE GREEN

LANDSCAPE, LEISURE DESIGNERS  
SET THE STAGE FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Project Details

### LUSH LOUNGING:

Landscape designer: Robert Davie of Robert Davie & Associates Inc.

Designer of soft accessories: Laurie Jenkins of Laurie Bell

Furniture: Custom constructed products – trellis, pergola benches and table designed by Robert Davie

Fabrics: Outdura – Sierra Turquoise, Karma Congo

Following the homeowner's desire for a social gathering space within the landscape design, the Robert Davie team created custom shade, furnishings and accessories in this Sarasota, Fla., project. Inset: Designer cushions from Laurie Bell added to the serene-yet-stylish look of the social nook.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS HAVE BECOME A

vital part of the many commercial and creative entities defining spaces for outdoor living. The degree of creativity and the integration of outdoor elements coming from today's landscape designers spans from the simple and serene to the palatial and personally appointed.

### LUSH LOUNGING

For a client in a quiet neighborhood of Sarasota, Fla., Robert Davie, landscape

designer and contractor for Robert Davie & Associates, created a lush retreat with decorative grasses, pathways and a comfortable lounging nook with custom-designed seating. The highlight of Davie's plan, which included updating the homeowner's entire front property, was a social area for the family and their friends. This area incorporated a pergola, custom built furnishings, designer cushions and distinctive landscape lighting.

"Our client wanted the





The overall plan by Ryan Hughes Design Build pulls together luxury elements for dining, swimming and relaxation to create this picture of paradise.

entire property updated, including an outdoor social place with some protection from the sun and elements,” Davie said. “They also wanted to add to the home’s curb appeal.”

As the designer and contractor for the project, Davie planned a larger front-landing patio area, expanding the previous space by nearly 300%. “A pergola was integrated into the new paver porch area, setting the stage for easy gathering,” Davie said. “You could access it from the front door or the sidewalk leading from the driveway. I custom designed the pergola to fit the space. The scale was also important in relation to the home.”

The Davie team, inspired by the home’s traditional façade, custom built facing sofas, occasion tables and a bench for the social space. This outdoor room was softened by plush cushions

custom designed by Laurie Jenkins of Laurie Bell and crafted from Outdura textiles.

“Robert gave me direction, and I designed the cushions to fit the colors and comfort desired,” said Jenkins.

Unique lighting also was incorporated into the overall outdoor area. “I choose hanging lights that looked like little stars twinkling; the bottoms were open and allowed a lot of light into the social area,” Davie said. “The LED hanging lights were tied into the total landscape lighting system we designed.”

#### PARADISE PLANNED

For landscape designers, following an individual client’s vision, whether simple or spectacular, is the ultimate goal. In a recent project by Palm Harbor, Fla.-based Ryan Hughes Design Build, one such vision was crafted under and among tall tropical palms incorporating green

spaces, elegant terraces, fire, waterfalls and places for leisure.

“Our customer wanted a masterpiece in the backyard,” said Ryan Hughes, designer and outdoor living contractor. “This outdoor living space was envisioned as a multi-function oasis where relaxation and entertainment could be experienced in an elegant, yet protected, space.”

Through careful planning, the Ryan Hughes team engineered an over-the-top exterior design. The use of multiple levels defined individual outdoor rooms and optimized the home’s entire outdoor space. Every element in the outdoor living project followed in the masterpiece theme, from the hearth area to the pool or from the casual lounging area to the dining and kitchen. Ryan Hughes Design Build’s landscaping and accompanying lighting touches further punctuated

#### Project Details

PARADISE PLANNED:

Designer: Ryan Hughes  
of Ryan Hughes Design  
Build

Furniture: Castelle by Pride  
Family Brands

each area.

“Landscapes, hardscapes and softscapes were blended in our design planning, including furnishings,” Hughes said. “We used cast aluminum crescent deep seating by Castelle that perfectly fit the conversation area designed around a stone and raised-stucco fireplace.

“We like to bring a fresh perspective to outdoor living whatever the size or elements within the project,” Hughes added. “The comprehensive outdoor living concept is a natural fit for professionals in the landscape category. The total picture is what makes each element work.” **CL**