

# New England HOME CT

*SPRING  
AHEAD* LET THE SUNSHINE INSPIRE



# Cultivated

Inspired by the Hamptons, this landscape manages to be untamed and structured all at once. BY ERIKA AYN FINCH



**S**ometimes it takes a moment for a home, even a new build, to come into its own. That was certainly the case for Kathryn Herman's New Canaan clients, who took time settling

into their Brooks & Falotico-designed house before reaching out to Herman about the corresponding 1.8-acre landscape. A streamlined pool was already in place, and the property

The landscape needed to be in perfect harmony with the home, so the design team incorporated the same West Hill Granite—sourced from Bedford Stone & Masonry—found on the patio in the pool deck and its surrounding checkerboard-patterned pavers.



included wildflower wetlands (originally planted by Penn Marchael of Pennington Grey) that needed to be preserved.

“The clients have a summer home in eastern Long Island,” says Herman, “and they wanted their primary residence to have a similar feel.”

That area of Long Island, says Herman, is known for open fields that border manicured landscapes, so the design team set out to achieve the same effect in New Canaan. They shaped the perimeter of the rangy wetlands to feel less organic and more crafted, with a sharp edge that distinguishes the two zones. Ilex crenata hedges break up the openness and provide privacy. Herman’s team improved circulation around the pool with a graphic checkerboard installation of West Hill Granite pavers



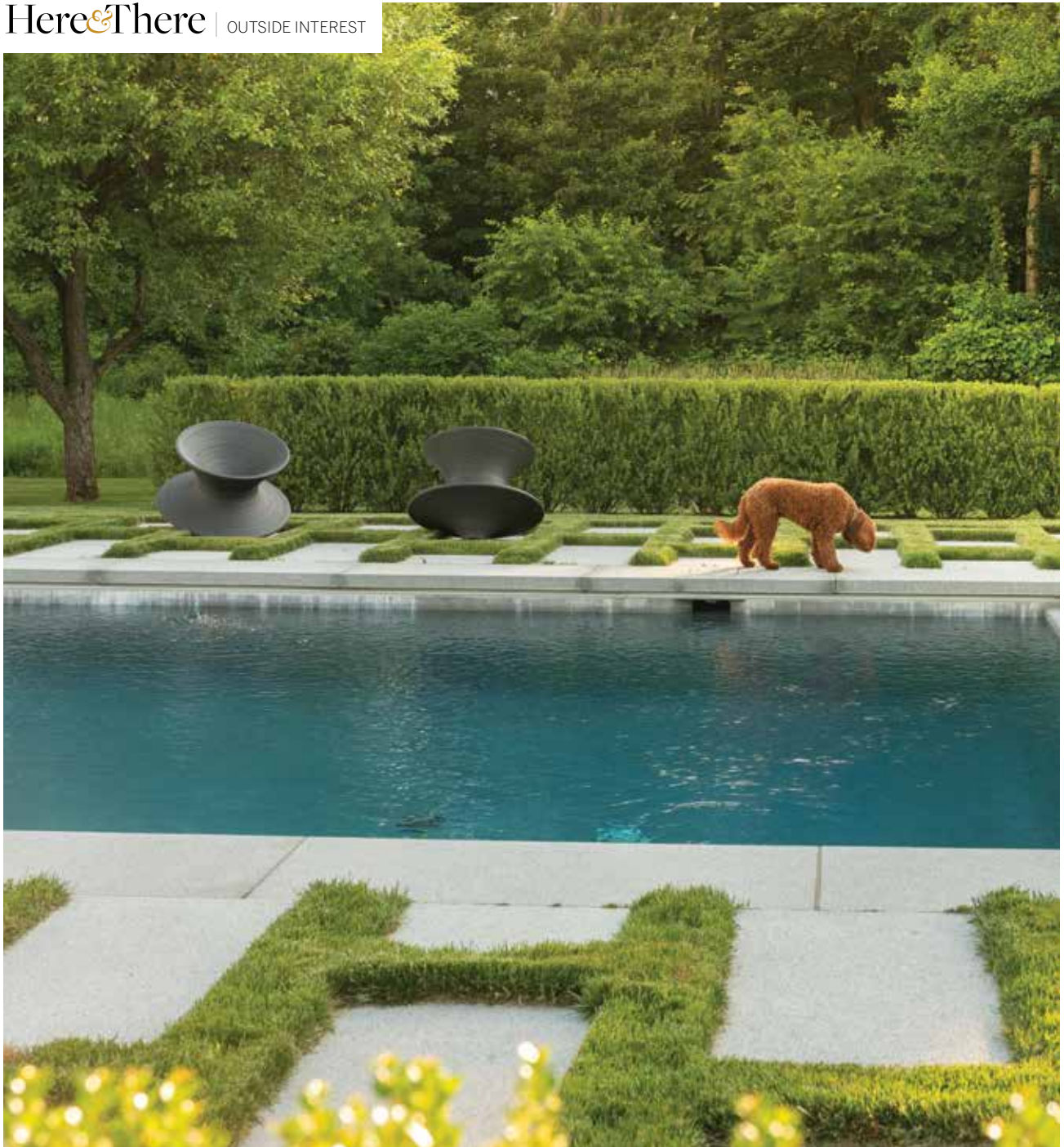
*“IT’S CRISP BUT WILD.”*

—Landscape designer Kathryn Herman



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Custom fencing separates the pool from the rest of the landscape and mimics the railing around the primary bedroom deck; a raised yoga and meditation garden features stone-like seats from Atelier Vierkant. Glacial erratics found around the 1.8-acre property received special consideration. The team at Kathryn Herman Design lined the front of the house and its gravel parking area with *ilex crenata* and *cyananthus*; the fastigiate hornbeam on the left was transplanted from a different spot in the yard.





that echoes the strong lines of the hedges and edge of the wetlands.

A raised yoga and meditation garden studded with ceramic seats that resemble oversized pebbles sits below the second-floor primary suite. Glacial erratics found on-site were relocated to places of prominence and treated almost like sculptures. So were various trees, including two crab apples, a dogwood, fastigiata hornbeams, and a magnolia. Because flowers fill the wet-

land portion of the landscape, the design team focused on texture and structure throughout the rest of the property.

“It’s crisp but wild,” says Herman. “We did a lot of editing to make the space feel bolder while at the same time calm and composed. The landscape responds to the pool, house, and broader surroundings, but it’s very impactful.” And completely worth the wait.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *For details, see Resources.*

Ilex crenata hedges bring privacy to the pool area, where Magis Spun chairs from Thomas Heatherwick provide interactive seating options. Cameron, the family dog, is perfectly at home in his new surroundings.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
Kathryn Herman Design

**ARCHITECTURE:** Brooks & Falotico

**BUILDER:** Blansfield Builders