



Above: A traditional brick walkway and concrete work freshen the stately 1899-built home.

Inspired Design

Southview Design brings the landscape of a historic Summit Avenue home back to its roots.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN JOHNSTON, JOHNSTON IMAGING & INTERACTIVE



Above: Architectural columns and latticed frames define the patio, creating an intimate outdoor room.

Inspired by the work of Southview Design at a nearby home, Mark Thomas and Maureen Chevalier, married with three children, turned to the landscape design-build firm for a major outdoor renovation.

The result was a hardscape and greenscape project that transformed the look and feel of the family's 1899-built home along Summit Avenue. "We had several areas in our yard that were issues. The east side of the home is a shady area where grass doesn't grow, and we had kids'

playground equipment that wasn't used. Plus, the driveway was all cracked," explains Thomas. The family also wanted a place to entertain and grill out.

Major design elements of the project encompassed new clay pavers to replace and widen the old concrete driveway, a new patio, and additional landscaping. Front and back walkways, a parking pad and a utility/storage patio that feeds to the alley all feature the pavers. The result is an integrated design which honors



Above: A PeeGee hydrangea tree accents the herringbone driveway. The curved walkway leads to a utility patio at the rear of the property.

the home's heritage and anchors it to a long, narrow lot. "Living in an old historic home, clay pavers seemed to fit in more with the historic aesthetic. A cement paver looked a little too modern," Thomas says.

Southview Design landscape designer Tim Johnson explains pavers offer superior performance over poured concrete for strength and the ability to resist cracking. "The baked-in color of the clay, versus concrete pavers, results in a more authentic color. We created our own

color blend and patterns using four different colors of pavers," Johnson says, noting the use of clay pavers also yielded more accurate color-matching to the home's existing brick.

The little-used playground equipment was removed to make way for a spacious patio, complete with pergola, lending intimacy and privacy. A showpiece fountain, complete with the calming sound of running water, is well-placed on the east side of the backyard, enjoyed from most vantage points including the patio.



The circulating fountain is also heard from the home's second-floor sleeping porch.

Other hardscape elements of the project included replacing the front steps along the street, retaining walls, and a new garage floor. In addition, softscape elements were added such as mature pyramid-shaped arborvitae hedges that line the driveway on the west edge of the property.

The Thomas-Chevalier family is delighted to have more useable outdoor space. Favorites

include the patio and water feature, connected by a paver walkway. "We absolutely love it," Thomas says, adding, "In the past, we had a picnic table out in the grass but didn't use the yard that much. Now, we have a place to barbecue with the family and lounge in the shade while the kids play in the yard."

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Above: Hydrangeas ring the circulating fountain adding color and softness. The fountain is linked to the irrigation system for replenishment.