

## MAKE A SPLASH WITH A WATER FEATURE

Every property can be improved with the addition of a water feature. Not only do they make great conversation pieces, but they can help to create a more tranquil setting in your landscape when you need a place to unwind. Depending on the mood you're after, there are plenty of choices. Consider the following:

### PONDS

With numerous possibilities for adding plants and wildlife, ponds bring a whole new level of interest to the landscape. These versatile water features can be simple or spectacular and come in all shapes and sizes. Keep in mind that if plants or wildlife are to be added, you'll need to consider the type of habitat they require.

### FOUNTAINS

Situated in a pond or self-contained, fountains can provide a simple spray of water or a complex pattern of dancing streams. You can choose from all sorts of designs, including tiered fountains, cascading fountains incorporating statuary, garden wall fountains and even simple pebble fountains.

### WATERFALLS

Moving water is pleasing to both the eye and the ear, and a waterfall can make your property much more relaxing. Preformed waterfalls are available, or customized versions can be constructed using liner fabric, rocks, concrete and a pump.

No matter how big or small your property or your budget, there's a water feature option to suit every taste. Remember...even something as basic as a birdbath can have a big impact!



## A Message from Mark



Dear Valued Client,  
 Summer...one of my favorite times of the year! I really enjoy being outside and seeing the landscape come alive at the height of the season.

When I began Borst Landscape & Design back in 1989, I was going to school at Rutgers University for my degree in landscape architecture. One of the things I was most fond of about landscaping was the creative outlet landscape design provided and the ability to build what I had envisioned. Today, landscape designs are still a love of mine, but over the years I have come to understand and appreciate the importance of *maintaining* a landscape. Our company started out as an exclusive design/build firm but has evolved into the full-service company you know today. Although we still specialize in design/build, we offer all of the services necessary to maintain a great landscape.

We are very proud of our Organic Fertilization Program, our Tree and Shrub Division, and of course our Weekly Yard Maintenance Crews.

Our unique and popular Garden Maintenance Division is a special part of our company. They design, install and maintain annual and perennial gardens, infusing each client's personal landscape with vibrant color, foliage texture and the added benefit of attracting butterflies and birds. It would be hard not to get excited when walking through one of these yards and witnessing all of the beauty!

I hope you enjoy all of the beauty in *your* landscape this summer and, as always, thank you for your support. You can reach me at 201.785.9400, ext. 204 or e-mail me at [mborst@borstlandscape.com](mailto:mborst@borstlandscape.com) to discuss any of the issues mentioned in this letter, to say hello or to talk about your garden.

Sincerely Yours,

*Mark C. Borst*

Mark C. Borst



# Planning the Perfect Patio

Patios make escaping to the great outdoors easy, since all you have to do is step outside!



*A circular layout may be perfect for your needs.*

If you're thinking about installing a new patio, or revamping an existing one, there are many options to choose from in terms of materials and design. There was a time when the word "patio" meant nothing more than a square or rectangular area made of concrete, but that's no longer the case.

## Material Selection

The make-up of your patio can best be determined by the look and feel of your existing landscape. In other words, what will go best with your lawn, garden and home?

Beyond concrete, you may want to consider bricks, stones, tiles, pavers or even gravel. Each of these materials has its own benefits, and each can fit in with a variety of landscape styles. The important thing is to make sure the materials you choose will complement your property rather than contrast it.

## Design Considerations

Once you've chosen the materials, it's time to think about the design of your patio. Among the many points to consider are:

- **Location** – Do you want your patio to be attached to your house, or would you prefer it to be a stand-alone element in your landscape? How much sun exposure do you want? Is the site you've chosen on even ground?
- **Maintenance** – A low-maintenance design that lends itself to easy cleaning will be ideal.
- **Shape** – Think beyond the square and rectangular designs of yesterday. A curved or geometric shape can add more visual appeal to your property and may lend itself to those tricky spots in your landscape.
- **Shelter** – Do you want to include a patio cover or awning for protection from the rain?

Above all else, be sure to take your time and think ahead. By planning carefully, you'll be much happier with the end result! Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

# Personalize Your Place with Creative Options

Architectural additions referred to as hardscape can make open-air spaces come alive. Homeowners now have many unique and creative choices for enhancing their lawns and gardens.

A brick or stone walkway, especially when replacing a too-narrow or treacherous sidewalk, can add beauty and function. Outdoor lighting can make your house numbers easier to spot and extend parties past sundown. A gazebo or fountain can be a lovely focal point. A feeding station to attract your favorite birds and other wild creatures can bring hours of pleasure.

Well-designed architectural elements can also successfully take care of problems like steep slopes or a lack of privacy. Options for retaining walls and fences are abundant.

You can even make changes just for fun. The hot tub is an old favorite, but a new entertainment idea



*Hardscaping can improve the looks and functionality of any property.*

is the chiminea or outdoor fireplace. Chimineas are made of pottery, while outdoor fireplaces are metal, usually cast iron. Both can warm up a chilly evening and provide romantic firelight.

Once they're installed, your new hardscape elements can be blended naturally into the landscape with plants. For example, morning glories or roses can be trained to climb a decorative arbor or trellis. Or, plants and fish can help to make a garden pond come alive.

Whatever the special needs of your property, Borst Landscape & Design can provide a hardscape solution that will add value and enjoyment for years to come. You'll love it! Give us a call today to learn more.

