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DESIGN

INNOVATION IN
AWARDS

Architecture LANDSCAPE
KITCHEN BATH INTERIOR DESIGN



Total Immersion | Donna Christensen of Christensen Landscape Services transformed an outdated and under-utilized backyard and pool area into an attractive gathering space considerate of both the fragile ecosystem and the client's needs. The poolside lighted waterfall (above) creates ambiance that transitions easily from day into night. The invigorating experience from the seat of a submerged stone bench under the waterfall earns high accolades from the client's children. See Resources.

**DONNA
CHRISTENSEN**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
NEIL LANDINO, JR.

SALT SPRAY IS NO CONTEST FOR DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Ditto for beating sun, blistering winds and high seas. Nonplussed by town zoning regulations? No problem. Bordering on a tidal wetland? Got a concrete pool straight out of the '70s? Got nothing standing between you and the neighbors but a rickety arbor on its last gasp? Piece of cake for Christensen Landscape Services.

All those issues and more stood between a Guilford property and sheer bliss, and Christensen Landscape Services tackled the hurdles with aplomb. The pool area went from dated to dramatic despite the fact that zoning regulations demanded the existing grade be maintained. With the help of

locally-acquired stone paving, plus plenty of planting pockets and a liberal seasoning of native plants sensitively selected for their compatibility with the shoreline, a fitting frame was achieved. Thanks to liberally applied lavender, *Sedum saxifragale* and blue fescue, there's a sweeping interlace between ocean and property. And the firm won an enthusiastic high-five from their client's children for the stone bench cossered beneath the sleek, illuminated waterfall they created. As an added bonus, Christensen tackled the privacy issue with a lattice screen that turned an under-utilized area into an oft-frequented niche. The natives furnish fragrance, flowers, bird-appeal and muted color. The landscape is subtle and lush at the same time. All this, and low maintenance as well, spells the seminal weekend retreat.



Private Affair | Cedar lattice screens (above left), punctuated with the backyard entry arbor and gate by Brattle Works, create an unobtrusive and highly sought after sense of privacy. **Seating Plan** | Teak sun loungers from Barlow Tyrie (above) cater to poolside tanning while the nearby expanded pavilion, roomy enough to seat six, provides shaded relief without sacrificing surrounding wetland and water views. **In The Zone** | Carefully chosen native granite paving and coping complement the natural setting while select plant life, including lavender, sedums and blue fescue (left), fill open paving joints to help maintain the required zoning grade. **Jet Stream** | Situated so close to the ocean, the pool's lighted laminar water jets (below) are a well-harnessed interpretation of lively sea spray. See Resources.

