TRIANGLE URBAN

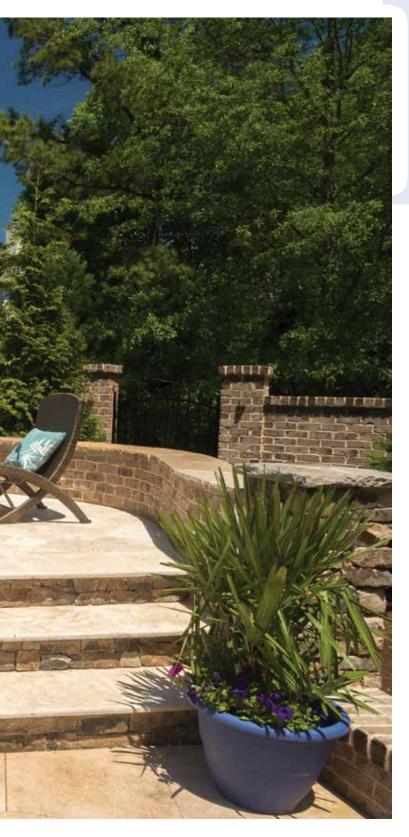


Jim Schmid Photography

OUTDOOR LIVING

"Why not put paradise in our own backyard?" — Eric and Tina Sanchez

By Brandy Snow



ERIC AND TINA SANCHEZ OF CARY were set on buying a beach house. With five children, they wanted an escape where everyone could come together. After a weekend full of soccer games, however, they realized they would never have time to go. "We thought, 'why not put paradise in our own backyard?" said Tina. At that point, the decision was made.

They found the perfect house, but with an easement running through the backyard, they weren't sure if it would accommodate their vision. They called upon Josh Gadbois of Rising Sun Pools who, after a good bit of preliminary research, discovered it would be possible. As they described what paradise meant to them, Gadbois recommended they also call Bill Strope of Old North State Landscape Development. From there, a perfect collaboration was born.

The Sanchez's agree that the end result is better than they had even dreamed. A large pool with multiple water features and attached hot tub serves as the centerpiece of their new paradise. A travertine tile pool deck was extended under an existing screened-in porch, which turned a previously unused space into a shaded seating and dining area. Behind the pool, a fireplace and pergola were constructed, providing a beautiful focal point and favorite hang out spot for the family. A small basketball court and a fully functioning outdoor kitchen were among other additions to their backyard oasis.

"From start to finish, it was fabulous!" says Tina. "Everyone at Rising Sun and Old North State was detail-oriented, meticulous and respectful." When the Sanchez's expressed safety concerns with so many different people coming and going throughout the day, project manager, Strope, reassured the couple by sending text messages every morning explaining whom to expect. "They went the extra mile in every way!"

With 35 years of experience, Bill Strope has seen a transformation in the industry. "Over the years, people have started spending more money in their backyards instead of buying second homes," he explains. "Backyards are becoming extensions of a home's living space." He has also seen changes in his own company, with two sons now in the business. "We are a family business, and enjoy sharing our vision, strengths of quality, attention to detail and integrity with other families."

Josh Gadbois attributes Rising Sun's 42 years in the industry to using good materials, providing a good product and not sacrificing quality. "Keeping labor in-house and having that quality control, we consistently have a product we can stand behind."

For those seeking their own backyard paradise, Gadbois suggests starting out with a wish list. "Even if you can't do it all at once, like the Sanchez's, do as much planning on the front end as possible. A project can be done in phases, but it is much easier if it is planned upfront." Starting with a \$500-\$1000 landscape plan is the basis for mapping out future backyard dreams.◆

For more information on creating your own backyard paradise, contact Rising Sun Pools at 919- 851-9700 or visit them online at www.risingsunpools. com, OR contact Old North State Landscape at 919-384-1800. Visit them online at www.onslandscape.com.