Project Description:

A two-acre property along the Connecticut coastline overlooking a beautiful New England harbor is the setting for this new construction project. Restricted by view easements, the usable parcel was effectively one-acre. The new house serves as the client’s multi-generational summertime retreat with them looking to spend time outside entertaining with family and friends.

Arriving at the property through a narrow access way, the drive opens up at the house with a dramatic “window” view to the harbor beyond. Side yard spaces gracefully cascade down a generous staircase to the rear of the house where the pool and entertaining spaces are located. The pool, being the standout feature, integrates with the dining and entertaining terraces and was detailed with the water level raised to be flush with the terrace creating a glass effect reflecting the structure of adjacent trees. The pool edge allows the permeable synthetic turf and stepping stones to run directly up to the water. A raised spa sits adjacent to the pool with infinity edges that spill over the sides.

The dining terrace sits adjacent to the pool with a full outdoor kitchen with all the amenities. An outdoor lounge terrace cascades down along the infinity edge of the pool and leads to the fire terrace with a glass pool wall serving as the backdrop. A pathway leads through restored native coastal plantings over the seawall and continues to the dock and beach below, completing the experience.
Illustrative Site Plan.
Overall site showing treatment of sensitive shoreline property with the cascading of built forms and preservation of 60” Tulip tree. Masses of native plantings can be seen along the shore and on top of seawall with the view restricted lawn as the “side-yard”.

Landscape Architectural Design - Built Works, Residential Harbor Haven by Wesley Stout Associates
The entry drive purposefully created a “view window” to the harbor beyond, beautifully framed by the 60” Tulip tree. Extensive coordination with arborist and structural engineer to bridge structures over the key root system of this magnificent tree.
Layered plantings present the front of the residence and entry court while buffering the adjacent residence. Selections feature summer colors and textures suited for the shoreline.
House was sited to allow views through to the harbor and Long Island Sound beyond. Entry court leading to the front door was designed by Landscape Architect with custom designed spacers and reclaimed granite cobbles as pervious paving for stormwater filtration.
Overhead view of pool and adjacent terracing seamlessly cascading down from the house and around the pool. Use of glass pool enclosure allows uninterrupted views from every vantage point. Artificial turf surrounds the pool terraces to minimize maintenance, address stormwater filtration and reduce the amount of impervious paving.
The wet edge and stainless steel trough allow the water surface to be flush with the turf and create a mirror-like reflective surface. A complicated pool cover rises from a vault below the pool and automatically provides a safety-cover.
A detail photo of the flush water level seamlessly blending the materials. Gentle, wind driven ripples flow over the reflective surface. Infinity spa spills softly over four sides and into the pool. Glass pool enclosure allows views to adjacent view restricted lawn beyond.
A soft, casual landscape of native and ornamental plantings provides a lush and intimate scale to the front arrival to complement the view-driven landscape of the waterfront.
Stair detail showing full depth stone steps with glass guard and handrail allow uninterrupted views of landscape and harbor alike.
The complexities of design and execution were monumental. The glass corner infinity edge sets the design apart. The raised, flush water level makes the terrace areas appear to float on the surface. To meet setbacks, all the pool equipment is in a vault under the lower terraces.
Masonry details blend with casual plantings enhanced by the use of glass railings with exterior grade finish to effectively minimize maintenance. Planting includes native grasses and pollinators.
The complete outdoor kitchen is the center of activities for all ages. The ample seating counter is a great play for a burger and cold beverage while watching sports on the pop-up television. The massive Tulip tree anchors and provides beneficial shade for the space.
The elongated pool provides a very shallow end for youngsters edged by shallow stepping stones to walk across and adequate length for lap swimming. The pool cover is under the main pool and support equipment in a vault below the furniture.
The raised water level of the pool and spa create highly reflective surfaces that provide dramatic and ever changing effects including spectacular sunsets overlooking the beauty of Long Island Sound.