Located in the wooded terrain of Greenwich, CT, this two-acre site was re-imagined from the rocky ground up. The property was occupied by an older residence which the homeowner chose to remove in favor of a new construction that would better suit their family. Extreme variation in elevation across the property combined with an abundance of challenging, yet beautiful natural resources created an exciting opportunity for the design team – to create an engaging and dynamic experience in the landscape while integrating a new contemporary home with the native character of the land.

A driving force of the design was to respect as many of the existing mature trees on site as possible, such as an incredibly large oak and a triple trunk hemlock – a particular favorite of the family. Other challenges included an abundance of stone outcropping, wetlands that surround half the property, and dramatically sloping topography leaving minimal level area to accommodate the house and pool. It was imperative to work closely with the architectural team in siting the house to preserve and incorporate these existing natural features, thereby reducing the envelope of disturbance. The main wing of the home was oriented parallel to the natural slope of the land – maintaining the existing higher grade on one side and the lower grade on the other. The large glass walls of the contemporary house provided a comprehensive dialog between the interior and the exterior environments. This allowed for unencumbered views of the terraced garden spaces, slender lap pool, native plantings, and existing woodland beyond.
Landscape Architectural Design - Built Works, Residential Woodland Contemporary by Kathryn Herman Design, LLC

1. Pervious Entry Courtyard
2. Blackened Steel Art Piece
3. Native Ferns in Gravel & Moss
4. Reclaimed Boulder
5. Secondary Courtyard
6. Residence
7. Recessed Private Terrace
8. Reclaimed Stone Pool Terrace
9. Elevated Lap Pool
10. Natural Stone Outcropping
11. Raised Fire Feature Terrace
12. Existing Mature Trees

Scale: 0 15' 30' 60'
The entry courtyard is framed by native *Cornus florida* and sheared *Ilex crenata ‘Microphylla’*. Stone paving in the pervious driveway draws visitors toward the entry of the contemporary new home, which sits grounded within a wooded setting.
Visible from the street, a custom art installation made of blackened steel provides visual interest at the front of the house while also lending privacy to the interior spaces beyond.
Native *Dryopteris erythrosora* and *Dennstaedtia punctiloba* are planted in beds of gravel and moss, layered with a rugged boulder reclaimed from the property.
Recessed from the adjacent living room, a private terrace allows for outdoor entertaining which does not interrupt views of the surrounding woods from inside the home.
A collection of native ferns flanks a set of floating black granite steps, illuminated from below with energy efficient LED strip lighting.
Sleek LED path lights constructed of weathering steel compliment the contemporary home while subtly guiding visitors through the wooded landscape.
Mature existing trees such as this massive *Quercus alba* lend age to the garden spaces and architecture, anchoring them into the native landscape.
Elevated above a reclaimed stone terrace, the lap pool in the rear garden is framed by a black granite wall and a collection of native *Rhododendron viscosum* and adapted *Rhododendron schlipprenbachii*. 
The rear garden and pool were deliberately sited to protect and highlight existing natural resources like this extensive stone outcropping, photographed from above.
Used as a veneer on the house, pool, and site walls, black fossil granite serves as an important material link between the architecture and landscape.
Embraced by architectural and natural elements on all sides, the lap pool emits a soft glow at night, activating the rear garden for use after the sun goes down.
To reduce the visual weight of built elements in the landscape, floating granite steps are held aloft by discrete steel supports while safety railings are constructed largely of glass.
An inviting fire feature sits atop an intimate terrace nestled above the rear garden.
Harmony between the contemporary built environment and surrounding woodland is realized through the use of reclaimed materials, native and adapted plant species, and the preservation of natural site resources.