

NARI MINNESOTA  
2023 COTY AWARDS



# *Orono Overlook*

Residential Landscape Design and Outdoor Living Over 250K

The clients built this new home on Lake Minnetonka and hoped for a relaxing space for their family & friends.

Loving the Minimalist and Zen style, they wanted to use timeless and quality materials and have the design speak to group entertaining.

It was important the whole space felt open and airy, yet also allowed for unique spaces that feel connected.



# CLIENT WISH LIST



- Minimalist style
- Open & airy space
- Optimizing the view to the lake
- Different spaces for group entertaining



PLANS





# AESTHETICS



The black paver patio, IPE wood, and Fon du Lac wall materials were specifically selected for complementary colors to the house stone and siding.



Large paver steppers were laid in synthetic turf to add a softer touch to the underdeck area.



BEFORE

AFTER

The front of the home has an incredible view through the doors all the way to the lake so the clients wanted enhance the experience as visitors walked up to the door. The exterior space was also visible from inside through the many surrounding windows. An exterior fireplace was built with the house, so a seat wall was added to create a cozy, intimate seating area.



# FUNCTIONALITY



A hot tub was a necessity for this client and finding the right spot was a challenge! The designer transformed this corner space into a vaulted hot tub with multi-level sitting areas. A storage bench on the left and stadium seating on the right, expand the hot tub space and allow for comfortable group entertaining.





The clients wanted a walk out basement which was very difficult with the existing grade.

By expanding the retaining walls out more to create a sunken area, the clients were able to walk out of the basement doors and right into the space.

It's cozy and functional, yet also allows the view to the lake to be unobstructed.



# CRAFTMANSHIP

- All the carpentry elements were expertly designed for this very specific space.
- The vaulted hot tub was a creative decision made by the designer to utilize the underdeck space and allow for more patio area by the basement doors.
- The steps down from the upper deck area were constructed on top of a concrete wall that supports the wood frame. Each step acts as stadium seating for the hot tub as well as functioning as a way down to the lower lawn.





BEFORE

AFTER





# KEY FEATURES

- Custom curved IPE deck
- Fon du Lac retaining walls
- Techo-Bloc black pavers
- Sunken yard for walk out basement
- Travertine patio
- IPE hot tub vault and bench with storage

An aerial photograph of a modern backyard at dusk. The yard features several interconnected wooden decks. In the upper right, a large deck has a round table with two chairs and a bench with two cushions. Below it, a smaller deck has a dining table with four chairs and a small planter. To the left, a curved deck has a lounge area with a sofa and a fire pit. A garden bed with various plants is visible in the lower right. The house is partially visible on the left side of the image.

# INNOVATION

This bluff lot had major restrictions on how close we could build up to the lakeshore setback as well as how much hardcover we could add. We had to get creative to make these entertaining spaces within hardcover limits and buildable area.



The outline of the sunken entertaining space is the exact boundary of the lake shore setback, so we used every possible inch.

Since decks do not count as hardcover in this municipality, the curved deck is on top of a drainage swale and stormwater drainage area that drains into the lake.

The lower lawn area was graded so that all water runs to the drainage system under the deck instead of visibly pooling in the yard. A creative variation on the standard rain garden!



# ORONO OUTLOOK

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