

**DESIGNER** Pool Craft  
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# COUNTRY Charm

Adding function to an outdoor living space

**T** Clean and sophisticated come to mind when describing the various elements that went into creating this backyard dreamscape in the small community of Queensville, located northeast of Toronto. The project was built for a family living in an upscale area with no immediate neighbours and a sprawling countryside view.

This setting—albeit a vacant lot surrounded by farmland—was ideal for Pool Craft to design and build the perfect space that would appeal to the large family's recreational needs as well as provide a professional atmosphere where the homeowner could entertain clients.

To create this beautiful, open concept outdoor living space, and in working with the backyard's down-sloping hill, the property's grading had to be altered to incorporate various elevations to suit the main features of the design. Two sets of natural stone cascade steps surrounded by garden beds provide access from the house to the pool area, which was built on a lower grade.

The pool, a 6- x 12-m (20- x 40-ft) custom vinyl-lined humpback-kidney design features a raised spill-over spa, and an impressive 3-m (10-ft) slab rock and boulder waterfall built alongside the deep end. The pool's ledge rock and imperial-black coping co-ordinate with the surrounding pool deck, which was built using patio stones with slate-like textures to achieve a cut-stone effect and incorporate four integral deck jets. The patio expands throughout the property comprising a number of retaining walls to create various levels for garden pockets and seating areas. The retaining walls feature a hand-crafted stone finish, providing an antique, weathered feel that was in tune with the contemporary style the homeowner was seeking.

Also located on the patio, mere steps away from the pool, is a fully loaded, open-concept cabana which features a sliding-door entrance, fireplace, TV, stainless steel fridge and stove, granite countertops, and tile flooring.

River rock surrounds the perimeter of the patio which accents the square-cut stone, creating a distinct look between the property's hardscaping and softscaping features. Finally, a set of guillotine limestone steps with a stone-link weathered edge lead to a path around the house.



**SPECIAL DESIGN ELEMENTS**

- Fully loaded cabana
- Spill-over spa
- Large boulder waterfall
- Full automation system

