

Aqua Terra ~ Private Residence Wayne, IL

Tucked away on a gravel road in the sleepy community of Wayne, Illinois is “AquaTerra,” a beautiful home and its splendorous water garden, an organic, aquatic ecosystem. And believe it or not, the house was built to complement the aquatic complex, not the other way around.

Despite the beauty of the house, the acre-sized ecosystem pond is the primary consideration. As proof, the view encountered when you walk in the front door and look out the huge bay window, was intentionally designed to promote the seafaring perception that the house was built on water, not on land.

Three Parts of this Backyard Aquatic Paradise

The aquatic complex is comprised of three parts including the main pond (1,500,000 gallons), a smaller pond (600,000 gallons), and the swimming pool pond (30,000 gallons). All three were constructed in accordance with an organic orientation to pond construction. That is to say, the entire complex was created in such a way that it’s working in harmony with Mother Nature, not against her. Pick a fight with Mother Nature and you lose!

The main pond has two waterfalls, and two skimmers. The secondary pond has three falls, and one skimmer, while the pool area has two falls and one skimmer—and is the only one to feature man-made, molded rock formations.

The Magic Is in the Details

Undoubtedly it’s the sheer size and magnitude of the project that first grabs your attention. But after you get over that initial experience and begin to look at the depth and detail that’s been built into Aqua Terra, you start to recognize all the time and effort that’s gone into the planning and implementation of this veritable aquatic paradise. You’ll see so many things that will absolutely take your breath away.

Continued ...



Aqua Terra ~ continued

Like the Overall Layout and Design

According to Master Designer Ed Beaulieu, there were a number of different things that had to be taken into consideration before the first shovel of dirt was tossed. Owners Greg and Carla Wittstock wanted the water feature, including the cascades, to be visible from a variety of places in their house. Greg also wanted a path to surround the property so visitors could walk around easily, and he could jog or run around it during his daily fitness workouts,” said Beaulieu.

They also had to take the general lay of the land into consideration, along with several big trees

that Greg and Carla wanted to remain intact on the property. And then there was the request for an illusion that the house was built on the water. “This part of the design,” according to Beaulieu, “was particularly tricky because we had to deal with the water freezing and thawing, while disguising the liner at the same time. We used over 350 tons of stone alone on this project,” Beaulieu said.



Attention to Details

Aqua Terra features over 30 different types of pine trees, 30 large trees, and 500 different types of plants in a full four acres of botanic garden, including terrestrial and aquatic plants. Aiming to surround the three ponds with prairie plants native to Northern Illinois, they planted Big Blue Stem, Indian Grass, Prairie Drop Seed, and Coneflower, along with 300 yards of mulch, and the world’s largest Jedelloh Austrian Pine. Inside the pond there are over 75 types of aquatic plants, ranging from Aquatic Mint to Zebra Tails.

All the water in the main 13-foot deep, 1.5 million gallon pond is filtered through the waterfalls and a bog. The bog also serves as a giant biological filter, with plants absorbing nutrition and bacteria naturally breaking down debris of various types.

The vision and details for this stunning water feature were carefully planned by the homeowners. And it’s no wonder. Greg Wittstock is the founder and CEO of Aquascape, Inc, North America’s largest water gardening company and inventor of the low-maintenance ecosystem pond, and wife Carla is president of the Aquascape Foundation, the non-profit arm of the company whose mission is to provide clean drinking water to impoverished areas. More information about Aquascape is available at www.aquascapeinc.com and additional information about the Foundation can be found at www.aquascapefoundation.org.