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Homes F13

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FIREPLACE ADDS FLASH to backyard setting

Elevates landscape with stunning effect



MEFERTITI BERGEN

There are many options for outdoor fireplaces. Belgard fireplaces, such as this Brighton model, are equipped with a stainless steel fire box and flue. Smoke goes up, not out. A chicken coop, complete with cupola and window boxes, forms a unique and delightful backdrop in this Winnipeg-area landscape. Above, it's all in the details when it comes to tying in an existing landscape with a new addition. The newly applied stone veneer on this existing half wall that separates the pool area from the newly developed conversation area echoes the stone materials used by JD Interlock & Landscapes in the new patio and raised bed.



BELGARD

Outdoor fireplaces are available in many styles from rustic to contemporary. Choose from a range of options including wood boxes for an authentic design that will complement your outdoor living space. Outdoor fireplaces can be enjoyed year round, no matter the climate.

FOR landscape designer Colleen Watson, fall is one of the most exhilarating times of the year. The same goes for many homeowners, too.

What's driving them? Backyard projects that are nearing completion.

On crisp fall days when temperatures are in single digits more days than not, Watson has all the incentive she needs to add the finishing touches to outdoor projects. While every project is unique, bearing as it does the stamp of ingenuity and inspiration that each individual homeowner and landscape designer brings to it, there is always a project that raises the bar and sets a new standard.

When Watson, of Watson Designs in Landscaping, sat down to discuss ideas with homeowner Maggie McNaught, the plan was to incorporate a variety of landscaping elements into a largely undeveloped part of McNaught's landscape.



COLLEEN
ZACHARIAS
GARDENING

Zoned as limited agricultural but only minutes away from shopping and city services, McNaught has lived at her current residence for close to 27 years. The surrounding landscape is well-developed with mature trees and shrubs and includes an in-ground pool.

The entrance to the backyard, though, opened onto an unimaginative grassy area and was in need of a makeover.

As so often happens, the renovation began with the removal of some mature trees that were no longer thriving, opening up the area and creating a blank slate with loads of potential.

Framed by the sprawling canopy of a healthy mature crabapple tree and an unobstructed view of sunsets, the area is flanked on one side by the pool and its surrounding concrete patio and on the other side by a garage-sized shed.

Viewed from the house, that all-important vantage point when planning any landscape project, the main focal points at the start of the project consisted of the pool and, in the distance, a barn and a delightfully original chicken coop complete with cupola and window boxes.

McNaught envisioned a patio area for entertaining and a new use for the large shed, converting it into a heated, functional structure in which to overwinter her collection of tender shrubs and tropical plants.

It was her request, though, for a fire pit and a pergola that set the amazing transformation of McNaught's landscape into motion.

Continued
Please see **FIREPLACES F14**