

Viewfinder

Like any great photographer looking to maximize the shot, a homeowner looking to make the place he calls home the best it can be must think — and see — outside of the box. You literally must look beyond the box of your property's boundaries. When it's yours, your eye often stops at your property line. A longer view, however, enables you to create the best possible visual and living environment on your footprint.

What can, and should, be enhanced? What can, and should, be concealed? Both questions are essential. The right answers will make all the difference, according to Reynolds Landscaping in Manahawkin. Yes, you may have a bay or the ocean right there in your own backyard, but if you don't take advantage of that feature, you're losing out. Conversely, do you really want the neighbor's house to be a focal point of your home life? The details come in terms of plant materials, landform elements, tonal contrasts, orientation, screening techniques, placement of furniture, and many other elements. Shadow and light, texture, movement, scent, and sound, all play a role here, too.

To start with, however, you need someone with a design eye sensitive to the longer view.

Reynolds Landscaping is a true "viewfinder." Their eye is trained to see both the long view (beyond your property's boundaries) and the short view (within). They know how to take advantage of the borrowed landscape (of sky and ocean, the dock in the distance, the glint of sunlight on saltwater); they know how to create privacy; they know how to set the stage for those parties. Equally important, they also know how to hide the undesirable — from electrical pumps to the neighbor's driveway.

When you look up and out, the world is always there. It's vital that you make sure you have the best of it in your sightline. —*Annaliese Jakimides*



Travertine-tiled sitting area with natural stone firepit has been designed and positioned to take full advantage of expansive bay front views. Photo Copyright Tanek Hood



Custom-built cedar screen creates aesthetic accent to backyard patio while screening hot tub from adjacent property. Photo Copyright John Martinelli



Setting sun viewed from an elevated spa - open views along the lagoon and overlooking the pool and dining area. Photo Copyright John Martinelli