

## **ADVERTORIAL**

### **Going All Out**

#### **A Home With Hardscaping Fit for a Show House**

A French country villa was created for the 2006 Virtua Hospital Foundation's designer show house. Departing from the tradition of using a vintage home, the Foundation accepted the opportunity to use this newly-constructed 18,000-square-foot mansion for its latest show house fundraiser.

William and Linda Burris, long-time Moorestown residents, had begun building their dream home less than a mile from their current home, when they heard the Foundation was looking for a venue for the show house event. William, a builder and local businessman, offered his new home which was still under construction. **Foundation volunteers secured the donated services of 16 talented interior and landscape designers to transform the 21-room, eight bath estate** into the lavishly appointed designer show house, christened "Whittington" by the homeowners.

While interior designers were busy collaborating with Linda on themes and color palettes for the interior spaces, Bill worked with landscape designers to create a landscape setting which would be integral with the architecture of the French-country inspired residence. It was critical that outdoor spaces, which included a grand entrance court, parking court, swimming pool, terraces and tennis court, all be designed to fit logically on the relatively compact lot. Moreover, the spaces needed to relate to the home's ambiance and architectural style. Concrete pavers were initially selected by the homeowner to build all the hardscaped surfaces.

#### **Hardscaping Needed in a Flash**

Meanwhile, Architectural Concrete Design (ACD) was contacted by one of the Foundation volunteers to consult on the pool terrace. Bill was so impressed with ACD's presentation, portfolio and reputation, that he decided to work with the company on all the hardscapes throughout the property.

ACD was faced with quite a challenge: a substantial pavement project of 8,400-square-feet would need to be completed start to finish within 2 weeks. It was imperative that the work occur quickly once the lot was prepared by finish graders, as the carpenters, painters, muralists and interior designers would need to have full access to the home to complete their work in time for the grand opening.

The bar had been raised. Steve Groch, designer, and Jeff Jordan, project supervisor, both of ACD, met immediately with Bill onsite to discuss the project installation logistics as well as pattern and color selections. Soon the ACD team was in high gear with a team of 12 concrete artisans, working morning to night to keep the project on schedule.

With unpredictable March weather always a potential schedule breaker in the concrete industry, the ACD team kept their fingers crossed and forged ahead. Set-up crews were followed by pour teams and the project quickly started to take shape. In no time, a grand circular driveway led to a cobblestone patterned parking court which led to a covered dining terrace and sunny pool deck. Front and side porches and a second-floor balcony off the master suite were finished days ahead of the target deadline.

Within a short 2-week period, the raw earth surrounding Whittington had been paved with rich patterns and textures worthy of a proper French chateau.

ACD designers selected a classic random flagstone pattern for the pool terrace, porches and front entry, and coordinated these areas by repeating the warm tan and terra cotta colors found in the stone and brick facades of the home. The elegant driveway and parking courts employ two patterns: old-world cobblestone and a European fan cobble design.

Radiating from a central planting island, the fan pattern is framed by delicately curving cobble borders. The same paving pattern that graces the Champs Elysee in Paris seemed fitting for the stately Whittington.

Visitors have been continually surprised and delighted to discover that all of these expensive paving materials were skillfully mimicked with concrete.

Although concrete has been a construction and paving staple for ages, the introduction of scientifically-engineered color hardeners, antiquing releases and sealers have taken concrete to new levels of design flexibility and aesthetics. **Limitless combinations of pattern, texture and color have made decorative concrete the material of choice for architects, landscape architects and interior designers.**

State-of-the-art stamping tools enable ACD to recreate the look of fieldstone, bluestone, tile, brick, wood and many other natural materials. Other techniques such as exposed aggregate and hand-floated colored concrete work well in contemporary and commercial settings. With such versatility, it's no wonder decorative concrete is used more every year.

### **An Industry Leader**

ACD has been a leader in the concrete industry since its inception in 1993. Now one of the largest installers of architectural concrete in the country, ACD has become a recognized and trusted name in the business.

With a passion for creativity and integrity in all the work his company builds, Chris McMahan, owner, ACD, maintains his commitment to the industry, speaking at industry meetings and trade shows, developing new technology and participating in consultative and educational forums that promote architectural concrete nationwide. Over the year, his company, which has installed more than 5 million square feet of decorative concrete, has developed an amazing installation capability, having produced more than 100,000 square feet in each of several months in 2007.

“The benefit of this track record to our average residential client is the experience that goes into each project,” McMahan says. “Our men are well trained and they bring a level of expertise to each installation which can only be gained from years of on the job experience.”

Each ACD technician has a specialized function in the construction of each project: set-up teams build formwork, pour crews lay the concrete, color and stamp it and finish experts return a few days later to detail the installation, buffing down rough spots and touching up color, often on their hands and knees, before applying the final sealer.

The result is consistent, predictable quality and a beautiful, durable product which will withstand the test of time. With minimal maintenance, the concrete surfaces will perform beautifully in the face of heavy use, vehicular traffic and relentless weather.

Visit the company's Web site at  
[www.architecturalconcretedesign.com](http://www.architecturalconcretedesign.com) for more information.

#### Quotes

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