

DESIGNoUTSIDE



WELCOME IN

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About Design Outside



We design and build landscapes that connect our clients to the places they live, work, and play.

Design Outside is a landscape architecture design build studio based in bucolic Westport, Massachusetts. We elevate outdoor living projects with a seamless design and construction process, all managed by one trusted team. Our goal is to create landscapes that will thrive and stand the test of time for our clients.

We transform your vision into a stunning reality, combining artistry, craft, precision, and meticulous care. From the first sketch to the final tree planting and the glow of landscape lighting, we're with you every step of the way, ensuring every detail exceeds your expectations.

Design Services



Comprehensive Landscape Master Planning

Transforming visions into full-property outdoor experiences.

Site Analysis and Concept Development

Evaluating every element of your land to unlock its true potential.

Hardscape and Garden Structure Design

Creating beautiful, functional outdoor living spaces that anchors your landscape.

Custom Pool and Water Feature Design

Designing pools, spas, and water features that feel timeless and tailored.

Outdoor Lighting Design

Illuminating spaces with artistry, safety, and atmosphere in mind.

Planting Design and Horticultural Consultation

Crafting layered, sustainable planting palettes that thrive and inspire.

Environmental Restoration and Native Landscapes

Merging beauty with ecological responsibility through expert native design.

Construction Documentation and Permitting Assistance

Simplifying complex approvals with detailed plans and full support.

Collaborative Design Coordination with Architects and Engineers

Seamlessly integrating landscapes with broader architectural and engineering visions.

Construction Services



Complete Project Management and Site Supervision

Delivering precise, professional builds — from groundbreaking to final walkthrough.

Hardscape Installation (Patios, Walls, Driveways, Outdoor Kitchens)

Crafting enduring outdoor surfaces and structures with artisanal skill.

Pool and Spa Construction

Building water features that blend luxury, function, and natural beauty.

Custom Garden Structures (Pergolas, Pavilions, Cabanas)

Constructing bespoke outdoor spaces for gathering, dining, and relaxing.

Outdoor Lighting Systems Installation

Bringing outdoor spaces to life after sunset with thoughtful lighting.

Fine Grading, Drainage, and Irrigation Systems

Laying the groundwork for a resilient, healthy, and long-lasting landscape.

Soil Preparation and Large-Scale Planting Installation

Ensuring plants and trees thrive from day one with expert preparation.

Environmental Restoration Construction (Coastal, Woodland, Wetland Projects)

Executing sensitive restorations that restore balance and beauty.

Coordination with Specialized Trade Partners and Subcontractors

Orchestrating the finest craftsmanship across every project element.

Project Aftercare Services



Seasonal Landscape Stewardship and Fine Gardening

Preserving and enhancing the beauty of your property through every season.

Plant Health Care and Monitoring

Protecting your landscape investment with proactive, expert care.

Outdoor Lighting Maintenance and Upgrades

Keeping your property beautifully and safely illuminated year-round.

Irrigation System Management and Winterization

Ensuring smart water use and system health through expert oversight.

Seasonal Color Enhancements (Annuals, Bulbs, Planters)

Adding dynamic color and life to landscapes with fresh, curated plantings.

Pool and Water Feature Opening, Closing, and Maintenance

Maintaining the clarity, health, and beauty of your water features year-round.

Storm Recovery and Landscape Repairs

Responding quickly to restore landscapes after severe weather events.

Long-Term Landscape Evolution Planning

Helping landscapes mature gracefully with expert, forward-looking care.

Client Estate Management Coordination

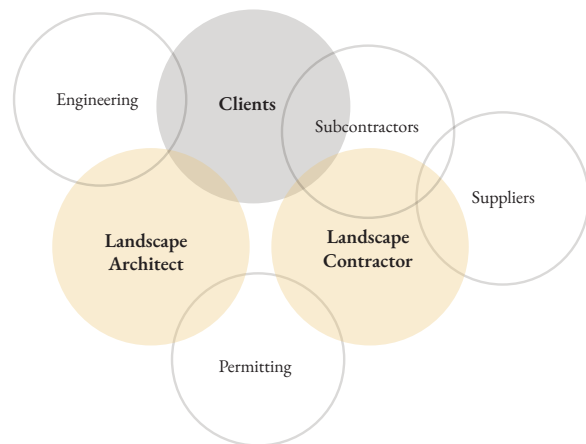
Collaborating with property managers for seamless, full-service landscape care.

How Design Build Works

We practice a collaborative Design Build process, engaging clients, contractors, and allied trades in the creation of landscapes that embody timeless qualities of beauty, craft and construction.

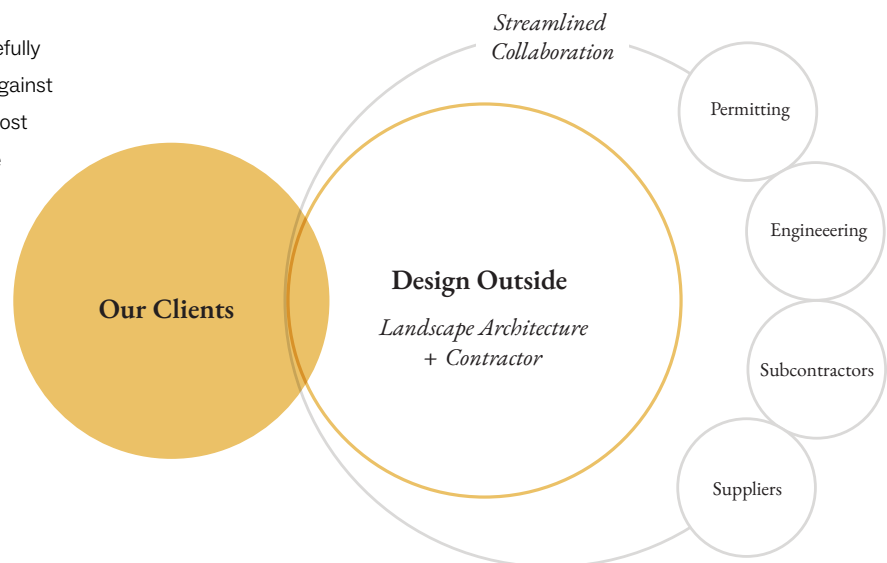
CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION APPROACH

The conventional approach has inefficient lines of communication across many project leads. Our process reduces overlapping efforts, miscommunications and delays to ensure faster timelines, controlled costs, and seamless execution.



OUR DESIGN BUILD APPROACH

Every design decision is carefully considered and measured against budget, goals and lifecycle cost to arrive at the best possible outcome for our clients.



Our Process

Our design/build process centers on clear communication and productive collaboration ensuring a seamless journey from concept to completion, resulting in a beautifully crafted, ecologically vital landscape tailored to your vision.

From initial meeting through completion, this is how we guide your project:

- **Discovery**
- **Site Analysis**
- **Schematic Design**
- **Design Development**
- **Construction Documentation**
- **Construction Implementation**
- **Project Management**
- **Construction Closeout**



Our Process *continued*

Design Outside's comprehensive approach combines collaboration and communication with creativity, expertise, and attention to detail, to create a landscape that enhances your outdoor living experience for years to come.

Discovery

Most of our projects begin with an initial discovery call followed by a visit to your property where we discuss your project and find out more about your goals and aspirations for your property. This is where we get to know each other and decide if we are a good fit.

Site Analysis

Every project begins with a comprehensive site analysis.

- Design Outside team members conduct a thorough examination of existing conditions and site characteristics including topography, environmental constraints, existing vegetation and plant communities, the siting of existing buildings, and solar exposure and prevailing winds.
- We will also look at regulatory constraints and land use regulations which may impact any proposed design interventions.

Schematic Design

During Schematic Design (SD) we develop preliminary design concepts which explore the layout of programmatic elements and present the big ideas which will guide the project throughout the entire process.

- This phase generally unfolds over several meetings as we work with our clients to define the project's direction.
- This phase culminates in a final Master Plan which unites aesthetic, functional, and ecological considerations to create a cohesive vision for your project.

Our Process *continued*

Design Development

During Design Development (or DD) we create detailed plans, sections and construction details including layout, planting designs, material selections, and amenity specifications. These documents help to define costs, clarify design intent and further align the design with project goals.

- We will also coordinate with any necessary engineering or specialty consultants for specific elements. These may include structural engineers, pool and fountain consultants or lighting designers.
- We will prepare a budgeting estimate to ensure the project scope matches your investment goals.

Construction Documentation

- During the construction document phase we create finalized measured drawings and specifications which communicate every step of the construction process with clarity and precision.
- Detailed timeline and project schedule preparation.
- At the end of construction documentation we present a final construction proposal outlining all costs to build your project.

Construction Implementation

- Our skilled team begins transforming your outdoor space, starting with site prep including demolition, rough grading and clearing of undesirable vegetation.
- Drainage and utility infrastructure is coordinated with the location of other site elements and installed to avoid conflicts and ease of access if needed.
- We carefully install hardscapes and structures, such as patios, walkways, walls, pools and pergolas, followed by planting and finishing touches.
- Additional systems like irrigation and lighting are seamlessly integrated to enhance your experience of your landscape.

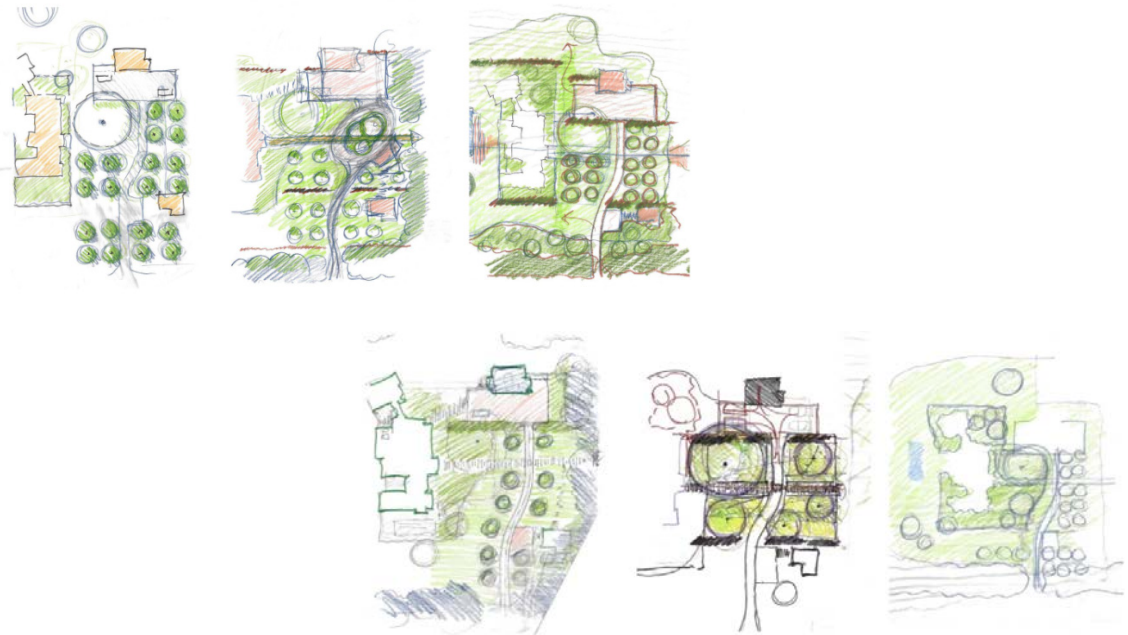
Our Process *continued*

Project Management

- Throughout the construction phase, we maintain clear communication and provide regular updates on progress and schedule.
- Our team oversees every detail, ensuring the implementation aligns seamlessly with the approved design.
- In almost every project unforeseen conditions arise. These challenges are addressed promptly, and solutions are developed and executed to uphold the quality and integrity of the project.

Construction Closeout

- Final walkthrough to review the completed project and address any remaining details.
- Delivery of a care plan to guide you in maintaining your new landscape.
- Post-project support for any questions or adjustments you may need.



Related Projects



West Pond House

Charleston, RI

Project Team

Estes Twombly + Tittington Architects,
Landscape Creations of Rhode Island
Carson Granville Builders
Warren Jogger Photography

Awards

RI Monthly First Place
New Construction

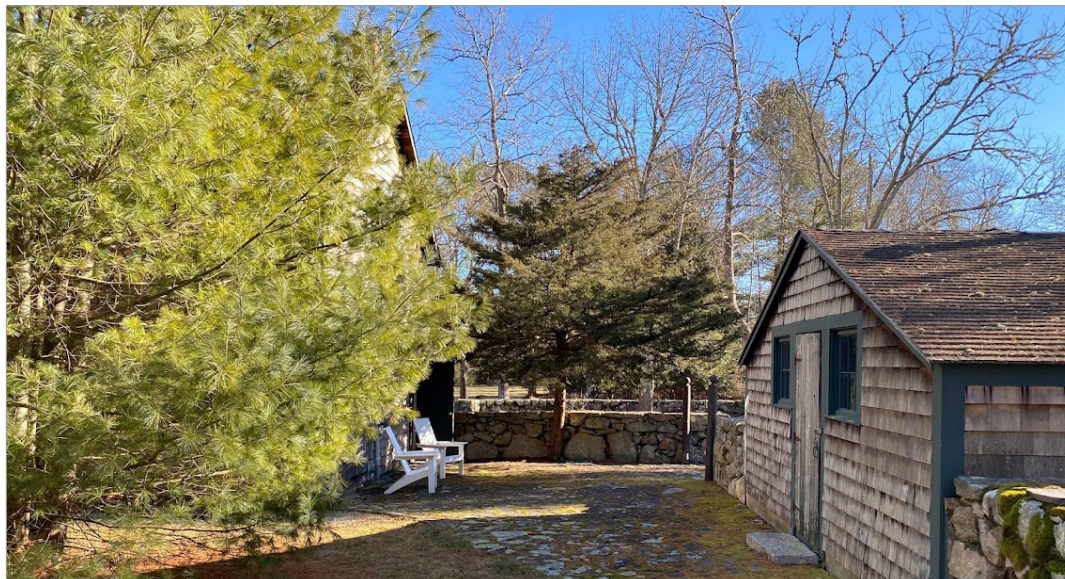
Project Details

The owners of this finely crafted home in Westport's scenic Acoaxet Point were looking to revitalize the landscape and grounds of their cherished family home. Through the site analysis and design process, Design Outside worked with the client to clarify the main design issues including the need to strengthen the indoor/outdoor connections of the house through thoughtful interventions to the existing planting material, site circulation, and outdoor gathering spaces.



“Design Outside did an excellent job planning and creating landscaping for our new home. We had a small lot but were hoping for spaces to eat and relax outdoors, to create privacy from our neighbors on both sides, and to have some grass and plantings, and to extend the feeling of the house. Design Outside delivered all of it. Now that it is completed, everything looks effortless, as though there could be no other way to configure the space, yet it’s clear it has been rigorously planned.” — **Kathy Hansen**

Related Projects



Over the Garden Wall

South Dartmouth, MA

Project Team

William Gesner Builders
Sisson Brothers

Project Details

Anchored by the rhythm of stone and the softness of native plantings, this coastal landscape invites a timeless dialogue between site and home. Framed by sweeping stone walls — both historic and newly crafted — the design shapes a series of outdoor rooms that feel both intimate and expansive, grounded yet open to the horizon.



“It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience working with Dennis and Tim on our landscaping project. They have hung in there through an arduous, years-long planning process, maintaining a positive attitude throughout, and proving to be exceptionally creative and flexible with their designs. Their work is high-quality, thoughtful, detail-oriented, and beautiful. As a team, they are responsive, kind, and professional. Additionally, I know that I can trust their eye and knowledge of landscape design implicitly. I hope to have the opportunity to work with them on more projects in the future!” — **Jamen Howe**

Related Projects



Waterfront Historic District Garden

Warren, RI

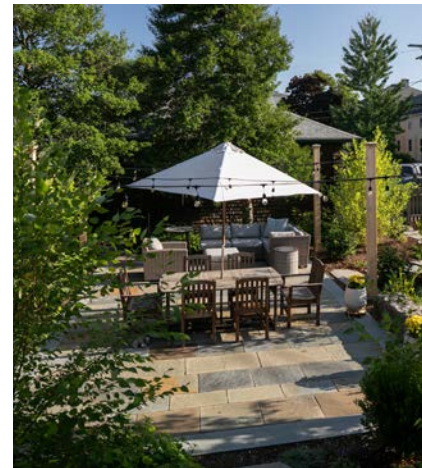
Project Team

Anthony Crisfulli
Photography

Project Details

Nestled in the heart of the waterfront historic district in Warren, the landscape design for this finely detailed arts and crafts style home provides a dynamic outdoor living space for a young and active family to enjoy. The new terraces, walkways and gardens activate the space with lush plantings and multiple outdoor rooms to move through. A thoughtful proportioned dining terrace of natural cleft bluestone provides an area to grill and entertain. A casual landing sits on the edge of the garden, providing a place to sit and view passersby and the surrounding historic downtown context.

“Design Outside is simply amazing. They are talented designers that listen to your needs, then, if you want, they can guide you through the construction process. We do not have a large backyard and while we love the outdoors, we did not spend much time in our yard at home. That was, until Design Outside transformed our property into an outdoor experience. Now, we have two outdoor areas for dining and lounging. I know it sounds melodramatic, but Design Outside changed our lifestyle. I really cannot say enough good things about this firm. They are friendly, kind people and remarkably talented designers.” —**Steve and Miriam Duvel**



Related Projects



The Field House

Westport, MA

Project Team

Studio Hearth Architectcs
Jacob Talbot Fine Home Builders
Anthony Crisfulli Photography

Project Details

As part of a larger family estate situated along the East Branch of the Westport River, a newly designed home is thoughtfully sited on the edge of a wildflower meadow and oak woodland. Outdoor living spaces are designed to feel like an extension of the interior, allowing for gathering and entertaining while having uninterrupted views into the landscape. A crisp bluestone dining and food prep terrace extends from the kitchen to the southern woodland edge, allowing for evening dining in dappled shade. A meandering collection of reclaimed granite slabs create a simple and direct walkway that slips between the house and the wildflower meadow beyond. A subtle expansion of paving provides a lovely spot to sit and look out at the natural beauty and bounty of native wildflowers, bugs, birds, and bees move throughout the site.



Related Projects



Dartmouth Farm House

South Dartmouth, MA

Project Team

Charles Meyer & Partners
Lima Construction
Anthony Crisfulli Photography

Project Details

A thoughtful renovation to a historic home in South Dartmouth presented a unique opportunity to create a landscape that responds to the character and charm of the home as well as the beauty and topographic features of the site. The site context and arrival sequence of weaving through acres of woodland, vineyards, and remnant stonewalls calls for a landscape design that feels timeless and grounded. The result is a terraced landscape of expertly crafted native fieldstone walls, a natural cleft bluestone terrace, and reclaimed granite steps throughout. Native plantings enclose outdoor living spaces and stepping stone paths throughout the site. The organization of plantings, pathways, and gathering spaces create ample opportunities for entertaining and gathering while feeling connected to the surrounding landscape.



Meet the Team

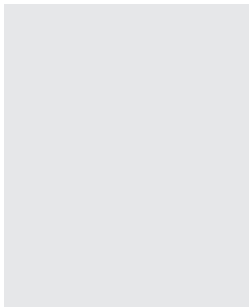
Design Outside is made of talented designers and experienced builders. We share a passion for developing meaningful connections with our clients and collaborators through the design and construction of timeless landscapes.



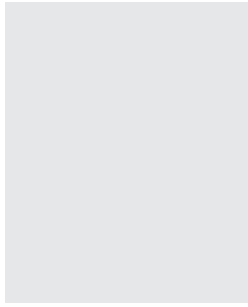
Tim Brown, RLA
Principal



Dennis Staton
Principal



Nick Danner
Project Coordinator



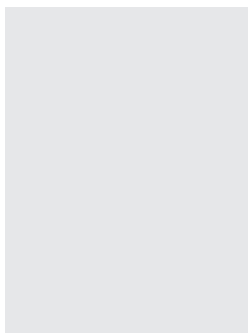
Evan Davenport
Senior Associate



Emily Humphrey
Senior Associate



Ashley Pederson
Landscape Designer



Rick Wing
Construction Operations Lead

Our Leadership



Tim Brown
Principal

tim@designoutside.com

Tim is a maker at heart and finds inspiration in the materials and processes involved in turning an idea into built reality.

He believes the designed landscape has the power to be a grounding force in a world that is becoming increasingly complex to comprehend and navigate. He especially appreciates its ability to put us in closer touch with our essential humanness, namely our capacity for wonder and awe about the world around us. Tim works to conceive thoughtful and meaningful projects where the synthesis of plan, detail, material, and form result in a unified and legible composition. He strives to create places that make people's lives and the environment better.

Over the last twenty years, Tim has worked in many areas of the industry from small-scale garden building to large-scale land planning and various places in between. Most recently, he worked managing complex design and construction projects for a high-end landscape contractor in Massachusetts.

Tim has a Master of Landscape Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Rhode Island. He is a CLARB-certified landscape architect and is a registered landscape architect in Rhode Island.

Our Leadership



Dennis Staton
Principal

dennis@designoutside.com

Dennis is passionate about crafting meaningful experiences through landscape design and construction.

He finds joy in working closely with clients to create outdoor spaces that reinforce their connection to home, nature, and outdoor living. A hands-on leader, Dennis is equally engaged in the design studio with his colleagues and on-site with skilled craftspeople, ensuring each garden and outdoor space is thoughtfully executed.

Dennis' passion for the outdoors stems from his experiences exploring the varied landscapes of Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts. After working in the field at his father's landscape construction company, Dennis pursued the field of landscape architecture to strengthen his connection between design thinking, horticulture, and the built environment.

Dennis earned his Master of Landscape Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design, where he was honored with the Dan Tuttle Endowed Scholarship Award for Design Excellence. He has contributed to academia as a faculty member, teaching Foundation Design and Capstone Studios in the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Rhode Island. Additionally, he has served as a Specialty Thesis Advisor in the Interior Architecture Department and as a Visiting Critic in the Landscape Architecture Department at RISD.

Before founding Design Outside, Dennis held senior design roles at several award-winning firms, including Leblanc Jones Landscape Architects, TL Studio. He is a registered landscape architect in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Get in Touch



We'd love to meet in person to discuss a project you have in mind, or schedule a consultation over the phone. We specialize in projects across all seasons in New England and beyond.

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