

## ULTIMATE BACKYARD



### SMOKING HOT! MOM'S LANDSCAPING & DESIGN, LLC.

This Eden Prairie home offers a wonderful view and direct access to Rice Marsh Lake. The homeowners wanted to give their backyard an Italian-style upgrade that includes tiers of separate patio areas. The attached wood deck off the second story of the home was the only existing amenity, says Jim Sweeney, founder and senior designer at Mom's Landscaping & Design, who helped design and build the new backyard. The renovation started by replacing the wood deck with a new stone terrace that overlooks the gardens and the beautiful vista of the lake. This terrace steps down a few feet to a second upper-level deck made of tropical hardwood for richness and contrast.

A curved, wrought iron railing adds an old world charm, and a spiral stairway leads down to a grade-level stone deck, partially bordered by a Chilton flagstone sitting wall, which gives this terrace the feel of an "outdoor room" while also allowing extra seating space. This deck offers plenty of room for lounging with lakeside views or sitting by the gas firepit.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of this new landscape is an outdoor "cigar lounge," a small Chilton flagstone patio with wood-burning firepit just steps from the lake. "This cigar lounge offers an intimate place where people can gather to enjoy conversation with a view and perhaps a nice drink and cigar," says Sweeney.

