

DREAM

Homes

SUMMER 2007

DREAM BACKYARDS

Behind every great house is a great backyard

HIGH-RISE LIVING

Chicago penthouse offers the finer things in life

BACKYARD BEAUTY



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Landscape architect Pete Wodarz still remembers the first time he stood on a bluff on Egandale Drive three years ago, gazing at a breathtaking view of Lake Michigan.

It's not just a million dollar view, it's a multi-million dollar view, he thought.

But the poor landscape design between the expansive Highland Park home and Lake Michigan left much to be desired.

Worse, the view of the lake from inside the home was obstructed by a deck and railing.

"They had a multi-million dollar view they really hadn't taken advantage of," said Wodarz, owner of Wheeling-based Milieu Design, Inc. "My goal was to unlock the asset that is Lake Michigan."

Over the course of four



The view of Lake Michigan from the backyard of this Highland Park home, left, is breathtaking. The homeowner worked with landscape architect Pete Wodarz, owner of Milieu Design, Inc., to maximize the view by pushing the landscaping to both corners of the property so as to not distract from the view.

Perfectly manicured hedges, right, frame the pool and the elevated deck area, while potted flowers add color to this magnificent outdoor space.

This unique hedge pattern, below, draws the eye to a small fountain, which is the focal point of this English garden area.



months, he did, transforming the backyard into a stunning showpiece.

To maximize the property's magnificent view, Wodarz framed the lake view perfectly by cutting away overgrown brush maximizing the height of the trees.

Other landscaping was pushed to both corners of the property so as not to distract from the lake view.

"Now they have an unobstructed view of Lake Michigan that also makes a bold statement from the inside," Wodarz said.

Although the view is the fo-

cal point of this North Shore backyard, this outdoor area has a newly designed pool, two terraces and a multi-level poolside patio entertaining space.

"The pool's location was meticulously placed to give swimmers the illusion that they're swimming in the lake," Wodarz said. "The view really pulls you out into Lake Michigan."

FROM SOYBEANS TO SPLENDOR IN ST. CHARLES

On what used to be acres and acres of suburban farmland, now lies one of Chicago's most spectacular backyards secluded among the trees and

