

BROCCOLO TREE & LAWN CARE, INC.

DESIGNNY
TAKES AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT



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Older, time-experienced landscapes and hardscapes have an intuitive elegance about them. Age allows them to settle and develop a composure that feels effortless and inviting. Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care creates environments that have this appearance from day one. This skill requires a high level of engineering along with a deep knowledge of micro-environments and plantings.

"We excel at creating a natural stone look," says Laurie Broccolo, owner of Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care. Two recent projects highlight this talent. The homeowner wanted an Old World stone stairway. Broccolo achieved the impossible by using large cobbles and installing them on a steep slope to absolutely perfect, uniform levels that meet safety codes and provide a comfortable walking pace. The stairs are a dimensional flagstone. Cobbles were chipped and chiseled so the flagstone could be set at an angle that feels flat to pedestrians but effectively sheds water. Plantings cascade naturally along the cobbles. The overall look is clean, uniform, and geometrical but with a softened, aged appearance.

The other project is a raised, natural flagstone porch built off the front door of the house. "One of our goals was to make it feel as if this porch had been there all along. Nothing brand new or

squeaky clean," explains Broccolo. Edges were intentionally left a little rough with a few gaps where low growing moss and fragrant thymes could grow. The homeowner steps out onto a landing that comfortably accommodates social gatherings and the homeowner's three beloved shepherds. Because of the height, Broccolo installed walls for safety but made them sitting walls. These mortared walls appear to be dry stacked. The natural, irregular flagstone also extends in a ramped walkway.

Set in woodland surroundings, the porch is anchored by two huge trees and no grass. Broccolo created a garden that mimics walking out into the woods. Recognizing and using the many nuanced micro-environments, Broccolo selected plantings that provide flowers, texture, and colors from early spring through late autumn. **DESIGNNY**

