

Lily Lake Residence

Dalton, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Set amidst the rolling hills and valleys of northeastern Pennsylvania, the 88-acre Lily Lake Residence sits on old agricultural land. Two buildings existed on the site: a stone house built in the 1800s sat in the valley near an old stone wall and a 1970s colonial sat atop the highest point of the property. During the land's agricultural use, a wetland was drained and filled with soil to create more fertile land for crops. Unfortunately, this raised field destroyed the wetland ecosystem suitable for many native plant and animal species and interrupted natural drainage patterns, causing flooding and erosion in different areas.

New owners purchased the property and envisioned a sustainable landscape aligned with the historic, natural beauty of the site. The owners hoped to utilize the preexisting resources of the site during the re-development to decrease waste and integrate new structures into the natural landscape. At first glance, the top of the hill appeared to be the best location for the house for its scenic views. But upon further analysis, landscape architects advocated the house be placed in the valley to harness the site's historical character and natural beauty. This placement allowed the new home to expand on the nineteenth century stone house, which fit beautifully into the landscape. Connected by a glass walkway, the old, stone house acts as an entryway to the modern, grand estate. Mature preexisting trees, located throughout the valley and hills of the site, tower over the residence, providing shade and cooling to the house during the hot summer months. The 1970s colonial house was cleared and replaced with a memorial grove.

Sustainable stormwater management systems are layered throughout the site to decrease flooding and reuse water for site maintenance. By restoring the natural grades of the land, rain water now collects in a pond on the south side of the new estate. The pond prevents flooding in other areas of the site and reintroduces an aquatic ecosystem that had long been

destroyed. Light reflects off the pond, providing the owners with breathtaking views both in day and in night. A series of stone step pools control overflow from the pond. Rainwater now travels seamlessly through the site. The gutterless roof allows rain water to flow into gravel filtration beds around the house, replenishing pond water or irrigating native plants. This technique saves runoff from entering conventional storm drains, reducing infrastructure costs and flooding risks.

The development of this site utilized the vegetation and resources already available on the land. The pond, additional stonewalls and new house were designed to fit around the existing trees. Stone for the walls and pools was found on-site, preventing needed shipments of heavy construction materials.

Project Resources

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd.
Michael Vergason, FASLA, *Principal in Charge*;
Donald Partlan, *Project Manager*; Trisha Rubenstein

ARCHITECT

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Peter Bohlin; Todd R. Howard

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Kalinosky Landscaping, Inc.
Joseph Kalinosky

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Breig Brothers, Inc.