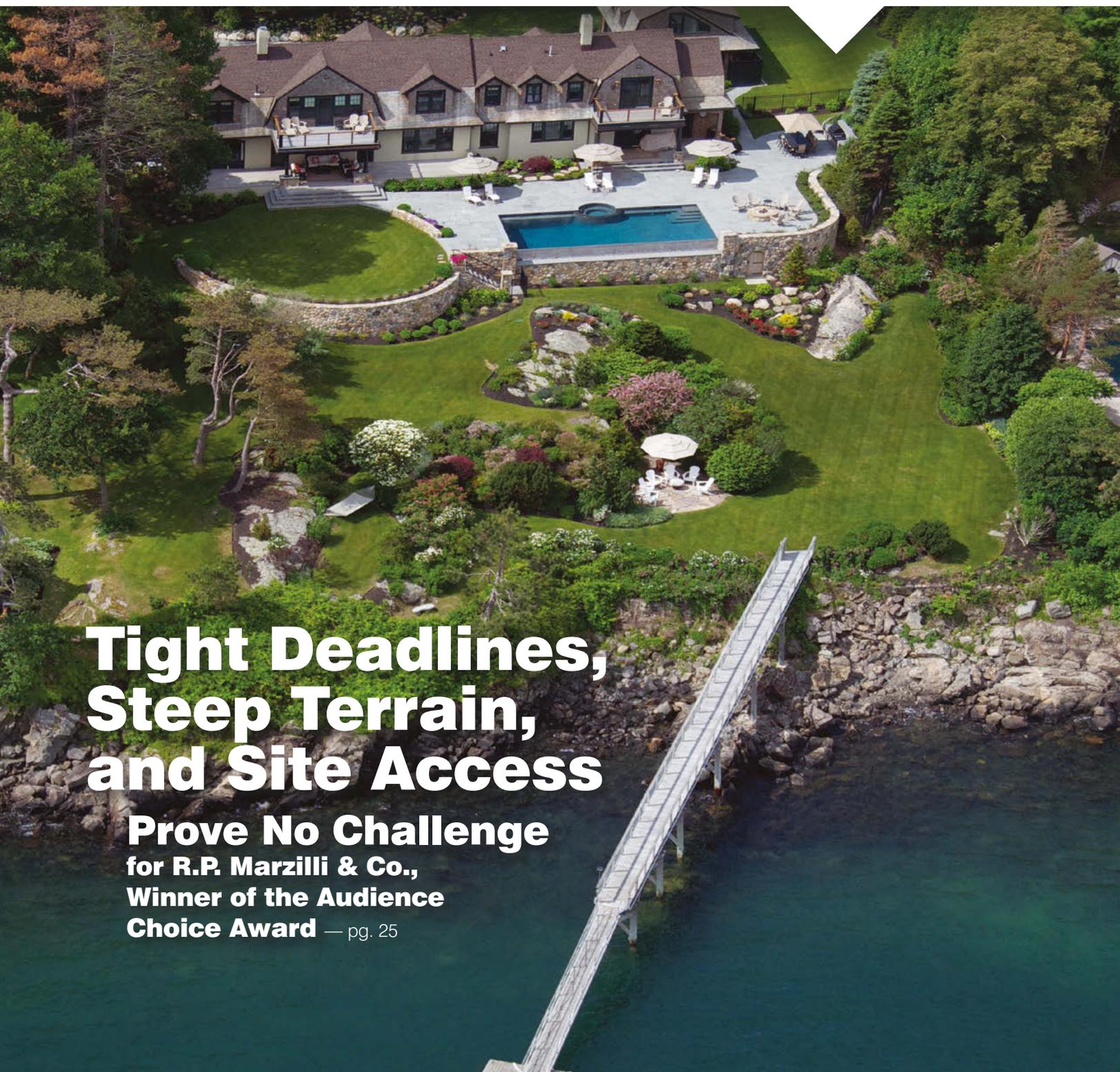


THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

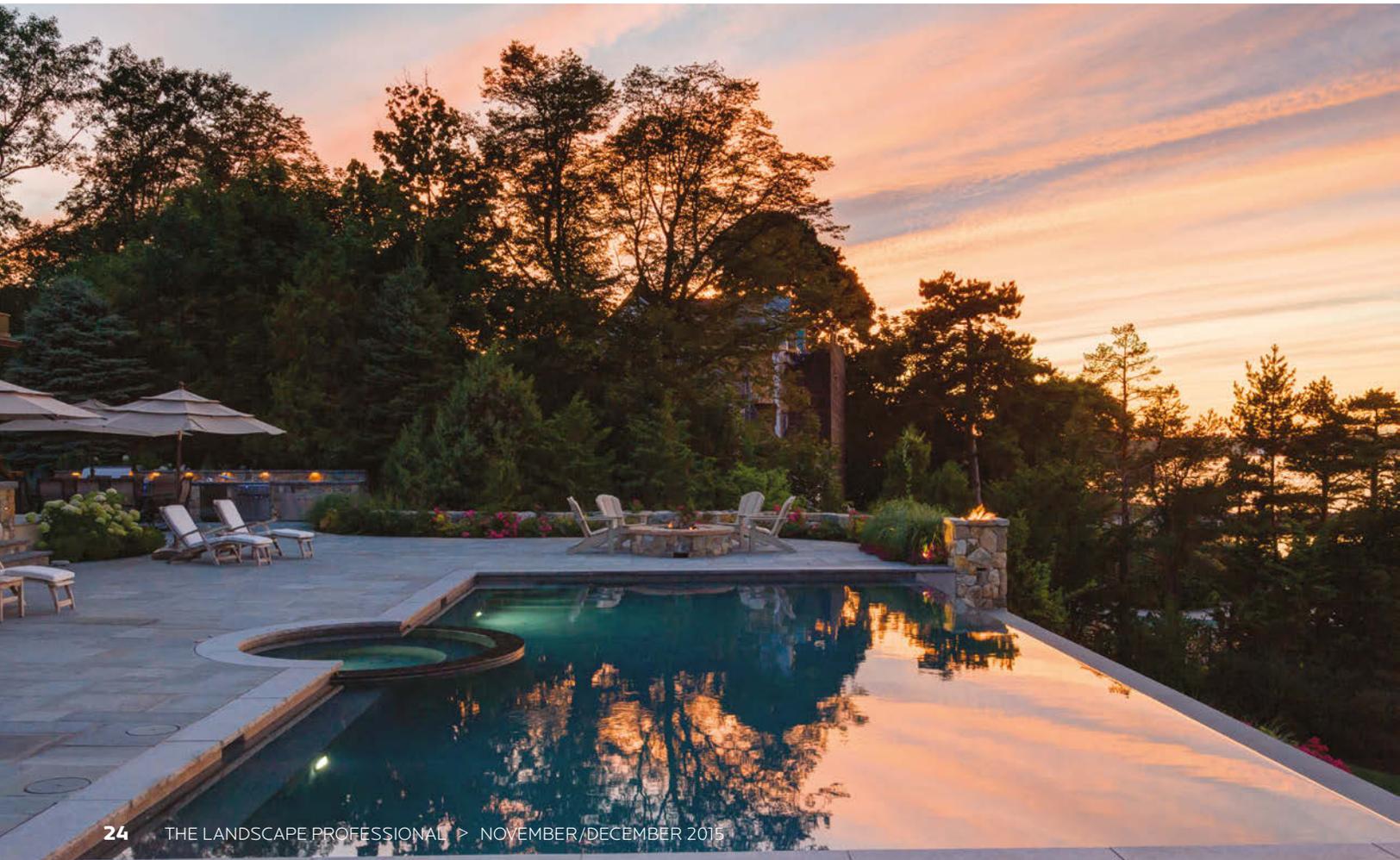
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**Tight Deadlines,
Steep Terrain,
and Site Access**

Prove No Challenge
for R.P. Marzilli & Co.,
Winner of the Audience
Choice Award — pg. 25



GRAND, JUDGES, AND AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD WINNER:
MASSACHUSETTS-BASED R.P. MARZILLI

COASTAL LIVING WITH UNPARALLELED VIEWS

Imagine an infinity pool that blends itself, color and all, almost seamlessly into an ocean view. Imagine, still, following a landscaped path from a beautiful and spacious outdoor living area above to a private dock and shoreline below. Massachusetts-based R.P. Marzilli turned this image and much more into reality at this beautiful coastal living project in Marblehead.

In addition to the pool and spa, the new construction, which started in November 2013 and completed by July 1 the following year, included a covered porch, dining terrace, outdoor kitchen, and fire pit, positioned above Marblehead Bay. Landscape lighting around the pool terrace and fire pit created an inviting environment that could be enjoyed either day or night.

Steep terrain, access, and time of year proved to be among the company's biggest challenges. The grade differential from the pool to ocean shore was 28 feet within 100 feet of the rocky coastline, with construction access gained through a single entrance. The owner's request to maintain the existing finished landscape at the front of the property limited material staging.



“The weather conditions were especially difficult,” explained company president Robert Marzilli. “The owner wanted to be able to enjoy his new landscape by summer, which meant much of the heavy construction, including laying the stone retaining wall, was done during the cold and snowy winter months. Crew members lifted heavy stones in stages. They were sheltered by tents that were continually repositioned thanks to frequent snow squalls and average 20- to 30 knot winds.”

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

“Having the ideal ocean view was very important for the owner,” added Marzilli. “Our team worked closely with the landscape architect and the owner to create an outdoor living area that would maximize the view. We spent several

days laying sight lines to establish grade heights that would ultimately determine final grade.”

He pointed to several other highlights, not the least of which was the construction of the infinity pool. A 10,000-pound pneumatic hammer was used for two weeks



to break out the ledge to accommodate the pool and terraces. After pinning a structurally engineered concrete wall to the ledge, the Marzilli team formed the pool within the wall. A thermal break would allow for movement through seasonal freeze and thaw cycles.



“To enhance visual effect, the pool color was selected so the water would mimic Marblehead Bay on a sunny summer day,” Marzilli noted. “Also built into the retaining wall is a bunker room for the pool and other site utilities.” The walls were then veneered with antique granite gathered from a New Hampshire farmer’s wall.

Prior to construction, the existing hardscape and plant material was removed, the latter then transplanted at a temporary nursery and later reinstalled.

The finished project transformed the existing landscape from a steep slope and ledge into an enjoyable outdoor living area with uninterrupted ocean views. Pool pier torches and other landscape lighting elements created another view, this a spectacular nighttime effect visible from the bay below. ▶

To see a complete list of award winners, visit bit.ly/NALPaoc.



 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE LANDSCAPE COMPETITION

Join us for the 40th anniversary event at Mississippi State University, March 16-19, 2016.

From simple beginnings in 1977, when five schools met at Mississippi State University to compete in the first of what has become the National Association of Landscape Professionals National Collegiate Landscape Competition, this event has grown to become the largest recruiting event and student competition in the industry. Join us March 16-19, 2016 at Mississippi State University to reach out to the future leaders of the landscape industry.

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