



Winner Best Pondless

Tom Dieck

Tom Dieck has more than 31 years of professional experience and serves as the owner and chief designer for TRD Designs. His background includes a degree in landscape development from the State University of New York at Cobleskill and experience working in the green industry field since 1980. He is also a two-time Extreme Makeover Home Edition lead designer and a Master Certified Aquascape Contractor.

Most homeowners would see a sharp vertical ledge with a 30-foot drop on their property as a safety hazard or, at the very least, wasted real estate. But when Tom Dieck, owner of and chief designer for TRD Designs, arrived on the scene, he saw it as a prime artistic opportunity.

"It was a perfect scenario to work some of our magic," Dieck said.

The transformation of this home's backyard in Rye, New York eliminates every trace of the once jagged, uneven section of underutilized landscape. In fact, the new towering waterfall, which can be admired from every room in the house, looks as though it has always originated at the back of the property. Newly installed pathways, stone stairways and an outdoor spa and pavilion lure the family outside at all hours of the day.

Dieck and his team installed two variable-speed pumps behind 18,000 pounds of boulders, carrying the water flow over multiple drops and into a subtle spillway at the bottom of the feature. At night, a carefully designed LED system illuminates the network of streams, creating a mesmerizing orchestra of sights and sounds.

