

ALL PHOTOS BY TONY SOLURI

Urban Oasis

dSPACE Studio

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Goldberg General Contracting

The owners of this Lakeview property wanted to create outdoor space for relaxing and entertaining. Having acquired an adjacent lot, they increased the width of their standard city lot by 10 feet and desired a space reminiscent of their California roots.

dSPACE reshaped the yard into four zones at different elevations: kitchen/dining, spa terrace, TV lounge and side yard. This multilevel design defines each zone and eases the 5-foot height differential between first floor and yard. A new glass door system integrates interior and exterior spaces. "Despite the elevation changes, the space feels cohesive and connected," one juror said.

Plantings, louvered sun shades and a pergola were designed to filter sunlight, add interest and maintain privacy. A focal point visible from interior and exterior spaces is a 7-foot-long linear fireplace with black steel surround and an artful array of cascading planter boxes. Lighting is integrated under stairs, handrails and above the outdoor kitchen for safety and aesthetics. Concealed landscape lights highlight the plantings, while overhead string lights evoke a celebratory vibe.

