A deck of ipe — a wood that won't get too hot on a sunny day — contrasts with the quartz stone tiles on the adjacent patios. The fence is lined with 'Nellie R. Stevens' holly, purple loosestrife, Endless Summer® hydrangeas, 'Happy Returns' daylilies and 'Hameln' ornamental grass. The plant nestled between the wood deck and the stone patio is creeping jenny. "It softens the edges," homeowner Danielle Lumby says, and it's "steppable," adds landscape designer Mark Reynolds. It hugs the ground and won't interfere with the flow of foot traffic.

> "THE DESIGN IS BOTH FUNCTIONAL AND AESTHETIC, EXPANSIVE AND INVITING."
>
> – MARK REYNOLDS, REYNOLDS LANDSCAPING INC.

Out of the Woods

IPE, CEDAR AND CAMBARRA WOOD ARE ALL PART OF A SPACE-STRETCHING STRATEGY ON A LONG BEACH ISLAND PROPERTY

FENCE | A fence constructed of cambarra wood marks the entry to the backyard. Boxwoods and Knock Out® roses line the walk.

SHOWER | The cedar outdoor shower is spacious and convenient. A soap holder in the shape of a surfboard is a fitting accessory.

DINING PRIVACY | Tuscarora crape myrtles border the dining area, providing a sense of privacy without blocking views to the water. "We have friendly neighbors," homeowner Danielle Lumby notes, "but when we're sitting there eating dinner, I don't want to be completely exposed. It's a natural way of creating privacy."

UTILITY KITCHEN | The utility kitchen and storage area feature western red cedar. The storage room "is equipped with all the racks, cabinets and closet space the family needs to store water and sporting equipment," Reynolds says.

FIRE PIT | The cozy fire pit was designed from concrete and features inlaid fossilized shell impressions. Endless Summer® hydrangeas mark the border between the fire pit area and the dining area.

Perched as it is on the edge of a lagoon, the backyard of this Loveladies property is a lovely place to spend a languid summer afternoon. It's also an artfully designed space that's both stylish and wisely planned to make the most of the property's attributes.

The yard features an abundance of wood hardscape materials, a specific request of homeowner Danielle Lumby. "I didn't want it to be all stone," Lumby says. "I really love that we have ipe decking with stone; it would be too hard to have stone all the way across that backyard. I like the combination of materials because it feels sectioned off. It breaks it up visually."

The ipe coordinates with other types of wood on the property. The pergola and the shower, for example, are both fabricated from cedar. And the privacy fence at the entry is made of cambarra. The many custom-built wood components "created focal points to draw the visitor in and through the space," says Mark Reynolds of Reynolds Landscaping Inc. in Manahawkin.

In one instance, a wood structure was used to create the precise opposite of a focal point. "The combination pool equipment screen and air-conditioning platform were contained within a custom-designed ipe enclosure," Reynolds says. "The enclosure is not only space saving and attractive in its own right, but it also hides the unsightly apparatus with great effectiveness."

Also effective is the use of space. Lumby says the previous backyard layout was not as efficient as it could have been. Reynolds says the Lumbys' intention was to extend their living space outdoors. "The challenge, however, was to create a multifunctional area within the restricted space afforded to a typical Long Beach Island property," he says.

Though the backyard encompasses less than 1,000 square feet, Reynolds was able to include every element this active family with four sons wanted. Quartz patios, a concrete fire pit, a waterside dining area and a lounging pavilion next to the pool are judiciously placed to maintain a spacious feel.

Lumby expounds on the importance of devising a design strategy. "It's amazing what a difference it makes when you do an overall plan." The homeowners and the design team thought carefully about how the different zones would relate to each other. And so the dining/eating area has easy access to the kitchen. The "living room" surrounds the fire pit. These are "spots to hang out with a specific purpose," Lumby says.

Reynolds adds, "The design provides not only small, quiet niches for lounging, but also open areas for large-scale entertainment and waterside activity. The overall affect is both functional and aesthetic, expansive and inviting." Lumby adds, "Overall it took a couple of years; but we maximized what we have out there." DNJ
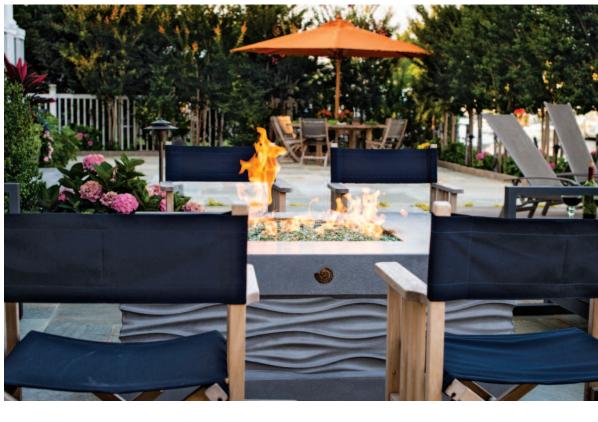
PERGOLA | The curved pergola is made of cedar and mimics both the bend of the decking below and the arc of the outdoor shower (far right, also made of cedar). "To create pliability for the pergola's curvature, a traditional red cedar girder first had to be soaked in water for a week," Reynolds says. "The whole process was very labor intensive and complex, but the outcome is beautiful."

SOURCES **Overall:** landscaping, Reynolds Landscaping Inc. in Manahawkin; carpentry and custom kitchen cabinetry, Reynolds Landscaping — Carpentry Division; light fixtures, Coastal Source in Moorestown (T) through Reynolds Landscaping Inc. — Lighting Division; western red cedar in kitchen, ipe for decking and red cedar for shower and pergola, Medford Cedar in Southampton; cambarra wood fencing, Precision Fence Co. in Barnegat; tilting parasols and Teak Collection lounge chairs, folding chairs, bar-height tables and stools, and director's chairs, Barlow Tyrie Inc. in Moorestown; pillows on lounge chairs, Reynolds Garden Shop; golden quartzite patio tiles, The Stone Center in Bridgewater installed by Reynolds Landscaping; fire pit, fabricated by Peter Cicalo of HardLife Products in Manahawkin, installed by Reynolds Landscaping Inc.; gunnite pool, Brunetti Pools in Southampton. **Kitchen:** split-face golden quartzite wall tile, MS International Inc. in Edison; soapstone leather finish countertops, Aphrodite Marble & Granite Co. in Forked River; faucet, Grohe America Inc. through Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery in Avon; kegerator, wine cooler, beverage center, icemaker, Dave's Appliance Center in Ship Bottom. **Shower:** "Jurassic Green" granite bench and wall caps, Aphrodite Marble & Granite Co. in Lacey Township; showerhead, Homary.com; surfboard soap holder, Reynolds Landscaping — Carpentry Division; shower tile, handmade by a craftsperson in Vermont through Charles Tiles Inc. in Stockton.

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