

PROJECT PROFILE



The transformation from dangerous slopes to dynamic backyard provided multiple areas to enjoy the space, including a fire pit, paver patio and plenty of green grass, too.

Private Residence AMARILLO, TEXAS

PRODUCT

Diamond Pro Stone Cut[®] retaining wall system

MANUFACTURER

Pavestone Company
Grapevine, Texas

WALL DESIGNER

Tommy Davis
Krause Landscape Contractors, Inc.
Amarillo, Texas

WALL CONTRACTOR

Krause Landscape Contractors, Inc.
Amarillo, Texas

WALL AREA

2,000 square feet

THE CHALLENGE

A Texas family finds its lakefront weekend home perfect except for an unusable backyard with a 20-foot sloped grade change, a dangerously steep path and unstable railing leading to the lake. The scenic site also has a mere 8-foot-wide entry to access the backyard.

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This backyard in Amarillo, Texas, was unsafe, unusable and unattractive.



Terraced retaining walls hug the contours of this challenging site and provide safe access and planting areas.

THE SOLUTION

Fortunately, the homeowners knew to call Krause Landscape Contractors, a local full-service landscape company that has transformed the landscape on several of their properties. Tommy Davis of Krause has been a landscape designer for more than 30 years and, after spending just two hours on the daunting site, he knew that a series of gracefully terraced retaining walls would contour the shape of the slope, add decorative planting areas and provide safe access to the lake.

Davis' design work was swift, but the entire project took more than eight months to complete. The greatest challenge was the limited access to the site. While the crew managed to haul some of the required materials in and out of the site with a small skid-steer loader, most of the hauling was done by hand with wheelbarrows. And, although a lot of the excavated material was reused as fill, the crew still hauled more than 200 cubic yards of topsoil by hand.

Choosing the materials to use on-site was important as the house and an impressive, cantilevered deck are built on Caliche, a light-colored sedimentary rock native to the Amarillo area. Davis believed a concrete segmental retaining wall system would be a good choice for this site. After seeing product

samples, he quickly chose the Diamond Pro Stone Cut® multipiece retaining wall system in the Canyon Blend color. Not only does the color complement the surroundings, but the Diamond Pro Stone Cut product was the perfect choice for designing and installing the curved terraces. The wall system doesn't require a pattern, so the crew could randomly place the three sizes of retaining wall blocks without having to stop and read pattern instructions; this also almost totally eliminated the need to cut blocks. Even with more than 2,000 square feet of wall to install and a fairly intricate design to follow, installation was fast and efficient.

THE RESULT

The transformation of this lakefront property from unusable and unsafe to accessible and beautiful makes it a haven for the homeowners. The design and construction improved the site and includes well-appointed details like the fire pit, pavers, new caps on the lake wall that match the retaining wall, and lighting to make the transformation nothing less than stunning. Completion left the homeowners satisfied and Krause Landscaping not only proud of their work but recognized by the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association with the prestigious Texas Excellence in Landscaping Gold Award.

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Anchor Wall Systems, Inc., 5959 Baker Road, Suite 390, Minnetonka, MN 55345.
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