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FIELDBOOK

BOSTON SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



BSLA /MERIT AWARD
Design — Residential

DAN GORDON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Cliff Ridge Estate
Wellesley, Massachusetts



Photos | Greg Premru



In a historic suburban Boston enclave rife with redevelopment, this project sought to restore and modernize a neighborhood landmark that was in danger of being lost. After years of neglect, the existing hardscape was in disrepair, and the vegetation was overgrown, obscuring the architecture. Openness and connectivity were the driving forces that inspired a reimagining of the property.

The design capitalizes on the mature plantings and oak grove, by carefully developing a design that preserved its best features, while editing the plantings to reveal the historic charm that had been lost. Construction details were developed to uniquely address the site specific conditions of ledge and mature vegetation. Preservation of the oak grove not only informed the design, but also required the implementation of a plan which focused on tree health during construction and responded to post-construction impacts.

From perforated footing design of paving which promotes aeration and porosity, to amended soils and de-compaction treatments, the construction methods were largely driven by tree preservation.

Cascading outdoor rooms embrace the grade change and enhance the usability and connectivity of the site. By breaking down the barriers that once divided the site and home, the designers have successfully integrated the interior and exterior spaces, while creating a modern landscape renovation that sits comfortably within a traditional neighborhood.