

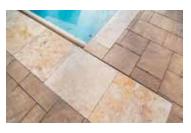
OUTDOORS

Dreamscape

By Anne Marie Ashley

The term "hardscape" is a new one in the English language, just added to the Miriam-Webster dictionary in 2015. It is no surprise that homeowners, especially up until recently, have been unclear on exactly what it means and what kind of value it adds to the home. To be clear, hardscape is the nonliving or man-made fixtures of a planned permanent outdoor area. Celebrating their five year anniversary in 2016, COVIS-Raleigh Inc. has been helping customers discover the beauty and value of hardscapes by Creating Outdoor Visions in Stone (COVIS).

Owners Marc Genest and Chris Simpson have over forty years of experience in the construction industry combined, and the pair knew when they opened their business in the heart of the recession that homeowners weren't looking to move. Instead, they were interested in increasing the value of their home and expanding their footprint into livable space. While curb appeal has always been an important part of the resale of your home, many homeowners in more temperate climates like North Carolina, recognize the utility and enjoyment experienced with outdoor spaces in the backyard. "Outdoor living is a great way to increase the square footage of your home, while adding significant value," explains owner Chris Simpson.



"In addition, outdoor living spaces can be low maintenance and long lasting."

COVIS focuses solely on hardscape services, which means they cover everything from pavers on driveways and entrances, custom stone veneers, retaining walls, to indoor and outdoor fireplaces, firepits, patios, pool decks, grill islands and outdoor kitchens to name a few. Customers can approach COVIS with their own design or work with the team to create a custom design perfect for their space. "With a custom hardscape design by

> COVIS, you'll have the opportunity to get the outdoor space you've always dreamed of having," says owner Marc Genest. "We will help you make a plan, determine your budget, choose materials and prepare you for the installation process."

Depending on the size of the project, from smaller personal projects to large projects of





grand scale, COVIS can work with you and get the project done on a timeline that suits you, in stages if necessary. "It's our goal to make sure our clients will be, not only satisfied, but truly happy at the end of their project." says Genest, adding that customer service is the top priority in every step of their outdoor living process.◆

If you're interested in transforming your outdoor space with the hardscape of your dreams, call COVIS-Raleigh, Inc. at 919-977-3284 or visit their website at www.covis-stone.com for more information.