

POTOMAC OVERLOOK
 WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



View of walkout patio with fountain

Client: William G. McGowan

Intent

Given the challenge to create landscape spaces appropriate to the creation of a five-floor plus roof deck townhouse in the midst of a historic residential neighborhood, but within the context of a tightly constricted, highly unstable and steeply sloping hillside site, LAPIERRE responded to the challenge by developing a plan to create engaging outdoor urban spaces where none previously existed and new spaces seemed unfeasible. Working in close collaboration with the project owner, building architect, and engineering team, a set of three hard-paved, walk-out patios were designed, each providing dramatic overlook views to the Potomac River at Key Bridge, while also stabilizing the notoriously unstable, 45 plus degree slopes of the Georgetown embankment. The project involved renovation of three modest, yet historic, brick row houses for one client, who intended to retain one for his personal residence, and to sell the others for speculative purposes. The resulting three patios were therefore designed in unison, but each with a particular design character that reflected the architectural detailing particular to each. Patio structures were supported by a set of deep pilings, each over 75 feet in depth, thereby providing additional support to the building structures. The entire composition of walls and patios thereby provide substantial stabilization to the previously destabilizing hillside. Modest front door entrances were similarly designed, each with varying hand wrought iron railings and gates that harmonize with each doorway design.



View of walkout patio from townhouse