

When construction began, the builders also needed to contend with the property's rocky terrain. But rather than excavate the large boulders, Valencia integrated the rocks into the design by building the pool and two-tiered deck around them. This way, the rocks became part of the decoration

that utilized the natural elements of the landscape.

To continue the motif, Valencia laid a path of bluestone from the upper tier of the deck to the lower one. The color of the stones, Valencia points out, were a natural choice to unify the deck with the setting.

"There's not all that much you can do with an aboveground pool," Vineberg says. "But if you can build a beautiful deck and are putting in these spas and steps, you're getting the image and all the features of an inground pool for a lot less money — and a lot less in real estate taxes." ■

