



#### Above:

The owners of this home in Prescott, Wis., wanted an outdoor living space that would be easy to maintain and would enhance their view of the Mississippi River Valley. As an addition to their existing screened-in patio deck, Pro's Touch Landscaping created a patio with pergola for an outdoor dining space and a second, sunken patio with fire pit.

Left: Before the patio spaces could be built, a 1,800 square foot retaining wall was designed to define the patio spaces. The 10' high VERSA-LOK system that uses multiple layers of soil reinforcement was chosen to match an existing, smaller wall. Running parallel to the 22' curve of the retaining wall, two seat walls provide a safety measure as the boundary of the livable spaces in the patio. The charcoal colored blocks on both the retaining and seat walls are from the same manufacturer, tying the space together.

## A Maximum View of the Mississippi River

By Brenda Bredahl, VERSA-LOK

Owners of a bluff-top property in Prescott, Wis., were ready for a low-maintenance outdoor living space that would maximize their views of the Mississippi River Valley. The home has a second-level screened-in deck, but the homeowners wanted a patio with a pergola for an outdoor dining space.

The homeowners worked with Pro's Touch Landscaping in Prescott, a firm that specializes in landscape, hardscape, lighting and water feature design and installation, as well as snow and ice management. "Much of our work is along the Mississippi River," says John McNamara, who owns the landscaping firm with his wife Abby. "It makes sense to maximize your outdoor living area when you have such great views."

As the homeowner explored options with Pro's Touch, the landscaping firm suggested adding a second sunken patio with a fire pit and low freestanding walls that would preserve the stunning views of the valley from the ground level patio.

"Creating a sunken patio is a great solution for preserving the view, and it works very well when you have grade changes," said McNamara.

#### Retaining Walls

Pro's Touch first designed 1,800 square feet of segmental retaining wall using custom-made VERSA-LOK wall units to define the patio spaces. The wall is 10' tall at the highest point and uses multiple layers of grid soil reinforcement.

