

SECRET
GARDENS

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S
WALLPAPER

EDIBLE
HEIRLOOMS

SKY-HIGH
LIVING

INDOOR
WATERFALLS

New Jersey

www.njmonthly.com

Celebrity Style

At home with
Broadway star
Christine Ebersole

PLUS:
The \$24 million
mansion
hip-hop mogul
Russell Simmons is
kissing goodbye

MAY 2007 \$3.99



A photograph of a stone archway in a garden. The arch is made of dark, stacked stones and is partially covered by green ivy. Through the arch, a lush green garden is visible. In the foreground, there are various plants, including ferns and large-leafed hostas with variegated leaves. The overall scene is a lush, green outdoor retreat.

Secret GARDENS

Hoboken's urban landscape is home to some surprisingly bucolic outdoor retreats.

*Produced by Nancy Brannigan Painter
Photographed by Andre Baranowski*



A stone path leads from the patio to a heated plunge pool. Surrounded by rock edging, the gunite pool fits naturally in the landscape. Ethiopian three-legged milk stools—sculpted in one piece from a tree trunk—add to the Zen-like aura, and are more comfortable than they appear.

"In an urban garden," says Dziman, "every inch matters."

Adam Hoppe, the Hoboken landscape designer who created the space along with Hufnagel Landscaping, agrees: "These little gardens in the city are gold. People are just starting to realize how wonderful they can be as an extension of the house."

Tenth Annual Hoboken Secret Garden Tour, June 3 (rain date June 10). For more information, visit hobokensecretgardens.com or call 201-656-2240, ext. 6 (after May 1).



AMERICAN GOTHIC: Stone (above and left) sets a timeless tone in keeping with St. Matthew's, the adjoining church.

IN THE MOO: Ethiopian milk stools (far left, right side of picture) provide comfy perches beside the plunge pool. A Japanese Umbrella Pine (left of pool) nicely contrasts with the surrounding moss, ferns, and ivy.

LUSH LIFE: A Kwanzan Cherry tree (below) gracefully shades the patio and dining table. "We live out here six months a year," says the homeowner.

es of a Kwanzan Cherry tree. The patio is bordered by two large flower boxes containing the garden's only annuals.

"We live out here six months a year," says Dziman, co-owner of Turbine Boardwear, a Hoboken snowboard clothing shop. For Choma, co-founder and president of Saladax Biomedical, based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the garden is the perfect place to decompress after driving home from work.



NOW OUTSIDE IS IN

By Nancy Brannigan Painter

New Jersey's comparatively short summers require creativity to make the most of fair-weather months, often in limited outdoor space. Exterior options—outdoor kitchens, spas, fireplaces, even bedrooms—that first came into vogue on the West Coast, where year-round temperatures are more moderate, have moved East in a big way.

The newest major appliances, furniture, and fabrics are designed to weather the elements. Synthetic lawns and materials such as splinter-free decks are just two signs of the trend.

"People want to enjoy their yard as an outdoor living space," says Doug Kale,

owner of Kale's Nursery and Landscape Service in Princeton. "The idea of cooking outside and enjoying the outdoors for a longer period of time is a big focus."

Lighting plays an important role in extending outdoor hours in the evening. Direct spotlights and randomly placed torchieres have fallen out of favor.

Instead, according to Kale, "Indirect lighting that washes the [landscaped] area, rather than blitzing it with a high-voltage floodlight, can look beautiful and inviting." Hoboken-based landscape designer Adam Hoppe agrees nighttime lighting adds another dimension to the garden. "The ele-



AQUA THERAPY: Water elements, such as those in the Hoboken garden above, are integrated with rock forms and greenery to provide a soothing slice of nature.

EUROCHARM: Century-old grape vines drape across a contemporary pergola in a 40-by-19-foot garden on Garden Street in Hoboken (right). Prior to moving to Hoboken, the owners, Brian and Debbie Benjamin, had lived in France and wanted their outdoor space to have a European charm. They achieved it with low plantings, small flowerbeds, and water features. Lighting was installed to allow them to spend more time outdoors.





ments of fire and water are also very popular," he says. "There's something about a flickering flame in the middle of summer—or the middle of winter." Both he and Kale have noticed rising interest in fire pits and fireplaces, as well as water features, including small ponds or waterfalls incorporated to look natural to the landscape.

Homeowners are redesigning their backyards for entertainment, but they are also making changes for environmental reasons. "People want to cut down on pesticides and use more organic products on their lawns," says Kale.

Rather than use pesticides, Kale says, mow grass to a height of three to three-and-a-half inches. This longer cut will help reduce weeds and insects naturally, he says.

In heavily shaded areas, he encourages clients to "go along with Mother Nature" and allow attractive, low-maintenance elements such as moss to do their thing and, in a word, flourish.



PATTIN' TANK: To create a grass play area for their nineteen-month-old daughter, Camille, as well for the family dog, Tank, Danielle and John Sullivan transformed their Hudson Street, Hoboken, house in just four months during 2006. The Sullivans describe the old garden as "a dilapidated backyard with a dead olive tree." The new patio, ideal for entertaining, faces the bamboo-flanked fountain, made of bluestone. Landscaping by Hufnagel Landscaping, North Bergen.

SURE FIRE: According to landscape designer Adam Hoppe, fire and water elements are increasingly popular among his clients. "We use the firepit all the time," says Danielle Sullivan.