

# Artistry within the garden

Craft and Technique in practice  
at Chanticleer

Dan Benarcik

## Non Living Artistry



## Horticultural Technique



# A primary focus on Chanticleer

## Elemental

- Wood
- Metal
- Stone

## Techniques

- Display
- Culture
- Public

# Extending to other gardens

Training the eye and mind to see beyond the plants to the often non living details.



# Wood



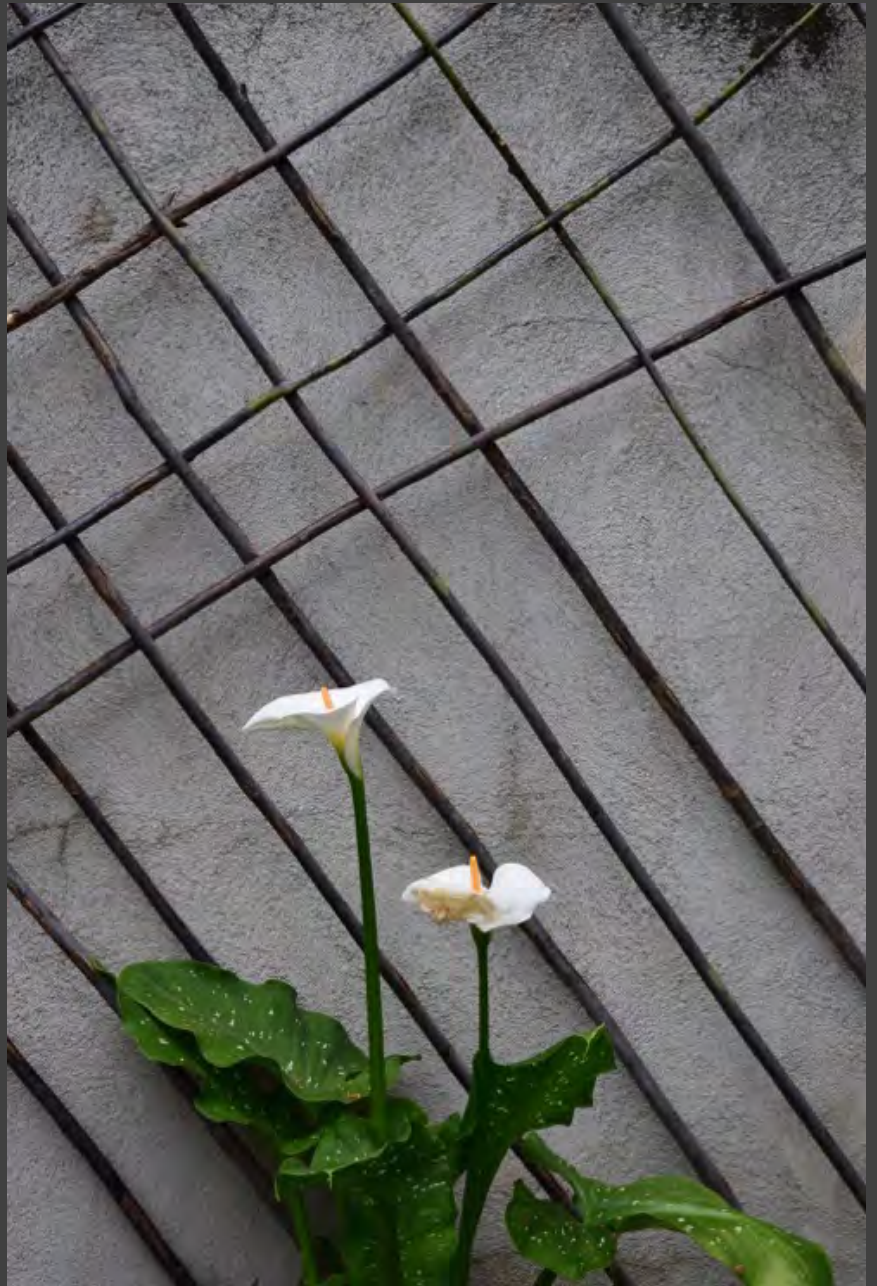


# Wood





Wood  
Branch  
Stick  
Twig  
Whip  
Cutting



# Wood





# Wood





# Wood



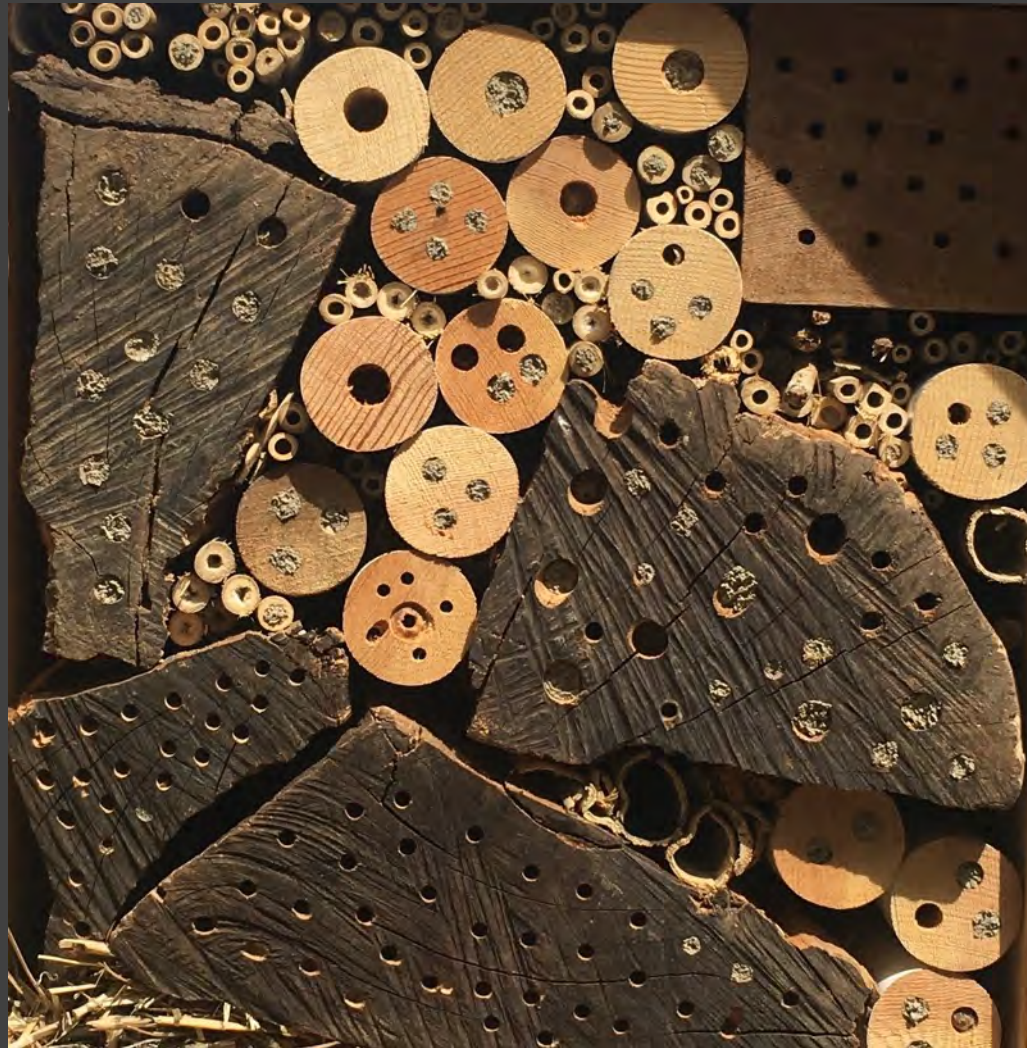


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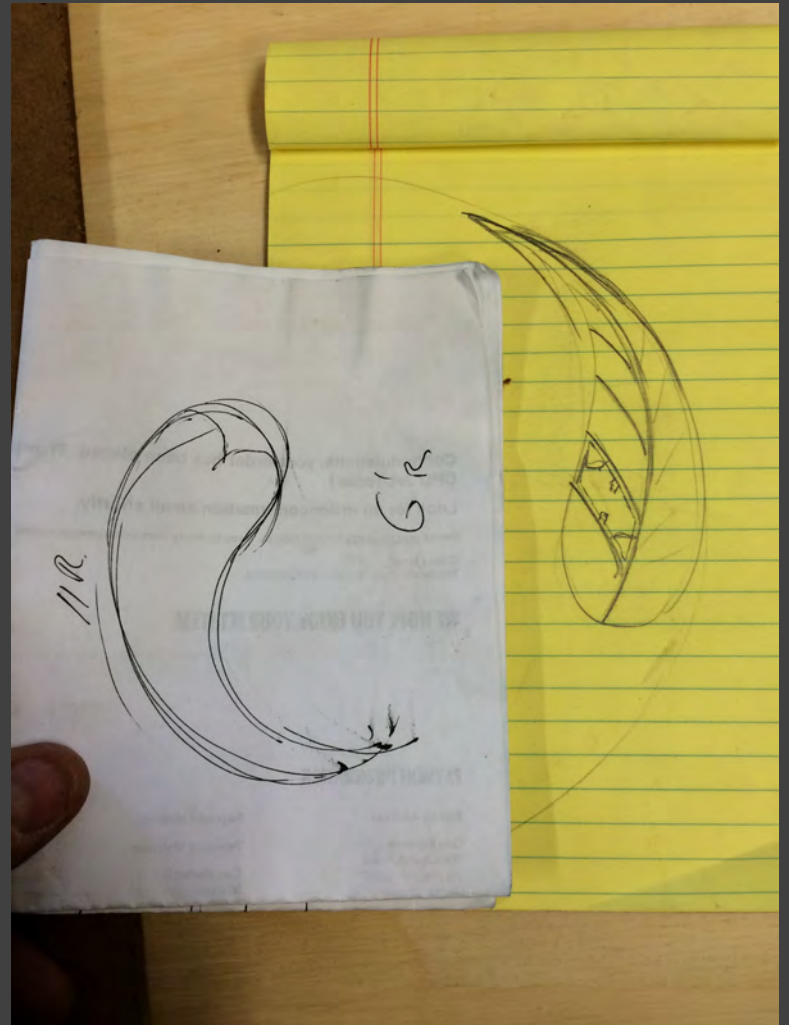




# Wood















Just this week...





# Wood





Wood





# Wood





# Wood





# Wood



# Wood





# Moving Forward...



Metal  
Forged  
Found  
Bent  
United





# Metal





# Metal





# Metal



# Metal





# Metal





# Metal





# Metal





# Metal





# Metal



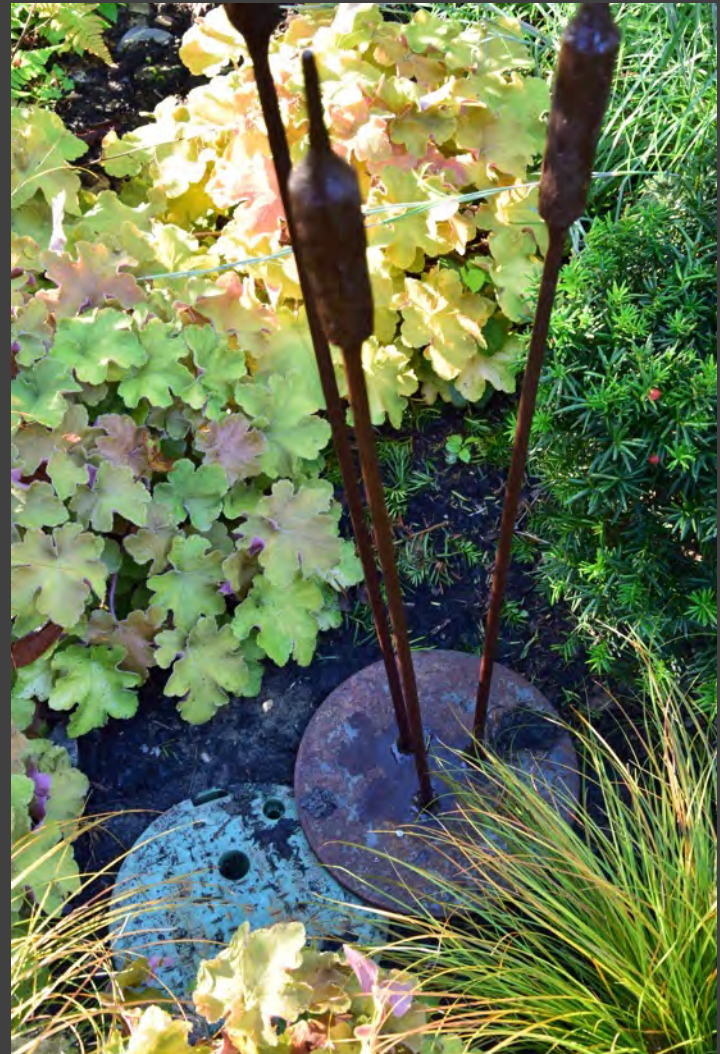


# Metal





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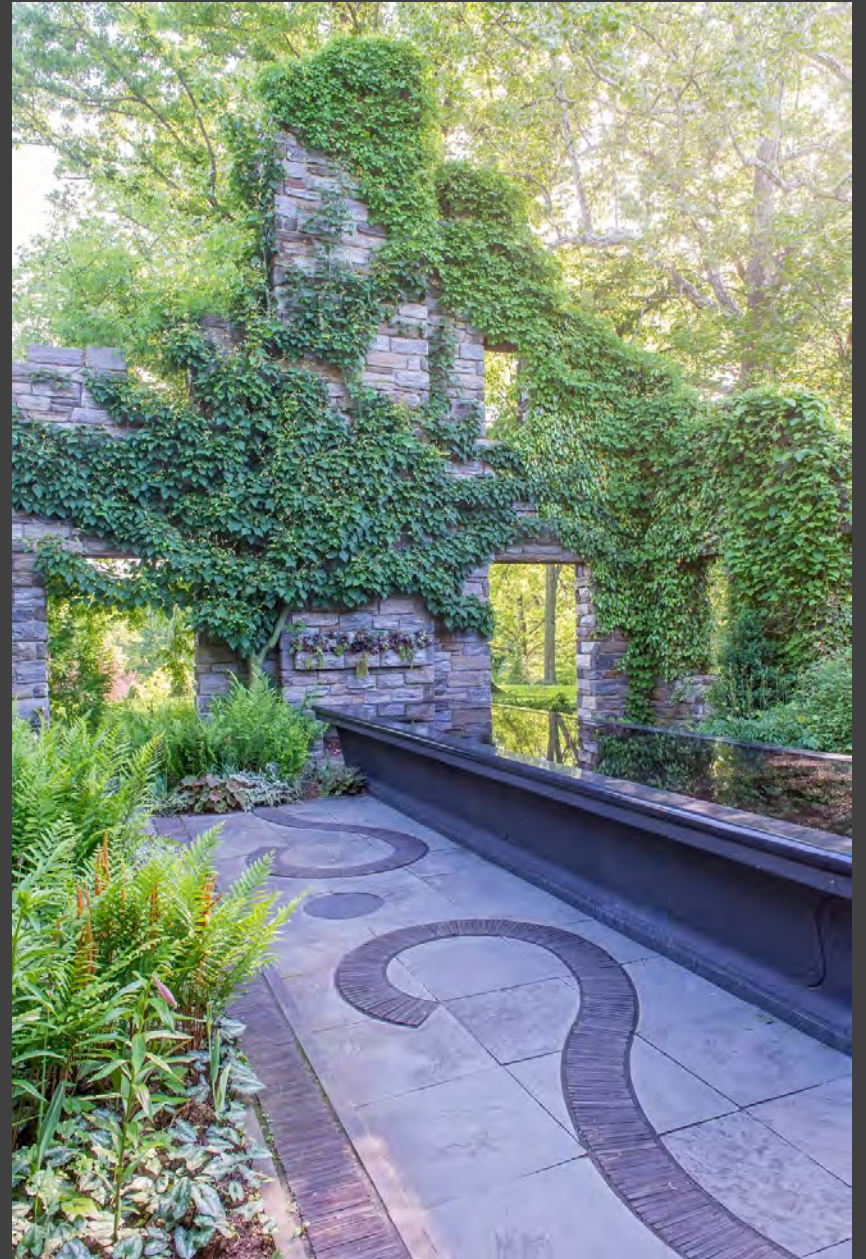


# Stone





# Stone





Technique  
Production  
Display  
Distortion  
Detail  
Defense





# Technique





# Technique





# Technique





# Technique





# Technique





# Technique





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# Display





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# Display





# The Chanticleer Hort Staff





# Our interns and assistant Horticulturists





# Awareness in other gardens





# Allison and Nick McCullough









# Michigan Avenue





# Hinkley / Jones









# Roy Diblik













# Isola Bella / Maggiore

























# Villa del Balbiano / Como













# Frankfurt Germany





























































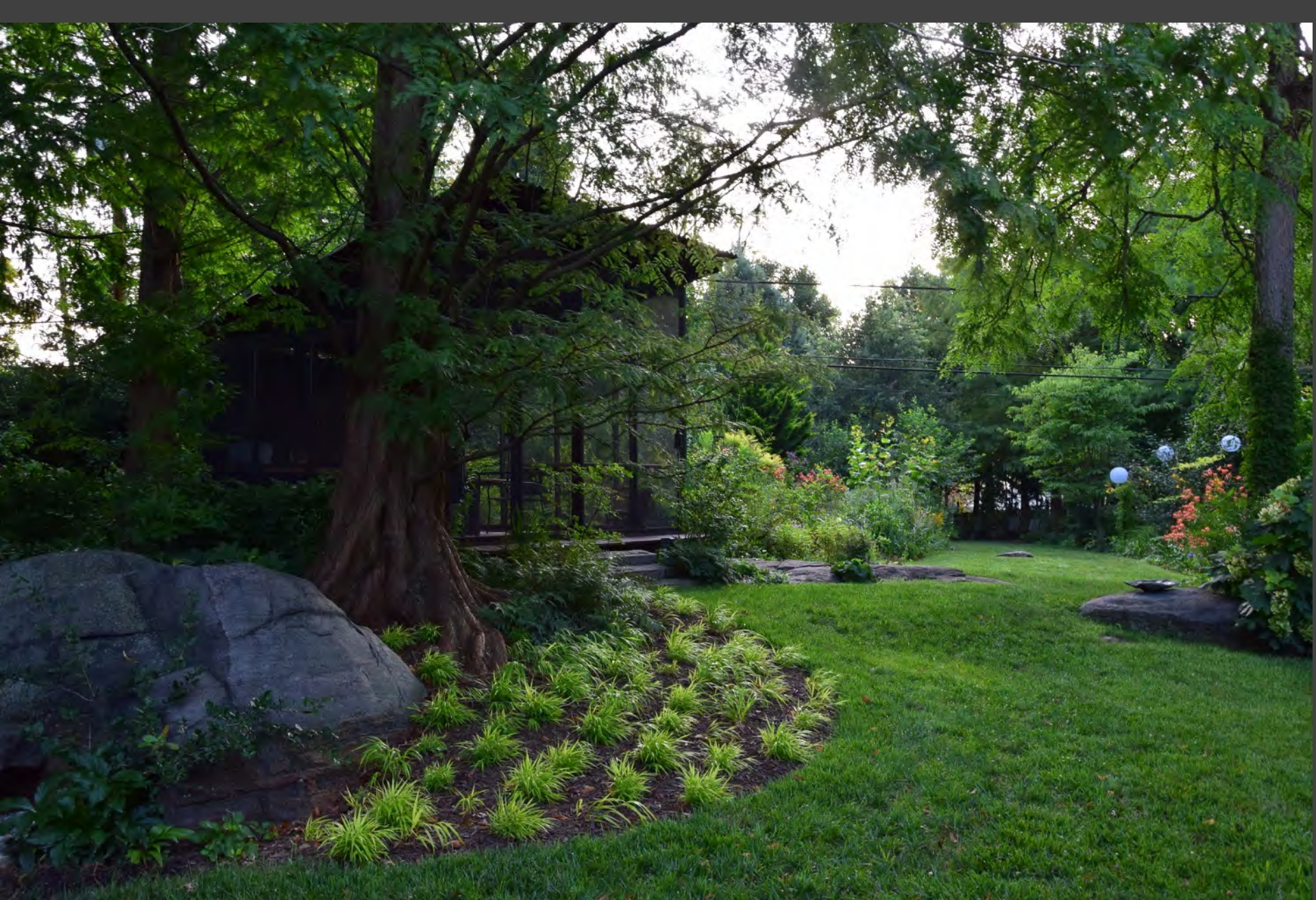




Random acts  
of creativity...





























































A lush garden scene featuring a stone patio with wicker furniture (two chairs and a footstool) with green cushions. A large, moss-covered rock formation is on the right. A large tree trunk is on the left. In the background, a dark wooden structure is visible through the foliage.

# SPEND MORE TIME OUTDOORS

How do you turn an ordinary backyard into a place you want to spend your down time? Take a tour of this garden to find everything you need for *the perfect backyard retreat.*





Perfect spot for a three-season porch!

BACKYARD BEFORE

## Enjoy the yard anytime

It's hard to eat or relax outside when you're always swatting mosquitoes. Dreams of a three-season porch first took shape when Dan Benarcik sketched the idea on a napkin at dinner one night. After a lot of deliberation about where to put it, he and his wife, Peggy Anne Montgomery, settled on the spot in the small before photo at left because it has an almost 180-degree view of their Delaware garden.

**BUDGET BUILD** To make this project affordable, all the materials were purchased off the shelf at a local home improvement store, and Dan and Peggy Anne did the work themselves. A 2x2 aluminum square stock frame makes the structure lightweight but strong. The floor, foundation and other parts are made with dimensional lumber, and the roof is covered in corrugated steel.

A coat of Behr exterior pigmented stain in dark brown protects the materials and unites the porch with the woodland garden around it. It's an acrylic stain that's easy to clean up and

waterproof once it's dry. Dan says it's lasted six years and wears like iron.

**PEACEFUL PATIO** The shady patio next to the porch was originally just a sloping part of the yard. Dan dug it out by hand and used the soil elsewhere, leaving this cozy nook tucked beneath a ring of dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). The excavation unearthed huge stones too big to move. They flank the sides of the patio, creating a grand entrance. The one on the right of the photo below even serves as the back of a bench. A 4-ft.-tall dry-stacked fieldstone retaining wall holds

back the remaining soil and creates a rustic backdrop for the comfy furniture.

Peggy Anne has found that the soil behind this retaining wall dries out quickly. So she puts shredded leaves that fall on their property (along with some from the neighbor's yard) to good use as mulch. This conserves moisture and as it breaks down it adds nutrients and texture to the soil.

This isn't the only relaxing spot in this charming backyard. Turn the page to see how Peggy Anne and Dan turned a little-used sideyard into a place they can grill and hang out with friends. >>



String lights add a warm glow that makes it easy to sit outside even after the sun sets.



Dawn redwood



**MAKE IT COMFORTABLE** Wired for electricity, the porch has all the comforts of home — lights, a ceiling fan and speakers for music. There are also plenty of chairs and a long table (made by Dan) big enough for dinner with friends and a friendly game of cards.



**PLANTS EVERYWHERE** Because the dawn redwoods are deciduous conifers (they lose their leaves in fall), the top of this retaining wall gets plenty of sun in early spring. Peggy Anne likes to grow small spring-blooming plants, such as snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*), trillium (*Trillium* spp.) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), here — it's easy to see these tiny treasures from the chairs.





There was just enough room for a freestanding deck here.

SIDEYARD BEFORE

## Stop by for a bite

The narrow sideyard in the before photo used to be a catch-all spot. You know the place—it's where all the things you don't quite know what to do with land. But with Peggy Anne and Dan's hard work it's now the inviting outdoor living area in the photos.

The catalyst for change was the need for a firewood rack. With all the trees in the yard there's often a fallen limb or

even a tree that needs to be cut up, and Dan and Peggy Anne don't send any material from the garden away—they find ways to reuse it. And since this is the main access point to the backyard, having a cleaner, more functional space was a big improvement.

**DECK INSPIRATION** Peggy Anne came up with the idea for this multifunctional deck the old-fashioned way: a blank piece of paper, some rough measurements and a pencil. She finds it's easier to start plans by

ignoring pre-existing features because she doesn't get bogged down and distracted by what's already there. Changes may need to be made, but it's a starting point.

Peggy Anne came up with this 8-by-14-ft. deck that has firewood racks on either end. These double as railings for the deck and are wide enough for a drink or small plate as you're waiting for dinner. Made of pressure-treated lumber and stained with the same stain as the three-season porch, there's plenty of floor space for all of their

outdoor cooking gear and a few bright orange stools that repeat the color of the orange trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) blooms on the wall behind. And, as Dan says, "orange is dead sexy!"

This deck is a natural gathering spot. It provides plenty of room to hang out and enjoy each other's company while they and their guests are waiting on the grill. When the food is ready they wander over to the three-season porch to eat and enjoy the outdoors—what better way to end the day? ■



To keep black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) from spreading too much, it's planted where the garage and sidewalk can stop runners. Dan keeps another patch at the back of the yard in bounds by cutting new growth back to the ground once it reaches 5 ft. tall so plants don't have the energy to regenerate.

Autumn fern

European ginger



Trumpet vine

Copper wire is wrapped around the bark to hold it all in place.

← **GO LOW MAINTENANCE** Ground covers are the way to go when you want to spend less time working and more time relaxing. European ginger (*Asarum europaeum*) and 'Brilliance' autumn fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) will slowly fill this open area between the deck and the sidewalk and don't need much care.

↑ **DIY PLANTER** With so many trees in the yard there's no shortage of material for projects. The planter above is 8 ft. long and made of pieces of bark wired together. Filled with potting mix and planted with succulents, it was used as a Christmas centerpiece then moved outdoors as an accent for the deck. It's lasted for 2 years.









Thank you  
for your  
time...

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