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4 Beautiful Backyards

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Gorgeous Garden

How to create a seasonal oasis in your yard — tips for even the new homeowner



Jan Johnsen, celebrity landscape artist and author of new book *Floratopia: Flower Garden Ideas for Yard, Patio, or Balcony*, shares timely tips on how to create the perfect garden.

Add flowers in planters by your front walkway or even placed within the plant bed. Add a bench and several planters.

Use different-size planters to vary the display.

Stick with easy-care classics, like traditional red geraniums. They make quite a show, especially when you pot up several matching planters. A dilute solution of liquid fertilizer every three weeks in spring and summer helps the show continue. Don't overwater!



Spillers make the difference. Hanging foliage adds interest and is effective both in pots and window boxes. The eye-catching “Silver Falls” *Dichondra* looks great with pink flowers. Also, try the yellow “Creeping Jenny” *Lysimachia*.



Deer-resistant and evergreen hellebore is a perennial flower that is long-lived. The foliage is as great as the early-spring flowers. Float the blossoms on water for a great display.

Got part shade? Plant large groups of deer-resistant *Astilbe* for a mass effect. More is better when it comes to this perennial. Add ferns for a great effect.

A mid-spring flower that deer don't eat is perennial *Salvia*. You can plant both blue and white. They look great with the round, purple flowers of the deer-resistant perennial *Allium*.



Jewel-toned pink flowers look great with the fall-blooming *Sedum* known as “Autumn Joy.” Kids think the flowers look like broccoli before they turn pink in late summer. ■■



Outdoor OASES

Get inspired by these idyllic outdoor areas, featuring perfect pools, a divine pool house, and family-friendly entertaining areas.

BY DYLAN RUBINSTEIN





perfect **POOL HOUSE**

THE PROS:

Rosamund Young

Rachel Laxer Interiors

Cum Laude Group

Rivi Oren

Carla Noletti of
Gedney Farms Nursery

Shoreline





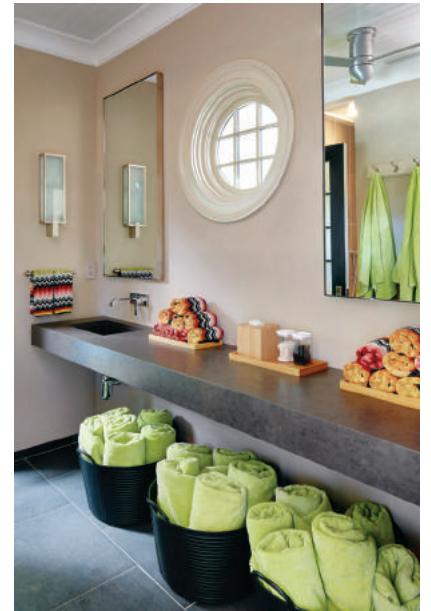
THE PROJECT: A pool and pool house where entertaining meets relaxing. This project in Scarsdale provides visual delight, ultimate comfort, and is low maintenance for the homeowners. The key is a design that flows with both the new outdoor environment and the current design of the main house. Architect Rosamund Young says, "The pool-house structure takes cues from the main house. All the materials we used in the pool house emulate the main house. Same brick, windows, and limestone, all on a smaller scale."

JUST KEEPING AFLOAT: A large destination pool is perfect for both swimming laps and general water play.

RELAX, PLEASE: Surrounding the pool are beautiful patios for lounging, dining, and entertaining. Patio offers areas in both sun and shade, accommodating large or intimate gatherings equally well. Having a pool away from the main house provides the homeowners with a backyard ideal for entertaining and offers a spa-like environment for a relaxing cabana getaway.

THE HEAD-TURNERS: Dining and lounging in the bar and kitchenette make this pool house an easy hangout. The head-turners: a TV, fireplace, storage, climate-control, and private pool garden, with a specially designed approach from both the parking court and main house.

THE FINE DETAILS: The pool and pool house are carefully sited and integrated completely into the existing property. With a playful-but-sophisticated interior, the furnishings include RODA Italian furniture, a custom-designed John Houhmand coffee table, custom James De Wulf console tables, a stone fireplace and bathroom by Marble America, vintage French skylights, backed with mirrors to create the illusion of depth. Vintage accessories are mixed with a modern touch of West Elm.



fabulous **FIREPIT**

THE PROS:

Barrett Oswald Designs
Beresford Landscape Design

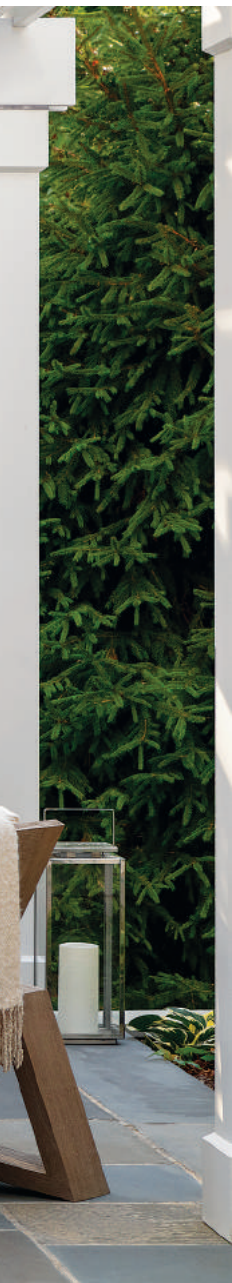
THE PROJECT: A backyard renovation to complement that of the recent home renovation in Larchmont. Similar to the home's interior, the backyard boasts a luxe space that is contemporary, comfortable, and functional for the family.

THE YARD: An outdoor oasis that transitions seamlessly between seasons — made possible by an outdoor fireplace, outdoor kitchen, and a pergola to provide shade. The design utilizes areas as intimate settings.

SIMPLY SERENE: The backyard offers a functional outdoor living space all year long in a serene and cozy setting.

THE LOOK: White brick on the built-in grill and outdoor fireplace matches with elegant teak furniture throughout. Barrett Oswald says, "We love a multifunctional space like this one. Our clients can enjoy a family dinner, an intimate conversation, or relax by the fire in the complete comfort of their own home."





contemporary **CABANA**

THE PROS:

Cum Laude Group

Opacic Architects

Carla Nolletti of Gedney Farms Nursery







THE PROJECT: A traditional-meets-contemporary European-styled home in Scarsdale with old-world elegance and modern detailing.

KEEP IT CONTEMPORARY: Inspiration for the design of this home came from French country estates. “We created a residence with traditional and historic elements but simplified with cleaner, more modern details,” says Radoslav Opacic. “The house creates an exceptional interface between exterior and interior spaces. The grand loggia and new cabana are complementary in style and material. The exterior stucco of the house is used on the interior of both spaces for continuity with the



outdoors. Each of the three large-arched openings to the grand loggia on the rear façade are detailed to conceal a motorized screened panel that retracts completely, allowing for a more gracious connection to the yard. The link between the kitchen and the loggia makes this space a choice entertaining area for the family.”

OLD-WORLD ELEGANCE: French doors and windows, stucco exterior finish, generous hipped slate roof, European travertine floors, European-style mahogany tilt-and-turn windows from Quebec, and custom ironwork at the second-floor French balconies scream “traditional sophistication” in the home.



PHOTOS BY JAMES D'ADDIO



PRIVATE CABANA: “A new cabana was designed with bath and changing facilities, and [features] a large, open-air pavilion facing the pool. This new cabana relates to the style of the new home and offers more outdoor living and lounging opportunities,” says Opacic.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS: The homeowners’ priority was to have a screened-in living-and-dining porch that would be central to the main body of the house, as well as the kitchen, and thereby seamlessly bring three-season backyard entertaining into their home. “We created a centralized grand loggia space that becomes the focus of the house,” says Opacic. “It is seen and accessed through a series of French doors off of the formal entry, and it has a direct connection to the kitchen and family room beyond.”

relaxing **RETREAT**

THE PROS:

Zavaglia Associates
Benedict A. Salanitro
Almeida Pools



PHOTOS BY GIGI GATEWOOD



THE PROJECT: An outdoor design to complement the home's architecture while serving as a family-friendly environment. The pool accommodates entertainment needs while not overwhelming the property, and the property has multiuse outdoor areas for year-round enjoyment, multiple patios for entertaining and lounging, and open yard areas for child's play.

THE UPGRADE: The family recently purchased this Greek Colonial home in Rye and completed a full interior renovation. Next step was to create an exterior environment that feels like the ultimate staycation. The 1.6-acre property provided plenty of room to create the dream space.

THE VISION: "The property was definitely a diamond in the rough that needed TLC and imagination," says Jess Zavaglia. "But the yard was very large, so there was a lot of potential to create something special."

FAMILY FIRST: The client wanted a space that worked not only for the current time but with the evolving needs of a growing family. A nearly empty yard left a blank canvas for a trampoline and level area, where the children can enjoy soccer, football, baseball, and other outdoor sports.

OLD MEETS NEW: The unique Greek Revival architecture of the home allows for the opportunity to pair gracious, old-world styling with contemporary aesthetics, honoring the client's Greek heritage. Clean lines and a rich, green palette complement the overall look and feel of the home. ■■

