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GARDEN ROOMS™

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Outdoors

Before
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Gardens

New
Looks for
Outdoor
Lighting

8 Great
Perennial
Vines
for Privacy

Spring 2008
Display until April 15



BHG SIP Green Checkout

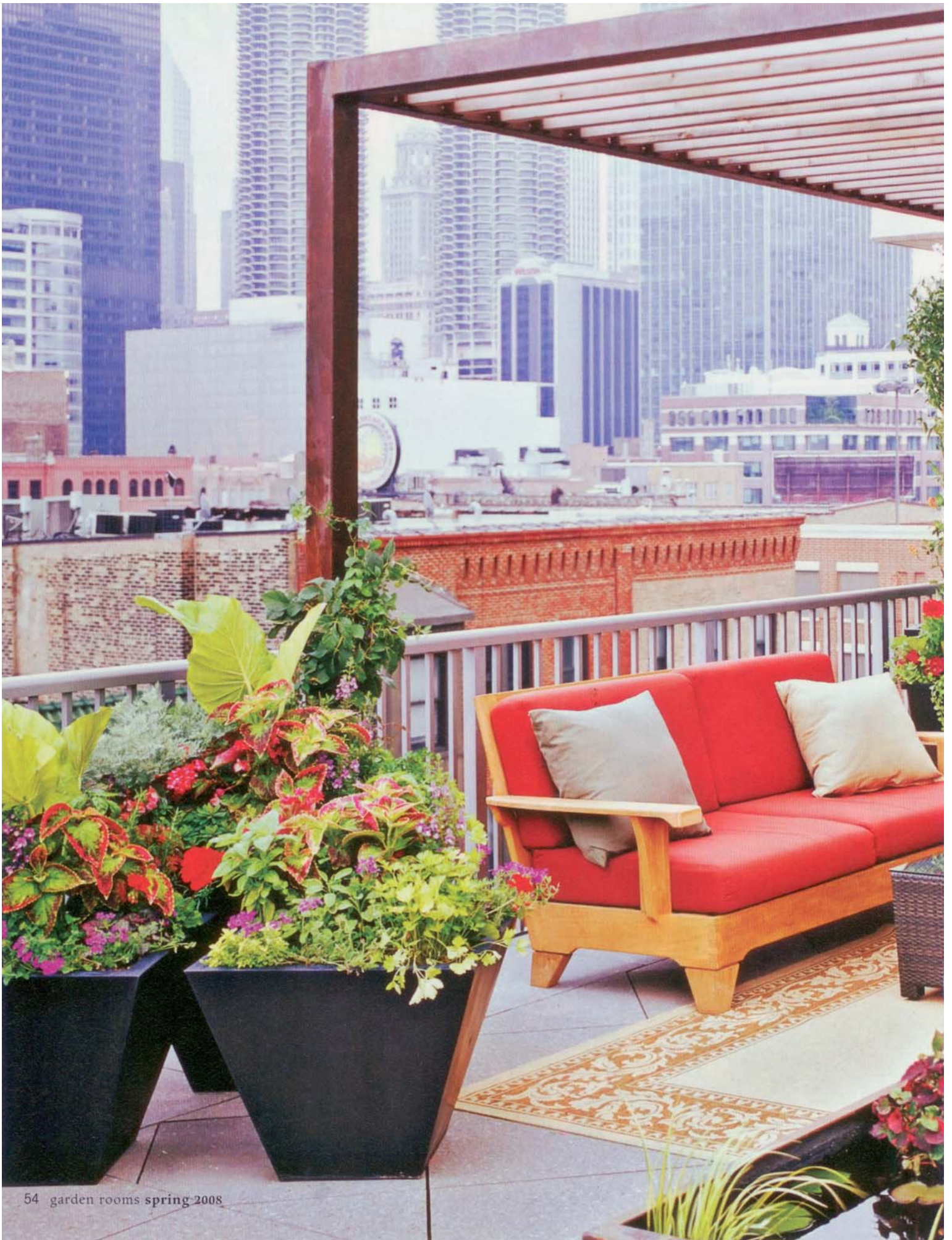


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Expert Advice
All-Season Living



raise the roof

Take away valuable lessons from this well-designed rooftop landscape even if your feet—and yard—are planted firmly on the ground.

Just outside the indoor living room, the terrace living room offers fresh air, cozy seating, and city views.

by VICKI MATERN photography by KRITSADA / KRANTZ STUDIOS produced by SHIRLEY REMES



The warmth of an open fire, the heady scent of honeysuckle, the soothing sound of flowing water—such earthly pleasures are hard to come by among the concrete canyons of a major city. Yet the terrace garden of Heather Munoz and Mark LaPedes includes these natural delights and more—all framed by spectacular views of the Chicago skyline. Hard to believe the comfortable outdoor living space was once an empty, 1,400-square-foot concrete slab.

The couple bought their condo for its grand gardening possibilities, but the large size of the outdoor space, the condo association's restrictions, and the logistics of



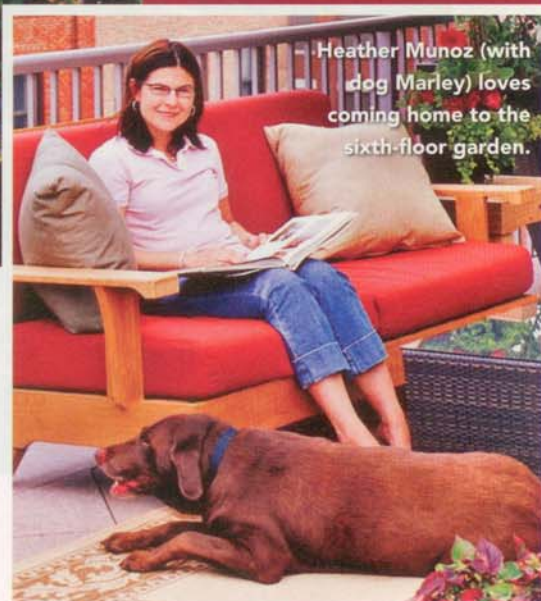
Besides beautifying the outdoor living room, an **OUTDOOR RUG** helps define the space.

CONTAINERS of annual flowers and herbs add seasonal color and fragrance. Over time, vines will cover the pergola.

ANTIQUÉ IRON THE EASY WAY

Give a new iron pergola or other outdoor structure a rustic patina in just a few hours. Landscaping contractor Christy Webber explains her technique: "Spray the fresh iron with a bleach solution—this will immediately create rust. Next, go over the entire piece with steel wool to soften and blend the color of the finish. Hose off the structure with water, then spray polyurethane to seal."

Stylish and durable, solution-dyed acrylic **CUSHION FABRIC** is designed to withstand extreme sunlight, temperatures, and moisture without fading or mildewing.



Heather Munoz (with dog Marley) loves coming home to the sixth-floor garden.

MOVING FROM
THE EASY WAY

A FLAGSTONE FIREPLACE provides pleasant warmth on cool nights. The stash of hickory wood is for grilling dinners under the stars.

transporting materials and plants skyward without a freight elevator proved daunting. “We had plenty of ideas for what we wanted in the garden, but weren’t quite sure how to put it all together,” Mark says. “We wanted it to be a natural extension of the house—a place that would give us privacy from the units above us, yet would still allow us to enjoy the city views below.”

Blending Styles

Aesthetically, the couple envisioned a natural look. But Mark had contemporary leanings, while Heather’s tastes were more traditional. “Mark wanted stone, gravel, and wood, as well as a fire pit, like those used in Arizona, where he grew up. I’ve always loved that look...but I also wanted a soft-looking English-style border of perennials,” Heather says.

Working with landscape architect Stephen Prassas and landscape contractor Christy Webber, the couple created four garden rooms. The home’s living room extends naturally to a terrace living room; the indoor dining room flows into an outdoor eating area edged by a water garden. A planter wall filled with tall perennials encloses a private sitting area outside the bedroom. Near the railing, a rec room of sorts yields a sunny space for a fire pit and 37-foot bed of colorful prairie flowers and airy grasses.



Soft gravel underfoot gives the FLOOR in the fire pit area an informal feel, unlike the other outdoor rooms.

All-weather woven DINING CHAIRS slide neatly beneath the glass-top table, a sleek, compact solution for a small space.

A weather-resistant CANVAS CANOPY provides privacy from the balconies above without blocking light to the home's interior.



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Designed to blend in with an existing fence, a **WOODEN SHED** provides valuable storage space.

Even a small area can yield usable space. Tucked between the shed and a planter, an intimate **SITTING AREA** invites conversation.

An iron pergola over three of the outdoor rooms creates privacy from the units above, without blocking views below. Vine-covered lattice shields the living and sitting rooms; solid canvas covers the dining area. The pergola's weathered, antique patina reflects the style of the interior furnishings and the aged metal of the surrounding cityscape.

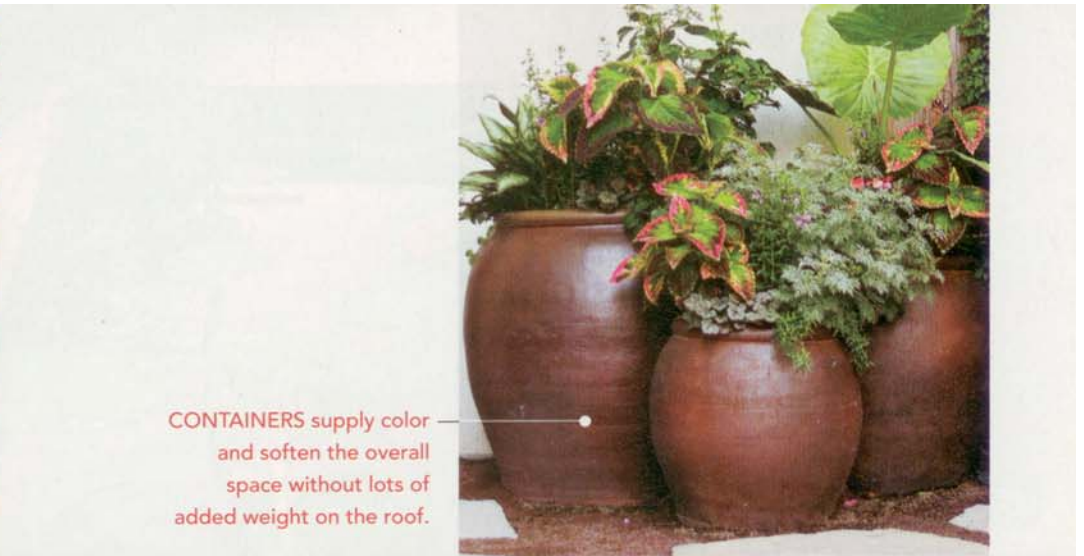
For the hardscape, brick and stone in shades of warm red and brown provide the contemporary Southwestern look Mark wanted. "The precast concrete pavers have been ground down to a terrazzolike finish—just as Mark did inside the home," Prassas says. "This gives the terrace rich color and texture."

For Heather's garden, Prassas designed a lush border with a Midwestern feel. Native coneflowers, phlox, black-eyed Susans, and ornamental grasses give the bed an informal, prairie look and are easy to maintain. "We selected plants that are hardy—ones that did not require lots of water and that could tolerate the site's high winds," he says.



The PLANTER filled with tall perennials anchors the pergola and separates the dining room from the more secluded sitting area.

For casual Southwestern flair, FLAGSTONE PAVERS are used on the sitting room floor.



CONTAINERS supply color and soften the overall space without lots of added weight on the roof.





Throughout the garden rooms, containers are filled with flowers, vines, and herbs. Some of the pots are the same antiqued iron as the pergola; others are zinc or terra-cotta. Comfortable furnishings with bright red fabric tie together the rooms, complementing the easy, natural look of plants, pots, and structures.

Designing a beautiful, functional garden space within the condo's parameters was a challenge. Getting the plants and materials up to the couple's sixth-floor site proved to be an even bigger hurdle. Not only did the team need to figure out how to lift tons of materials over a busy city street, but it also had to be sure to distribute the weight evenly once it arrived at the site.

Webber and her crew proved up to the task. "We practiced for weeks before the actual move," she says. "With a one-day permit to use the crane, and cameras filming our every move [for a TV program], we couldn't afford to make any mistakes."

The move went off without a hitch; all of the materials were hoisted into place in just seven hours. Ten days later, all four garden rooms — including stone and flagstone pavers, walls, planters, pergola, water garden, and fire pit — were complete.



Bonus: Purple coneflowers also bring in butterflies.

A **BUBBLER** drowns out street noise and supplies the soothing sound of water throughout all of the rooms.

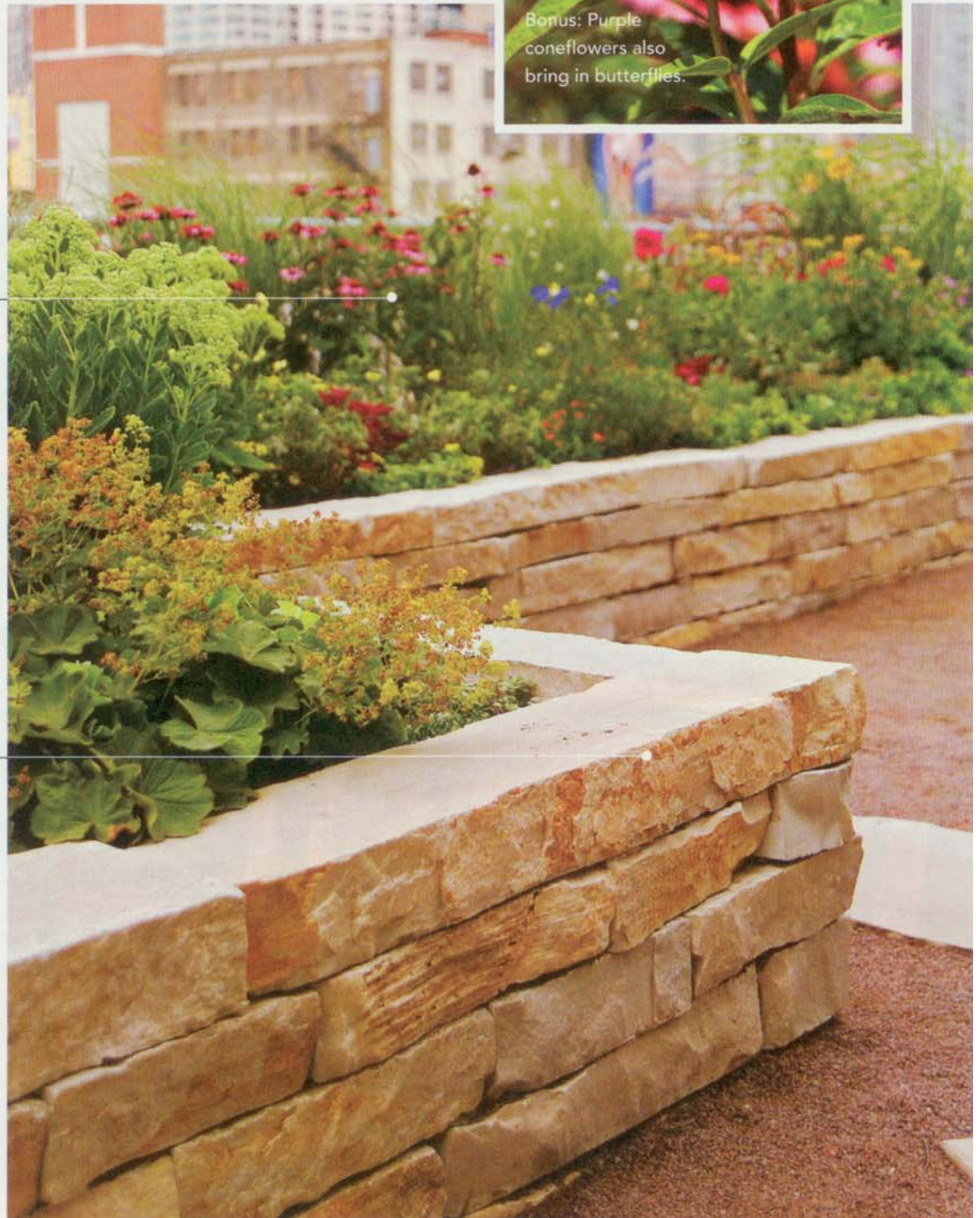
Purple coneflowers and other hardy perennials add a soft, casual look to the **SUNNY BORDER**. Their easygoing nature makes them ideal for pots, too.

WATER PLANTS such as lotus, water hyacinths, and giant reeds infuse container water gardens with attractive color and texture.

Near the railing, a **RAISED BED** built with Wisconsin flagstone supports prairie flowers and grasses and blocks an ugly view (the tarred roof) below.

An aboveground **PLANTER** makes water gardening possible almost anywhere. Here, it also acts as a divider between formal and informal outdoor rooms.

For more information, see Resources on page 111.



BUYER'S GUIDE

Plant material: Cedros Gardens; cedrosgardens.com; 858/792-8640.

Passport to France Pages 34–41

Garden design: Lynn Gregory, Chelsea Gardens; chelseagardenslandscaping.com; 303/321-5645.

Mural painting, faux finishes, color consulting: Sara Noel, Noel Designs, Inc., 217 Spruce St., #103C, Denver, CO 80230; 303/619-9525.

All-weather wicker: Lloyd Flanders; lloydflanders.com.

Instant Spring Pages 42–53

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022; chicagobotanic.org; 847/835-5440.

Mail-order sources for featured bulbs:

- *Tulipa* 'Chinatown', 'Elegant Lady', and *praestans* 'Unicum': Brent and Becky's Bulbs; brentandbeckysbulbs.com; 877/661-2852.
- *Tulipa* 'Diamond': White Flower Farm; whiteflowerfarm.com; 800/503-9624.
- *Tulipa* 'Diana': Old House Gardens; oldhousegardens.com; 734/995-1486.

Look for other featured plants (or purchase seeds) at local nurseries and garden centers.

Raise the Roof Pages 54–63

Landscape architect: Stephen D. Prassas; prassaslandscapestudio.com.

Installation: Christy Webber Landscapes; christywebber.com; 312/829-2926.

Shed: Chuck Grendys, Big City Sets, Inc., 312/421-3210.

Precast concrete pavers: Hanover Prest Paver, Matrix #M1049, Ground Finish, Hanover Architectural Products; hanoverpavers.com; 717/637-00500. Wisconsin Flagstone Pavers and Wall Stone, Eden Stone Co., Inc.; edenstone.net; 920/477-2521.

Crushed stone: Kafka Mauve Granite Pathway with Stabilizer, Kafka Granite, LLC; kafkagranite.com; 800/852-7415.

Iron structure and planters: Fred Gebbia, Fence Doctors, Inc., 2067 Parkview, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195; 847/519-9093.

Canvas shade: Sunbrella, 100% Solution Dyed Acrylic Woven awning and marine fabric, color 4633 Linen, Glen Raven Custom Fabrics, LLC; sunbrella.com.

Dining table and chairs: Freeline Beskwere 6 Dining; Jane Hamley Wells, 1512 N. Hoyne Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; 773/227-4988.

Lounge chairs, ottoman, chaise, sofa, and tables: Smith & Hawken; Trade Sales Dept.; smithandhawkenrade.com; 800/423-0117.

Zinc planters: The Urban Gardener, 2211 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60614; 773/384-9728.

Brown jars: Asian Ceramics; asian-ceramics.com.

From Eyesore to Engaging Pages 64–69

Garden design: Jon Carloftis; Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens; joncarloftis.com.

Living Out Front Pages 78–83

Architect: Jonathan Hartung, Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects; hksarchitects.com; 206/675-9151.

Contractor: Tom Barrett, Environmental Construction; envconst.com; 425/803-9881.

Container garden design: Anton Prack & Co.; antonprack.com; 415/637-4600.

Woven chaise longue, ottoman, armchairs, and love seat with loose cushions: Fusion collection, Brown Jordan; brownjordan.com; 800/743-4252.

Metal table and chairs in round patio and on main level: City People's Garden Store, citypeoples.com; 206/324-0737.

Table umbrella: Costco Wholesale Corp.; costco.com; 800/774-2678.

Sun and Shade Pages 84–91

Outdoor fabrics for pillows: Island Coral (Lime Punch), Tides (Cove) and (Sea Foam), Sailcloth (Cove) and (Citrus); Perennials Outdoor Fabrics. Fabrics are available to interior designers and architects through fine showrooms worldwide. For further information, visit perennialsfabrics.com or call 888/322-4773.

Outdoor lamp: The Last Straw, 1250 U.S. Highway 41 Bypass South, Venice, FL 34285; 941/488-6773.

Market umbrella: Pier 1 Imports; pier1.com; 800/245-4595.

Plants, trellis: Home Depot; homedepot.com.

Resin terra-cotta pots: Campania International, Inc.; campaniainternational.com.

Porch camp cot, linens, pillows, slippers, and dishes: The Cat's Meow; catsmeowinc.com; 941/486-1650.

Camp stools: Wal-Mart; walmart.com.

Perennial Vines Pages 92–99

Mail-order sources for vines include the following:

Brushwood Nursery; brushwoodnursery.com; 610/444-8083—Dutchman's pipe, clematis, trumpet creeper, hardy kiwi, climbing rose, wisteria, and honeysuckle.

Forestfarm; forestfarm.com; 541/846-7269—Dutchman's pipe, clematis, trumpet creeper, hardy kiwi, hops, climbing rose, wisteria, and honeysuckle.

Raintree Nursery; raintreenursery.com; 360/496-6400—Glenora and Interlaken grapevines.

Stokes Tropicals; stoketropicals.com; 866/478-2502—bougainvillea.

White Flower Farm; whiteflowerfarm.com; 800/503-9624—climbing hydrangea.

Wayside Gardens; waysidegardens.com; 800/213-0379—climbing hydrangea.

Jackson and Perkins; jacksonandperkins.com; 877/322-2300—climbing rose.

The Perfect Patio Pages 100–109

Landscape Architect: Eduardo J. Jenkins; edjenkins.com; 225/343-0571.

Teak furniture and Sunbrella fabric cushions, umbrellas: Country Casual; countrycasual.com; 800/289-8325.

Lanterns: Frontgate; frontgate.com; 888/263-9850.