

A Sitting

Turning to look back toward the patio, we see the trellis and pergola together and their similar cross pieces, which bring cohesiveness to the landscape. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'), May Night salvia (*Salvia nemerosa* 'Mainacht'), 'Walker's Low' catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii* 'Walker's Low') and daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.) fill the sun garden.



Garden

Some gardens make you feel like staying a while. This is one of them.

Every time I walk into the back yard I feel happy. It was the homeowner, a gardener, who made this happen. She asked me to redesign her garden, which was quite lovely to begin with. Working with a gardener client on an existing landscape for an older home is my favorite kind of project.

Existing structural elements offered a taking off point to design a cohesive garden. A wood garden shed, painted the same color as the house, a garden bench and a pergola were already in place. The garden needed a greater variety of shade plants and some bright whites in the shady areas. We straightened out unnecessary curves to give the garden a clearer focal point at the end of the lawn. The lawn needed a place for seating.

Subdued Colors

I designed a small circular patio and we chose a cobblestone with subdued blue, gray and rose colors. The homeowner was ready to replace the concrete under the pergola, so we built a square patio of the cobblestone. She asked her carpenter to build the freestanding trellis I had included in the design to separate a new sunny garden from the driveway. I found the pattern for the latticework in the windowpanes on the house.

Oversized limestone flagstone pieces created a path through the lawn to the garden on the side of the house. Existing and reset limestone edging of the beds continue the use of native stone throughout the landscape. Our client had bought two pink Adirondack chairs and they fit perfectly on the round patio.

This long bed faces north and curves around to face east under the shade of trees from this and the neighbor's yard. Little Henry Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Sprich'), Endless Summer hydrangea (*H. macrophylla* 'Baillmer') and 'Green Velvet' boxwood (*Buxus* 'Green Velvet') add structure to the area, which also is filled with many perennials.



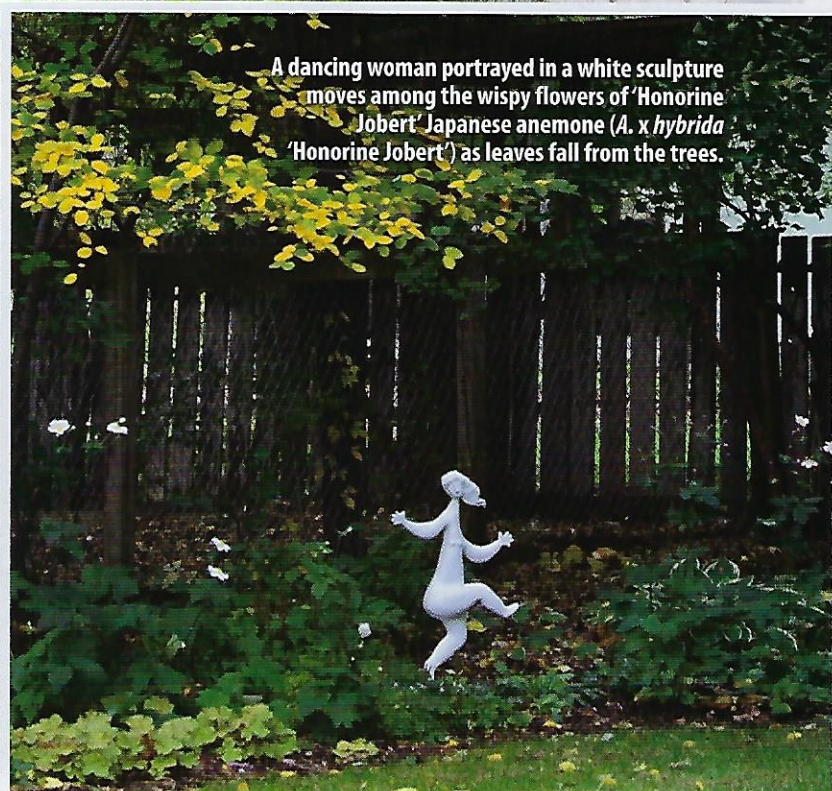
On entering the garden, we see a lawn surrounded by deep beds. Pink Adirondack chairs offer a place to sit on a round cobble patio. Pinky Winky hydrangea (*H. paniculata* 'DVPPinky'), Tardiva hydrangea (*H. paniculata* 'Tardiva'), 'Jack Frost' Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'), and lesser calamintha (*Calamintha nepeta* spp. *nepeta*) bring white, pale green and silver hues to the scene. Yellows appear, as well, with black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm') and 'Caramel' coral bells (*Heuchera* 'Caramel') and hosta 'Rainforest Surprise' (*H.* 'Rain Forest Surprise') in the background.



Looking back from the shade garden on the side of the house, the view opens up onto the lawn and the bench at the far end. A shrub, Carolina allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*), and Hosta add deep greens and splashes of white to the area.

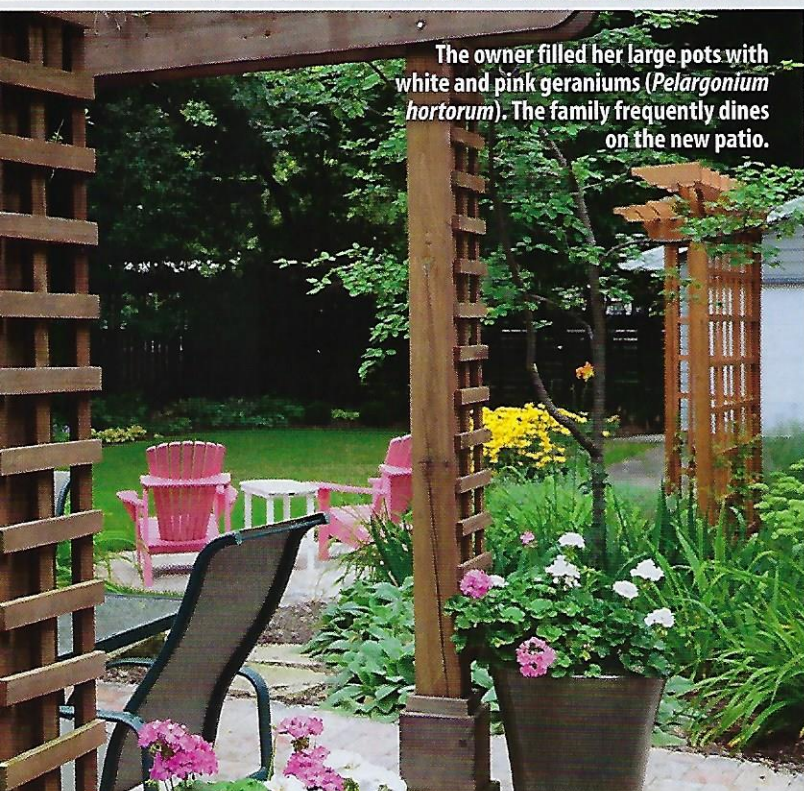


A dancing woman portrayed in a white sculpture moves among the wispy flowers of 'Honorine Jobert' Japanese anemone (*A. x hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert') as leaves fall from the trees.





A trellis, that supports *clematis* and a rose (*Rosa* spp.), screens the garden from the driveway. Groups of perennials help enclose the seating area: Autumn Joy stonecrop (*Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude'), Hubricht's blue star (*Amsonia* *hubrichtii*), and daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.).



The owner filled her large pots with white and pink geraniums (*Pelargonium* *hortorum*). The family frequently dines on the new patio.



In the fall, the owner changed out the pots to hold richly colored mums (*Chrysanthemum* spp.). The deep pink of the Autumn Joy stonecrop (*Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude') and lighter pink of the Adirondack chairs lead our eyes to circle the scene and end upon the round patio with rose tones.



Large pieces of limestone flagstone lead from the patio and the garden shed to the side of house and a shade garden. The stones and the 'Tardiva' hydrangea (*H. paniculata* 'Tardiva') brighten the pathway along with 'Jack Frost' Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost').

Shade Plants

We kept existing shade plants, but added many more. To the existing *Hosta*, I added 'Patriot' (*H. 'Patriot'*), 'Rainforest Surprise' (*H. 'Rainforest Surprise'*) and 'Francee' (*H. 'Francee'*). Their leaves of white, yellow, green and blue of their leaves bring light and an ethereal atmosphere to the farther areas of yard.

The tall stems holding the white flowers of 'Honorine Jobert' Japanese anemone (*A. x hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert') sway with the white sculpture of a dancing woman.

Sun Plants

The sun garden includes easy-care perennials that bloom throughout the spring, summer and fall. Wild blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*) and Hubricht's blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) bring blues to the garden in early summer and keep their shape into winter. The leaves of the blue star turn golden in autumn. Spring bulbs appear throughout the garden.

A few days after we had completed the landscape, I came by to check on it. As I walked down the driveway, I saw that the patio dining table and chairs, as well as the grill, were set up for use. Large pots on the new square patio were filled with brightly colored annuals. I could not have been more pleased. ♡

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