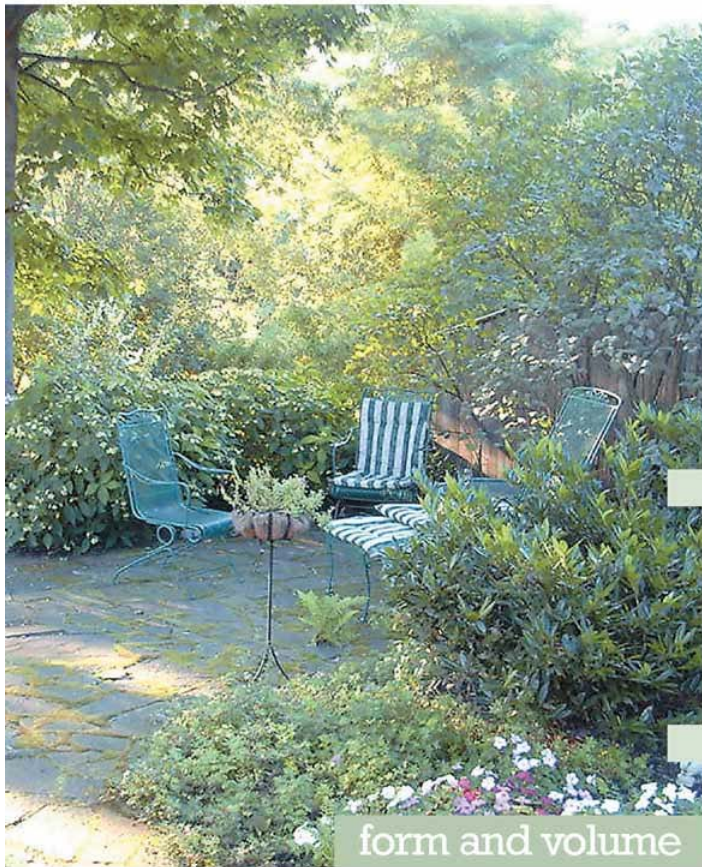


## From the Ground Up

# LANDSCAPE AS ART: PUT YOUR BEST SIDE FORWARD

Good design can create useful and attractive outdoor rooms



form and volume

**Above,** Massings of shrubs and a stone wall provide the vertical elements that define this outdoor patio. The randomly cut bluestone and slate provide an interesting ground plane, and the area is enclosed by overhead branching from shade trees.

**Above right,** Texture can be achieved through pavement materials such as in this combination of bluestone sets with rounded stone infill.

**Opposite page, top,** A small ornamental tree such as this cherry provides a burst of pink color in spring. The textured cherry bark and distinctive branching provide interest in winter.

**Opposite page, bottom,** Small groupings of ornamental grasses, shrubs and ground-covers add depth and provide varied textures to a small planting area. The grasses add motion to the landscape while annual impatiens provide color.



texture

By ELENA PASCARELLA

MY 2007 SERIES OF ARTICLES IN GRACE FOCUSED on sustainable landscape design and the more “science-based” elements of landscape architecture. Landscape architectural design is a combination of both science and art and this year’s series will focus on the artistic elements of the landscape. We will look at specific areas in residential landscapes and the way that good design can transform them.

### Outdoor Rooms

Exterior landscape spaces can be viewed as a series of outdoor rooms connected by corridors much in the way that the rooms in your house are connected. Outdoor rooms are fire yards, side yards, back yards, utility areas, pool areas, patio areas, play spaces, vegetable gardens, secret garden areas, etc.

An indoor room has three basic components: floor, ceiling and walls. In the landscape the components are the ground plane, the sky or overhead plane and the vertical elements that help to define or enclose an outdoor space. Working with these basic elements, landscape architects and designers will define an area using pavement materials, trees and shrubs and such structures as pergolas, fences and arbors. The form, texture, color and location of the materials are what help to artistically create the outdoor room.

### Space and Form

A site’s landform begins to define the volume and form of that space. For example, a corner property with an open lawn sweeping down to the ocean and a large hill or rock outcrop along one side will have limitless views towards the ocean but will have its volume or space defined by the hillside. Landscape architects and designers will use landform (earth moun-