THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2020

DEVELOPING YOUR DREAM HOUSE
EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | MAKING A MOVE
DREAMING OF KITCHENS AND BATHS
READY, SET, DECORATE! | SHOPPING ROOM BY ROOM

FROM THE EDITORS OF
CTC&G

$19.95
CHAPTER TWO

EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS

Smart planning can help keep you enjoying your outdoor spaces for years to come. Experts in the field chime in on best-performing plants, well-considered designs and that one go-to garden essential.

FEATURING:
Gault Stone & Landscape Supplies
Gregory Lombardi Design
McArdle’s Florist & Garden Center
Seventy Acres Landscape Architecture and Design

PHOTOGRAPH BY NEIL LANDINO JR. FROM CT C&G MAY 2018 "RETURN TO GLORY." SLAE DESIGN

AS SEEN IN THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2020

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM
EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS

WE ASK THE EXPERTS

Louis Fusco
Landscape Architects
louisfusco.com

Nancy King
Seventy Acres
seventyacres.com

Les Lewis IV
Les Arbres
lesarbres.com

Janice Parker
Landscape Architects
janiceparker.com

Rosalia Sanni
Rosalia Sanni Design
rosaliasanni.com

“By the ocean, I am fond of using sea grasses like Panicum that are good at catching soft breezes and adding movement. They also tolerate salt well and handle our extreme weather events.” — Rosalia Sanni

“ONE OF MY FAVORITE NATIVE SHRUBS THAT EVOKES A BEACHSIDE FEELING IS MYRICA PENNSYLVANICA OR BAYBERRY. IT IS A SEMI-EVERGREEN SHRUB THAT IS VERY HAPPY IN A WINDBLOWN, SALTY ENVIRONMENT. I LIKE TO USE IT TO CREATE AN INFORMAL HEDGE.” — Nancy King

“EUROPEAN BEECH AND AMERICAN HOLLIES ALWAYS PERFORM WELL.” — Les Lewis IV

“FOR COASTAL CLIENTS, WE ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH SALT-TOLERANT SPECIES WITH A STRONG FIBROUS ROOT SYSTEM FOR SOIL OR SAND AREA STABILIZATION. NORTHERN BAYBERRY, MYRICA PENNSYLVANICA, LITTLE BLUESTEM, AMERICAN DUNE GRASS AND INDIAN GRASS (SORGHASTRUM NUTANS) ARE ALL GREAT GRASS VARIETIES.” — Louis Fusco

“WE WORK WITH PLANTS THAT CAN TOLERATE SALINITY—BOTH IN THE SOIL AND IN THE AIR. WE LOVE THE MIX OF SWITCHGRASS (PANICUM VIRGATUM), LITTLE BLUESTEM (SCHIZACHYRIUM SORGENIUM) AND JOE PYE WEEED (EUTROCHIUM PURPUREUM). THIS BORDER PLANTING WILL MOVE IN THE WIND AND ADD A SOFTNESS TO THE COASTLINE EDGE.” — Janice Parker

BEST PLANTS FOR COASTAL PROPERTIES?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY: (TOP LEFT) SALVATORE CORSO/SC PHOTOGRAPHY; (ABOVE) SEAN JANCSKI (JULY/AUGUST 2019); (RIGHT) MEG MATYIA (MARCH 2019);
**COUNTRY-HOME FAVES?**

“One of our favorite native shrubs that performs beautifully in a woodland understory is Kalmia latifolia—our native mountain laurel. It is evergreen and has a disarming light pink flower in springtime.”—Nancy King

“I try to find ‘grandmother’ specimen plants—to add character, charm and a sense of our cultural landscape. Old-fashioned crab apples, lilacs, Mock Orange are wonderful, as are older large shrubs, such as Magnolia stellata, big rhododendrons and witch hazels.”—Janice Parker

“Verdar Valley boxwood and Ilex verticillata are great country home plants.”—Les Lewis IV

“Converting large open lawns into wildflower meadows or meadow grasses has become very popular.”—Louis Fusco

**FOR COUNTRY HOMES, I LIKE TO SWITCH THINGS UP DEPENDING ON THE STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE SETTING. LILACS, WHICH ARE FRAGRANT AND GENERATE EXCITEMENT DURING SPRINGTIME, ARE OFTEN IN THE MIX.”—Rosalia Sanni

**TOWN/CITY PLANTS?**

“We really like to bring nature into more developed town and city properties! This layered planting is often a more narrow color palette highlighting texture, with the design focusing on maximizing our client’s use and enjoyment of their property. We create a seamless inside/outside connection to draw people outdoors to relax and entertain.”—Nancy King

“Be sure to have something beautiful framed by any windows that look out on the terrace: It is nice to see the surrounding areas through waving plumes of ornamental grasses. I don’t think a garden is complete without trees, so plantings of crab apples, Japanese maple or weeping cherries will add interest in all seasons to the terrace, and they light so beautifully at night!”—Janice Parker

“Hinoki False Cypress and English yew play well in town/city living. Both are classic, ornamental and controllable.”—Les Lewis IV

“For urban living where there are no deer, I like to use evergreen Taxus, which is very hardy, easy to shape and grows in both sun and shade.”—Rosalia Sanni

“Hellebores and hydrangeas provide a long bloom time and can handle the shade conditions typical in the in-town garden spaces.”—Louis Fusco
We put the right plant in the right place. We make sure that all plants are well structured and are planted to proper grade so they can thrive in their environments.” —Les Lewis IV

“Whenever possible, we try to specify native low-maintenance plant materials. If planting is completed during the proper planting season, irrigation can be minimized if not eliminated. If the proper plants are selected, once established, they should not need additional irrigation, unless we enter a severe drought period.” —Louis Fusco

“Whether we are working on new homes, pools or renovations, the goal is to make the right choices both aesthetically and functionally—we are careful to abide by the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone in all our work. We work to reduce the over-fertilization and pruning and choose plants carefully that will be the appropriate size for the location, as well as suitable in all other ways—light, shade, wet, dry, soil types, etc.” —Janice Parker

“LIKE TO DESIGN LANDSCAPES WITH A MINIMUM OF 70 PERCENT NATIVE PLANTINGS IN A FUNCTIONAL AND AESTHETIC PLANT PALETTE TO SUPPORT OUR NATIVE POLLINATORS. THIS CREATES BEAUTIFUL LOW-MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPES, WITH SIMILAR WATER NEEDS UTILIZING MICROCLIMATES WHEN POSSIBLE.” —Nancy King

“I am strategic about how much hardscaping vs. green space to carve out, and minimize unnecessary impervious surface. Where it makes good design sense, I specify recycled, reclaimed or locally sourced materials such as fieldstone, gravel, bluestone or granite. For plants, I always weave in native choices with ornamental value like oak, dogwood, hydrangea, butterfly weed or holly. Native plants are resilient and respond well to organic land management practices. Plus, they benefit depleting populations of local pollinators and wildlife while certain non-native selections do not.” —Rosalia Sanni

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“Janus et Cie, RH and Frontgate are all great sources for outdoor furniture. Campania International provides a wonderful assortment of planters in all sizes, styles and materials.” —Louis Fusco

“Felco 2 handsnips and Felco 600 handsaws. They’re essential for finished hand-pruning.” —Les Lewis IV

“Unusual and rounded features that surprise and make you do a double take create focal points and are an essential part of every garden. Circles, curves and rounded shapes—Pennoyer Newman’s Conical Strapped planters, for example—are incredible in the outdoor environment.” —Janice Parker

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