

# CTC & G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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INNOVATION  
IN DESIGN AWARDS 2014

# Innovator 2 LANDSCAPE

A SERIES OF GARDEN ROOMS ADHERES TO A STRONG CENTRAL AXIS

DOYLE  
HERMAN  
DESIGN  
ASSOCIATES

## THIS CLASSIC ESTATE

is the rare project that both James Doyle and Kathryn Herman, principals at Doyle Herman Design Associates, worked on together. "We were hired to do everything but the house," says Kathryn Herman, and that entailed breaking up the property into a sequence of garden rooms. The Colonial revival home helped set the tone. "Bar, characteristically, our work is restrained. We use a limited palette of plant material—not overdoing things. And that's what makes it look sophisticated. That's the pretty part," she adds. "But we are good at figuring out the really difficult parts, too." In this instance, that included a heavy-duty drainage system.

A strong axis runs through the very center of house

and out to the pool. The line is bordered with boxwood, which defines the sightline and paired with box flank entrances to the pool which is surrounded on the inside by a perennial border. The border is only three feet wide so plantings are a single plant deep. "We put in blocks of varying lengths: peonies, Achillea Mollis, ostrich fern, block mondo grass," says Herman. And there's a planting of *Cornus canadensis* 'Forest Pansy,' because the owner requested bragwandy-leaved trees.

The convex mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture by David Harber located next to the pool gives the garden a modern feel. "We feel very strongly it is important to put art into the garden," says Herman. "Such a wonderful piece keeps it fresh and lively and adds personality."

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## Spatial Relationships

(two rows) A strong axis runs through the property. Here, the sightline is focused and narrowed with clipped box borders. (peonies row, clockwise from top) Sheared lilac, or lime trees, surround the pool. The gaze design is in keeping with the home's Colonial feel. The house sits on a rise at the front of the property with views down into the garden. A postcard, frame-mounted stainless steel sculpture is by David Harber. See Resources.

