

The background of the cover is a photograph of a stone tower with a conical roof, partially covered in ivy, situated in a formal garden with manicured hedges and topiary trees. The title 'Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS' is overlaid on the top half of the image. The word 'Connecticut' is in a large, pink, serif font, with a small blue triangle above the 'o'. 'COTTAGES & GARDENS' is in a smaller, white, serif font. Below the title, the website 'COTTAGES-GARDENS.COM' and the date 'MAY 2012' are printed in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main headline 'Lose Yourself Outdoors' is in a large, green, sans-serif font. Below it, the sub-headline 'EUROPEAN GARDENS THAT INSPIRE' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, '23 PIECES FOR THE VERDANT ROOM' is in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'TOP-SELLING NEIGHBORHOODS' is in a white, sans-serif font.

# Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

COTTAGES-GARDENS.COM | MAY 2012

## Lose Yourself Outdoors

EUROPEAN GARDENS  
THAT INSPIRE

23 PIECES FOR THE  
VERDANT ROOM

TOP-SELLING NEIGHBORHOODS

NO MATTER WHERE  
DOYLE HERMAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES  
WORKS, FUNCTIONAL DESIGN  
SPEAKS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

BY TOVAH MARTIN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES DOYLE

# THE GRAND TOUR

**Making an Entrance**

To give the driveway (left) and chapel (right) the look of a French chateau's gaugerie, Doyle Herman Design Associates connected them to the entry grid with a strong cross axis.



#### GLOBETROTTERING IS NOTHING NEW

for Greenwich based Doyle Herman Design Associates, and the world is a more beautiful place as a result. Designing with élan while honoring the local vernacular, DHDA has gained a global presence no matter where in the world clients call home. All three of these projects have an American connection, each had demons to surmount, all seem vastly different on the surface, but the solutions were blissfully straightforward the moment James Doyle and Kathryn Herman galloped in to troubleshoot the scene. Take the chateau in France, for example. Formerly from Connecticut and familiar with DHDA's universal appeal, the expat couple sent an SOS when life brought them abroad. Originally, the powerful home could scarcely make an impression hidden behind a veritable forest of gawky trees and approached from the rear. Immediately Doyle



Before

#### MARZY, FRANCE | MISSION TO CREATE A LANDSCAPE BEFITTING A CHATEAU

**Hidden Treasure** (pronounce: chateau, correctly: chow) The chateau could scarcely make a statement obscured behind a grove of trees with a near approach. **Trotsky to the Rescue** (Dor) The solution lay in strong lines and a hip-nonsense entry drive accented by green glazes and burnished edging. **Heaven's Gates** (pronounce: may) Not only did the gate move to the fore, but it received a fresh coat of French blue paint, while its gears were taken down, numbered and reinstalled. To achieve the Old World patina on the new wall, it was pre-waxed with a lime slip and plastered with a lime wash. See Processes.



and Herman saw that the house would portray a commanding presence if they routed the entry drive to access it straight on, which required shuffling the entry gates—accomplished by Colm Doyle of Doylescapes and his mason, Graham Hutton of England. Doylescapes' stonework was the secret weapon running throughout all three of these projects. For the plantings, spare and smart says it all. Conical yews sound the fanfare, a crisp boxwood edging keeps it clever, and a strong axis ties it all up to do the chateau proud.

The ripple effect of great design ripples eyebrows. When the mother of a client bought in the heart of Dublin and then needed a landscape to anchor the brave, modern architecture she selected for the property, she knew where to turn. On one hand, the mews project balances an 1847 Georgian wall that had to be renovated per the Dublin Planning Council—the architect brought it into the present tense with a sleek, new surface. But the compound also covaries of minimalist buildings, glass walls, and a glass catwalk to bridge verves. With limited space and buildings all around, the garden couldn't be cluttered. Instead, DHDA made their succinct but expressive statement with lawn and groundcovers on two levels. To erase the lines between in and out, groundcovers and trees take their journey right up to the glass "walls." Continuity is the unifying riff. And landscape is the ticker—gravel, with infrequently spaced stone pavers to echo the modern architecture—keeping pathways easily navigated. A below-grade



#### DUBLIN, IRELAND

**MISSION TO ECHO THE MODERN ARCHITECTURE CONNECTING TWO BUILDINGS WITH STRONG, SIMPLE LINES.**

**Good Bones** (this post, clockwise from top left) The 1847 Georgian wall overlooking a scrub lot had to remain, but needed a facelift. Nurturing nature in the rear garden, an Irish sculpture of Mother and Child plays off the stone wall and stands in silhouette about to pop open. Bridging the Gap in the inner courtyard, a glass and steel bridge ferries a catwalk to connect the two buildings on the property. **Color Play** The one road toward festive color created by salvia, verbena and other blooms sets off the entertaining terrace. **New Outlook** (previous post) With a sharp new façade, the wall of the mews house now jives with the sharp new landscape. See Resources.







entrance could have been dicey if Matthew Willinger of DHDA hadn't obsessed over the drainage details. When all was said and done, "The green experience makes it feel a lot larger," says Doyle.

Meanwhile, DHDA was greening up a house on the beach in Normandy with a totally different bundle of issues. When a house has seen 150-plus years of family history and serves as a vacation home for an extended family, sentiment runs deep. The mutual link was the interior designer, and on the strength of her recommendation, the Texan in the clan trusted DHDA to go from blah to brilliant. They reorganized the space, sorted out parking for three residences and gave the entry a smart wood

parents. Gone were the lousy flower borders confusing the lines of the buildings. Instead, they were replaced with benches and bold containers set on gravel, surrounded by an antique brick skirt and river rock.

As a requirement for inclusion at this ocean-side location, all of the plants must be able to withstand regular dousing with salt spray. The better privacy hedges had to be hand-picked as well as beach-quality, so hornbeam was a natural. And they went the eco-friendly route of putting in a permeable driveway to allow storm runoff. As always, the team designed for immediate gratification, while factoring in tomorrow's issues. Whether working in Connecticut or further afield, DHDA always takes the globe into account. 🌍



### HOULOGATE, FRANCE

MISSION: TO CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL NORMANDY ARCHITECTURE, BUT UPDATE THE EXTERIOR OF A THREE-STRUCTURE COURTYARD.

**ESSENTIAL:** A FINE SPREAD FROM THE PAST. **Rooted in Tradition** The historical patterns in front of the main house provided a smart entry. **Soft Focus** With rounded hedges hugging the walls, but no strong story line, the garden lacked definition. **Textural Interplay** To help fit the beach on the facade overlooking the water, CDCA used different textures: textures of grass, brick and river stones. **Private Outlook** The bank of windows wished in by demanded a clipped hornbeam hedge to give the gardenhouse privacy. See Features.