

THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2024



FROM THE EDITORS OF

CTC & G

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOME | READY, SET, DECORATE! | DREAMING OF KITCHENS +
BATHS | EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | TIME TO ORGANIZE! | SHOPPING IN STYLE | THE LIST

EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS

Do you crave a gathering spot around a firepit, or are you thirsting for a water feature for serene contemplation? Maybe you want to invest in the best plantings for pollinators. Or, if you're thinking of an architectural amenity, a pergola or a greenhouse might be just the ticket. Here, experts weigh in on those topics and more, and you'll find inspiration on outfitting your own outdoor oasis.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLEGRA ANDERSON FROM CTC&G MAY 2023 "POSITIVELY PASTORAL"

NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

“*Echinacea purpurea* is a favorite because of its strong stature and casually wild, but elegant form. Larger, more natural gardens always benefit from New England Asters. At up to six feet in height, these lavender blue, orange-centered flowers are stunning when planted in large drifts. At the woodland edge, *Aruncus dioicus*—our large native Goatsbeard—loves a bit of shade, and with their dramatic white plumes, they attract bees, moths and butterflies!” —Nancy King, [Seventy Acres](http://SeventyAcres.com), seventyacres.com



EUTROCHIUM DUBIUM

“Here are a few we love: Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium* ‘Little Joe’); Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia* ‘Snow Queen’); Hairy Alumroot (*Heuchera villosa* ‘Autumn Bride’); Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*).” —Renée Byers, Renée Byers Landscape Architect, reneebyers.com

“*Lobelia cardinalis*—a favorite of hummingbirds and beautiful in a meadow. *Geranium maculatum* has a blanketing effect. *Asclepias tuberosa*—a milkweed pretty enough for a garden and also host plant for monarchs.” —Rosalia Sanni, Rosalia Sanni Design, rosaliasanni.com

“AGASTACHE ‘BLUE BLAZES’, *ECHINACEA PALLIDA*, *LIATRIS PYCNOSTACHYA*.” —James Doyle, James Doyle Design Associates, jdda.com

“Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), *Geranium maculatum* (Spotted Cranesbill), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (cutleaf Coneflower).”

—Janice Parker, Janice Parker Landscape Architects, janiceparker.com



RUDBECKIA LACINIATA



WATER FEATURES OR FIRE FEATURES?

“In the Northeast, fire features tend to be more popular because they extend the seasonal use of the garden on either side of the traditional summer season. When architecturally appropriate to the house, they provide both a functional and beautiful focal point for any seating arrangement.” —Renée Byers

“FIRE FEATURES. IN ADDITION TO CUTTING THE COLD ON A CHILLY EVENING, PEOPLE TEND TO RELAX AND BE MORE SOCIAL AROUND A FIRE. THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF PEOPLE TELLING STORIES (TRUE OR NOT) AROUND CAMPFIRES, AND THE FIRE PIT PROVIDES A SETTING FOR GOOD CONVERSATION.” —Justin Quinn, James Doyle Design Associates, jdda.com

“Both! Fire pits and water features are always exciting for us to design. People are spending so much time outdoors in all kinds of weather now. These set a communal tone and bring people together for conversation and entertaining one day, and for quiet reflection and meditation another day.” —Rosalia Sanni

“Both are popular, but fire features are my preferred option, because it creates a room for spending time with friends and family.” —Janice Parker

“Earth, air, fire and water are the classical elements according to the Ancient Greeks. At the request of many of our clients, we include both fire and water features when designing entire properties.” —Nancy King

ADD AN ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT: PERGOLA, CONSERVATORY OR GREENHOUSE

“These structures create an instant outdoor room and better connect people to their gardens and landscapes. Clients want less time in direct sunlight, so pergolas and other shade structures are trending up. Ever since the pandemic, there has also been a push to grow your own food. Technology has made greenhouses more affordable, user-friendly, and easier to design and install.” —Justin Quinn

“A pergola is a great way to grow ornamental climbing vines and to add shade, lights, fans and even heat to extend usage over various seasons. We often install them over outdoor dining areas for a feeling of sitting out in a garden.”

—Rosalia Sanni



“The desire to be comfortable on hot, sunny days as well as to enjoy being outside in rainy weather leads our clients more toward conservatories, greenhouses and covered terraces this year. It’s also a great way to enjoy beautiful (and dry) outdoor furniture.” —Nancy King

“THE BENEFITS OF EACH OF THESE ELEMENTS ARE NUMEROUS! IN OUR PRACTICE, I WOULD SAY PERGOLAS ARE THE MOST ASKED-FOR GARDEN ARCHITECTURE AMENITY—THEY PROVIDE A SHADY EXTENSION OF THE ARCHITECTURE INTO THE GARDEN, MAKE A PERFECT TRANSITION SPACE FROM INDOORS TO OUTDOORS, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOWNLIGHTING.” —Renée Byers

“Pergolas are classic: They create a beautiful outdoor room and are simple to plant. The patterns that the shadows of the pergola throw are magical, they offer shelter in the landscape and a perfect setting for dining outside. The climate control in a greenhouse needs to be specific as to what you are growing and how you are using the space, and there are a lot of utilities and mechanics involved to make sure it is functioning well. A conservatory is an indoor room that is made of glass. I love everything about a conservatory.” —Janice Parker

CREATE AN ARTFUL GARDEN

“In the garden, special moments of discovery can be created by locating sculpture so that it is only revealed while moving through the landscape, creating focal points for a truly memorable and satisfying experience.” —Nancy King

“I love to use artwork in the garden two ways. The first is as a focal point to draw your eyes out into distant vistas. The second is to create an ‘ah-ha moment’ by nesting the artwork in an intimate moment to be discovered among the greenery. Soft lighting on the art piece is essential, and not easy to get right. The best gardens bring our emotions to the surface, as does the best art. When you put both together, a garden is compelling and moving.” —Janice Parker

“FOR MAXIMUM APPRECIATION OF THE ARTWORK, IT IS IMPORTANT TO GROUND THE WORK IN ITS SURROUNDINGS, WITH A CALM BACKDROP THAT IS ARCHITECTURALLY EFFECTIVE IN ALL SEASONS. VIEWING ANGLES ARE PARAMOUNT, AND IDEALLY THE OBJECT SHOULD BE EXPERIENCED FROM MORE THAN ONE PERSPECTIVE.” —Renée Byers

“The right sculpture can both enliven a landscape and provide a focal point, training the eye in toward a view that wants emphasis, or offering a visual stopping point. We love sculpture that plays up light and shadow during different times of the day and either softens angles or provides punctuation. It can be whimsical and highly subjective, often serving as the owner’s personal commentary.” —Rosalia Sanni

“A great sculpture piece as a focal point is always dramatic, but a found piece — unexpected, partially hidden by plantings — can evoke an equally great surprised reaction.”

—James Doyle

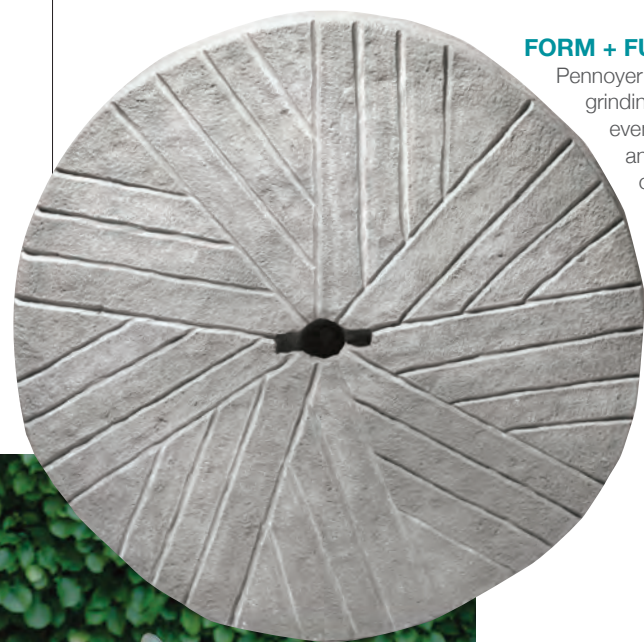


OUTDOOR OASIS

OUTFIT YOUR EXTERIOR SPACE WITH A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

FORM + FUNCTION

Penroyer Newman has cast two millstone grinding wheels for garden walls, steps and even can be made into fountains. Use with an Alpine Trough to capture water from a custom-installed spout. Available in two sizes: 22-inch diameter and 39-inch diameter. penroyernewman.com.



FINE FLORAL

Inspired by David Harber's passion for the natural environment, *Florio* acts as a sculptural embodiment of plant growth. Elegantly curving copper flutes of each layer reach skyward with the gilded uppermost flute giving off a lustrous warm glow. davidharber.com.



GROW YOUR OWN

Enjoy fresh veggies and delicious salads all year long grown in your own Hartley Botanic handmade greenhouse (Victorian shown). The beautiful structures are hardy enough to stand up to snowy New England winters. hartleybotanic.com.



HOT SHOT

The Fire Totem by Studio Vlock is an elegant, functional fine art piece that reimagines the utilitarian patio heater. Vlock's imagery, inspired by nature, creates an alluring centerpiece when lit. The design of this steel sleeve covers any style heater from top to bottom without changing its functionality. studiovlock.com.



NATURAL BEAUTY

Teak is a natural in the garden because it ages beautifully and is weather resistant. The Emma table from Teak Warehouse is made with a smooth, circular top set on a slatted base in a high-quality and durable teak. teakwarehouse.com.



STACKING UP

Need a good-looking way to stack your fireplace or fire-pit wood? Step2's Longhorn firewood rack is made from high-quality resin that is rustproof and weatherproof and holds approximately 6.5 cubic feet of firewood. step2.com.



SOFT SEATING

When you need extra seating, the Apex outdoor ottoman from Roche Bobois is a fun and colorful option. The quilted design is achieved with Meridien outdoor fabrics. roche-bobois.com.



GATHERING PLACE

Geometric frames and clean, contemporary lines define the Matisse collection from Janus et Cie. Lounging and dining pieces are crafted from sustainably sourced premium teak. The warm, natural finish and finely grained wood is complemented by polyvinyl mesh panels in Mocha. janusetcie.com.



PHOTOGRAPH BY: (OPPOSITE PAGE) MILLSTONES: SAM YOCUM