

On Design

1988 NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION WINNERS

by Will Perry, managing editor



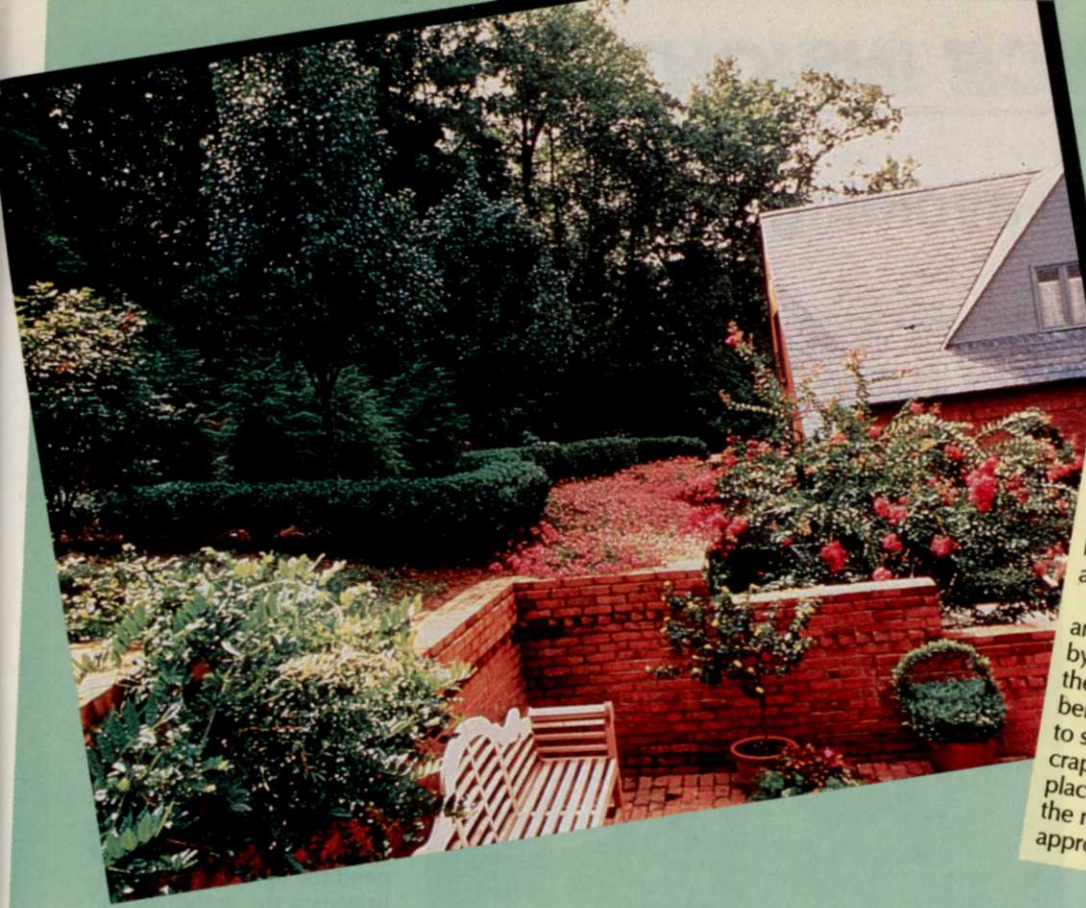
If necessity is truly the mother of invention, then the Gibbs Landscape Company of Smyrna, Ga., would make Thomas Edison proud. The company was called in to landscape this Atlanta residence after its owners discovered it had been sited too close to a steep bank. Gibbs' job was to install a swimming pool and cabana and to provide a pleasing view from both the residence and pool.

The pool was set at an intermediate level between the residence and the upper garden. The steps leading to it border flowering crape myrtle, which provide brilliant summer color and lend to a sense of enclosure. The design of the pool included building several planting islands to break up the brick decking and to add green along the pool's edge. The area features numerous plantings to provide year-round color while treeforms soften the vertical scale of the residence.



When the owners of this residence called Friends Landscaping, Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., they said they wanted to renovate the property using the traditional landscaping forms that made the place the showplace of the day in the 1920s. The company's design integrated elements of restoration with the functionality of modern elements to earn a Superior Award from the NLA.

Here, a brick walkway leads to the main entrance of the residence with an exterior courtyard wall to the left. The entrance is flanked with shrubs and tropical plants and the courtyard, located off the formal living area and entry, holds a Mediterranean-style pool and an 8-foot tiered bowl fountain made of Florida Keystone. The addition of a large cluster of Phoenix palm, Alexander palms and a yellow tabebuia add special definition to this area.



When renovating the Cooper residence of Marietta, Ga., Creative Scapes, Inc., sought to create the feel of a southern garden with an English motif. Five distinct areas were carved into the slope on which the home is sited. Brick walls, which were designed to retain the soil and direct the guest into the environment, had created a drainage problem by trapping water between it and the patio areas.

In this main entrance area the visitor is greeted by this lutchyens bench on the first landing. Wisteria is being trained along a wire to soften the wall and crape-myrtles have been placed to give a glimpse of the main courtyard as you approach the house.



This 60-year-old bungalow on the Peconic Bay in New York was partially destroyed in a winter storm, leaving only three walls intact. The firm of Ireland-Gannon Associates did its part in renovating the house by helping its owner create functional, outdoor spaces with large entertaining areas, seasonal color, privacy from the beach right-of-way and neighbors, as well as unrestricted views and access to the bay.

Here the firm placed planters of portulaca, ivy geranium, carex, dracena and pink geranium to create an intimate space within a large entertaining area. Also, since the residence is used during summer weekends, these plants need little maintenance and can be stored safely away in winter.