



# Verdant Escape

*As the summer sun brings to life nature's vibrant splendor, the full spectrum of the season's allure shines in a garden filled with lovely florals and purposeful plantings.* BY Elizabeth Bonner | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Marcy Black Simpson



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When garden designer Troy Rhone began plans for this vibrant expanse, he gave equal weight to its function and its beauty. “The design process was a very detailed one,” he says. “We spent time thinking through how the homeowner would use each space and really take advantage of his love of gardening, while not creating unwanted maintenance with the parts of gardening he didn’t enjoy.”

The team approached the project in a way that reflects the interior design of the home, as well as its exterior architecture. “Doing this creates a uniformity that allows the inside and the outside to feel identical,” Troy explains. They decided to produce a series of “garden rooms” that flow together but also exist as distinctive segments with their own identities—much like the process of curating a well-appointed home. “Just like any room, you have various kinds of visual boundaries to create spaces,” he says. “A hedge might serve as a wall, or the bottom branches of a tree might act as a ceiling.”

Features such as a working tool closet and a functional potting bench, as well as rain barrels to store nutrient-rich rainwater for the vegetable garden, integrate practicality amid the lovely flora and foliage. Envisioning an English border garden, they selected perennials with sturdy stems and roses that thrive under natural care. The deep, flourishing bed, which Troy describes as a “work of art,” is filled with a combination of plants that offers a striking spectrum of colors, textures, and blooming seasons.

For Troy, it’s the interplay of sensible and showstopping elements that makes this glorious space special. “It is not only a beautifully designed garden, but also a working garden,” he says. “Many people have beautiful gardens to look at, but few have fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers to enjoy.”





### NATURAL GRANDEUR

An innovative mix of blooms, abundant greenery, and coordinated plantings come together in what garden designer Troy Rhone describes as an “English working garden.” From dynamic antique roses, zinnias, and Echinacea to more subtle lamb’s ear and boxwood to custom-made functional features, this space holds a treasure trove of character—with a true love of the land at its heart. Ultimately, Troy hopes people feel inspired when they see this enlivened haven. “I hope they feel it is a garden they could have and manage at their own home,” he says.



“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul.”

—Alfred Austin