

Rooms to GROW

*Slip on your gardening gloves, and use these
amazing spaces as inspiration to turn a plain
backyard into a houseful of eye-catching outdoor rooms.*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Marcy Black Simpson | GARDEN DESIGN BY Troy Rhone





The South is blessed with an abundance of sunny days, and come summertime, there is nowhere we'd rather relax than in our own backyards. This lovely garden is a perfect example of the botanical paradise you can create with a bit of planning, a little hard work, and minimal maintenance. Several years ago, Birmingham garden designer Troy Rhone decided to try out his burgeoning gardening skills by transforming the yard of his first home into a flower-filled retreat. Troy had just met P. Allan Smith, a noted Southern horticulturalist, at a luncheon. Smith's imaginative portfolio inspired Troy to design a series of outdoor rooms, giving them as much attention as he would any interior space. A stone path, punctuated with a pair of gates that separate individual spaces, leads the way from the house to the garden proper. A circle of lush green lawn is surrounded by a privacy fence softened by an evergreen hedge. Additional tall shrubbery commands attention. Troy filled in around the greenspace with colorful annuals and hardy perennials, such as tricolored *Lantana camara 'Irene'* and bright yellow *Rudbeckia*. Plant heights vary to add interest, and the cheerful mix resembles the delightful compositions of rambling English cottage gardens. A birdbath centered on the back fence attracts avian visitors, as does the sprinkling of birdhouses. The result is an inviting outdoor "house" that is both welcoming and refreshing all summer long.





Green with Envy Love the look of this garden? Create your own backyard Eden by dividing the space into a grouping of outdoor rooms, separated by plantings and features such as patios, gates, benches, and statuary. To keep the garden evolving throughout the seasons, choose plants that grow to varying heights and have different blooming cycles. A small lawn keeps mowing to a minimum, and a cutting garden keeps the fresh bouquets coming.

