



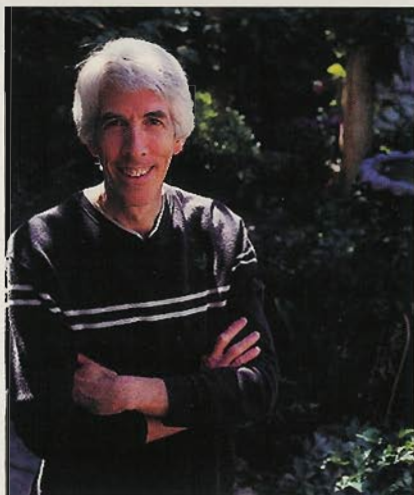
SMALL WONDERS

HERE ARE FOUR VISIONS OF HOW TO TURN
A ROWHOUSE BACKYARD INTO A FAVORITE OUTDOOR ROOM

SO YOU SAY YOUR TEST BACKYARD IS THE SIZE OF A PARKING PAD,
AND LOOKS ABOUT AS APPEALING, WITH ITS PACKED DIRT,
SICKLY SHRUBS, AND BROKEN ALLEY GATE?

The leafy, protected feel of the Reuters' garden, *left*, feels more like the country than the city. The lighting enhances the walkways, *this page*, of Waters' and Greenough's garden at night.

BY MARY MEDLAND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MITRO HOOD



Adams: "Nothing but concrete."

For the most part, Adams's garden—his and Moss's are on the Reservoir Hill Garden Tour this June 11 and 12—relies on perennials along the lines of St. John's wort, lavender, and coneflower. "I just went to the herb festival and found some interesting perennials," he says.

On one fence, Adams planted a climbing hydrangea and covered a 4x4 piece of lumber (which supports a bay window) with Chinese wisteria. During the summer, he brings out some 30 potted plants. "The garden looks its best during the summer," he says. "But through the rest of the year, it takes on different contours depending on the season."

Next door, once Moss decimated his concrete, he began planting trees. "I

wanted a shady garden and knew that it would take some time for a canopy to become established, so I started by planting a Japanese maple in one corner and opposite that, a magnolia tree," he says. "Then I put in a mulberry tree—which has never borne fruit—a white clump-birch, and native dogwood."

His fences are covered with English ivy, Virginia creeper, and grape vines. "When the grapes dry out in the winter, the cardinals and other birds eat them," Moss notes. "And every year there are several finches and mourning doves that make their nests there."

In spite of the lack of sun during the summer, Moss was able to plant hundreds of bulbs—narcissus, daffodil, tulips, crocus—that bloom before the leaves of his trees are fully out. However, during the summer, he is limited to impatiens and pachysandra, which serve as a terrific ground cover.

In the middle of the garden is a Moss-built wisteria-covered arbor that creates an arch in the middle of the garden, while a fishpond, filled with goldfish, sits midway along one side of the fence.

"I've created what I call my 'shady, secret garden,'" says Moss. "It's a great environment for me, for the birds, for sitting outside and playing my guitar or entertaining my guests."

FELLS POINT

When Vaughn Waters and Gregg Greenough moved into their home in Fells Point, they inherited a yard that was pretty much nothing but cinderblock walls and weeds. But they saw a glass half-full. And they knew enough to hire landscape architect Jack Leonard to work with them.

"Gregg and I had two different ideas of what we wanted, but Jack was able to combine both," says Waters, who is executive director for the Princeton Review. "He'd done a lot of big suburban landscapes, but this was his first shot at a small, urban garden. We knew that we wanted something that was low maintenance, had multiple areas for entertaining, had a water feature, and something that would fit an older home."

"We tried to look at the yard as a blank canvas upon which we could do anything we wanted."

Well, not quite anything. They couldn't

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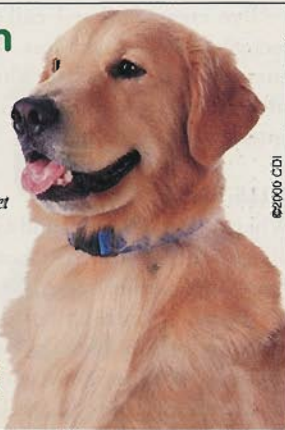
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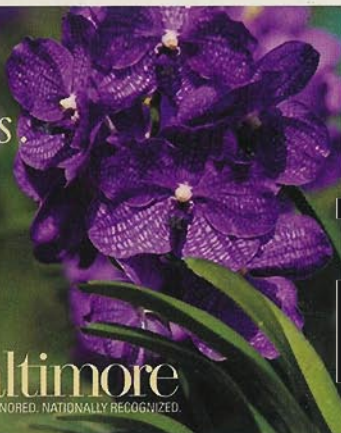


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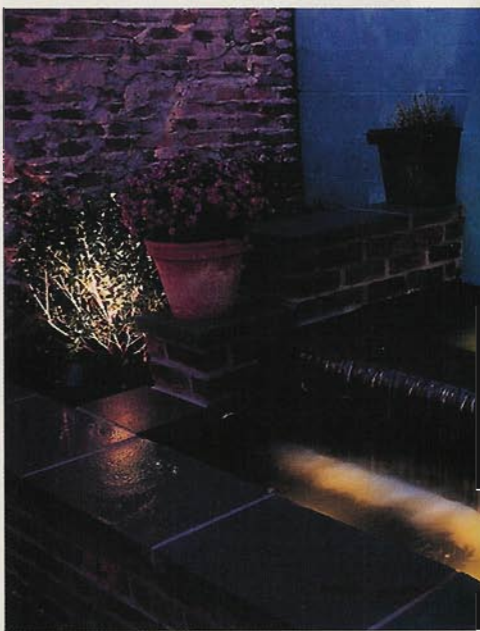
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SMALL GARDENS

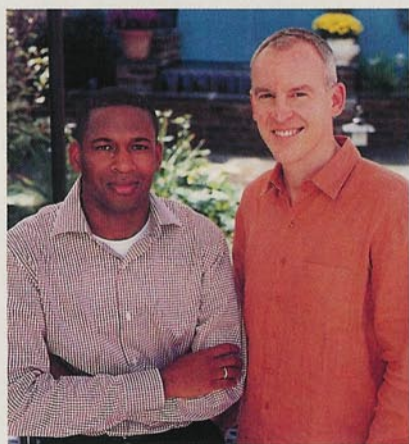


tear down the cinderblock, as that would have caused one of their neighbor's walls to collapse. Instead, the two installed a wooden fence façade on top of the cinderblock, which melts into an exposed brick wall that had been covered with stucco. After the stucco was removed, they discovered a rustic bit of mortar oozing out between the bricks. "It literally looks just like old brick and mortar," says Greenough, an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins.

Two trees—a blue atlas cedar and Korean Stewartia—against the back wall sit on either side of a waterfall, although both trees are expected to grow and eventually frame the waterfall. "We wanted a two-tiered waterfall, with the water gushing from a handmade ceramic lion's head that we bought in England," continues Greenough. "The water runs down one smooth piece of blue stone; it is a very smooth cascade."

The two hired faux painter Jill Ionta to cover up the cinderblock that the water flows over. "Jill did a great job," notes Waters. "The bottom is a teal green, but it lightens up to a sky blue at the top."

Both Greenough and Waters opted for plants that would bloom throughout the year. To that end, they placed Yuletide camellia, Gulf Stream Mandina, and oak leaf hydrangea in brick flower beds that have bluestone tops. Their flowers include Siberian iris, brown-eyed Susan, Vinca, Lily of the Valley,



Waterfront property: Waters' and Greenough's two-tiered waterfall.

Japanese Anemone, Liriope, and coreopsis. An herb garden ("We like to cook," says Greenough) is home to lavender, purple basil, rosemary, chives, and other culinary must-haves.

For entertaining, there is a grill and a chiminea, or Southwestern clay oven, as well as a large wrought-iron table with four chairs and a small Tuscan table with two chairs. A gated wooden enclosure provides for out-of-sight storage, while the air-conditioning unit was disguised by the use of a few wild grasses and a trellis of stained wood that matches the fencing.

"The fun part is that we can continue to work on the garden," says Greenough. "We'd like to put in more hanging baskets, a trellis, and more built-in seating."

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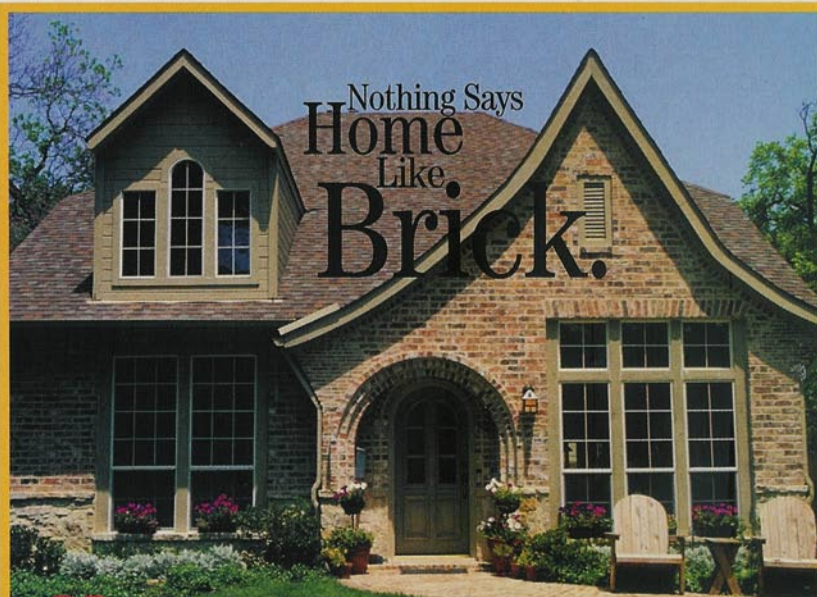
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