

Southern Accents

BEAUTIFUL HOMES, GRACIOUS LIVING, A SENSE OF PLACE



Timeless
BEAUTY

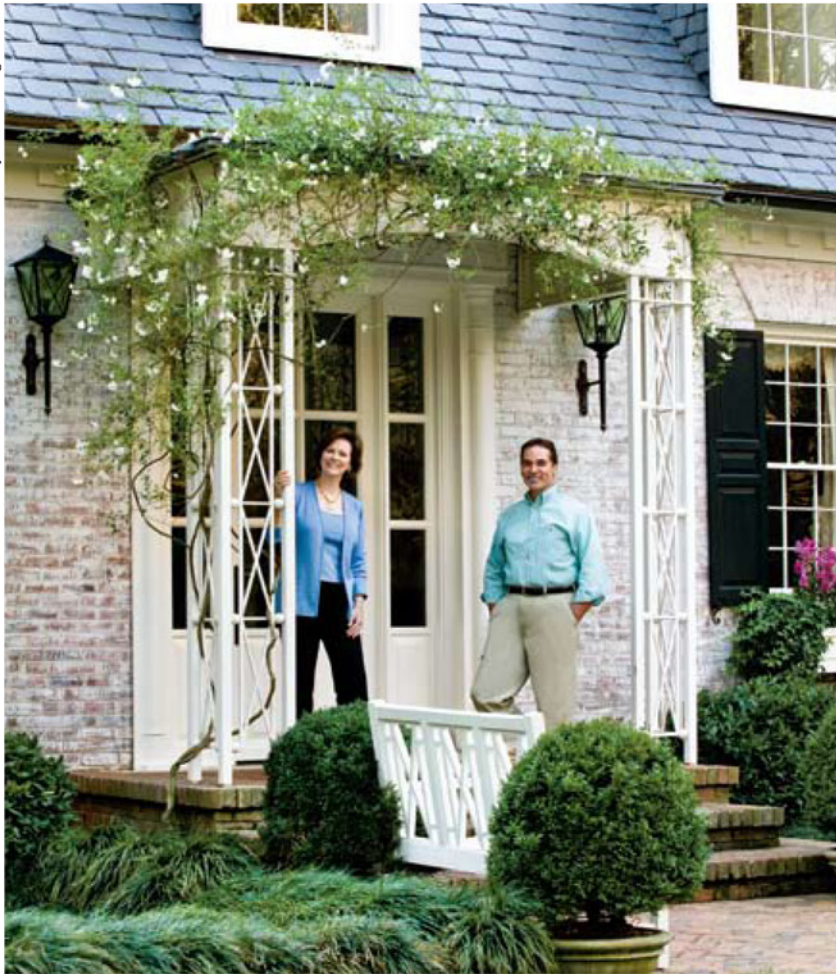
**Rooms You'll
Love Forever**

**Remodeling Ideas:
Where To
Save and Splurge**





Portrait by Erica George Dines



Elizabeth Holt and landscape architect **William T. Smith** weave a tapestry of color and texture within the layers of her Atlanta garden

Stone by Storie

by Grace Collins Barr photographed by Richard Felber



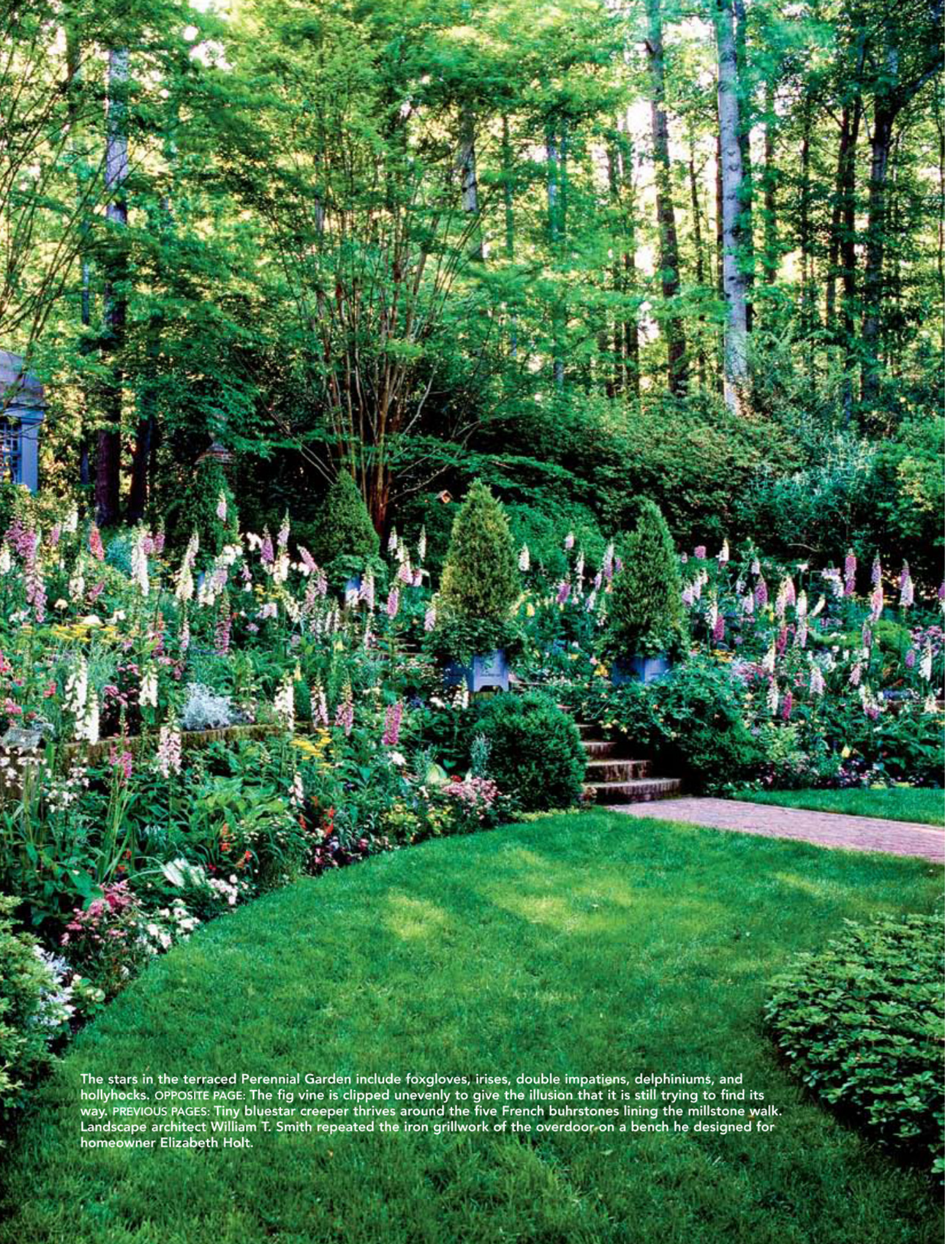
“The main reason I bought the house was to have a garden,” Elizabeth Holt says of the property she has owned since 1994.

At that time, the front yard was an asphalt jungle, and a rear hillside was held together by ivy, Bradford pear trees, and a curved retaining wall. Nevertheless, Holt recognized the potential of the generous Buckhead property and put in a call to landscape architect William T. Smith.

Holt’s vision for the space stemmed from her passion for gardens with vintage elements and her desire for a bird sanctuary. Smith fulfilled her wishes with a *mélange* of gardens where classic statuary, boxwood parterres, woodland gardens, and a fantasy pavilion find individual expression.

Although Smith is a firm believer in “listening” to a site’s existing architecture when designing a garden (“it will always tell you where to begin,” he says), Holt opted to start the garden *before* she began the renovation of the house. As a result, the garden dictated many of the structural changes to the house, particularly the addition of more and larger windows to give every room a garden view. Smith was careful to orchestrate harmony between the pale interior color scheme and the garden palette. The creamy yellows and whites of the living room are repeated in the Bow





The stars in the terraced Perennial Garden include foxgloves, irises, double impatiens, delphiniums, and hollyhocks. OPPOSITE PAGE: The fig vine is clipped unevenly to give the illusion that it is still trying to find its way. PREVIOUS PAGES: Tiny bluestar creeper thrives around the five French buhrstones lining the millstone walk. Landscape architect William T. Smith repeated the iron grillwork of the overdoor on a bench he designed for homeowner Elizabeth Holt.



BELOW: A herringbone-patterned brick stairway connects the sunroom terrace to the garden house at the top of the hill. LEFT: On the stairs leading to the garden house, cone-shaped boxwoods grow in planters painted the same French blue.



Garden, where seasonal plantings of pastel tulips, pansies, and jonquils rotate into view through an expansive bow window.

In the spring, luxuriant foxgloves blossom like debutantes at a cotillion. Smith supplanted the ivy-covered slope with terraced beds and crowned it with a fantasy garden house. Amid peonies, roses, Russian sage, astilbe, phlox, and coneflowers, Smith envisioned the pavilion, with its copper roof and rich French blue color, as a quintessential Southern structure, but with an exotic Eastern accent.

Fifteen years after it was begun, Holt's dream garden is well-established. "It is a calm respite," she says of the multilayered and multifaceted space. "There is nothing better than to live close to nature in the middle of a bustling city. It is the best of both worlds." ♦