



# PRIVATE GARDENS OF GEORGIA

POLLY MCLEOD MATTOX *and* HELEN MATTOX BOST

*Photographs by* ERICA GEORGE DINES









# A GARDEN FOR ENTERTAINING

## THE GARDEN OF DR. AND MRS. LOGAN NALLEY, JR.

This lovely plantation-style home in Augusta was built between 1805 and 1810. When Logan and Dale Nalley bought the house, which is on the National Register, twenty years ago, they made several changes with the help of architect Al Cheatham. Two wings had already been added to the four-room home in the 1860s, and the once-separate kitchen had been attached to the back of the house and used as a laundry room. The Nalleys detached the old kitchen laundry room and made it a separate building once again. The configuration of the backyard is defined by several of these outbuildings: the old kitchen previously mentioned; a guest cottage to which they made some minor renovations; a greenhouse; and two playhouses.

About six years ago, landscape architect Bill Smith was recommended to them by Al Cheatham. Smith organized the space and created the compositions; with his help this refined garden has developed. “We wanted to separate the different areas,” explains Smith. “It was all kind of the same level, a cross slope.

Spikes of ‘Foxy’ foxgloves stand out among the ‘Liberty’ snapdragons and pink and white dianthus in the spring border garden by the greenhouse.





We have a lot of architecture back here, so we separated the outbuildings from the main view and created their own gardens.” The front of the house has its own garden. “In an old house like this, it is appropriate to have flowers in front,” says Smith.

A large back patio with wide steps covered in fig vine echoing those in front is a connection between the house and garden. It is shaded by a pergola covered with dense jasmine and moon vine. A long allée of crepe myrtles edged with a boxwood border leads to a beautiful greenhouse designed by Al Cheatham in the midst of an abundance of flowers. Between the brick edging and white zinnias lies a carpet of grass that is capped by an elegant quatrefoil lawn with a koi pond in the center repeating the same motif. This is all directly on axis with the greenhouse and the back stairs and comprises the main garden, where the trickle of the fountain radiates a quiet serenity throughout the property.

The brick-bordered quatrefoil is backed with beds on either side of the greenhouse. These beds, like those in front of the house, have perennial backbones



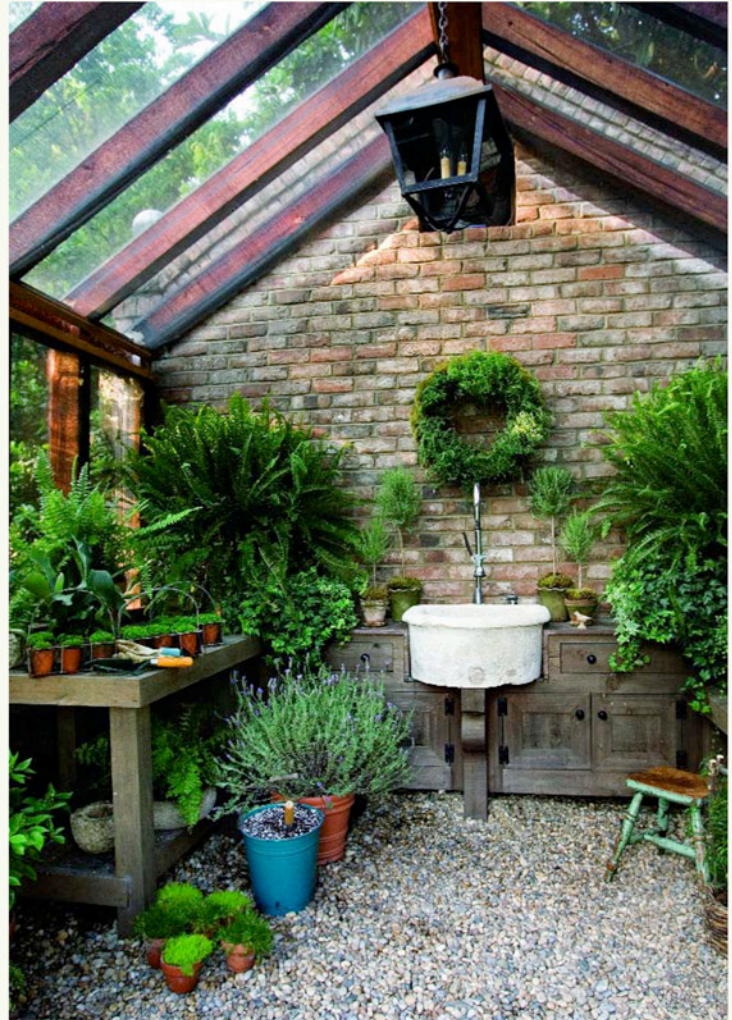




- ◦ • A grapevine and 'New Dawn' roses envelop the light post at the front gate.
- ◦ • A pair of rose topiaries captures the eye among the spring annuals and perennials.
- ◦ • 'New Dawn' roses adorn the light post by this sitting area.
- ◦ • A great view of the standard crepe myrtle allée and lawn leading to the greenhouse and koi pond is visible from the back patio.
- ◦ • Narrow-leaf zinnia highlights this boxwood hedge under the end of the 'Natchez' crepe myrtle allée by the guest cottage.







with annuals added twice a year. In the fall, white violas replace the zinnias in the crepe borders. In the spring, tulips, foxgloves, and snapdragons dominate the quatrefoil border. Then in summer, giant spikes of pink and white cleome take over, along with tall Oriental lily, and enormous swamp sunflowers. The abundance of soft flowers spilling over the borders relaxes the strict design of the garden. Dale also has a perfect little herb garden since she loves to garden, to cook, and entertain. It is laid out very cleverly along the back right side of the house, close to the kitchen. An old bee skep marks the center and gives the charming garden height while a box hedge defines the front. The sides are distinguished with terracotta baskets Bill had made. This small parterre garden is grounded with large basil plants and hardy rosemary. Aromatic herbs with delicate forms weave through and unite the space.





- ◦ Spikes of white cleome stand out in the summer border garden by the greenhouse.
- ◦ The millstone at the entrance of the greenhouse is centered with ajuga and circled with dichondra.
- ◦ Inside the greenhouse.
- ● An old bee skep surrounded by lettuce centers this herb garden. Flowering chives and terracotta baskets planted with rosemary topiaries anchor the ends.
- ◦ A pretty pair of red maples separates the pool garden from the back garden.









# AN ENCHANTING FRENCH GARDEN

## THE GARDEN OF ELIZABETH HOLT

In 1994, Elizabeth Holt moved into her English cottage-style home tucked away in a quiet neighborhood in Atlanta. The gorgeous plantings around the mailbox hint at the treasures beyond. Elizabeth hired landscape architect Bill Smith to help with the design in 1995, and the two have been reinventing and enhancing the garden ever since. They created a small perennial garden to the left where the parking once had been. "I have a thing about birds and flowers," remarks Elizabeth. This little U-shaped garden is flanked by a pair of small cherub statues at the front and is accented by an old wellhead at the top. From here, five French buhr stones carpeted with bluestar creeper within and pebbles between create a path leading beside the house to the garden beyond. A boxwood hedge marked by a pair of obelisk boxwoods leads to a small walled garden where stone flame finials stand at each corner column. 'Iceberg' roses wrap around the curved brick wall and continue climbing up onto the house. A sundial sits beneath the bay window and is framed by a pair of standard Pee Gee hydrangeas.

A herringbone brick path continues from here by a glorious, curved wall bathed in dense sasanquas with an unusual chain-link boxwood parterre

'Foxy' foxgloves overwhelm the terraces  
leading up to the summerhouse.









•◦◦◦ Five French buhr stones planted with bluestar accent the pebble path leading beside 'Iceberg' roses that climb the side of the house.

◦◦◦◦ A cherub stands among 'Foxy' foxgloves in the front garden.

◦◦◦◦ A striking chain-link boxwood parterre curves around the brick path leading to the main garden.

◦◦◦◦ This beautiful bronze statue is engulfed by 'Magic Fountains' delphinium and 'New Guinea' impatiens.

◦◦◦◦ A sea of foxgloves and other spring flowers encroach upon the stepping-stones of the terraces in the main garden.

◦◦◦◦ Boxwood obelisks mark the path to the side garden.



below. Another small pair of cherubs sits at the base of brick steps that lead through a series of iron arches steeped in vines to create a loggia wrapping around the left side of the main garden. Formerly just a simple brick patio with grass stretching to the brick retaining wall, this garden has been transformed into an overwhelming sea of flowers. Elizabeth and Bill cleared the ivy and 'Bradford' pears, which were the only plantings beyond the retaining wall. They created three terraces with brick steps leading up the center to a summerhouse designed by Bill Smith. Here, an enchanting statue of Diana stands guard over





- ◦ Tall spikes of foxgloves define the edge of the first terrace of the main garden in late spring.
- ◦ A variety of delicate tulips overflow along the first terrace in the main garden in early spring.
- ◦ Stunning 'Delaware Valley' white azaleas frame the French blue summerhouse in the main garden where an array of tulips abound.
- ◦ 'Lady Banks' roses hang over the beautiful nineteenth-century French fountain of the koi pond.





the garden. Planter boxes with tall, conical boxwoods mark two terraces where stone paths curve out from each side along flower beds as vivid colors proliferate and dazzle the eye. The French blue summerhouse tops the final terrace, echoing the blue of the planter boxes. This summerhouse was completed in early 2000 and makes a stunning focal point for the garden framed by a pair of enormous 'Natchez' crepe myrtles. To the left, the curved loggia beckons you under its arches, where ferns, creeping jenny, ajuga, and hostas crowd around stepping-stones. To the right, a woodland path leads around massive azaleas and hydrangeas planted among the trees.







On the other side of the curved patio, 'Lady Banks' roses filter over an elegant stone fountain, which spouts water into a basin swimming with koi and flanked by topiary ball boxwoods. A pretty cherry tree arches over an iron arbor rich with green foliage near tall brick walls curtained in fig vine and 'Mermaid' roses. Continuing around to the front of the house, a secret spot is off to the left, nestled under the draping boughs of maples and cherries. A fantastic bench designed by Bill rests here alluringly in the shade among the ferns; this is one of Elizabeth's favorite spots.







- Two pairs of French blue planter boxes mark the terraces of the main garden steeped with tulips and other early spring flowers.
- Stepping-stone paths thick with spring color curve out from the brick steps leading up to the summerhouse.
- Sunlight filters through the limbs of a kwanzan cherry and a pink native azalea above a lovely bench designed by Bill Smith, which is nestled among hellebores and blue scillas.
- The three tiers of the main garden display a gorgeous array of tulips and other early spring flowers.
- 'Angelique' and 'Mount Tacoma' tulips spring up among daffodils and violas on the brick path leading through the breezeway, framed by a pair of Regency pedestals and potted white impatiens.

