

Personal Gardens Enhance Traditional Outdoor Living Spaces

OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES are becoming just as important to luxury homeowners as their indoor spaces.

Similar to the rise in popularity of outdoor kitchens, chicken coops, and outdoor rooms, more and more homeowners are requesting custom garden installations. These sought-after gardens can be highly customized to express the personal style of the homeowner, using unique combinations of plants, materials, and hardscaping.



Planting a spring and summer garden is a rite of passage and yields results that provide beauty and delicious fruits and vegetables all summer long. For some, planting a garden is a way of life, and a customized growing garden is the perfect addition to the landscape.

In this example, the homeowner is a life-long gardener, whose family lives on a working 100-acre farm in Michigan. Rather than an extensive garden worked into lawn, the homeowner wanted a sleek, low-maintenance urban garden that offered substantial growing space for a wide variety of vegetables and fruits.

CUSTOM VEGETABLE GARDENS

The base of the garden was created with bird's eye gravel, which reduces weeds and offers great drainage. The beds themselves are built with cedar and placed in a geometric pattern.

Custom designed, cedar raised beds are built to last and require much less ongoing maintenance than garden beds built directly into the ground. Keeping the beds up and away from the lawn helps keep the garden organized, less messy, and most important, no more toiling over the harvest or weeding.

The beds were filled with a specialized, soil-less medium, ideal for growing and planted with and the beds themselves are filled with tomatoes, peppers, onions, zucchini, carrots and more. An apple tree shades the lettuces and blueberries, and raspberries are planted along the perimeter. The result is a stunning combination of stone, cedar, and plants that create a warm and inviting space for modern gardening.

TRADITIONAL FLOWER GARDENS

However, personal gardens don't need to include an abundance of vegetables. In another example, the homeowner requested a traditional flower garden combined with fruit and vegetables, the ultimate blend of beauty and functionality, which could be enjoyed from the attached bluestone patio and seating area.

The garden itself is enclosed by a mortared wall built with reclaimed Chicago brick. Espalier apple and pear trees line the back wall, adjacent to a quaint, white potting shed. Columnar Colonnade apple trees and Bonfire patio peaches are located in each corner of the garden. The interior patio was created using bluestone pavers and contrasting white tumbled valders stone. Mortared bluestone drywall was used to create the four raised garden beds.



The blue and white of the hardscaping pops against the pink, green and white plantings in the garden. Green boxwood are centered in each raised bed and surrounded by annuals, perennials and herbs in every shade of pink and green. In this garden, the closer you look, the more you will see, including wisteria coming into bloom, Brown Turkey Hardy Figs, pink and blue Columbine and tomatoes climbing up their white trellises. The result is a feminine, traditional garden that is the perfect spot to enjoy a cup of coffee every morning as the sun rises on the garden.

From traditional to urban, personal gardens are new way to express individual taste and style, while improving the functionality of outdoor living. 

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