

# bright by design

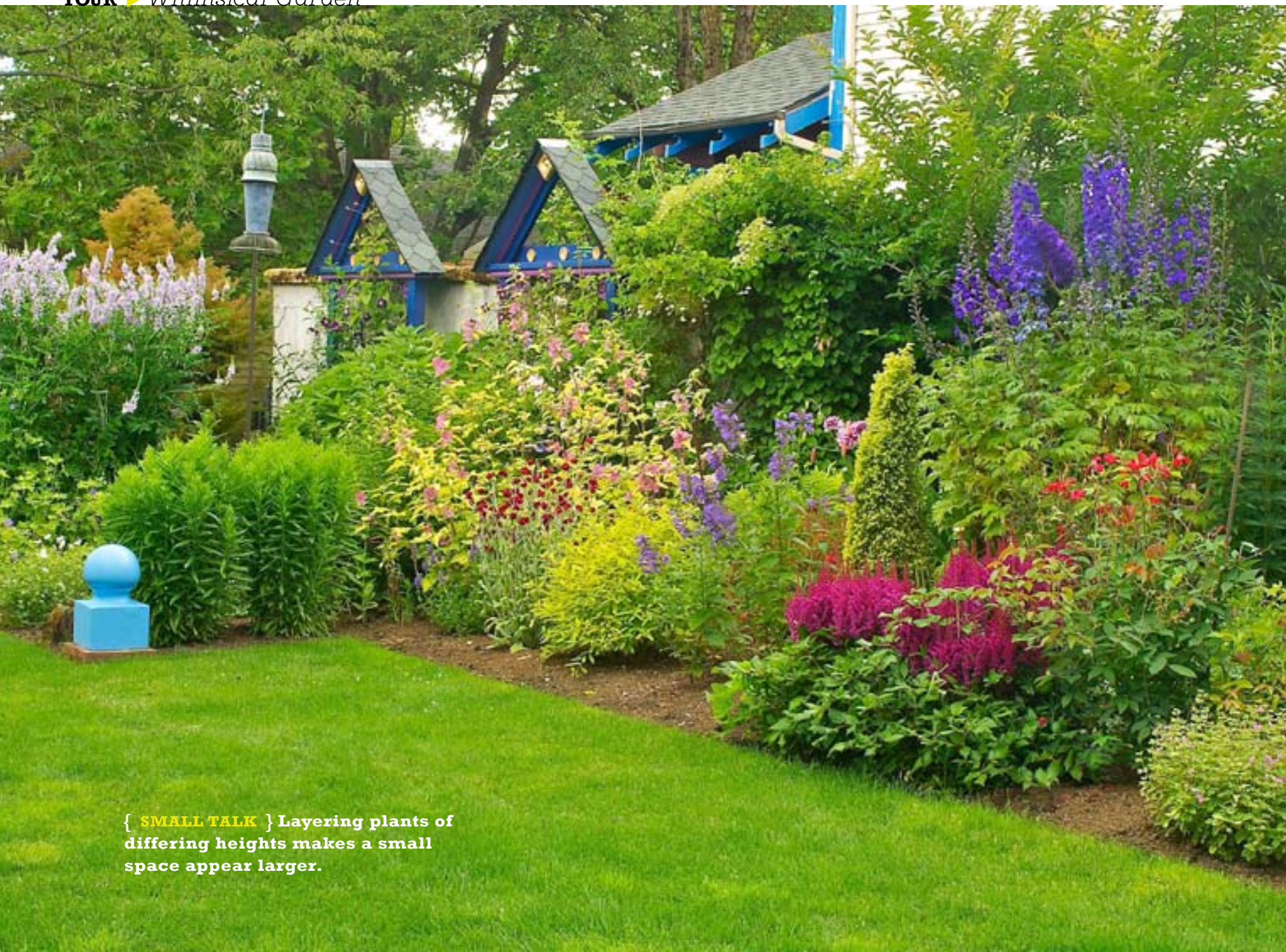
BRIGHT HUES AND STUNNING STRUCTURES MAKE A STATEMENT!

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#### ORNAMENTAL OPTION

A witch hazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise') tree is decorated with colored glass balls hung with copper wire. With its vase-shaped structure, fragrant yellow flowers in winter, and brilliant orange fall color, it offers year-round interest.

{ **SMALL TALK:** } Garden accents such as this chimney pot give focus to small areas.



{ **SMALL TALK** } Layering plants of differing heights makes a small space appear larger.

**F**OR 30 YEARS, GARDEN DESIGNER Lucy Hardiman has kept her landscape fresh. Her property is comprised of two adjacent 50x100-foot lots. The original gardens were designed to complement the two homes (one Victorian and the other Craftsman) in a blended style that Hardiman dubs "Vico-craft." She says that, "The biggest challenge is to create lasting hardscapes while staying true to the original design intent." The mixed borders are testing grounds for new varieties and for experimenting with different plant combinations.

**PERFECT PALETTE** (above) Gold and chartreuse-foliaged plants accentuate complementary hues of blue, pink, and violet blooms. The flower colors are echoed in the structures and ornaments, tying all of the garden elements together.

**DESIGNED TO INSPIRE** (right) A new pergola, constructed with repurposed materials found at salvage and antiques shops, blends Victorian, gypsy caravan, and Buddhist temple elements.

## Lucy's Tips

**THE USDA ZONE** 8b  
**GARDEN SIZE** 100x200 foot lot

**HARDIMAN'S PERSONAL STYLE** includes the use of bold colors, whimsical structures, and ornaments. "I want people to experience the garden as a fun escape from the outside world," she says. In a limited space, plant choice is especially important. Hardiman seeks out varieties with multi-season interest, long bloom time, foliage color, and berries.

**Here are other ways to add personality to your garden:**

**CHOOSE A COLOR THEME** and carry it throughout the garden.

**BREAK A SMALL SPACE** into separate garden rooms with distinct looks to make it feel larger than it actually is.

**CREATE MULTIPLE FOCAL POINTS** and seating areas. Utilize pots, furniture, and ornaments that match your style.

**GROUP CONTAINERS OF DIFFERING SIZES** and shapes, and combine contrasting plant materials to create eye-catching vignettes.

**ROUND-SHAPED GAZING GLOBES,** stone orbs, and glass ornaments placed throughout the garden help create a more cohesive design. Other themes or shapes can be used to personalize any garden space.

**EXTEND THE GARDEN** into the front yard. Creating a landscape with distinct curb appeal enhances a home's value and puts your passion on public display.





### Deepening the design

The borders in the front and back yards are comprised of a mix of different types of plants. The structure or “bones” of the garden, including shrubs and small trees, were installed first, followed by perennials and bulbs.

Varying the heights, hues, and textures of plants creates a layered effect and soft drifts of color. Plantings along the front were designed to be in scale with the home’s multi-story facade. Curbside borders, sometimes referred to as “hell strips,” were amended with gravel to increase drainage. Hardiman considers her garden a continual work-in-progress and says, “I learn something new every day.”

**COLOR CONTAINED** (above) A pot of annual coleus, impatiens, and chartreuse sweet potato vine offers a pleasing contrast to a bowl of succulents adorned with colored rocks and miniature glass balls. **STEP LIVELY** (top center) A custom-built stone wall incorporates a spacious corner bench where passersby can sit and enjoy the front yard landscape. Curbside strips are planted

with drought-tolerant perennials such as Russian sage, yuccas, and sedums that need no supplemental water. **TRANSPORT YOURSELF** (right) A lovingly weathered bistro-style table and chair set complements the brick patio as well as the home’s cream-colored stucco siding. Carnivorous pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*) in pots extend an exotic feel to this cozy outdoor area.



## PLANTS WITH pizzazz

Choose varieties with multi-season interest that will enhance the style of your garden. Make sure they are hardy to your particular USDA zone. Some of Lucy’s favorites include:

**FALSE SPIREA ‘RED SENTINEL’** (*Astilbe japonica*). The dazzling scarlet-red plumes are among the most brilliant of all astilbes. Deep forest green foliage and crimson stems accentuate the flowers. Mature size can reach 2 feet high and 1½ feet wide. Grows best in temperate climates in moist soil with protection from hot afternoon sun. Hardy in USDA zones 4–8.

**BLUEBEARD ‘LIL’ MISS SUNSHINE’** (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*). This dwarf shrub, with its sunny yellow foliage and rich blue flowers that bloom for two months in late summer, is the perfect choice for small spaces and containers. Hardy in USDA zones 5–9.

**JUNIPER ‘GOLD CONE’** (*Juniperus communis*). This dwarf evergreen tree reaches just 5 feet tall and 2½ feet wide. Bright gold needles contrast with blue fruit-like cones. Tolerates a wide variety of growing conditions. Grow in a mixed border, rockery, or a pot. Hardy in USDA Zones 4–9.

**GOAT’S RUE ‘LADY WILSON’** (*Galega x hartlandii*). Unlike some invasive varieties, this cultivar is sterile and doesn’t produce seed. The stately 4–6 foot stems require staking; the pale lavender-and-white bicolored flowers last for two months in mid-summer. Hardy in USDA Zones 4–9.

**FOCUS ON FUN** (above) Brightly painted metal spirals, created by artist Marta Farris, are grouped together in a large clay urn to create a one-of-a-kind sculpture.