



Classic Cape

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERICA DEZITTER AND JOYCE K. WILLIAMS

DESIGNER
JOYCE K.
WILLIAMS USES
CLEAN LINES
AND CLASSIC
DETAILS
TO CREATE
AN AWARD-
WINNING
GARDEN ON
CAPE COD



Grey stone walls echo New England's landscape traditions

S BY SUSAN COHAN
ome gardens have an innate sense of place. Landscape designer Joyce K. Williams

created a residential garden that is so much about time and place that it won a 2012 Merit Award for Residential Design from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Williams's clients wanted an outdoor space for their two-acre property with timeless appeal that reminded them of gardens they had seen in England. They also wanted their garden to function as a place to entertain and invite discovery and contemplative reflection. Additionally, it was important to protect the property's mature trees with their moss-filled collars. The end design achieves that through a series of terraces and winding paths that fuse naturalistic areas with those that are more formal.

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The foursquare garden is on an axis from the front door to a large boulder in the distance





By combining plants and garden elements commonly associated with gardens on Cape Cod (as well as on neighboring Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket) with contemporary sculpture and stonework, the garden avoids being enslaved by tradition. The focal point of the foursquare garden is a contemporary bronze sculpture by Sara Jane Porter named "Buitenverwachting" after a favorite restaurant of the clients. It translates to "Beyond Expectations." The soaring bronze piece adds winter interest when little else is hap-

pening in the garden, yet in other seasons is an equal visual partner with the exuberant plantings that surround it.

Down a series of turf and stone steps from the garden is a pond that was built as part of the client's brief. "I designed a pond that supports a micro-ecosystem and is client-friendly and interactive. Around the pond I created a beach and a bog, one sunny and one shady patio, a summerhouse, and included loads of plants that are native, sustainable, beautiful, and of benefit to wildlife," Williams



A built
in stone
seat in the
lowest wall



IT LOOKS AS IF IT'S BEEN
THERE A HUNDRED YEARS.
IT'S LIKELY THAT IT WILL
STILL BE THERE A HUNDRED
YEARS FROM NOW!

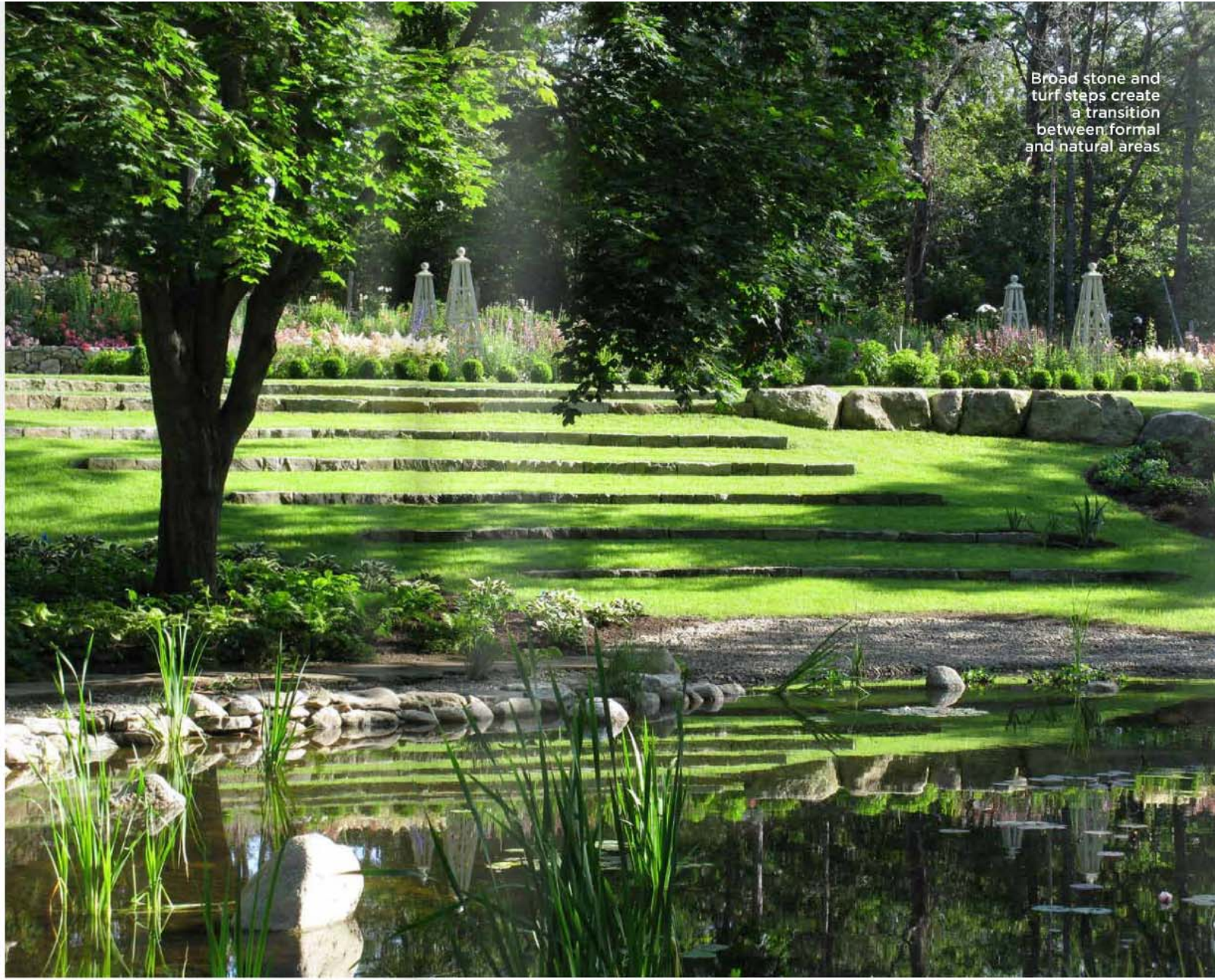
Paths and steps
throughout the
garden create a
sense of discovery

explains.

At the rear of the property, the neglected woodland became a new destination when Williams created a meandering path with a concealed space that was a counterpoint to the bold cottage plantings adjacent to it.

Stone walls and gray, weathered shingles are quintessential elements of any garden in New England, not just those on Cape Cod. The walls in this garden are used in a graphic way, yet have their roots in the grayed granite of the rest of New England. The clean lines of the summerhouse echo those of the main residence, and add to the timeless yet contemporary feel of the gardens. Williams says of the finished project: “The best part, for me as a designer, is that it looks as if it’s been there a hundred years, and it’s likely that it will still be there a hundred years from now!”

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Broad stone and turf steps create a transition between formal and natural areas