



Landscape architect Janice Parker finds delight in incorporating the unexpected into her landscape designs. Special moments—like a pathway constricted by hedges that suddenly opens to reveal a row of towering birch trees or a sculpture of a unicorn covered in ivy—are simply integral parts of the overall scheme. “There is always an element of the unknown to account for when you’re working with Mother Nature, and getting in tune with that is why I chose landscape architecture,” says Parker. Working on residential and commercial projects in Connecticut, New York City, Long Island and Florida, Parker’s process begins by using form and color liberally to create a pattern before then repeating it again and again in large and small ways by utilizing plants, stone and other natural landscape materials. “The secret is to discover the essence of the garden the client wants to create, as well as the true character of the site,” she says. “Our job is to make the magic that draws people out and keeps them there, happier outside than anywhere else.” janiceparker.com; 860.350.4497

When not scouring her local nurseries for trees to add to her personal collection, Parker says she is a voracious reader and is currently loving Donna Tartt’s latest novel.



NATURE’S WAY

JANICE PARKER



Sherman, Connecticut-based landscape architect Janice Parker incorporates a sense of grace and timelessness into each of her projects. *Opposite:* Plants such as climbing hydrangea, Japanese moon maple and white thyme make up this private oasis in Greenwich.

I BECAME INTERESTED IN LANDSCAPING WHEN...

Growing up in New York, I was always drawn to the natural environment. Even though the city is a concrete jungle, I knew every tree on my street, and to this day, my favorite landscapes in the world are still found along the Hudson River, especially Wave Hill park. It’s truly a hidden treasure.

TREND YOU’RE EXCITED BY:

I see the future of landscape design being about diversity—a true reflection of our cultural values. There will be more color, exuberance, and outdoor cooking and living spaces, as well as the inclusion of organic vegetable and soft fruit gardens.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

My mentor, John Brookes, told me to teach and that it will help you to truly understand what you do and why.

I’M READING...

The Goldfinch, by Donna Tartt. The writing is lyrical, and it’s such a beautiful and touching story. Having two sons, I loved the smart observations about boyhood.

I ALWAYS CARRY...

EltaMD sunscreen—the sun follows me.