

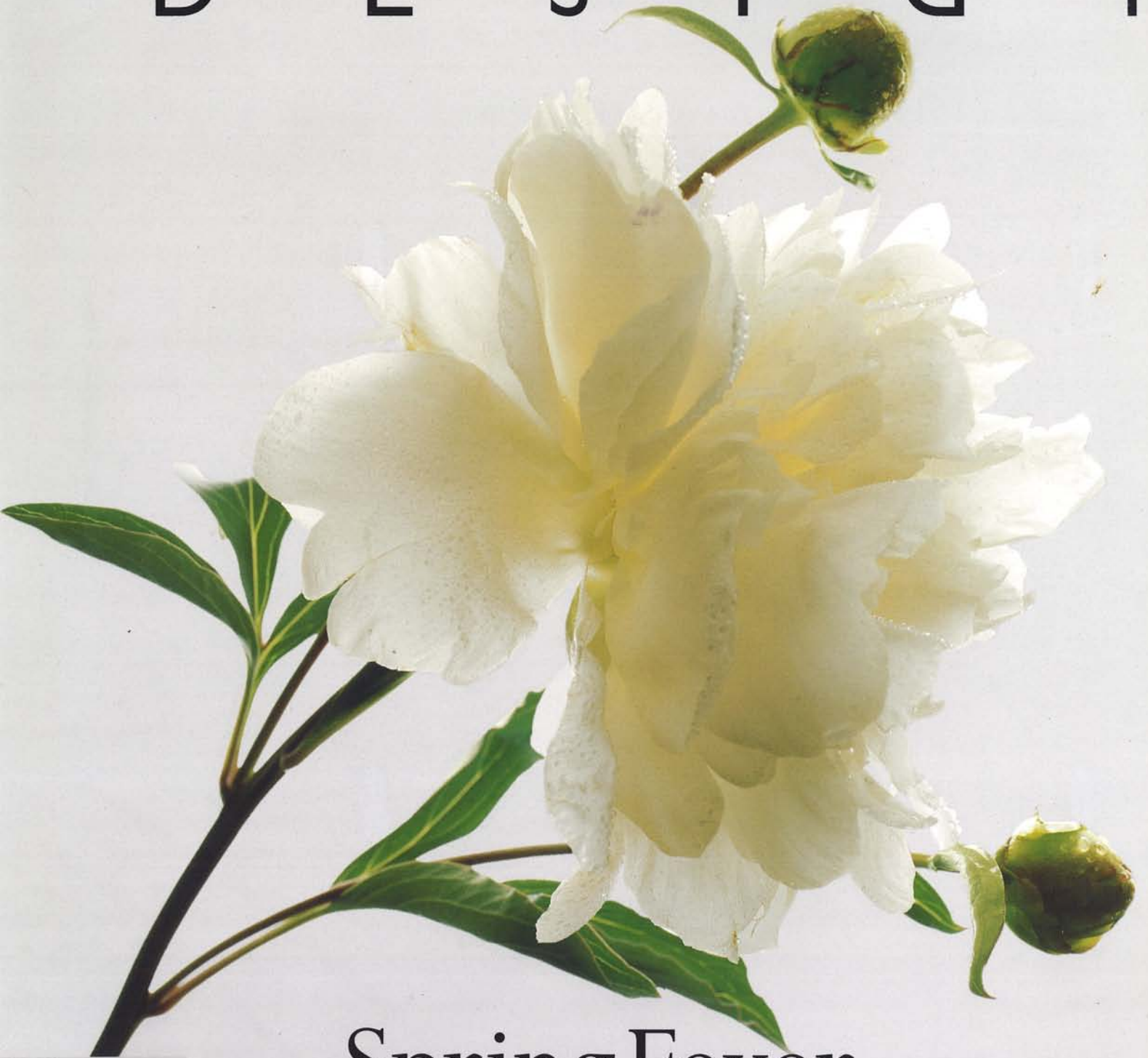
LIFE BEGINS IN THE GARDEN: *Kitchen Garden from Scratch* • *Big Sur* • *Greenhouse Style*



GARDEN

D E S I G N

FEB./MAR., 1997



Spring Fever

HOW TO PLAN AND PLANT THE GARDEN YOU LONG FOR

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Off Broadway

A DIVA STAGES AN OPEN-AIR PRODUCTION

I've been in love with my wild, wooded corner of western Connecticut since my student days at Juilliard. Back then, the land belonged to a friend's father, and the possibility of owning it seemed as distant as winning a Tony. But in 1980—the same year I won that award for my performance in *Evita*—the land went up for sale. I bought 26 undeveloped acres.

Not that I knew what to do with them. Days after my husband and I moved into our new house, our \$1,500 lawn slid down a ravine. (The contractor had forgotten to put in topsoil.) I quickly tired of tromping through mud with bags full of costumes, so I called my friend Janice Parker, a garden designer. She took one look at the mess and said, "Oh, my God."

Janice wanted formality, but I'd bought the land for its overgrown, primeval feel. So we compromised. She coaxed me into a circular perennial bed near the house, but remote destination points draw me out into the wilderness I adore. It's really *our* garden now. Janice knows every bump and rock as well as I do—and for the last few months, probably even better. But now that my run on Broadway doing *Master Class* has ended, I can't wait to spend time on my land again. In a way, it centers me more than even the best performance I could give. —Patti LuPone

