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# For Gardens of Delight, Professional Green Thumbs

By BESS LIEBENSON

**T**IME was that typical landscaping meant bushes planted in a straight row in front of the house, with azaleas and rhododendron added for splashes of color. But a new breed of landscape designers is changing that.

"Today landscape design is responding more closely to the architectural context," said Edmond Hollander, president of the New York chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

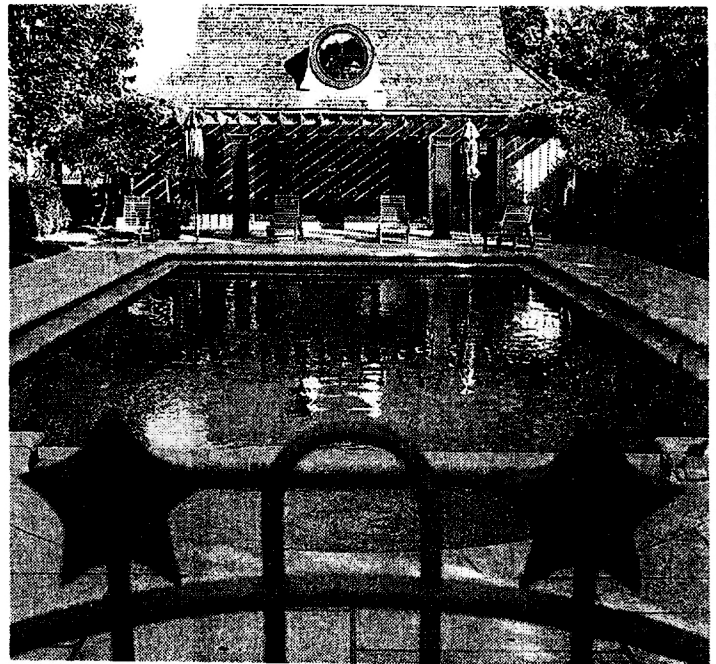
"Rather than a typical suburban landscape, there is a more in-depth thought process that tries to integrate ecological principles with architectural aesthetics. There is definitely an element that stresses a sensitivity and responsibility to the natural environment, and another that creates settings appropriate for modern architecture."

**A**FTER opening two presentation books, Janice Parker reveals page after page of landscapes validated by publication in *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful* and *Vogue*: the 3,000-foot wraparound terrace for Robert Redford's apartment overlooking Central Park in Manhattan; a circular herbary and a pool set in a meadow at the Kent home of Patti Lupone; a color-coded garden for the Fifth Avenue terrace of the clothing designer Betsey Johnson.

Ms. Parker, 45, who has had her own

landscaping business for 18 years, particularly caught Connecticut's eye by the way she transformed a builder's traditional Colonial house into a decorator show house in New Canaan in 1998. She anchored a terrace with a twig garden folly, adding twig sculptures and tying the whole together with twig fencing climbing the hillside to the terrace.

For a just-completed Southport project, pictured above, done for a family with two



children, she designed a pool house and a two-story free-standing cedar treehouse overlooking a half basketball court enclosed with a vine-covered fence of ivy, trumpet flowers and clematis. She included an asphalt bicycle path "even though it won't make it into *Architectural Digest*," she said.

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