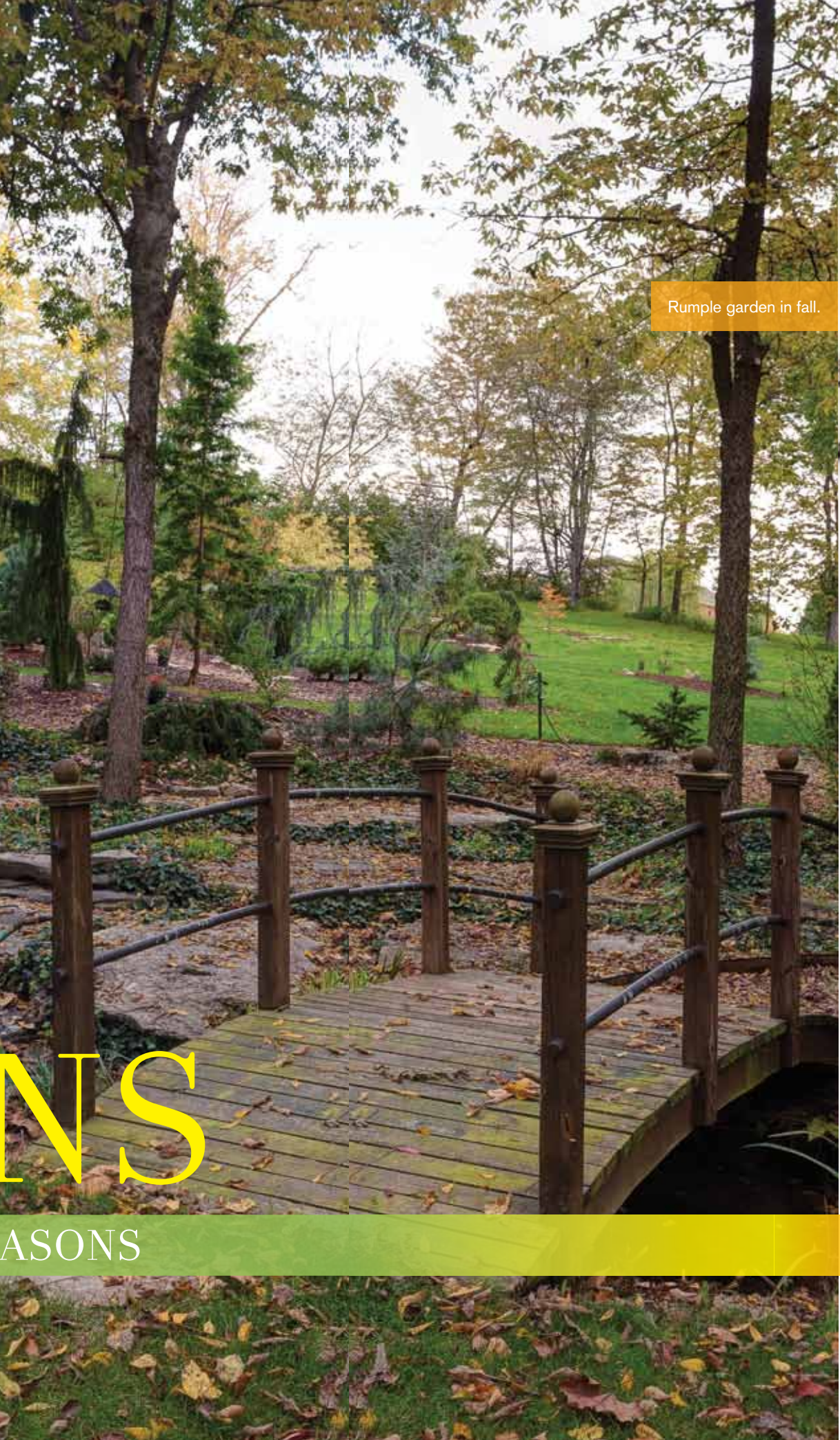




Wennerstrom/Phillips garden in summer.



Rumple garden in fall.



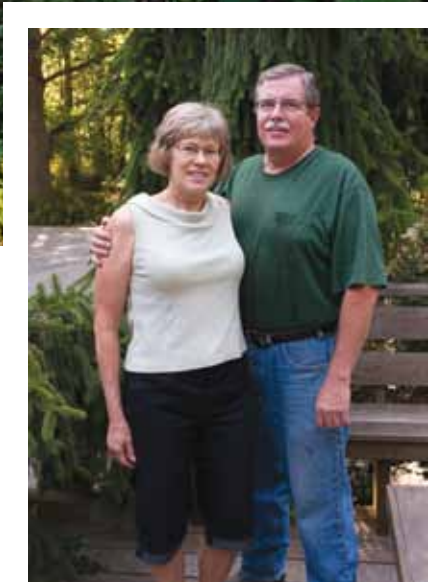
Sink-Burris garden in winter.

GARDENS

FOR ALL SEASONS

It's not easy to design and maintain a garden that looks attractive in all seasons. There's the weather to contend with, of course, but the topography of the site also plays a vital role in determining which plants will grow and thrive and which will languish or perish. Matching the needs of plants to the characteristics of a site is a challenge for even the most experienced gardeners. Those featured here have tailored their gardens to three very different sites, and they have selected their plants so something beautiful thrives in their gardens all year long.

BY Moya Andrews | PHOTOGRAPHY BY James Kellar



(above) The Sink-Burris home with a glimpse of the swimming pool. The plantings in the foreground look cool even in high summer. (right) Rebecca Sink-Burris and Mark Burris on their front deck.

An Enchanted Secret Garden

REBECCA SINK-BURRIS AND MARK BURRIS

1992 Bryants Creek Road

Nestled in a valley surrounded by state forest, Rebecca Sink-Burris and Mark Burris' garden wraps around this woodland home, providing striking views from every window. Since it is not visible from the street, visitors feel as if they have entered an enchanted secret garden.

What makes this garden exceptionally vibrant is the choice of unusual evergreens and the careful placement of companion plants that offer a kaleidoscope of contrasting shapes, subtle colors, and arresting textures. Because the site is protected from wind by substantial hills at the back, the plantings do not dry out.

As one faces the house, on the left is a large swimming pool flanked by compact, sun-loving evergreens. The needles of the "Taylor's Sunburst" and "Silverray" pines contrast with the nearby small leaves of coral bells and the large leaves of hostas. The dwarf fir *Abies Koreana 'Aurea'* combines well with both striped and plain clumps of Japanese forest

grass, while blue atlas cedar, 'Wolf Eyes' dogwood, and a deer-resistant yew are used as accents. In summer, containers filled with annuals provide additional color.

On the other side of the house, a natural spring feeds a small pool that attracts birds and is home to frogs, a turtle, and small water snakes. Birds perch in conveniently located weeping hemlocks between forays to a large feeder. On this dry, shady side of the house, boxwood grows well, and the statuesque cedar '*Aurea robusta*' thrives.

Rebecca chooses plants in a variety of colors and contrasting textures, such as 'Blue Boy' and 'Blue Girl' hollies, Blue Globe spruces, and 'Blue Cloak,' an evergreen that grows tall and narrow with support. A Golden Weeping Beech also enjoys the shade, as does the 'Frosty' pine with 'Andorra' junipers that turn purple at its base.

Rebecca credits the late landscaper Laura

Shively with expanding her repertoire of Japanese maples as well as conifers. She has about a dozen maples with such attributes as textured winter bark and colorful spring/fall foliage. Rebecca is careful to site her plants according to their individual requirements, and she recalls that Laura used to say, "One can tell within six weeks if a plant is happy in a site." Rebecca favors conifers with spring or fall color variation and especially enjoys the way the 'Mountain Dew' pine lives up to its name by glowing yellow each spring, and the way the 'Chief Joseph' pine turns pure gold in winter.

The eye is drawn to different vistas in this creatively planted garden throughout every season of the year.



1. A variety of plants creates a kaleidoscope of textures and colors.
2. Crushed red stone paths provide color as well as traction underfoot.
3. Snow creates interesting silhouettes in the winter.
4. A white hydrangea becomes a summer accent.
5. The redbud tree's blooms are a focal point in springtime.
6. Resident animals and those passing through enjoy the shaded garden pool.



(above) Boxwoods, grouped in threes, surround the fountain. Limestone inserts in the path echo the limestone fountain. (left) Leonard Phillips and Mary Wennerstrom in their fall garden.



A Small Formal Garden in the City

MARY WENNERSTROM AND LEONARD PHILLIPS

1410 E. Maxwell Lane

Though it may seem counterintuitive, the smaller the garden space, the more skillful the landscape design must be. Mary Wennerstrom and Leonard Phillips have a small residential lot in the city and have created a beautifully designed landscape that suits both their lifestyle and the architecture of their home. They have traveled frequently in Europe where they developed ideas for a traditional formal garden to be viewed from their back deck, a place they spend considerable time in good weather. Because the house faces a busy street, however, they wanted their front garden to be informal and to feature a variety of shrubs that would buffer the street noise.

Mary and Leonard both wanted the garden as a whole to look attractive in all seasons and to be low maintenance. They engaged Mother Nature Landscaping, as there were paths to be built and drainage issues to be addressed, as well as the design and planting of the garden.

Leonard knew that a classical garden plan using a relatively limited repertoire of shrubs would be appropriate for a formal back garden. He selected boxwoods for the hedges and to enclose the planting spaces because they require minimal trimming to look neat all year. To contrast with both the height and foliage of the boxwoods, tall columnar evergreens were chosen for the screening hedges that run along the two sides of the back garden. Their density allows privacy and provides a

feeling of seclusion. A raised bed containing a combination of evergreens and perennials anchors the far end of the lot.

As one looks down on the garden from the back deck, the green lawn is divided into four segments by paths made of recycled brick. A charming stone fountain sits where the paths intersect and serves as the centerpiece of the garden.

Behind the garage is a delightful rectangular space—a small garden within the larger garden—that demonstrates the principle of enclosure in garden design. A stone bench allows viewers to savor close-up views of the boxwood-enclosed Knock Out roses. One boxwood hedge is even planted in a curve to provide extra legroom for occupants of the bench, and small rounded boxwood globes occupy each corner. The creation of enclosures, as well as vistas, has traditionally been an important principle in landscape design.

In the front of the home, a concrete wall was built with steps leading from the roadway. Some low boxwood and other dwarf evergreens are atop the wall with a row of hydrangeas behind them. Other shrubs such as rhododendron, our native ninebark, and abelia are used in the front garden, as are shade-loving perennials that shelter under a large deciduous tree. When deer come into the front garden, Leonard just turns on the sprinkler, which, he reports, seems to hasten their departure.

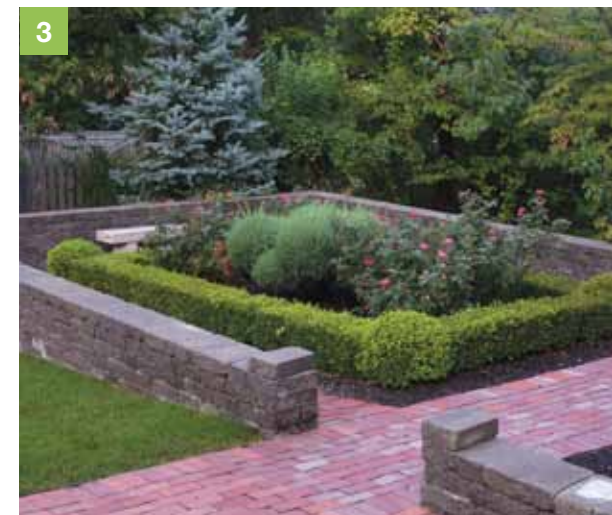
The simplicity of the design, the repetition of evergreen plants, and the restraint in not using too many different plants all create a feeling of organization and tranquility in this city garden at all times of the year.



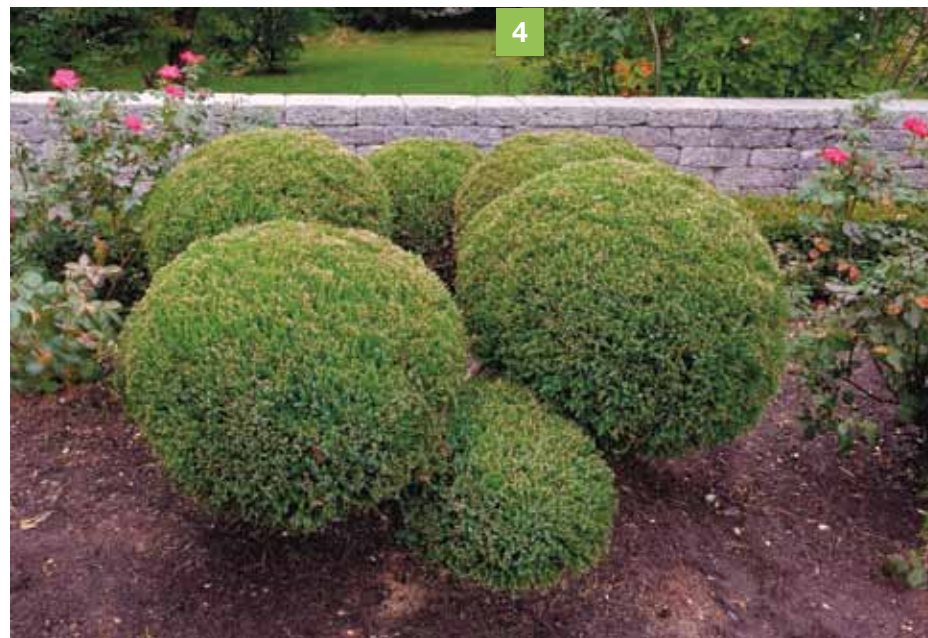
1



2



3



4

1. The front wall, built with manufactured concrete blocks, buffers the garden from a busy street.

2. The enclosed garden, bathed in snow in winter, is bordered with a low wall.

3. Blooming roses add a splash of color in summer.

4. A clipped evergreen is the centerpiece of the enclosed garden.



(above) Kim and Stephen Rumble on the porch of their garden shed.

(top) The Rumples used historic stonework to create paths and walls in their garden.

The Old Brown Farm Site

KIM AND STEPHEN RUMPLE

2026 W. Stanton Road

Steve Rumble, a contractor, developed the neighborhood where he and his wife, Kim, built their home ten years ago. They have two acres of garden, predominately behind the house, and an additional wooded acre as a privacy buffer. The lawn behind the home slopes gently down to a creek, with a hill on the other side where most of the large plantings are located. There are many natural springs on the property, which, more than 100 years ago, was Brown's Farm. Original hand-hewn stones form a bridge still in place over the creek, along with vestiges of a 70-foot stone road on which horses climbed the steep hill to the barn. Most foundation stones from the barn remain today, and the Rumples use the area as a garden that includes a fire pit. It is a good spot to sit in the spring and admire the blooms on the redbud trees.

There was a lot of bush hogging before Kim and Steve could start planting their garden. They worked from the house out to conquer the dense vegetation, especially the invasive bush, honeysuckle. With Steve's construction equipment, they exposed bedrock that became shelves for planting on the steep slope, and they discovered historic stonework that was recycled into new paths and walls. The soil near the creek is moist, and wildflowers such as the great

blue lobelia happily grow there. The soil on the slope, especially at the top, is dry, so drought-resistant plants are needed there.

Kim's passion for conifers dates back to the Bloomington Garden Club's annual Summer Garden Walk in 2005 when she fell in love with a Dawn Redwood 'Gold Rush' in Beth and Fred Cate's garden. Kim realized that conifers were perfect for the sloping topography of her back garden, as they have the mass and silhouettes to be visible from the house. And she discovered that they provide interest across all seasons. She found, for example, that Himalayan as well as Alaskan cedars grow well in our region and that Arizona cypress provides both blue coloration and a citrus scent. White curly pine, a striking accent tree, offers gold color in fall. And she experimented with unusual forms of some well-known varieties, such as a pendulous form of hemlock near the creek.

With such a large property to plant, Kim learned to use multiples of the same trees and

shrubs for impact and to use attributes such as color, form, shape, and texture repetitively, since repetition is such an effective design principle. She also combines conifers with varied textures and the lacy-leaved deciduous Japanese maples. When bare in winter the maples have interesting branching, and when in leaf they are quite variable in color and form. Her favorite Japanese maples include the gold/chartreuse 'Aureum,' and 'Orange Dream,' which, as its name suggests, is orange in spring. Colorful flowering perennials and annuals are interspersed in blocks in front of the woody plants in the warm months.

From every perspective, the Rumble garden provides lovely vistas year-round. However, the grandchildren, as well as many other visitors to the garden, think the best view of all is from the zip line that is one of Steve's most recent and popular construction projects. ✨

1. Interesting evergreen shapes and colorful Japanese maples line the stream that eventually runs into Stout Creek.

2. Unusual conifers and the gold of deciduous trees create vibrant hillside vistas in the fall.

3 & 4. The Rumples' weeping blue atlas cedar keeps its color year-round.

5. The buds on an eight-year-old saucer magnolia 'Jane' add a vivid pink to the garden each spring.

Visit magbloom.com for a list of specific plants mentioned in this story.

