

SPRING 2012

montclair

MAGAZINE

BACK IN BLOOM

GROW GORGEOUS GARDENS WITH LANDSCAPER **KRISTIN KRONGARD**

**HOME ADDITIONS,
FRESH AIR INCLUDED**

**THE SECRET PAST OF
SOME FINE FURNISHINGS**

**EYE CANDY FOR
INTERIORS**

**PLUS: CNBC'S
TYLER MATHISEN
ON WHAT'S UP
WITH WALL STREET**

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Nancy Simonic's training as a shop and home economics teacher enables her to track down old furniture hidden away in dumpsters and other unlikely places, and repurpose them to stunning effect.

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Want to expand your home so you have more lifestyle and entertainment options? The answer to your space needs may be in your own back yard.

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A well-chosen decorative item turns a blah space into a beguiling one.

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Lisa Mierop, with partner Frank Contey, designs landscapes that open up endless options for homeowners.

ON THE COVER

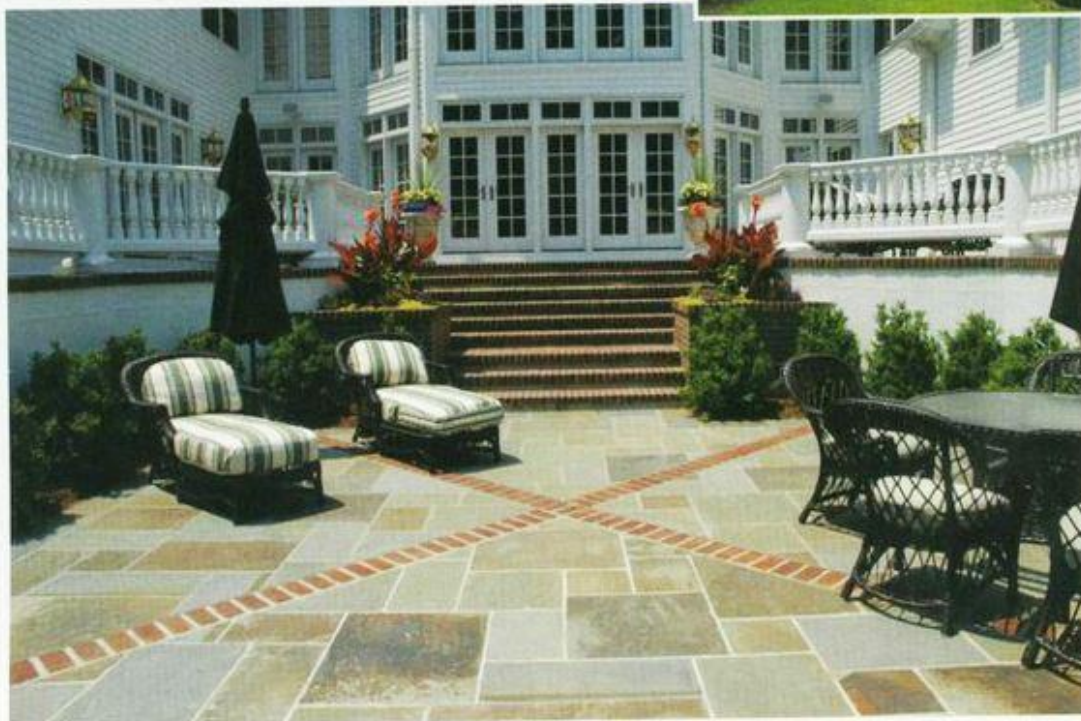
Landscape designer Kristin Krongard stands amid blooms at Bartlett's Greenhouses & Florist, just over the Montclair border in Clifton.

PHOTOS BY ANNE-MARIE CARUSO



DESIGN DUO

Born and raised in Manhattan, Lisa Mierop didn't encounter many backyards until she married a man from Montclair and moved here. Combining her new love for gardening with her career in textile design, she became certified in both gardening and landscape design by the New York Botanical Garden. In 1995, she won the Grand Prize Golden Trowel Award from *Garden Design Magazine*, and has been busy ever since. She opened Mierop Design, a Walnut Street storefront, in 2003 with business partner Frank Contey, the president and owner of Terra Graphics, LLC, at left. The two separate landscape design firms complement each other, she says; for the projects pictured here, Mierop served as general contractor, and Contey focused on their construction. "We cross-pollinate ideas," says Mierop.





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CREATING OPTIONS

Left, this estate in West Orange's Llewellyn Park "had a narrow upper terrace that was too small for entertaining," says Mierop. To bring it in scale with the house, they used older bricks that matched the existing ones. Raised container planters now funnel the approach to the multi-hued bluestone patio, with its visually interesting cross-hatching pattern.

Above, a 15-foot drop in elevation from the kitchen to the lawn of this Upper Mountain Avenue home in Montclair made the backyard hard to access. "You might as well have been in an airplane looking down," says Mierop. To achieve easy flow from the inside to the outside, the property was significantly regraded. The photo shows how "it's possible to enter the kitchen from outside, go through the living room on the right, come out and do a big circle." At right, the view from the terrace deck on to the patio. ➤

