

EAST COAST

HOME

+ DESIGN



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Built of natural stone, this garden seat is surprisingly comfortable. Lavender, famed for its calming scent, is planted within wafting distance.



THE ENGLISH GARDEN Hoffman Landscapes

AN IDYLIC PASTORAL LANDSCAPE is the hallmark of the English garden. Its composition includes gently rolling lawns against a woodland backdrop, small lakes or ponds, symmetry in plantings, suddenly revealed secrets, and eye-catchers—focal points such as statuary or re-creations of classical architecture.

You'll usually find at least one pavilion, temple or bridge in a proper English garden. In this Litchfield, Connecticut garden, a living tunnel of century-old rhododendrons comes

to a stunning conclusion under a vine-blanketed stone doorway. The surprise reveal: a secret Eden, shielded from prying eyes by the trees that close ranks around its perimeter. A swimming pool centers the space and resembles a natural pond, free of border tiles or other artificial touches. A small gazebo—reminiscent of a Greek temple—captures the eye at the far edge.

Twin walls of low, wide boxwood sweep down a sloping lawn and outline a plushly



The eye travels effortlessly from one focal point to another

carpeted pathway. The eye travels effortlessly from one focal point to another—first to the symmetrical plantings at the bottom of the path, which then draw the eye up and over to the Greek Revival home beyond. The cherub statue at the top of the path plays the role of eye-catcher when the perspective is reversed.

A small meditation garden was meticulously designed to make the connection between soothing the senses and calming the mind. A stone seat is surprisingly comfortable and lavender—famed for its calming scent—is planted within wafting distance. To relax the eye, shrubs and flowers were chosen for their billowing shapes rather than graphic lines.

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Twin walls of boxwood sweep down a sloping lawn pathway. The eye travels to the symmetrical plantings, which then draw the eye up to the Greek Revival home. The cherub statue plays the role of eye-catcher when the perspective is reversed.



Clockwise, from top left:

Set under the canopy of tall pines, the shady woodland garden features Japanese maples, rhododendrons, azaleas, and viburnum, underscored by ferns, hellebores and bleeding heart.

The woodland walk culminates in a formal sunken garden with a fountain surrounded by boxwoods and flowers.

Existing trees combine with shrubbery such as hosta and shade sections of the path.

Travel up a set of massive stone steps to be met by variegated red twig dogwoods, hosta and foxglove.

This property has several garden rooms, all connected by a winding path of natural wood chips.

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