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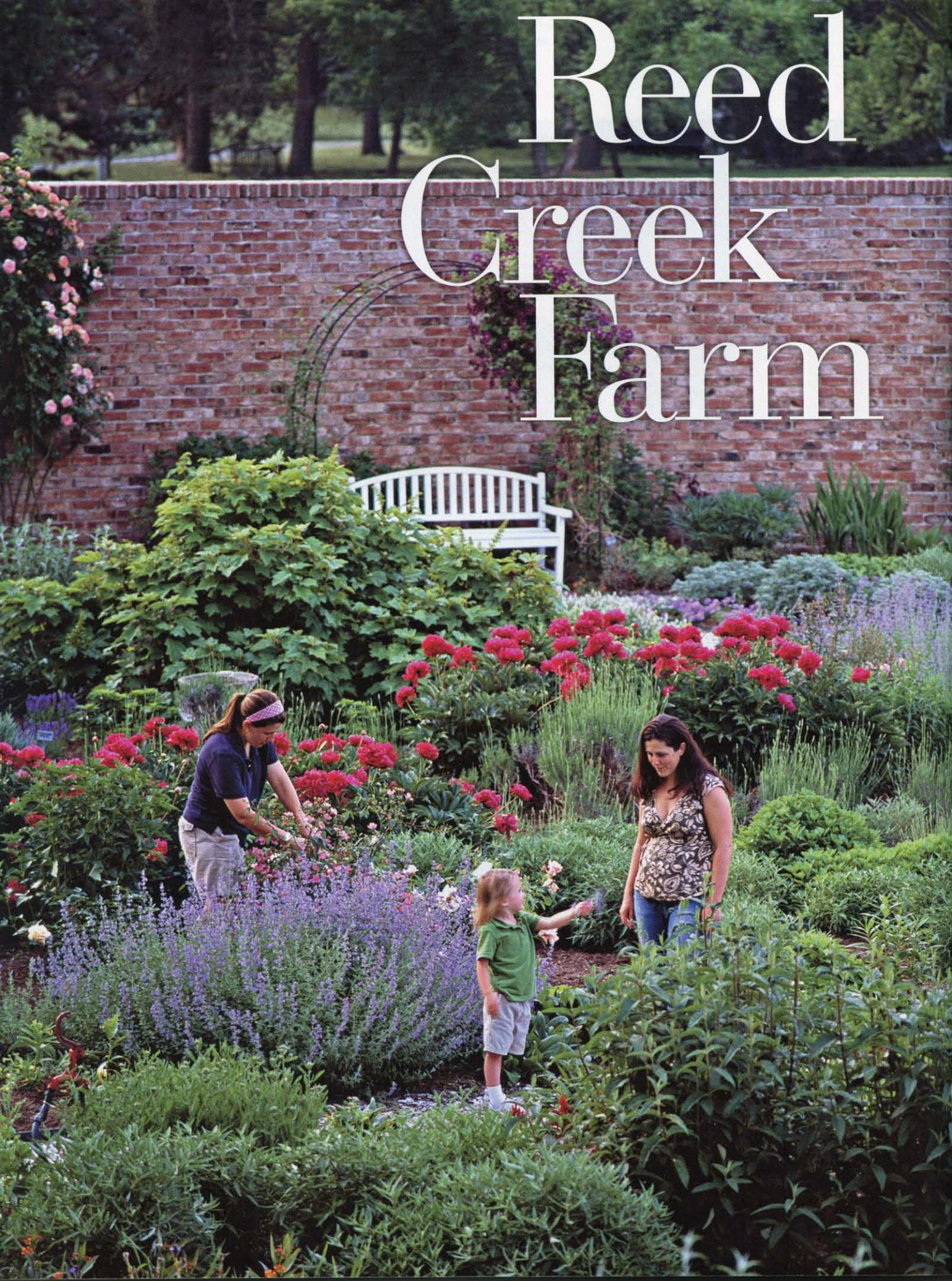
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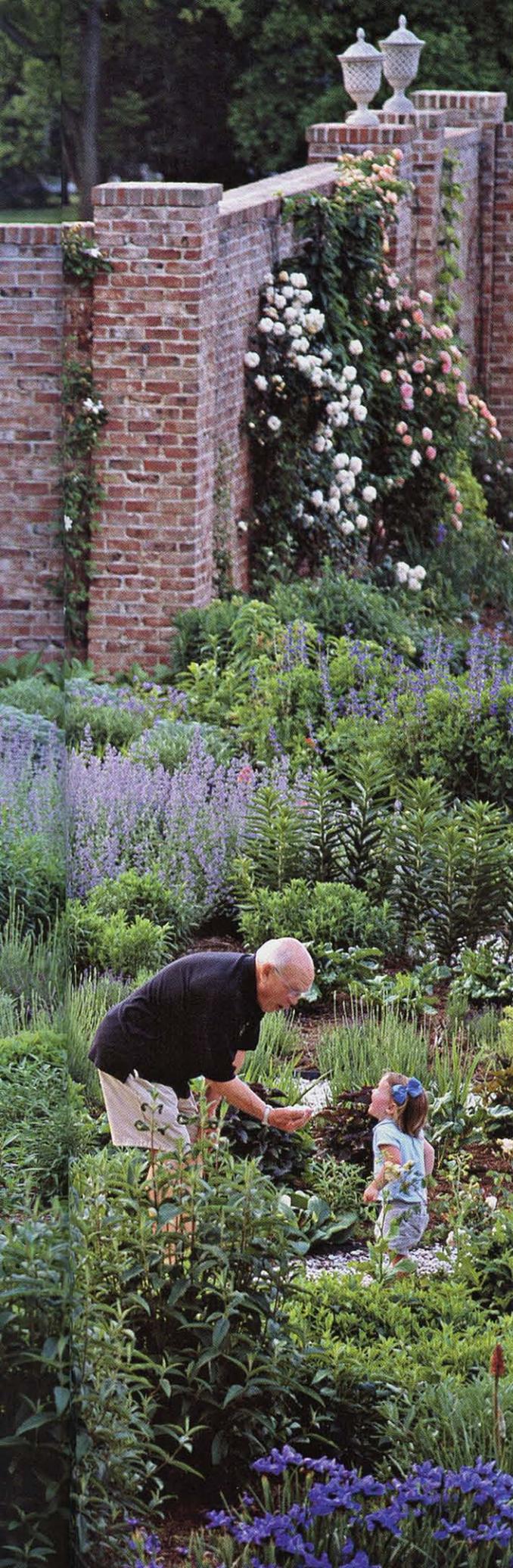


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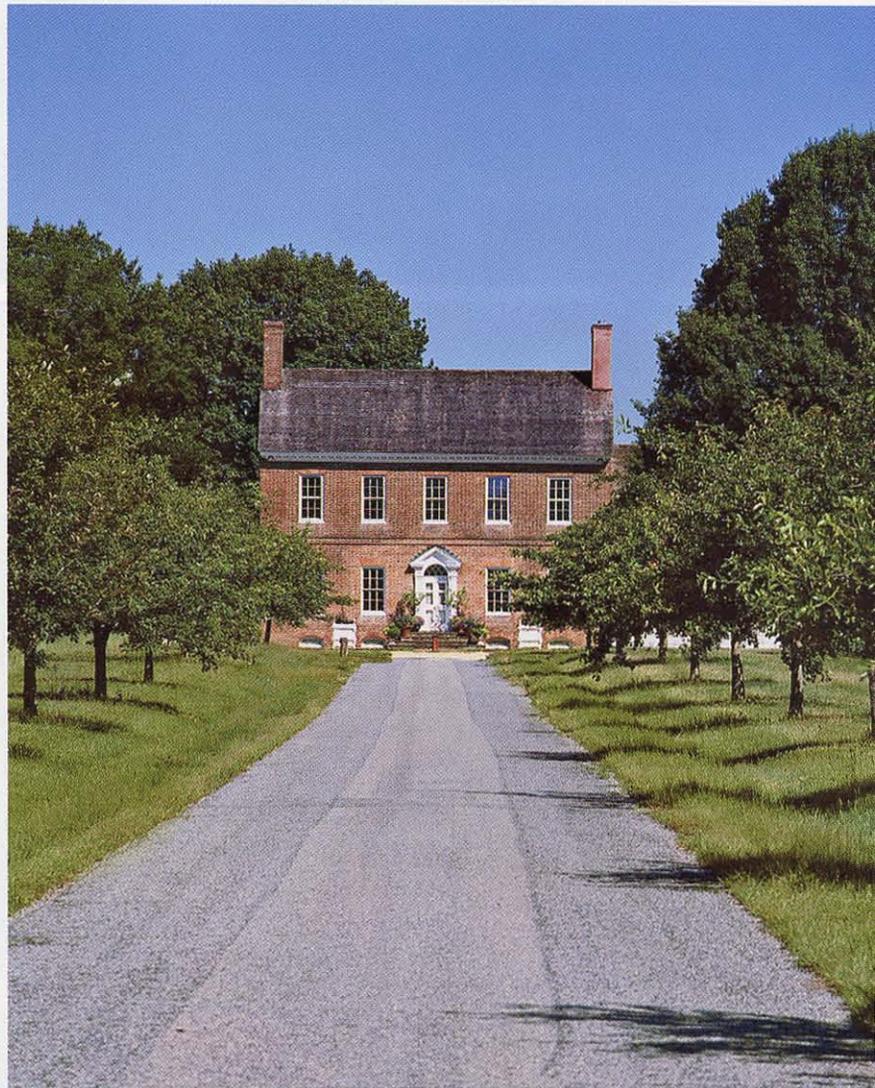
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# Reed Creek Farm

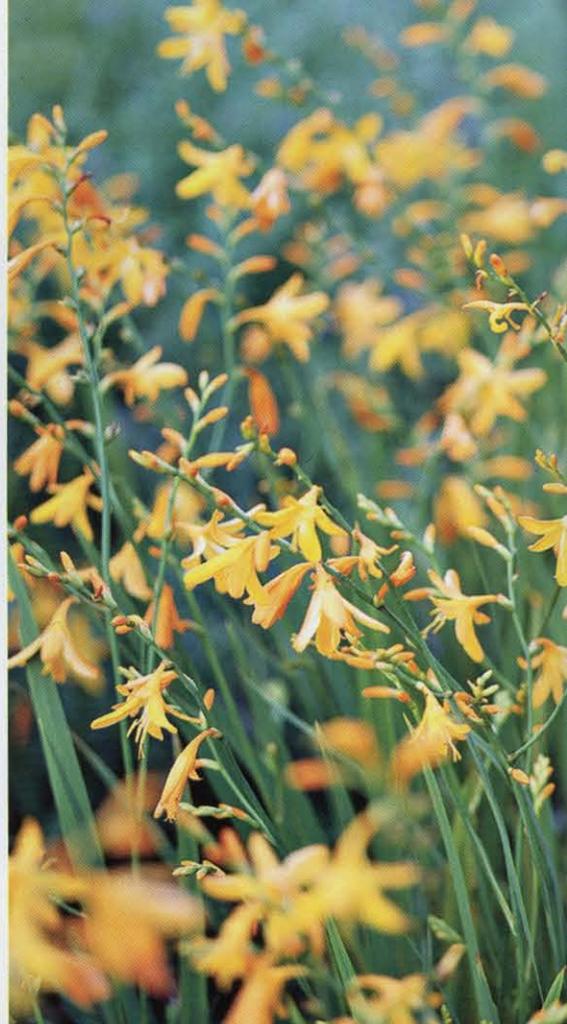




In Maryland, landscape architect **Barbara Paca** creates a landscape inspired by the great gardens of England and made meaningful by the dedication of a family



by Kessler Burnett *photographed by* Celia Pearson



The garden wasn't initially the focus when Marcia and Bob Simmons purchased Reed Creek Farm, a farmstead off the Chester River on Maryland's Eastern Shore, in 1996. Their plan was to turn the main house, a brick Georgian mansion built in 1775, along with the guesthouse and hunter's lodge, into a bed-and-breakfast for sailors. But when Marcia, who had cancer but was in remission, was diagnosed with a recurrence two years later, the couple decided to pour their energy into a more meaningful project: creating a formal, English-style garden that would honor both the house's architectural vernacular and Marcia.

Without telling his wife, Bob sent New York-based landscape architect Barbara Paca of Preservation Green a letter asking for her help. "That way," he explains, "Marcia wouldn't be disappointed if Barbara told us no, and it would be a happy surprise if she said yes."

Marcia, a master gardener and a voracious reader of British garden magazines, had distinct ideas of what she wanted: a garden with a saturated Provençal color scheme of orange, burgundy, and denim blue.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow,'" says Paca. "It was so forward-thinking. Back then, people only wanted pastel cottage gardens. And it was a bonus that she could write the script with me. She





CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: English roses climb the wall. 'Emberglow' crocosmia basks in the sun. The peonies' deep color pops against blue salvia. 'Butterfly Blue' scabiosa contrasts with David Austin roses. 'Six Hills Giant' nepeta grows in the foreground. PREVIOUS PAGES: Three generations of the Simmons family gather flowers. Native tupelo trees lead to the main house.



# “That wall is the most exquisite has ever brought back from a grand

was a participant in what she was leaving behind.”

Paca and Marcia immediately formulated a plan for the 200-acre estate. Paca's ultimate challenge was combining appropriate horticultural symbolism with Marcia's request for specific colors. “In my mind, I envisioned a garden of pale-blue lavender—an ancient cure for melancholy—and orange poppies, iconographic of eternal peace and rest,” says Paca.

Before implementing the design, Bob and Marcia took a vacation to England and visited a dozen landscape parks and gardens handpicked by Paca, who suggested they take note of details they might want to incorporate into their own garden. It was in the gardens of Hadspen, a 17th-century Somerset estate, where Marcia found the muse for the project's centerpiece: a meandering brick wall with an exedralike recess.

“That wall is the most exquisite souvenir that any client has ever brought back from a grand tour of gardens,” says Paca, whose husband, architect Philip Logan, designed the wall and gates. “When it was being built, it looked like we were creating the Great Wall of China, but it fits the space perfectly. Things tend to shrink when they're outdoors, and plantings scale down architectural features even more. It isn't precious; it is as honest and muscular as the land on which it is built.”

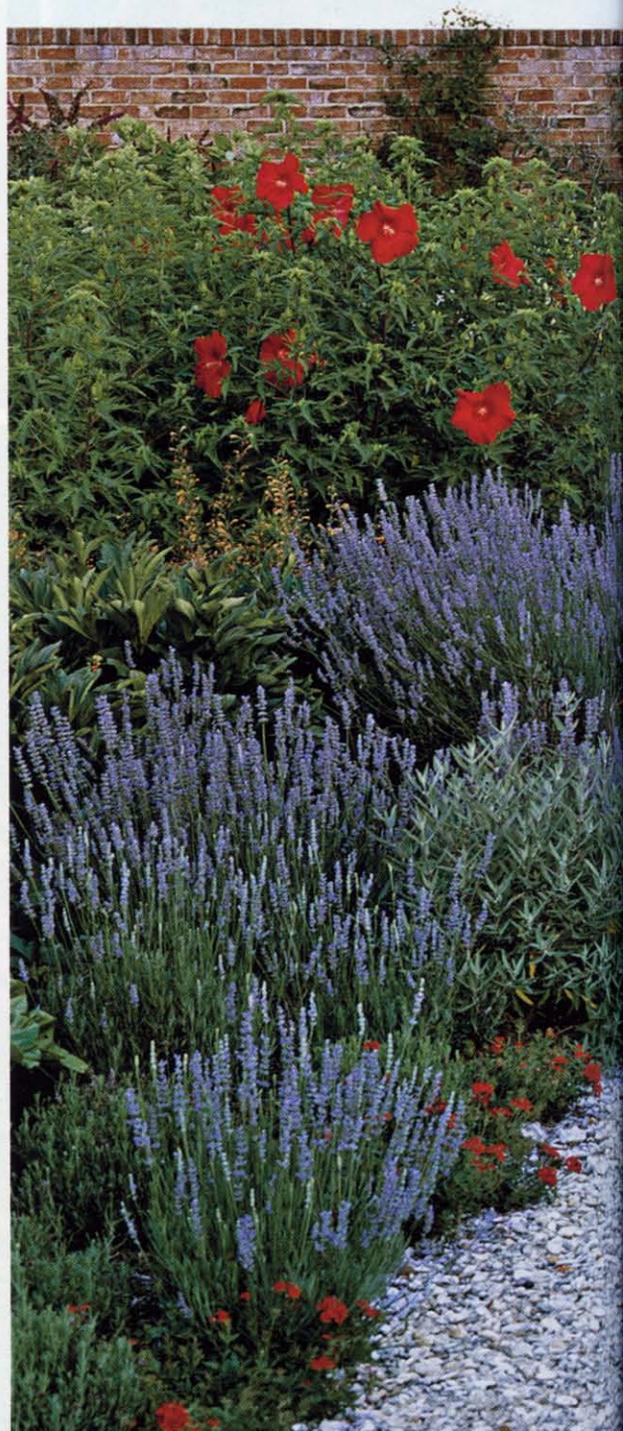
For an unexpected twist, Paca sited the garden at the south side of the house instead of at the rear, as is custom in classical English designs. To give the space depth, she created a goosefoot-shaped series of paths, which stretch from the main horizontal axis like three elegantly tapered fingers. A stroll toward the top of the garden is a lesson in the art of composition, as stocky English lavender gives way to taller ‘Emberglow’ crocosmia and even lengthier ‘Lord Baltimore’ hibiscus. The wooden gate at the end of the center path opens to the multidimensional view of the encroaching cornfields and creeks beyond.

When the design was completed in 2000, Paca turned the helm over to Marcia, who devoted the last years of her life to planting, pruning, staking, and meditating in the garden. Since Marcia died in 2006, it has continued its life under the guidance of Paca, who is instructing Bob and Marcia's daughters, Catherine and Barrett, in the fine art of gardening.

“Each time we are in the garden working,” says Bob, “I give thanks that we encouraged her to create this place that means so much to all of us.” ♦

*For details, see Sourcebook, page 118.*

**‘Lord Baltimore’ hibiscus, English lavender, crocosmia, and dark red verbena frame the view to the open gate.**



souvenir that any client  
tour of gardens.”

—landscape architect Barbara Paca



Rogers & Goffigon (T). **Page 75: Rug** from King's House Oriental Rugs, 205/244-1933, [www.kingshouseorientals.com](http://www.kingshouseorientals.com); **tub and sconces** by Waterworks, 800/899-6757, [www.waterworks.com](http://www.waterworks.com); **custom vanity** (D).



**TAILOR-MADE IN TULSA** **Pages 76–83: Interiors** by Charles Faudree and April Moore, Charles Faudree, Inc., 918/747-9706, [www.charlesfaudree.com](http://www.charlesfaudree.com). **Architecture** by Michael Mahaffey Architect, 405/843-5505 or 505/984-1232, [www.mahaffeyarchitect.com](http://www.mahaffeyarchitect.com). **Floral design** by Toni Garner, Toni's Flowers & Gifts, 800/526-9935, [www.tonisflowersgifts.com](http://www.tonisflowersgifts.com). **Pages 76–77: Fireplace** by Formations (T); **antique chairs** (D); **fabric on antique chairs**, Daphne (2623-894), by Zimmer + Rohde (T); **mirror and étagères** by Antique Warehouse by Dale Gillman, 918/592-2900; **flooring** by Peacock Pavers, 800/264-2072, [www.peacockpavers.com](http://www.peacockpavers.com); **chinoiserie table** from Bruntschwig & Fils (T); **Regency bench** by Dennis & Leen (T); **bench fabric**, Pacific Heights (9662), by Glant (T); **set of four chairs** by Rose Tarlow–Melrose House (T); **chair fabric**, Velvet Stripe (VEL01008), by Zoffany (T). **Page 78: Chair** (D); **art** through Royce Myers Art, Ltd., 918/582-0288, [www.roycemyers.com](http://www.roycemyers.com). **Page 79: Silver-leafing on table** by Bob Phillips, 918/850-4432; **chandelier** by Dennis & Leen (T); **antique chairs** (D); **chair fabric**, Isfahan, by Silkworks through William & Wesley Co. (T); **celadon jars on wall** from John Grafe Antiques and Interiors, 601/982-4344; **fireplace** by Formations (T); **mirror** by Antique Warehouse by Dale Gillman, 918/592-2900. **Pages 80–81: Finish on cabinets** by Bob Phillips, 918/850-4432; **wall color**, Shadow Beige (11-28), by Pratt & Lambert, 800/289-7728, [www.prattandlambert.com](http://www.prattandlambert.com); **kitchen cabinets** by Sullivan's Custom Cabinetry, Inc., 918/445-9191, [www.sullivanscabinets.com](http://www.sullivanscabinets.com); **reproduction pine table** by Woodland Furniture through Oliver Walker & Company (T); **chair cushion fabric** by Peter Fasano through John Rosselli (T); **china**, Berry and Thread, by Juliska, 888/414-8448, [www.juliska.com](http://www.juliska.com). **Page 82: Marseille chests** from Minton-Spidell, Inc., through E. C. Dicken, Inc. (T); **fabric on headboard and desk chair**, Shila Leopard, by Randolph & Hein (T); **curtain fabric**, Leonia (1307), by Dedar (T); **Locksley carpet** by Helios, 678/594-9680, [www.helioscarpet.com](http://www.helioscarpet.com); **bench** (6458/3) by Frank Chervan, Inc., 800/245-6782, [www.chervan.com](http://www.chervan.com); **bench fabric**, Palais Silk Velvet, Schumacher (T). **Page 83: Custom rug** by Couristan, 800/223-6186, [www.couristan.com](http://www.couristan.com); **lampshades** by Sew-n-Sew, Ltd., 918/582-3680, [www.sewnsew.com](http://www.sewnsew.com); **lampshade fabric** by Pindler & Pindler (T).



**JOIE DE VIVRE** **Pages 84–95: Interiors** by Gloria Stewart, La Petite Cabane, 011-33-55-357-5640. **Marston Luce Antiques**, 202/333-6800, [www.marstonluce.com](http://www.marstonluce.com). **Page 85: Paint on shutters**, Shaded White, by Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121, [www.farrowandball.com](http://www.farrowandball.com). **Page 86: Fabric on canapé** by Romo (T); **lamp** from Marston Luce, 202/333-6800. **Page 87: Finish on stairs**, Light Blue, by Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. **Page 88: Color wash on beams**, Savage Ground, by Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. **Page 89: Wall treatment and bed skirt** by Chelsea Editions (T); **wall color**, New White, by Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. **Pages 90–91: Curtain fabric**, Blue Eliza, by Kate Forman Designs, Ltd., 011-44-196-273-2244, [www.kateforman.co.uk](http://www.kateforman.co.uk).



**COASTAL COLOR** **Pages 100–109: Interiors** by Juan Montoya and Shaler Ladd III, Juan Montoya Design Corporation, 212/421-2400, [www.juanmontoyadesign.com](http://www.juanmontoyadesign.com). **Architecture** by Jorge L. Esteban, Breakstone, 305/705-0001, [www.breakstone.com](http://www.breakstone.com). **Page 101: Stair rail** designed by Juan Montoya (D), fabricated by Toledo Iron Works, 305/633-4352, [www.toledoironworks.com](http://www.toledoironworks.com); **French steel bench** from Sentimento Antiques,

212/750-3111, [www.sentimentoantiques.com](http://www.sentimentoantiques.com); **faux finish on walls** by Eliana Barbosa, 305/582-4011. **Page 102: Venetian consoles** from Axel Vervoordt, 011-32-36-581-470, [www.axel-vervoordt.com](http://www.axel-vervoordt.com); **chair fabric**, Inca, by Juan Montoya for Holland & Sherry (T). **Page 103: Art Deco pedestal** from Juan Montoya Furniture and Accessories (D). **Pages 104–105: Curtain and sofa fabrics** by Old World Weavers (T); **19th-century Austrian walnut daybed** from Niall Smith Antiques, 212/750-3985; **sofas** by Anthony Lawrence Belfair, 212/206-8820, [www.anthonylawrence-belfair.com](http://www.anthonylawrence-belfair.com); **coffee table** by Juan Montoya (D); **rug** by Stark (T). **Page 106: Backsplash** by Country Tiles (T); **cabinets** from Downview Kitchens, 905/677-9354, [www.downviewkitchens.com](http://www.downviewkitchens.com); **barstools** from Jalan Jalan, 866/643-1722, [www.jalanmiami.com](http://www.jalanmiami.com); **chairs** from Holly Hunt (T); **chair cushion fabric** by Scalamandré (T); **shade fabric** by Nobilis (T). **Page 107: Mosaic in Maroc** pattern by Country Tiles (T); **furniture** by JANUS et Cie (T). **Page 108: Bed** by Julia Gray (T); **chair** by Bruntschwig & Fils (T); **sofa and ottoman** by Lee Jofa (T); **bed, chair, and sofa fabrics** by Old World Weavers (T); **ottoman fabric** by Scalamandré (T); **curtain fabric** by Hinson (T); **curtain fringe** by Houllès (T); **sheer curtain fabric** by Rogers & Goffigon (T). **Page 109: Furniture** by JANUS et Cie (T).



**REED CREEK FARM** **Pages 110–115: Barbara Paca**, Preservation Green, LLC, 212/358-0538, [www.preservationgreenllc.com](http://www.preservationgreenllc.com); **Philip Logan, Architect**, 917/374-0704, [www.philiplogan.com](http://www.philiplogan.com); **Reed Creek Farm**, [www.reedcreekfarm.com](http://www.reedcreekfarm.com); **Hadspen House**, [www.thehadspenparabola.com](http://www.thehadspenparabola.com).

**YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS** **Page 122: Khoury & Vogt Architects**, 305/494-5464, [www.alybeach.com](http://www.alybeach.com); **Elizabeth Showers**, 214/879-9944, [www.elizabethshowers.com](http://www.elizabethshowers.com); **Moattar, Ltd.** (T).

**ONLINE** **Page 124: José Solís Betancourt and Paul Sherrill**, 202/659-8734, [www.solisbetancourt.com](http://www.solisbetancourt.com). **Home Treasures**, 713/937-7716, [www.hometreasureslinens.com](http://www.hometreasureslinens.com).

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