



ABOVE: While most of the action is in the backyard, the approach to the Brookside Tudor is also beautifully landscaped. RIGHT: All the comforts at home on the side porch. The French door opens to the living room.

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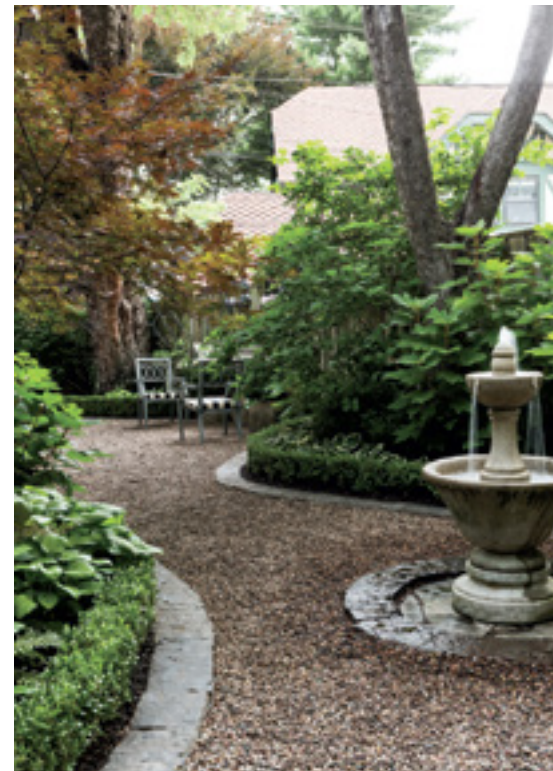
A garden retreat that's black and white and green all over

For Gary Fabro, pairing a navy blazer and white dress shirt with jeans is just the blend of formal and casual he loves. The Hallmark e-commerce executive and freelance graphic designer also translates that style to the home he shares with Mike Mead, a menswear expert at Halls on Grand.

“Masculine. Tonal. Monochromatic,” is the way he describes the interior of the low-slung Brookside Tudor, all taupe and white and black with clean, modern lines and contemporary art.

And that's the look he wanted for the garden so the line between indoor and outdoor would be blurred. “We wanted the garden to be an extension of the intimate seating areas in the house,” says Fabro. “And just like indoors, we like vignettes of objects like statues and mirrors and urns that tell a story.”





The masculine shows itself in the extensive hardscape designed by Kristopher Dabner of The Greensman, including the bluestone patio and the cut gray flagstone that borders the Eau Claire pea gravel.

The tonal appears in shades of leafy green—everything from English ivy to boxwood to ferns.

And the monochromatic kicks in with black and white, garden style. “Anything flowering is white,” explains Fabro, who planted oak leaf hydrangea as well as white impatiens. “Dark magenta is the closest thing to black in plants, so I used Japanese maple, coral bells, and crabapple.”

Over the past 20 years, Fabro has worked with a small, L-shaped space complete with a giant apple tree that rains down tiny green fruit the squirrels nibble then chuck. “In season, I prob-

OPPOSITE: A vintage urn is the base for the gurgling fountain. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** The sinuous path reveals the garden slowly. A vintage console is topped by grinding stones and flanked by faux bois pots, all from Christopher Filley Antiques. Gauzy curtains frame the side porch. The dining area is centered on the bluestone patio.



OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The view from the entrance to the garden. An antique urn potted with succulents. Tucked into a quiet corner under a crabapple tree, a vintage statue from Mission Road Antiques is bordered by hosta and white impatiens. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** A zinc table holds an urn from Nell Hill's overflowing with a lush fern. A green and gray vignette at the garden's entrance. Succulents and an armillary sphere from J'adore fill a concrete birdbath from Mission Road Antiques.

ably sweep up a bushel of little apples a day," he says. But everything else is meant to be low maintenance. "We put in drip irrigation to the thousandth degree, in-ground and over pots with a timer, so we didn't have to spend all that time watering by hand."

"Ninety percent of the garden is permanent; 10 percent is annual," he adds. "That makes it easy to manage."

From the living room, you step out onto the side porch, which Fabro completely redid as one of the first projects. An oeil de boeuf mirror from J'adore Home & Garden on one side of the door balances with a modern painting on the other side. An antique glider from Mead's grandparents is now painted a chic black and upholstered in a gray Sunbrella fabric. A bronze-hued chandelier and a pot of white orchids on the coffee table help make this the perfect place for an after-work cocktail.

Fabro hopes that he can one day train the Virginia creeper to line the top of the privacy fence that surrounds the garden. A curving pathway, bordered with hosta and a white-flowering magnolia, leads from the side porch to another garden vignette. Fabro had shown antiques dealer Christopher Filley a page torn from an old Kansas City Spaces magazine of an outdoor console composed of architectural salvage pieces, hoping to replicate it. "That's in my garden!" Filley said with a laugh. But Filley was able to create a similar piece featuring dressed, stacked stone pillars and a smooth stone top. A tall, wrought-iron frame backed with mirror and vintage grindstones complete the vignette.

Near the house, Fabro planted vintage species that fit the era of the house—lily of



OPPOSITE: An orchid-filled vintage marble urn is reflected in a wrought-iron framed mirror. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Two urns filled with impatiens and arborvitae flank a marble-topped wrought-iron table. The lion's-head wall fountain is from Halls on Grand. Casa blanca lillies scentt he garden and contrastt he deep green foliage that surrounds them. The garden entrance.

the valley, which likes shade, and spirea, which favors the sunnier spot.

Another vignette deploys mirrors, which catch the light of the moon and stars, along with lanterns in different shapes and sizes. An assortment of finials from Nell Hill's adds a sculptural accent. Succulents that play on the burgundy, green and white color scheme fill a nearby birdbath.

On the bluestone patio, a black metal table and chairs underneath an umbrella is the perfect spot to dine when Fabro and Mead grill chicken and vegetables to go with a vintage wine. Yet another seating area is set up on a black-stained deck. Like the indoor seating areas, the chairs have black-and-white punch, this time with a Greek-key design.

Mirrored Palladian trellises bounce light from the darkest recesses of the garden. On the back wall of the garden, a French metal lavabo or washbasin and a Mexican molcajete or lava rock bowl are a study in textures.

A bubbling stone fountain adds another layer of sensory detail to the garden and also helps mask traffic noise from nearby Wornall Road. "If there is one thing on my wish list, it's another water feature," says Fabro.

And he just might get it. After all, this garden is a blend of "wishful thinking and experimenting," says Fabro. It's a little piece of sophisticated calm, where Tudor meets bungalow and they both live happily ever after. ♦

Sources

HARDSCAPE

The Greensman
thegreensman.com

FABRIC

Nell Hill's
nellhills.com

GARDEN ACCENTS

J'Adre Home & Garden
jadorehome.com

GARDEN STATUARY AND ANTIQUES

Christopher Filley Antiques
816-668-9974

CONSOLE CONSTRUCTION

Before Construction
816-289-9213