



Vision scapes
 Healing the Earth...
 one garden at a time

In the Spirit of Things...

Visionscapes Sixth Edition, December 2004

A Contemporary Garden at a Century Home

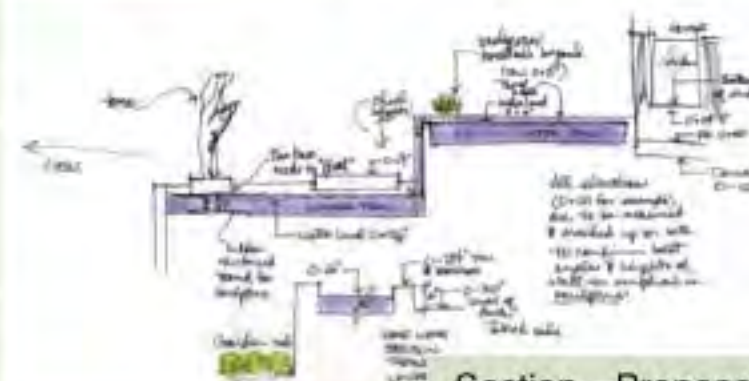
The Roths have a wonderful 1902 home in Cleveland Heights and have the knack of combining old architecture with modern furniture and art. Margo, in particular, was dissatisfied with the above ground pool (circa 1975) and its tired pressure treated decking (see before photo right). The Roth's back garden overlooks downtown Cleveland and Lake Erie. The sunsets are gorgeous and need daily applause. Located at the edge of a bluff, with noisy streets below angling up the hill and serious grading issues, the garden has this gorgeous view and lovely grand central floor plan home as a backdrop.

Virginia awoke one morning with the concept as to how to attend to the traffic noises, the bluff, set off existing sculpture (one was placed in garden bed without support, and was listing to one side), and build upon the central floor plan that aligns the front door of the house, draws the inside to outside and capitalizes on the view of downtown.

The idea was to emphasize the gorgeous nude male bronze sculpture - Day by Gary Weisman so that 'he' would emerge out of an infinity edge pool as one moved down the hall. To draw the eye and capture the imagination, the infinity edge upper pool was designed to the same dimension as the window at the end of the hall. The lines of the modernist concrete pool walls pull one's eye outside as soon as one walks in the front door and reflects the spectacular view. Moving down the hall, the sculpture emerges from the infinity edge pool. Day is actually set in a lower pool so that the toe of the sculpture is just dipping the water. Other views evolve as one moves out onto the upper and lower terraces overlooking downtown and Lake Erie. Steps and paving materials are reclaimed sandstone sidewalks and curbs repeating the combination of old with new. The bridge is a sandstone slab complete with three square cut outs (to allow light through). All areas are adorned with recently placed sculptures. The installation is recently complete & the final perennial plantings will occur next spring. Meanwhile Margo is a special friend & her granddaughters love to play in the pools!!



Before



Section—Proposed



Upper Pool



Lower Pool



From Upper Terrace

"My heart is tuned to the quietness that the stillness of nature inspires."
-Hazrat Inayat Khan

Projects under construction this season...

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON'S PERMANENT LABYRINTH was under construction this summer, as part of Phase One of the Park's master plan. The 54' dia. Chartres pattern labyrinth will be painted by Robert Ferre in April, 2005. Visit the future labyrinth site at Burlington's Central Park off of Guelph Line and New Street. Grand opening is set for May 14, 2005.

SHALOM VILLAGE, a long term care facility in Hamilton, Ont expanded into a second building with a courtyard. Visionscapes created shady places to sit under arbours, paths to walk and places to view the lovely plantings. All were all thanks to Fitzgerald & Roderick Landscape Contractors. The granite water sculpture, *Ribbon* by Walt Rickli was commissioned by **Shalom Village**. *Ribbon* was designed so that people who are elderly can access the rock, hear the water and stimulate their senses. The sculpture sparkles in the sun of the courtyard.



Norma's Garden...A Place of Healing



Sketch of The Gathering Terrace

The Gathering Place (TGP) is a caring community that supports individuals and families touched by cancer. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, The Gathering Place provides services and programs free of charge. **Norma's Garden...A Place of Healing** was designed in 2003 and built last summer/fall. The garden was designed to accommodate the programs and services offered by TGP as an integral part of their new facility. For Virginia, the project has been an experience of a lifetime where all involved have become long standing friends. A series of garden rooms designed around the themes of joy and peace include The Pool of Grass (for large events, labyrinth walks, open play, yoga), The Gathering Terrace (for smaller groups and events), The Secret Mystery Garden (for people to be alone), The Storybook Maze (for all ages to experience the magic of transformation), The Portico (a porch for smaller groups), The Pavilion (for shady sitting) The Green Rooms (for silent reflection), The Children's Garden (for play and wonder), The Edible Garden (for horticultural therapy and planting), The Entry Garden (the threshold to the garden), The Sacred Mount (the overlook). Each room has wondrous features such as the 6' high silver butterfly that is made for playing sounds or the Labyrinth Gates tracing the origins of this sacred symbol.

The project began with an open field of weeds, devoid of trees & is now complete with water features, fabulous stonework, sculpture, metalwork, woodwork by artists, stonemasons & carpenters and gorgeous large trees, shrubs and perennials. All came together as a magnificent symphony. A special thank you goes to Doug Brown (of Greensward Landscaping), whose grace & love of gardens made this project take flight and to Eileen Saffran (ED of TGP) whose spirit is cherished & vision infallible. To view more photos during construction, visit www.spirithealinggardens.com

For more information on The Gathering Place, visit www.touchedbycancer.org



Before



Proposed



During final stages

Placing a water sculpture...

When placing sculpture in the garden, adding planting and context is important. This lovely residential project overlooks Lake Ontario in Burlington. The before photo (upper right) shows a temporary planting on the upper terrace. The location plays 3 important roles—creating foreground for the panoramic views from the family room, creating intimate enjoyment of water for those sitting in the screened porch & adding the softness of planting on the paved terrace. During sculpture placement (middle), completion of the plantings compliment & accent the piece with textures and colours (lower right). Lighting catches the sparkle of moving water adding drama to this lovely foreground. It was a pleasure to work with homeowners, Steve Stipsits, Elizabeth Grant & family. Sculpture: *Speak No Evil, Hear No Evil, See No Evil* by Walt Rickli, stone sculptor.



The piece was fit through the last window opening on the 2nd floor with 1" to spare on both sides!

The **Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre** and Vermeulen/Hind Architects engaged Visionscapes to design the indoor garden space within a chemotherapy treatment area. *Le Giant Silencieux* is a gorgeous 8,000 lb granite sculpture and water feature that is now installed within the garden room which can be viewed from all locations in the treatment area. Completion will be January, 2005.

RECENT APPEARANCES

Visionscapes has been celebrating several appearances in various magazine and newspaper articles, as well as on radio and TV!

We are delighted to announce that Virginia Burt was named one of The Players, Canada's Fab 55, a gardening who's who by **GARDENING LIFE** Magazine, in the January/February 2004 issue.

To promote Design Hope 2004 and the sculpture "Nurtured by Time" created by Walt Rickli and Virginia Burt, Virginia appeared on **CHTV Morning Live** with Lori D'Angelo. Visit www.designhope.ca for more info.

Mark Cullen interviewed Virginia Burt on his garden talk show on **CFRB AM 1010** in February, 2004 and again in his regular column in the **National Post**.

Named one of Canada's greenest thumbs by the **National Post** newspaper, Virginia Burt was featured with 9 others in The Saturday Post on July 3, 2004. To view the article visit our website: www.spirithealinggardens.com



THE NEXT WAVE Rising designers rewriting the rules



VIRGINIA BURT BURLINGTON, ON
A landscape architect for 18 years, Burt gave up working on projects such as ski resorts in 1996 to focus on gardens that heal. Deeply aware of both human and environmental needs, she creates spiritual spaces for residential and institutional clients including health centres and hospices in Canada and the U.S. Her work, which often incorporates sacred geometry and, more recently, labyrinths, is garnering increased attention as more North Americans realize the powerful benefits of connecting with nature.



The greenest thumbs

Our best garden designers can pair seemingly incompatible elements or turn expectations upside down. They respect nature but aren't afraid to manipulate it. Meet 10 of them.

NATIONAL POST

CFRB • AM • 1010
News Talk Radio

CH Hamilton



"Stones are frozen music..."

Pythagoras

UPCOMING PROJECTS

The Henderson Hospital renovation in Hamilton will include a rooftop garden for people in both the long term care and palliative care units.

Creating a sculpture walk on a roof for a local university.

Collaboration with architects to create integrated spaces inside and out.

A spiritual retreat of a wooded 30 acres in an urban area.

Collaboration with sculptors and artists from across North America in a sculpture garden.

A garden and master plan for children and young adults with disabilities near Cleveland, Ohio.

A contemporary urban garden for a retrofit on an architect's existing house.

Numerous residential gardens for garden enthusiasts in Toronto, Cleveland, Hamilton, Oakville, Burlington and other places in North America.

Ongoing speaking engagements and hopefully completion of a book....

Completion of five gardens for people who are elderly at Post Inn Village, Creek Way, Allendale, Lendaco and Wellington Terrace long term care facilities across Ontario.

Watch for more photos of the Stipsits/Grant residential garden in the Jan/Feb 2004 issue of Canada's House and Home magazine.

To contact us about your garden - our toll free phone number is 1-888-339-3031 and fax 905-335-2606. Our email address is virginia@visionscapes.ca



"And when you start to...create a garden, whether on your land, in your home, for a public place, or through your imagination, your joy in the world around you radiates outward into the lives of others."
— Julie Moir Messervy.
The Magic Land.
1998, p 10



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We wish you and yours all the best of the holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!

*"...And I have felt
 A presence that disturbs
 me with the joy
 Of elevated thoughts; a
 sense sublime
 Of something far more
 deeply interfused,
 Whose dwelling is the
 light of setting suns,
 And the round ocean and
 the living air,
 And the blue sky, and in
 the mind of man...
 —William Wordsworth,
 Lines composed A Few
 Miles Above Tintern
 Abbey, 1888*

Would you like to receive more information about us?

Visionscapes Landscape Architects Inc. specializes in garden design for residential clients, health care facilities, and institutions, including labyrinths, and sacred spaces. For more information, please visit our website: www.spirithealinggardens.com

To express our thanks...
 Thank you to all of our contractors, clients and supporters over the past year. Sub consultants help document and develop concepts within our office and these wonderful people include Vermeulen/Hind Architects (especially Shelly!), MSI Landscape Architects, Bialosky Partners Architects, Ed Kolodziejki (Group 8), JSW+ Associates and Sylvia Behr. Contractors and artists are the ones who bring dreams and drawings to reality and these special people include Fitzgerald and Roderick Landscape Contractors, Greensward Landscaping, Peeters Landscaping, Walt Rickli, Stone Sculptor, Dave Hind, Metal Sculptor and Bondfield Construction.

If you would like to refer us to someone you know, call 1-888-339-3031. We will be delighted to send a promotional package from our office.

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

TYPES OF PROJECTS OF INTEREST: _____

Thank you for your referral!