



Building upon a home's architecture by adding decking and roofing to create an exterior implied room adds interest to the house and draws people outside. (Photograph courtesy of Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc.)



When designing a landscape plan for this historic 100-year-old American Foursquare home, Salsbury-Schweyer considered plants and designs common to its era. (Photograph courtesy of Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc.)

Award-winning Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc. specializes in design

By LISA FREDRICKSON

Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc. is an Akron-based, national award-winning landscape design firm specializing in water gardens, sustainable and historically appropriate landscapes, uniting architecture with landscape and spiritual sanctuaries. The husband and wife team of Samuel Salsbury and Sabrena Schweyer, both members of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, design each garden using a broad palette of plants and natural materials to create landscapes that are personal and meaningful to each individual client.

The design process begins with a site survey and a consultation with the client addressing lifestyle preferences with regards to entertaining, maintenance and recreational needs for the space. They also consider the best plant selections for the site and soil conditions. From this point, Mr. Salsbury and Ms. Schweyer integrate their combined history and science background, experience in home design and building and mutual passion for art and nature to create landscapes that are relevant, soothing, natural, unique and beautiful.

With each landscape design, professionals at Salsbury-Schweyer attune themselves to the architecture and the overall site of the project. When designing a landscape plan for an historical property, they pay particular attention to

plants and designs common to its era. "We understand what the historic perspective styles were," she said, "and we use that as a framework to build upon while considering the homeowners' lifestyle, budget and maintenance needs." According to Ms. Schweyer, the plan should be flexible and incorporate plants that are available today while paying homage to the architecture and time period. "How people connect with nature is tied up to history," she said. "We should keep a sense of the past and connect with nature in a meaningful way," she continued.

No matter the age of the home, a landscape design should unite with the architecture. Design elements can be used to help balance a home's elevation, build upon the existing architecture and increase interest such as the use of decking and roofing. These design elements create an implied room that extends out into the rear yard and connects the home to its surroundings.

"Samuel is a master at understanding architecture," Ms. Schweyer said. "We mirror architectural details from the house to draw the house and landscape together," she said. "In that way, we can use the outdoors as a room and draw people outside."

According to Ms. Schweyer, creating outdoor experiences is an integral part of what Salsbury-Schweyer does. Through creating

spiritual sanctuaries, she hopes that people will slow down and realize their connection to the earth and the life force that is there. In creating these healing gardens, professionals at Salsbury-Schweyer are sensitive to the lines of the flower beds and placement of plants and trees to encourage the flow of positive energy. "It's about creating sacred space," she said. "Spiritual sanctuaries can connect people with nature in a personal way."

Salsbury-Schweyer excels in creating truly unique and exceptional personal spaces in every landscape and garden design. And with each design, they are passionate about integrating concepts to make landscape more sustainable. Ms. Schweyer grew up on a farm in northeastern Ohio where she was raised with the philosophy to reuse and recycle. "We are stewards of the earth," she said, "and we must make it better for future generations."

According to Ms. Schweyer, incorporating sustainable principles with landscaping is much more than choosing the right plants. "We must adjust our attitude about lawns," she said. She recommends getting away from the manicured look and allowing grass to grow taller or replace portions of lawn with prairie grass, which increases the yard's ability to hold water as well as decreases grass clippings. She also recommends avoiding monocultures by planting a variety of native plants that are best suited

to the site and soil conditions and provide food, water and shelter for area habitat. "We can create a sanctuary for us as well as the creatures we share our world with," Ms. Schweyer said.

Creating a landscape design with sustainable principles can be accomplished for any property. More formal plantings are planted near the base of the home while the plant selections are increasingly natural toward the edges of the property providing a segue from the more structured living spaces near the house to the more subdued natural beauty of the surrounding woods and meadows.

In addition to plantings, Ms. Schweyer also recommends considering the environmental footprint of a landscape. "Consider where the materials come from, the longevity and where they are going to end up," she said. Keep landscapes simple by using natural materials, she suggests, such as compost instead of topsoil or sandstone rather than brick for patios. Also, avoid toxic pesticides, she added.

Professionals at Salsbury-Schweyer are sensitive to the land and all its inhabitants as well as the needs and wants of their clients when creating landscapes of every design. This design and development group combines plants, water and stone to create a living art form.

For more information, visit salsbury-schweyer.com



Landscape designs using sustainable principles integrate formal plantings around the base of the home with natural selections toward the edges of the property. (Photograph courtesy of Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc.)



By creating spiritual sanctuaries, Salsbury-Schweyer encourages people to slow down and realize their connection to the earth. (Photograph courtesy of Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc.)

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