



The Taunton Press
Inspiration for hands-on living®

Home Outside:
Creating the Landscape You Love
By Julie Moir Messervy
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Contact: Suzanne Fedoruk
Fedoruk & Associates, Inc.
(612) 861-7807, (612) 247-3079
suzanne@fedorukinc.com

Home Outside ***Creating the Landscape You Love***

Let's face it: most of us have the confidence to improve the inside of our homes with a fresh coat of paint, new rugs, furniture and fixtures. But when it comes to the outside of our most prized possession, we don't know where to start. That's where Julie Moir Messervy's ***HOME OUTSIDE*** comes in. The acclaimed landscape designer walks you through the process of turning any property into the "home outside" you've always dreamed of.

In ***HOME OUTSIDE***, award-winning landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy demystifies the art and practice of landscape design. By introducing an easy, tangible yet intuitive process, she helps professionals and homeowners turn their property into a place of enjoyment – their own "home outside."

"Ultimately, my goal with this book is to get people back outside onto their land by helping them realize the pleasure that's involved in being out of doors," explains Messervy. "I want to revive the home landscape as a place of importance in people's lives. By teaching people what I know about landscape design, I'm hoping that they will learn how to create the spaces they love and go outdoors to enjoy them."

HOME OUTSIDE is a user-friendly guide to composing a unique and personal landscape. Clear and concise writing, together with beautiful photographs, before and after images, diagrams, green tips and case studies, all illustrate that good landscape design is approachable, affordable and attainable.

Returning to Our Roots

As the difficulties in the housing market have homeowners planning renovations instead of relocations, Messervy suggests moving beyond the walls of the house to the landscape outside. Developing a "home outside" not only expands the amount of valuable living space, it also increases the pleasure one gets from the property as a whole.

Research shows that a well-designed landscape can increase quality of life and improve property values. It has been shown that children are healthier, happier and better able to get along with others when they have regular opportunities for free and unstructured play outdoors. Realtors acknowledge that a house with "curb appeal" in the front and a well-composed private landscape in the back can add as much as 20 percent to the value of a home.

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Creating Home Outside Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3 ... 4, 5, 6

In *HOME OUTSIDE*, Messervy brings a designer's perspective to guide readers through a comprehensive six-step process for creating "home outside."

The first step begins with a property assessment of existing conditions. Next, Messervy helps readers identify their ideal site – an initial vision for their "home outside." From there, she presents organizational strategies that pull the different parts of a landscape together: choosing a layout, aesthetic arrangement and a unifying theme or "big idea."

As the process progresses, Messervy defines and instructs readers to map out four different types of comfort zones around the house and how the zones will be organized. Once the zones are mapped, Messervy shows readers how to connect them, creating a flow through the property with paths to follow, places to pause and spaces to sit.

After the landscape is laid out and organized, readers learn about the finishing touches by exploring spatial composition, energy auditing and creating focal points and frames. Finally, readers discover how to maximize sensory pleasure in their home outside by stimulating each of their five senses with the most fundamental natural elements: earth, water, fire and air.

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