



Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

Up, Down, All Around

Visually enlarge your outdoor space with these proven design techniques:

SEEK TEXTURAL VARIETY not only in plant selection but also in the containers, furniture, walls, fencing, and even the ground plane. The richer and more varied the textures, the more experiential the space.

CHOOSE DUAL-PURPOSE PIECES to enlarge usable space and reduce visual clutter. Low retaining walls can double as seating which eliminates the need for furniture. When not in use, a fire pit with a flat cover can double as a coffee table. A ceramic garden stool can also work as a side table.

BORROW VIEWS: A CHURCH STEEPLE, AN ATTRACTIVE TREE, INTERESTING ARCHITECTURE NEXT DOOR. These are inexpensive assets that can easily give the appearance of a larger space.

APPLY PREPOSITIONS TO THE DESIGN. Think: UP the steps, OVER the bridge, UNDER the pergola, AROUND the tree. The more prepositions, the larger a space will feel.

INTEGRATE DIAGONAL PATTERNS INTO THE PAVING. Diagonals are dynamic and easily break the rigidity of a rectilinear space.

USE A SUBTLY PLACED MIRROR TO MAGICALLY INCREASE THE SIZE OF A SMALL SPACE. For example: sneak a mirror into a circular opening on an ivy-cloaked wall.

EMBRACE CRAFTSMANSHIP AT ALL LEVELS. From decorative drain grates and doorknobs to elegant chair cushions and artful hose bibs. Small spaces become larger with special attention to details.

CONCENTRATE ON PLANT QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY. Use fewer but exceptional plants that display intriguing branch structure, unique form, unusual foliage, and four seasons of interest.

USE PLANTS WITH FINE-TEXTURED FOLIAGE to visually enlarge your space, which creates a feeling of distance and choose cool colors like blue, green, and white which recede.

CONCENTRATE ON EXCEPTIONAL, ATTRACTIVE, AND CONSISTENTLY HEALTHY FOLIAGE. Flowers are often fleeting.

CHOOSE PLANTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATELY SIZED for the site and will not outgrow the space as the years progress.

EMPLOY THE ART OF ESPALIER. With limited real estate, every square inch becomes valuable, and walls present opportunities for increasing the breadth of your canvas.

USE "FASTIGIATE" (NARROW VERTICAL) PLANTS and vines to draw the eye upward and enlarge your composition.

NANCY AND PIERRE MOITRIER operate *Designs for Greener Gardens*, a boutique gardening company that specializes in designing, creating, developing, and maintaining distinctive gardens of all styles. Pierre hails from France and brings the charm of the Old World to their garden creations. Nancy's 40 years of gardening experience combined with her design knowledge and innate artistic eye add a superior dimension to their garden projects. Follow *Designs for Greener Gardens* on Facebook.

