

GARDEN DESIGN COMPETITION WINNERS

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AWARDS



JULY/AUGUST 1993



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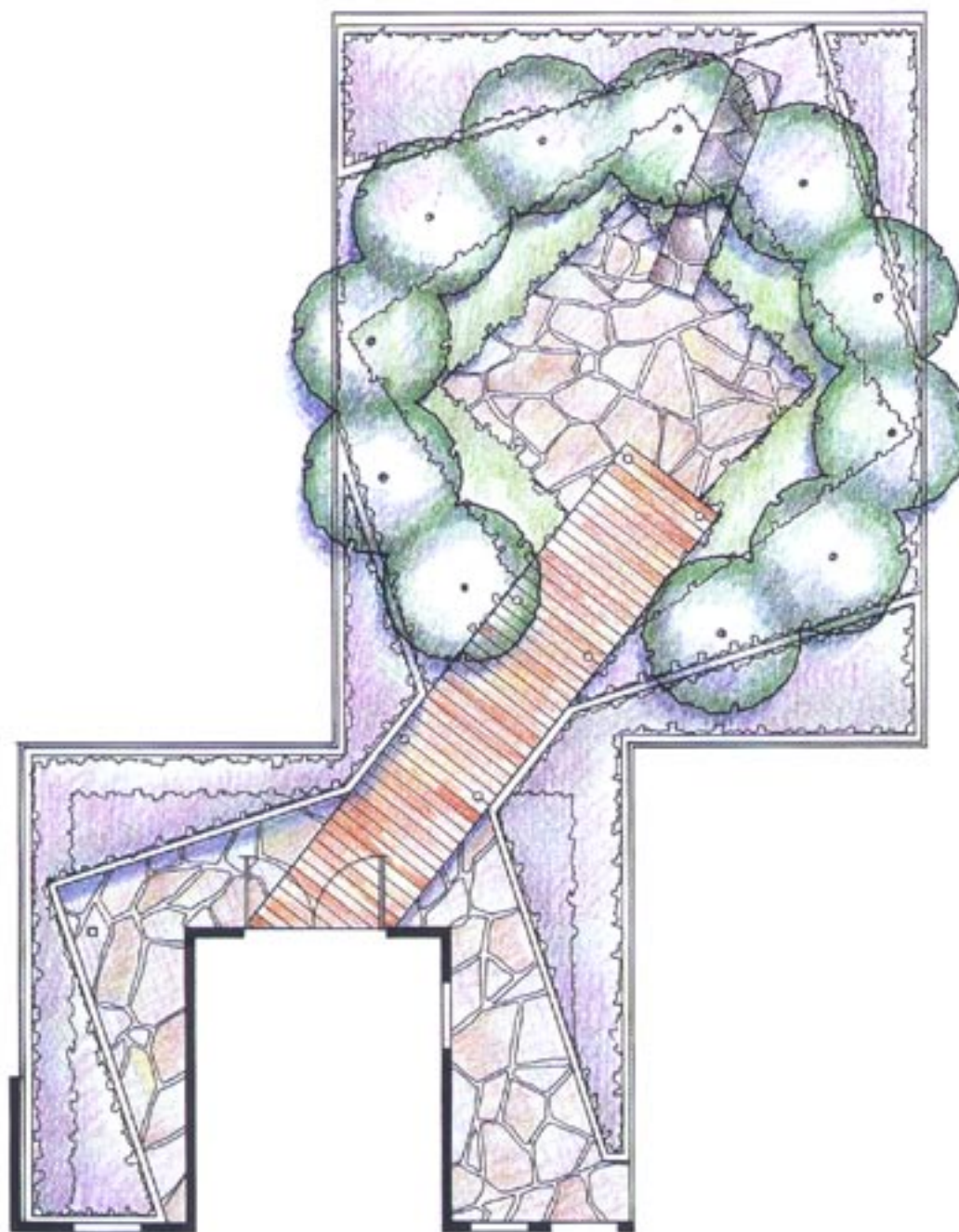
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: RANDY THUEME, ASLA, RANDY THUEME DESIGN, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONTRACTORS: GENE WILSON, CARPENTRY; D. ARVID ADAMS, LANDSCAPE;

MARGARET PHILPOTTS, LIGHTING; TED KUGELMAN, MASONRY

COST: \$25,000

CLIENTS: SCOTT MURRAY AND PETER CORIPPO, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



PREVIOUS PAGES: THUEME MADE A TIGHT SPACE WORK BY FLOATING GEOMETRIC SHAPES WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES. JACQUEMONTII BIRCH CIRCLE THE SEATING AREA. BELOW: BLUE FESCUE AND AGAPANTHUS FLANK DECKING; CREEPING AND WHITE MOSS THYME AND BLUE STAR CREEPER FILL SPACES BETWEEN FLAGSTONES. PHOTOS BY CRIS YATES.



A tight space can be a showplace if you think big. Landscape architect Randy Thueme's clients had recently renovated an entertainment room in their San Francisco townhouse. Situated at the end of a block in the Marina neighborhood, the house's newly appointed retreat opened out to a leftover, awkwardly aligned lot.

Thueme's plan was to design a space that de-emphasized the property line, to make an asset of the lot's offset alignment, and to create a private garden in the midst of six abutting gardens.

With an eye toward structure, he formed two main squares from a perimeter of raised planters, and linked them with a wooden pier. Within each square is another, offset square of richly colored flagstone paving. The first main square overlaps the house and provides a transition to the garden. The second

square, which defines the main outdoor area, contains two planting beds that pivot on its center point. These "floating" elements increase the geometric complexity and shift the garden's orientation away from the fence line. At the far end, a narrow path playfully lures you into the blooms, suggesting imaginary places beyond the garden.

The owners also wanted a colorful, dynamic look. Around the terraces, white-flowering bulbs and ground cover give way to blue and purple perennials that merge into pink, crimson, and red, and then to orange, yellow, and white. A ceremonial circle of birch trees adds a finishing flourish to the sitting area.

The judges called this "the most overall consistent design. This is what we were hoping for—unexpected," they said. "The design tightens an already tight space. How daring—to go into those directions that go nowhere."