

Southern home

Beautiful
STYLE
*indoors
& out*



- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
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ENGLISH INFLUENCE

With sweeping views of the Great Smoky Mountains, a designer's storybook cottage is surrounded by English-style gardens full of purposeful plantings and Southern charm.

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Above: Though it took several years of hard work and patience, the garden now yields an array of beauties from branches and berries to poppies and peonies. Right: For this simple summer arrangement, Greeley used a pitcher from her personal collection and filled it with larkspur, lamb's ear, and late-blooming tulips. Middle right and far right: West Highland White Terrier Duncan McDuff Greeley enjoys lying in the sun and surveying the sylvan setting. His point of view reveals hostas, stepping stones, and a portion of the back garden.



About 30 miles west of Asheville, North Carolina, lies Waynesville, a small town situated between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1986, interior designer Kathryn Greeley acquired a quaint abode known as “Chestnut Cottage.” The home, originally built by a local forester in 1927, also came with substantial surroundings.

“It was love at first sight when I found this cottage,” says Greeley, owner of Kathryn Greeley Designs and author of *The Collected Tabletop: Inspirations for Creative Entertaining*. “It’s been a long and enduring love affair.”

When Greeley first took possession of the house, the interiors were in disrepair and the gardens were nonexistent. However, the grounds did boast two large oaks, as well as incredible mountain views. Inside, the designer used gallons of Murphy’s Oil Soap to restore the rare wormy chestnut walls, ceilings, and doors. Outside, she drew inspiration for the

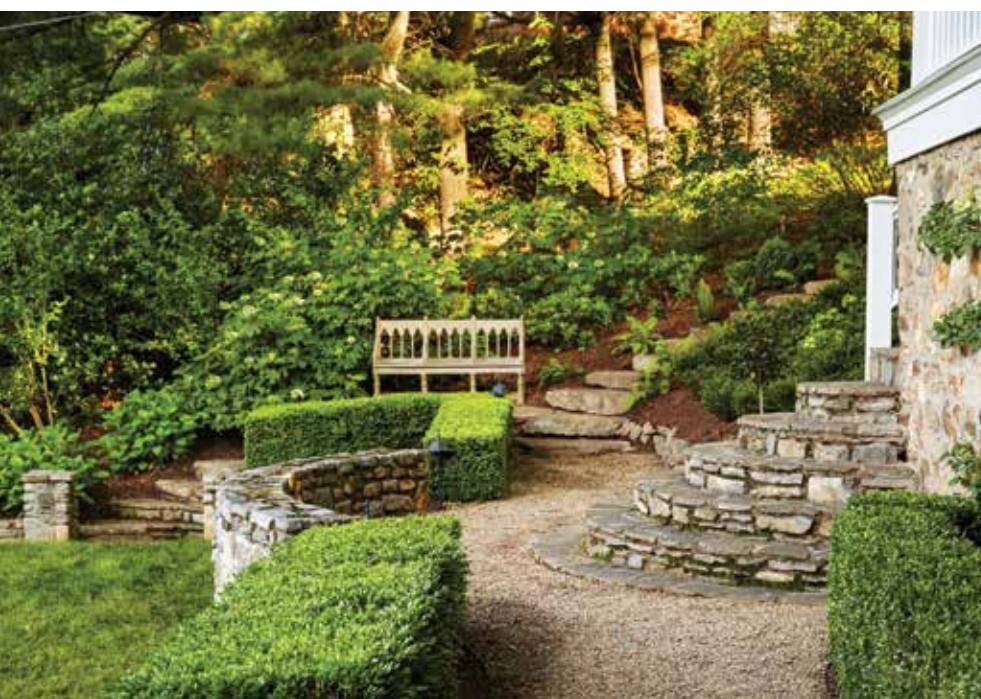
gardens from holidays and buying trips to England, as well as from visits to her grandfather’s estate in Northern Ireland. Single at the time, Greeley devoted as much time as she could to developing the plans and slowly implementing her ideas. “I got married in 1993, which necessitated an extension of the house,” she says. “At the same time, we also increased the size of the gardens.”

To help her achieve the kind of sylvan splendor she had seen during her travels, Greeley reached out to Hunter Stubbs, who at the time was the horticulturist at Asheville’s Richmond Hill Inn. “Hunter had such a talent,” says Greeley. “The vision for my garden came to life through our collaboration. Every time I returned from a trip across the pond, I would throw more ideas at him, such as a teapot topiary, and somehow he would find a way to make it happen.”

Though Stubbs passed away in 2017, his creativity lives on in Greeley’s garden. “He once planted boxwoods that grew into the shape of a West



Left and bottom left: Greeley added hardscapes and gravel to help define different areas of the garden. Below: A sitting area with a concrete bench is flanked by spiral boxwoods, larkspur, foxgloves, and Creeping Jenny. Greeley added mirrors in lieu of glass panes in the window, but drywall covers the inside for maximum storage in the newly added master closet.



Highland White Terrier because he knew how much I loved my first dog,” says the designer. “The garden continues to evolve, but it also holds many special memories. Digging in the dirt makes me remember times as a child working alongside my grandmother in her vegetable garden and admiring her hollyhocks near the fence.”

Flourishing with more than 30 peonies in late May, the summer gardens at Chestnut Cottage are also filled with foxgloves, delphiniums, hydrangeas, creative topiaries, English roses, and tidy boxwood hedges. “My interior design philosophy is to have a style that is collected, not decorated, and that also applies to the way I approach my garden,” says Greeley.

“I love to collect heirloom plants and old-fashioned flowers. And I love to share my plants with other gardeners.”

Greeley also enjoys entertaining in her outdoor mecca. The gardens have hosted afternoon teas, fund-raising soirees, and family gatherings, always providing plenty of room for table settings, as well as for mingling near the fountain, relaxing on twig benches, or taking a walk through the posies. “I love to share the cottage and its surroundings with others,” she says. “It’s my happy place, and I want guests to experience that when they come here for a visit. The best part is that there’s always something new to see in the ever-changing spaces—that’s why I enjoy it so much.”

