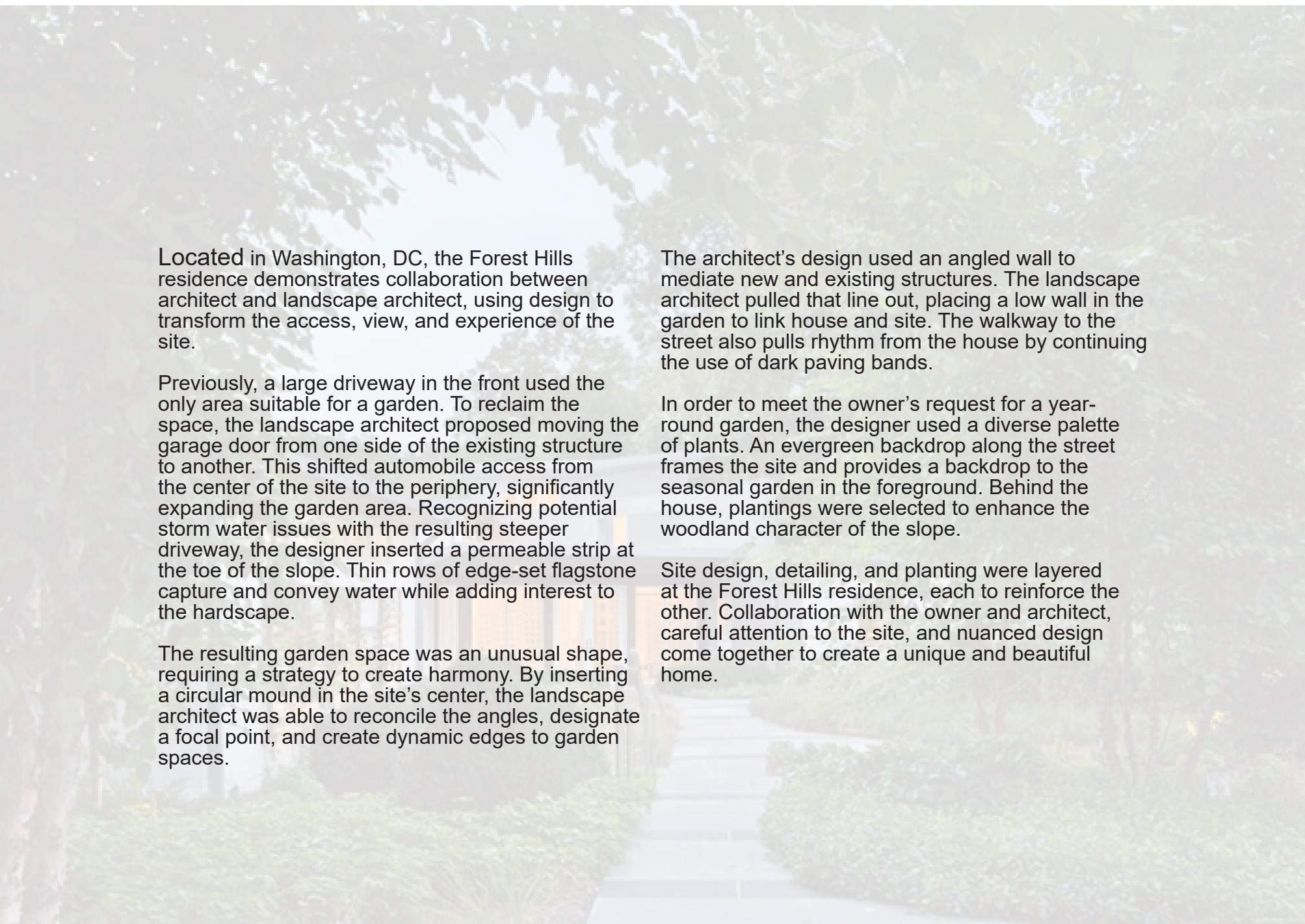




Located in Washington, DC, the Forest Hills residence demonstrates collaboration between architect and landscape architect, using design to transform the access, view, and experience of the site.

Previously, a large driveway in the front used the only area suitable for a garden. To reclaim the space, the landscape architect proposed moving the garage door from one side of the existing structure to another. This shifted automobile access from the center of the site to the periphery, significantly expanding the garden area. Recognizing potential storm water issues with the resulting steeper driveway, the designer inserted a permeable strip at the toe of the slope. Thin rows of edge-set flagstone capture and convey water while adding interest to the hardscape.

The resulting garden space was an unusual shape, requiring a strategy to create harmony. By inserting a circular mound in the site's center, the landscape architect was able to reconcile the angles, designate a focal point, and create dynamic edges to garden spaces.

The architect's design used an angled wall to mediate new and existing structures. The landscape architect pulled that line out, placing a low wall in the garden to link house and site. The walkway to the street also pulls rhythm from the house by continuing the use of dark paving bands.

In order to meet the owner's request for a year-round garden, the designer used a diverse palette of plants. An evergreen backdrop along the street frames the site and provides a backdrop to the seasonal garden in the foreground. Behind the house, plantings were selected to enhance the woodland character of the slope.

Site design, detailing, and planting were layered at the Forest Hills residence, each to reinforce the other. Collaboration with the owner and architect, careful attention to the site, and nuanced design come together to create a unique and beautiful home.



Site Plan 1"=30'

1 Residence Entry Hall
2 Photography Studio
3 Front Walk
4 Garden Mound

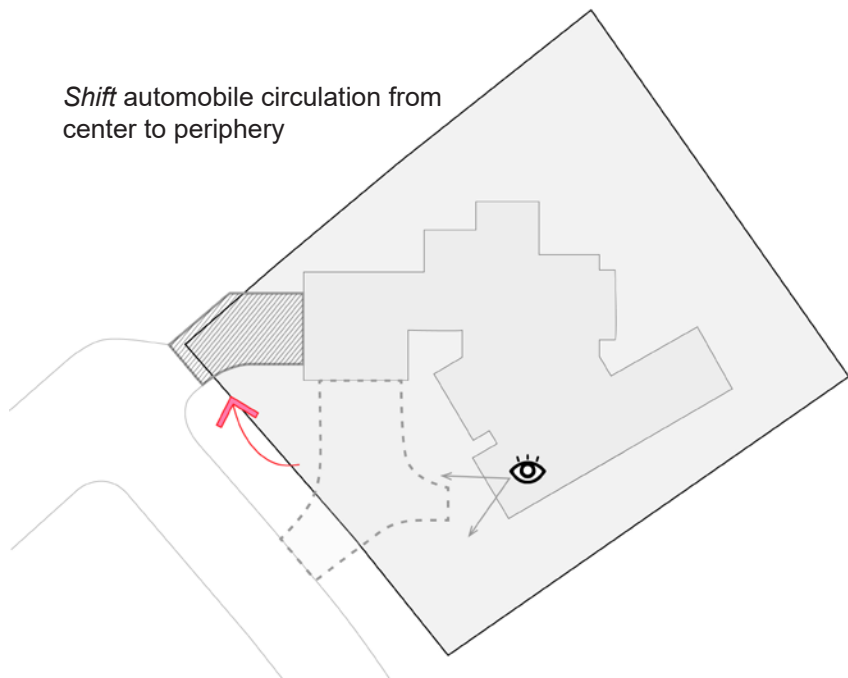
5 Garden Wall + Evergreen Screen
6 Sitting Area
7 Flowering Shrubs
8 Woodland Garden

9 Lower Deck
10 Canopy Sitting
11 Upper Deck
12 Garage

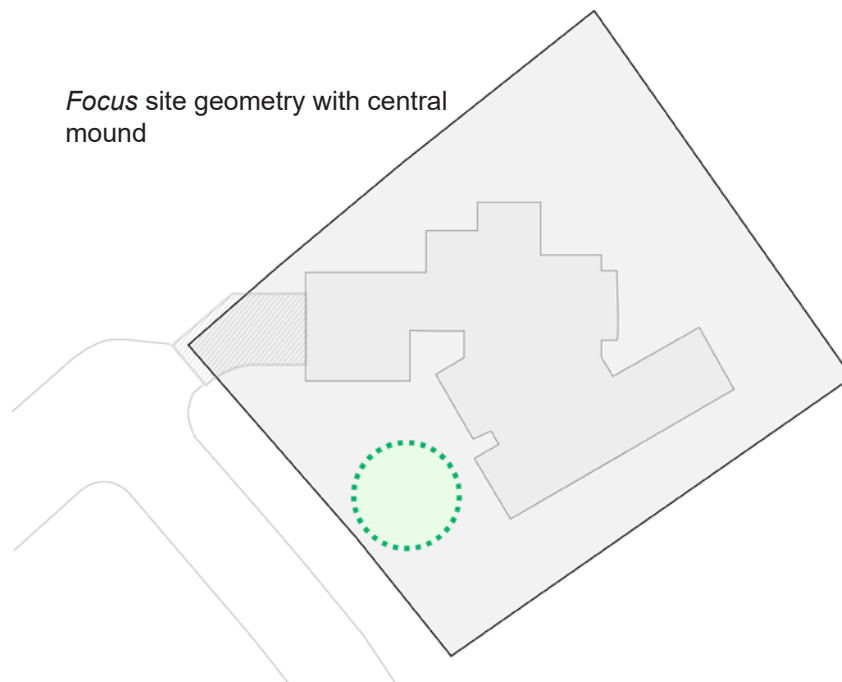
13 Driveway

Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017

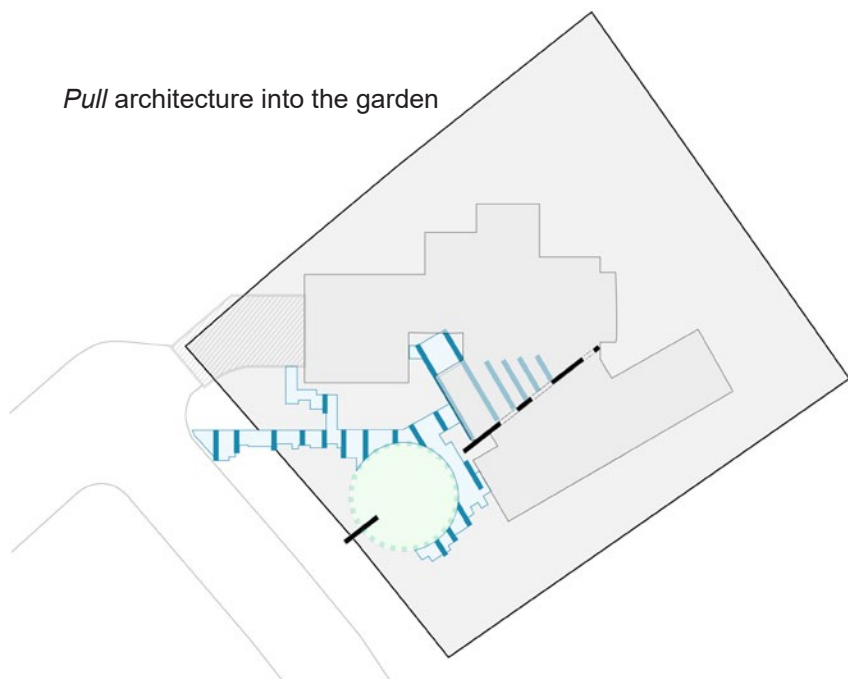
Shift automobile circulation from center to periphery



Focus site geometry with central mound



Pull architecture into the garden



Frame the space with planting





Before: The front was dominated by the driveway and generic plantings. The landscape architect proposed moving the garage entrance to the left side of the structure, freeing up space for a garden.

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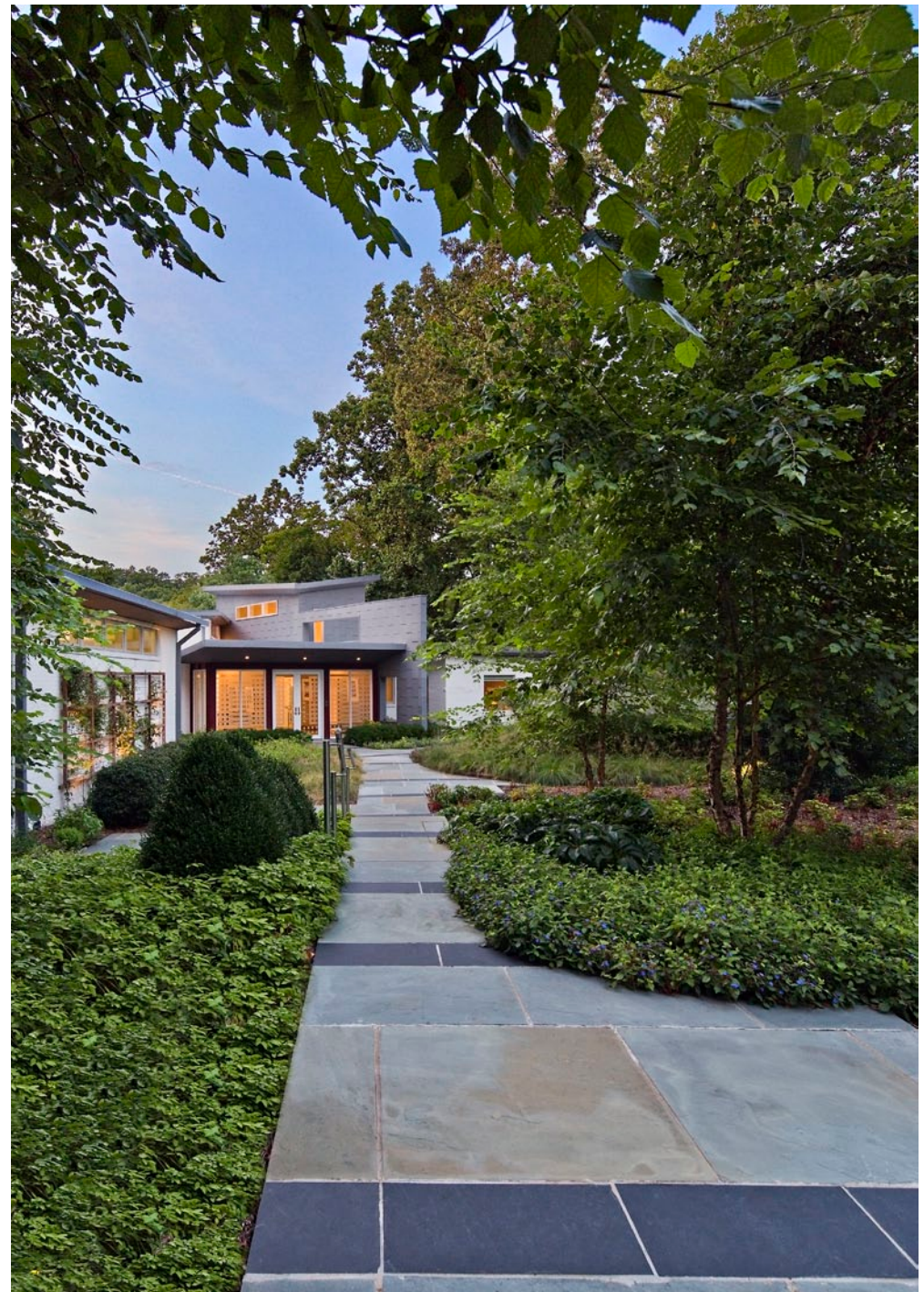


After: A fragment of wall in the garden connects architecture and site. Evergreen trees provide a textured backdrop when viewed from the house while perennials provide seasonal color, creating a private garden for the owner to enjoy.

Forest Hills Residence
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Before/During/After: The pedestrian-focused design uses the pathway as an armature for site circulation as well as to create a welcoming approach from the street to the front door.



Forest Hills Residence
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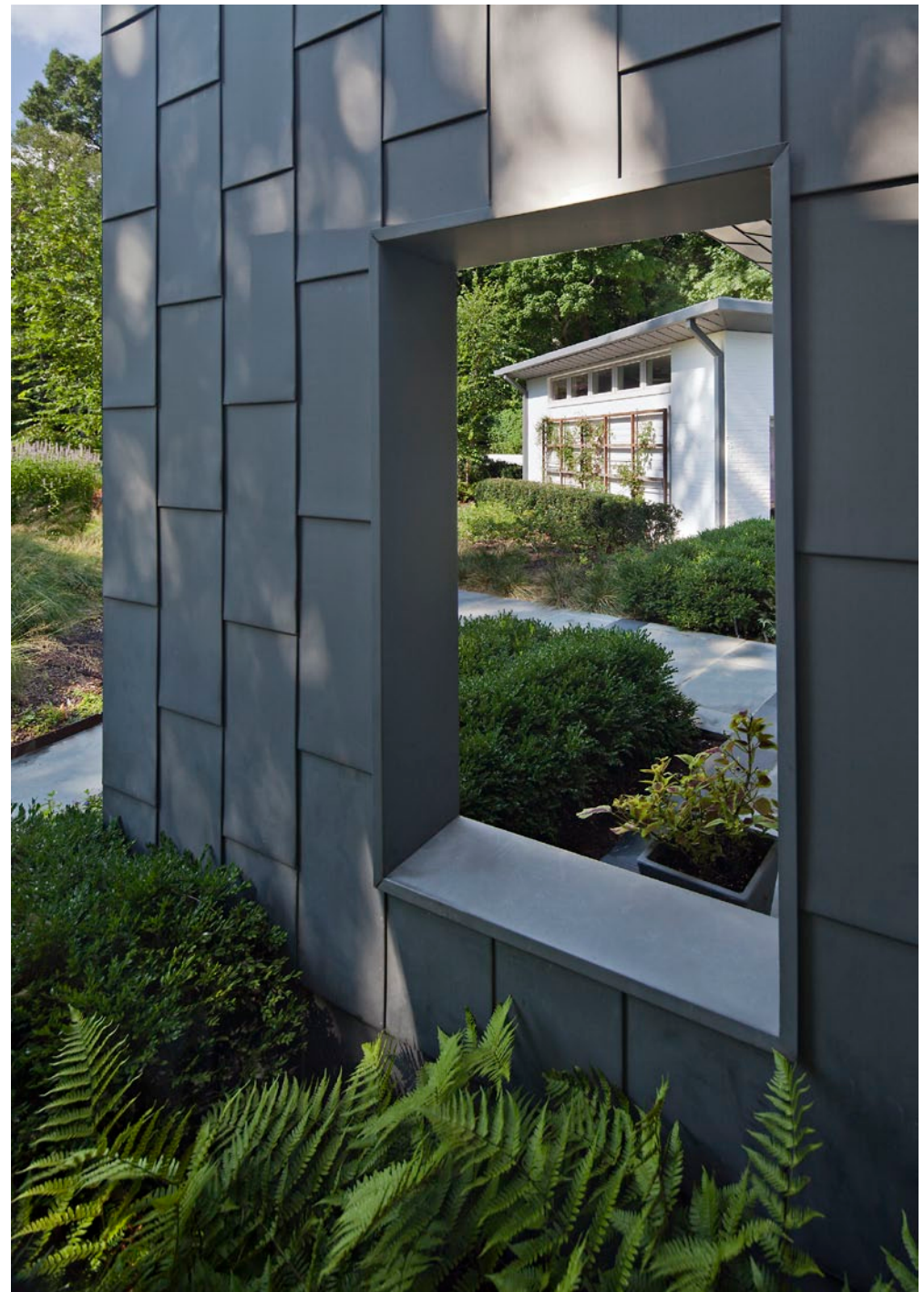


The circular mound creates a dynamic edge while a rich plant palette including evergreen shrubs, grasses, and perennials creates a lush garden just outside the front entry.

Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017



Before/After: Sealing off the old garage entry provided the opportunity to trellis flowering vines, bringing planting from the horizontal plane to the vertical.

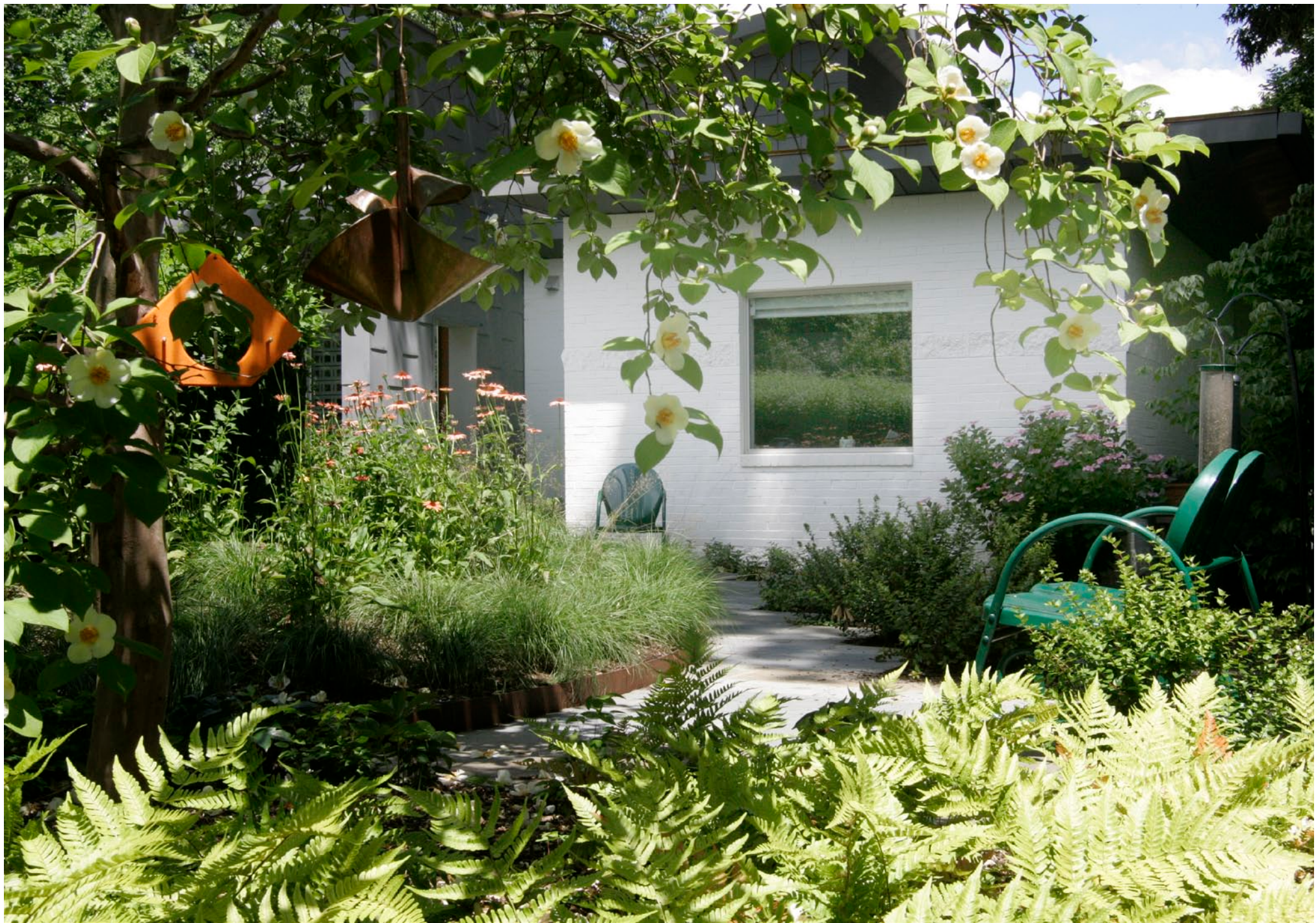


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Coneflower and prairie dropseed add color and texture to the mound in conversation with the front entry and expressive wall.

Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017



A stewartia tree frames the view from the artist's studio while providing shade and enclosure for a small sitting area. Layered plantings provide a rich texture from each vantage.

Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017



Before/After: Because the property backs up to a steep, undeveloped stream valley, the plant palette here draws heavily from local woodland natives. The new deck provides opportunities to engage the existing canopy.



Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017



The new driveway sloped down to the garage entrance, requiring stormwater management. An innovative permeable strip, created from flagstone set on edge, fills the need while creating a textured pathway. Layered plantings create depth and frame the view of the new gate to the woodland path beyond.

Forest Hills Residence
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Permeable meets impermeable with a staggered edge, an aesthetic device repeated with the paving throughout the garden.

Forest Hills Residence
MDASLA | 2017



Site design and hardscape elements give structure to the garden in relation to the distinctive architecture while offering character and interest of their own. Layered, textured planting provide year-round color and interest while tree plantings frame views into the garden from both the residence and the street.

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