



Clockwise from above: Marjorie Schneider's garden has 10 distinct areas, including this 100-foot-long allée lined with conical hemlocks, a wall of arborvitae and two rows of miniature fountains. The beak and feet of the swan in the main fountain, sculpted by Tusey, are plated with gold. Sculptures, statuary and strict prunings create a formal feel. The quatrefoil pool, near a poolhouse complete with showers, is intended to look like a traditional reflecting pond.

## Paradise Found

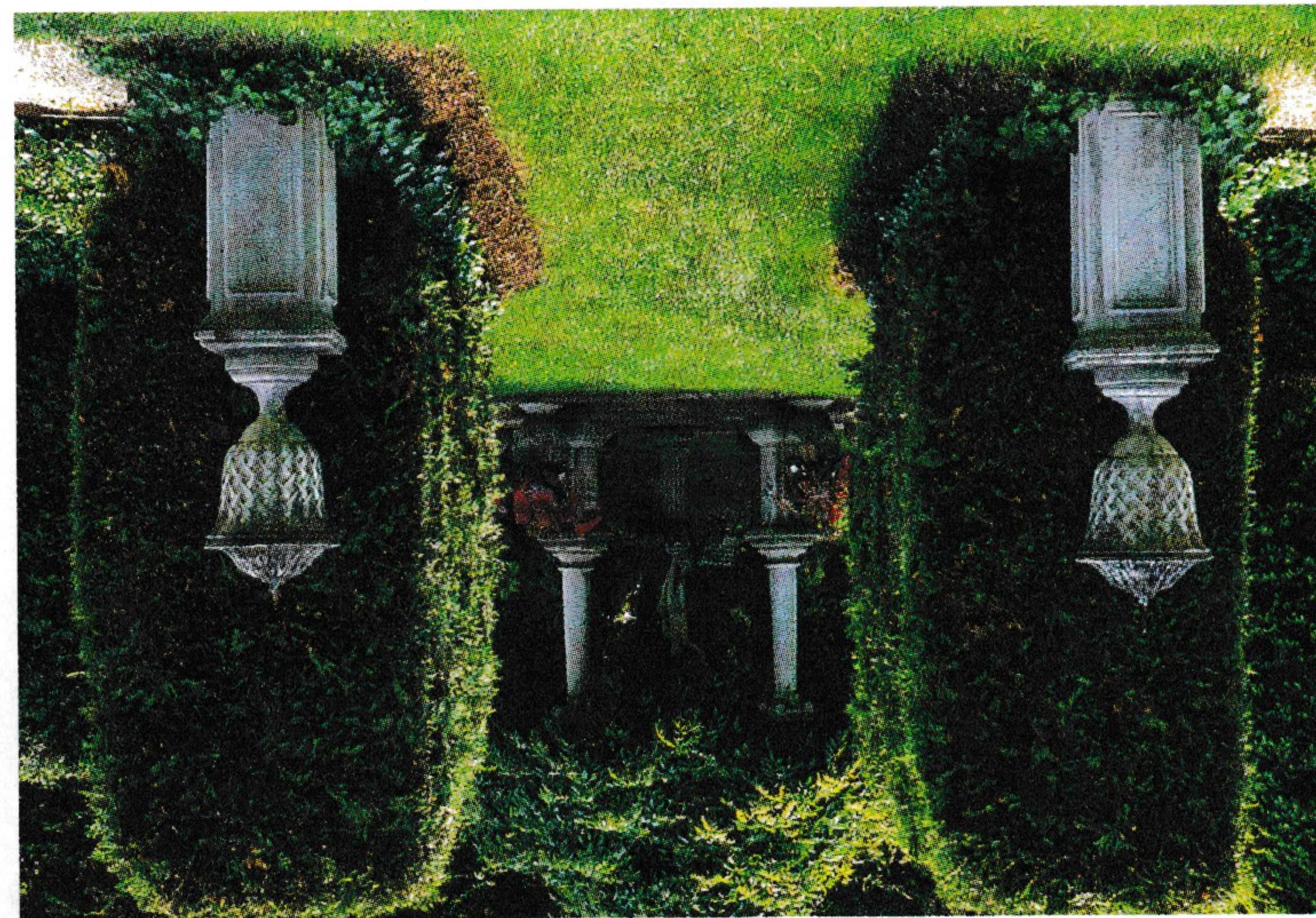
She went looking for antiques and found a hobby she loved.

MARJORIE SCHNEIDER CAN walk from one end of her 10-acre property in Berwyn to the other and rattle off the name, both common and scientific, of every shrub, flower and tree she passes along the way. She'll even throw in the specimen's origin, its growth and its flowering habits. Quite impressive for a woman who had no knowledge of gardening before buying the property back in 1987. "I never in my wildest imagination thought I'd have

a garden like this," says Schneider. "I knew nothing about landscaping, not even the names of plants. I had a lot to learn, but once you're touched by it, you're touched."

Schneider's formal garden has 10 distinct areas, as well as many desirable trees, shrubs and unique specimen plants. A 100-foot-long allée defines the formal setting. Both sides are lined with a row of conical hemlocks that

*see habitat page 177*



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her garden. The meadow was one area of  
Schneidler takes a hands-on approach to  
an 8-foot fence.)

surrounds the property. (Deer can jump  
everywhere.) A 10-foot-high plastic fence  
creasing. They've eaten up anything and  
cause the deer population is rapidly in-  
creasing. "They've eaten up the place when  
I first got here," says Schneidler. "This year  
the deer used to chew up the fence when  
they pose as a major problem.

says Schneidler.

know of that won't be eaten by deer,"  
disease and "They're the only yews I  
they grow large, remain evergreen, resist  
apiece. Plum yews are desirable because  
that she could have gotten \$2,500  
yews to him for \$25. She didn't know  
man who helped that she sold 15 of the  
ed her endeavor, she was so grateful to a  
able for sale now. When Schneidler start-  
as several plum yews, which are unavail-  
existling trees, flowers and shrubs, such  
Schneidler was able to use many of the  
five days a week."

After classes, she would go home to  
spend hours studying and labeling trees  
and shrubs. "I was putting in 14-hour days

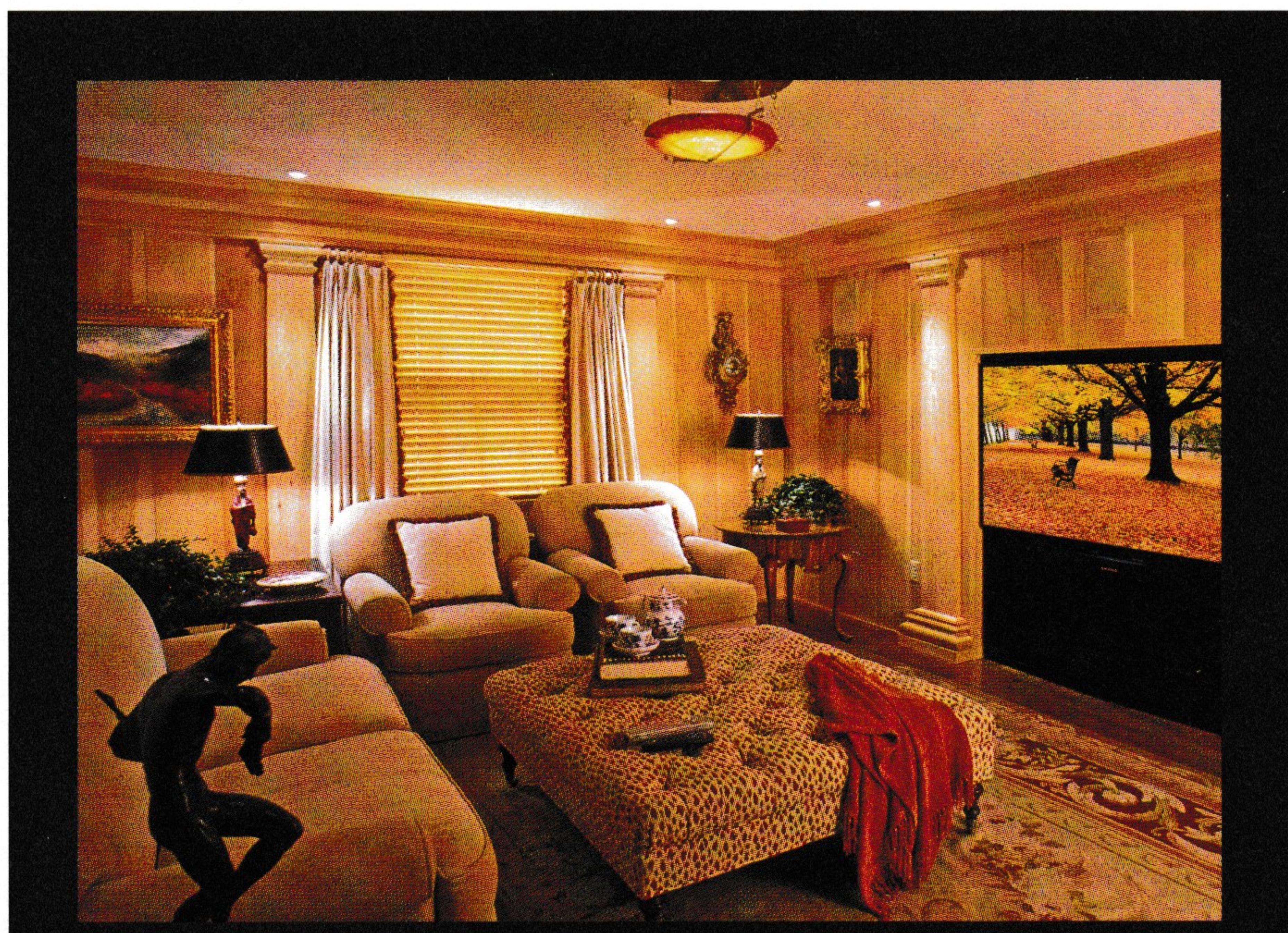
the growth habits of trees," says Schnei-  
from the bottom so you can understand  
logy and botany. "They had you start  
Her studies started with basics like bio-  
there to learn about their own properties.  
was of the ambitious handful that went  
work in a state park or nursery. Schneidler  
Most graduates of the course go on to  
about what was growing around her.  
course at the Barnes Arboretum to learn  
Schneidler enrolled in a three-year  
garden. That formality is reflected in her  
rooms and a wet bar.

Shutter, "She's a more formal type of per-  
, "Marjorie had no specific requests," says  
Merion, developed a landscape plan.  
Schneidler's interior designer, Bill Shut-  
types of trees.

an appreciation of antiques. After the own-  
der bonded with him because they shared  
erated a nursery on the property, Schnei-  
the property's past owner. Though he op-  
Schneidler's previous landscaper was  
house complete with showers, changing  
semble a reflecting pond) and a pool  
sign for the quarterfoil pool (meant to re-  
interior as well." Shutter also drew the de-  
garden. That formality is reflected in her  
son, so she didn't want an English casual  
Shutter. "She's a more formal type of per-  
dition, Marjorie could. She has more ener-  
bring this property back to the right con-  
says Shutter, "I knew if anyone could  
exterior and interior had to be redone.  
It's a big proposition," she says. Both the  
deer, are you sure you can undertake this?  
never forget him asking me, Mrs. Schnei-  
She called in a gardening consultant. "I'll  
tion, however, you want it to be yours."  
opportunity. When you move into a situa-  
property," she says. "This was the perfect  
"I always wanted a house with a large  
up buying the house.

Upon his passing, Schneidler visited to  
look at his antiques collection. She ended  
er fell ill, the property was neglected.

**Habitat** from page 174



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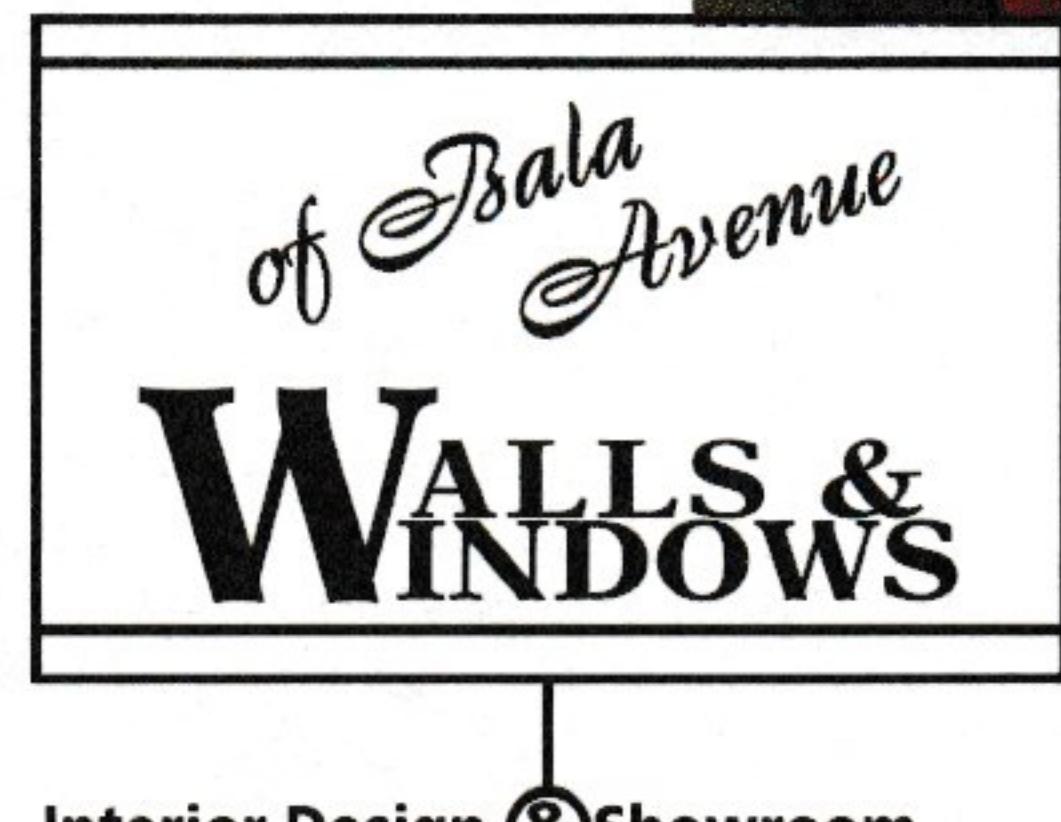
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contention. "The meadow was so overgrown when I moved in, you couldn't see the trees underneath all the vines," says Schneider. She had difficulty finding someone to tackle the project with her. "One guy wanted to demolish everything and replant. That would have been the easy thing to do, like they do with everything else today—bulldoze it and start over." She wasn't looking for the quick fix, though. She wanted to find out what was under the growth. She couldn't know if the trees would survive or not unless she looked. "We were able to successfully bring that area back to where it was originally," says Schneider. She called on instructors from the Barnes for consultation on what trees could and should be moved and when. "In one day we dug up 60 crenatas and replanted them in two days" says Schneider. "We had the option of either moving them right then or waiting until the next year. There are periods of time that you can't move trees."

Schneider also transplanted a number of holly and pine trees to the front of the property to provide a buffer from busy Route 252. Schneider also moved the property's entrance off 252 to a less-congested side street for safety. "The problem was what we would do with the area so that people would know that it was no longer open, but I also wanted to add continuity to the property," she says. Moving more shrubbery and trees was the answer. "They look like they've been here forever."

There are always bursts of color in Schneider's garden.

"At any given time you have some flowering going on, so I enjoy the garden all year long," she says. "No matter what God is doing with the weather, plants and trees have their own mind."

In her peony garden, Schneider grows flowers in traditional colors like white and pink, but the highlight is the peony trees. "These trees are very rare and hard to come by," says Schneider. The trees grow to almost 4 feet high, with lots of branching and flowering.

The intimate lily garden was renamed the gold garden because of the spectacular hue that bursts from the *stella d'oro* lilies that surround the gold-flowering hypericum. The color also shines in two rare golden azaleas. Among other, more com-

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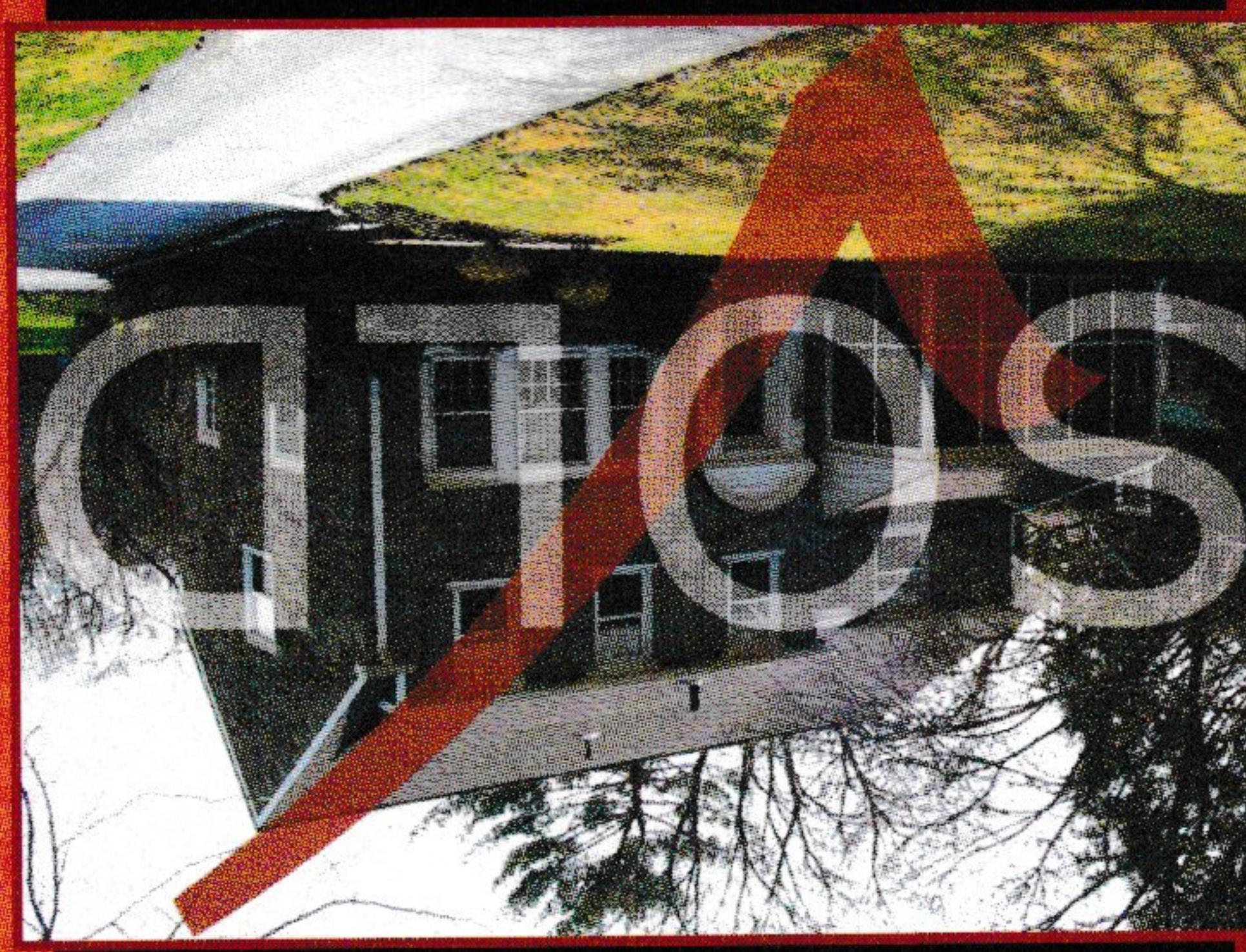
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*Jenny Jells Jills Jaws!*

dening. It's a very fine hobby." ◆  
to. I would persuade anyone to try gardening. "Along the way you appreciate it because it's like raising children," she says. "It's a give of yourself. Both hobbies require patience. You have auctions. I had to learn about gardening. I learned by going to always a collector. I love it. I wasn't by the bug, you get to love it. I wasn't antiques," she says. "Once you get bitten into gardening is the same as collecting allees."

antiques—she gazes out upon the beautiful roundel by examples of her first passion—As Schneidler sits in her living room surrounded by the joy the garden has brought to it's all about." trees that we have with this property is what years," says Schneidler. "The happy memories, graduations and parties over the dinners, graduations and parties over the "The large lawn has hosted several weddings here—he can run, hide, discover favorite place," which describes a beautiful book was written by her grandson, "My the effort. One of her most treasured Schneidler and her family far outweighs ways something to do."

"There's no end to the work. There's allgardening," Schneidler says, laughing. in Ardmore] to support my bad habit of up my shop [Marjorie Schneidler Antiques crew working for several years. "I opened endeavor. Schneidler has kept a full-time Gardening has not been an inexpensive fruit all summer. plum trees keep the household in fresh up to 70 feet tall. Apple, cherry, peach and metasequoias—redwood trees that grow pine, corkscrub willow and four dawn pine, variegated cedar, Japanese umbrella wood, triplata magnolias, weeping white inventory of trees includes red twig dogwood, hydrangea blooms red in early March, rotia persica blooms yellow in the fall, parwitchhazel blooms red in late autumn. The maples, and blooming stewartia trees. The queen and red king Japanese threeleaf al rhododendrons, various hollies, orange Schneidler's garden also includes unusual the sun.

for the azaleas, and it protects them from rose color provides a beautiful background blooms in a trumpet-like flower. Its deep around the same time as its neighbors, many colored azaleas is the weigela, which, around the azaleas, and it protects them from the sun.