



Adventure | Design | Food | Real Estate | Trends

Chicken Coop

TRISHA WALKER
Hood River News

When Hugh Brown and Laila Payne Brown of Hood River saw a free outhouse listed on Gorge.net, they promptly claimed it. And then converted it into a chicken coop.

Which explains the toilet seat in the middle of the building.

“My husband and I both immediately thought chicken coop when we saw it,” explained Laila. “Originally, we were going to have the chickens enter the coop from the outside and up through the toilet seat, but it was too complicated.”

The repurposed outhouse is now home to six chicks acquired this spring. But this isn’t the only converted building on the property, nor are those their only chickens.

“The coop where our four adults are (at) is a converted dog house,” she said.

The couple has been raising chickens for the past eight years.

Do you have a garden shed, playhouse, small room, chicken coop, or just a favorite place to sit? Send photos and a brief description to Trisha Walker, twalker@hoodrivernews.com, to be featured in an upcoming issue of Home and Garden.

Photos by Hugh Brown and Laila Payne Brown



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GARDEN



Art in the garden: placing the right work in the right spot

KATHERINE ROTH
Associated Press

For many landscape designers and homeowners, a garden isn't complete without the right art. But how do you find the right spot for a piece of outdoor art and choose the plants to complement it?

The first step is finding a work that really speaks to you, and then "allow the art to help define the landscape," says landscape architect Edmund Hollander. He recommends working with an artist or gallery, when possible, to create a relationship between artwork and garden.

"It's really not so different from the relationship between a house and its surrounding landscape," he says.

Susan Lowry, coauthor with Nancy Berner of "Private Gardens of the Bay Area" (The Monacelli Press, October 2017), says art in a garden should enhance its surroundings. "Scale, texture and light all play off the object, and there is also an emotional content that influences how we see the garden itself," she says.



Less is more, she cautions: "We have seen many a garden ruined by too many extraneous voices jumbled into the frame."

The most common mistake when placing art in gardens, Hollander warns, is "sticking a work where there's too much other stuff. It's as if a museum hung a painting on a wallpapered wall instead of on a white one."

So experts recommend that works be placed against quiet backdrops like evergreens, hedges or lawns.

Karen Daubmann, associate vice president for exhibitions and public engagement at the New York Botanical Garden, has helped design plantings around works by glass artist Dale Chihuly and others. The principles for selecting and showing art in a home garden are similar, she says.

"It's nice to go for something as a larger focal point — something you can see from your window and enjoy all year round, and then some smaller works that you only discover up close," she says.

"And when you're decided where to place something, don't forget to look up. It's a nice surprise to look up and see a pergola, chandelier or lantern."

Most important, Daubmann says, is to choose art you really love. "Chances are, if you're placing it in a garden you

have designed and planted yourself, it will work, because it's the same aesthetic," she says.

Keep in mind when and from where the work will be viewed. From the kitchen window? The living room? If you'll be viewing it at night, consider lighter colors, she says.

"White glass or white flowers make for a great moonlight garden, while dark blues will tend to get lost in the evening," Daubmann says. "A mossy, shaded garden can be spiced up quite a lot with light colored art."

And the artwork doesn't have to be expensive. "I sometimes find wonderful pieces in antique shops or at barn sales that really spark my imagination," Daubmann says.

Hilary Lewis, chief curator and creative director at The Glass House, Philip Johnson's iconic house and surrounding landscape and structures in New Canaan, Connecticut, helps plan the installations there. She says works should be visible from various parts of the property, should feel like an extension of the landscape, and should draw people in.

For inspiration, experts suggest visiting sculpture gardens, museums or botanical gardens.

"There are lots of sculpture gardens of all kinds around these days, and the combination of landscape and art, when done right, can be very inspiring," Hollander says.



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GARDEN



CHILDREN & ADULTS

Fairy gardens captivate all

TRACEE M. HERBAUGH
Associated Press

A set of little wings. Ceramic fountains. Tiny versions of ornate cottages and brick walkways fit for the English countryside. These are just some of the whimsical decorations that adorn fairy gardens.

When such miniature decorations are paired with similarly diminutive plants, these gardens — aimed at luring fairies — can captivate the imaginations of children and adults alike.

“I think it is in our DNA,” said Brenda Williams, a master gardener at Pesche’s Greenhouse, Floral and Gifts in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

For the last four years, Williams has been teaching classes to 4H students and through the University of Wisconsin’s continuing education program on how to create fairy gardens.

We have the itch to garden, she believes, to satisfy some lingering part of our hunter-gatherer past. “That gene is still very present in modern people

who no longer need to garden,” Williams said. And designing a little fairy abode turns a garden into “a living artwork,” she said.

Fairy gardens’ appeal is similar, perhaps, to that of Japanese bonsai, the ancient practice of grooming small trees inside containers. In 1893, fairy gardens surged in popularity in the United States because of the Japanese Pavilion at the Chicago World’s Fair.

No two fairy gardens are the same. Some people use creative containers, especially antiques — a wash tub, bird cages or pickle bottles.

“I tell people to imagine something in your head and try to recreate it in in a pot, or whatever,” Williams said.

The gardens can be designed underwater or with silk plants if the creator is more of a “set and forget” type of plant person, Williams said.

Often, fairy gardens are a creative bridge between adults and children. Jayme Tortorelli Benko, a 37-year-old mom from Denver, saw photos of fairy gardens online and wanted to make one for her young daughter, Alora. In a large pot, Benko put a ceramic flower with a resting fairy (named Nata), some rocks and an assortment of potted plants. Creating the garden was about spending time together, Benko said,

adding, “Kids love magic.”

Fairy gardens are also part of a larger DIY movement. Victoria Hannley, a 39-year-old mother of three who runs the DIY blog “Dazzle While Frazzled,” made her first fairy garden with items left over after her daughter’s birthday party and some empty soup cans from the kitchen.

“It makes me think back to the days when I had a dollhouse,” Hannley said. “You’re able to take everyday stuff you have and make something with it.”

Yet fairy gardens also can take on more solemn meanings. The 15-foot-wide fairy garden on the side of Michelle Peebles’ home commemorates her daughter Amanda, who died at age 12 from complications from a rare form of cancer. Peebles, 46, of Broomfield, Colorado, planted the garden two years ago with Amanda and her other children.

“She helped me plant some snapdragons and she used to dig for roly polies (beetles) there,” Peebles said.

There are still snapdragons in the spot, as well as a little fairy home and seashell walkway. Amanda’s digging tools are still there.

“It’s just a little peaceful place, and it’s incorporated with her little stuff,” Peebles said.

ON THE COVER

Patio Pillows

Create an inviting patio area with outdoor cushions and pillows topping your outdoor furnishings. Cushions designed for chairs, loungers, benches, and loveseats offer a perfect fit that stays in place, with shapes including square, rectangular, round, and U-shaped designs. Opt for cushions with ties or straps for additional security. Throw pillows provide a colorful accent to your existing seating while adding comfort. Choose solid colors for versatile coordination with other outdoor design elements, or create a fun, themed look with patterns, such as floral, geometric designs, and stripes. Select durable UV-resistant fabrics and fast-drying foam filling.



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FOOD

COOKING ON A DEADLINE



Thyme and Yukon Gold Potato Gratin

KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

I have a recipe for a potato gratin in my last cookbook, “Dinner Solved!” that I firmly stand by. Here is another that I firmly stand by. And I plan to come up with more such recipes to firmly stand by because I am committed to reminding all of us why gratins are one of the best things that could ever happen to a potato, ever.

This is a rich gratin, made with all cream, no milk or even half and half. I’m not apologizing, just explaining. In general, I like my indulgent dishes flat-out indulgent, and my healthier food in the form of broiled fish, or salads. And I don’t have a problem with the two sharing a plate. This gratin, for instance, would be lovely next to a piece of roasted salmon with a peppery green salad alongside them.

If you have a mandolin and the inclination to use it, please do, and you will get lovely, paper-thin slices for a sultry and elegantly stratified gratin. If not, use the slicing blade in your food processor or a sharp knife; the slices will likely not be as thin, but that’s A-OK.

Nutrition information per serving: 486 calories; 349 calories from fat; 39 g fat (18 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 88 mg cholesterol; 932 mg sodium; 28 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 7 g protein.

THYME AND YUKON GOLD POTATO GRATIN

Serves 10 to 12
Start to finish: 1 hour 30 minutes

- 2 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 3 pounds medium Yukon Gold potatoes
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Gruyere cheese
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon coarse or kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
Combine the cream, butter and garlic in a medium saucepan and bring to barely a simmer over medium high heat. Remove from the heat.
While the mixture is heating, peel the potatoes and slice them very thinly.
Combine the cheese, thyme, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Spread out half of the potatoes in the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with half of the cheese mixture. Repeat with the remaining potatoes, and then the remaining cheese mixture. Pour the cream mixture over the potatoes, and press down on the potatoes to make sure they are mostly submerged in the liquid.
Bake on a lower rack in the oven for about 60 to 65 minutes, until the top is golden brown, and the potatoes have absorbed most of the cream and are very tender; a knife should slide in easily. Let stand for 10 to 15 minutes before serving.



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DESIGN



How to avoid buyer's remorse



ASHLEY HINKLE
Interior Designer

Ashley Hinkle, NEFF DESIGNS is a full service interior designer located in the Gorge.

Summer is in full swing. Many of us are trying to do as many fun things we can in the warm season, or we trying to get projects done around the house. If you are on hunt for new furniture, specifically a new sofa, these five tips will help you avoid any buyer's remorse.

There are endless possibilities when selecting a new sofa. It can be overwhelming to have so many options, styles, shapes, sizes, fabrics, etc. Save yourself stress, time, money and potential buyer's remorse by using these helpful tips.

1. **Size Matters:** When it comes to sofas, yes. It may look fabulous in the Pottery Barn website, but will it fit

in your space? It is important to measure your space and determine where the sofa will reside. If you have a large living/family room do you want the sofa to take up the entire room? Or do you want a couple chairs too? Coffee table? Do you want room for end tables?

If you have a larger space, a curved sofa will create a beautiful focal point, while taking up a little more room. If you have a smaller space, you will likely be looking for a more compact sofa.

Insiders Tip: To maximize your seating space, looking for a sofa with thinner arms. Bulk arms just take up valuable floor space.

2. **Lifestyle:** Do you watch TV, cozy up to the fire place or prefer the natural light for reading a good book? Wherever your focal point, determine how you

want your sofa to complement it. You can experiment prior to purchase by placing tape, paper, or other items in the space your new sofa will occupy. This helps you to decide how the sofa will be oriented in your space.

Clients love to see different options, personalized for lifestyle and space, created for them on paper. It saves the low back and much time!

3. **Fabric to Match Your Lifestyle:** There are many fabrics that are beautiful but incredibly hard to clean. Some fabrics snag easily and will likely damage with children or pets. Rich leathers are always in style and are pretty easy to clean.

Insider Tip: Outdoor fabrics can be great choices for indoor use! They resist stains, water and sun fading.

4. **Style:** Often it can be hard to nail down your own

style, one that compliments your home. As I say often working with clients, "Go with your gut." It is easy to over-think things. If your style is modern and sleek, pick a sofa with clean lines in a bold color.

If your home is an eclectic mix of colors and styles, options to tie in your sofa might be to either repurpose a vintage piece and have it reupholstered in a fun, timeless fabric, or choose a more modern shape sofa and pair with traditional accents.

This is where a designer's eye can really help you create a cohesive look. It can be fun to meld styles together to create your own unique style.

5. **Neutral/Pattern/Color?** Perhaps you are in love with your vintage sofa — it's in great shape, fits your space, and you simply

cannot part with it but want an updated look. A great option is reupholstering. A vintage sofa updated with a bold color or print can add drama and personality to your space. If you're looking for something that's more timeless but you still want some fun pop to your room, select a solid neutral sofa and kick up the fun factor by going bold with a print ottoman.

These are just a few designer tips to help you navigate your purchase. Sofas are a big-ticket item and a bit of a long-term commitment.

When in doubt, call your favorite designer and get some help. Buyer's Remorse is something you don't have to have!

Happy furniture shopping! Cheers,
Ashley Hinkle

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FOOD

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A new study completed mid-July by Gorge Grown Food Network found that much of the most popular summer fruits and vegetables are less expensive to buy at a farmers' market than at the grocery store.

Some of the best farmers market deals include organically grown raspberries, salad greens, beets, arugula, snap peas, zucchini and fresh herbs like basil, cilantro and parsley. Cherries, blueberries and peaches at markets also beat grocery store prices, said a Gorge Grown press release.

Additionally, a dollar spent on fresh, locally grown food at a farmers' market buys more than just groceries. In addition to more nutritious and flavorful food, that dollar directly benefits family farmers and ranchers, bolsters our local economy, reduces negative environmental impacts and preserves farmland.

Farmers markets offer programs to help make fresh, healthy food even more affordable and accessible to low-income residents. All nine Gorge area farmers markets accept Veggie Prescription (Rx) Program vouchers and most accept WIC, FDNP and SNAP benefits. Many markets even offer a \$5 SNAP Match, giving SNAP customers who use their benefits at market an extra \$5 to spend. In addition, most farmers market host the POP (Power of Produce) Club, giving a free \$2 token to the first 20 kids (ages 0-12) that visit the market to purchase their own fruits or vegetables from a local farmer.

To find hours and locations on farmers markets in the Gorge, visit www.gorgegrown.com/farmmarket.

Using farmers' market produce Gorge Grown offers a summer recipe that highlights the best of summer.

Blueberry Arugula Salad with Honey Basil Dressing

Adapted from broccoliandmuffins.com

- INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cups arugula or your favorite salad green
 - ½ cup blueberries
 - 1/3 cup walnuts
 - 1/3 crumbled goat cheese (optional)
 - 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1 teaspoon honey
 - ½ tablespoon lemon juice
 - ½ teaspoon fresh basil, minced
 - a dash of salt and pepper

- INSTRUCTIONS**
- For dressing, mix the lemon juice with the honey, stir well and slowly add the olive oil until combined. Add the basil, pepper and salt. Put the arugula in a salad bowl. Add walnuts, cheese and blueberries. Drizzle the dressing and serve immediately.



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