

VERANDA  
*Best of*  
**OUTDOOR  
LIVING**  
—  
2022



An asymmetrical pergola fashioned from 1920s and '30s corrugated wire glass and cloaked in lush wisteria vine in Bridgehampton, New York

## ◆ *Lessons from the Land* ◆

Hornbeam and boxwood, wisteria and tulip trees: these are comfort food for the garden, says Hamptons-based plantsman Charlie Marder. The shady, all-day sanctuary (above) he designed with Historical Concepts' Andrew B. Cogar is one of four winning landscapes chosen in our *third annual design competition*—and all are brimming with ways to let nature lead. From an agrarian haven in Connecticut to a discreet courtyard in Maine, step into this year's garden greats.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC PIASECKI



THE JUDGES



◆ *Bunny Williams* ◆

“The most important thing in a garden is that you feel at home. I’m most drawn to landscapes that relate to the house in a really magical way,” says the interior designer, whose Connecticut garden was featured in the PBS documentary *Bunny Williams: Not a House But a Home* last summer.



◆ *Peter Lyden* ◆

“I was struck by how well these gardens followed the contours of the land—there’s such beauty in working with nature, not against it,” notes Lyden, president of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. To find out more about its Bunny Mellon landscape curricula for designers, students, and enthusiasts alike, visit [classici.st.org/bunnymellon](http://classici.st.org/bunnymellon).

METHODOLOGY

VERANDA editors chose the top 35 entries for blind judging by Williams and Lyden. For information and submission guidelines for the 2023 awards, see [veranda.com/outdoor-living-awards-2023](http://veranda.com/outdoor-living-awards-2023).



The pool’s **Kota Stone terrace** is raised a few steps above a lawn planted with a mix of **fescue** and **bluegrass**. **BELOW:** A custom **Dutch door** opens into guest quarters.

## Chicest Poolside Lounge

Vernacular outbuildings of centuries past inspire a divine summer scene, with ample spots to relax in the shade.

THESE HOMEOWNERS WANTED a destination where they could spend the whole day outside,” says architect Andrew B. Cogar of Historical Concepts of conjuring this low-profile pool house. Cogar and Charlie Marder, garden designer, horticulturist, and plant collection curator of Marders in the Hamptons, dreamed up “a sensible evolution,” says Cogar, for how this poolside compound came to be on the property of an 1840s Bridgehampton, New York, home. What if, they wondered, it began as a farm shed, repurposed as a single-car garage in the 1900s when automobiles emerged, and then morphed into a greenhouse? “It’s unexpected and that’s precisely what makes it feel just right,” says Cogar. Imagining

**Bridgehampton,  
New York**

◆ ◆ ◆  
DESIGN BY  
**HISTORICAL  
CONCEPTS AND  
MARDERS**



BUNNY WILLIAMS PORTRAIT, PETER MURDOCK; PETER LYDEN PORTRAIT, BRANDON MITCHELL; GARDEN IMAGES, ERIC PIASECKI.





**FROM TOP:** Coach Green paint (Fine Paints of Europe) on board-and-batten walls and fencing allows the building to recess into **privet hedges**; steel and glass casement windows; a **saucer magnolia** caps a bank of **boxwood**.

new access to industrial materials in the 1930s, he used steel windows and doors to line the westward-facing walls. “Structurally, they allowed us to vault the pitch of the buildings higher and also make the view to the pool so clear that it’s like watching a movie,” he notes.

Marder matched Cogar’s effort by sourcing corrugated wire glass from decommissioned 1920s and ’30s warehouse-type buildings for the pergola. “I wanted something that felt expansive overhead. And this is really strong stuff,” he says. “I love the way it shows off the wisteria growing above it.” With the manufactured elements riveted in place, the two doubled down on contrasting softness with a hornbeam hedge, glossy boxwood, and numerous fastigate tulip trees, which are quite rare. “This is comfort food for the garden,” says Marder. Green paint echoes the colors of the hedges, while dark grey, tumbled Kota Stone pavers and pool coping help integrate the square pool and spa into the landscape. “It’s a restrained palette designed to blend in more than it stands out,” says Cogar. “It’s understated, which is what makes the area so welcoming.”



**WHAT THE JUDGES SAID**

*“The color of this pool house works so well with its surroundings. And the steel-framed windows are fabulous.”*

—PETER LYDEN