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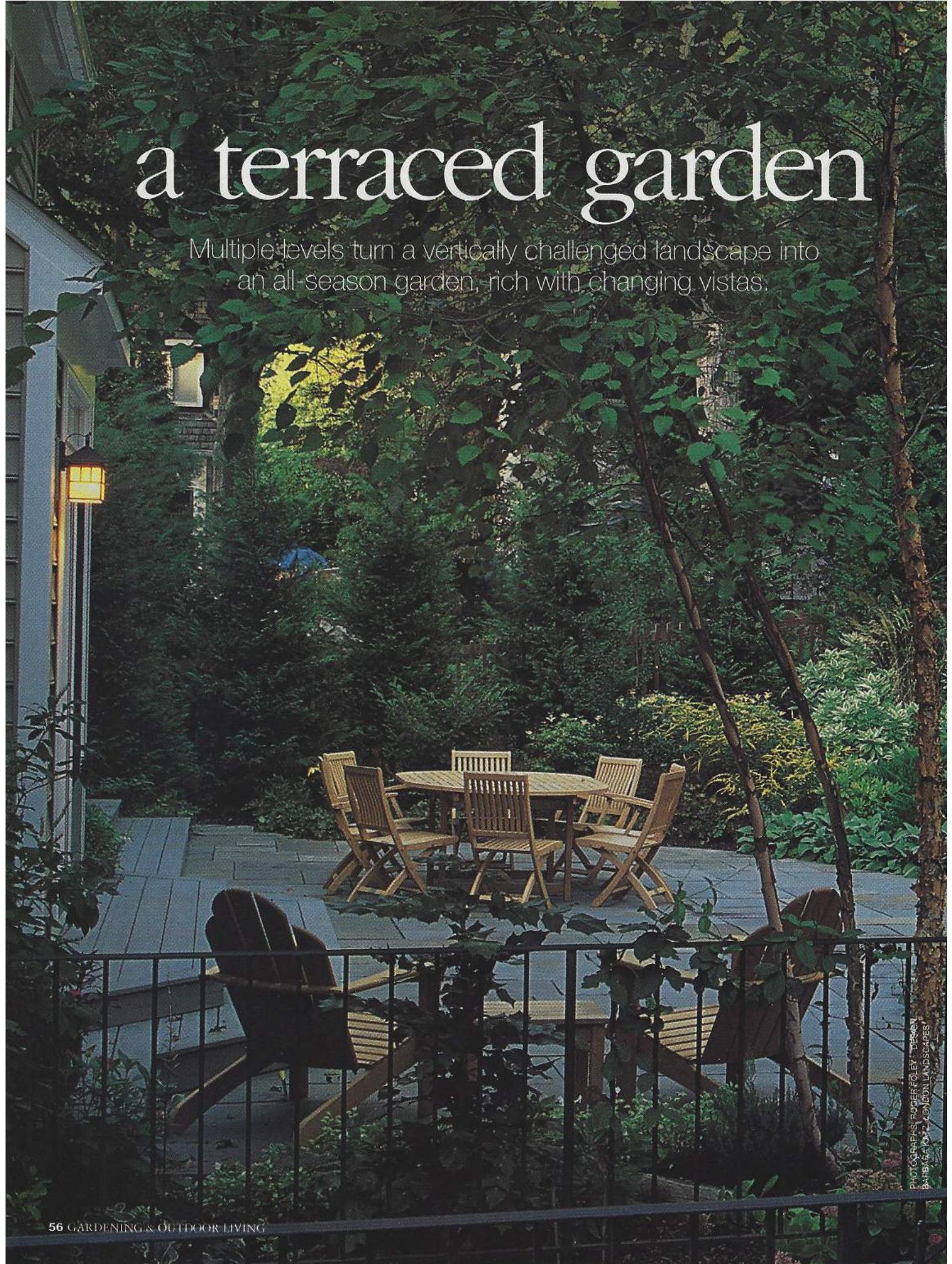


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a terraced garden

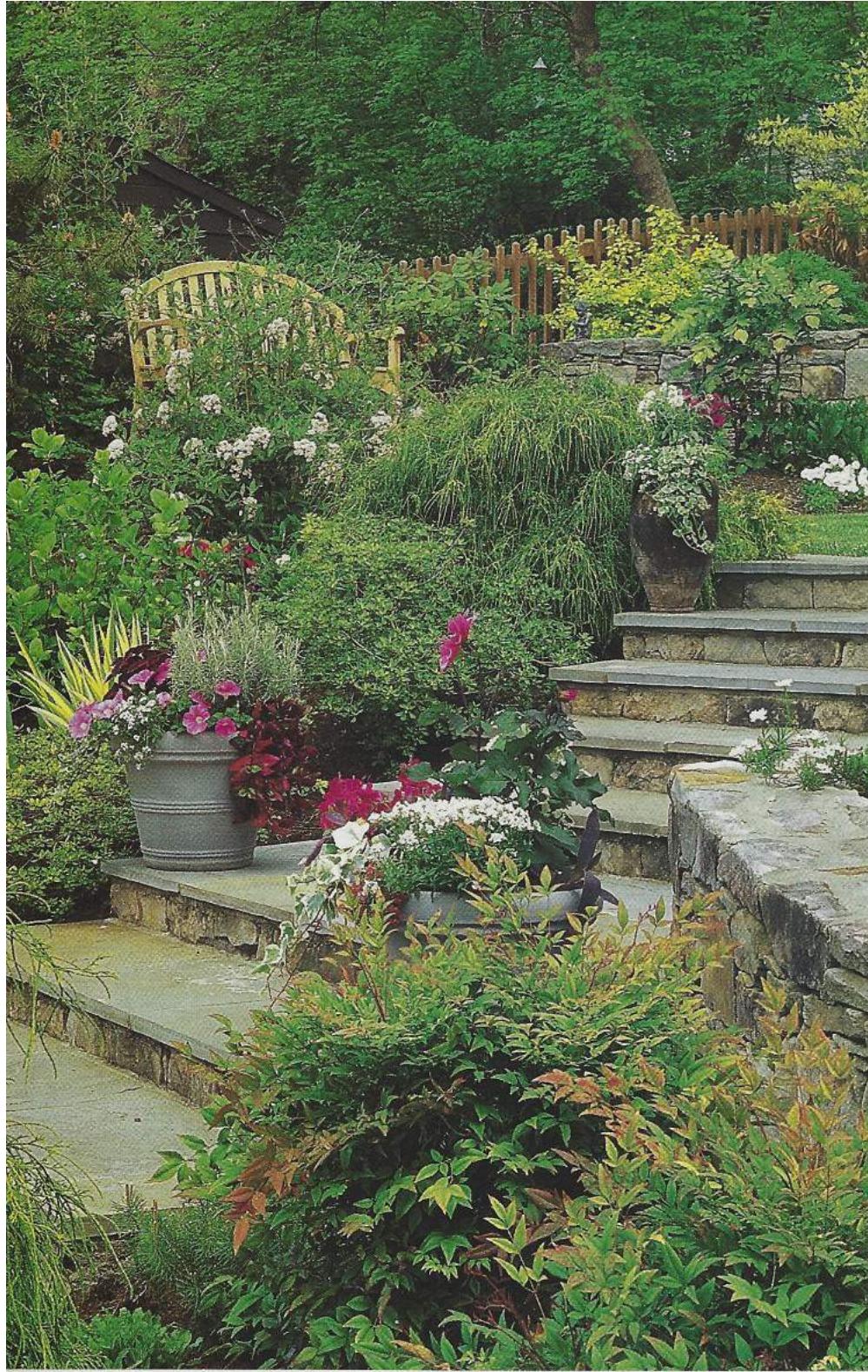
Multiple levels turn a vertically challenged landscape into an all-season garden, rich with changing vistas.



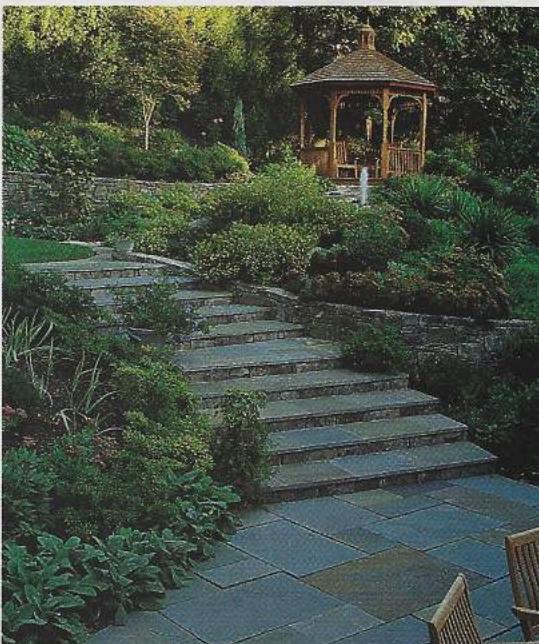


A terraced garden beyond the patio is an ever-changing, year-round panorama of colors and textures.

Stonework and structures give the landscape great "bones," while hellebores and phlox, asters and anemones, heuchera and sedum join other perennials to provide the garden's floral and foliage interest.



ABOVE: Pots overflowing with summery annuals and tropicals add brilliant accents to these stairway landings.
ABOVE RIGHT: A grass pond encircled by textured stone plays counterpoint to the fieldstone steps and walls. The gusher beyond, which empties into a round basin, and the gazebo on the terrace above echo the circular theme of the tiny lawn. **RIGHT:** A shallow-stepped stairway from the bluestone patio winds up to a gushing fountain, a refreshing focal point visible throughout the entire garden.





On first visit, the view from the patio at this Washington, D.C. home was a hillside of grass, recalls designer Barbara Katz, of London Landscapes in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Today that "blank slate" has been transformed into a country-in-the-city garden comprising four separate terraces. Bluestone stairs spiral through a tapestry of plantings to a grass pond, then up another level to a charming

water feature. Here a gusher, nestled in a pebble beach, empties into a stone basin that echoes the grass circle below. The watery highlight serves as focal point, seen from every angle of the garden. A mulch path beyond the gusher leads to an inviting rustic gazebo, sited to catch the days' last rays of sun, and then to the fourth and final terrace with its oak and clethra-sheltered hammock.

With her palette of perennials and shrubs, Katz has, as she puts it, painted a picture for all seasons. The witchhazels and hellebores of winter give way to colorful pots of tropicals accenting the terraces in the warmer months. "There is a rhythm created by the garden's textures and waves of color," says the designer, "that keeps the landscape dynamic throughout the four seasons." —Maureen FitzPatrick