



WHEN DIANNE FERGUSSON SAW THE SPACIOUS BACKYARD RISING WITH A GENTLE, 50-FOOT UPWARD SWEEP AND TOPPED WITH MATURE HARDWOOD TREES, SHE KNEW THIS WOULD BE HER NEW HOME IN OXFORD. The yard was a blank slate that would eventually become an extension of the house and provide wonderful views from inside. In particular, the site and its trees provided Dianne with the creative opportunity to garden in both sun and shade.

When Fergusson moved three years ago to Oxford from Spartanburg, South Carolina, only the front yard was landscaped. Her goal was to

create garden spaces that provided restful, calming spots for sitting and reading, while also offering a variety of views of the home and landscape. In order to define her space and assure privacy, she added a tall wooden fence and tucked in a variety of private places for swings, benches, chairs and artwork. A hammock and large chair sit in a private and shaded spot on a gentle rise. To one side of this lovely spot is the wall of her shed, adorned with memorabilia, including an enlarged photo of a favorite waterfall in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Fergusson creatively framed the photo with an eight-panel glass door.

↑ **The curving border of mixed shrubs provides color and texture to what was once a barren slope.**

Opposite page top: The view from the street gives few hints about the fantastic space that lays beyond.

Opposite page bottom: As one opens the gate on the left side of the house, bubbling water from the fountain can be heard and *Glory Girl* welcomes visitors from high on the hill.





Wisteria covers the pergola and provides shade. Fergusson loves to sit in the swing while the grandkids play close by.



Dianne firmly believes that the garden is an extension of the house. Thus, there are views of the garden from most windows. Here the view is from the dining room.



The wisteria-covered pergola and play area (seen from the opposite angle below) come into view when entering the garden through the wooden gate on the right side of the house. The fences and gates create a private space that is enjoyed by both family and friends.



These before views are evidence of Fergusson's expertise in garden design, creativity and gardening know-how. What an amazing transformation she has created!







↑ *Glory Girl* sits high on a hill, in a forest-like setting, as she appears to sing out a greeting. A door with multicolored glass panes is the perfect backdrop.

Opposite page top: Since the gardens are an extension of her house, Fergusson creates several spaces that are perfect for relaxing, reading or visiting with a friend.

Opposite page bottom: Hanging on the side of her shed are objects that hold special memories. The glass window frames an enlarged photo of her favorite waterfall.

From this spot, the yard gently slopes downward to a vine-covered pergola and swing that adjoin a play area for her grandchildren.

Views of the sweeping garden that extends along the fence line and up the entire 50-foot slope are particularly lovely viewed from the yard, living room, dining room and patio. Fergusson placed a simple, graceful metal sculpture of a woman with her arms outstretched, which she named *Glory Girl* where the side and back fences meet at the peak of the hill. The sculpture is mounted on a tree stump and backed by a doorframe with 24 multicolored glass panes that provide gentle, yet rich, color.

The stone wall and plantings were each chosen, designed and constructed by Fergusson. "Plants in the garden are treated like furniture in the house, subject to relocations at any time." For, example, "a 'Little Gem' magnolia was in three spots before it came to its final location behind the pergola." Another

guiding principle for her gardens is including plants that have a special meaning to her. In fact, most of the perennials were moved with her from her home in Spartanburg. Others are from the gardens of family, friends and fellow master gardeners.

At the front of the house, Fergusson created a gently curving, 40-foot border of mixed evergreens along the property line for privacy and to break up the view of a long line of houses on her street. The 40-foot, curving island is full of trees and shrubs that provide texture and varied colors, such a spiraea, forsythia, arborvitae, holly and olive trees. An incredible transformation of an Oxford garden in just three years! 🐿

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