

Detroit Home

HOW WE LIVE, WHERE WE LIVE

SUMMER 2009

Living light

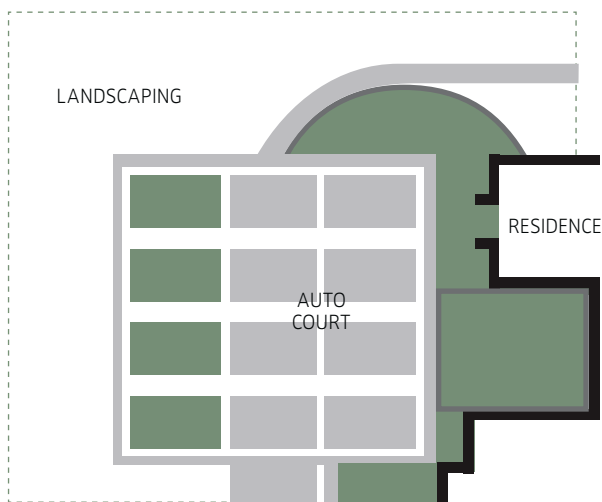
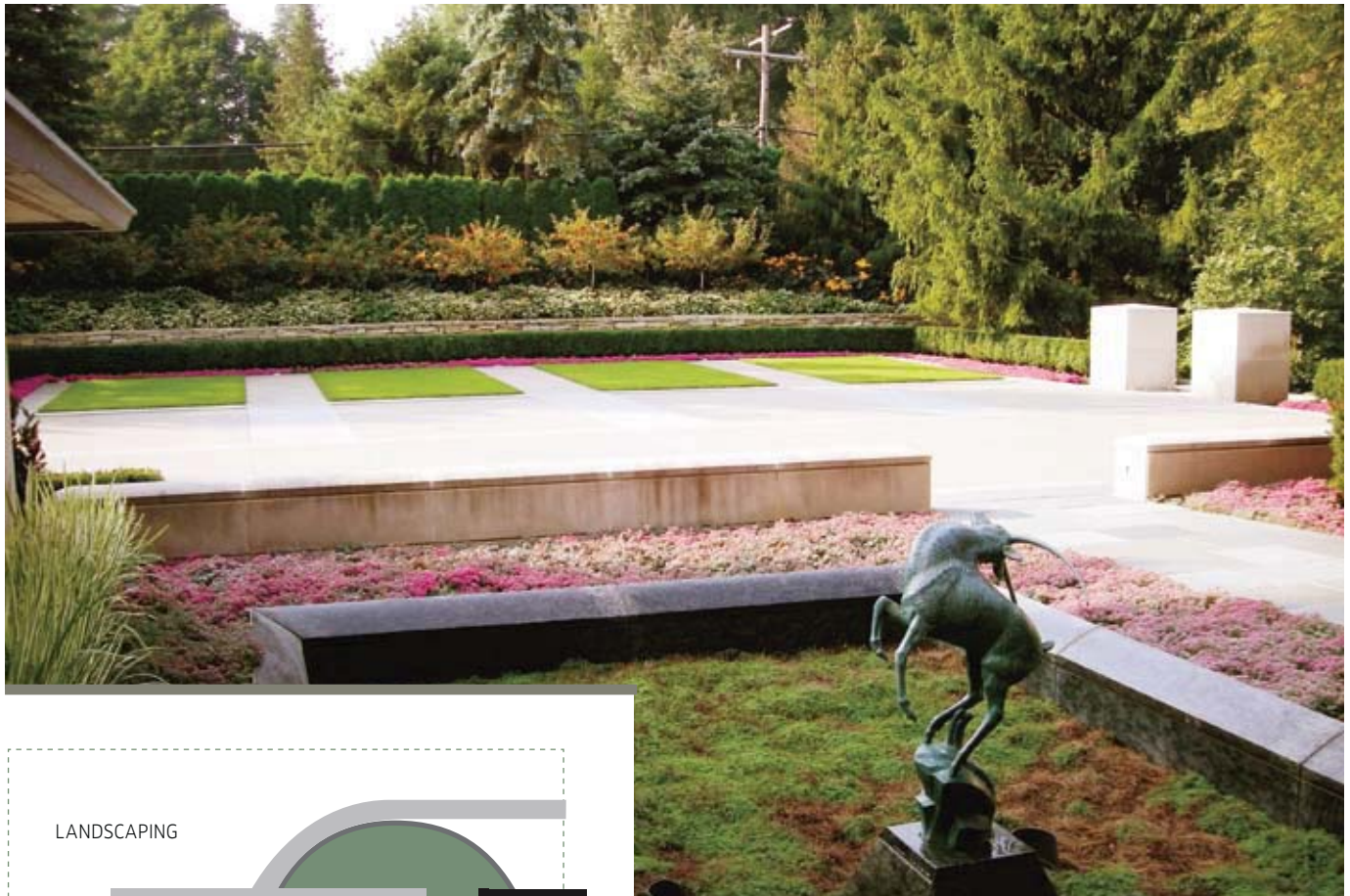
Airy homes in Ann Arbor and Birmingham

*Garden tours, cool entertaining,
tips for pool, patio & yard*

Home Improvement

Paint demystified, Foundation facts, Keeping cool, Homewreckers: A flood story





Zaremba & Co. (Davisburg) designed this landscape for a Bloomfield Hills homeowner who requested a neat, orderly, and unique property. The site includes a parking court with grass panels for visual relief and water absorption. A leaping gazelle is the focal point of a more intimate space.

LAND SHAPING

- 1. Design fee:** "Be leery of people who don't charge for their designs," Patrick Zaremba says. "You usually get what you pay for."
- 2. Qualifications:** "Like a CPA, landscape architects are registered with the state and go through extensive training," says Birmingham landscape architect Michael J. Dul.
- 3. Objectivity:** "A nursery contractor may have shrubs in

his yard. That enters into his design and may not be the best choice for your project," Dul says.

4. Budget: The economy has made designers more willing to take on smaller jobs. Many are also willing to do the job in stages or provide a design-only service, if the budget is tight.

Cut costs further by doing the pre-planting and cleanup yourself, Mayer says.

5. Practicality: "Gravel patios may look great, but gravel walkways are less work," says Dul. And be patient, he says. "Don't expect instant results."