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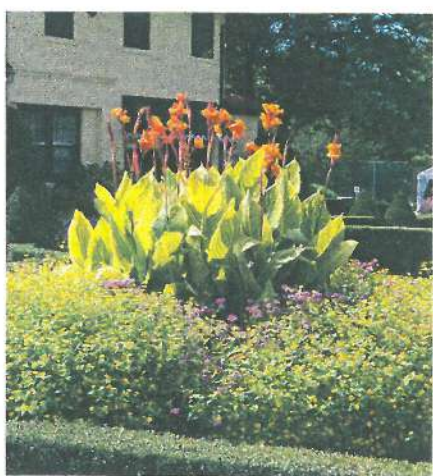
Three top landscape architects  
each offer three ideas that can turn  
a lackluster landscape into a grand garden

BY WAYNE KALYN

THERE IS NO LACK OF ADVICE OUT THERE WHEN IT COMES TO GARDEN DESIGN. BUT YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THE SOURCE. THAT'S WHY WE TALKED WITH THREE AWARD-WINNING MANHATTAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS FOR SOME PROFESSIONAL-GRADE ADVICE. YOU DO THE MATH: THREE IDEAS FROM THREE PROS GIVE YOU NINE INSPIRATIONAL TIPS THAT CAN BE TRANSPLANTED TO YOUR LANDSCAPE.



THOMAS BALSLEY



MICHAEL SPITZER



HANK WHITE

## HANK WHITE

"What I'm always looking to do is draw out the special qualities of a landscape that distinguish it from another," says Hank White of HM White Site Architects, who graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and quickly transplanted himself in New York, claiming that landscape architects were "a dime a dozen" in Cambridge. "I apply the same approach whether I'm designing a small courtyard behind a private townhouse or a large public space like the Staten Island waterfront."

While White has been designing landscapes for large estates throughout New Jersey, Connecticut and the Hamptons, his in-town public projects have been no less ambitious and challenging. His public-space work includes Madison Square Park, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and the Clinton Green Public Square & Arcade, among others. The latest headline in White's career is designing the courtyard and roof gardens of *The New York Times* headquarters, being built now on Eighth Avenue.

"The challenge was to find plants that grow in very limited sunlight in a building that didn't exist yet," says White. He hired ecologists and computer scientists to develop software that mapped the theoretical light levels in the building. "Based on the results, we chose birch trees as well as two mosses that grow in virtually no light," says White. "It will be the only moss garden of its kind on the East Coast."

White brings that same rigorous mindset to his residential work. The Stockman residence in Greenwich, for example, was a full-time, seven-year project that required the landscape architect to restore a 10-acre site to its pristine beauty before it was clear-cut to make room for a 20,000-square-foot residence. Says White: "The goal was to introduce new plants against a backdrop of a 300-year-old forest and make them seem as if they belonged together." White subtly blurred the lines between present and distant past.

The signature touch of White's designs is actually his lack of touch. "When you see one of my designs, I hope you see an inevitability to the space, as if some invisible hand had shaped it." White's clients know better, though. □

A stone fence and flower beds make this 22-acre woodland estate, opposite, more intimate. A pool area is nestled in a poplar forest and bordered by St. John's wort, top right, while a garden path and cherry tree allée, bottom, provide a natural screen to an adjacent basketball court.

1 Create more living space by designing the rear yard as an outdoor living room, turning it into an extension of the kitchen and family room.

2 Consider a mass planting of perennials and tall native grasses as a substitute for the usual azaleas and rhododendrons to border a house's foundation.

3 Use annuals, trees and shrubs to provide interest in the garden in winter. You can't rely on perennials to put on a flowery show during the colder months.

