

**G**radually, over the span of 15 years, this residential garden in the heart of historic Annapolis has taken shape. From the beginning of his involvement, landscape architect Jay Graham was charged with increasing the usable space on the lot, which had only a tiny rear yard. But because the house sits 85 feet from the street, he gained that space by carving a private family garden out of part of the front yard. The strategy was a good fit for the Italian theme that the owners wanted to create. Graham established a strong axis to lend order to the various parts of the garden, with repetitive elements placed to draw the eye along the axis. A final layer of architectural pieces was added to define the exterior space.

Already an asset to the property, the pool occupies the center of the main axis extending toward the street. Graham widened the terrace that joins the house and garden and moved the stairs to clarify circulation and sitting areas. Vines create a lush privacy screen behind a row of white columns. The owners' request for fruiting plants was satisfied by placing an orchard in front of the house. This layer of vegetation, adding depth to the landscape, now frames the house with dwarf trees in a grid near the street.

"It's a very elegant solution reusing a number of existing elements and making them into a coherent vocabulary over time," said Shavaun Towers. "And I think what's happened is the spaces are made better spaces and the flow from one to another happens in a way that's modulated with a lot of care."



## *Nature in the City*

### **Stoner Residence Garden**

