

Three Decades of THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

Robb Report

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Icons
and Innovators
Who Define
Excellence

*Celebrating the
Most Exclusive
Brands of All Time*

30th
Anniversary
COLLECTOR'S
EDITION

JANUARY 2006



\$8.99 U.S. \$11.99 CAN

INCLUDING » Rolls-Royce • Ferrari • Mercedes-Benz • Patek Philippe
Cartier • Tiffany & Co. • De Beers • Baretta • Sotheby's • Feadship • Cunard
Four Seasons • Abercrombie & Kent • Louis Vuitton • Brioni • Armani
Château Lafite Rothschild • The Glenlivet • Davidoff • Ducati

The Robb Report COLLECTION™

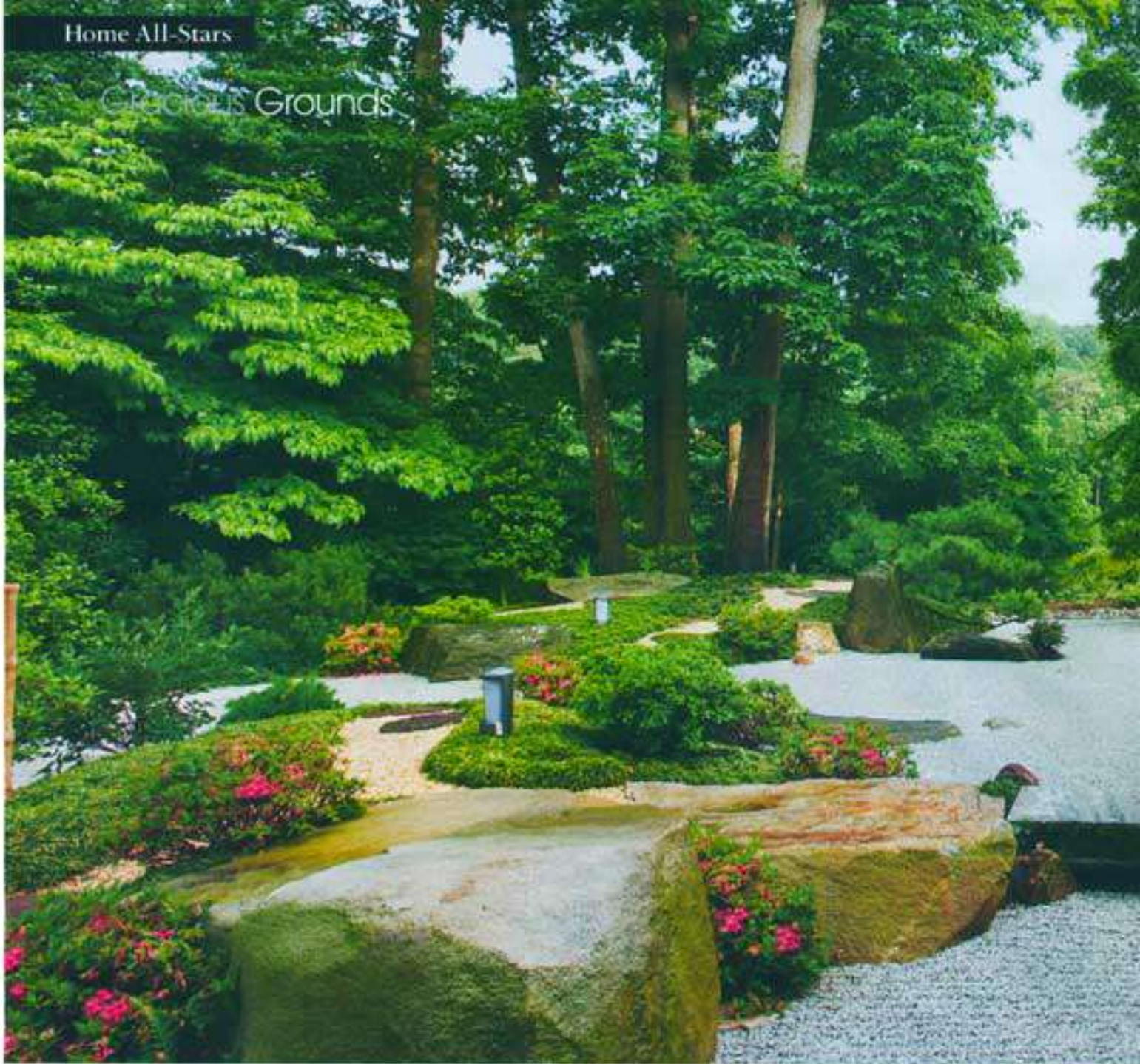
Real Estate and Home Design

January 2006



Home All-Stars

PRODUCTS AND DESIGN THAT DEFINE AN ERA



Japanese

THE JAPANESE HAVE LONG BEEN considered the true masters of a pure garden aesthetic, one that lacks pretension and subtext and simply exists. But within the Japanese garden tradition lies a number of different styles, from the stark Zen gardens that date to the early Buddhist monasteries, to the strolling or imperial gardens that feature lush plant material. Regardless of the style, Japanese gardens differ from their Western counterparts because of their focus on creating places that invoke inner peace and tranquility.

Peter White, a landscape architect with the Sudbury, Mass., firm ZEN Associates, believes that one of the main principles of Japanese garden design (excluding the dry rock Zen gardens) is a naturalistic style that inspires a

sense of calm in those who experience it. These gardens are balanced and are not contained by artificial boxes or grids. There is strict attention paid to an artistic foreground, middle ground and background, and to layering plants to fit the form.

Rather than designing for color and flower variety, the overall view is paramount in a Japanese garden; color is used sparingly. "That doesn't mean the design isn't striking or bold," White says. "It's just one flower's chance to be a leading lady." White prefers to use traditional Asian plant material in his designs, including moss, dogwood, azaleas, black pine and bamboo. He notes that while the style itself remains the same, it can be composed of whatever plant material is indigenous to the garden area. "It's easy to

Scenes from two gardens, as created by Sudbury, Mass.-based landscape firm ZEN Associates, which specializes in Japanese design.



Japanese Sources

Kurusu International,

Portland, Ore., and Delray Beach, Fla.,
888.441.5137, www.kurusu.com

Junji Miki, Zen Japanese Landscape Design,

Lynnwood, Wash., 425.402.4639,
www.zenjapaneselandscapedesign.com

Thomas Schoos Design,

West Hollywood, Calif., 310.854.1141,
www.schoos.com

Peter White, ZEN Associates,

Sudbury, Mass., 800.834.6654,
www.zenassociates.com

transport [this type of garden] to other cultures and climates. You could do a Japanese garden in Alaska, Florida, Maine or Sweden," White says.

Junji Miki, a Seattle landscape designer, has been designing Japanese gardens in both the United States and Japan for more than 25 years. In that time, he has learned to meld the traditional Japanese style with a more contemporary, Western feel. While few clients want austere Zen gardens—with the traditional rocks and gravel symbolizing the mountains and oceans—many want to incorporate a Zen feeling into the more contemporary Japanese garden's greenery. Miki uses a number of trees and shrubs in his designs, including mountain maple, weeping Japanese maple, cherry trees, camellias and hydrangeas. "Most people love Japanese gardens," Miki says, "because they feel calm and quiet and they are not as active as some Western gardens."

