

# PUSHING *the* LIMITS

Her yard might be minimal in size, but this Portland gardener and self-proclaimed plant obsessive maximizes the space she has.



A golden hop vine climbing up and over the back wall tricks the eye into thinking there might be something more around the corner, blurring the boundaries of the garden.



**BEDS AT  
DIFFERENT  
LEVELS CREATE A  
SENSE OF  
MOVEMENT.**

**“WHEN IT COMES TO PLANTS,** I don’t have a lot of restraint,” Linda Hannan says. “I want more blooms, more texture, more color!” As a garden designer, Linda has created plenty of spare and modern spaces for clients. But in her Portland garden, she’s an unabashed maximalist. She packed her 1,350-square-foot backyard with an exuberant mix of flowers, shrubs, and vines that encircle the dining and seating areas. The center beds form a “wall” of plants that helps fool the eye. “In a small yard, a barrier creates the sense that something is beyond it, making it appear larger,” Linda says. In these beds and around the perimeter, Linda adds and swaps out plants as the mood strikes for an ever-changing scene. “I rearrange plants like some people move furniture,” she says. The one consistent thing: “It’s always a riot of color.”



## 1 NATURE'S PALETTE

In the beds, tidy boxwoods and conifers lend year-round structure. The fuchsia and yellow flowers of rose campion, dahlias, canna, and marigolds stand out against pale gray sofas that merge with the bluestone.

## 2 DOUBLE DUTY

With extra-wide edges, the walls of the 18-inch-tall concrete raised beds provide more seating.



A SMALL LANDING AREA IS BONUS SPACE FOR ENTERTAINING.



### 3 GREEN WALLS

Linda packs her planting beds with tall, dramatic plants that create corridors of foliage, making the small space feel larger because you can't see it all at once.

### 4 SMALL MATTERS

One huge advantage of tiny yards: "If you throw in 100 plants, it's pretty lush. A larger yard needs way more."

### 5 ROOM WITH A VIEW

Linda and her husband converted their once-overstuffed garage into a studio sitting and dining room, *above*, suitable for entertaining. Two sets of French doors allow them to enjoy the garden even during chilly weather. (Plus, tender plants overwinter in it.)



  
**CORTEN STEEL  
 DEFINES  
 LOW-BED EDGES.**

## *FREE-FLOW DESIGN*

“Good circulation is vital,” Linda says. A path leads from the house around the raised beds and seating. Changing the scale of the bluestone pavers—using large ones as the path transitions to the seating area—visually expands the space, too.

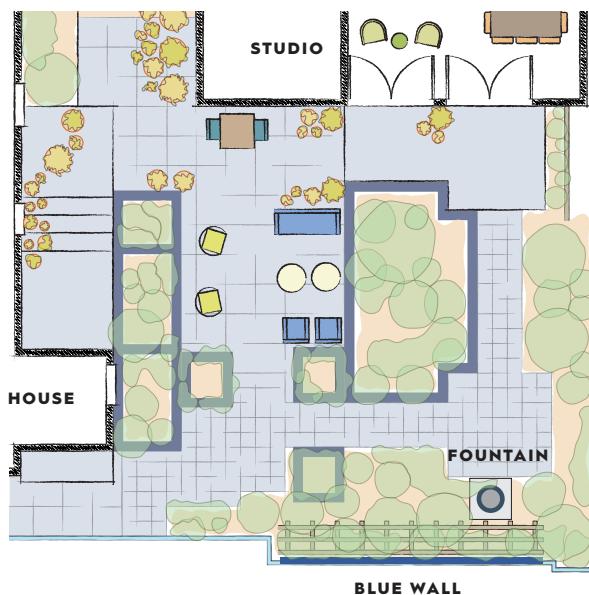


ILLUSTRATION: CHRIS GLOWACKI



## 6 MAXING THE SUN

Tearing out fruit trees that once grew in her yard created an all-sun site, vastly expanding Linda's plant options. Summer bulbs like pineapple lilies, *left*, and tropicals including Tropicanna canna, *bottom left*, now thrive.



## 7 MULTILEVEL INTEREST

"I think of the raised beds as a stage for my plants, bringing them right up to eye level," Linda says. Indented panels in the bed walls, *middle left*, add a traditional note to the modern look of acid-etched concrete.

## 8 GOING WILD

Linda isn't afraid of unpredictability. "I love plants that reseed," she says. "I let rose campion, verbascum, foxglove, and forget-me-nots seed wherever they want to. If I don't like where they're growing, I move them or rip them out entirely." ■