

Fancy Free

OPEN-AIR DREAMSCAPES ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY GRACE BEULEY HUNT

Over the past year, exterior living spaces have proved as essential as interior ones, offering gathering grounds, peaceful refuge and a semblance of escape. Celebrating this spirit, *Luxe* shares tales of garden delights across the country, beginning with landscape designer Margie Grace's own Montecito, California Shangri-La. Here, under the canopy of an 80-year-old oak tree, Grace crafted a "room" for coffee and contemplation by placing an antique *faux bois* dining set under the majestic sweep of its branches. "At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the light comes up from under those leaves and acts like a spotlight on the table," she says. "I think to myself, 'It's like the wood fairies live here.'"

At her Montecito, California property, landscape designer Margie Grace looked to Japanese principles in arranging public living spaces close to the house and quieter moments—like this perch for morning coffee—on the garden's outermost "concentric circles." Adds Grace, "It becomes a different kind of party the further you roam." gracedesignassociates.com

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