

STACY FELDMAN OF FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CENTER



By Jeanine Matlow

When it comes to outdoor spaces, Stacy Feldman, senior landscape designer with Four Seasons Garden Center in Oak Park, focuses on the big picture.

"I believe one's garden and home should be viewed as natural extensions of each other, blending together as a whole to accommodate family life, as well as to provide the ability to retreat in either direction," she says. "Ultimately, it would be my goal to extend this philosophy throughout a neighborhood, blending the individual personalities of each residence into a cohesive environment to be enjoyed by all."

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Four Seasons Garden Center, owned by Glen Goldberg. Though Feldman says the current trend is gardening with a purpose, experienced gardeners will say it's always been that way. But each gardener's purpose can be as unique as the garden.

Here, Feldman shares easy entryway tips for designing a gorgeous landscape that will welcome you home:



Photo by Lisa Dunlap

Stacy Feldman

1. The secret to a successful gate and fence is the relationship between the two. Choose characteristics in materials and pattern that offset each other, and include a small window to frame the view into the garden.

2. Emphasize and set the mood to your home's approach by choosing pathway materials, planters or sculptures that are consistent with the architectural style of your home. All planters shown are available at Four Seasons Garden Center, 248.543.4400.

3. When using pots and containers, consider the way in which form and size will be viewed against the backdrop, making sure they are the correct height, width and color for the intended mood and space.

4. The addition of low-voltage landscape lighting on specimen plantings and special architectural features will make it easier for visitors to find you and safer when you're returning home. Lighting also extends the beauty and use of your garden well into the night.

5. Make up your own rules. Grow small trees and shrubs with texture, form and blossoms in pots and containers, and add a splash of color with minor annual plantings. □



French Connection
Campania International
Fleur de Lys Terrace
Planter, \$70.



Bowled Over
Campania International
Giulia Planters, starting
at \$70 each.



Hot Pots
Campania International
Vicolo
Glazed Planters, starting at \$60 each.