

Clem Labine's **Period Homes**

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EXTERIOR SPACES: GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES
A Classic Kitchen Garden for a 19th-Century-Style Gentleman's Farmhouse
 HAVER & SKOLNICK ARCHITECTS, ROXBURY, CONNECTICUT



**KEY PRODUCTS,
 MATERIALS
 & SUPPLIERS**

GARDEN PLANTINGS: **Ronald LeBlanc, Grass and Gardens, Southbury, Connecticut**

VEGETABLE PLANTINGS: **Lynn Dzinski, LeJardin, Unionville, Connecticut**

AUDIO/CRESTRON CONSULTANT: **David Barson, Opus AVC, North Haven, Connecticut, opusavc.com**

CUSTOM LANTERNS AND BRACKETS: **Classic Lighting Devices, East Hampton, Connecticut, classiclightingdevices.net**

OUTDOOR FURNITURE: **Kingsley Bate, kingsleybate.com**

To complement an early 19th-century-style gentleman's farm that they designed for a family in Washington, Connecticut, Charles M. Haver, AIA, and Stewart R. Skolnick, AIA, created a traditional New England kitchen garden steeped in rustic simplicity.

"We wanted the garden and the stone house to look as though they had grown on site organically through the ages," Skolnick says. "It's a working garden—the owners pick food for their everyday meals."

The 6,000-square-foot, rectangular flower, vegetable, and fruit garden, which opens near the kitchen door, is planted on a cross-axial layout and features raised beds that include peonies, salvia, geraniums, and iris as well as broccoli, heirloom tomatoes and beets and a concealed

sounds system.

Accessed by gates from the four sides of the compass, the space is enclosed by a rustic fieldstone wall topped by a mahogany rail fence that's wrapped in virtually invisible wire mesh. At 7 feet high, the wall is an elegant and effective way to keep the deer away. "It was inspired by the ancient walls on the property," says Haver. "And outside, it supports three varieties of espaliered pear trees, so it blends with the landscape."

The garden's centerpiece, a twig-style gazebo with seating and a frieze inspired by stained-glass Chagall windows, provides a platform for winding wisteria vines. Its style is echoed in tepees and arbors.

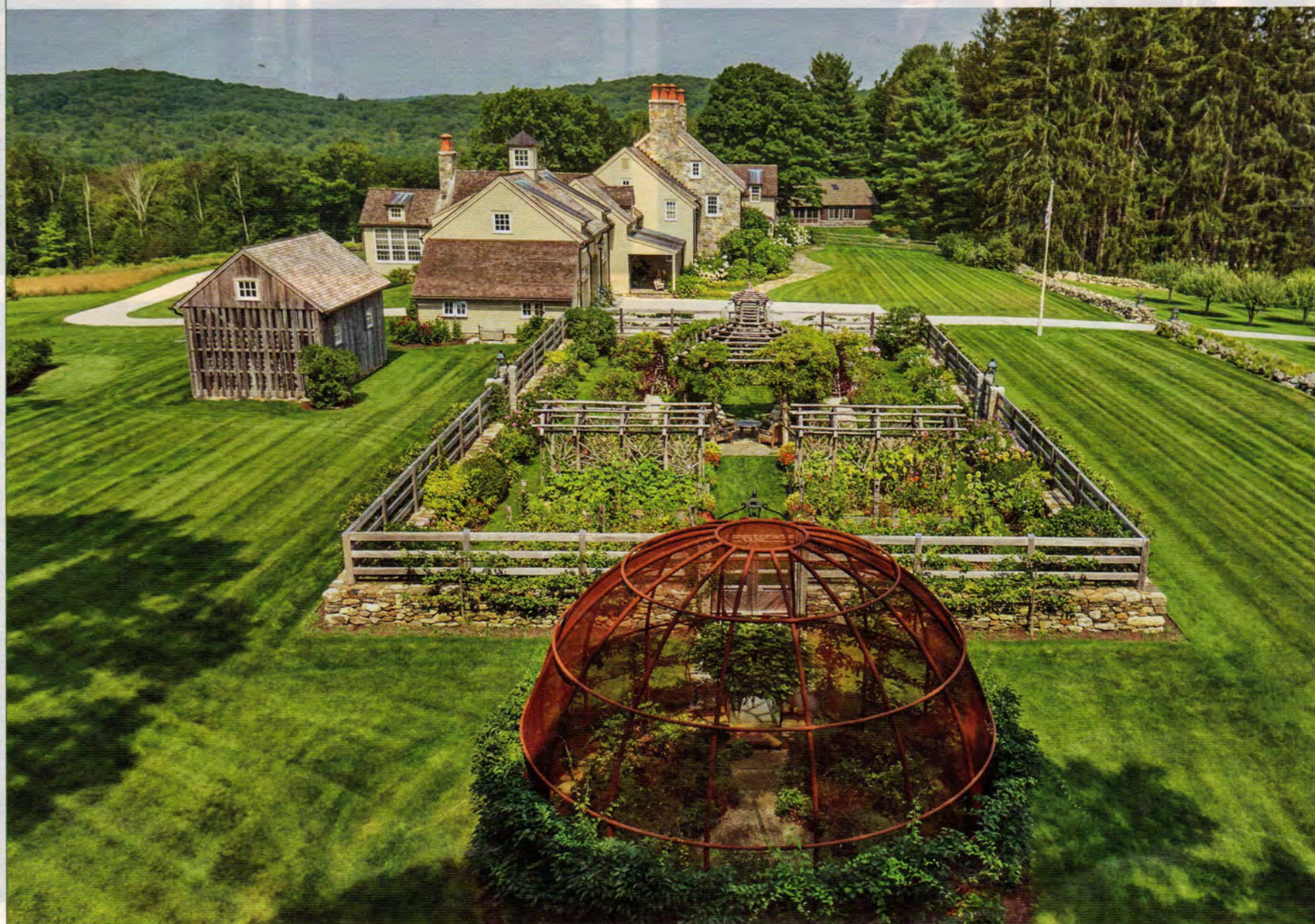
The piece de resistance is what Haver and Skolnick have dubbed the Berry Bowl: A 20-foot-high, 25-foot-diameter steel

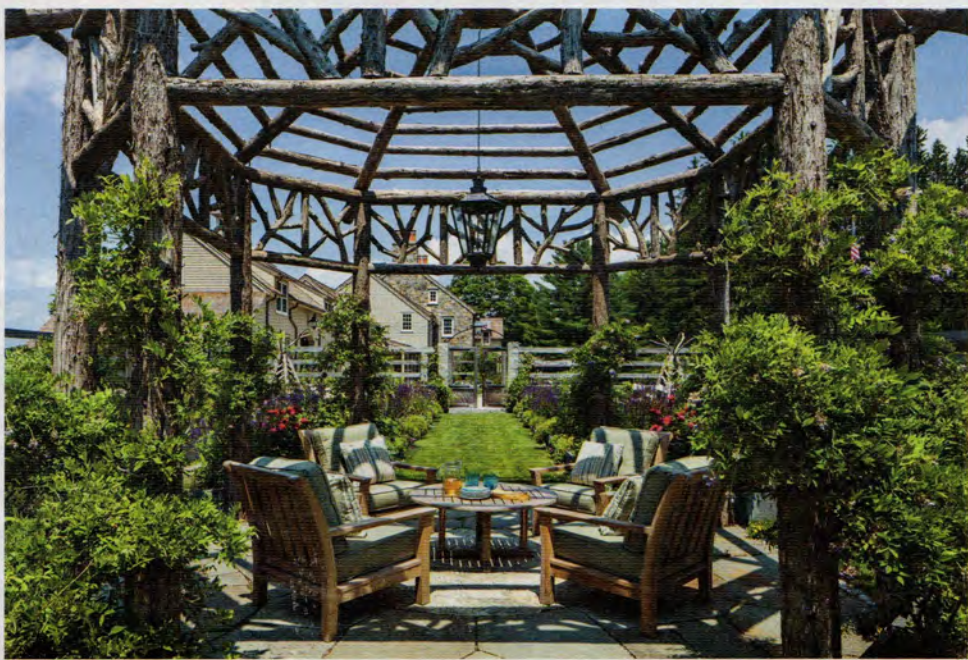
dome covered in screen mesh that keeps the birds away from the family's prized blueberries.

The Berry Bowl, which references the 18th- and 19th-century domed structures of French architects Etienne-Louis Boullée and Eugene Viollet-Le-Duc as well as birdcages and screened pie protectors, is designed to rust gracefully through the seasons. The screening, whose holes are slightly less than one half of an inch, keeps the birds at bay yet allows bees to buzz in. Outside, shade-producing kiwi vines wrap around the dome like a shawl.

"It's a piece of sculpture and a curiosity," Haver says. "When people tour the garden, it's the element they always talk about the most."

— Nancy Ruhling





For a farmhouse garden, Haver & Skolnick Architects designed an ingenious “Berry Bowl,” a unique domed steel structure designed to protect blueberry bushes from birds and other wildlife.”

—Palladio Judge Donald Lococo

