A Parklike Haven with Dramatic City Views

DOOFFOR CARDENS I -- I

Approaching through a gate that suggests a medieval fortress within, one enters a cobblestone-paved, ivy-covered courtyard—the domain of what was formerly a metal foundry. The foundry went out of business in the 1940s, and the premises came to house many different small businesses. The current owners bought the property in 1979 and moved here in 1981. Much of the former foundry space has been extensively restored and renovated and is rented out for many purposes.

One reaches the family's headquarters via an industrial staircase that eventually opens onto a terrace comprised of squares of cast stone with a patch of river-polished stones surrounding a gigantic rusted wheel, a relic of the metal foundry. Now the wheel serves as a container for a small fountain and pool.

RIGHT: One of several seating areas on an expansive terrace, this grouping is created within borders of trees including quaking aspen and pines as well as plants that can be moved or changed with the season.

The background of industrial facilities and the skyline of Manhattan form a striking contrast with the garden setting.







OPPOSITE: Variegated dogwood, weeping larch, wisteria, and red maple make this shady dining area inviting. Crocus and iris add color in spring, giving way to white mandevilla, Indian tobacco, and bright annuals in summer.

BELOW: Dwarf boxwood encircles a patio and cooling pond in this private corner of the garden where one may seek refuge on a hot summer day.

PAGE I18: Trees in large containers lend a feeling of permanency to a garden of many "rooms." What better place for a business meeting than this one where airconditioning is not required?

PAGE 119: A cast-iron wheel makes an unusual container for a pool and quietly bubbling fountain tucked in amidst leafy papyrus. In late afternoon and evening the breathtaking view of the Queensboro Bridge and Manhattan beyond becomes the center of attention.

The garden has a slightly Asian feel due to the umbrellalike branches of a red Japanese maple that immediately catch the eye. However, many varieties of plants and trees live here and thrive in mammoth containers with automated irrigation. The variety is partly due to the fact that the owners once owned a landscaping business and they liked to rescue "orphans" that had been removed from clients' gardens because they had outgrown their space. A place can always be found here for one more plant to tuck in amongst the teakwood chairs and chaise longues, creating oases of breeze and shade and greenery that calm a busy mind. Views feature the Queensboro Bridge, the East River, and the Manhattan skyline—equally enthralling in daytime or at night.





