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ABOVE, ROBERT WRIGHT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; BELOW, TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES; BOTTOM, DREW KELLY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Garden in a Bottle

Victoriana, greenery and do-it-yourself crafts rolled into one.



SMALL WORLD DEPARTMENT A magnifying glass helps Michelle Inciarrano work in a tiny terrarium, above. Left, Tassy Zimmerman, an owner of Sprout Home in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Bottom, Katie Goldman Macdonald.

31: "I had not thought of terrariums once in my whole life."

But in less than a year the pair had created so many, each working in her Brook-

By EMILY WEINSTEIN

IT was an unseasonably hot Saturday in April, and the three dozen terrariums on display in a booth at the Brooklyn Flea were sweating, the moisture turning into beads on their glass containers. Katy Maslow and Michelle Inciarrano, who were selling the miniature gardens, answered questions from passers-by. An antique magnifying glass sat nearby, for those who wanted a closer look.

Some of their creations have an irreverent sense of humor: small verdant worlds that feature scenes like muggings, complete with tiny shadowy scoundrels. Others are simpler, more elegant arrangements of stones and mosses.

The two friends, who spend most of their weekends "antiquing and junking," Ms. Maslow said, use repurposed vessels like old apothecary jars, cake stands and decanters to make the terrariums, which seemed at home among the vintage furniture and clothing and artisanal food at the market in Fort Greene.

Ms. Inciarrano, a 33-year-old photography student, was the one with the green thumb, who suggested they fill their finds with plants and figurines, said Ms. Maslow,



band, and Ms. Maslow, in the bright, modern two-bedroom she owns with her siblings in Midwood — that they decided to sell them, calling the enterprise Twig Terrariums.

"The fine-art side of us is totally satisfied by this, and the craft side too," said Ms. Maslow, who holds a bachelor's degree in creative writing and maintains a Web site for a family business in the entertainment industry. "I like designing little worlds."

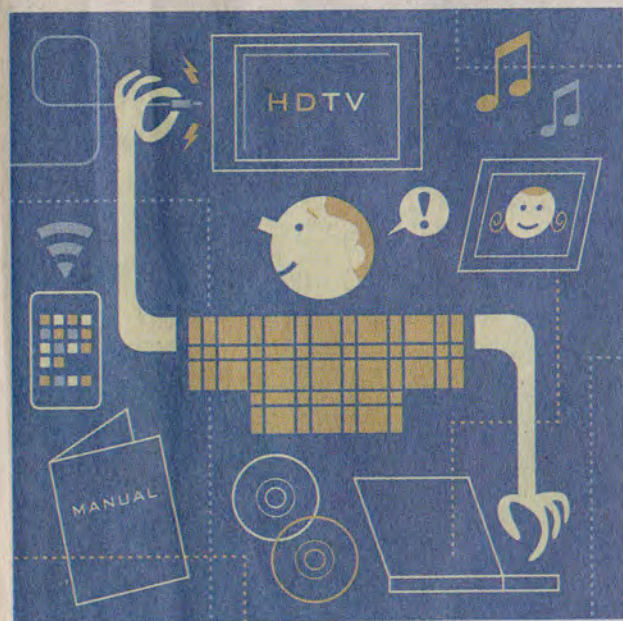
Long a fixture of elementary school classrooms, terrariums have recently begun gaining favor with young design enthusiasts and creative types. But today's look nothing like the fish-tank structures and kitschy miniature greenhouses that were popular in the '70s.

These terrariums marry the current rage for Victoriana with the growing interest in handmade crafts and all things do-it-yourself. Add to that a touch of locavore fervor, as more urbanites take to terraces and fire escapes to grow flowers and herbs in pots.

Grace Bonney, the founder and editor of the blog Design Sponge, said that she gets inquiries about terrariums — how to build them, where to buy them, which plants work best — every day. In her own home, she has three. "Terrariums are coming on the tail end of the cabinet-of-curiosities trend we've been seeing for the

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INSIDE



SCOTT ROBERTS

ON LOCATION

Fluid Design Atop Solid Rock

By DONNA PAUL

GLOUCESTER, Mass.

ANDREW SPINDLER, an antiques dealer with a well-established shop in nearby Essex, has definite opinions about everything in his granite house on Cape Ann.

"There are no curtains in this house — I do not need or care for curtains," Mr. Spindler, 47, announced, opening all three sets of French doors in his 42-foot-long living room to the terrace and the ocean beyond. "Especially with the views and light here."

Set upon massive lichen-covered boulders and surrounded by an undulating landscape that slopes down to the sea, the home is anything but a standard-issue New England clapboard house, and little about it reflects the vernacular style of this coastal region.

The one-and-a-half-acre property has labyrinthine paths that pass under tunnels of juniper to a 200-square-foot garden folly, like a miniature version of the house, that appears to be growing out of the rock, and there are Japanese-style gardens with interconnected ponds. Inside, the 4,500-square-foot two-story house is a diverse tapestry of periods and styles that bump up against each other in unpredictable ways.

The house was built as a hybrid of Arts and Crafts and Art Deco styles, in 1937, and it has been decorated in such a way as to offer in-

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HAT AND COAT During the renovations, Andrew Spindler's house has gained a widow's walk and larch shingles.

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HOMETECH

Three easy upgrades for late adopters.

By Rik Fairlie

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IN THE GARDEN

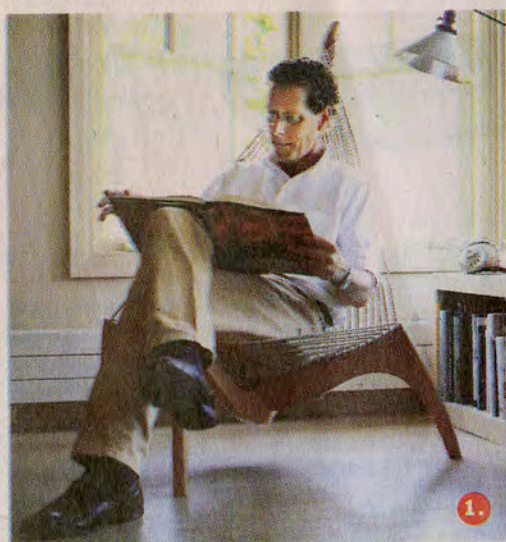
Planting a privacy hedge.

By Michael Tortorello

ON LOCATION

Fluid Design Atop Solid Rock

1. "Pieces cycle through my home and shop somewhat fluidly," said Andrew Spindler, an antiques dealer with a store in Essex, Mass. "I am happy to be the temporary custodian of beautiful objects." Attached to the bookshelf in his master bedroom is an adjustable iron and steel industrial lamp from the 1920s.



2. In an upstairs sitting room is an 1820s French daybed, lacquered in burnt orange, with original bronze mounts. The 1920s club chair beside it is upholstered in Lulu DK fabric.



3. The 42-foot-long living room has a Moravian tile floor. The oil-on-canvas frieze that encircles the room is from a lodge in the Adirondacks. An Anglo-Indian chaise is upholstered with "guerande" velvet from Manuel Canovas.



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4. A pair of 1950s rattan chairs, a ceramic-and-rope stool and a drum-shaped lantern in the 200-square-foot, solid-stone garden pavilion.

5. In a guest room, an 1810 Danish glass-fronted bookcase has gilt decoration. A German secretary is paired with an 1830s French chair, and the walls are painted Pratt and Lambert Calico Green.

6. The master bedroom is furnished with objects 100 years apart: the Empire Gothic 1860s bed is from a friend's Alabama family home; by the window is a 1968 Danish Harp chair, in ash wood and rope.

7. Mr. Spindler's collection of 18th- and 19th-century wrought-iron eel and fishing spears, most of them from New England, sits in the entry hall.

8. The second-floor balcony offers a view of the Atlantic Ocean and the granite terrace below. The celadon-green exterior trim was custom-made, and the bronze balls along the railing are architectural salvage.

A focus on the natural materials of the house and its connection to nature.

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terested visitors lessons in history, design, color, pattern and texture.

But "I hope it's not a pedantic lesson," said Mr. Spindler, a loquacious, cerebral man who is passionate about his home and his work. He doesn't mean it to be.

His store, Andrew Spindler Antiques, is known for its eclectic, but closely edited, collection of objects from the 17th century to the 1970s. "I cast a wide net," he said.

At home, the furnishings are equally diverse, though there is a preponderance of Arts and Crafts pieces. "The natural materials of the house and the connection to nature made that period stand out for us," Mr. Spindler said.

The "us" he referred to was Alexander Roesle, his former partner, a Swiss architect who bought the house in 1988, for \$535,000, and with whom he lived for six years. Mr. Roesle died in 1996, at 49. "It was a wreck when Alex purchased it," Mr. Spindler said. "He bought it for the site and the view — although it was so overgrown, there was no view."

The house had asbestos siding, leaky metal casement windows and, worst of all, he said, "there was no indoor-outdoor relationship" with the spectacular site.

Over the course of several years, 36 custom windows, more appropriate to a house on the ocean, replaced the metal windows, and a new bank of dormers was put in. Then came the teak balcony, the widow's walk, the Japanese garden, the new kitchen and dining room and the three sets of French doors to the new terrace. The asbestos siding was replaced with larch shingles imported from Switzerland, installed in an overlapping semi-circular style common on Swiss farmhouses. Four

craftsmen came from Switzerland one summer to do the job.

The total cost of the renovation was about \$900,000, Mr. Spindler said. "Essentially the house has been redone from top to bottom."

When Mr. Roesle died, Mr. Spindler inherited the house and continued renovating.

"I lived in the house in a different way and began to reclaim and reinvent spaces," he said. Since 2005, he has shared the house with Hiram Butler, 59, a contemporary art dealer based in Houston; they have a commuting relationship.

Recently, Mr. Spindler repaired the fireplace, and now he eats dinner at a Frank Lloyd Wright ta-

ble nearby.

"I have always had to pay attention to what this house wanted," Mr. Spindler said. "At first you notice all the big pieces of furniture. Then, as you keep looking, when your eye settles down, you start to notice the more delicate pieces." They include a wisp of coral on the mantel, rare birds' eggs, shells collected on the beach here and a bell from a Buddhist temple.

He continually tweaks things and admits to being a shopaholic.

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