



# A magical space

Lush foliage encloses this Seattle terrace

BY JIM McCAUSLAND

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORM PLATE

**Perched on** a Seattle slope, much of Millie Livingston's garden is situated downhill from her house. This presented a challenge because she wanted an outdoor dining area at house level. Designer Jay Ferguson fulfilled her wish by widening a portion of a path and turning it into a circular terrace.

Paved with Eagle Mountain flagstone (available from Marenakos Rock Center, 425/392-3313), the 8-foot-wide terrace is fringed by plants that can tolerate the site's alternating periods of shade and full sun. Ferguson chose a large golden fullmoon maple, two deciduous magnolias, native ferns and salal, and a few exotics like hellebores, Siberian irises, smoke tree, species rhododendrons, and yew. Together, they give the garden a lush look that comes mainly from foliage in many shades of green, while providing a sense of seclusion.

Next to the curving path that leads to the terrace, Ferguson built a gravel-lined reservoir and put a stone basin over it. A recirculating pump sends a constant stream of water down a split-cedar flume into the basin.

Bathed in the sound of softly falling water, the terrace is a magical space, especially at night, when Livingston lights it with candles.

**DESIGN:** Jay Ferguson, Artisan Gardens, Seattle ([www.artisangardens.com](http://www.artisangardens.com) or 206/522-3010) ✨

A flagstone path winds around a water-filled basin en route to the terrace.