

HOME & DESIGN

CULTURE CLUB

AREA HOMEOWNERS
FALL FOR FOLK ART

FARMER JOHN'S GREENHOUSE
MAKES YOUR GARDEN GROW

DREAM UP A DINNER PARTY
WITH TERRIFIC TABLESCAPES



A STATE OF ZEN



WHEN CINDY LAFERLE'S SON, NATHAN, MOVED OUT OF HER ROYAL OAK HOME TWO YEARS AGO TO ATTEND COLLEGE AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY, THE 51-YEAR-OLD FREELANCE WRITER NEEDED A PROJECT TO KEEP HER MIND OFF HER EMPTY NEST.

The project, creating a zen garden in her backyard, not only occupied LaFerle's time, it also provided her with a peaceful, calming retreat. With the help of Brian Rankel and Dan Jones of B&D Garden Design in Ferndale, she

adorned the southwest corner of her fenced-in yard with boulders, a Japanese dragon's blood maple, a Scotch pine, Oriental ferns, perennial ornamental grasses, bamboo, white lilac and hostas.

"I had always admired the Oriental gardens at Cranbrook, and had done some reading on the subject," LaFerle says. "So, I decided to seize the opportunity to plant a much smaller version."

To complete the zen atmosphere, LaFerle added a stone "river" with a

bridge, a piece of metal artwork depicting the Japanese character for happiness, and a very special gift – a stone Buddha statue that her husband, Doug, gave her for her birthday.

"It was a labor of love," La Ferle says of her garden. "And it is such a peaceful place for retreating from the clutter of everyday life. Doug and I like to sit in the teahouse next to the garden, especially at night, when the landscape lights lend a glow to the stone and rock features. Sometimes, on summer afternoons, I bring my writing work out to the teahouse, just to get away from my desk indoors." ■

WHAT'S UNIQUE IN YOUR HOME?

Write us (send a picture if you can) at: Home&Design Spaces, 601 W. Fort St., Suite 410, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail us at ehill@dnps.com.