



ANCIENT AURA: Homeowner Kellie Hepper and Pamela Pierce of Pierce Designs wanted the pool pavilion to resemble the ruins of an old building. The open stone structure has early 19th-century window surrounds and floors of reclaimed stone from France, purchased at Chateau Domingue in Houston. The pool coping is also from France.



ROOM TO EXPLORE: A circa-1626 limestone arch, set within a Japanese yew hedge, frames the symmetrical entry to a side courtyard.

Centuries-old antiques fill the vignettes in the Heppers' verdant garden



FINE DETAILS: Antique French gas lanterns are hung at the front door.



CALM SPACES: While the kids' sports court is tucked behind a tall Japanese yew hedge, quiet seating areas are scattered throughout the garden's deep green spaces. A meditative stroll takes visitors past boxlined parterres and small garden rooms accented with antique columns, urns or statuary.

A World of their own

By Kathy Huber | HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Kellie Hepper loves antiques. Jeff Hepper loves music. Their children love sports. Yet there's something for everyone in the family's livable garden. Reclaimed architectural elements for her. Underwater speakers in the swimming pool for him. A multisports court for the kids.

This 21st-century family comfortably coexists with one-of-a-kind, old-world pieces thanks to the inspired, careful plans of Kellie Hepper and two designers.

Hepper, an art history major, designer Pamela Pierce of Pierce Designs, and landscape architect Danny McNair of Glauser-McNair created a modern-day landscape with old-world mystique.

The Heppers' 10,000-square-foot, French-inspired house sits on a wooded 1 1/2 acres near the Memorial Villages, and it was important that home and garden work together, Pierce says. So they carefully calculated the proportion, scale and weight of the many large, stone pieces to create the expansive garden's series of vignettes.

"I wanted a formal garden, but one with space for the children to play," Hepper says. There are

touches of informality, and the property's size gives the garden a sense of ease.

"Plant species are kept at a minimum," says McNair. "The simplicity of it is appealing."

Plant numbers, on the other hand, had to be large. He planted 350 Japanese yews to create privacy and living walls. Yards and yards of Asian jasmine serve as manicured borders. Dozens of 'LimeLight', 'Endless Summer' and 'Lady in Red' hydrangeas, ideal for a woodland garden, are planted in parterres with filtered sun. Roses fill the sunny parterres.

About 3,500 boxwood were required to create the geometric parterres, line garden paths and frame vignettes featuring exquisite antiques, some of which date from the early 1600s.

History here is always just a step away.



VIGNETTES EVERYWHERE: Designer Pamela Pierce says she and client Kellie Hepper share the same philosophy: "If a piece is wonderful, I'm going to find a place for it."



TRICKLING WATER: A pair of faux bois chairs sit near an antique French wall fountain and basin from Chateau Domingue, one of several serene water features.