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left The square lawn is framed with a tidy hedge of purple-blooming germander. The 9-foot-tall cedar arbor matches the proportions of the large house. At the far left is a glimpse of the garden's latest addition: an English glass greenhouse.

Intimate
garden rooms on this
Seattle property
invite **gatherings**
of friends and family,
offer **quiet**
areas, and provide
a spot for herbs,
vegetables, and **cut**
flowers.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY DEBRA PRINZING.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW DRAKE.

IN THE ENGLISH TRADITION



right A bluestone staircase connects the dining pavilion to the formal lawn, potting shed, and raised beds of vegetables and dahlias. The shed's copper roof is topped with a finial and louvered vents. The shingled siding is painted taupe with purple undertones to match shingles on the house.

opposite left The potting shed's buttery yellow interior is warm and welcoming. Tiny windows swing open on their hinges; a small bench displays terra-cotta pots and provides a useful work surface; and deep corner shelves allow plenty of room for storage. Tucked into nooks on the wall are vintage hose nozzles.

opposite right Long-blooming Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum × superbum*) punctuate the border with their graphic white petals.



A standing-seam copper roof on the potting shed repeats the dining pavilion's roof treatment.

The garden's east-west axis also is aligned with the lawn. On the east, a weathered cedar arbor links the home's kitchen terrace and knot garden with the larger, formal garden spaces. Swathed in four climbing roses and two clematis, the 15-foot-long arbor frames a view of the copper-roofed potting shed beyond, which is the west focal point. The massive arbor, 9 feet tall and supported by 6x6-foot rough-sawn cedar posts, holds its own as a strong architectural element in the garden, Zachary says. "It had to be tall and overbuilt in order to relate appropriately to the house."

On the west, the potting shed (8x9 feet) features chamfered corners. "With the corners cut off, we were able to soften the effect of the box," architect Bader says. A standing-seam copper roof repeats the dining pavilion's roof treatment, and the shed's shingles are painted taupe with a purple undertone,

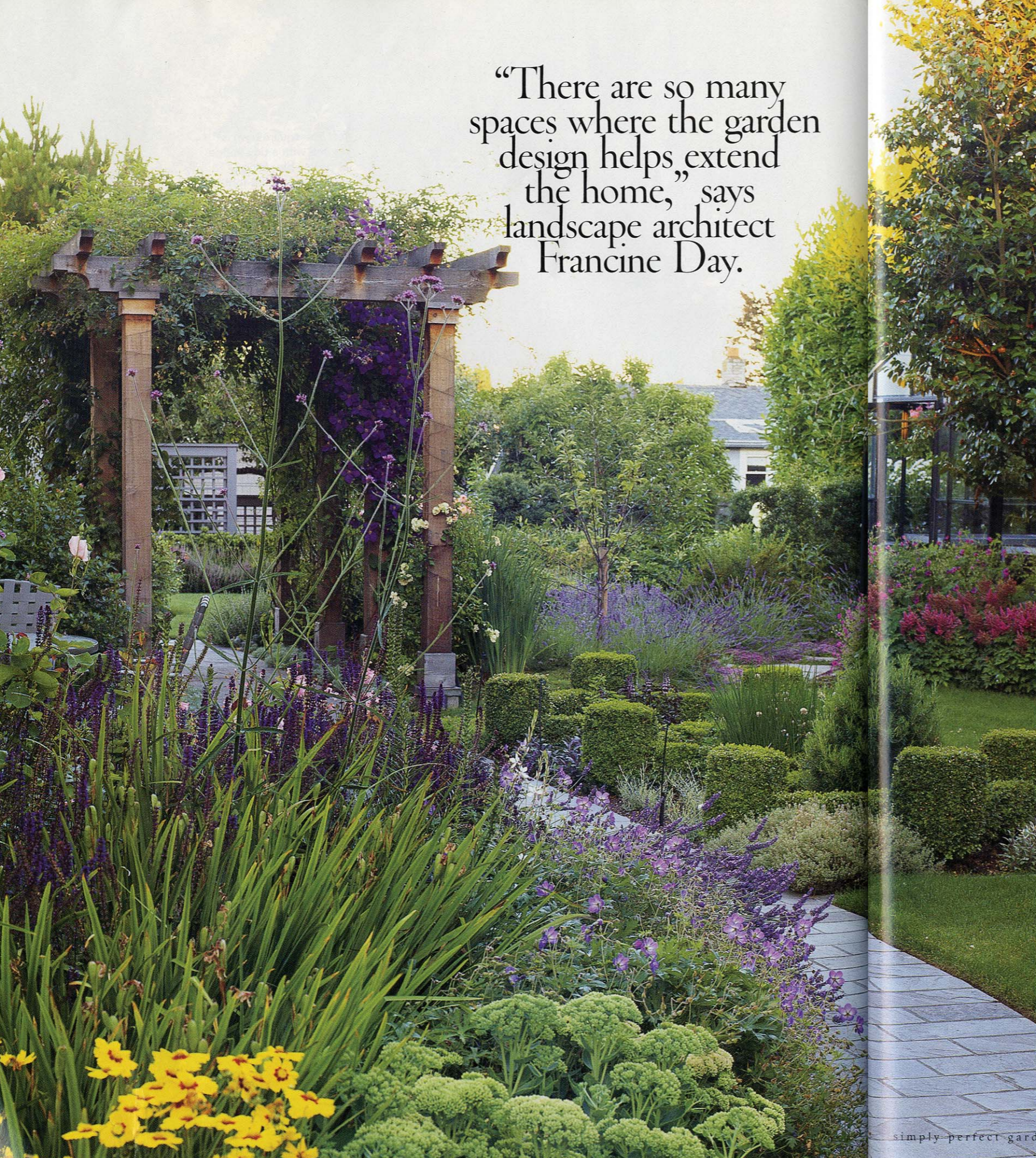


the same color as the house. Double doors swing open to accommodate a wheelbarrow, revealing a cheery yellow interior. Corner shelving and deep wall studs provide storage room for tools, supplies, and a display of vintage hose nozzles.

The homeowner gathered pictures of garden sheds to show Bader the shapes and styles she liked. She loves older potting sheds and structures she has seen on visits to historical places, such as Annapolis, Maryland, and George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, in Virginia.

Designed for both practicality and charm, the shed is a frequently visited feature in the garden. Fragrant lavender grows close to the path leading here, emitting a heady aroma when brushed against. Along one side of the shed grows an informal display of roses, hydrangeas, and a flowering dogwood tree. On the other side, raised brick planting beds contain vegetables, such as beans, tomatoes, baby pumpkins, and heirloom cucumbers, and a stand of dahlias for cut arrangements.

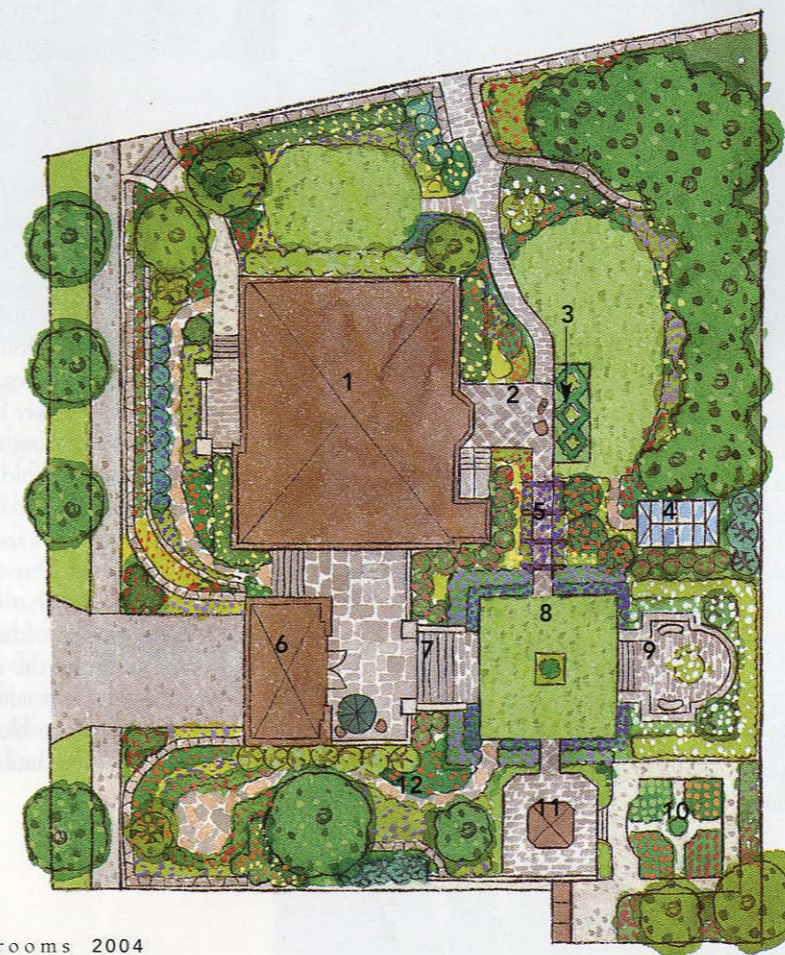
“There are so many spaces where the garden design helps extend the home,” says landscape architect Francine Day.



IN *the* ENGLISH *tradition*

Inspired by her English heritage and visits to famous British gardens, the owner of a 1914 Craftsman-style home in a historical Seattle neighborhood wanted to surround herself with peaceful spaces and exuberant plantings. Working closely with Seattle-based landscape architects Tom Zachary and Francine Day, the homeowner turned the neglected backyard into an exquisite garden that reflects her passion for plants.

Where a driveway once bisected the width of the 100x120-square-foot lot, a curved stone path edged with a profusion of perennials now leads from the sidewalk to the garden. A welcoming arbor, formal lawn, sunken all-white garden, stately dining pavilion, and attractive potting shed provide places for restful and active gardening projects alike. “We were really able to create a series of rooms here,” Day says. “There are so many spaces where the garden design helps extend the home.”



far left A curved bluestone walkway, perennial border, and knot garden lead to the massive rose- and clematis-covered arbor.

left

1. House
2. Kitchen terrace
3. Knot garden
4. Greenhouse
5. Cedar arbor
6. Dining pavilion
7. Bluestone staircase
8. Formal lawn
9. Sunken white garden
10. Raised planting beds
11. Potting shed
12. Curved walkway



right With the accordion-fold doors thrown open, the table set, and the garden in bloom, the dining pavilion and terrace serve as the ideal outdoor dining room. Brick walls on each side of the bluestone staircase double as extra seating. The verdant lawn offers a restful counterpoint to the stately structure.

Ten Tips for Outdoor Spaces

To create an inviting garden room, keep these suggestions in mind:

1. Decide on the room's purpose—how do you plan to use it? Do you want a place for alfresco dining, an outdoor living room, a play space for the kids, or a retreat for relaxing?
2. Do your homework. Gather magazine and newspaper photos of outdoor living spaces you like. Visit specialty shops, home and garden shows, and home tours for ideas.
3. Consider the style and architecture of your house, and design a room that is appropriate. A formal outdoor room, for example, probably is not the best match for a rustic farmhouse.
4. Make multiple garden rooms different sizes and shapes. Varying areas' sizes and shapes will allow for more diverse uses.
5. Choose a site that works for the room's function. An outdoor entertaining area, for example, usually works best close to the kitchen; a private retreat is better-suited to the backyard.
6. Start with a strong foundation. In small areas, grass might be more trouble than it's worth. Consider brick, stone, wood decking, pavers, tile, or gravel instead. Avoid pea gravel or other round stones. Though attractive, they are difficult to walk on.
7. Build a room in stages. Keep costs under control by doing a little each year, rather than undertaking the entire project in a single season.
8. Provide a focal point for visual interest, something that will draw your eye and entice you outdoors. It could be a piece of furniture, a statue, or a dramatic planting.
9. Frame the room with a hedge, small trees, flowering shrubs, vine-covered trellises, a fence, or a wall to define the space, screen unwanted views, and provide a backdrop for the contents of the room.
10. Use containers for year-round color and interest, and plant them imaginatively.

The 12x24-foot brick dining pavilion sets the stage for much of the garden design, protecting the property from north winds and offering a fabulous vantage point for viewing the landscape. Greg Bader of Bader Architecture, a Seattle firm, drew ideas from local carriage houses and English conservatories for the structure's elegant design. Constructed from 7,000 recycled clinker bricks, the pavilion blends into the property, looking as though it had always been there. Accordion-fold glass doors and a bluestone staircase lead to the herb- and rose-filled garden below. This spot is a favorite setting for parties.

Zachary and Day felt the pavilion was such a dramatic element that it needed to be balanced with an equally strong feature on the opposite side of the garden. So, facing the dining pavilion across a formal lawn, the designers added a 12x25-foot garden room planted with white-blooming perennials and shrubs. The space is more intimate because it is sunken 2 feet

The strength of this symmetrical design is demonstrated by well-aligned focal points. The elevated dining pavilion looks across a square formal lawn toward an intimate white-flowering sunken garden. The lawn is edged with a strip of bluestone and punctuated with a casual planting of Baby Love yellow roses at its center.

below grade. "The dining pavilion was above grade at the north side of the garden, and it seemed that we should go below grade at the other end of the garden," Zachary says.

Reminiscent of the renowned white garden at England's Sissinghurst Castle, this garden area is paved in bluestone and retained by a low curved wall. A hedge of finely textured holly shrubs encloses the quiet space on three sides. Surrounded by peonies, hydrangeas, phlox, and Asiatic lilies, the sunken white garden has a display of 'Iceberg' roses as its

centerpiece. Hardy geraniums soften the edges of the curved stone wall.

A perfect square of grass separates the pavilion and sunken garden, offering a strongly symmetrical transition between the two features. The 23-foot-square lawn is edged with a narrow band of bluestone, along which is planted a low hedge of purple germander (*Teucrium lucidrys*). Instead of a large urn or sculpture, the center of the lawn features a 5-foot-square display of Baby Love miniature yellow roses with blue lobelia at their feet.

this photo A diamond pattern is revealed when the kitchen terrace and knot garden are viewed from above. The 6x16-foot knot garden is planted with two types of boxwood (*Buxus*) and an array of seasonally changing herbs.

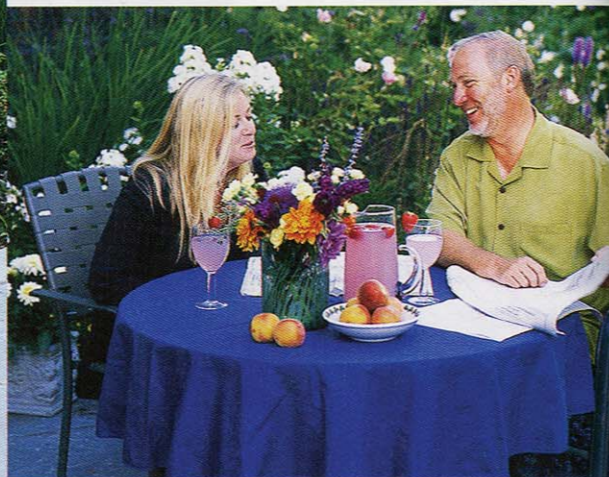
below right Landscape architects Francine Day and Tom Zachary helped bring the flavor of English gardens to this Seattle backyard.



Between the east and west focal points, the curved bluestone walkway pauses at a diamond-pattern bluestone kitchen terrace edged by a knot garden. Replicating noted English garden designer Rosemary Verey's knot garden, the tidy 6x16-foot bed of mixed herbs and two varieties of boxwood echoes the diamond pattern of the path and patio. In summer, the area is filled with fragrance. During rainy winter months, the knot garden can be enjoyed from a cozy window seat overlooking the garden. ■

For more information, see Resources on page 125.

 Browse online for more garden room ideas at www.bhg.com/sipfreshair.



Creating Structure with Plants

Landscape architects Tom Zachary and Francine Day designed several wonderful architectural features in this English-inspired garden. They also relied on well-chosen plants to help compose the "bones" of the landscape. Here is their advice for planting with structure in mind:

Create the setting with larger-scale plants:

- A holly hedge serves as a "wall" to enclose the sunken garden.
- Deciduous trees, including Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*) and kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa chinensis*), provide a canopy above.
- Masses of medium-size shrubs, such as Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*), are useful foundation plantings that link formal spaces.

Reinforce the design with lower-level plantings:

- Fill in blank spaces with hedging of evergreen herbs, such as germander and lavender.
- Keep flower colors subtly consistent (such as a range of purple blossoms).
- Add interesting leaf forms and textures. "The winters are long here in the Northwest and we go a long time without flowers, so we want to make the foliage interesting," Zachary says.



above Drawn from England's famed Sissinghurst Castle garden, white roses, peonies, hydrangeas, phlox, and lilies fill this private space, made roomlike by curved retaining walls and a dark green holly hedge.

right Eye-catching purple Clematis 'Jackmanii' scrambles along the cedar arbor.

