

WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK & PLAY

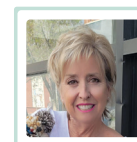
SPACES

Pathways

WRITTEN BY TANOAN RESIDENT PATTI HARRELL HOECH
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER



Planters placed between the columns frame the pathway to the entrance.



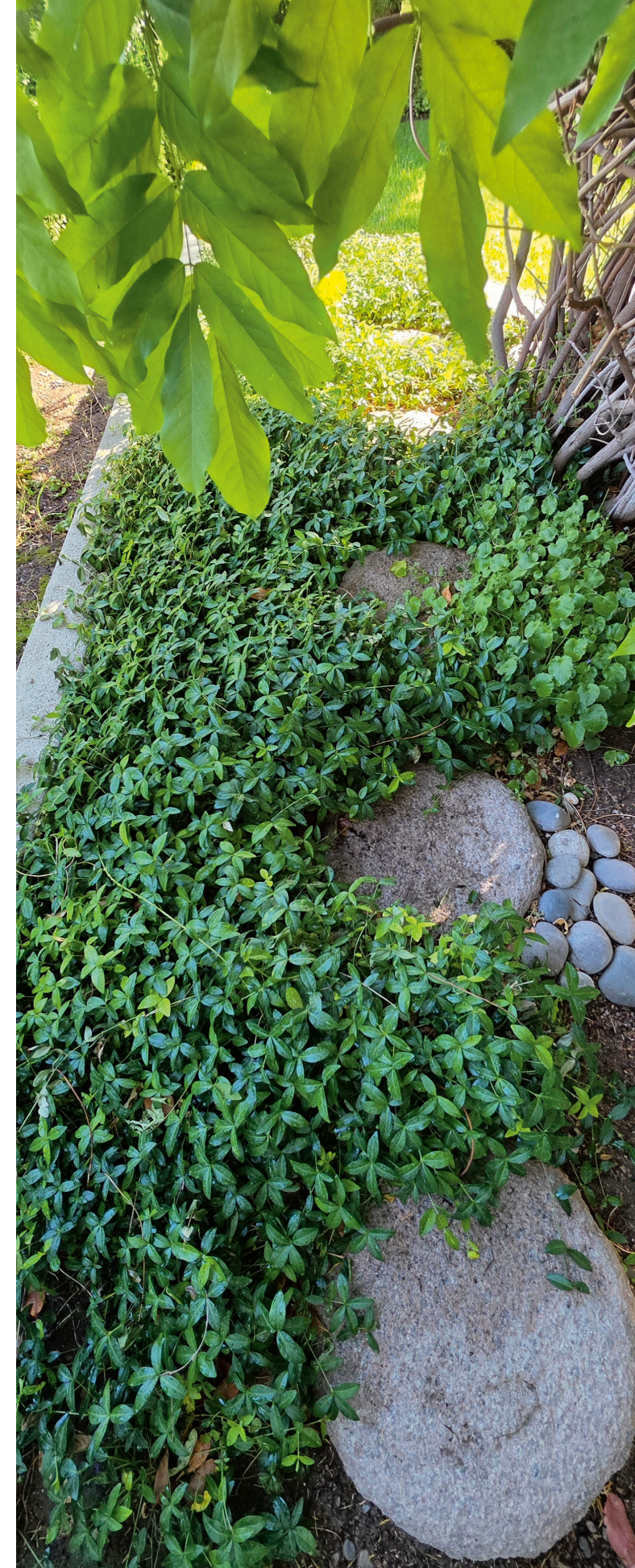
Summer encourages exploration. It gets us out there. We bolt from the cold confines of winter with a palpable release and energy. We create outdoor rooms and exterior living spaces that expand our interior environments. And as we investigate the outer limits, what better encourages exploration than a path?

A path invites adventure. It draws us in gently, and with each step we make discoveries, uncover new wonders, and form fresh ideas. Around every bend is a chance to encounter something unexpected. Paths move us forward and spark creativity.

A path awakens something childlike in us. Picture yourself as a child, closer to the ground, able to hide behind bushes and push through undergrowth in search of discovery. It stirs curiosity.

Architecture and landscape design both use discovery as a guiding element, moving between spaces from one area to the next and often shaping pathways that lead from intimate hidden gardens to gateways and promenades. Covered portals and colonnades can line these paths, linking one space to another.

From well-worn paths, to specifically placed steppingstones, to larger scale approaches, the intrigue stirs the same anticipation and appeal of discovery. Lovely lengthy entry drives, grand avenues or alamedas, in Spanish – the invitation to explore and discover intrigues us at all ages and stages of life. The scale changes as we view the world through windshields versus on foot. The world also moves more quickly as we motor through it versus a relaxed “stroll,” kids playing or even riding horseback. However, adventure still exists regardless of the means we approach it – down a path.

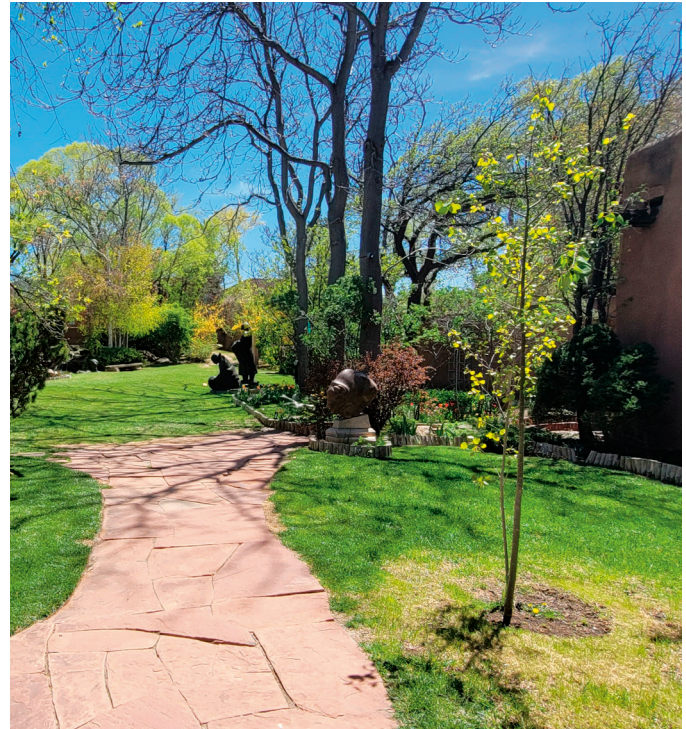


Inviting steppingstones nestled in a bed of vinca along the garden path beneath a canopy of wisteria.

Like the safe passage signified by the Arch of Swords ceremony – passing beneath the steel canopy to the next stage of adventure – is similar to that feeling of passing beneath a tree-lined alameda toward the experiences that await...

On a smaller scale, as I cleared the area obscuring the steppingstones by the green mossy peony bed the other morning, I clipped massive amounts of wisteria vines which had completely enveloped the pathway. As I ripped, clipped and removed the wisteria, I exclaimed to my husband that it was exciting to reveal and rediscover the path. I trimmed it high so as to retain a feeling of passing beneath the canopy along the stones. Further aggressive pruning of the vinca groundcover exposed the great granite steppingstones that lead the way alongside the garden.

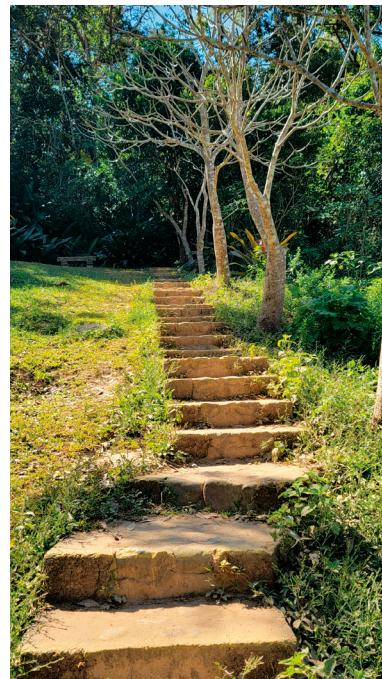
Pathways offer many analogies for our own life journeys. The wonder and anticipation that is always there – yet the curiously intriguing approach to the next experience might also trigger anxiety. Carly Simon wrote *Anticipation* from a seemingly fragile, fearful longing to have things stay the same. *Her* anticipation suggested “We can never know about the days to come but we think about them anyway...” We can design our paths from gardens, to architecture, to life, with a sense of encouragement and excitement. The older we get, the more we are influenced by mind games and mental constraints - often based upon experiences or fear of the unknown. As we navigate the world and pathways are presented, the alluring effect is the same. It draws us in and invites us to explore what lies ahead. That can



Flagged sandstone tightly pieced together forms pathways connecting exterior spaces.



Territorial patio colonnade beneath the entablature defines the path – a covered walkway connecting the exterior spaces.



A stone stairway gracefully meanders through the vegetation connecting different levels of landscaping.

lead to the next level of change which can bring trepidation and even fear. The child-like, fearless, plow-ahead without a care, way of pressing through life is replaced by learned caution. The trick is to embrace the next experience or chapter and approach with curiosity and courage. Reclaim the receptive approach to wonder.

We love pathways – through nature, connective breezeways, colonnades, and avenues, of granite stones, sandstone flagstone, cement castings, brick, pebbles, concrete, dirt, compost – through undergrowth, beneath treelined canopies, flanked by hedgerows, all leading between spaces and offering adventure and discovery. Go out there and create a path, meander to enjoy and go forth with wonder.

Your Neighbor,
Patti Harrell Hoech
Licensed Interior Designer
To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!

