

GARDEN DESIGN

Suburbia Transformed

By: *Debra Prinzing*

10 residential landscapes, honored in a competition in landscape architecture by the James Rose Center.



Latitude: 41° 24' 39" Longitude: -73° 20' 32", Billie Cohen Ltd.

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Sustainable choices such as re-purposing stones from the septic system to create, in one instance a stone path, in another, a natural seat and bird bath, were used to develop a landscape that is unique in its environment. Seen here, a view from the home's vine-covered porch provides a cool shaded seating spot on hot summer days. The design approach ". . . fosters a deeper relationship with the environment and creates a condition that could potentially carry through an entire neighborhood – where residences are no longer patches or even modules, but points within a field of continuous natural systems," explained Cohen in her entry submission.

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In Newtown, Connecticut, landscape designer Billie Cohen used the existing environment of the 1.08 acre-property as the backbone for her design. Plants were selectively removed and native growth allowed to determine the form of the landscape, creating an environment that exists in direct contrast to the typical suburban landscape. This hill became two feet higher after septic fill was added to accommodate the leaching fields. The "meadow" was created simply by not mowing the lawn, except for one strip to create the walking path.