

GREEN

Cultivating a Serene Space

By Emily Jaeger



From wraparound plant styling to limited-edition ceramic vessels, luxury plantscaping transforms your home into a verdant sanctuary.

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A rare mid-century redwood dining table with a lazy Susan serves as the focal point in this picturesque courtyard, surrounded by antique French spring chairs. Mid-20th-century crane sculptures complete this serene atmosphere, designed by Inner Gardens.

Left: Weslie Pierre, founder and chief operating officer, presents a carefully curated pot of succulents at Wesleaf Designs and Decor.

Right: An inside look at the plant design studio.



Whether wandering through a quiet forest, tracing your fingertips along the rough bark; slipping through vines to a hidden cenote; or watching as flowers turn their faces toward the sun, plants and nature encapsulate joy and rejuvenation. This same energy is embraced in high-end residences through plantscaping — interior landscape design — to create serene, nature-infused spaces that elevate both the soul and the senses.

On the most basic level, plants purify the air in your home, but their benefits go far beyond that. Interacting with plants enhances mental well-being, lowers stress, and infuses spaces with a sense of calm. “There’s something deeply restorative about plants,” says Weslie Pierre, founder of the Boston-based plant design studio Wesleaf. “Just having them in your space can reset your mind and bring your heart rate down.”

Plants can also become living keepsakes, deeply intertwined with your family story. Bari Ziperstein, artist and founder of BZIPPY, a luxury ceramic furniture and housewares company, shares that her interest in creating vessels for plants stemmed from her experience growing up around plants that had been in her family for decades. “My mother had plants she cared for over 35 to 40 years, and when she moved them, if a piece broke off, she wept for months. Those were her babies.”

From Green Thumb to White Glove

Unlike other man-made features in the home, plants require a delicate balance

of care and artistry to achieve the desired architectural aesthetic while ensuring optimal growth and vitality. And, like all living things, they can be a bit unpredictable. That’s where plant stylists such as Pierre enter to help homeowners achieve this living design element. “You can control the placement of furniture, but not a plant,” she explains. “Even if I tailor a plant for a space, in two weeks it will change — based on your energy, how you care for it, the light, the humidity. There’s just something about the uncertainty when it comes to plants that excites me.”

Pierre’s journey with Wesleaf began as

a pandemic pop-up, offering plant styling services that quickly gained a dedicated following. Today, her plant design studio is a go-to for high-end homes and designers in the Boston area, offering wraparound plant care from bespoke soil to preparing beloved plants for international travel with their owners.

She also helps clients pick the perfect plant, not just for their lighting, but for their lifestyle. “When I first sit down with a client, I ask them: Who are you as a person? What does work look like for you? What does travel look like for you? It’s important that you find the right plant for your personality.” —>

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Plant the Trend

During the pandemic, indoor gardens — entire plantscapes — became popular, Pierre shares. However, trends have evolved in the years since, shifting toward a more refined, minimalist approach. “Less is more now. Instead of creating expansive plantscapes, homeowners are opting for one statement plant and really learning how to care for it,” she says.

Minimalist rooms can be brought to life with just one sculptural piece, like a monstera or ficus, allowing homeowners to develop a deeper connection with the plant. Moss balls, or marimo, are particularly popular for their longevity — living up to 100 years. “They are often passed down as family heirlooms,” Pierre says, balancing a sense of tradition and heritage with new growth.

Pierre also recommends air plants, which can be seamlessly integrated into sleek industrial designs without soil. And no more fiddling with fiddle-leaf figs or other touchy plants. Instead, Pierre sees a rise in simple choices with a twist, such as moonshine snake plants. “It’s less about rarity now and more about the aesthetic of the plant.” Clients are choosing plants and vessels that fit their design vision, turning the plant into a living sculpture.

Finding the Perfect Vessel

For Ziperstein, the vessel is as much a part of the artistry of plantscaping as the plant itself. Ziperstein’s pieces, showcased at BZIPPY

and in limited editions for Future Perfect, are renowned for their geometric, repetitive designs, which stand in bold contrast to the organic nature of plants.

Ziperstein draws inspiration from her daily drives through L.A., where urban infrastructure meets the natural landscape. “I drive my son to school and then to my studio, passing through urban environments, industrial landscapes, and then the mountains. I see everything from TV towers to fake cell phone trees,” she explains. These influences — from steel beams to Brutalist architecture — manifest in her work, merging industrial materials with the organic. “I call it the collage — that’s what my artwork is about — different elements coming together that shouldn’t be together.”

The dedication to sustainability and ethical production also sets Ziperstein’s work apart, making her pieces not just beautiful but consciously crafted. Creating one vessel, from sketch to finished product, takes about eight months, with each piece meticulously handcrafted to achieve both functionality and artistry. All materials are sourced and crafted with an emphasis on eco-friendly practices and ensuring her workers are well-paid and receive full benefits. “If we care about our plants, we should care about what they go in to,” Ziperstein says.

Ziperstein suggests pairing her vessels with vertically inclined plants, with minimal draping to fully appreciate the harmonious interplay between the plant and ceramics. ♦



Above: These colorful designs are by artist Bari Ziperstein, whose company, BZIPPY, creates unique ceramic furniture and housewares.

Below: BZIPPY produces planters and larger pieces, such as this table.



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