



DESIGN | CONSTRUCTED | RESIDENTIAL

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## KRIS BARKER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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LOCATION Chicago, Illinois

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CLIENT Private Owner

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PROJECT TEAM Cohen Hacker and Associates



## URBAN GARDEN

**P**rivacy and an area to relax in the sun, room for kids to run on grass and play on a swing set, an area to grow vegetable and herbs; these were the program elements requested by a Chicago family for their narrow Hyde Park neighborhood lot. **To make these seemingly incongruent activities blend into a coherent whole, a variety of rooms were created along a lot line walk.** The use of strong curvilinear shapes, the careful placement of trees and shrubs, and the repetition of materials create a yard that appears much larger than it actually is, and meets the needs of all the family members.

The landscape architect worked extensively with the clients to create a landscape that was both functional for their children and beautifully private for them. The lawn became the center of the yard to allow for active play. Adjacent to the home, a sun patio with a fountain and room for a café table and chairs serves as a contemplative space. To enhance privacy, neighboring houses are screened by a row of single-stemmed Ornamental Pear trees. After the kids have outgrown the swing set placed at the back of the yard, the area will be transformed into a dining patio and pergola. In a small, forgotten side yard, between the garage and the alley, a raised planter provides an opportunity for vegetable and herb gardening.

The front yard incorporates a simple but welcoming planting design and hardscape layout. New window boxes accent the cottage style windows of the house, and provide seasonal color inside and out. A yew hedge and a new iron gate define the property and provide an easy transition from street to garden.

The design uniquely tackles space limitations with forms and materials that are at once bold and unifying. Ultimately, the project exemplifies how a thoughtful process can bring about a well-organized design that is both beautiful and functional on a small urban lot.

