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Photo courtesy of Park Slope Design

DEFINE YOUR OWN SPACE

Previously working as an exhibiting painter in Los Angeles, Joan Grabel decided to focus her artful eye on landscapes and founded Park Slope Design (www.parkslopedesign.net) in 1986. She has since been one of the featured landscape designers on Home & Garden Television (HGTV), and more recently, she cofounded www.casagogo.com, a new interactive home and garden web site. As a landscape designer, she embraces her artistic tendency to unite beauty and function with structural pieces such as pergolas, arbors, and trellises. Here, she defines their differences.

PERGOLA: A pergola is an open roof structure over a patio or deck that is either freestanding and supported with posts or columns or attached to a building with headers and supporting posts. The number of posts is determined by the design and size of the pergola. There are many variations of pergola designs and materials that can be used, but the most common materials are wood and metal. Vines can be used to climb up the posts and onto the rafters. A pergola can be designed for any place on a property, but be sure to check your local building codes.

ARBOR: An arbor is similar in design to a pergola but is usually thought of as an architectural structure that one passes through to move into a garden space or as a destination point in the garden with a bench underneath.

TRELLIS: A trellis is an open structure most commonly made of wood or metal in a particular pattern. It can be adhered to a wall as an ornamental architectural element without plants, used to support plant materials such as vines, or used as an espalier for a shrub or small tree. It is also used on top of walls or fences to create height, privacy, and support for vines.

to about 4 feet in width. Some arbors feature a gated entrance and others are simply a graceful arch, offering a stunning passageway into a backyard garden. No matter the location, they can be customized to your desire.

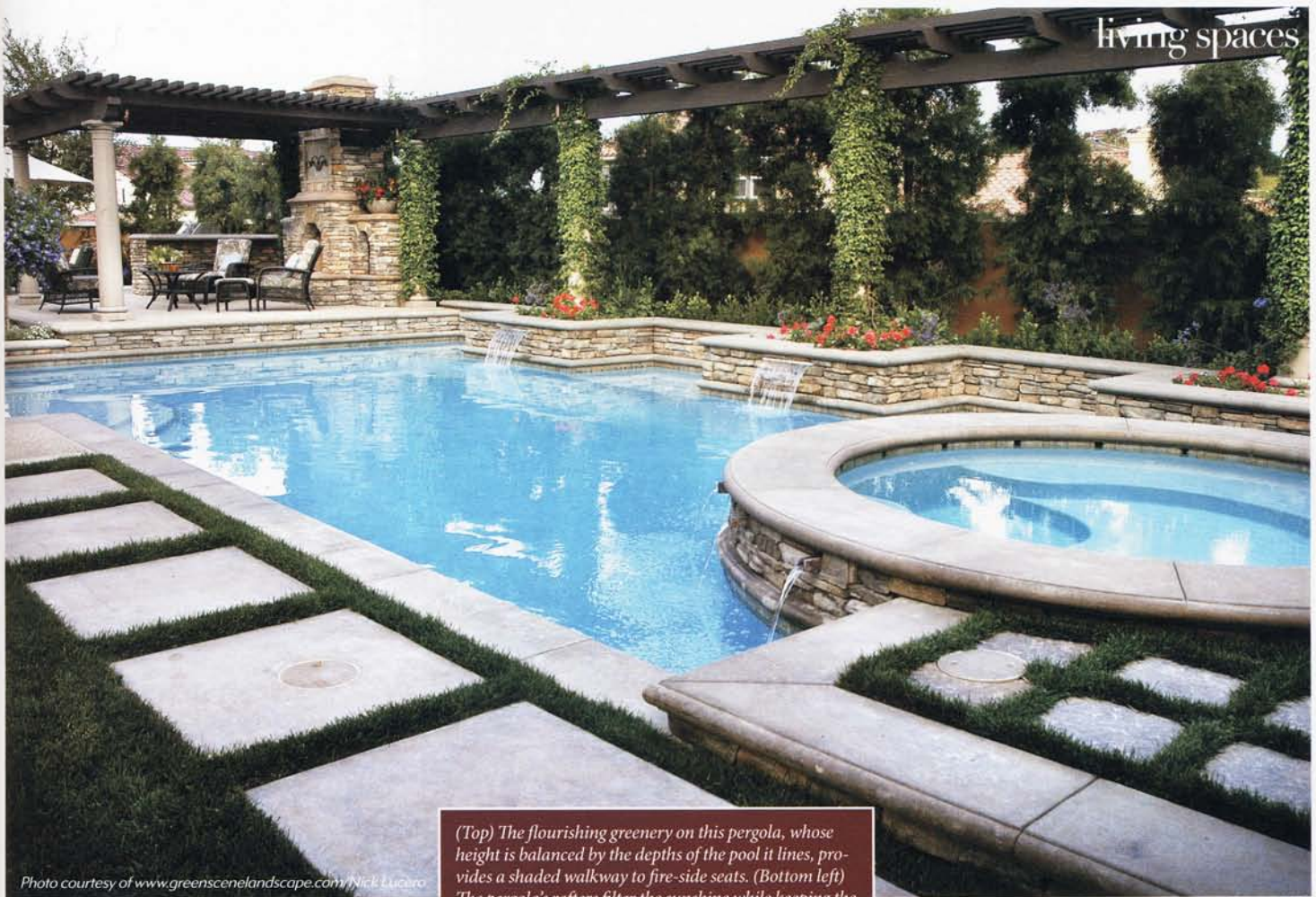
"Arbors are tailored to the look of the home," says Grabel. For instance, homes with peaked roofs often display an angular, versus

rounded, arbor. The structures can be constructed of a number of materials, such as wood, metal, and wood-plastic composite.

A trellis is slightly different in that it doesn't go overhead. Instead, it is installed flush to a wall, providing a place for vines to intertwine and adding an element of aesthetic appeal. It also serves a functional role, providing height and privacy to an area, as it can be installed along the top of a fence. Depending on the homeowner's desires, the size of the open spaces in between the wood can vary if custom designed, and the size is usually determined by how much privacy is required.

Trellises are commonly constructed of wood in a cross-hatched pattern, although a designer can construct a more modern look out of several materials and patterns, such as a wrought iron grid. Trellises can be stained or painted, which also adds longevity to the life of the wood. The sturdy structures can last for tens of years as well, as the upkeep will be similar to a fence or deck.

No matter the structure chosen, ensuring continuity of design is of leading importance. "Whatever you are going to implement in the landscape should relate to the architecture of your house," says Grabel. If you are unsure of which design is right for your home, a professional designer will point you in the right direction. But whatever the theme, the outcome will be as unique as your own personal tastes, and the enjoyment can last for decades to come.



(Top) The flourishing greenery on this pergola, whose height is balanced by the depths of the pool it lines, provides a shaded walkway to fire-side seats. (Bottom left) The pergola's rafters filter the sunshine while keeping the space open and airy. (Bottom right) This fence joins the benefits of an arbor and a trellis, creating an enchanted entrance into the yard while shielding it for privacy.

Photo courtesy of www.greenscenelandscape.com/ Nick Lucero



Photo courtesy of Park Slope Design

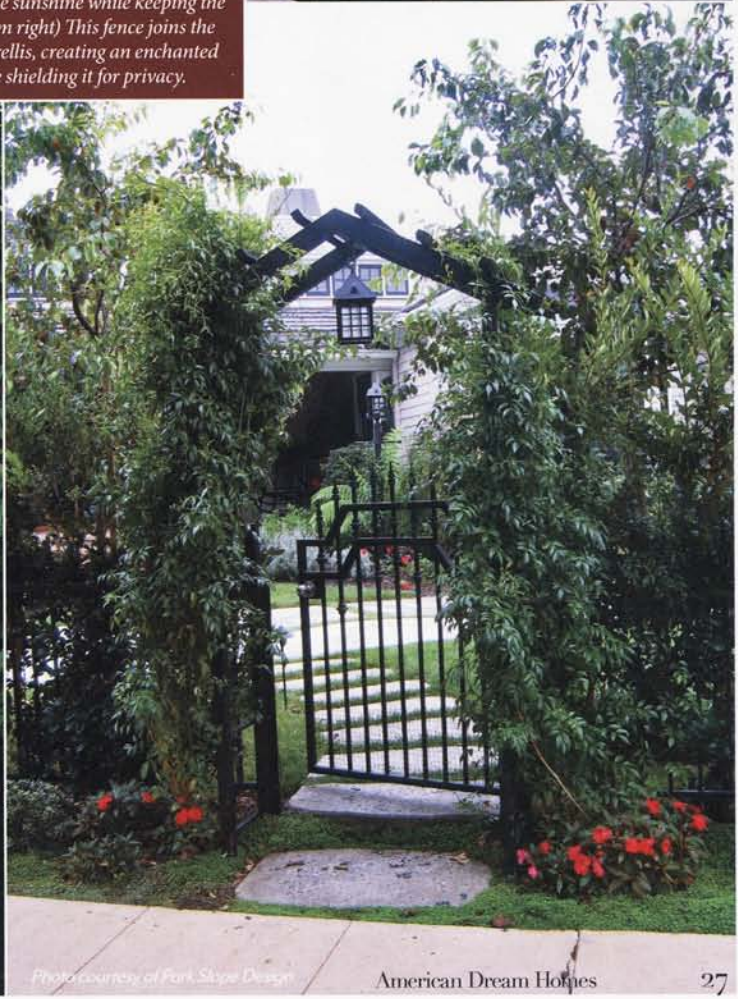


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