

SIZE 7,150 square feet
 TYPE Cottage garden
 LOCATION Michiana Shores



Plant and Let Live

A lush cottage garden is planned around nature's surprises **by Gina Bazer**

As pleasing as a manicured yard can be, there's something delightful about an outdoor space with just the right dose of randomness to it. Landscape designer Roger L. Boike, owner of Lakeside, Michigan-based Groundworkes (groundworkes.com), opted for the latter when, ten years ago, he embarked on a plan for a cottage-style garden and backyard at his Michiana Shores, Indiana, home. The result is an inviting blend of distinct areas conceived for particular uses and areas of spontaneous growth, a mix this master gardener fully embraces. "One of my favorite things about a cottage garden is the volunteers—plants that appear naturally from wind and bird droppings," he says. "I've got Siberian iris and juniper trees that I never planted."

That's not to say that Boike's approach is all laissez faire. When faced with the challenge of a wide, shallow backyard behind a ranch house with a non-attached garage on one side (which created dead space between the house and the garage), he did what he tells his clients to do:

PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREAS LARSSON



Roger Boike relaxes in his yard, top. In the foreground: hollyhocks and plume poppies. Flagstone from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, is used for paths and in the koi pond, above—"It's natural to this climate so it doesn't cleave or crumble."