



Mariani Landscape Designs Outdoor Space for Midwest Living Magazine's 2009 Idea Home

A contemporary revival style home located on the North Side of Chicago in Lincoln Square now features innovative ways to use small space and provides a relaxing, private outdoor oasis for its homeowners. Mariani Landscape partnered with today's top builders and designers for the 2009 Midwest Living Idea Home, which will be featured in the September/October issue of Midwest Living magazine and was open to the public in June.

"Due to the location of this year's Idea Home, Mariani worked to design a landscape that combines both beauty and function, but on a smaller scale than the typical Idea Home," says landscape architect Carrie Woleben-Meade. "We wanted to provide the homeowners with a beautiful outdoor space that will let them relax outdoors and escape hectic city life."

The landscape complements the architecture of the contemporary revival-style home with an efficient use of small space to create a relaxing and private outdoor oasis. Columnar trees help screen views from surrounding apartment buildings

to make the home's patio space cozy and intimate. A small water feature muffles city noise and adds a soothing element. Vegetables and herbs are planted in containers to save space and soften the home's service walk. A pergola frames the home's garage and creates a focal point in the backyard.

"It's very important to efficiently use space when dealing with a small landscape. For example, instead of using a large outdoor dining table, incorporate a coffee table, loveseat and chairs. The result will be perfect for casual entertaining and will not appear crowded," says Woleben-Meade.

With the economic downturn, many people are focusing on their existing landscape by reusing the existing 'bones' of their gardens. Unlike past Idea Homes, this year's home is a remodel, not new construction. "Just like the 2009 Idea Home, Mariani Landscape can restore an outdoor space with cost-effective solutions to improve a landscape dramatically," says Woleben-Meade.

Folio

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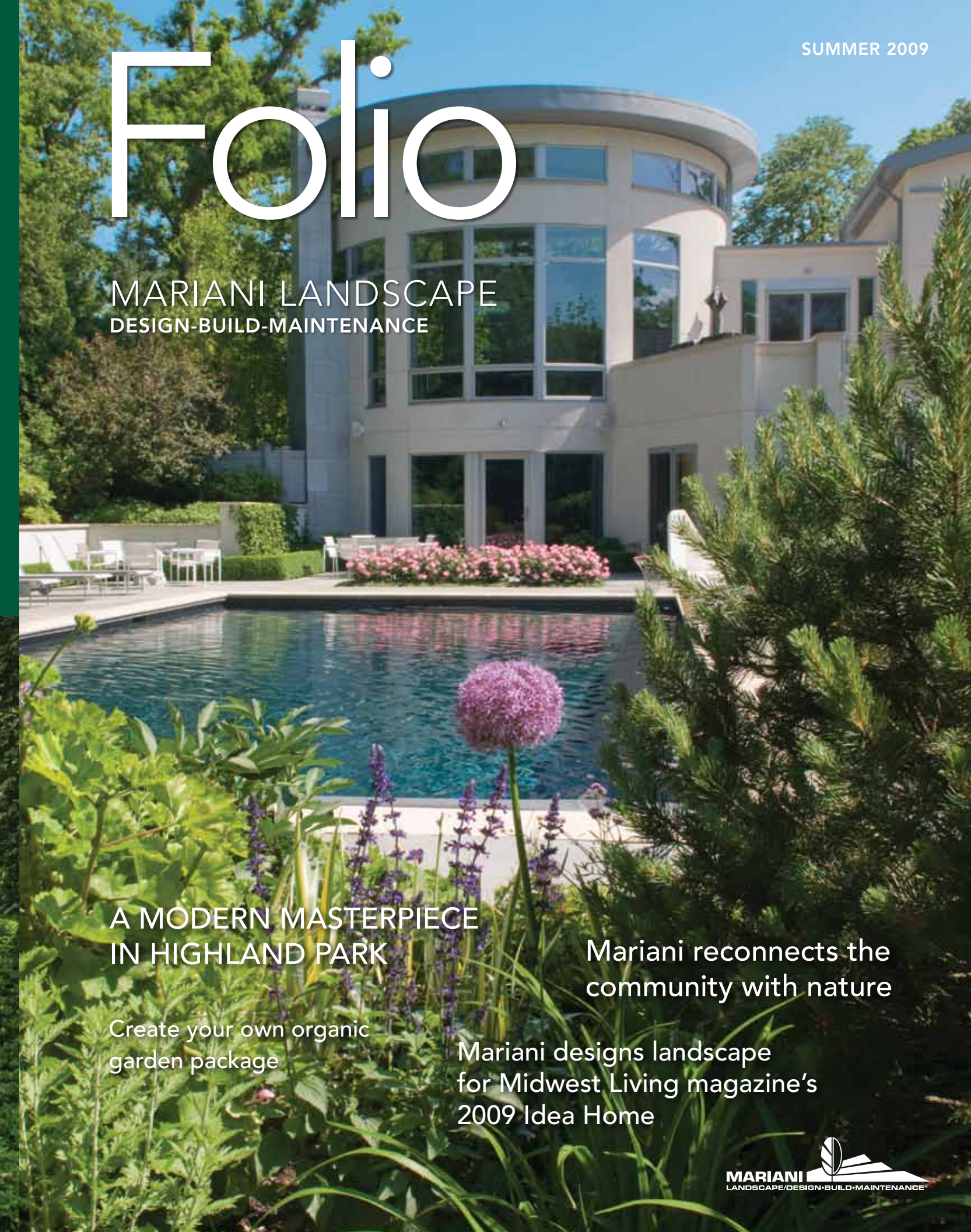
Our mission is to create and maintain unique, quality environments for the benefit of our clients and community.

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SUMMER 2009

A MODERN MASTERPIECE
IN HIGHLAND PARK

Create your own organic
garden package

Mariani reconnects the
community with nature

Mariani designs landscape
for Midwest Living magazine's
2009 Idea Home





Dear Friends,

I was starting to think we may never have a summer this year with all of the cool weather and cloudy, rain-filled days but as usual Mother Nature paid us back. We had lovely spring color followed by an abundance of healthy new growth as most plants thrive under these conditions. This year has been one chock full of challenges and with

challenges come opportunity. The uncertainty of the economy and world affairs make "business as usual" a throw away phrase as very few things remain the same. We at Mariani have been blessed with a very loyal client base, which has allowed us the opportunity to minimize layoffs. We fully understand that you have several choices and we must raise the bar and continue to drive value each and every day. We have worked hard to spread and live by a common goal at Mariani. The message is: we are fortunate to have the level of business we have and in return we all need to work hard, smart and with passion. From what I am seeing in the field the message is working and our dedication to outstanding service and quality is a mantra that all are striving to achieve. Now what matters most is that you are satisfied with the results. As always, if there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable please don't hesitate to call or email. We are at your service!

Now back to summer. Homes are still not selling and it appears that trend may be with us for a while. Why not allow us the opportunity to make your garden a place where you can spend more time

relaxing and entertaining family and friends? It can be as simple as replacing a few shrubs and perennials to the extreme of a swimming pool, spa, outdoor kitchen and entertainment areas. Create outdoor rooms that will lengthen our short season with heat from a fireplace.

At my home I really enjoy the benefits of the garden. In spring Sherri fills the house with daffodils and tulips. In late spring it's lilacs, iris and peonies. Summer we have our fill of snaps, cleome, zinnias - to name a few. Come late summer and fall my personal favorite - Dahlias.

On top of this we have a vegetable & herb garden that my dad would have loved. Every imaginable pepper, sweet Italian banana to fry or grill with Italian sausage. Salsa made with roasted tomatillos, roma tomatoes, garlic, cilantro and habanero peppers. HOT HOT HOT. Spring and early summer - a simple salad of arugula, virgin olive oil, lemon juice and a few shavings of parmigano. Come 4th of July - heirloom tomatoes, basil, balsamic vinegar and some very good olive oil.

Anyway, you get the picture. Let's all get back to nature and enjoy our lovely home and garden with the ones we cherish the most.

We are dedicated to helping your garden come to life.

Frank Mariani, CEO



Featured Foliage



Brassica hybrid var. kohlrabi 'Purple Azur Star'

Kohlrabi belongs to the cabbage family and got its name from a German word meaning "cabbage-turnip". Both the leaves and swollen underground stem are edible, specially the stem which can be green, white or purple. Its flavor is more mild than a turnip's. If young and tender they may be eaten raw, very thinly sliced. Diced or julienned kohlrabi is good in salads, stir-fries, coated in batter and deep fried or steamed.



Beta vulgaris var. swiss chard

Chard belongs to the same family as beets and spinach and shares a similar taste profile: it has the bitterness of beet greens and the slightly salty flavor of spinach leaves. Both the leaves and stalk of chard are edible, although the white stalks are more tender than the colored ones. It is very high in vitamins K, A, C and other nutrients.

Garden Organically with Mariani

Grow your own local, organic food right in your own backyard. Mariani Landscape offers various design and installation packages that will let you enjoy fresh heirloom varieties of vegetables and herbs without having to leave home. From large raised beds to custom container gardens, let Mariani help you grow fresh zucchini, eggplant, hot peppers and cucumbers in the summer, and radishes, pumpkins and gourds in the fall. Mariani will take all the guesswork out of organic gardening and maintain your garden so you can enjoy the fresh, organic food you watch grow every day.

"We're very excited about offering these packages to our clients," says project director Shari Precht. "Our clients are becoming more 'green' and environmentally responsible every day and this is a chance for them to really pitch in and become more sustainable."

For more information on creating your own, custom organic gardening package, contact your client representative at 847.234.2172.

A Modern Masterpiece

A Highland Park home's modern style and simple, clean lines are now complemented by its surrounding landscape to create an outdoor space for relaxation and entertaining. "The homeowners are avid entertainers and wanted a space to accommodate both small and large gatherings while working off the simple architecture of the home," says Client Representative Larry Weil.

When construction of the home began five years ago, Mariani Landscape worked with Fraerman Associates Architecture to determine the positioning of the residence. "While Oak trees located on the property were not able to make it through construction, three Horse-Chestnuts continued to thrive and became the 'star' of the property," says Landscape Architect Sara Furlan of Mariani.

The home's center shifted, framing the front door between two Horse-Chestnuts, to create elegance and symmetry. To welcome visitors, the driveway is lined by an allée of Hawthornes and boxwoods. Oak trees were also planted to replace the trees lost during construction. Perennials and groundcover were kept as muted colors to avoid overpowering the home's architecture. "We incorporated boxwoods and pink and white geraniums to create a balance to the property. All elements of the landscape work together to create a balance," says Furlan.

Transitioning around the side of the home, a pathway leads to a lawn area at the rear perfect for large gatherings. Cloudlike boxwoods act as a center feature between split stairs leading to an upper terrace featuring both limestone and bluestone. The upper terrace is also home to a shaded pool surrounded by bluestone. "Bluestone isn't typically used around pools because it absorbs heat, but because the pool is partially shaded, this wasn't an issue," says Furlan.

"Maintenance is very important to the success of the property. To keep the clean lines and elegant appearance, we must be very consistent with property visits," says Weil. Because the homeowners entertain regularly, Weil and his team visit the property days before guests arrive to make sure that the property is in pristine shape. "We prune all boxwoods, evergreens and perennials and power wash all surfaces," says Weil. Arborists also join the Mariani team to ensure all trees are healthy.

Mariani collaborated with the homeowner and architect to create a dual space for both entertaining and relaxation that reflects the home's simple, clean, modern style. And through regular, meticulous maintenance, the property is truly a modern masterpiece.

In the Community:

Mariani Helps Riders Along the Path to Reconnect with Nature



Seth Dreier and Sara Furlan of Mariani Landscape volunteer to help restore Oak Openings in Lake County.

For the past 13 years, hundreds of riders have turned out in Spring for an annual fundraiser for Liberty Prairie Conservancy, a non-profit preserving open space in Lake County. This year, the 13th year of the Pedal Push ride, bicyclists were encouraged to stop along the way to engage in nature by either planting, learning about endangered species or watching native wildlife.

Along the ride, Mariani Landscape and Liberty Prairie Conservancy staff members educated riders about the prairie and showed how we can play a role in conservation and preservation.

Upon entrance to the site, cyclists are introduced to a vast sweeping prairie that is shaded by great oaks and covered in blooming plants. Oak Openings is home to many endangered animals, and is the ultimate location for a restored prairie. Mariani transformed the existing hilltop into a serene prairie dotted with 550 potted plants native to Illinois. Equipment, labor, and plants were also supplied by Mariani to transform a brush-laden, stump covered, "No man's land" into a beautiful prairie. "Mariani provided the resources we needed and didn't have. We could not have proceeded without their help," says Sarah Surroz, stewardship and education coordinator of Liberty Prairie Conservancy. Mariani cleared the brush and "took it a step further" by grading the area.

The prairie is complete with native plants as well as oak trees. Plants donated by Mariani including Butterfly Milkweed and Purple Coneflower provide not only aesthetic value to the prairie but also play a key role in soil erosion prevention. The nearby Bull's Brook, which contains endangered fish species, is also protected from possible narrowing and closure because of the vast root systems common to these prairie plants.

The complex principles behind planting in a prairie combined with prairie education not only demonstrate first-hand the severity of the endangered species situation but also promotes the idea of returning natural species into their native habitat. "This was a great opportunity for us to give back to the community and the environment that we are so passionate about as landscape architects," says Mariani Landscape's Colleen Phillips.