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OUTDOOR ENCLOSURE

A River North courtyard is transformed from wasted space to secret garden hideaway.

"This is an extremely shady courtyard, surrounded on all sides by brick with the only sun coming from directly above," says Colleen Barkley, the project architect at **Mariani Landscape** who oversaw this challenging reno. "The homeowners wanted a visual courtyard that looked great from all views, including looking down," explains Barkley. The existing fountain was repurposed, while new clay paver brick in a blend of colors was installed. A gravel maintenance strip along the perimeter of the space creates visual framing while providing proper drainage. To create a calming green space, Barkley and her client went with a lush plant scheme that mixed shade-loving varieties in different heights. A new wood arbor was added to balance the existing wood gate and seating that can be moved easily makes it a great spot for some quiet time, or entertaining a crowd.

*300 Rockland Road, Lake Bluff,
847.234.2172, marianilandscape.com*

PAVE THE WAY
New plantings and brickwork that blends with the home's facade create a romantic escape.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS