



Green Acres

East Coast landscape firm Doyle Herman now gives California an elegant, manicured edge

BY JENNIE NUNN

A formal allée of sheared taxus along the rear of a French Normandy-style property.

NEIL LANGRISH JR.

EDITED BY ALISON CLARE STEINGOLD



Kathryn Herman and James Doyle, of Greenwich, Conn.-based landscape firm Doyle Herman Design Associates, initially bonded 14 years ago at an Association of Professional Landscape Designers event. Their mutual passion: plants. “At the time, we both had our own businesses, but we instantly became good friends, and have the same sensibilities and love of gardens,” says Herman of the encounter. “James and I are very avid gardeners outside of work, and we’re always on the same page.” So, they joined forces. The results of that collaboration have been everything from a 1928 farm property in Fairfield, Conn., where an antique trough was converted into a water feature; to a brick manor in nearby Greenwich, dotted with tightly clipped, conical shrubs. “We don’t just give people alphabet soup, where it’s about, ‘OK, we’ll use five of those, three of those, or two of those.’ We look to do things in a broader, bolder manner so that it’s clean. Simple,” adds Herman.

Now in demand for those high-end residential projects that display mazes of pristine, tailored greenery appointed with privet hedges, the design duo—who also released *The Landscape Designs of Doyle Herman Design Associates* last year—has grown from two to 15 employees. They recently opened a Los Angeles hub on Melrose Avenue after working on projects in Malibu and Montecito. “We feel very proud to have an office on Greenwich Avenue and on Melrose Avenue, two great streets.” >>



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP In Greenwich, Conn., slabs of bluestone and mounded *Buxus sempervirens* lead the way to a pool and pool house hedged with *Greenspire* trees. Kathryn Herman and James Doyle. Among the cherry trees, Hanneke Beaumont’s *Bronze #66*, 2004, is strategically placed in a 40-by-120-foot canal. Seasonal plantings contrast the patina of antique urns flanking an entry court in Waccabuc, N.Y.

NEIL LANDINO JR. (5)



C30 FALL HOME 2014





ABOVE A polished pool sculpture by David Harber does not interfere with the classic lines of a Greenwich residence's stately architecture.

RIGHT, CLOCKWISE Dogwoods, cherry trees, orchard apple and bleeding hearts.

BELOW, FROM LEFT Starkly modern structures with an 1840s Georgian wall connect via glass passage—the Kilkenny limestone uplit with LED in-ground luminaries. Punctuating a French Normandy-style home in New York are sheared yew and wisteria.



With this move comes less polar vortex and more possibility. "There is a really strong East/West Coast connection. A lot of our clients are from [California] or have moved there, so it just made a lot of sense," says Herman, who sources urns, benches and decorative objects from 1stdibs.com, New York, England and various antiques dealers. "There's more sunshine in California, and we obviously work with a different plant palette—we just have different choices." Those options abound for a new-construction, Mediterranean-style home in Bel Air on two acres; and a midcentury modern residence in Trousdale Estates with a Japonesque garden consisting of a pebble stepping-stone walkway, mondo grass, and Japanese and juniper pines. It's all part of their adaptation. "The mix of architecture is a lot more eclectic here, and you have the coast, beach, rolling hills, canyons," says Anna Hoffman, business director of the L.A. office. "Still, there's so much contemporary design work, so often people are looking to us to do something more traditional."

They're doing their research, too. "We've been going every year to Gloucestershire for 14 years to feed our curiosity, and it keeps us challenged," says Herman. "California and England kind of share a similar climate, and on a recent trip to England, we stayed at a hotel with an olive tree, a loquat tree and lavender. We can't do any of those three in Connecticut." *dhda.com*. •

NEIL LANDINO JR. (5). CONCRETE WALL AND ENTRYWAY: JAMES DOYLE