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GARDEN DESIGN

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September/October 2011
gardendesign.com

US \$5.99

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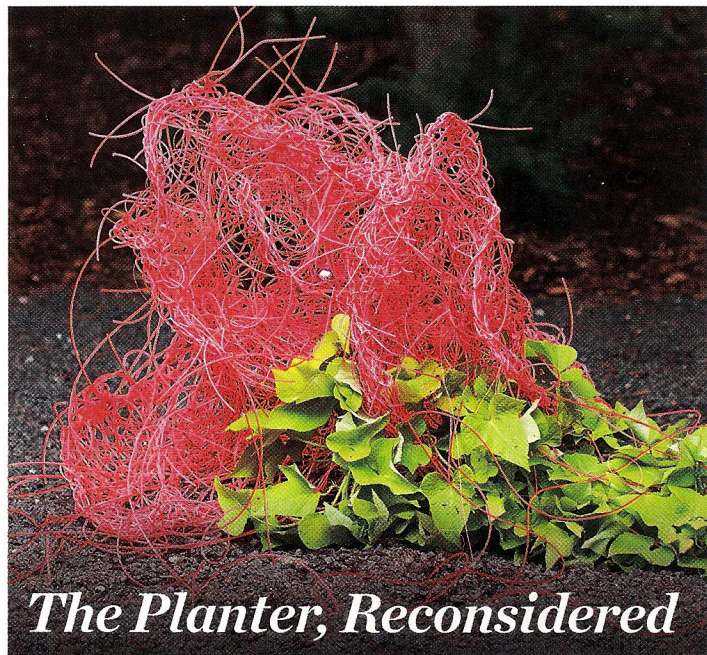
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Fresh



Posh Pong

WHILE PINGPONG, THAT CLASSIC pastime, has enjoyed a serious surge in hipness over the past few years, its eyesore of a regulation green surface (with a few notable exceptions) has not. James DeWulf upped the bar on table tennis tables, serving up a combination pingpong/dining table that debuted to acclaim and delight at May's International Contemporary Furniture Fair. The table, with acid-etched service lines and a smooth surface that ensures great bounce, was constructed to last a lifetime and is resistant to moisture, salt air, and freeze-thaw cycles. And, in a feat that could only be achieved by a magician of concrete, DeWulf managed to make the table only 1 elegant inch thick. Game on! — K.M.



The Planter, Reconsidered

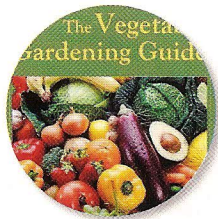
For the past four years, LongHouse Reserve in East Hampton, New York — a Garden Conservancy affiliate and center for "living with art in all forms" — has held Planters: ON&OFF the Ground, a congenial competition designed to stir the imagination of the horticulture community. This year, Frances Palmer, a Garden Design advisory board member, attended to photograph. Our favorite? "Plant Trap," created by Harvey Bernstein, a sculptor, designer, and professor at Pratt Institute. It's "an abstract animal form that appears to be moving very, very slowly with the thought of catching the plant." It's made from found materials: chicken wire, highway line marker paint, and lawn trimmer line, and is currently stalking a sweet potato vine. See other entries at gardendesign.com.

BOTTOM LEFT: FRANCES PALMER

APP ORCHARD



Landscaper's Companion (\$5) offers growth and usage suggestion and an image library of flora.



The Vegetable Gardening Guide (\$3) provides planting and irrigation instructions and recipes.



Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder (\$15) is a comprehensive database searchable by 72 criteria.

Recently, a bumper crop of mobile apps for the gardener has sprung up, making it convenient to quickly reference the growing requirements of a hydrangea or diagnose an ailing tomato plant. Our favorites, each indispensable in its own way, make for a handy trifecta for design, diagnosis, or definition of just about anything you'll encounter in your backyard paradise. Susan Cohan, a New Jersey-based landscape designer, shares our enthusiasm. "I no longer have to drag my falling-apart, had-since-college copy of [Michael] Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* into the field," she says. Also of note, though not specifically intended for the garden: Pinterest (pinterest.com), a free website and smartphone app, lets users create pin boards of inspirational design images. Somewhere, someone must make a touch-screen-compatible gardening glove. — K.M.

