

SPECIAL  
GARDEN ISSUE

BLISS

# Victoria

DECORATING ~ ENTERPRISING WOMEN ~ TRAVELING ~ ENTERTAINING

## Splendid SPRING

Glorious gardens  
& romantic florals

MARCH/APRIL 2021

SEASONAL JOY ABOUNDS WITH  
AN EASTER CELEBRATION

DISPLAY UNTIL APRIL 6, 2021





## The Seeds of SERENITY

*A busy entrepreneur finds solace amid the burgeoning beds of her garden, where flowers bloom, vegetables grow, and everyday tasks are a personal visit with Mother Nature.*

PHOTOGRAPHY MOLLY LO STYLING BETHANY BERK

*Above: A charming atelier on the property holds marvelous finds from Bethany's frequent European treasure hunts. Below right: She found the nineteenth-century French botanicals at an estate sale. The dried plants and flowers are enhanced with handwritten French text.*







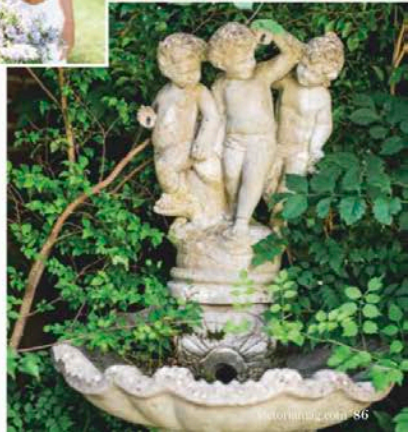
*Twentieth-century French parlor chairs surround a twentieth-century English drum table—a fine example of how different styles can complement. Opposite, below right: A fountain featuring three cherubs playing in the water also dates to the twentieth century.*



**B**ethany Berk makes her way to the greenhouse in her garden, threading a path through raised beds brimming with aromatic herbs. The crystal chandelier hanging from the ceiling of the eye-catching iron-and-glass structure is the first hint that besides a green thumb, this accomplished gardener also has impeccable taste.

Bethany knew from a young age that she wanted to be an interior designer. “I learned from my mother about the charm and value of decorating with antiques,” she says, adding, “I like to think of my aesthetic as classic, elegant, traditional, and timeless, using high-end European antiques to add whimsy and glamour.” After earning a BA from Interior Designers Institute and an MA in European Studies from Columbia University, she worked for a number of years in various areas of design.

Seven years ago, Bethany and her husband purchased a 115-year-old Tudor on the Charles River in Massachusetts. They fell in love with its Old-World charm, its country setting, and a landscape originally set by Frederick Law Olmstead. Though it was in sound structural shape, the house needed a bit of updating, and she soon added renovating skills to her extensive résumé.







Opposite, above right: A lovely example of the sort of wares in the Marchioness inventory is this nineteenth-century Italian cassapanca, a bench that opens for storage. This page: Bethany's herb garden supplies a bounty of ingredients for her culinary endeavors, including mountain mint used for tea and the anise atop these tempting pastries, below left.

*"WORKING WITH PLANTS,  
INDOORS AND OUT,  
IS SUCH A PLEASURE."*

—Bethany Berk

In 2016, while she was immersed in remodeling and furnishing the residence, Bethany came up with the idea for Marchioness Home & Garden. The web-based retail venture offers a variety of curated wares, such as her beloved Aubusson tapestries, as well as other textiles, antiques, and assorted curiosities. At the time, she was reading Frances Hodgson Burnett's book *The Making of a Marchioness*, a title that refers to the noble ranking just above a countess. A marchioness usually resides in the countryside, so the name seemed a perfect fit.

As a longtime gardener, Bethany has made good use of her property, where she grows vegetables and herbs, along with flowers, and she's never happier—or more at peace—than when designing a new bed or sowing seeds in the rich soil. "The garden is where I go to connect with nature," says Bethany. "The water, earth, scents, and sunshine work like magic in taking me away from daily stress." 🌿

