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FROM RUNWAY TO BOULEVARD

Body Alchemy

Inspired by spring's vibrant hues, designers produced a garden of glamorous floral frocks. Valentino — long considered a master of elegance and opulence — paraded his signature style down the runways, with delicate design and intricate detailing reminiscent of an English garden.



Photo: PhotoDisc/Getty Images



URNED REWARD
Enhance any garden space with a distinctive treasure, such as this Flatters-stone-finish Redmont urn on a Sussex pedestal. (www.eleganearth.com)

NATURE THAT NURTURES

Vibrantly colored peonies highlight traditional Japanese dinnerware in TakadaKawano's Akiko design, crafted by artisans in France and Italy. (www.michaelkfinn.com)



PILLOW PALETTE

High style is accented by a mix of patterns and colors, such as with these Santa Barbara outdoor pillows in Sunflower yellow mosaics and stripes. (www.restorationhardware.com)



SITTING PRETTY

The contrast of materials seen on the runways can be taken outside with this Del Mar lounge chair in pumice wicker and a cornflower blue Sunbrella cushion set. (www.restorationhardware.com)

MOST SEASONS, HOME DESIGN HAPPILY TUMBLES AFTER FASHION TRENDS. FOR SPRING, THE RUNWAYS FINALLY TOOK THEIR CUES FROM THE HOME—THE LAWN, TO BE EXACT.

BLUE LAGOON

Fashion meets function in this classic rectangular pool surrounded by Pennsylvania Bluestone and a manicured lawn with lush landscaping. The University Park home's mature trees create a private setting, making the outside patio serve as another living area. Briggs Freeman offers the home for \$2.7 million.



The popularity of the formal English garden has inspired a bevy of designers. The English rose with a bit of wendland twist reigns.

The social circuit has already moved outdoors. And an elegant pavilion provides a haven for more than just tea. Great green lawns invite croquet, weddings, parties and assorted roasts. Outdoor space can be divided into "rooms," delineated by pavement, deck or grass floes, hedge or lattice walls, and arbors overhead. Fashion was ready for the garden party with cream-colored shifts paraded by Gucci, Chloe and Dior, and floral frocks in bright Alice blue presented by Tory Burch and Oscar de La Renta.

The topiary trend is mirrored in new ladylike silhouettes: artfully structured bodices, slim waists and full skirts. No shrinking violets here (though they did grow fine on the runway at Yves St. Laurent).

Despite being precisely pruned, beds are a riot of color. Indigo irises, golden daffodils and ruby tulips bring bold color to a manicured lawn. The collections unveiled a garden of live flowers, blooming 3-D from Rodart, Thakoon, Marchesa and Sonia Rykiel dresses, as well as McQueen hats. Brilliant Moschino also festooned Zac Posen's high hettlines, Osman Yousefzada's sashes and Peter Jensen's skirts.

The same mix of formality and whimsy that brings looking glass pools, hedgehogs and fountains also brings delightful dresses this spring. A little chic landscaping can do wonders for the wardrobe and the home.

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